



92. The interior of the James Mitchell house at 609 Mitchell Street, ca. 1923, showing the original hearth. Photograph courtesy of Jean Pluck.

Mitchell. Solomon and Abigail Bryant lived at 307 Mitchell Street, and James Mitchell lived at 609 Mitchell. The Cook family, nurserymen of Collegetown, owned much of the land south of State Street and had greenhouses and orchards there.

False Starts

There were two attempts to develop the area in the 1890s. On June 5, 1894, a real estate notice was placed by William M. Smith in the *Ithaca Journal*, advertising the sale of seventy-two lots on East Hill in "the Mitchell Tract," the

rectangle now bounded by Miller, Vine, Mitchell, and Cornell streets. Smith had foreclosed on this property when James Mitchell (grandson of the original James) defaulted on mortgage payments in 1893. A map filed with the county clerk in 1893 [B-1, p. 40] shows these lots carefully laid out. Smith was able to sell only a few of the lots from 1895 to 1898.

A map filed December 7, 1894, by the Forest City Investment Association shows 409 building lots laid out on the "Cook Land Company Addition"—East State, Water, Maple (Treva), Bridge, Giles, and eight streets extending from Giles to Six Mile Creek itself. Fortunately for all Ithacans, only a small number of these lots were developed, almost all of them north of Giles Street, and the gorge was preserved for civic and recreational purposes. The city began to acquire individual lots in lieu of taxes as early as 1895 and had acquired more than 150 lots by 1945.

Bryant Park

Development of upper East Hill began in earnest in 1908 with the formation of the Bryant Land Company by the three children of Solomon and Abigail Bryant in collaboration with attorney/developer Jared T. Newman, who was then mayor of Ithaca. Forty-five acres of the old Bryant farm immediately east of Collegetown were laid out in 161 building lots by the Buffalo firm of Townsend and Fleming, landscape architects. The area's steep downslope was modified by extensive grading and two key diagonal thoroughfares, Ithaca Road and Bryant Avenue. Three open green spaces were incorporated into the subdivision: Bryant Park or Bryant Commons, a triangle formed by Ithaca Road, Bryant Avenue, and Irving Place; Maplewood Grove, a tiny park reached from Dryden Road east of Fairmount; and Campbell Park, a small area reached from Elmwood Avenue just north of Mitchell Street. The first two have survived and are now city parks.

The sale of lots and construction of residences were well under way in 1909, and over seventy houses were built during the next decade. Most houses were built in the fashion of the day—they were square, two-story houses or bungalows faced with clapboard, shingles, or stucco, featuring gabled roofs, porches, and oak or chestnut woodwork inside. House designs were drawn from popular manuals of the time or were developed by architects. The house at 210 Fairmount Avenue, for example, was designed for Professor Walter B. Carver by Ithaca architect Clinton L. Vivian. The bills for the Roehl house at 109 Oxford Place reveal the extent to which local firms benefited from the building boom. Lumber came from the English Lumber Yard on Cornell Street, shingles and firebrick from the Driscoll Brothers, fixtures from Davis-Brown Electric, brick from Robinson & Carpenter, hardware from Treman & King, tin roofs from Barr Brothers, and paint from C. J. Rumsey & Company. Local contractors were busy, too. Frank Parker of 214 Linden Avenue built dozens of houses in Bryant Park and elsewhere in the city.

Deed restrictions and discreet letters to realtors kept the area white and

affluent. Many conveyances included restrictions prohibiting the sale of liquor or the use of property for commercial purposes. Real estate agents were "requested to call attention of desirable residents only to this locality."

By 1920, Newman and the Bryants were eager to close out the development, and so on May 8, 1920, the eighty-eight remaining residential lots of Bryant Park were sold at auction.

As Bryant Park grew, so did certain nearby neighborhoods. Five houses had been built in the Dunmore/Brandon Place area² by 1912, and several houses on both sides of East State Street were built shortly thereafter, possibly by the Driscolls. The young family of Professor Denny H. Udall moved into a new house at 106 Brandon Place in 1909. John Udall, Denny's son, has written a charming memoir of life in this corner of East Hill at that time.

Our day started at seven with the mellow sound of factory whistles. The morning train from Owego arrived at the same time, trailing the sleeper from Hoboken and whistling repeatedly as it negotiated the switchback (we called it the backup) on South Hill.

Once we came downstairs there was plenty to be done, nothing turned itself on automatically. Someone had to light the gas water heater attached to the storage tank beside the kitchen stove. The glass bottles of milk had to be brought in from the side porch and set in the top of the ice box, leaving room for the fresh cake of ice soon to be delivered in response to the ice card in the front window. And the pan under the ice box had to be emptied, to forget meant a mop up of the overflow. In winter the furnace had to be tended.

Breakfast consisted of half an orange eaten with an orange spoon, hot or cold cereal and usually a soft boiled egg. After breakfast a man from Wanzer and Howell appeared at the kitchen door to take the grocery order. Later in the morning it would be delivered from a small enclosed wagon drawn by a single horse. If anything was needed later we could walk up College Avenue to Mather's grocery. As we recited the list the clerk would bring the items to the counter one at a time, bag or wrap them in brown paper and tie them with red and white string from an overhead dispenser.

Every morning at the Mitchell Street corner a man would lower the street light to replace the carbons. Sometimes I would go out there to cadge a used carbon, it would make marks on the sidewalk like using a very hard pencil.

Also every morning a team passed pulling a wagon filled with milk cans. Once the friendly driver gave me a ride up to the Dairy Building which stood beside East Roberts Hall. Here I watched students making butter while the cans were unloaded.

Twice each week day Mr. Elwell, the mailman, came by with his little two wheeled cart and well trained horse, opened the front door and tossed in the mail. A few years earlier when we lived out State Street he would sometimes give me a ride on his cart all the way up to the mail boxes at Water Street, half a block, and back.

Trash cans were set out at the curb each week, in winter there were also heavy cans of ashes. Husky men would toss the cans up and dump the ashes into a wagon drawn by a team. Its top was open and any breeze would skim off ash dust and scraps of paper. At the city dump the wagon bottom was dropped open like a pair of



93. Unidentified men in Bryant Park in 1910. The house on the left is 210 Fairmount Avenue. In the distance are homes on Cornell Street and the English Lumber Yard. Photograph courtesy of Joan and David Brumberg.

doors, they could be closed by a chain mechanism worked by the driver. We sometimes burned flammable trash in the furnace.

Few automobiles or motor trucks went by, most of the vehicles were drawn by horses. English sparrows found good pickings in the street. Sometimes a steam traction engine or road roller would lumber by, its moving machinery all visible to be admired. In summer a sprinkler wagon would sometimes pass, temporarily laying the dust, but more often I was asked to stretch the hose and sprinkle as much of the street as possible, the road dust added to the problems of housecleaning. Years later the street was oiled (no one could walk in it when fresh) and finally paved with asphalt. The vehicles we saw in the street were mirrored in nicely detailed cast iron or tin on the toy shelves in R. C. Osborn's variety store downtown.

To go anywhere people walked or took the trolley. Every morning people passed our house on their way to the university, distinguished professors, students, groups of laborers carrying lunch pails and talking volubly in Italian. Instead of taxis there were small black coaches called hacks. To go out in the country a family could hire a horse and buggy or a group might go on a Sunday outing in a surrey, of course with a fringe on top. Passenger trains ran frequently in several directions, most stopped at nearby villages.

In summer we played various games in the vacant lots or in the street, wandered in the field or explored along Six Mile Creek where we admired wild flowers and encountered garter snakes. For the concrete sidewalk we had a wagon, a tricycle, a scooter, roller skates and a vehicle called an Irish Mail on which we sat and worked



94. John Udall on Brandon Place in 1912. The Driscolls' quarry and barn can be seen in the background. Somewhat later in the decade, the quarry was a site for the filming of Wharton studio movies. Leo Wharton lived nearby at 946 East State Street in 1915.

a handle back and forth to drive the rear wheels through gears, our feet placed on the front axle to steer. In the fall we shuffled through fallen leaves on the way home from school. When leaves were piled up and burned the smoke had a pleasant acrid odor.

The streets were not plowed in winter, many automobiles were retired to garages. Traffic consisted mostly of sleighs with bells, horse drawn wagons on pairs of runners and the street cars which ran up State Street and turned up Eddy. Our Flexible Flyer sleds were used almost daily. We might slide all the way down State Street hill and hitch rides back by passing the sled rope around the metal brace



95. The Cosmopolitan Club in 1915.

above the runner of a sleigh or sledge and holding on, letting go of the rope when we arrived at the top of the hill.

In a swampy place in the quarry there was a bit of open ice in the winter. Here the big boys skated and I shuffled around, my double runner skates precariously held on with straps. A few years later we often skated on Professor A. W. Browne's flooded tennis court, our regular skates held on to our shoes with straps in back and key-operated clamps in front. Later still we would join the crowd on Beebe Lake wearing skates on shoes which we put on in the comfortable Johnny Parson Club.³

The new families who established homes in Bryant Park, Brandon Place, State Street, and the Mitchell tract were almost all associated with Cornell. So, too, was a neighborhood landmark at 310 Bryant Avenue, the Cosmopolitan Club. This imposing structure was built by the Cosmopolitan Club of Cornell University in 1910–11. At that time there was no student union at Cornell and social life centered on the fraternities. To raise funds for the construction of a facility to meet the social and residential needs of foreign students and their American friends, the Cosmopolitan Club sold bonds to students, faculty, and sympathetic townspeople. The Cosmopolitan Club may have been the first international student house in the United States, and it served as such until 1954, when it was sold to developers. It housed the Greek Orthodox congregation from 1958 to 1964 and since then has been an apartment building.

1920s

The Bryant Park Civic Association was formed by sixty neighbors at a meeting at the Cosmopolitan Club on March 22, 1923, a few years after the auction that closed out the Bryant Land Company's holdings. The association was formed to deal with some of the problems facing the rapidly growing residential area, and often to pressure governmental and other agencies into action.

The first issue on the agenda was the construction of an elementary school. According to a survey compiled by the association, there were 120 children under the age of five living east of College Avenue in 1923. There were ninety-one children from the area attending East Hill School (grades one-five) and another nineteen attending Central. The association petitioned the school board for the establishment of a school "in the Bryant Tract" and was eventually successful. The district purchased several lots on the south side of Mitchell, and the Belle Sherman Elementary School, designed by Henry C. Thorne, opened its doors in the fall of 1926. A 1955 addition more than doubled the size of the school building. Mary Isabella Sherman was born in 1852 in Galesburg, Illinois, and died in Ithaca in 1930. Scientist, artist, and teacher, she accepted a post teaching science and history at Ithaca High School in 1876, and stayed there until her retirement in 1908. She was remembered by her students and colleagues for her warmth and humor as well as her abilities as a teacher. It seemed only appropriate to name the new school in the Bryant tract after her. Although she never lived close to the school (her home for many years was at 110 North Quarry), the residential areas surrounding the school have come to bear her name as well. For many years the Bryant Park Civic Association functioned as a parent-teacher organization for the school, and ties between the association and school remain strong.

The establishment of the elementary school may have spurred even more rapid development of the area. The Wagner-Albright Realty Company of Rochester (local office Newman & Newman) featured a photograph of the new school on the cover of a brochure announcing the sale of lots in Bryant Heights in 1926. Bryant Heights included parts of State and Mitchell streets and Ithaca Road, Valley Road as far east as Elmwood, Elmwood between Valley and Mitchell, and all of Ridgedale Road. (The area was steep and had been a popular sledding spot for children from Collegetown and Bryant Park.) The brochure explained:

There is a great demand for building lots in this section. On account of this and the many inquiries already received as to Bryant Heights we feel confident that the lots will sell fast. Ithaca has a bright future ahead which is a proven fact by the shortage of houses. Buy a lot here and share in the future prosperity of Ithaca.⁴

The brochure also assured "protection . . . from shacks and undesirables" and promised "we do not sell to objectionable people." Such racial and ethnic discrimination was a fact of life in this and many other parts of the city, at least until World War II and the social realignments that followed began to break down old prejudices.

Many of the activities of the early Bryant Park Civic Association were social and recreational. During the Christmas season it awarded prizes for the "most artistically decorated homes." Some early winners were the Mone, Van-Arsdale, Blodgett, Butterworth, Switzer, and Parker households. The association also sponsored an annual Bryant Park carol-sing. Over one hundred residents would meet at the Bryant Park triangle for a group sing and then divide into groups (three at first, as many as ten later) representing the different districts of Bryant Park, for further caroling throughout the neighborhood. The district with the best representation won a huge box of Fanny Farmer candies. The Bryant Park Civic Association also coordinated tree plantings throughout the neighborhood, in cooperation with the city engineer's office, and helped arrange for trained personnel to supervise the Belle Sherman playground and Maplewood Grove in the summer.

1930s

The association's work was not all pleasant, however, and by 1931 it was already dealing with the traffic and parking problems that have disturbed the neighborhood ever since. Association meetings in 1931 and 1932 included discussion of the new gas station at the corner of Ithaca and Dryden roads, dangerous school crossings, the dangerous intersections of Mitchell/Blair/State and Maple/Dryden/Ithaca, and traffic noise on Mitchell Street.

Growth and the nature of that growth were also concerns. In 1936 the neighborhood bitterly opposed Dr. Norbert Schickel's proposal to build a sixty-apartment building of his own design between Oak Avenue and Dryden Road. Nevertheless, the complex, Fairview Manor, was built the following year, and Dr. Schickel in time became an active supporter of the Bryant Park Civic Association. For several years, however, the boundaries of the area served by the association were carefully drawn to exclude Fairview Manor.

At the same time, the neighborhood encouraged construction of single-family homes. In 1934 it welcomed the extension of Cornell Street south to East State Street and the opening up of the "Eastwood" area near the city limits. [See Chapter 5 for a view of this part of the city in the 1910s.]

Among the first homes on Cornell Street Extension and in Eastwood were ten residences built cooperatively by Cornell faculty members and their families in 1935–36. All the houses were designed by Metzger and Hewitt and, though quite different in appearance, shared enough features so that building and finishing materials could be purchased cooperatively. The houses on Cornell Street were built by the families of Leland Spencer (24), Lloyd Smith (25), L. P. Rasmussen (28), and Leon Winsor (32). On Eastwood Avenue were the homes of Robert Polson (105), Richard Fricke (106), Frank Tyler (107), Frederick Hutt (102), and Barbour Herrington (316). The Herman J. Bruckner family built the house at 1326 East State Street.

Recreation in the prewar period centered on the neighborhood, since automobiles were not used nearly so much as they are now, and it involved pri-

marily informal and individual physical activity rather than competitive sports. Ed Bredbenner, Sr., director of physical education for the school district for many years, helped schools and neighborhood groups use whatever facilities they had to the fullest extent. Few schools had gymnasiums and parks lacked elaborate equipment, but flat spaces were flooded in winter for skating rinks, school libraries provided space for dancing, and parks and playgrounds were used for softball fields. Joe Tatascore and other young physical education instructors staffed the city parks in the summer.

Ed Bredbenner, Jr., who grew up on Fairmount Avenue in the 1930s, has fond memories of his Bryant Park childhood—pick-up softball games at the Belle Sherman School, skating at Dwyer's Pond and Six Mile Creek as well as at Beebe Lake, a skiing competition on the slope between Judd Falls Road and Maple Avenue. Few cars braved the streets after a heavy snowfall, and so they were safe for sledding. Ed and his friends started off on their sleds at Maplewood Grove, glided down Fairmount and Ithaca Road across to Valley Road, down State Street and Valentine Place to the Columbia Street Bridge.

1940s

World War II had a profound effect on the Belle Sherman neighborhood as residents rallied to the war effort. Victory gardens were planted off Cornell and Mitchell streets where the Wilson Annex of the Belle Sherman School now stands. Residents petitioned the bus company (in vain) for better service, as gasoline rationing meant more walking for all.

Air Raid Observation Post 221C, with James C. Pond as Chief Observer, was established by the Bryant Park Civic Association in 1942. After attempts to locate the post in a number of other places, including the roof of the Belle Sherman School and Roberts Hall, a four-foot shack was finally erected just west of Mr. Moe's store, later the Red & White, on Mitchell Street Extension. The shack was later moved closer to the railroad tracks so that it would not interfere with Cornell's experimental work with potatoes. The observation post was staffed by eighty volunteers—men, women, and teenagers—with two people on duty at all times in two- or three-hour shifts.

After the war, as veterans flocked to universities and colleges either to resume or begin their higher education, colleges all over the country were suddenly faced with severe housing shortages. Cornell responded to its housing crisis by creating "Vetsburgs" at various places around the city. Perhaps the longest-lived of the Vetsburgs is Cornell Quarters, created over a period of a few months in 1945–46. With assistance from the Federal Housing Authority, Cornell moved fifty two-family homes to East Ithaca from Massena, where they had formerly housed workers at the Aluminum Company of America plant. Larger units to house families with two or more children were added to the complex later. Although *Ithaca Journal* articles at the time described the dwellings as "temporary," they are still in use as student housing over forty years later.



96. Starting for the hut. Bill, Lew, and Rover set out from Miller Street for their hut on Cascadilla Gorge, 1940s. Photograph courtesy of Jean Pluck.

1950s–1960s

Single-family homes continued to be built in Belle Sherman during the two decades following World War II, almost all of them in the area between Mount Olivet Cemetery and the city's eastern boundary. Homestead Road had only four houses in 1941 and ten in 1965. Homestead Terrace (originally called Homestead Street) opened in 1952 and included eight houses by 1965. Homestead Circle, which lies just outside the city limits, was developed in the late 1960s.

The Pyle-Tyler Subdivision was laid out by attorney Enos Pyle and realtor Frank L. Tyler in 1955 along an extension of Woodcrest Street (originally called Westwood Street) and Woodcrest Terrace. Many of the first houses here were built by Anthony Petito and Anthony Cerrache. The extension of Woodcrest Street was annexed to the city in the same year.

J. D. Gallagher opened Cornell Walk in 1965 on a gentle slope just east of Mount Olivet Cemetery. The eight houses on Cornell Walk were each designed and built by their original owners. They are beautifully landscaped, and many boast splendid views of South Hill.

The most dramatic housing to be built in Belle Sherman during the postwar period stands on Maple Avenue, almost in the shadow of Schoellkopf Stadium. In the early 1960s, Norbert Schickel, Jr. and William Schickel, two sons of Dr. Norbert Schickel, wanted to develop a "significant project" on a site east of Fairview Manor, their father's 1936 apartment building. After a nationwide



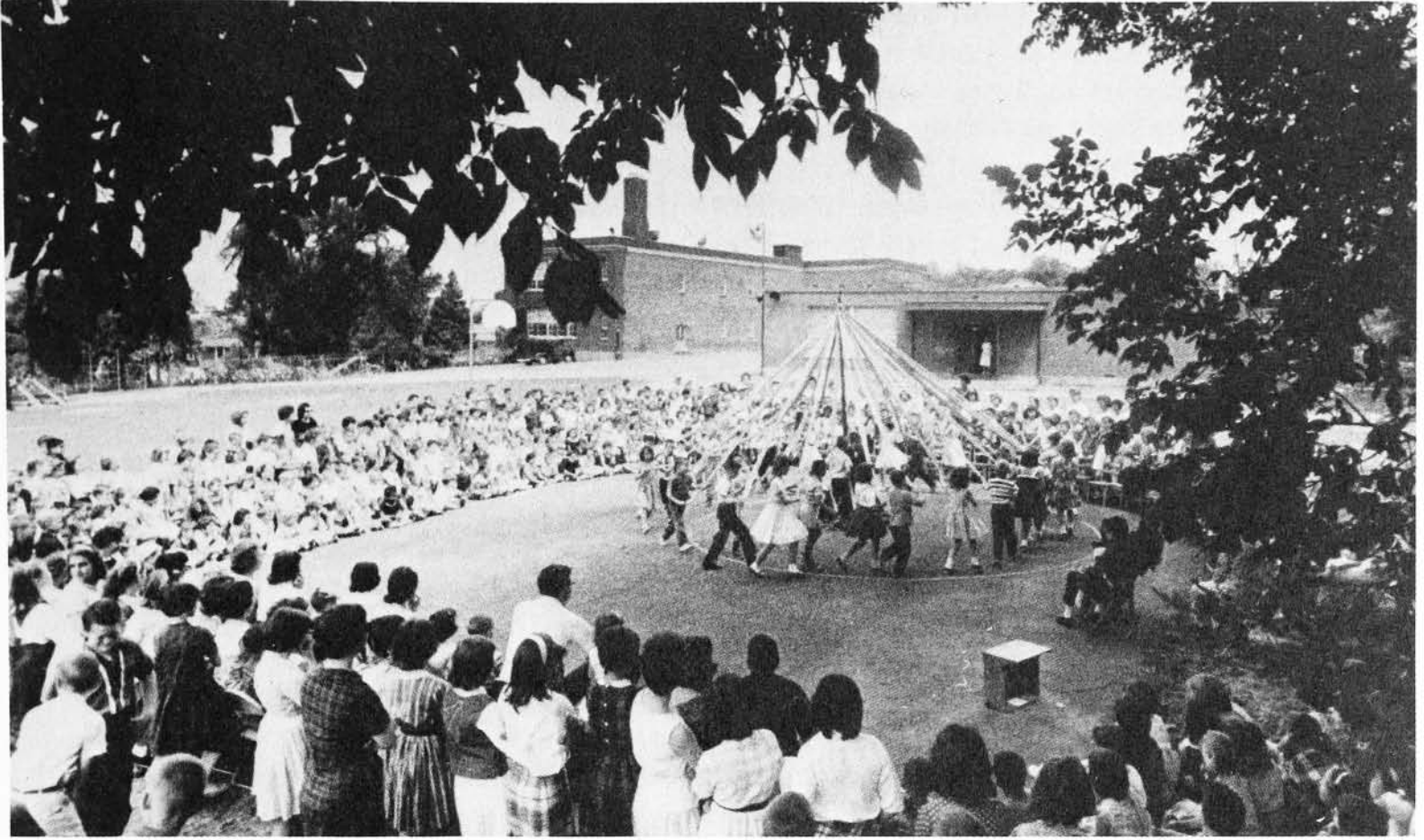
97. Fairview Heights and Fairview Square, designed by Marcel Breuer and opened in 1964.

search, the Schickels selected Marcel Breuer to design their project. Breuer, a native of Hungary and one of the members of the Bauhaus movement in Germany, had recently completed a faculty housing design for the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton. His Ithaca project, intended to appeal to Cornell faculty, grew from an idea he had conceived in 1923. Ground was broken for the project in May 1963, and the first tenants occupied it in June 1964. Interiors were designed and furnishings selected by William Schickel.

Fairview Heights and Fairview Square include a six-story high rise containing 108 apartments (studio to three-bedroom) and forty-two townhouses. Over the years tenants have included Cornell faculty, staff, and graduate students, visiting scholars, and professionals employed elsewhere in the community. The project has received national and international attention.

1970s–1980s

During the past two decades very few single-family homes have been constructed in the Belle Sherman area. Instead, several apartment and townhouse complexes—among them Maple Hill, Eastwood Commons, and four developments on or near Valentine Place—have been built within the city and just outside in the town of Ithaca. This construction has added several hundred housing units to the Belle Sherman area, and together with the numerous (often illegal) conversions of single-family houses to rooming houses and a



98. May Day at Belle Sherman Elementary School, 1963. Helen Avery initiated the May Day celebration at East Hill Elementary School in the 1940s and took the tradition with her to Belle Sherman in 1952.

general housing boom in the town of Ithaca, it has increased the problems of traffic, parking, and noise experienced by the neighborhood since the 1930s.

The same twenty years have seen another, different trend in Belle Sherman—a trend toward preserving the neighborhood's green spaces for the enjoyment of residents throughout the city. The designation of ten acres of woods and ravines off Cornell Street as the "Forever Wild Park" (also called "Strawberry Fields") came about after repeated suggestions that the area, owned by the Ithaca School Board, be used for something else. In the late 1940s, for example, Dr. Norbert Schickel proposed to build an apartment building there, and a similar proposal was put forth by Lamphear Brothers in the 1960s. A hospital/medical center had also been suggested for the site, as had an elaborate recreation area with playing fields and buildings. The school board wisely retained the land until its own needs were met, and the Louise Wilson Annex of the Belle Sherman Elementary School opened on two acres of the parcel in 1968. A further 9.9-acre tract was deeded by the school board to the city on July 21, 1970, for use as a park.

The Six Mile Creek Gorge wildflower preserve was also designated in 1970. Much of the watershed had been acquired by the city, starting in the 1890s with the breakup of the Cook land tract and the municipal takeover of the

city's water supply. In the 1910s, Robert H. and Laura H. Treman deeded their Six Mile Creek property to the city for public park use. Ithacans enjoyed the gorge and its facilities—for example, a toboggan slide and a lagoon for swimming and skating—through the 1940s.

In 1970 the town of Ithaca attempted to lay some pipes across land owned by the city within the town. In order to protect its rights, the city designated the entire watershed from Burns Road to Aurora Street as a wildflower preserve, thus preempting any action on the part of the town. In 1975 the city appointed an oversight committee to supervise the management of the preserve. This committee, city personnel, and committed volunteers now patrol the gorge, pick up litter, and compile an inventory of plant life (over 500 species have been identified so far).

The Belle Sherman School

Throughout the decades of growth since the 1920s, the Belle Sherman Elementary School has remained the heart of the neighborhood, epitomizing the particular characteristics of Belle Sherman. Generations of Ithacans have been educated there and remember in particular its excellent teachers and cos-



99. Part of the new Belle Sherman playground in 1985. Photograph courtesy of Robert S. Leathers . . . Architect PC.

mopolitan student body. In 1985 the schools' students spoke thirty-one different native languages!

Beyond their educational functions, the school buildings and grounds have served as community center and public park for Belle Sherman residents since the school opened in 1926. Boy Scout Troop 19 (Ed Hyers, scoutmaster) met in the basement of the older building for many years, and children and adults enjoyed the large playgrounds. The Louise Wilson Annex now hosts meetings of the Bryant Park Civic Association, the Belle Sherman PTA, and other neighborhood groups.

In 1983 Belle Sherman, an affluent school with a tradition of high scholastic achievement, merged with the Henry St. John School, an elementary school in one of Ithaca's poorer neighborhoods. Youngsters from the Southside are now bused to the school on Mitchell Street. The transition is not complete and has not always gone smoothly, but teachers, parents, and residents of both neighborhoods are committed to making the merger a success.

In 1985 the school, parents, and neighbors joined forces to build the Belle Sherman playground, designed by Ithaca architect Robert Leathers, who has since received national recognition for similar projects. The playground project was initiated by the Belle Sherman Parent Teachers Association, but eventually the entire school and neighborhood became involved in designing the playground, raising funds, assembling materials, and, finally, building the playground under Leathers's direction during several weekends in April and May 1985.

The Belle Sherman playground was a success from the start and has brought area residents together in an informal, positive way as has no other event or facility in recent times. In a neighborhood that too often finds itself reacting to crises, it reminds neighbors why they chose to live in this part of the city. It represents the vitality, creativity, and friendliness that have been typical of Belle Sherman for decades.

Notes

The following abbreviations have been used in the Endnotes and the Bibliography:

CA Department of Manuscripts and University Archives. Cornell University Libraries, Ithaca, New York
DHS DeWitt Historical Society of Tompkins County. Ithaca, New York

Ithaca: An Overview

1. *Ithaca Daily Journal* and *Ithaca Democrat*, June 1, 1888.
2. *Journals of the Military Expedition of General John Sullivan against the Six Nations of Indians in 1779*.
3. Horace King, *Early History of Ithaca: A Lecture* (Ithaca, 1847), p. 6.
4. King, pp. 8–9.
5. King, p. 12.
6. In its early days as a village, Ithaca had a reputation as a rough place, thus the name Sodom, after the Biblical city of ill-repute; see King, pp. 13–14.
7. Very likely Ithaca was given its name by Simeon DeWitt because of the area's similarity to Ulysses' island kingdom in Homer's *Odyssey*; see King, p. 14. The name first appears on a map made by Simeon DeWitt in 1804.
8. King, p. 12.
9. King, p. 14.
10. King, p. 15.
11. Henry C. Goodwin, *Ithaca As It Was and Ithaca As It Is, with Thoughts Suggestive of the Future* (Ithaca, 1853), pp. 5–6.
12. See A. B. Pierce and Hamilton Hurd, *History of Tioga, Chemung, Tompkins and Schuyler Counties, N.Y.* (Philadelphia, 1877), pp. 433–44, for a discussion of early banks and banking.
13. Ulysses was incorporated as a town on March 5, 1794. The first town meeting was held at the house of Peter Hinepaw on Tuesday, April 7, 1795. In New York State there are three levels of local government: county, town, village. Cities are a separate political entity on the level of the town. In addition, there are hamlets, crossroads, and corners, which function as communities but have no official, elected governing body that can levy taxes.
14. On the village charter, see Pierce and Hurd, pp. 428–29.
15. Pierce and Hurd, p. 429.
16. *Ithaca Journal and General Advertiser*, Jan. 1, 1828.
17. Quoted in Solomon Southwick, *Views of Ithaca and Its Environs* (Ithaca, 1835), p. 45.

18. For a general survey see Henry Edward Abt, *Ithaca* (Ithaca, 1926), chap. 5, esp. p. 70; and Hardy Campbell Lee, *A History of Railroads in Tompkins County* (rev. ed., Ithaca, 1977).

19. Goodwin, pp. 63–64.

20. *Biography of Ezra Cornell*, as quoted in Abt, p. 108.

21. These statistics are for the town of Ithaca; those for the village are not available separately.

22. The first outdoor lighting in America (1875) was two arc lights on the Cornell campus, which were powered by an electric dynamo built by Professor William A. Anthony and one of his students, George S. Moler; see Morris Bishop, *A History of Cornell* (Ithaca, 1962), p. 112.

23. D. Morris Kurtz, *Ithaca and Its Resources* (Ithaca, 1883), p. 63.

24. See Abt, pp. 137 ff.

25. *Ithaca Daily Journal*, June 1, 1888.

26. See, e.g., *Ithaca Daily Journal*, July 18, 1914.

27. Only West Hill voted wet in a referendum on April 17; the rest of the city voted “bone dry” by a 3 to 2 margin.

28. *Ithaca Journal-News*, May 7, 1927.

29. *Ithaca Journal-News*, Dec. 31, 1929.

30. *Ithaca Journal*, Dec. 31, 1933.

31. See “Victory Begins at Home: The Homefront in Tompkins County” (DHS exhibit, 1986). *Ithaca Journal* issues of the time contain additional descriptions of the local war effort.

32. The city directories of 1941 and 1951 show the same statistics for streets: sixty miles of streets with thirty “first class” paved.

33. The *Ithaca Journal* (Dec. 31, 1946) reported that five hundred veterans were looking for jobs and five hundred others were out of work.

34. On Vetsburg, see Raymond F. Howes, *A Cornell Notebook* (Binghamton, 1971), pp. 125–35.

35. DeWitt Junior High School became the DeWitt Mall and Apartments. East Hill and the old South Hill schools were sold to private developers and converted into condominiums. Glenwood is now the Special Children’s Center. Cayuga Heights was rented out and reopened in the fall of 1988. West Hill was rented out and then reopened as the Alternative Community School. Danby was rented. Henry St. John was sold to Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services and converted to apartments and rental space. The old Boynton Junior High School now houses Central School, and the old Central School was sold to the city and used for the Greater Ithaca Activities Center.

36. Fluoridation of the city water supply was so hotly debated that Mayor Hunna Johns thought that it would be the best-remembered issue from his term of office; see *Ithaca Journal*, Dec. 30, 1967.

37. *Ithaca Journal*, Jan. 1, 1969.

1 Downtown

1. Edith Horton, *A Child in the Nineties* (Ithaca, DHS, 1971), pp. 19–21.

2. Unsigned memoir, DHS, p. 2.

3. Lawrence H. Jacobs, *Early Boyhood Days in Ithaca* (Ithaca, DHS, 1971), pp. 43–44.

2 Fall Creek

1. John H. Selkreg, ed., *Landmarks of Tompkins County, New York* (Syracuse, 1894), p. 170.

5 Southside

1. Vincent W. Howell, *The History of the St. James A.M.E. Zion Church* (Ithaca, 1986), quoted on p. 7.
2. Howell, p. 35.
3. Thomas W. Burns, *Initial Ithacans* (Ithaca, 1904), p. 139.
4. Ithaca, New York, pamphlet (circa 1891).
5. *Ithaca Daily Journal*, Oct. 12, 1907.
6. The Reconstruction Home for Infantile Paralysis, pamphlet.
7. Jessamine K. Johnson, *Remembering Ithaca, 1930–1970* (Ithaca, 1971), pp. 4, 5.
8. Johnson, p. 5.
9. Johnson, pp. 5–6.
10. Johnson, p. 6.
11. *Ithaca Journal*, Apr. 26, 1938.
12. Johnson, pp. 6, 8.
13. *Ithaca Journal*, Mar. 26, 1965.

6 North Central

1. Janet O'Daniel, *The Cliff Hangers* (Philadelphia, 1961), p. 7.
2. Lawrence H. Jacobs, *Early Boyhood Days in Ithaca* (Ithaca, 1971), pp. 30–31.
3. Jacobs, p. 12.
4. Jacobs, p. 61.
5. Louis R. Fendrick, *A Boy's Will . . . A Man's Way* (New York, 1978), pp. 1–3.
6. Brad Edmondson, "Ithaca's Sons of Italy," *Ithaca Times*, Oct. 13, 1983.
7. Gossa Tsegaye television interview with Al Curry in "The Dividing Line," Gossa Productions, Tompkins County Public Library, 1988.
8. Spence Spencer, ed., *The Scenery of Ithaca and the Head Waters of the Cayuga Lake as Portrayed by Different Writers* (Ithaca, 1866), p. 96.
9. Fendrick, pp. 27–28.
10. Edmondson, p. 7.
11. Fendrick, pp. 49, 51–52.
12. Interviews in the *Ithaca Journal*, Sept. 5 and 6, 1967.

7 The Inlet

1. Grace Miller White, *Tess of the Storm Country* (New York, 1909), p. 1.
2. Beebe Community Chapel Minutes 1882–1944, Collection 2667, S-64-I-5, p. 9, CA.
3. *Ithaca Journal*, May 30, 1904.
4. Box 6–1–7, File 14, DHS.
5. Beebe Scrapbook, S-3–B, DHS.
6. *Ithaca Journal*, June 1, 1938.
7. "The Epidemic of Typhoid Fever at Ithaca, N.Y.," George A. Soper, consulting engineer, Sept. 15, 1904. Collection 2533, CA.
8. Minutes of Ithaca Common Council, 1915 (p. 21); Dec. 5, 1917; and May 3, 1922.
9. *A Survey of the Public Health Situation in Ithaca, N.Y.*, Franz Schneider, Jr. (1914). Collection 1–2–6, File 3, DHS.
10. Collection 1–6–10, File 6, DHS.
11. *Ithaca Journal*, May 14, 1986.
12. Ibid.
13. Collection 1–7–7, File 2, DHS.

14. From the Taking Maps in the office of the city engineer. Originally the state was planning to take only that property needed for the channel, which in some areas would have required running through backyards. This decision was revised; the state purchased the entire property.

15. *Ithaca Journal*, July 4, 1966.

16. *Ithaca Journal*, Mar. 3, 1965.

17. *Ithaca Journal*, Jan. 25, 1967.

8 West Hill

1. John H. Selkreg, ed., *Landmarks of Tompkins County, New York* (Syracuse, 1894), p. 110.

2. *West Hill and Some of Its Historic Homes and Families* (monograph), p. 10.

3. Maps and notes from the county clerk's office, Tompkins County, N.Y.

4. Carol U. Sisler, *Enterprising Families* (Ithaca, 1986), chap. 2.

5. Letter printed in the *Ithaca Journal*, Jan. 13, 1979.

6. *Ibid.*

7. *Ithaca Journal*, Jan. 17, 1976.

8. Interview with Paul Bradford, *New York Times*, Oct. 4, 1985.

9 The University and Collegetown

1. Morris Bishop, *A History of Cornell* (Ithaca, 1962), p. 90.

2. The most complete history of Cornell is Morris Bishop's. John H. Selkreg's *Landmarks of Tompkins County, New York* (Syracuse, 1894) contains a history of the university written by W. T. Hewett. Information on Forest Park comes from a brochure prepared by Stephen W. Jacobs for the dedication of the new Delta Tau Delta house, November 13, 1965.

3. Bishop, p. 70.

4. Bishop, pp. 351-52.

5. In an 1871 letter to W. C. Russel, quoted by Bishop, p. 92.

6. Kermit Carlyle Parsons, *The Cornell Campus* (Ithaca, 1968), p. 112. This book provides a detailed and entertaining description of the development of the campus and its buildings.

7. Parsons, p. 77.

8. S. J. Parker memoir written in 1895, "A Picture of Ithaca, N. Y. as I saw it in Childhood" (manuscript in the Cornell University Archives), p. 168.

10 Cornell Heights

1. *Ithaca Journal*, May 10, 1899.

2. Edward G. Wyckoff Papers, DHS.

11 Belle Sherman

1. Letter from Amelia Mitchell to Hattie Mitchell, Nov. 14, 1846. Barnes-Mitchell Collection, CA.

2. According to Driscoll family tradition, the family came from the town of Listowel in County Kerry, Ireland. Near Listowel is the Dingle Peninsula, which extends into the Atlantic Ocean south of the mouth of the Shannon. Among Dingle's many prominent features are Brandon Head and Dunmore Point.

3. John T. Udall, "Rambling Recollections of an Ithaca Boyhood," unpublished memoir (Ithaca, 1986), DHS.

4. Town of Ithaca Collection, DHS.

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