

# Quigley's Castle

## The Ozark's Strangest Dwelling



PHOTO BY STUDIO 62


Listed on the National Register of Historic Places  
 Appeared on HGTV

Come see Elise Quigley's perennial garden of over 400 varieties of flowers. The garden paths wind around secluded benches, a lily pond and birdbaths up to her home which she beautifully covered with stones from her childhood. See how she found a way to sleep in treetops full of bloom. Tropical plants grow in the natural soil of the first floor and brush the ceiling of the second floor. She has a butterfly, fossil, crystal, and arrowhead collection beyond belief.

Children 14 & under with parent - FREE  
 Open March through November.  
 April 1st to October 31st - 10:00 AM until 4:30 PM  
 Closed Sundays and Thursdays.

Call for times in March and November.  
 479-253-8311

Located on Hwy. 23, 4 miles South of Eureka Springs

 [www.quigleyscastle.com](http://www.quigleyscastle.com)

*Quigley's Castle*, Eureka Springs, AR- As soon as Albert Quigley (1905-1972) headed for work at the lumber mill one June morning in 1943, Mrs. Elise Fioravanti Quigley (1910-1984) gathered their five children around her and ordered: "We're going to tear down the house." And demolish the family's three-room house they did. "When Bud came home that night," Mrs. Quigley related, "he was living in a chicken house, where we'd moved all of our stuff."

Mrs. Quigley had already designed her dream home. She wanted two things: Plenty of room for the robust family, and a "home where I felt I was living in the world instead of in a box. I designed it in my mind, but I couldn't tell anybody what I wanted, so I sat down with scissors and paste and cardboard and match sticks and made a model."

The biggest obstacle was that the design called for 28 huge windows. Mr. Quigley wanted to wait to build the house, because building supplies were rationed during the war. But now construction began immediately. Built entirely of lumber off of their land, and with their own labor, only \$2,000 in cash was spent on supplies and glass, which didn't become available for three years. The family survived the winters by tacking material over the holes in layers.

To bring nature indoors, four feet of earth was left bare between the edges of the living space and the walls. Into the soil which borders the rooms on the inside, Mrs. Quigley planted



flowering, tropical plants that grow up to the second-story ceiling. The original plants are now 70 years old.

Stones that Mrs. Quigley began collecting as a 9 year-old girl assumed an important part of the house. Working tenderly for three years, Mrs. Quigley covered the outside walls with a collection of fossils, crystals, arrowheads and stones selected from the creek beds for their beauty. A perennial garden surrounds the house.

The inside of the home is a collection of family antiques and mementoes that express Mrs. Quigley's love of nature. Especially spectacular is the "Butterfly Wall" that is beyond imagination.

The Quigley home, without intention became a favorite stopping place for people traveling through the Ozarks. Now after seventy years, the Quigley's grandchildren still welcome guests.