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The Cayuga Heights History Project Wins National 2016 AASLH Award of Merit as well as Historic Ithaca's Award of Merit

NASHVILLE, TN—June 2016—The American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) proudly announces that **The Cayuga Heights History Project** is the recipient of an Award of Merit for **The Cayuga Heights History Project Website**. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards, now in its 71st year, is the most prestigious recognition for achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history. The winners represent the best in the field and provide leadership for the future of state and local history. The American Association for State and Local History is a not-for-profit national professional organization of individuals and institutions working to preserve and promote history. From its headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, AASLH provides leadership, service, and support for its members who preserve and interpret state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful in American society.

Additionally, Historic Ithaca, the local nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and sustaining the legacy of the built environment in Tompkins County and the Finger Lakes Region of New York State, presented **The Cayuga Heights History Project** with an Award of Merit in May, 2016. Nominator Rod Howe, Executive Director of The History Center in Tompkins



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County noted that the project "has helped define the village and provided material that helps ground residents in that place."

The Cayuga Heights History Project is a volunteer group that collects and interprets the history of the Village of Cayuga Heights, a university suburb adjacent to the campus of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. Launched on a shoestring budget to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of the village in 2015, project members created **The Cayuga Heights History Project website**. Guided by the motto: "Everybody has a story. Tell it. Every house has a story. Learn it," the site focuses on village history through people and places, providing resources to guide residents in compiling their own house histories thereby strengthening the community through personal engagement. An innovative searchable map of the more than 900 village homes and sites is central to the website's interactivity. It conveys a sense of place to the people who live here, or have in the past, such as writers, artists, World War II physicists, as well as the physical landscape, place names, cemeteries and more. The project team has put in thousands of hours of research, writing and production for the benefit of Cayuga Heights residents and local history enthusiasts everywhere. In sum, **The Cayuga Heights History Project** is an outstanding example of local history enlivened through a dynamic website, and serves to strengthen an enduring, hundred-year-old community. Visit **The Cayuga Heights History Project** at www.www.cayugaheightshistory.weebly.com

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