



Charles Barton Keene

Charles Barton Keene, a renowned and prolific architect of country homes, designed this historic house. The 1920's mansion features 7,000 square feet, soaring ceilings, hardwood floors, a carved marble fireplace, and original Tiffany windows. The green roof and long white stucco facade are tell-tale signs that make Keene's work so recognizable as well as popular.

Keene was born in Philadelphia and educated at the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated in 1889. Though he entered the work force after completion of his undergraduate degree, Keene continued to take courses at the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art. During his first few years out of school, Keene worked for T.P. Chandler and Frank Miles Day, two of Philadelphia's most influential architects.

Keene began working independently by 1901 and by 1903 had started work with the Woodmere Land Association in Long Island, New York. There he designed the residence, stable, and playhouse on the estate of R.L. Burton. Furthering his influence in the area, Keene also designed several additional homes, stores, and railroad stations.

As Keene's notoriety grew, his colonial revival country home designs began to pepper the east coast from Maine to Florida. Some of Keene's most impressive works are found in Winston-Salem, North Carolina; most famously the Reynolda House. Keene was so popular that he was asked to design R.J. Reynolds High School, the Winston-Salem Hospital, and the Greensboro Country Club. With the growing demand, Keene deemed it necessary to establish his home office in Winston-Salem with offices at Wachovia Trust Co.

“Amplly published in monographs regarding country houses, especially in the 1920s, Keene represented the best of the colonial revival designers, catering to a wealthy clientele for whom he created sometimes lavish interpretations of the popular style.”