

Helen Binkerd Young (1877-1959)

Helen Binkerd Young was an early female American architect, the eleventh woman to graduate from Cornell's architecture program, in 1900. Unable to teach architecture when her husband was appointed to do so at Cornell, she joined the Department of Home Economics where she taught courses on home design and published extension bulletins for farm wives, retiring in 1922. As detailed by Historic Ithaca Preservation Associate Sara Johnson in *Historic Ithaca's Preservation Quarterly* (Volume 40, winter 2008), Helen Young did not sign her name to plans but is known to have drawn them for charming revival style homes. In 1918, she and her husband George designed their own house, "Hidden Home" at 107 Overlook Road in the Village of Cayuga Heights, which was written up in *American Architecture Magazine* in 1927. Along with other residences in the area, according to former Cayuga Heights historian Carol Sisler, she is likely the architect of Marcham Hall, the Cayuga Heights municipal building, originally the home of Ezra Cornell's granddaughter Dorothy Cornell. Johnson speculates that passage of the Nineteenth Amendment and societal change may have prompted Young to identify herself in the 1930 U.S. Census as architect.

Helen Binkerd Young-Designed Homes in the Village of Cayuga Heights



"Hidden Home," 107 Overlook Road
Helen Binkerd Young and George Y. Young, 1918-19
Tudor Revival



614 Wyckoff Road
Clyde Myers and Fleda Straight Myers, 1920-21
Tudor Revival



402 Cayuga Heights Road
Charles K. Burdick, 1923



"Elmcote," 212 Overlook Road
Dwight and Anna Cecilia Sanderson, 1923



330 The Parkway
John and Maria Bentley, 1923-24



115 Cayuga Heights Road
James E. Boyle, 1926