

## 8# Summer Cottages

Summer in Madison can be uncomfortably warm. Wouldn't it be nice to escape from the city to relax and catch a cool lake breeze? Here at the tip of Frautschi Point, the Jackson family built just such a summer retreat.

Reginald Jackson, Sr., the founder of the local Jackson Clinic, built a “so-called” cottage here in 1921. After several additions, it grew to nearly 4500 square feet making it an ideal summer getaway for the family and for entertaining guests. Jackson's son, Reggie, Jr., inherited the cottage and made this his year-round home, although it was never completely winterized.

Reggie Jr. enjoyed hunting wild game on his property—as well as the pheasants that he had raised himself. He also enjoyed sailing on his 35-foot wood sloop, “The Peggy,” and flying his seaplane around Lake Mendota. He built a unique plane hangar with an inclined marine railway to pull the plane out of the water between flights. If you walk the trail to the west—toward the Tent Colony Woods, see if you can spot a flat area where the hangar once stood.

In 1924, a second cottage was built to the east of here, for Amelia Stevens, Jackson Sr.'s sister-in-law. After the university acquired the property in 1989, the two cottages, boathouse, plane hangar and the other out-buildings were demolished and the sites restored as though the Jacksons had never been here.

It's still possible to find some of remains of the Jackson family compound, though. Bits of concrete are still detectable under the leaves on the forest floor as are the remnants of the family flower garden. Maybe you'll come across the gravestone of the Jackson's beloved pet dog, Grennie.

Thanks for listening. For more stories about the cultural and natural history of the Lakeshore Nature Preserve check out our website and interactive map. And be sure to look for other audio tour signposts throughout the Preserve. Enjoy!