



The Houses That Sears Built; Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Sears Catalog Homes

By Rosemary Thornton

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Between 1908-1940, Sears customers ordered about 75,000 houses out of the Sears Roebuck and Company mail-order catalogs. The houses were shipped by rail to city lots and farms all over the country.

Each "kit home" contained 30,000 pieces, including 750 pounds of nails and 27 gallons of paint and varnish. A 75-page instruction book showed home buyers, step by step, how to assemble those 30,000 pieces of house.

Today, these houses are a treasured piece of Americana and nationwide interest in Sears homes is *great*. The Washington Times recently reported (September 13, 2001) that a Sears home in Chevy Chase sold for \$816,000.

My research indicates that only 2% (approximately) of the Sears homes in the country have been discovered. *More than 70,000 Sears homes remain undiscovered and unknown.*

Because of this, our communities' best architectural treasures – our grand collection of Sears homes – are being damaged by remuddling and worse, demolished.

I hope that "*The Houses That Sears Built*" will educate and enlighten people about these hidden architectural treasures that lie silently within our cities, just **waiting** to be discovered.

There is tremendous interest in this topic and I hope this book will spur that interest even further. In my part of the country (Southwestern Illinois) these wonderful old Sears homes are still being remuddled and demolished. **This must stop.**

It is my hope that "*The Houses That Sears Built*" will inspire folks to **find** their community's Sears homes and implement policies and programs to highlight and protect these treasured bits of architectural Americana.

When you have finished reading "*The Houses That Sears Built*" **you** will be your community's expert on Sears homes. You'll learn how to identify Sears homes from the inside, outside and from courthouse documents. You'll learn the interesting details of Sears homes' construction. One chapter is devoted to the \$1 million order of Sears homes that was shipped to Carlinville, Schoper and Wood River (Illinois).

Another chapter is devoted to "The Lost Sears Homes." These are Sears homes which appeared only once in obscure Sears Modern Homes catalogs and were not included in "*Houses by Mail: A Guide To Houses from Sears, Roebuck and Company*," by Katherine Cole Stevenson and H. Ward Jandl. ("*Houses by Mail*" is the definitive field guide for identifying Sears homes and makes a wonderful companion book to "*The Houses That Sears Built*."

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Rosemary Thornton has been writing and lecturing about Sears homes for three years. She's also conducted surveys of Sears homes for several communities. As a result, Ms. Thornton found that she received frequent requests from people all over the country, asking for more information about these old catalog homes. Because of this, she decided it was time to combine her copious field notes with the tall stack of rare historical information she'd unearthed, and write a book: *The Houses That Sears Built*.

From the author:

This is a topic that is near and dear to my heart. I hope my love of these **awesome** old homes shines through the pages of this book. Above all, I hope "The Houses That Sears Built" will inspire you to go out into your community and **find** the Sears homes that are hidden there. I hope this book will fuel your love of old homes, specifically Sears homes. And I hope that this book helps preserve and protect this country's dazzling collection of Sears Roebuck catalog homes.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lynda Wright:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? That's why, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their very own spare time to take a wander, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open or read a book titled *The Houses That Sears Built; Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Sears Catalog Homes*? Maybe it is being best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can more intelligent than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have different opinion?

Ray Goodrow:

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James Sanchez:

Reading a e-book tends to be new life style in this era globalization. With studying you can get a lot of information that could give you benefit in your life. Using book everyone in this world could share their idea. Ebooks can also inspire a lot of people. A great deal of author can inspire their own reader with their story as well as their experience. Not only situation that share in the publications. But also they write about the ability about something that you need instance. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your children, there are many kinds of book which exist now. The authors on earth always try to improve their ability in writing, they also doing some research before they write with their book. One of them is this The Houses That Sears Built; Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Sears Catalog Homes.

Kellie Stephens:

In this particular era which is the greater particular person or who has ability to do something more are more valuable than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple solution to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time little but quite enough to experience a look at some books. Among the books in the top listing in your reading list is definitely The Houses That Sears Built; Everything You Ever Wanted To Know About Sears Catalog Homes. This book which is qualified as The Hungry Inclines can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking upwards and review this publication you can get many advantages.

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