

Welcome to the Leu House Museum



Museum Tour Hours

Open Tuesday - Sunday, 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.,
closed the month of July; tours offered every 30 minutes
on the hour and half-hour. Last tour is at 12:30 p.m.

History

In the heart of the Gardens overlooking Lake Rowena, the Leu House, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, has been meticulously restored to reflect the history of the house exemplifying turn-of-the-century Florida living.

Mr. and Mrs. Leu donated their home and surrounding gardens to the City of Orlando in 1961.



Mizell Family, 1858

The first owners, Angeline and David W. Mizell staked their claim to the land in 1858. The property was originally settled and farmed growing cotton, corn and sugar cane. David W. Mizell, the only sheriff of Orange County who died in the line of duty, was ambushed and murdered in 1870. He is buried in a small cemetery on the garden grounds.

Pell Gardener Period, 1902



Duncan Pell, from New York, wanted to try his luck in the citrus industry and seek a speedy divorce to marry young silent screen star, Helen Gardner. They hired John Mizell, son of David W. and Angeline, to add on two wings to the house, more than doubling the size. Duncan and Helen used the house as a weekend get-away entertaining many guests.

Woodward Family, 1906

The third owners of the Leu House added charm and nostalgia. Joseph and Martha Woodward from Birmingham, Alabama bought the house as a winter retreat. They named the estate “LaBelle” after the family’s original iron works business. They also built on to the house bringing it to its present size.

Leu Era, 1936

Harry P., a native to Orlando, and his wife, Mary Jane, purchased the property in 1936. Mr. Leu owned a successful industrial supply company in Orlando, Miami and Tampa. The Leus traveled extensively and brought back plants and seeds for their garden. The beautiful gardens bear witness to the legacy that Harry P. Leu left to the City of Orlando.

