Historic Parrish Homes in Midway, Ky.
As featured on the Midway Woman’s Club Historic Homes Tour, June 2, 2018.

Below is information about each home and the Parrish families who lived in them.

List of the homes and church on the tour:

1. Parrish-Roach Home/Southern Equine
2. The Porter House
3. Pinkerton-Rouse Place
4. Village View Cottage/Sayre Home
5. Parrish Place/Midway Small Animal Clinic
6. Parrish Home Place/Dearborn Farm
7. Second Christian Church (DOC)
8. Hermosa/Holly Hill Inn (not actively on tour)

Who’s Who in the Parrish family:

James Ware Parrish, Sr. (1815-1857) was first married to Martha Ann Price, daughter of Philemon & Mary Price, original owners of the Parrish Home Place. The Parrish family had two sons who were raised at #6 Tour Home:

~ Thompson Marcus Parrish (1837-1902) & wife Kate Rogers Parrish lived at #6 Tour Home with their children:

a. Mamie Parrish (1860-1898) married Dr. B. F. Roach of Harrodsburg. She grew up at #6 Tour Home. At Mamie’s death, her children including son Tom Roach moved in with their uncle and aunt at #1 Tour Home. Tom later managed the farm for many years. The families of Mamie’s grandson and great-grandson, Dr. Ben Roach & Tom Roach II, lived at #1 Tour Home.

b. James Ware Parrish II (1862-1940) married Lilly May Stone Parrish. He grew up at #6 Tour Home and later lived at #1 & #4 Tour Homes on his Midway farm, Village View.

c. Benjamin Franklin Parrish (1866-1934) married Hallie Gay Parrish. He grew up at #6 Tour Home and lived at #2 Tour Home. His daughter, Lilly Parrish Walden grew up at #2 Tour Home and lived at the original house on Shadowlawn Farm, Midway-Versailles Road, with her husband Julian Walden & family. Lilly’s son, Ben Walden and family, lived at #6 Tour Home.

d. Isaac Williams Parrish (1868-1944) married Desdemona Wingate Parrish. He grew up at #6 Tour Home and later lived with his family at #8 Tour Home. His daughter, Honeywood Parrish Rouse, grew up at #8 Tour Home & lived at #3 Tour Home.

~ Philemon Price Parrish (1840-1916) was the second son of James Ware & Martha Price Parrish; He grew up at #6 Tour Home. He and his wife Margaret E. Magoffin lived in Midway and had six children, including:

a. Charles Ware Parrish (1872-1961) married Catharine Wallace and they had one daughter, Margaret Ware Parrish, who lived at #5 Tour Home.

b. Mary Philemon Parrish (b. 1877) married Captain J. Breckenridge Viley. They lived on Midway-Versailles Road at Stonewall Farm where they raised three sons.

After Martha’s death, James Ware Parrish, Sr married Mary Philemon Price (Martha Ann’s sister). They had one surviving daughter, Mary Parrish Ricketts, whose grand-daughter was Agnes Owsley Walcutt, a Midway treasure.

After Mary’s death, James Ware Parrish, Sr lastly married the cousin of his wives, Susan Branham Davis. They had two children who died young.
1. Parrish-Roach Home/Southern Equine
• 241 North Winter Street
• Known as Village View Farm, Parrish Hill Farm and today as Southern Equine
• Built: 1906
• Architectural style: Georgian Revival
• Included in the Midway Historic District, National Register of Historic Places, 1978

This grand yellow brick house overlooks rolling horse pastures, Lee’s Branch of the Elkhorn Creek and the city of Midway. Built by James Ware Parrish II and his wife, Lily May, they named their home Village View Farm. The cost of construction was $45,000. An April 9, 1908, article in The Midway Clipper proclaimed that this home “with the exception of the Haggin home, is perhaps the costliest and most superb residence in Central Kentucky. It is built after the colonial style and is the realization of a lifetime dream for Mr. Parrish.”

The Parrishes brought in artisans from Europe to paint the ceiling frescoes, create an Italian stone library fireplace and install elephant skin on the walls of the library.

The installation of an elevator was the piece de resistance in this elegant home, anchor to a successful Thoroughbred operation that produced, among many, the successful horses Midway and Rolled Stockings. Hall of Fame trainer and Midway native Woody Stephens started his long, successful career working as a young boy on the farm.

When Mr. Parrish died, his nephew Tom Roach, who had been raised on the farm, managed it for 25 years. At Lily Parrish’s death in 1960, her great-nephew and Tom’s son, Dr. Ben Roach, and family took up residence on the farm. They renamed the farm Parrish Hill and revived the Thoroughbred breeding and racing businesses. Winners included Princess Rooney and Charismatic.

Dr. Roach was a beloved family doctor in Midway for many years. He and his family enjoyed their years on Parrish Hill, hosting sledding on the immense front hill in the winter and tennis matches and hayrides on the grounds in the summer.

The first Head Start class in Midway was run by Ruth Roach in the basement of the Parrish Hill home. This was but one of Ruth’s countless acts of civic engagement in Midway, Woodford County and beyond.

Thompson Marcus Roach II, Dr. Ben’s eldest, and his wife, Robyn Pulley Roach, moved into the home in 1994 and operated the farm until it was sold in 2008 to Mike Moreno of Texas and became Southern Equine Stables.

More about the Parrish family and this home:

Parrish family residents: James Ware “Uncle Jim” Parrish II and his wife, Lily May Parrish; their nieces and nephew, Kate, Tom and Betsy Roach (after their mother died); Dr. Ben and Ruth Roach and family; Tom and Robyn Roach and family.
* James Ware Parrish II grew up outside Midway on what’s now Weisenberger Mill Road
* “Uncle Jim” named his farm Village View Farm; it was home to he and his wife, Lily May Stone Parrish, & later their ward Clara Kinney (a music student from the Kentucky Female Orphan School.)
* In addition to the successful horse operation, Mr. Parrish was one of the founders of the Commercial Bank of Midway, the forerunner of today’s United Bank.
* While Thompson Marcus Roach, Uncle Jim’s nephew, and his wife, Helen, lived on Winter Street in Midway, Mr. Tom was deeply involved in the agricultural operations of Parrish Hill Farm.
* During this time, a log cabin was relocated from Mr. Tom Roach’s Home Place Farm and has been renovated into guest quarters.
This building was built by Dr. Thomas Jefferson Iles, Midway’s first physician. Legend has it that the bricks were made on the Nuckols farm just outside Midway. Dr. Iles’ medical office is now the residence kitchen, on the ground floor. In 1860, Dr. Iles moved his family to Davenport, Iowa. He had become an abolitionist and wanted to keep his sons out of the Civil War.

From 1883 until 1901, the building was operated as a hotel, ultimately under the name Porter House. Nathaniel Porter, husband of proprietor Susan Porter, was a cattle breeder and a cut of his beef became known as “Porterhouse” steak, or so the legend goes. Mary Jane Holmes, a local author, wrote a best-selling novel, Tempest and Sunshine, and is said to have based the character of Sunshine on Susan Porter.

In 1883, the exterior was “Victorianized” when eaves, brackets and a gabled dormer with local carpenter David Lehman’s signature trefoil and triangle motif were added. These additions have since been removed. The handsome wrought-iron railings and stone steps were added in 1905.

From 1901-15, the building was the residence and office of Dr. Benjamin Franklin Parrish, a physician who was known for his diagnostic skill. Dr. W.E. Sleet lived and practiced medicine there 1915-21. In the 1920s, the building was converted into multifamily use, known as the Martinique Apartments.

Dr. John and Becky Moore, the current owners, purchased the home in 1980. Once again, the home acted as a private residence, with this time a dentist office on the first floor. Extensive renovations brought the house back to its original beauty.

More about Dr. Parrish:

*Dr. Benjamin Franklin Parrish grew up outside Midway on what’s now Weisenberger Mill Road. He graduated from medical school at the University of Michigan and interned at Bellevue Hospital in New York City.
*He was a lifelong member of Midway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and actively served on the board at the Kentucky Female Orphan School, now Midway University. Honeywood Parrish Rouse called her uncle “the beloved physician type.”
*He married Hallie Gay, from the Pisgah Pike area of Woodford County, and they lived at the Porter House. His office was accessed by the door to the right side of the house.
*Their daughter, Lily, was born in the upstairs right bedroom. Lily married Julian Walden. Ben and Hallie’s son, Thompson M. Parrish, died in 1919 at the age of 19 while a student at Princeton.
*In 1923, Dr. Parrish built a new home on the south end of Midway, known now as the Hicks home. Dr. and Mrs. Parrish moved there shortly afterward.
3. Pinkerton-Rouse Place
• 305 South Winter Street
• Midway University president’s home
• Built: First section, ca. 1845
• Architectural style: Greek Revival
• Included in the Midway Historic District, National Register of Historic Places, 1978

The name “Pinkerton-Rouse Place” gives a nod to the first, and last, families who loved the old home. It was built by Dr. L.L. Pinkerton, a local physician and minister of Midway Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), as his residence and a boarding school for young ladies. The righthand portion of this two-story brick home is the earliest, dating from 1845 when Pinkerton began the Baconian Institute. Presumably named for the early 17th century English philosopher Sir Francis Bacon, the institute was attended by Carrie Nation, the Temperance Movement leader. Kate Rogers of Bourbon County attended the school and subsequently married Thomas Marcus Parrish, son of James Ware Parrish Sr.

Some of the girls who attended the Baconian Institute etched their names on several old panes of glass. Those panes would have been on the Stephens Street side of the upstairs, but are now gone.

In 1847, Dr. Pinkerton co-founded with James Ware Parrish Sr. the Kentucky Female Orphan School, now Midway University.

Subsequent homeowners had additions built onto the house, and the house was Victorianized by the addition of a screened front porch.

James Cogar, noted historian and curator of Colonial Williamsburg, Va., and Shakertown at Pleasant Hill, Ky., was born in the downstairs bedroom in 1906. He wrote that at some point, the house had seven bedrooms and one bath, the first bathroom installed in Midway. The rooms were heated only by fireplaces that were stoked each morning by the house help.

When Howard and Honeywood Parrish Rouse purchased the residence in 1944, they removed the porch and restored the dwelling to its Greek Revival appearance.

On the rear of the property is the only remaining outbuilding where Howard Rouse would routinely age his “old ham,” also known as country ham.

In 1994, the house was donated to then-Midway College for use as the president’s home. At that time, many structural repairs were made and the house completely redecorated.

More about the Parrish Family and this home:

* Honeywood Parrish, eldest child of Isaac and Desdemona Parrish, married Julius Howard Rouse. Her father, Mr. Ike Parrish, purchased The Little Brown House — now painted gray— on South Winter Street for the newlyweds and they lived there for over 20 years.
* In 1944, they moved up the street to their penultimate home, now the president’s house for Midway University.
* J. Howard Rouse was a noted breeder of race horses and managed the famed Kentucky branch of the King Ranch.
* Honeywood and Howard were known for their entertaining parties and family dinners around the large dining table. Derby week was especially fun-filled at the Rouses.
* In 1954, their son Isaac Parrish Rouse and his wife, Jean Coleman Rouse, moved into an apartment on the second floor (complete with full bath and kitchen) while their brick home was under construction in the apple orchard behind Ike’s grandparents’ home, Hermosa, up on Cogartown Hill. Hermosa is now Holly Hill Inn, a fine dining restaurant owned by Ouita and Chris Michel.
4. Village View Cottage/Sayre Home
• 337 South Winter Street
• Also known as Skip Rouse/Sayre Home
• Built: ca. 1895, moved to present location in 1916
• Architectural style: Frame cottage
• Included in the Midway Historic District, National Register of Historic Places, 1978

Originally, this dwelling was a manager’s residence on the James Ware Parrish II farm. During construction of their imposing new home, “Uncle Jim” and wife, Lily, lived in this cottage so they could supervise the project.

When the cottage was located on present-day Southern Equine, the farming operation was epic. Uncle Jim owned over 1,000 acres and for many years had tobacco crops averaging 100 acres. Thoroughbred horses, as well as purebred cattle and Duroc hogs were raised there, too.

After a murder was committed in the cottage by the then-resident farmhand, other farm workers reportedly refused to inhabit the cottage. Uncle Jim wanted that house gone!

It was dismantled and reassembled on the present lot in 1916, the work being supervised by R.W. Lacefield, a local architect and builder who worked for local master builder David Lehman for 10 years. Several homes in Midway are noted as Lehman homes by his signature trefoil and triangle detail.

When the house was reassembled on South Winter Street, access to the house was changed. Possibly because of the lot dimensions, the front door was moved from its original location on the now-side of the house, to its position facing Winter Street.

The house retains all of its original trim, moldings, fireplaces and all of the doors except for one. The original front door, so the Sayres surmise, is stored in the garage.

The outhouse and a chicken coop remain on the property, visible from Parrish Avenue.

This house is a good example of the end of the Queen Anne building style and the beginning of the Frame Cottage era.

Midway Mayor Owen C. “Skip” Rouse Jr. and his family lived in the home for many years. The current owners, Tom and Mary Sayre, renovated in 2003-2004 when an addition was added from the kitchen back.

More about the Parrish Family and this home:

• Home of James Ware “Uncle Jim” and Lily Parrish (see more information about this Parrish family under the Parrish-Roach Home.)
• Uncle Jim grew up in the Midway Christian Church, and his fund-raising strategies for the church were quite unconventional. According to an article in the Lexington paper, when the money needed for a new church organ was short, Uncle Jim told the congregation to “hold off on all fund-raising until (his horse) Rolled Stocking ran a week later in a stakes race at the old Latonia. He won. The organ went into the church.”
• The church again profited from Uncle Jim’s racing stable. The interior of the sanctuary was in need of painting. Uncle Jim came up with another winning horse who raised the needed $2,000. The paper wrote, “Out of respect, perhaps, the interior of the church was painted in the terra cotta-and-straw racing colors of the Parrish Stable.”
5. Parrish Place
- 5745 Midway Road (U.S. 62), Midway
- Now Midway Small Animal Clinic, owned by Dr. Nancy McGregor
- Built: ca. 1860
- Architectural style: Italianate
- Included in the Midway Historic District, National Register of Historic Places, 1978

Local architect Adam Hibler* has been identified as the designer of this home. It appears to have been built by local craftsman David Lehman because his signature trefoil-and-triangle appears in the gable peak. The inclusion of two front doors on the porch gives the home a unique look.

Note the distinctive metal ventilation grill located under the front porch, and the fabulous wood archways that decorate the home.

Robert Wallace purchased the house and raised his family there. Catharine Wallace married Charles Ware Parrish in 1918 and they lived in Midway proper. Later, Catharine and daughter, Margaret Ware Parrish, joined Catharine’s brother, Godfrey “Top” Wallace, back at Parrish Place. The left gatepost is marked “Wallace,” and the name the Wallace family used for the property, “Village View,” on the other gatepost.

The Wallace family remembers hearing that Catharine raised a small tobacco crop in the side yard; it was known back then as the “women’s crop.”

There was a chicken coop off the front porch at one time. Top kept a gas pump in the back near his garage office to fill up his ’55 Thunderbird automobile.

Margaret Ware — never called just “Margaret” — is a story in and of herself. She was a fixture in Midway for generations. She was a cheerleader for the Midway High School basketball team that won the state championship in 1937. Fifty years later, she could still fit into her uniform.

She graduated from Centre College and was a pioneer in Kentucky women’s sports, teaching physical education at several iterations of the school that began as the Kentucky Female Orphan School, now Midway University (co-founded by her great-grandfather, James Ware Parrish Sr.).

For decades, Margaret Ware orchestrated May Day ceremonies in the amphitheater on campus, complete with clowns, maypoles and the crowning of the May Queen. The whole town would turn out.

Her love of birds and all animals was boundless, in fact hosting an albino skunk and several raccoons at various junctures. Stray cats all over Midway had Margaret Ware to thank for many meals. This love was nurtured by her parents in unconventional ways: there’s a story that her father gave her a bear as a pet. We cannot confirm nor deny.

During her lifetime, Margaret Ware entertained most of Midway at dusk in the summer in honor of her night-blooming primroses.

Margaret Ware passed away in 2010 at 91 years old. Her home is now home to animals once again, where Dr. Nancy McGregor tends to the pets of Central Kentucky at her Midway Small Animal Clinic.

*Hibler lived nearby and is “credited” with removing, in the middle of the night, from the Midway Christian Church, the melodeon (an early organ) that had recently been added to the church services. The use of musical instruments was anathema to some members, including Hibler. This organ incident was a local example of the difference between the “a cappella” Church of Christ and the more progressive Disciples of Christ. The melodeon was found later at Hibler’s farm; it was restored and donated by James Ware Parrish II to now Midway University. It is on display in the university’s library.
Dearborn was built by Bird (or Byrd) Price. The long driveway back to the house from Craig’s Mill Road (now Weisenberger Mill Road) was part of the U.S. Stagecoach system, probably connecting this road to Leestown Road. Many a Parrish woman of the house would sit in the upstairs front hall and watch down that long and windy driveway for the stagecoach to arrive.

The house was originally a five-room brick ell with two brick patterns used: Flemish bond in front and common bond on the sides and rear. Cooking was done in a separate outbuilding connected to the rear of the house by a breezeway.

The house has been left without shutters and there are no signs that shutters were on the building early on. In the 1830s, there might have been a front porch of some configuration. Victorian elements were added to the building at some point, including the altering of the height of the windows, making them longer and taller than the present-day correct size.

The staircase remains just as it was from the 1800s.

Later additions to the back of the house were remodeled during the extensive work done by Mr. and Mrs. Ben Walden in 1965-66. Interior walls were taken down to the studs and restored under the watchful eyes of Washington Reed and Colonial Williamsburg (Va.) curator James Cogar, a Midway native.

More about the Parrish Family and this home:

*The Parrish Home Place was first the Price family home in the early 1800s. James Ware Parrish Sr. had three wives during his short life: two Price daughters, Martha Ann and sister Mary Philemon Price, and their cousin Susan Davis. He had children with all three of his wives, and Dearborn was home to all.

*James Ware Parrish Sr. was in the dry-goods business in Midway with his brother, Thompson. James Ware was an avid reader, possessed considerable musical talent, and was a skilled conversationalist as well as an accomplished public speaker.

*His friendship with Dr. L.L. Pinkerton resulted in the founding of the Kentucky Female Orphan School (present-day Midway University). Their mission changed the future of many girls.

*Thompson, James Ware’s son, and his wife, Kate, lived in the home and raised four children to adulthood.

*Dr. Ben Parrish, Thompson’s son, came to own the house and farm, which passed to his grandson, Ben Walden, in the 1960s. Ben and his family renovated the house and moved in. A very successful Thoroughbred business resulted, and the love of horses was passed on to his children.

*When asked how the name Dearborn was chosen, Ben Walden’s daughter, Hallie Gay, who grew up in the house in the 1960s and ‘70s, said, “Dad knew that Parrish families had lived there since its beginning in 1810. As a result, he decided to christen his ownership with the name Dearborn. He always said, ‘I named it Dearborn because dear people were born there.’ Thus Dearborn it was.”
This building houses what is thought by many to be the oldest black congregation of the Christian (Disciples of Christ) Church in Kentucky, and perhaps in the United States. The church’s historical importance is demonstrated by a handsome marker on the church grounds from the Kentucky Historical Highway Marker Program, inclusion in the Woodford County Landmark program and a Blue Grass Trust for Historic Preservation plaque. Guests enter the gable-roofed sanctuary through a corner tower surmounted by a pyramidal roof. In the tower's upper level is a louvered window arrangement that somewhat repeats the Palladian window of the main façade.

The Second Christian Church (DOC) had its beginning during the days of slavery when masters and slaves worshipped together. The black congregation grew so large that the elders of the Midway Christian Church (DOC) offered a log building on the campus of the Kentucky Female Orphan School (now Midway University) for their use as a church.

The congregation was organized in 1832 with the help of Midway Christian Church (DOC) elders, who soon turned over leadership to the members. Alexander Campbell (b. 1818) took the call, he a slave whose freedom was purchased by these friends. He had the same name as the white Alexander Campbell who was one of the leaders of the Stone-Campbell Movement in the Christian church (also known as Cambellites). Alexander Campbell and his wife, Sister Rosa Campbell, added 300 members to Second Christian Church (DOC).

As the church grew, the congregation had to move from their first meeting place, a log church on Kentucky Female Orphan School property. They purchased a wooden frame church building from the Midway Presbyterian Church and moved that building to the property they purchased on Smith Street in 1872.

Through successive pastors, the membership grew and the present building was constructed in 1906.

Many members of the church were baptized in the creek across the road from the church. A baptismal pool was added in the sanctuary in the 1960s and is still in use today.

A flood in in March 1997 halted worship in the building. Renovations were completed in 1998.

In 2017 Second Christian Church (DOC) celebrated its 185th year of worshipping God. Today, their building is 112 years old. The congregation is actively raising money for needed renovations and building additions. Contributions are welcome to P.O. Box 603, Midway, Ky. 40347

The Parrish Family connection:

James Ware Parrish, Sr. was a leader in the Midway Christian Church (DOC) and was one of the members who donated toward the establishment of the first house of worship for Second Christian Church (DOC).

Furnishings of interest:

According to church history, the Communion table is a long, oversized rectangle. It’s believed that an early communion table used by the slave congregation is encased inside the larger table. It sits on four square postlike legs with each post balanced on small wheels or rollers. Oral history states that from time to time the table was rolled in the center isle of the church and, like the Arc of the Covenant, set in the midst of the congregation.
8. Holly Hill Inn

- 426 North Winter Street
- Formerly known as Maxwell Place, Hermosa
- Built: ca. 1845
- Included in the Midway Historic District, National Register of Historic Places, 1978

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Holly Hill Inn has been in continuous operation as a restaurant since 1979. The site, at the crossroads of Leestown and Georgetown roads, was home to a stone and brick structure built circa 1800 known as Stevenson's Tavern.

There, in 1832, Midway's first Post Office was established. Small outlying buildings housed a store, a shoe shop, servants' quarters and barns. In 1839, the tavern was sold to Hancock W. Davis. A fire destroyed the tavern several years later, and Davis built the handsome Greek Revival structure that exists today, incorporating doors, walls, windows and fireplaces from the earlier building into the new home, which faced Leestown Road. Davis lived in the house until 1854, when it was sold to Squire William A. Moore, a local magistrate and president of the Midway Paper Mill Co. Moore and his wife added Victorian touches, and they lived there several decades.

In 1903, the home was purchased by Isaac Parrish, a local farm owner. Major renovations were undertaken, and a large Colonial-style front veranda was added. Its design was intended to provide Mr. Parrish's children with ample room to play, and a concrete deck was poured so the children would have a place to roller-skate. The house was named Hermosa after an English rose found growing on the grounds. The house and grounds were a well-run, self-sufficient community with orchards, chicken yards, servants' quarters, stables, and even a mushroom growing operation housed in an old ice house.

The Parrishes were well known for their hospitality, and the home was the center for many festive gatherings of family and friends. In 1979, the home was converted by Isaac Parrish’s grandson, Ike Rouse, and his wife Jean into a modern country inn. Originally operated by Rex and Rose Lyons, the Holly Hill Inn was purchased by current owners Chris and Ouita Michel in 2000. The Michels carry on a long tradition of hospitality and welcome you to dine with them in this historic home.

More about the Parrishes at this home:

* Isaac “Mr. Ike” Parrish, son of James Ware Parrish and Martha Price Parrish, grew up on today’s Weisenberger Mill Road in the Parrish Homeplace (Dearborn/Darby Dan), also on today’s tour.
* Church on Sundays was an interesting situation for Ike and Desdemona Wingate Parrish: Mr. Ike attended the Parrish church, Midway Christian, and “Mama Des” was a staunch Presbyterian. So when they walked to church, they parted ways at the now post office, Mr. Ike to the left and Mama Des to the right.
* The Parrishes were hard-working, hospitable folk, frequently hosting meals provisioned from their farm and gardens on the property, welcoming friends and family, adults and children alike. Desdemona was related to the family of then-burgeoning artist Paul Sawyier and, since they did not live on a farm, she would often send baskets of produce, eggs and fruit with anyone heading to Frankfort for the Sawyier family.
* Parrish furnishings still at Holly Hill Inn: the corner cupboard in the “mural” dining room and the two ornate, over-mantle mirrors in the downstairs front rooms. Mr. Ike and Desdemona’s daughter, Katherine Parrish, or Nat, hand-scraped and refinished the Greek Revival-style cherry woodwork in the house.