

Explore Cayuga Heights homes, gardens Saturday

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(Photo: SIMON WHEELER / Staff Photo)

A home tour Saturday in Cayuga Heights will offer a peek into the past and benefit the programs and services of Historic Ithaca.

Eight properties are part of the sixth annual "That Old House Tour," including Marcham Hall, the former home of Dorothy Cornell, Ezra Cornell's granddaughter; one of the first houses built in the planned residential community of Cayuga Heights; the home of former Cornell President Deane Malott; and Greystone, the home of dancer and silent-film star Irene Castle after she married Robert E. Treman.

Greystone (<https://www.sigmachicornell.org/public1.asp>), built in 1913, has been home to the Sigma Chi fraternity since 1925. Local stone was used to build the house.

Inside the home, on the main floor, are wood-paneled walls and bookcases, oversized leather chairs and couches, a grand piano, and items one would expect in a college fraternity — a pool table in room known as Monkey House, large TVs and pictures showing different classes of fraternity members.

Also part of the tour is the garden at the home of Elizabeth and Tim Mount, on East Upland Road.

The gardens are planted for the amount of sunshine areas of the yard receives, with some spots in full sun and others in all shade, Elizabeth Mount explained.

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Hakanachloea, also known as Japanese Forest Grass, center in Elizabeth Mount's garden on East Upland Road in Cayuga Heights. The garden at the Mounts' home is on the sixth annual "That Old House Tour" offered by Historic Ithaca on Saturday. (Photo: SIMON WHEELER / Staff Photo)

"A lot of gardeners have found it's much more satisfying to garden in the shade, because you're not going for color necessarily; you're going for texture," Mount said.

"... When you plant annuals, you get a full summer of color. When you plant perennials, you get two weeks of bloom from each plant, followed by the subtleties of its foliage for the rest of the season. In other words, you choose a perennial for more than just its bloom."

While the inside of her home won't be part of the tour, its history is noteworthy, as the house was moved twice — in 1913 and again in 1939. For the first move, the house was cut in half and pulled by horses on two flatbed wagons down Triphammer Road. On its second move, by car, the house became stuck in field across the street for a week before it was placed on its current location.



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(<http://www.ithacajournal.com/story/opinion/editorial/2015/06/12/happy-th-cayuga-heights-home-high-achievers/71119736/>)

The Mount family moved in in 1973.

The home tour marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the village, according to Village Historian Bea Szekely.

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If you go

- Tickets for the self-guided walk/drive can be purchased at [historicithaca.org](http://www.historicithaca.org/) (<http://www.historicithaca.org/>), in person at 212 Center St., or by calling (607) 277-3450, or on the day of the tour. General admission is \$15; \$12 for Friends of Historic Ithaca, seniors and students; \$10 per person for groups of 4 or more. Children under 12 are free.
- Registration and tour map pick-up is at Marcham Hall, 836 Hanshaw Road from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m Saturday. Tours run from noon to 4 p.m. followed by a reception at 4 p.m. at Marcham Hall.
- Online: [cayugaheightshistory.weebly.com](http://www.cayugaheightshistory.weebly.com/) (<http://www.cayugaheightshistory.weebly.com/>).

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