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HISTORY LESSON AT THE LAKE

Lake Lotawana was developed in the late 1920s and early 1930s in eastern Jackson County by Milton Thompson. Legend has it that Jesse James and the Quantrill's raiders used to hide out in the area where Lake Lotawana was later developed. In fact the tale goes on to say that Jesse James had a cabin at the lake located on the same site as a wonderful new property—one of the first to be developed here—that has just hit the market. Now you can own a bit of history in a home that's been renovated with wonderful attention to detail.

Today, Lake Lotawana is a premier year round and second home community in the Kansas City metropolitan area. Many prominent Kansas City residents first purchased property at Lake Lotawana during its early days. In 1934 Bruce Dodson began construction of the now renowned Bruce Dodson Lodge. Today, this estate has been restored to its 1930s grandeur including many modern amenities. Rumor has it that President Harry Truman used to play cards here.

For two years well-known Lake Lotawana builder and designer Greg Smetanka and developer Howard Chamberlin (featuring his son Austin Chamberlin's architectural work) have taken great pride in restoring this unique property.

The estate includes two homes and another lot where a third home could be built, ultimately creating a great family compound or corporate escape. The property has more than 250 feet of shoreline, a private enclosed boathouse, two swim docks and three boat lifts all within steps from the house. The grounds have been professionally landscaped and include a sprinkler system serving the entire estate with water from the lake.

As you enter the home through the arched stone entry and see the hand-painted map of the lake on the wall you feel you have stepped back in time. The main house, or what has been favorably termed "the lodge," is detailed with the restoration of the massive original timbers and woodwork. Distinctive sandblasted and hand-hewn woodwork and an authentic wagon wheel chandelier are but a few of the delightful touches. Included in the updates are all new Pella Architect Series windows throughout the main lodge and guest house.

The commanding stone fireplace, wide planked wood floors, picture window, wine cellar, pub room with full stainless fountain bar and balcony overlooking the large great room all come complete with panoramic views of the lake. The distinctive kitchen offers rustic



knotty alder cabinetry with hand painted finish, wine refrigerator, Viking appliances, stained concrete counters and sink, handmade ceramic tiles, walk-in pantry, ceiling-to-floor windows and doors with lakeside views, stone flooring and lakeside deck off the kitchen.

The master suite features a luxurious bath and a secluded flagstone patio terrace overlooking the lake creating a private country setting. Venetian plaster walls with lighting alcoves, original stained glass closet doors, hand-hewn vaulted beam and truss ceiling with brackets and tongue-and-groove wood provide the perfect escape for the master of the estate.

The charming guest house is a separate two-bedroom cottage with vaulted ceilings, fireplace and kitchen—again with picturesque views of the lake—and its own private parking. The kitchen transcends time with custom-painted cabinets with hand-painted accents, all stainless appliances, gas range and distinctive tile counters and backsplash with center island.

Lake Lotawana offers homes in a variety of price ranges from \$100,000 one-bedroom fixer-upper cabins to multi-million dollar estates. The area has seen a shift lately as there has been a trend in old home renovation into upscale second home and primary residence homes for people like Trent Green of the Kansas City Chiefs.

The area offers many amenities to residents including a private police force and an upscale restaurant on the water by the dam, Marina Grog & Galley. Nearby shopping and terrific dining options can be found in Blue Springs and Lee's Summit. Children attend the acclaimed Lee's Summit School District.

Gayle and Dayton Runkle of Realty Executives Metro One are the listing agents for this incredible lakefront estate at 22 I. Street. ■

BY SUSAN KELLY POWERS

ABOVE: One of Lake Lotawana's historic gems—completely redone—is available for your getaway or year-round home, complete with a charming guest house.