

The Brooke Whiting House of Art

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The Brooke Whiting House of Art is a primary destination for residents and visitors who enjoy historical treasures and works of art. Whether stopping by for a brief visit or longer exploration, visitors continue to benefit from Brooke Whiting's worldwide associations, valuable collections, and rich inheritance.

Brooke Whiting was born in 1918 at 632 Washington Street in Cumberland, Maryland. His parents were prosperous and well known in the community, thereby affording him a variety of opportunities. Always pursuing academic excellence, Brooke attended the Tome High School. He subsequently attended the University of Virginia, graduating with an undergraduate degree in 1941. Following service in World War II, Brooke earned a Master's Degree in Library Science at Columbia University. Academic credentials and opportunity coincided when he was appointed Curator of Rare Books and Assistant Director of Special Collections at UCLA. Brooke's association with



Dining Room, featuring Hepplewhite and Empire style furniture and the Front Porch with Impatiens, English Ivy, and Coleus plants.



UCLA continued for 32 years, bringing him acclaim and recognition while also establishing important contacts with prestigious museums, auction houses, antique dealers, and collectors. Even though Brooke's career and travels took him to distant locations, he never forgot Allegany County. Many holidays were spent at his childhood home at 632 Washington Street while visits and correspondence to the Allegany County Historical Society, located at 218 Washington Street, were also frequent. And it was a desire to provide his hometown community with the benefits of a rich career that prompted Brooke to bequeath the 632 Washington Street house and



providing researchers with a wealth of information. Special events and exhibits augment the offerings of the museum. The 2008 season features “Objects of Beauty and Devotion: Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Icons,” These icons date from the 17th through the 20th century. According to Cassandra Pritts, Director of the Brooke Whiting House of Art, these objects of beauty and devotion date from the 17th through 20th century and are Russian, Greek, Spanish, Mexican, and Portuguese. Viewing the exhibit offers a rich experience, whether spiritual or aesthetic.

The Christmas season will offer a “1940s Christmas Homecoming,” a reminder of the warm welcome American families provided to servicemen returning home during the holiday season.

The Brooke Whiting House of Art is open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with tours on the hour.

its contents to the Allegany County Historical Society. Provisions were made to endow the newly created museum in perpetuity, thereby guaranteeing the fruits of his legacy to all interested persons. Today, the Brooke Whiting House of Art features a variety of collections, exhibits, and services.

The Brooke Whiting Archives has over 1,500 volumes, photographs, and ephemera. Asian works of art and European decorative arts represent a vast collection assembled during travels around the globe. In addition to Brooke’s personal collections, the Allegany County Historical Society maintains its genealogical files and book collection in the museum, thereby



Top: The Whiting House, a 1911 historic bungalow.
Bottom: The Back Sitting Room, featuring Chinese Export Porcelains.