

Welcome to the Strawberry Hill Ethnic Museum and Cultural Center. The 1887 Queen Anne Style Victorian home was built for John and Mary Cruise-Scroggs, on the eastern slope of what was then called "Splitlog's Hill", looking out over the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri Rivers. A stone wall contained the terrace with an ornamental iron gate bearing the letter "S" which is still here today.

The Cruise-Scroggs home was sold in 1919 to become St. John's Orphanage. The 1918 influenza epidemic raged through-out the United States and many children of the St. John the Baptist Parish located next to the Victorian home were left without one or both of their parents. The orphanage was open to children of all nationalities, creeds and races. Through the years, four additions have been made to the original house, including a chapel in 1925. The main façade and ornate interiors have remained intact.

In 1988, the Sister of the St. John's Children's Home closed the home. More than 3,000 children once called St. John's home.

At present, the museum has Croatian, Polish, Slovak, Lithuanian, Ukraine, Slovenian, the Netherlands, Russian and Denmark ethnic groups participating in permanent exhibits. During the Christmas season, exhibits also include Germany, Italy, Irish, Black Americans, Mexican, Belgium and Greece.

During the Christmas season, the Victorian home is decorated in a traditional Victorian design. The ethnic exhibitors decorate the rooms with their traditions and cultures of their heritage.

For more information on this attraction or others in Kansas City, Kansas call 913-321-5800 or go to visitkansascityks.com.

Thank-you and enjoy the tour.