

Bess Streeter Aldrich House & Museum

I have experienced it a thousand times since I moved to Elmwood—the warm-hearted hospitality, loyal friendship and deep sympathy of the small town. And it is these characteristics and others of the better features of a small town and its people that I have tried to stress in my short stories and books.



—*Why I Live in a Small Town*, American Magazine, 1933

What Can I Expect on My Tour?

A knowledgeable guide will take you on a tour through the Aldrich House where you will learn about the author and her writings, the history of the home, and what life was like when Mrs. Aldrich lived there (1922-1946). You'll see many original furniture pieces and interesting Aldrich memorabilia.

The Museum, located about 4 blocks from the house at 124 West D, contains Aldrich memorabilia including letters written by the author, souvenirs from her movie, *Cheers for Miss Bishop*, family history pieces, and an original *A Lantern in Her Hand* manuscript. An 18-minute video about Mrs. Aldrich is available for viewing. The Museum is handicap-accessible. The Aldrich House is walker-accessible on the first floor, and a video of the upstairs can be shown to those who can't navigate stairs.

The gift shop at the Aldrich House offers a nice variety of souvenirs and books. During seasonable weather, you may enjoy the gardens and the Bess Streeter Aldrich Park, which is directly across the street. The tour guide can give you directions to the Elmwood Cemetery where Mrs. Aldrich is buried. Finally, a walking tour of Elmwood is available and features the five homes where the Aldrich family lived, the bank purchased by the Aldriches, and the Aldrich mural.

Let Mrs. Aldrich Be Your Tour Guide (Character Tour)



What is a Character Tour? During a character tour, an actress portrays Mrs. Aldrich showing you around her home. This tour is available by appointment. Likewise, it is available on the first Sunday of every month at 2 p.m.

Meet Donna Durette (Mrs. Aldrich)

Donna is a retired teacher, Lutheran minister, and hospital chaplain. When Donna became a guide at the Bess Streeter Aldrich House in 2017, she was hooked. She enjoyed reading Mrs. Aldrich's stories and researching her life and literary influences. Recently, when the Aldrich Foundation board decided to add an Aldrich character, she was a natural fit.

Cost: Regular Tours, \$5; Tours with Mrs. Aldrich, \$8

Reservations:

To make an appointment for a tour or to reserve a spot for a Sunday afternoon character tour during the 1st Sunday of a month (starts at 2 p.m.), contact Kurk Shrader, Executive Director, at 402-867-4233 or at kurkshrader@gmail.com.