

The Legacy Doll House "Tour"



"There is only one creator... I am just a re-creator," claimed Lee Middleton Urick. Walk through the entry way of The Legacy Doll House and find yourself in the Tan Room. This room is especially for Lee, showcasing several dolls she sculpted after her grandchildren. Her talents started at her kitchen table and she lived her life by, "giving credit where credit is due." Each ASC and Newborn Nursery doll comes with a mini children's Bible.

The Red Room is where "The journey begins." Lee Middleton Original Dolls started in 1980 at Lee's home in Coolville, OH. As her business grew she rented from Coolville Bank, Coolville Hardware Store, Odd Fellows Hall and even used a block building on her family's farm. In 1989 the Belpre Factory was opened and Lee became the first doll artist in the United States to build and manage a major doll manufacturing facility. "We have a home!" You will find a piece of concrete inscribed by Lee. It states, "Jesus is the Cornerstone. 1989" and was saved from the original factory floor during remodeling in 1998.

Lee befriended many people, including Kathryn Davis. In the Gray Room you will see a tribute to Kathryn as she was Lee's first outside retailer and personal friend. Another case displays Lee's Christmas Angel series, from 1987-1996 as well as prototypes that never made it to production. When you leave, you will see a Farwell Tribute with the last of Lee's sculpted used in 2003.

Milestones are noted in the Purple Room as you see how "We pioneered the process." A small case is displayed which shows the step-by-step process on making a mold. By looking at the differences from porcelain to vinyl to perfected vinyl you can see how "We changed the face of doll collecting." In 1989 Lee became Ohio's Small Business Person of the Year and was recognized by George H. W. Bush. "Belpre becomes Baby Doll Capitol of the World," as proclaimed by Richard Thomas, mayor of Belpre, in 1997. Tragically, Lee passed away in 1997 from a heart attack at the age of 57. "As one door closes" a doll was produced as a Memorial Tribute wearing a pale pink Christening gown. A bible and bookmark was included.

You walk into the Blue Room "And another door opens." Reva Schick signed with Middleton Doll Company in 1997 not knowing how she would revolutionize the art of doll sculpting. She was found at the Toy Fair in New York and took the company "from the Ohio hills to the mountains of Canada" as that is where she's from. "Reva becomes part of the family" and "continues to bring realism and magic to the world of collectors." Browse through displays of award-winning dolls, warm your spirit as you read about how "We Believe in Giving," and see pictures of "Our Extended Family."

"Dolls reflecting life's most tender moments... realism that stirs human emotion... memories for a lifetime. This will forever be the mission and legacy of Lee Middleton Original Dolls."