



## W.K. KELLOGG ESTATE HISTORY

In 1925, Will Keith (W.K.) Kellogg purchased 32 acres, including 1,600 feet of Gull Lake shoreline, for the construction of his summer estate, called Eagle Heights due to its position as the highest point on Gull Lake.

Kellogg was experiencing growing success with his cereal company, the Kellogg Company, and wanted a place where he could enjoy more time with his children and grandchildren during the summers in his native Michigan.

His summer home on Gull Lake was completed in 1927 at a cost of \$747,000. The Tudor-style Manor House was designed by Grand Rapids architectural firm Benjamin & Benjamin.

Along with the Manor House, the estate includes a Carriage House, Caretaker's Cottage, Boathouse, Pagoda, greenhouse, and a windmill imported from Holland. At the time of construction, a state-of-the-art underground sprinkling system was installed on the grounds

for an estimated \$100,000. It featured two 5,000-gallon underground tanks and turbines, which drew water from the lake.

Kellogg acquired nearby Wintergreen Lake and its surrounding farmland, establishing the W.K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary in 1927 to help preserve wetlands and protect game species from overhunting. He established the Kellogg Farm to "serve as an object lesson to the people of the region in which it is located." The Sanctuary and Farm were donated to Michigan State College, now Michigan State University.

After the U.S. entered World War II, the Kelloggs vacated their estate in 1942 so the Coast Guard could use it for induction and training. More than 3,000 active personnel passed through Eagle Heights during the war. It later served as a rehabilitation unit of the Percy Jones Hospital in Battle Creek.

A year after W.K.'s death, in 1952, the property was donated to Michigan State for research and teaching. Founded as the Kellogg Gull Lake Biological Station of Michigan State College, it is now known as MSU's W.K. Kellogg Biological Station. At over 4,000 acres, it is one of North America's largest inland field research stations.

Along with the Manor House and Bird Sanctuary, the Station includes the Kellogg Farm and Pasture Dairy Center, Long-term Ecological Research (LTER) Site, Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center (GLBRC), and an academic campus with conference center and housing.

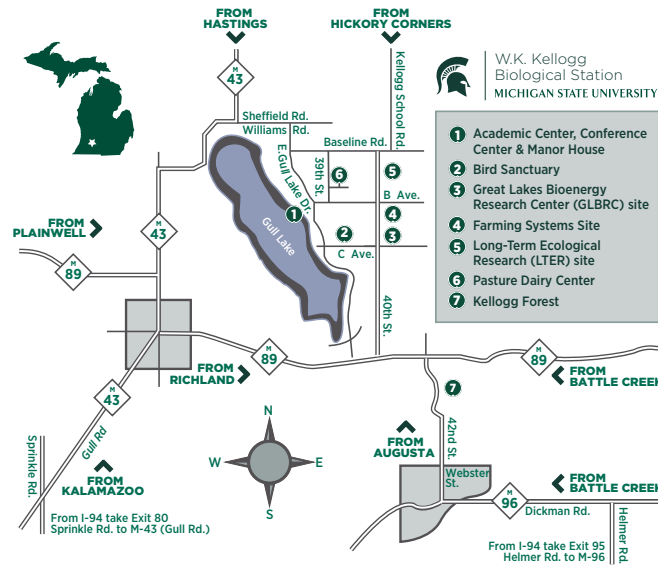
Historical Source: "W.K. Kellogg and His Gull Lake Home, From Eroded Cornfield to Estate to Biological Station" by Linda Oliphant Stanford (MSU, 1983).



ORIGINAL ROSE GARDEN



AERIAL VIEW, 1927



- W.K. Kellogg Biological Station  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
- 1 Academic Center, Conference Center & Manor House
  - 2 Bird Sanctuary
  - 3 Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center (GLBRC) site
  - 4 Farming Systems Site
  - 5 Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) site
  - 6 Pasture Dairy Center
  - 7 Kellogg Forest



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3700 E. Gull Lake Dr. Hickory Corners, MI 49060

(269) 671-2160

W.K. Kellogg Manor House

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# W.K. Kellogg Estate HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR



## EAGLE HEIGHTS

Explore W.K. Kellogg's beautiful estate at your leisure.

The walking tour around the estate takes about 40 minutes to complete and is just less than a mile long.



W.K. Kellogg  
Conference Center  
& Manor House  
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



# W.K. Kellogg Estate HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

**1** The **Manor House** and estate was named Eagle Heights because of its location on Gull Lake's highest point. The House has served many purposes since it was completed in 1927 as the summer home for W.K. Kellogg, his wife Dr. Carrie Staines, and their visiting children and grandchildren. During World War II, the House was used for training. After the war, it served as a rehabilitation center. The House has since served as a "girl's dormitory" and administrative offices, before being restored to its original grandeur with a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The Manor House is open most weekdays for self-guided tours, or guided tours by appointment, and is also available to rent for private events.

**2** The **Boathouse** is built in the half-timbered style, like the Manor House and Pagoda. The boathouse originally had two boat storage wells, which could house boats up to 26-feet long, as well as an upstairs bathhouse with space to accommodate 10 to 12 people. Kellogg stored a sailboat and a Garwood wooden motor boat here. It is now a waterfront research laboratory.

**3** The Ohio sponge stone and brick stairway zigzags from the Manor House terrace down to the **Pagoda** on Gull Lake. During the summers Kellogg spent here, he enjoyed walking this long stairway for exercise. In the Kelloggs' time, a rose garden, featuring a sundial and bronze water bearer, grew near the base of the stairway. The pagoda is now a popular location for weddings.

**4** The **Pumphouse** is a one-room building that Kellogg's staff used to house mechanical equipment, but was originally designed so as to match the rest of the estate's architecture, hiding its "utility effect." The pumphouse is still in use today at the Estate. It is used to pump water from the water tower to irrigate the lawn.

**5** Architects Benjamin & Benjamin believed an authentic **windmill**, shipped from the Netherlands, would be the perfect touch to the Kelloggs' summer estate. Two authentic windmills, built in 1817, were purchased and shipped to the Estate from the Netherlands. The windmills were combined and re-erected as one windmill that stands on the small island at Gull Lake today. Although it was once a working windmill that pumped water through the lagoon surrounding the island, it is now stationary so it can be preserved and enjoyed as a landmark.

**6** The lakefront **Cabins** were once used as the "boys" dormitories. They now offer bunkhouse-style lodging for students and groups of overnight guests.

**7** The **Carriage House** served as a guest house, garage, and chauffeur's residence. The chauffeur's wing had three bedrooms, the garage space had room for seven automobiles and the upstairs was used for visiting chauffeurs and other staff. The House has been converted to office space, a conference room and classroom. The Lakeside Cottage on the west side has beautiful views of the lake and is available for rental.

**8** The chief architect of the estate believed in the English tradition that a **greenhouse** was an important part of a gentleman's home. It also helped paint the picture of a self-sufficient estate. When the Kelloggs lived here, the greenhouse was used to grow roses, citrus fruits, and other flowers for the House. Kellogg also provided space in the greenhouse for an MSU professor's research. Today the greenhouse is a research facility used by KBS faculty and students.

**9** The **Caretaker's Cottage** was designed to match the style of the Manor House and provide a residence for Kellogg's main employee. The Cottage has been restored and is decorated to provide a charming retreat for overnight guests.

**T** **Champion Trees** are the largest of their species in the state of Michigan. There are 5 on the Kellogg Estate.

- Hedge Maple
- Japanese Lilac
- Sawara False Cypress
- Turkish Filbert
- Yellow Buckeye

