Lucy Lee Lancaster donated the Lancaster House to the YMCA in memory of her parents, William Lee Lancaster and Lucy Lee Siebold Lane and her younger sister, Martha. The house was built in 1913 by her father and served Lucy’s place of residence until her death in 1989. The house is a foursquare style which was popular in the post-Victorian era. The style is based on Frank Lloyd Wright’s Prairie Architecture, which focused on a more efficient use of space and an aesthetically pleasing symmetrical design.

Lucy had a passion for traveling. During the school year she would study travel books to plan out her next adventure (which usually took place during the summer months). Many of the objects around the house are trinkets that she collected from various travels. The antique chair and desk on either side of the front door contain several objects not only from the trips but also serve as a collection of various experiences Lucy had with the YMCA. Her miniature teas sets were one of her favorite souvenirs to collect. Although the origin of each individual tea set is unknown, each set has a unique design (some of which are telltale signs of origin). Lucy always abided by her three rules for travel; only carry one suitcase, wear sensible shoes and bring a hat.