

Tom Marshall's Weekly News, June 1, 2005

The 20th-Century Additions to Auburn Heights: As most of you know, the main house was built in 1897. In 1902, the stable and carriage house, now the garage and shop, was built, eliminating the need for Auburn Heights residents to use the barn down the hill and farther away (this barn was torn down about 1972). The original 1902 structure was of frame construction inside the stone walls with a partition separating the stable from the carriage house. A mechanic working on a Stanley car accidentally set the building on fire in 1914, and the interior went up in flames. It was immediately rebuilt with heavy steel beams and concrete deck above, and so it remains today. Toward the end of World War I, a tiny stone building was built over the well in the backyard, which we've always called the "pump house." About the same time, a small unheated room was added just behind the dining room and accessible from the pantry for the purpose of housing an ice box, later converted to an electric refrigerator. When Clarence and Esther Marshall were married in 1921, two major alterations to the main house took place. The partition was removed between two parlors, creating a living room nearly 30 feet long, and the wraparound outside porch was widened and enclosed on the side of the house to make a sun porch. About half of the loft area above the garage (the rebuilt carriage house) was made into a servant's apartment about this time.

In 1933–34, a single-floor addition featuring a new kitchen, pantry and breakfast nook, with recreation room underneath, was added to the rear of the main house. The original kitchen became an office or den, and the old wood cook stove in that room was gone forever. In 1937, Clarence Marshall built an addition to the far end of the garage to house his new shop, which also had a basement. This was the last time stone quarried from the hillside ½ mile from Auburn Heights was used. The same year, two small bathrooms were added on the second floor of the big house. During World War II, a "temporary" apartment existed on the third floor, and five families in succession used this until 1949. The museum building, taking in part of an old apple orchard and a new flower garden, was built in 1947. An elevator was added to the side of the big house in 1952. More recent modifications, including the railroad and the Magic Age of Steam additions, will be covered in another newsletter.