

porating as a city. After much debate and not a little opposition to the idea of the increased role of government, the law finally passed, and Ithaca became a city in 1888. By this time, the population had risen to about 11,000, and with the change in governance, Ithaca began to deal more directly with questions relating to public services. In 1891 the city granted its first franchise for a streetcar line and authorized the paving of the streets. After a typhoid epidemic in 1894, the city began building sewers; after a second epidemic in 1903, the city bought out the privately owned water works.

As the city government became more active, so did private social service organizations. The YMCA was permanently established in Ithaca in 1892 and the Social Service League was formed in 1904, followed by the Family Welfare Society in 1912, and the Community Chest (now the United Way) in 1921.

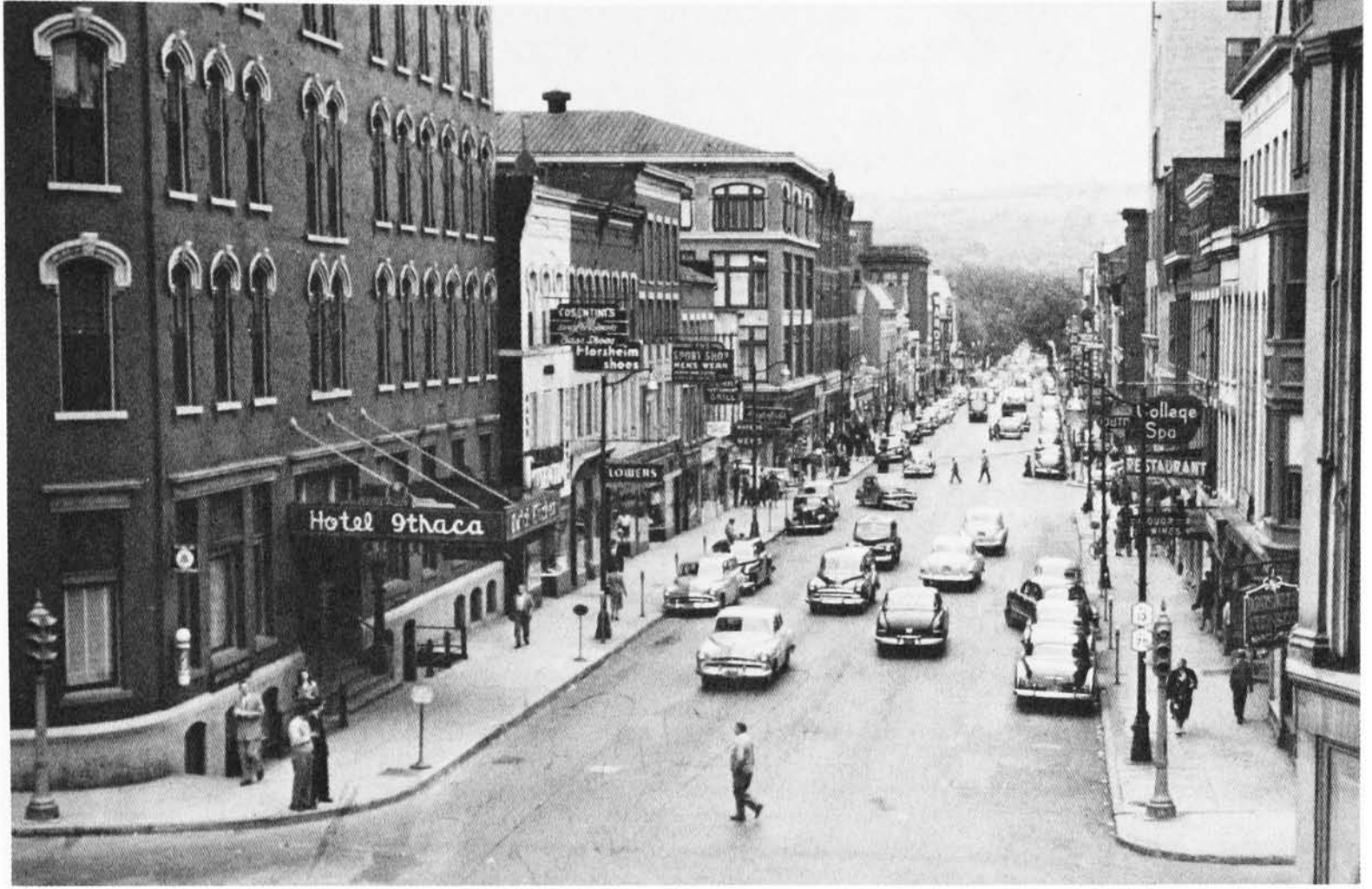
Downtown consisted of much more than buildings and institutions, however, as the following descriptions of a sorority dance of the 1890s illustrates:

The dances were always held in Masonic Hall. . . . If you had been sent soaring straight to Heaven by having Bool's wagon stop at your door, you pinned a bunch of violets or roses at your waist. . . . [Your escort] guided you down the steps and across the walk to the hack with its prancing steeds. . . . The first and last dances and the super-dances were always taken by the boy who had sent you the flowers and paid for the hack. For the rest of the time he was forgotten except when you caught glimpses of him now and then as you floated upon the music of a waltz or galloped up and down the shining floor in a two-step. Surely such ecstasy must go on forever.¹

Equally exhilarating was the experience of "coasting on Buffalo Hill under the watchful eye of the police, when the big 'bobs' thundered clear from Eddy Street to Washington Park."² On certain winter nights in the 1910s, the police would close Buffalo Street to traffic so people could coast their sleds down the steep slope. At the foot of the hill was "The Bump," which

caused fast-traveling coasters to leave the ground. . . . Gasps and cheers rose from the spectators as each sled went streaking over it. . . . Probably the greatest excitement was caused when the big bobsled and its crew arrived. . . . Starting from Eddy Street, the heavy bobsled and riders increased their speed as they descended the hill. By the time they reached The Bump they seemed almost a blur. . . . As the bob rose into the air the townspeople let go an ear-splitting yell.³

Such inexpensive pleasures as dancing and sledding must have seemed even more important during the Great Depression, through which Ithaca, along with the rest of the country, suffered in the 1930s. Although Ithaca fared better than many other cities and communities—thanks in part to the presence of its two relatively stable educational institutions—many Ithacans lost their jobs and were in need of assistance. The recently formed social service agencies worked to meet these needs, and several new federal agencies provided help as well. A few buildings planned during the 1920s were completed in the early 1930s, but the city undertook no new construction until the end of the decade.

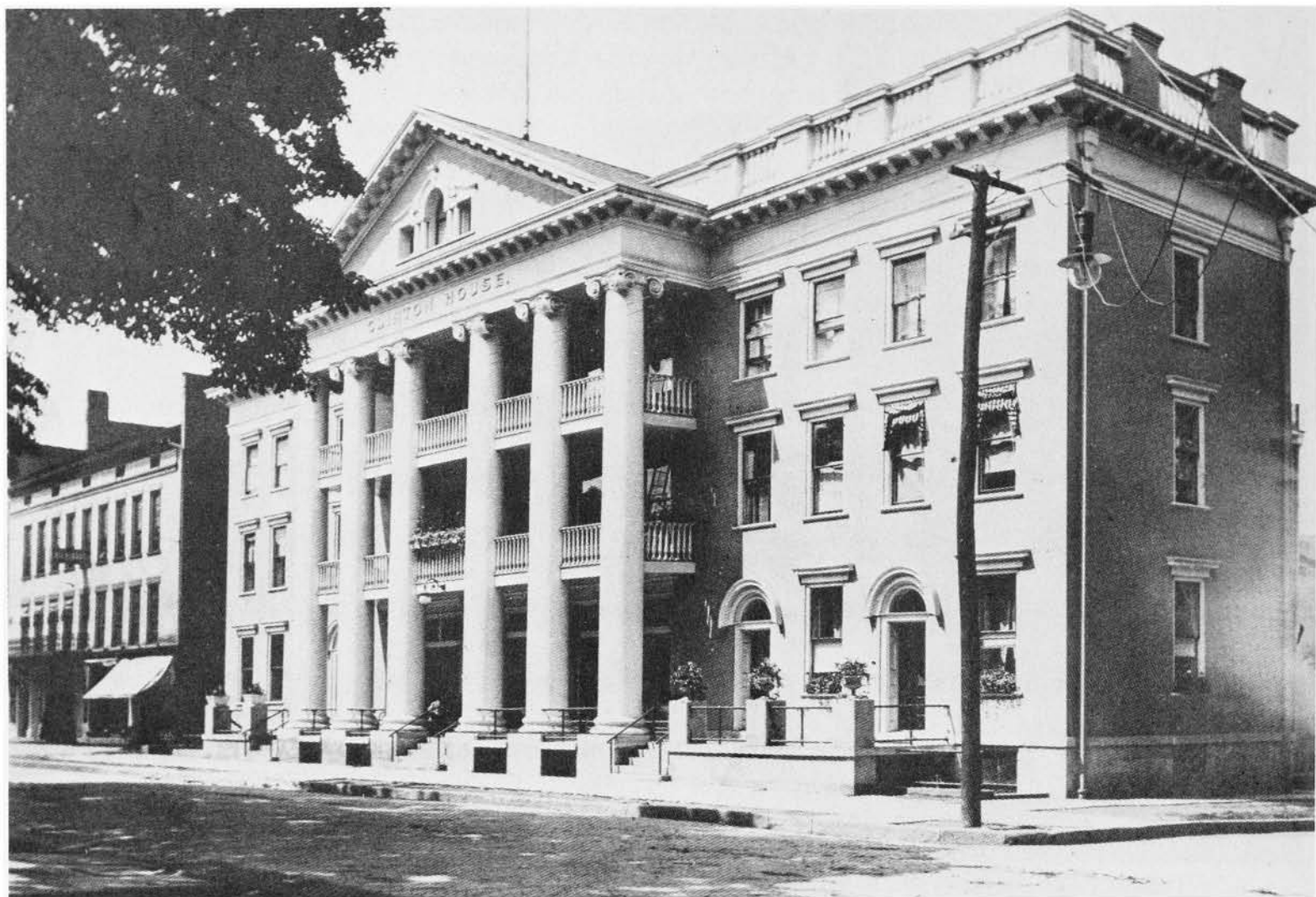


13. State Street, ca. 1953, looking west from the intersection with Aurora Street. The Ithaca Hotel was demolished in 1967 and replaced in 1975 by Rothschild's (now Iszard's) department store.

The 1930s also saw the end of the trolleys in Ithaca, and buses eventually took over the streetcar routes.

Ithaca mobilized for the war effort in the early 1940s and subsequently enjoyed the postwar boom, sprucing itself up with storefront renovations on State Street and the liberal use of neon. Yet, ironically, these years of Ithaca's greatest prosperity produced the greatest threat to the city's commercial life. Although the downtown economy had of course suffered during the various depressions of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, it had always eventually revived. Revival—and survival—were less certain in the late 1950s and early 1960s, when the universal availability of the automobile and the lure of suburban living led to stagnation and decline in the city's center.

As early as the 1950s, Ithacans were expressing concern about the deterioration of the downtown area, and in 1963 the city established the Urban Renewal Agency. Unfortunately, urban renewal at first had a largely negative effect. In its eagerness to build a new downtown, the city overlooked the value of the old, and during the 1960s several Ithaca landmarks were demolished. In the first major action of the urban renewal program, City Hall, after more than a



14. The Clinton House and Clinton Hall (left), ca. 1905. Both downtown landmarks were saved from demolition by community effort and wise development.

century of service, was torn down, to be replaced by the Seneca Street parking garage. This demolition spurred the formation of Historic Ithaca, the local preservation group—but not in time to save the Cornell Library and the Ithaca Hotel. Public protest and sustained action by Historic Ithaca and others saved the Clinton House, however.

Built in the monumental Greek Revival style in 1828–1830, the Clinton House, 116 North Cayuga, was regarded by many as the finest hotel west of the Hudson River. Simeon DeWitt often lived at the hotel during his visits to Ithaca, and in fact he died there. The building survived several fires and conversion to the Second Empire style (complete with mansard roof) for a period of twenty-five years, but it ended its hotel days in 1973. In that year Historic Ithaca purchased the Clinton House and began a complete renovation. The building now houses the DeWitt Historical Society, Historic Ithaca, and numerous offices. Many Ithacans will recall eating in the Clinton House dining room or having a drink in the Mural Lounge.

Next door to the Clinton House is the recently renovated Clinton Block, an elegant Greek Revival commercial building constructed around 1850. The

Clinton Block was badly damaged by fire in 1975 and came perilously close to being demolished in 1985. Frantic efforts by Victoria Romanoff, Jules Burgevin, Historic Ithaca, and other interested parties staved off demolition on several occasions. Then Joseph Ciaschi stepped in and purchased the building in late 1985. Ciaschi invested over \$1,000,000 in renovations, which included replicating the missing cast-iron storefronts, the iron balcony on the second floor, and the roof balustrade. The result is a stunning addition to the downtown scene.

Originally, the Clinton Block contained retail stores and offices, much as it does now. On the third floor, however, was a surprisingly large open space known as Clinton Hall (later Manhattan Hall), Ithaca's first major entertainment center. It was used for traveling performances, dancing classes, vaudeville shows, and movies, as well as meetings. The hall was noted for its painted stage backdrop and the allegorical paintings on the ceiling. During the recent renovations, two large murals were uncovered: one was a full-sized portrait of George Washington, and the other depicted the Battle of Monterey. Unfortunately, to make the Clinton Block project economically feasible, this hall had to be divided into two floors, and the murals covered up.

Ithaca's second major entertainment center, the Wilgus Opera House, was also part of a larger structure. The 1,600-seat theater occupied the third and fourth floors of the Wilgus Block (at State and Tioga), which housed retail stores and offices on the first and second floors. The opera house was Ithaca's main entertainment center until the Lyceum Theater was built on Cayuga Street in 1893. The grandest Ithaca theater at the time, the Lyceum remained in use for about forty years. During the 1910s, four theaters were built downtown; most of them designed both for traveling professional groups and for movies. Two of the four remain, the Crescent and the Strand, although neither functions as a movie house. Still showing movies is the State, originally built as an automobile showroom and garage but converted to an ornate Moorish/Gothic/Renaissance theater in 1928.

Next door to the Clinton Block is the Hibbard Block, another mid-nineteenth-century Greek Revival building, which was renovated in 1985. With the recent completion of the Clinton Block project, Ithaca now has a rare intact group of renovated nineteenth-century structures. Work on both these projects was aided by community development funds from the city, as were improvements to a number of other buildings on West State Street.

Although most of its early actions seemed to have resulted in demolitions, the Urban Renewal Agency did encourage the building of new structures. The first urban renewal construction project was the Woolworth Department Store, completed in 1967. Other efforts included the original portion of the Ramada Inn, the sorely needed parking ramps, the new Rothschild's building (now Iszard's), and Center Ithaca. None of these projects is distinguished in architectural terms, but in economic terms each is extremely important to the health of the city.

Most important, the Urban Renewal Agency aided in the building of the Ithaca Commons, an imaginative and well-conceived project that has re-



15. The Ithaca Commons was built on three downtown blocks in the mid-1970s. The Area Beautification Committee, downtown merchants, city and state governments, and others joined forces to create the popular pedestrian mall. Photograph by H. H. Lyon.

vitalized downtown Ithaca as a commercial center. In the early 1970s the downtown area was marred by empty lots and vacant stores. Shopping centers were being developed in outlying areas, and city revenues were declining. In reaction, city officials, realizing that the health of the city's center was vitally important to the city as a whole, began to take a more active role in downtown development.

The idea of a downtown mall had been suggested on several occasions, but only with the election of Edward Conley as mayor in 1971 was real progress made. (Ironically, Conley won that election by only nine votes in a five-person race.) At an early stage, planners solicited input from a wide range of people, including the business community, public agencies, and private citizens.

Funding of the Commons, the first such pedestrian mall in New York, required an amendment to existing state legislation to permit twenty-year bonding. The cost (over \$1,000,000) has been split between the public and private sectors, with the city paying 15 percent, and property owners, through the establishment of a special tax district, paying 85 percent. To distribute the cost

fairly, this tax district was divided into two categories, with a higher rate for property on the Commons itself and a lower one for property within 250 feet of the area.

The award-winning design of the Commons was created by Anton J. Egner and Associates, with Marvin Adleman as landscape architect. The design provides for a wide variety of activities, both planned and unplanned, and features a fountain, a popular children's play area, ample and varied seating arrangements and plantings, covered pavilions, and a small amphitheater.

The other open public space downtown, DeWitt Park, is, of course, much older than the Commons and fortunately has always been protected from the pressures of urban renewal. The land is owned by the Presbyterian Church, which acquired it from Simeon DeWitt in the late 1810s. The original deed contains the stipulation that the land be maintained as a "publick walk and promenade." Although the city has taken over care of the park, the church retains the title. Further protection for the park comes from the area's designation as both a local and a national historic district.

Most of Ithaca's churches were at one time located near the park, and quite a few of them remain. In four cases—the Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, and Catholic churches—the current building is the third church on the site.

Also, across from the park is the Tompkins County Public Library on North Cayuga Street, completed in 1968. Architect Vincent Bagnardi designed the curved extension of the library in front to reflect the semicircular apse of the Presbyterian Church across the street.

Many buildings around the park have been extensively renovated in recent years, including the Old Courthouse, the DeWitt Building, the First Baptist Church, and the Boardman House. There is also considerable pressure to convert houses in the area into apartments and offices—unfortunately, for this kind of reconstruction destroys the aesthetic diversity and interest of the neighborhood.

Two of the buildings mentioned above were, like the Clinton Block, saved only at the last minute. The DeWitt Building seemed destined to become a parking lot until local architect William S. Downing, Jr. purchased the former school building in 1971.

School buildings had occupied the site since 1807, when Ithaca's first school was built there. Later, the Ithaca Academy, a private school incorporated in 1823, operated on the same spot for many years. The academy's buildings were turned over to the newly formed Board of Education in 1874; ten years later they were demolished to make way for a new high school. When that building burned down in 1912, the current structure was erected. After the present high school was constructed near Fall Creek in 1960, the old high school building became the home of DeWitt Junior High School until the junior high school, too, moved to a new location. Although Downing paid only \$20,000 for the structure, he subsequently invested well over \$1,000,000 to turn it into an imaginative combination of shops, offices, and apartments. It was a bold step at a time when the term "adaptive reuse" was virtually unknown.

The other building that came close to being demolished is the Boardman



16. The DeWitt Building was designed by William Henry Miller in 1912 and housed Ithaca High School from 1912 to 1960 and DeWitt Junior High School until 1971. In that year it was sold to William S. Downing, Jr., who converted it to retail, office, and residential use.

House, an Italianate mansion built in 1866 by George McChain, a publisher and twice village president, on land he bought from Ezra Cornell. The house subsequently served as the home of Douglass Boardman, lawyer, judge, and first dean of the Cornell Law School, and as the administration building of the Ithaca Conservatory of Music (later Ithaca College). The county bought the house in 1972, and in 1975 the Board of Representatives voted to tear it down, but community protests prevented this action. Finally, Joseph Ciaschi purchased the building in 1982 and extensively renovated it for office use.

When the county bought the Boardman House, it also purchased a number of other Ithaca College buildings, which were vacated by the college when it moved to the South Hill campus in the mid-1960s.

The institution that became Ithaca College was originally called the Ithaca Conservatory of Music and was founded in 1892 by W. Grant Egbert, a violinist born in Danby. The conservatory opened its doors at the Day House, 403 East Seneca. For most of the years between 1894 and 1911, it occupied the upper floors of the Wilgus Block. It then moved to the Boardman House in 1911. At the same time, the young conservatory was expanding by establishing affiliated schools (later incorporated): the Williams School of Expression and Dramatic Art in 1908, the Ithaca Institution of Public School Music in 1910, the Ithaca School of Physical Education in 1916, and the Conway Military Band School in 1922. In 1931 the Ithaca Conservatory became Ithaca College.

As the college grew, it built new buildings behind the Boardman House and



17. An early view of the Boardman House on East Buffalo Street. Originally the home of the McChain and Boardman families, the house later served as Ithaca College's administration building and now houses businesses and professional offices.

also attached to it, all the way back to the First Baptist Church. The first structure was the Little Theatre; later an administrative annex was added. The college also built a building to house the library and radio-television studios next door (now a county office building), and an L-shaped classroom-office building behind the library. Of these structures, only the Boardman House and the library remain today.

Many downtown buildings were taken over by the college as well, for varying periods of time. The Crescent and Star theaters became gyms; the Gosman House, 314 North Cayuga, became a music building; the Congregational Church (now Greek Orthodox) became a classroom-office building for the music department; and the row houses at 321-325 North Tioga became a women's dormitory.

Perhaps it is not coincidental that the decline of the downtown began about the time Ithaca College moved to South Hill. For many years the college's musical activities, theatrical productions, and sports events brought area residents downtown, and the students themselves provided a sizable, stable population of customers for downtown restaurants and stores, day and night. Spring Weekend '58, for example, included a beard-growing contest in DeWitt Park, a Costume Party at the V.F.W., and the annual Float Parade down State Street. After the college moved, other organizations joined the exodus: Montgomery Ward, J. C. Penney, the YMCA, the county jail, and the county's Department of Social Services.

Nonetheless, with the city at its centenary, downtown seems to be hold-

ing its own. With the completion of the Commons, the parking ramps, Center Ithaca, and, more recently, the renovation of the Clinton Block, downtown has reestablished itself as the center of the city and county. Many people continue to find downtown an attractive place to shop, eat, congregate, or just relax. Despite allegations of creeping yuppyism, downtown can still boast the only Woolworth store in the area, the only Jewish deli, the only newsstand where you can buy both the *Times* of London and *Motorcycle Fashion*, the only adult bookstore, several diners, and a neon rooster. Downtown is still a great neighborhood.

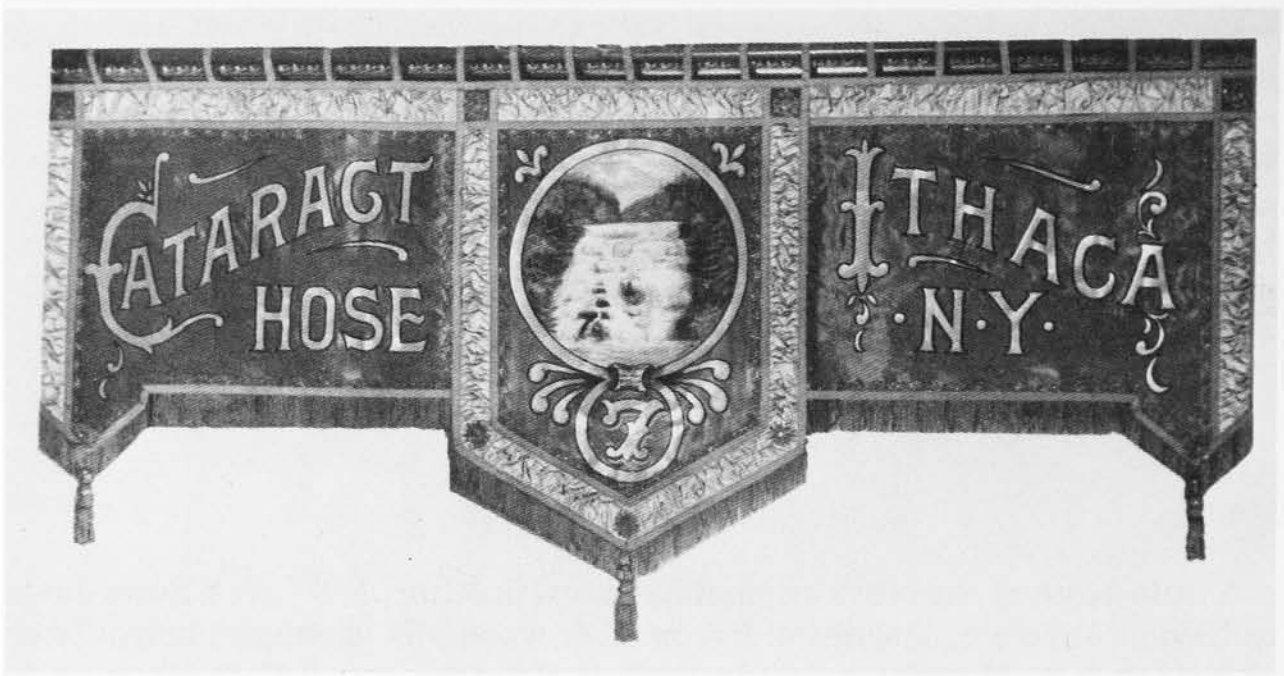
2 Fall Creek

Amy Humber

A mile north of the city's original incorporation line, Fall Creek flows down to Cayuga Lake over a series of five notable waterfalls ranging in height from 40 to 140 feet. Manufacturing enterprises flourished on Fall Creek from as early as the 1810s. Entrepreneurs recognized the opportunity provided by the creek's water power during a period when Ithaca was potentially a significant center of inland trade. The rapid growth of industry along the creek was followed more slowly by settlement and population expansion. The area is referred to on an 1836 map of the village of Ithaca as the Fall Creek Village, by which time it was thriving commercially, though few people lived there. It is now known as a distinct neighborhood generally regarded to be bounded on the north and south by Fall and Cascadilla creeks, and on the east and west by Linn Street and Willow Avenue.

Geologists believe that the creek's preglacial channel, known as the Nook, is located just north of the present course. During the time of the first settlers a distillery stood on that spot, as did a house that Ezra Cornell occupied when he worked for Jeremiah S. Beebe in his gristmill on the creek. The Cayuga Indians called Fall Creek "Naugueu" (pronounced Nah-goo-eh). The first settlers referred to it by its present name. The earliest known record of the name Fall Creek appears on a map of the military lands made by Abraham Hardenburgh in 1789. The last and highest of the creek's waterfalls is the Ithaca Falls, which in earlier times was also known as Olympic Falls. Traveler and writer Solomon Southwick wrote about it as Olympic Falls after a trip to the area in August 1834, though he cannot be credited with originating the name because a gristmill, the Olympic Falls Flouring Mill, was in operation on the creek a decade before his visit. Some residents of the area still recall this now unused name.

The Fall Creek neighborhood is situated on Military Lot 94 and on portions of Lot 88 and the Abraham Bloodgood tract. The Revolutionary War soldier Hendrick Loux was allotted the land within Military Lot 94, which is defined by Tioga and Eddy streets to the west and east and by the city line to the north and south. This land passed through the hands of several owners. Phineas Bennett acquired the northern 170 acres in 1813. Simeon DeWitt acquired the middle portion of the lot, except for fourteen acres. The section of the neigh-



18. The banner of Cataract Hose Company No. 7 with its emblem, the Ithaca Falls, in the center.

borhood located west of North Tioga Street was part of the 1,400-acre property known as the Bloodgood tract.

As Ithaca grew commercially, a variety of enterprises that contributed significantly to local prosperity flourished along Fall Creek. The powerful flow of water over the Ithaca Falls made possible the close location of mills one above another on the southern bank of Fall Creek. Precise details of industries along the creek are not always clear, but grist, plaster, oil, and woolen mills, and iron foundries were all established there. The mills processed local and imported raw materials, producing enough not only for local needs but for shipment outside the region. In 1828 Ithaca exported enough to load 396 canal boats with locally manufactured products such as lumber (5,210,414 board feet), oil (17 barrels), flour (2,626 bushels), and whiskey (1,723 barrels). Other businesses developed nearby, among them coopering, hostelry, and a pottery. The Fall Creek House opened in the mid-1800s as a stagecoach inn and is still in business today. Across Lincoln Street, Ezra Cornell and his brother Elijah built their father a pottery that began producing glazed redware in 1842. Pottery was made there until 1890. The renovated building now contains apartments.

What is known about the early-nineteenth-century mills according to their locations, proceeding up the southern bank of the creek away from the lake, includes the following:

Just east of the present Lake Street Bridge, Frederick Deming and Jonathan Thompson built an oil mill, around 1817, on land fifty feet square. In 1820 a distillery was added under the ownership of Thompson and Porter. The oil mill may have produced vegetable oil from corn by a heat extraction process, and if so, the by-product could have been used as mash for making whiskey. Cows were boarded at the distillery and fed the wastes. This business continued

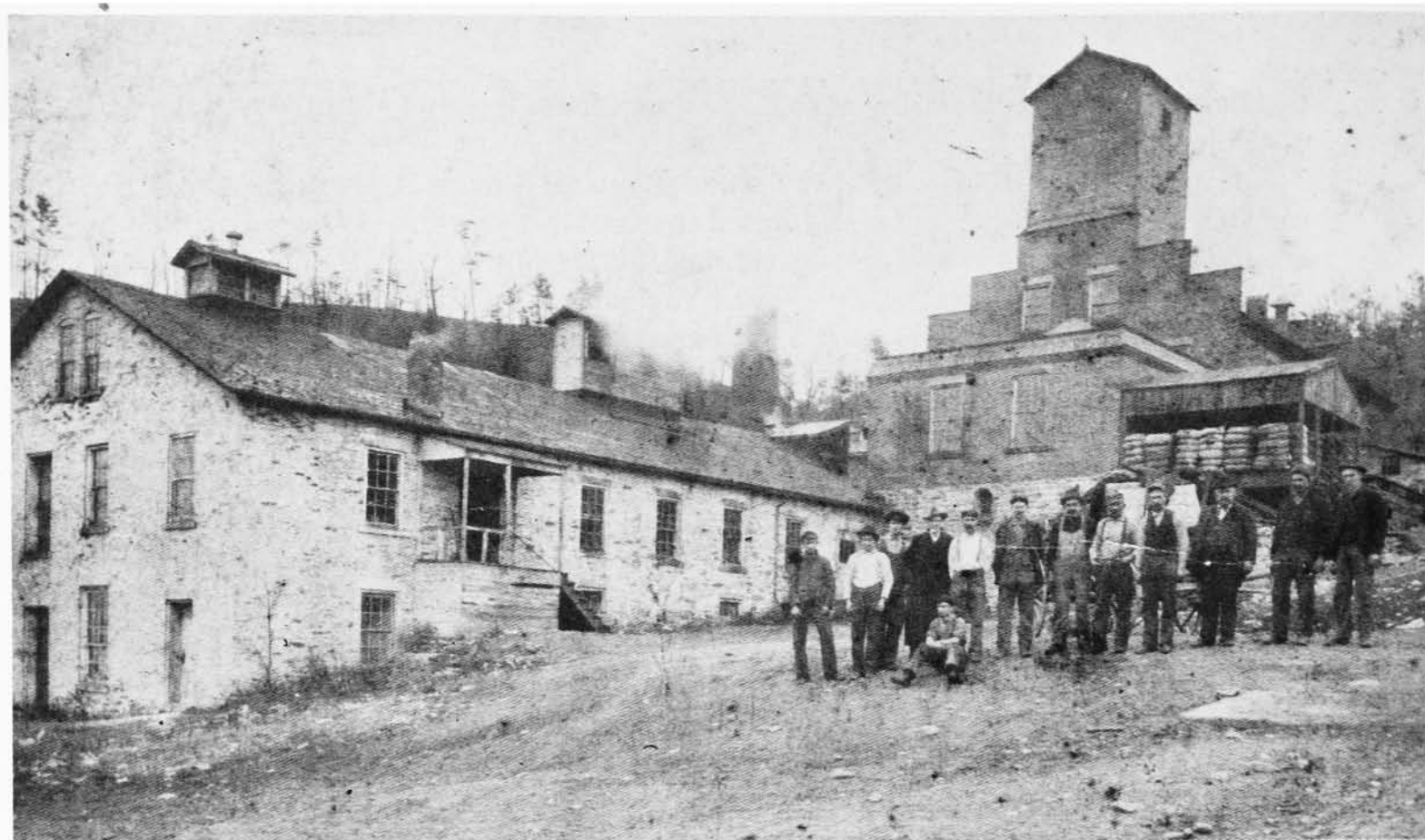
through the 1820s at least, because it is known that Gere and Gunn leased the distillery in 1827.

Above the oil mill and distillery stood Phineas Bennett's sawmill, which may have been built before he purchased the land in 1813; the mill was rebuilt around 1816. Near the sawmill was a small foundry, owned in 1822 by Origen Atwood and Sylvester Roper. Further up the bank, beyond a dam constructed across the creek, Phineas Bennett built plaster and gristmills in 1814, locating the 30' × 38' buildings close to each other. The plaster mill was an important enterprise because it provided a material that was in short supply following the War of 1812, when the United States lost access to Canadian gypsum resources. The gypsum processed by the mill was probably mined here in the Finger Lakes region. In 1819 Bennett sold "all the plaster mill and carding room in same" to Barney McGoffin and Ansel Bennett.¹ The mention of a carding room in the record of sale indicates that wool processing was also done at this mill, and George Blythe, who occupied the building in 1820, managed a wool carding and cloth dressing factory there until 1825. In 1827 Gere, Gunn, and Nichols leased the mill and resumed manufacturing plaster. By 1835 the mill was producing 800 tons of plaster annually.

The Olympic Falls Flouring Mill nearby was originally operated by an over-shot waterwheel fed by a wooden flume built along the rocky cliff. In 1827 Jeremiah S. Beebe purchased and rebuilt the mill and hired Ezra Cornell to manage it. The following year, Cornell began the task of cutting a tunnel two hundred feet long, twelve feet high, and thirteen feet wide through the cliff; this remarkable project was completed in 1832. The tunnel and the dam built above it provided water through the rock to an open raceway, which replaced the wooden flume. By 1835 Beebe's gristmill ground 40,000 bushels of wheat annually.

The Ithaca Falls Woolen Manufacturing Company bought the gristmill in 1840, enlarged the structure to five stories, and converted it to the manufacture of woolen cloth. The business folded eleven years later, after a fire destroyed the building. A new gristmill was built on the site in 1854 by Henry Walbridge; after the failure of this mill, the property passed to Albert M. Hull, who for many years operated the Fall Creek Milling Company, whose brands of flour were known throughout the country toward the end of the century. Hull's mill was a three-story structure, 40' × 100', with a 30' × 40' ell used for storage. The business employed eight people and had the capacity to grind two hundred bushels a day, using power supplied by two waterwheels. It ceased to operate in 1926 when the property was sold to Cornell University and the mill was demolished.

In 1819 Otis Eddy and Thomas S. Matthewson built the county's first paper mill further up the hill toward Ithaca Falls on a 66' × 82.5' plot purchased from Phineas Bennett. By 1835 the mill employed thirty people and produced \$20,000 worth of paper annually from 140 tons of rag. Writing and printing papers and brown wrapping paper were manufactured in separate parts of the mill and were under different management until 1845. The part of the mill which produced writing and printing papers was known as the white mill.



19. Two Fall Creek factories: (Above) The Ithaca Paper Company, ca. 1900. Paper was manufactured on this site almost continuously from 1819 to 1954. (Below) The Ithaca Manufacturing Works, ca. 1885. Rake parts were passed on an overhead ramp from the paint shop (right) to the storehouse (left).

The white paper mill burned in 1846, and its owners, Ebenezer Mack and William Andrus, built a new mill farther up the creek at Free Hollow (now Forest Home). Five years later, in 1851, they built a new mill of brick on Fall Creek and abandoned the Free Hollow mill. By the 1890s the production of paper had increased markedly, and the business became the Ithaca Paper Company, under the management of S. H. Laney. The mill employed a hundred people and had the capacity to produce eight tons of paper daily. A paper known as Ithaca Grey Rag was sold nationally, and special papers were made to order. Manila, rag wrapping, and printing papers were made entirely from rag stock, the basis of which was shipped from all parts of the country but mainly from New York City. A Sanborn Company fire insurance map of 1904 shows the mill complex as including a brick building with storage on the first story and machinery above; a rag-processing room just behind; a frame bleach house farther up the bank; and an engine room in a stone structure along the creek. The paper mill was bought and sold many times; around the turn of the century, controlling interests passed out of local hands. The business finally closed its doors in 1954 after nearly 130 years in operation.

Also located below Ithaca Falls was a tub and firkin factory, the exact site of which is uncertain. This machine shop produced twenty to thirty thousand articles such as pails, tubs, keelers, and measures annually. Jeremiah S. Beebe owned the building, but Lucas Levinsworth was the proprietor and supervisor of the twelve employees. There was also a chair factory (part of the machine shop) where Barnaby and Hedges manufactured two thousand chairs annually.

A foundry known as the Ithaca Furnace was established in 1828 at the foot of the Cornell tunnel stream. This foundry, owned by Dennis and Vail, produced mill gearing, railroad castings, and finished ware, and other essential products during a time when industrial growth and population expansion were at a peak. On this same location, Silas Mead manufactured plows during the 1830s. Another furnace, owned by H. King, was located nearby.

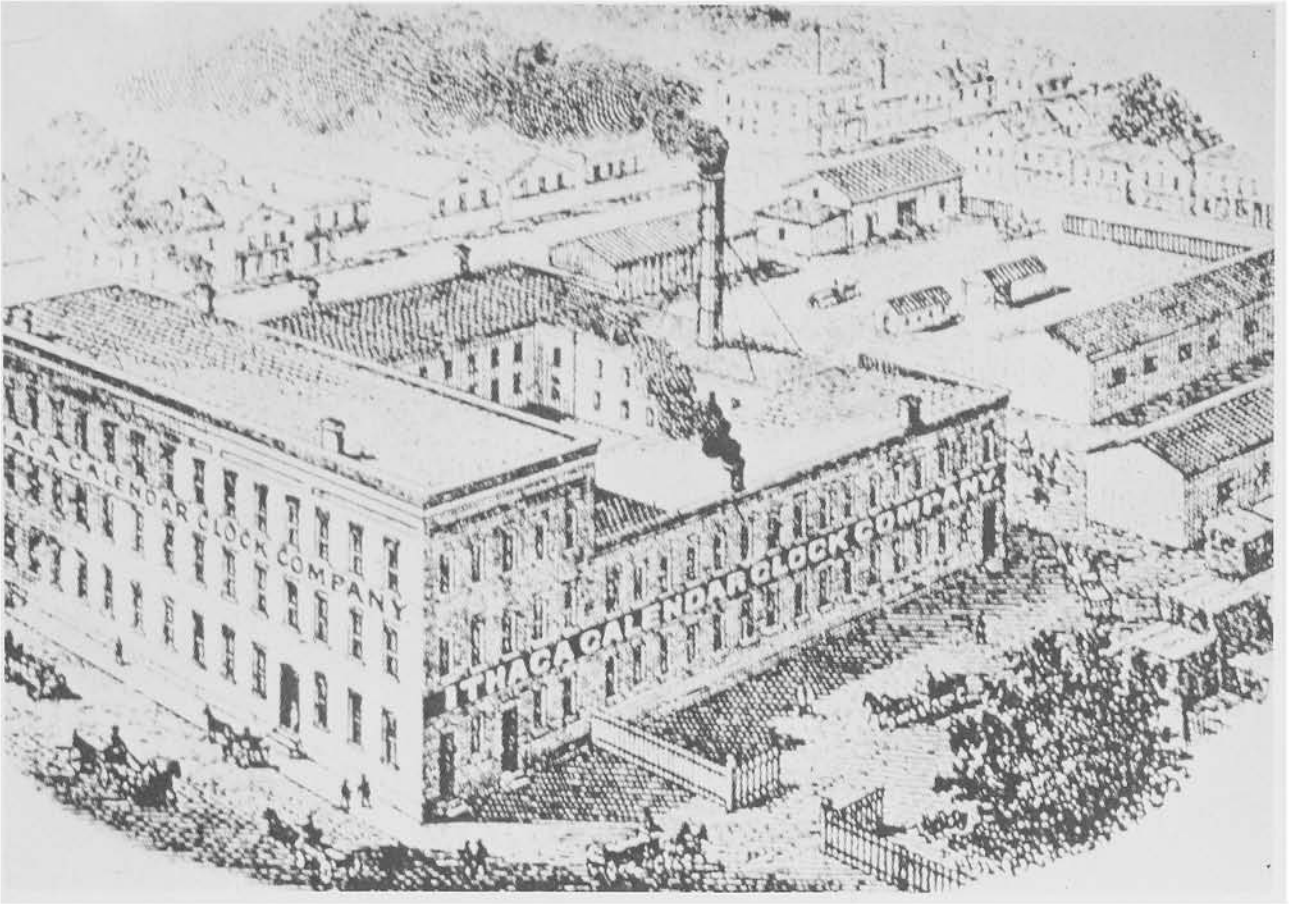
Farther up the creek, the Ithaca Agricultural Works, established in 1867 to manufacture farm equipment, produced three styles of patented, self-dumping rake with two styles of teeth. The fine-toothed rake was manufactured for sale in Europe, and many were sold in Denmark. The works occupied five buildings. The building lowest on the hill was the foundry, where the iron castings were made. It was located just below the tunnel stream, possibly on the site occupied by the Ithaca Furnace in the 1830s. A building to the south contained the woodworking shop, where the wooden rake frame was put together. The rake frames were then passed on an overhead ramp to the blacksmith shop, where the iron parts were applied. Two other buildings completed the complex: a paint shop farther south and a brick building containing a storeroom and the business office. The Ithaca Agricultural Works failed in 1879 and was reorganized as the Ithaca Manufacturing Works. That too failed about 1889, possibly because of competition from large farm equipment trusts.

Other mills farther up the creek included the Fall Creek Hub and Spoke Factory, about which little information is available, and its successor in the same building, the Ithaca Gun Company. Ithaca Gun built a national and

international reputation for producing quality firearms. This firm, the first in America to produce double-barreled shotguns, also made single-barrel trap shotguns for such famous people as Teddy Roosevelt, John J. Audubon, Annie Oakley, and John Philip Sousa.

The origins of the gunworks can be traced back to the 1870s and the five Smith brothers from Lisle, New York, some of whom had earlier founded the L. C. Smith Gun Company of Syracuse. In 1887 this company began manufacturing typewriters designed by Alexander T. Brown, which printed upper- and lower-case letters without a shift mechanism. The typewriters were so well received that the company discontinued gun production and formed the Smith-Premier Typewriter Company, the predecessor of Smith-Corona-Marchant. Henry A. Baker, a gunsmith for the Union Army during the Civil War, supplied L. C. Smith Gun Company's first shotgun design. He and Leroy H. Smith, the eldest Smith brother, formed a partnership to manufacture guns in Ithaca; two Ithacans, John E. Van Natta and his brother-in-law Dwight McIntyre, helped capitalize the venture. The first listing for the gunworks on Fall Creek appears in the 1884–85 Ithaca directory as W. H. Baker & Company, Fall Creek; proprietors were W. H. Baker, John E. Van Natta, and Dwight McIntyre. In 1886 the gunworks was listed as the Ithaca Gun Company, and W. H. Baker, L. H. Smith, D. McIntyre, and George Livermore were named as proprietors. The business was located in a small building (the former hub and spoke mill) purchased for about \$1,200 from Ezra Cornell. The first gun produced was a double-barreled shotgun that sold for \$35. In 1895, L. H. Smith and George Livermore, his brother-in-law, who had been in business with the other Smith brothers in Syracuse, acquired the controlling interest in the firm, which then remained in the two families until they sold it in the 1960s. The company had numerous financial difficulties in succeeding years and declared bankruptcy in 1986. In early 1987 the Remington Arms Company purchased the assets of Ithaca Gun, despite a pending lawsuit over patent rights. Some of the reasons for the company's troubles can be traced to a reduced demand for firearms, the inefficient layout of the physical plant, increased labor costs, and the lack of continuing strong family interests in the company.

Prominent among nineteenth-century industries in the Fall Creek neighborhood, though not located on the creek itself, was the Ithaca Calendar Clock Company. This significant industry, the very first manufacturer of a perpetual calendar clock, was organized in 1866 with J. H. Selkreg as president, William J. Storm as secretary and treasurer, and Henry B. Horton as superintendent. The clock design evolved from an original patent secured by J. H. Hawes in 1853. That design was imperfect because it did not register February 29, so W. H. Akins of Caroline and Joseph C. Burritt, an Ithaca jeweler, designed an improved mechanism that adjusted for leap years. They sold their patent rights to Messrs. Huntington & Platts, who commissioned the brothers James E. and Eugene M. Mix, operators of a machine shop in Ithaca, to manufacture the clock in the 1860s. The Mix brothers were granted patent rights in 1860 and 1862 for their improvements, which were sold to the Seth Thomas Company of Connecticut. The Ithaca Calendar Clock Company manufactured the im-



20. The Ithaca Calendar Clock Company complex and nearby homes. From J. A. Miller, compiler, *Ithaca, N. Y. as a City of Residence and Manufacture* (Ithaca, 1891).

proved perpetual clock design of the Ithaca inventor Henry B. Horton, a design that was an international success.

The company had been located on West State Street near Albany Street from 1867 until the new building in the Fall Creek area was completed in 1875. The new site was originally part of the Bloodgood tract, which Simeon DeWitt had acquired in 1795. This land was once the Tompkins County fairgrounds. A map of Ithaca made by Richard Varick DeWitt in 1836 shows it as a vaguely defined block referred to as the "Parade." In 1855 and 1857 the Tompkins County Agricultural Society purchased five blocks located north of Lewis Street and west of Auburn Street for the site of the annual county fair and built a two-story exhibition hall, 50' × 100', and a trotting track. A map of Ithaca drawn by Robert H. Treman in 1873 shows this land still used for the same purpose at that time. Almost immediately afterward, however, the fairground was purchased by B. G. Jayne, president of the Ithaca Calendar Clock Company, for the site of a new clock factory. The tract of land was divided into lots, and the factory, a three-story brick building enclosing a quadrangle, was built on a trapezoidal lot between Dey and Auburn streets. In February 1876 a blaze that began in the rough lumber department destroyed it, but it was immediately rebuilt.

The company shared the Dey Street building with the Autophone Company, which was incorporated in 1879. The Autophone, an automated mechanical



21. The Ithaca public schools' children's gardens in 1907. The gardens were located off the 900 block of North Tioga Street on the old county fairgrounds.

wind instrument also invented by Henry B. Horton, was initially manufactured on a portion of the second floor in the west wing, but the instrument gained such immediate popularity that by 1881 the entire west wing was required for its production. From 75 instruments a month, output had grown to 18,000 by 1882. The Sanborn Company fire insurance map of 1893 shows that all of the west wing, the first and second floor of the south wing, and a separate machine shop to the north were occupied by the Autophone Company. The instrument seems to have lost popularity with equal swiftness, however, for the company last appears in the 1894–95 Ithaca city directory.

By 1918 the Ithaca Calendar Clock Company had also gone out of business, and the building was sold to the New York firm of Ernest and Herman Levy and renovated for use as a silk mill. But although the Ithaca city directories of 1919–20 and 1921 list the Ithaca Silk Mill, little more has been recorded about this period of the building's existence. The business occupying it for the long-

est time, from 1921 to 1971, was the Ithaca Laundries, which employed as many as fifty workers at a time. Smaller businesses located in the building since the closing of the laundries include the Clever Hans Bakery (since 1978). The friends of the Tompkins County Public Library hold an annual book sale on the second floor.

Before any mill was erected on Fall Creek, before the fairgrounds existed, the first settlers had built on land to the north of Cascadilla Creek. Peter Hinepaw built Ithaca's first log cabin there in 1789 on the site near the intersection of Linn Street and the creek now occupied by the First Church of Christ Scientist. The cabin was home for his wife and five children. The Hinepaws had traveled with the Yapple and Dumond families from Kingston, New York, to settle in this wilderness. David Quigg acquired the cabin and became Ithaca's first regular merchant with the establishment of a store there during the summer of 1804. Quigg realized a good profit by bartering goods that included rum, sugar, salt, nails, and leather. The store was soon moved from this location to a frame structure built to accommodate it on the corner of Seneca and Aurora streets. Near the Hinepaw cabin, Jacob Yapple built a gristmill on the creek during the second year of settlement (1790); this mill was capable of grinding up to twenty-five bushels of grain daily. In 1846 Timothy Shaler Williams built another gristmill, the Cascadilla Mills, near this spot. The mill property passed to his son Howard in 1858 and remained under his management for nearly thirty years. Because of financial difficulties, the property was foreclosed and sold for \$10,000 at auction in 1908 to real estate speculator William B. Georgia.

Across the road from Hinepaw's log cabin, Abram Markle built Ithaca's first frame house around 1800. Later this building was supposedly the location of the town's first tavern, of which Archer Green was proprietor. The lot and building next passed into the hands of Markle's endorser, Simeon DeWitt, during the first quarter of the nineteenth century, and the property was then known as DeWitt's farmhouse. Simeon DeWitt also acquired the Hinepaw cabin and used it as a pen for his merino sheep. These properties and the land that extended north to Fall Creek and east to Cascadilla Creek were referred to as the DeWitt farm. Villagers were permitted to pasture their geese and cattle on this land, and it accordingly became known as the Goose Pasture.

Despite early industrial development along Fall Creek, the pioneer settlement north of Cascadilla Creek, and the extension of the village boundaries to the north of the neighborhood in 1826, the population spread north to the Fall Creek Village very gradually. In contrast to the densely populated neighborhood of the present, only a few residences were scattered north of Yates Street even as late as 1866. Neighborhood growth was more significant during the second half of the last century. In the early years, much of the land between the creeks was quite swampy, partly covered by woods and open meadows. Though most of the streets were laid out and represented on maps from 1836, they were actually completed slowly. Dirt drawn from a sandbank on Buffalo Street was used to fill in the swamp to make it possible to build on this land. Utica and North Tioga streets were extended northward to Tompkins Street, and Yates and Marshall streets were extended west toward Lake Avenue by the

late 1830s. Two decades later, Jay Street was opened and Utica Street extended farther north.

The years between 1860 and 1880 saw a significant increase in population and building in the neighborhood. The 1864 Ithaca directory reveals that this growing population consisted primarily of shoemakers, cigar makers and dealers, millers, and machinists. Laborers, including carpenters and masons, represented about a third of the population. By 1889 the number of households listed in the directory had nearly quadrupled, and more than a hundred occupations were represented. There was an increase in blacksmiths, butchers, carpenters, clerks, grocers, shoemakers, and tailors, tradesmen vital to the growing population.

As the population grew, small neighborhood businesses that catered to the needs of the nearby households sprang up. Neighborhood grocery stores doubled in number between 1880 and 1890 and were particularly abundant during the 1930s and 1940s. The corner store with the longest history was opened in 1888 at 527 North Aurora Street; its last proprietor, James L. Colbert, managed it for thirty-four years until he retired and closed the business in 1971. Eventually, the small groceries were unable to compete with the supermarkets, and the last grocery store, at 208 East Tompkins Street, went out of business around 1980.

In addition to the Fall Creek House, the Cataract Hotel operated at 1023 North Tioga Street from 1890 until almost 1915. Located at 502 North Aurora Street was the Conklin Sanitorium, which opened in 1919, a fifteen-bed health-care facility first owned and managed by Lena M. Conklin, a school nurse. Minor surgery, including appendectomies and dental extractions, was performed there, and extended care was offered to the ill and elderly. Six licensed nurses staffed the facility, which had an excellent reputation. Its operations ceased in 1960, when the building was destroyed by fire.

The population growth during the 1860s also brought a fire station and school to the neighborhood. In 1863 a fire company was formed and named after the Ithaca Falls, the Cataract Hose Company No. 7. The first firehouse was a small station built on Lake Street across from the Lincoln Street intersection, a location certainly convenient to the mills, although icy winter conditions on the hillside road caused difficulty for the hand-drawn apparatus. Around 1865 a new station was built at 207 Queen Street. By 1882 the No. 7s had thirty-nine members, a hand engine formerly used by Ithaca's Eureka Hose Company No. 4, and a four-wheeled hose carriage equipped with 300 feet of linen hose. The company nonetheless was the poorest of all the firefighting stations in the city. The firehouse was inadequate and had no running water. In November 1884 an unknown hand rang the fire bell in the station tower for a suspicious fire at the firehouse which completely destroyed the building and the last hand pumper. The company then moved to temporary quarters near the paper mill on Lake Street until the new station was completed on its present location at 1012 North Tioga Street.

Answering fire calls with hand-drawn carts over the rough streets must have been difficult. Improvement came when, around 1905, the company acquired



22. Cataract Hose Company No. 7 at 1012 North Tioga Street in the 1890s. The building is decorated with bunting, possibly in honor of a firemen's convention.

its first horse from Ithaca's Rescue Company No. 2. The horse, called Black Dan, had a reputation for being exceptionally smart and capable. He was replaced around 1907 by two dapple greys, who were used until the company acquired a fire truck in 1914.

Today, the No. 7s have nearly a hundred volunteers and fifty paid staff members. This congenial organization, with its bowling and softball teams and monthly membership dinners, is quite sociable. The company also sponsors community events such as an annual pancake breakfast and an edibles booth at the Fall Creek Festival to benefit the Fall Creek PTA, and it offers the Louis

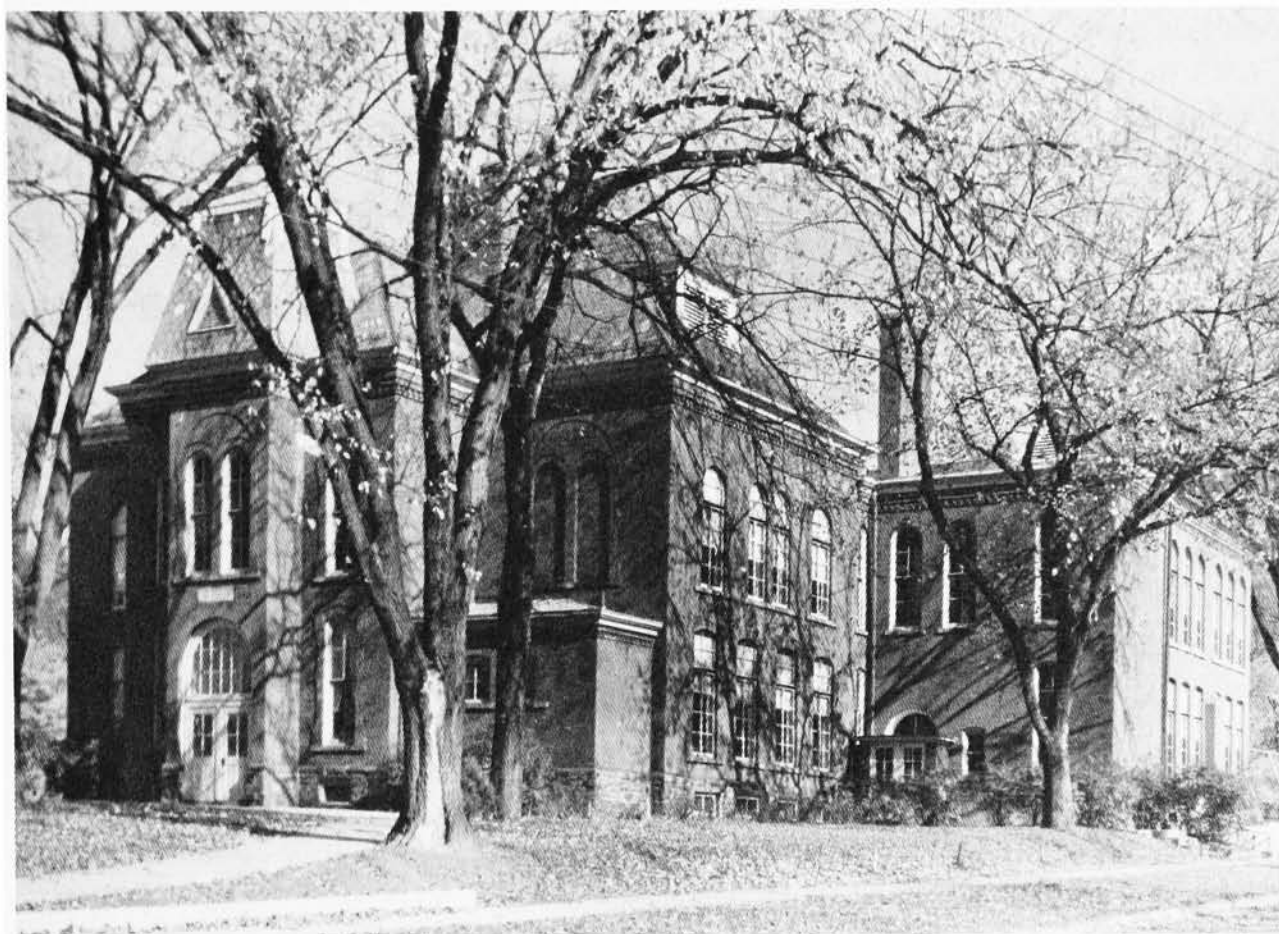


23. Fall Creek School class, May 1888. The teacher (left of center) was Miss Lillian Root. Photograph courtesy of Hazel Brampton.

K. Thaler scholarship fund for high school seniors entering the field of human services.

The first schoolhouse in the neighborhood was apparently opened during the 1860s. An 1866 topographical atlas of Tompkins County shows a schoolhouse on Queen Street, where the school playground is now located. The original building, a 25-foot square brick structure containing one classroom, was expanded with a 16' × 20' wing in the 1870s. Each of the two classrooms had one teacher and more than fifty students. Superintendent Foster recommended to the Board of Education in 1877 that a new, plain, brick building with four classrooms be built to accommodate 200 to 225 students, in order to improve conditions for the Fall Creek students and relieve overcrowding at the Central School. Taxpayers, however, voted down the superintendent's recommendation by a two-to-one margin, and the following year conditions at the Fall Creek School worsened to the point that as many as seventy-six pupils were crowded into one classroom.

Finally, in the fall of 1878, the Board of Education resolved to purchase from Franklin Cornell five lots, bounded by North Aurora, Linn, and King streets, and private land to the north, for a new schoolhouse lot. Local architect Alvah B. Wood submitted plans for the new building, the cost of which was not to



24. Fall Creek Elementary School, ca. 1950. This 1879 structure designed by A. B. Wood was razed to make way for the current school building in 1966. Photograph by Curt Foerster.

exceed \$5,000. Late in the summer of 1879, the new brick building, 60' × 67', with cupola and bell tower, was completed and opened for public inspection. It was a two-story structure with two classrooms on each floor, seating 229 pupils at individual desks, and heated by a central hot-air furnace. Two more teachers were hired for the additional classrooms. The building underwent a series of changes and additions until it was replaced on the same site in 1966 with the present school, designed by architects Levatich and Miller.

Today, nearly two hundred pupils are registered at the Fall Creek Elementary School, about half of whom are open-enrolled. Although the student population is slightly smaller than it was a century earlier, there are now nine classroom teachers in addition to music, art, and physical education teachers, library specialists, two special education teachers, and several other support professionals. The neighborhood can be very proud of its school, which has a good reputation in the community.

According to the 1980 federal census, the neighborhood is home to more than ten percent of the city population and includes a heterogeneous mix of households and individuals, employed in a wide spectrum of jobs. Some of these people are "old-timers" who have lived in the neighborhood for fifty

years or more, while others are more recent arrivals. For both groups, the Fall Creek neighborhood possesses a sense of community, a neighborliness. It is a pleasant place to live, especially for families with young children. Business and shopping are within easy walking distances, as are the elementary school, small parks, day care, and nursery schools. It is a neighborhood that has contributed much to Ithaca's early prosperity and to its present success.

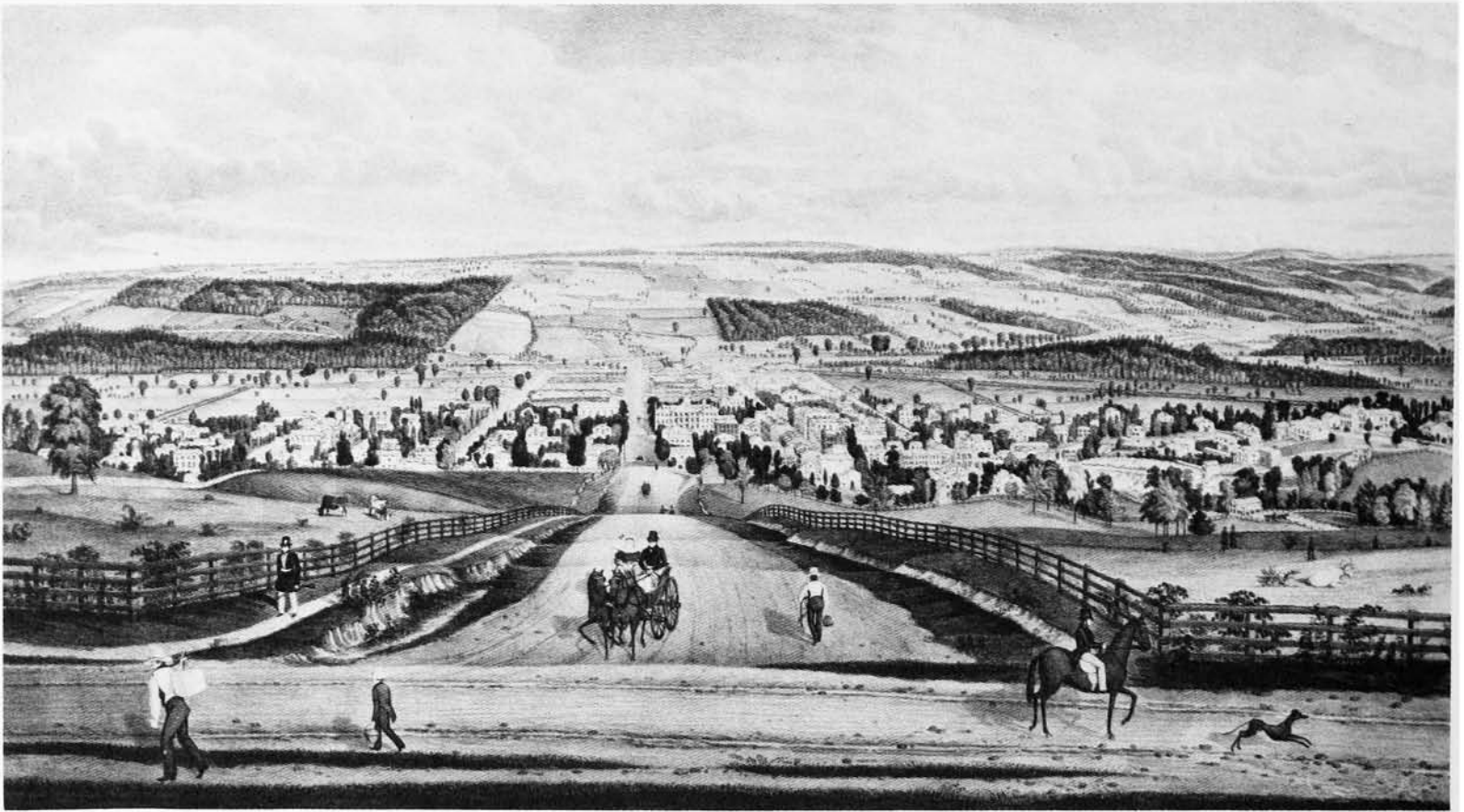
3 East Hill

Carol U. Sisler

Change is the hallmark of East Hill, the neighborhood bounded on the north by the Fall Creek Gorge; on the east by Stewart Avenue, lower Eddy Street, and South Quarry Street; by Six Mile Creek on the south; and by Aurora and Linn streets on the west. The Henry Walton view of East Hill in 1836 shows a few white clapboard houses clustered at the foot of Seneca Street, but the land above the village was used for agriculture. The first change on East Hill occurred when Cornell University opened in 1868. Wealthy supporters of the university, professors, and businessmen constructed large, substantial residences on the hill. Soon the need for student housing spurred further development; since the university did not provide enough housing for the students, they roomed either downtown or on the hill. During the twentieth century the character of the East Hill neighborhood changed again, as more and more single-family residences were converted to apartments and rented to increasing numbers of transient students.

Although change is a dominant feature of the East Hill neighborhood, its development and its character have also been influenced by several constants, in particular, the steep hill rising sharply some 800 feet above Aurora Street, and the gorges of Fall and Cascadilla creeks—marvelous natural wonders whose waters spill over waterfalls, ripple over shale steps, and pour into pools of pleasure. These natural geographic characteristics of the area have produced another kind of constant: East Hill has always been a walking neighborhood. Generations of students have walked up, down, and across East Hill. One relic from the days when students walked from downtown to Cornell University is Frosh Alley, a steep narrow walkway between North Quarry and Eddy streets.

East Hill is a neighborhood of great architectural variety and distinction. A leisurely walk through the area is the ideal way to observe its many styles—Greek Revival, Italianate, Gothic Revival, Second Empire, Queen Anne, Arts and Crafts, Colonial Revival. Because East Hill was once the site of several enclaves developed by the individuals and families whose enterprising efforts laid the economic foundation of the city in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the histories of the buildings provide a revealing glimpse into the economic and social life of Ithaca during those years. Ezra Cornell, Henry Williams Sage, the Morse brothers, the Driscolls, the Williamses, the



25. Henry Walton's 1836 view of Ithaca from East Hill, looking down Seneca Street from Factory Street (Stewart Avenue).

Tremans, and the Van Cleefs all built houses on East Hill. Today, although the function of the houses has changed, they still stand as monumental tributes to the material success and prosperity of these influential Ithacans.

North of Cascadilla Creek

The walking tour begins north of Cascadilla Creek in the area that includes the enclave of final rest, the City Cemetery, the Cornell and Treman enclaves, and a few properties on Stewart Avenue and Cascadilla Park.

As the village of Ithaca grew on the flats, the citizens established what they called the burying ground on East Hill. The first burial, in 1790, was that of Rachel Allen, the daughter of a family passing through the small community. In 1824 the village Board of Trustees asked the citizens to approve a \$100 tax to improve and fence the burying ground. This tax was approved, and in 1826 the board requested a tax of \$150 to purchase a hearse and its necessary clothing and harness. This tax too was approved. In 1843 the burying ground was expanded by the addition of several large lots. The land was surveyed by William Linn DeWitt, Simeon's son. The young DeWitt may have been responsible for the placement of large shade trees and the curved roadway through the grounds. This expansion was influenced by the planned cemetery movement,



26. East Hill from the cupola of the Clinton House, ca. 1868. Morrill Hall is visible on the skyline at left, Cascadilla Hall at right. Photograph by Joseph C. Burritt.

whose proponents were active mainly in large cities. The burying ground also received a more gracious title—Mount Repose. Around 1857 the Society of the Sons of Israel was given permission to access their cemetery through the extended grounds.

Although the cemetery had to expand after the Civil War, it was soon enclosed by Cornell University and Ezra Cornell's residence. Its name was changed once again, this time to Silvan Hill. Eventually, two other cemeteries were established outside the village: East Lawn Cemetery in 1877 and Lake View Cemetery in 1894. The founders of the village are buried in City Cemetery, their graves marked by modest or imposing stones. Although the city does its best to protect the area from vandalism and trespassers, the cemetery does suffer from benign neglect and gentle weathering through the passage of time.

North of the cemetery are the enclaves of the Cornells, Tremans, and Van Cleefs. Ezra Cornell's life has been well documented from his first days in Ithaca to his last. In the early years of his marriage, he lived in Fall Creek,



27. Theodore Roosevelt visiting the City Cemetery during a stay in Ithaca in the early 1900s.

worked for Jeremiah S. Beebe at the flour mill, blasted the tunnel alongside Ithaca Falls, and dammed Beebe Lake. This period was followed by his poor years when he was out of work, trying to sell metal plows, burying or stringing telegraph wires. Eventually, after creating the Western Union Telegraph Company, he was able to return to Ithaca a wealthy man. He purchased the farm on East Hill owned by the DeWitts, which he named Forest Park, gave the public library to the village, served as a state senator, and founded Cornell University. And, while Morrill Hall was being constructed of stone quarried from what is now Library Slope, Cornell undertook the construction of his own grand residence, a large Gothic Revival villa on a meadow overlooking the village and lake. Unfortunately, he would not live to enjoy it. During this period he and his wife, Mary Ann, lived downtown in a house on the present site of Citizens Savings Bank. There he died on December 9, 1874.

Mrs. Cornell and her daughter, Mary Emily, occupied the new house about a year later. Here they annually entertained students for Sunday tea and received guests on Founder's Day. Mrs. Cornell died in 1891; the villa was sold to Delta Phi fraternity in 1911 and became known as Llenroc. Still occupied by the fraternity, it was recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

(This designation protects buildings from demolition or alteration by projects funded by the federal government.) In 1907 the acreage facing Stewart Avenue and Llenroc Court was divided into twenty-two building lots. The Cornell carriage house became a housing cooperative for agriculture students known as Cayuga Lodge (630 Stewart Avenue).

While Ezra Cornell traveled through the east and midwest developing his fortune, the Treman brothers, Leonard, Lafayette, and Elias, became wealthy by staying in Ithaca and minding their hardware store at the corner of East State and South Cayuga streets. Grandsons of Abner Treman, for whom Trumansburg is named, they eventually expanded their business interests into the electric, gas, and water utilities and became directors and officers of the Tompkins County Bank and the Ithaca Trust Company, now Tompkins County Trust Company.

The daughter and sons of Elias Treman, who died in 1898, continued the family business interests. Elizabeth Lovejoy married Mynderse Van Cleef, who became a prominent Ithaca lawyer. Their daughters were Eugenia and Jeanette (Mrs. Arthur Booth). Robert Henry married Laura Hosie. Their sons were Robert Edward and Allan Hosie Treman. Charles Edward, who was ten years younger than his brother and sister, married Mary Bott. Their children were Arthur Bott, Elizabeth Lovejoy (Wainwright), and Charles Edward Treman, Jr.

In 1901 the three siblings, who were all living downtown near their father's house, decided to move to East Hill. From Franklin and Alonzo Cornell, they purchased nine acres of land north of the Cornell villa between University and Stewart avenues. Then they commissioned two Ithaca architects to design residences that would reflect their position in the community. Well educated (Robert and Charles both earned Cornell degrees), cultured (the family was interested in music, the arts, and the theater), the Tremans were also, by Ithaca standards, wealthy.

William Henry Miller was the architect who designed the Robert H. Treman house at 411 University Avenue (now 640 Stewart Avenue) and the Mynderse Van Cleef house at 417 University Avenue (now 660 Stewart Avenue). Born in 1848, Miller attended Cornell University with the inaugural class in 1868 but left in 1870 to begin the practice of architecture. A protégé of Andrew Dickson White, the first president of Cornell University, Miller read White's collection of architecture books and aided in designing an addition to White's residence. He updated the homes of General Charles F. Blood and Judge Francis M. Finch on Fountain Place, then designed High Victorian residences for Henry Williams Sage and John McGraw on East and South hills. For Cornell University, Miller designed the 1892 library and tower and Barnes Hall. Boardman Hall, another of Miller's buildings, was demolished around 1960 to clear the site for Olin Library. Among the downtown examples of Miller's works are the Unitarian, First Baptist, and Greek Orthodox churches. When Miller died in 1922, his papers were destroyed or dispersed; attempting to recreate a fifty-year record of design, researchers have identified more than two hundred buildings by Miller, most of them in Ithaca.

For Robert H. Treman, Miller designed a house in a lavish Arts and Crafts style incorporating English medieval forms—half-timbering, rafter ends projecting through the walls, diamond pane windows, and rusticated stone. The four levels were divided into rooms for specific purposes: in the basement, storerooms for vegetables, wood, and coal, a furnace room and washroom; on the first floor, the kitchen, living room, music room, dining room, servants' dining room, library; on the second floor, dressing rooms, bedrooms, and bathrooms; on the third floor, the billiard room and the servants' bedrooms and bathroom. An elevator facilitated the movement of trunks and furniture between levels.

The house that Miller designed for the Van Cleefs was a bit more feminine. The stone exterior incorporated elements of the Colonial Revival, and the roof was terra cotta tile. Some of the interior walls were stenciled, others were covered in damask. Mrs. Van Cleef entertained friends and family in a large central space adjoining the main entrance designated as the reception room.

Charles E. Treman selected the northernmost location (623 University Avenue) for his residence, designed by Clinton L. Vivian and Arthur N. Gibb. After apprenticing with Miller, Vivian and Gibb established a partnership that lasted from 1892 until 1900. The partnership dissolved while the two were working on the Treman house, and Gibb completed the commission alone. Clinton L. Vivian (1861–1930) designed residential and commercial structures identified by neoclassical adornment, Palladian windows, Corinthian columns, and terra cotta panels incorporating floral motifs. His rich architectural legacy in Ithaca is just being discovered by patient researchers. Arthur N. Gibb (1868–1949) was a public servant as well as a prolific architect. He served on Common Council and as mayor during the late 1940s. Although he designed many residences, it was his public buildings that left a distinctive mark on downtown Ithaca. From 1906 to 1926 he practiced in partnership with Ornan H. Waltz, who had also worked for Miller. Gibb and Waltz's major commissions included Henry St. John School, Central Elementary School, Citizens Savings Bank, Biggs Memorial Hospital (now county offices), the Odd Fellows Home (now the Mayer School), and the City Hospital (now Ithacare).

For the Charles E. Treman residence, Vivian and Gibb designed a handsome building in the Tudor style. Equally large and with as many different rooms as the other houses, this beautifully landscaped house hosted Governor Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1929 and 1930 when he visited Cornell University for Farm and Home Week. He could easily move between floors in his wheelchair by using the household elevator.

Although the residence was located just downhill from the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity house, this proximity created no problems. In fact, young Charles Treman picked gin bottles from the hedge for ten cents a piece.

Warren H. Manning, a Boston landscape architect, placed the houses in an elliptical arrangement and linked them with a stone wall. In the large meadow below the properties, the blond-haired younger Tremans played games while their older cousins entertained Cornell friends. All the families worked to create a Japanese garden south of the Robert H. Treman house. The carriages



28. The Stewart Avenue Bridge over Cascadilla Creek, with the Town and Gown Club and East Hill homes, ca. 1910.

approached the complex along a winding landscaped lane from University Avenue. Here the Van Cleefs and the Charles E. Tremans constructed their carriage houses at 310–314 and 306–308 University Avenue. In 1906 Wilder D. Bancroft, Charles E. Treman's brother-in-law, constructed a squash court and carriage house at 320 University Avenue.

When the Tremans and Van Cleefs died, their residences were acquired by Cornell University and converted to multiple housing or offices. Unfortunately, the Charles E. Treman house burned on December 23, 1944. The carriage houses were divided into apartments by private owners.

Although University Avenue was a long established roadway, Stewart Avenue was extended northward across Cascadilla Creek only in 1888. Originally known as Factory Street, its name was changed to honor Ithaca's last village president and first mayor, David B. Stewart.

Alongside the northwest abutment of the Stewart Avenue Bridge, local busi-

nessmen and professors constructed the Town and Gown Club (504 Stewart Avenue). Designed by Miller, it was completed in 1892. The purpose of the men's club was to bring downtown businessmen and college professors together in a congenial atmosphere. Similar to English gentlemen's clubs, the Town and Gown Club offered meals, a wide range of reading material, and the opportunity to play cards or billiards with friends. Originally the membership was limited to seventy-five, but as financial difficulties developed, the club opened its list to as many as 175. By 1924, ladies were admitted during the day and evening of Sunday, Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Squash courts were added in 1928 or so, and lively social events were planned. The Town and Gown Club could not survive the financial problems caused by the Depression, however. The building was sold and divided into apartments.

Cascadilla Park

Cascadilla Park is a neighborhood with character. Its precipitous location on the steep creek bank and the twisting-turning narrow street bounded by houses rising one above the other create a unique community. The special nature of this community is vividly captured in the reminiscences of the late Robert H. Head, Ithaca photographer and pianist. Head moved to Cascadilla Park in 1910 when his father purchased the recently constructed house at 130 Cascadilla Park. Because he lived between the City Cemetery and Cascadilla Gorge, he always saw himself as walking a tightrope between death and danger. In his



29. Man with horses in front of stables at 307 Stewart Avenue, ca. 1900.

recollections, Head recalls sailing boats in the creek pools and scaring himself with visions of ghosts and skeletons in the cemetery.

Before its development in the early twentieth century, the area now known as Cascadilla Park was part of what was called the Mill Lot. The lot took its name from the Cascadilla Mill, constructed in 1846 by Timothy Shaler Williams, and operated by his son Howard. A prominent nineteenth-century Ithaca family, the Williamses also owned property on both sides of the gorge.

In 1905 Robert H. Treman and his friends Sherman Peer, Warren Manning, Mynderse Van Cleef, and Joseph Campbell decided to develop the former Mill Lot and created the Cascadilla Company for that purpose. They divided the area into building lots, seventeen on Cascadilla Park and four on DeWitt Place. Many of these lots were sold to builders who constructed houses on speculation. One exception to the residential construction was the Christian Science church built at the entrance to Cascadilla Park. Designed by John Wilgus, the church was begun in 1910 and completed a year later.

To further enhance the Cascadilla development, Treman demolished the old Cascadilla Mill and several houses at the east end of Court, formerly Mill, Street, creating a park known as the Treman Triangle. By 1919 all the lots were sold, and the Cascadilla Company dissolved itself, donating to Cornell University the property rights to the banks and bed of the Cascadilla ravine from University Avenue to the campus.

The uniform architectural style of the neighborhood—all the houses bear the stamp of the Arts and Crafts movement—identifies it as a development of the period from 1905 to 1919. Today, surrounded by rock gardens and graced by window boxes filled with geraniums, petunias, and ivy, the chalets and bungalows still retain their original exterior decor, although all have been enlarged by tasteful additions.

Buffalo and Seneca Streets

This tour now crosses the Stewart Avenue Bridge, stopping at the intersection of Buffalo Street and Stewart Avenue. While the property on the north side of Cascadilla Creek was known as the Mill Lot, the land on the south side was known as the Orchard Lot, probably because fruit trees were grown on it. At the southeast corner of this intersection is a large brick residence in the Second Empire style built by Ben Morse in 1864. His three sons were Everett (known as Fleet), Virgil, and Frank. The history of this inventive family is well known because Virgil recorded it in a booklet titled *V.D.'s Stories*. Virgil describes how the sons helped their father operate the flax mill (which was located on the present site of Sheldon Court), how they snatched fruit from the orchards, how they occasionally tangled with gangs of boys who lived near the Cayuga Inlet and were known as "Rhiners," how the mill burned in 1873 and the whole family, which included a daughter in addition to the three sons, moved to Iowa in 1873. The brick house was sold to the Gauntlett family in 1881.

One by one the Morse sons returned to the Ithaca area. Fleet and Frank



30. The Ben Morse house, 211 Stewart Avenue. Built in 1864, it is now the housing cooperative Stewart Little.

invented a better bicycle chain that they produced first in Trumansburg and then, as the demand increased for this product as well as for other chains, in a large factory on South Hill (see Chapter 4). Meanwhile, both Virgil and Frank built residences across Stewart Avenue from their former family home. Virgil's house, designed by Samuel Hillger of Auburn, was built in 1893 in a cul-de-sac known as Edgewood Place. In 1905 Frank built a house designed by Vivian adjoining Virgil's property. Everett Morse had purchased land from Franklin Cornell at the south end of Eddy Street in 1902, and in 1909 he constructed a house that, like Virgil's, was designed by Hillger. It is located at 101 Orchard Place.

The Sage family enclave was located on a large block of land between Schuyler Place, East State Street, and Seneca Street. Henry Williams Sage was the nephew of Timothy Shaler and Josiah Butler Williams, who prospered in the canal trade and the milling and banking businesses. Sage's father, however, did not prosper; in fact the family was poor, and as a young man admiring his uncles' prosperity, Sage hoped that they would hire him. Eventually they did. Sage began working for his uncles when he was eighteen and gradually developed a large business empire that included the canal trade, though it was based mainly on his lumber interests. For many years he lived in Brooklyn, New York, but when he was invited to serve on the Cornell Board of Trustees in 1870, he decided to return to Ithaca (in 1875) and to build a house that would reflect his prosperous state.

Sage hired Miller to design a family compound that would include a twenty-room residence for himself and his wife, an equally large house for his son,