



Parking available on:

- Prospect Avenue and Highland Avenue west of Woodland Avenue
- the east side of Rahway Road
- Home number six is the site for refreshments

Please note: The front door wreaths on the tour are on loan from Richard Edgecomb Designs, Whitehouse, and are available for sale. You may inquire at the refreshment location.

Special thanks to:

- The Homesteaders
- Swain Galleries, Plainfield
- Richard Roberts Ltd., Scotch Plains, Maplewood
- Dairy Queen, Plainfield
- Accounts Unlimited, Westfield
- The Brass Lantern, Metuchen
- The Suisse Pastry Shop, Scotch Plains
- Margie's Cake Box, Plainfield
- Richard Edgecomb Designs, Whitehouse
- The Plainfield Garden Club
- Christopher's Flowers, Mountainside
- Bull Frogs and Butterflies, Pluckemin
- Atlock Farm, Somerset
- Various Floral Decorations by Anthony Brown, Scotch Plains
- Einshorn, Scotch Plains
- Apple Blossom, Scotch Plains
- The Flower Basket, Westfield
- Smith Floral, Watchung
- Gray's Florist, Watchung
- The House Tour Committee
- Sargent Amato, Plainfield Police Dept.
- Plainswood Square Merchants
- Those who volunteered as hosts and hostesses



The Friends of Sleepy Hollow

Presents



Mansions Of May

A House Tour in Celebration of Spring

Sunday, May 4, 1997

11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$15.00 in advance/\$20.00 day of tour

*This tour will benefit
The Friends of Sleepy Hollow
a non-profit community organization
working for Plainfield.*

THIS
TICKET/PROGRAM
ADMITS ONE

No children under 12

Mansions in May

Mansions in May is a tour that captures the festival of springtime in a community re-awakening. The Maypoles along the route invite you to enter into a celebration of the abundant history and heritage of the town of Plainfield.

1 1112 Watchung Avenue

A unique location, construction of this mansion took two years to complete as mica limestone was selected and hand cut by the builder on the site of the house between 1910-1912. Within the mansion an expense was spared. Hand carved moldings grace the doorways, leaded glass adorns the entrance, and mahogany was used throughout the home for doors and paneling. The abundant details of this home culminate in a captain's staircase that boasts a span linking three floors. A sense of symmetry and balance mark both the interior and exterior architectural design. A croquet court, wisteria arbor and in ground pool are situated on the property, but, pay particular attention to the "smoker garden" at the side of this remarkable estate.

2 906 Hillside Avenue

Like its neighbor, this 2 1/2 story shingled colonial revival was built before the turn of the century by architect John P. Benson. The family home of Houghton Mifflin editor Dale Warren between 1903 and 1905, it was commemorated by Warren in an essay written for the New Jersey Historical Society. This spacious house has been in the care of the current owners since 1956. A comfortable family home, it features an open floor plan, classic clean architectural lines, and a crater hall design. Built in bookcases in the library, unusual double Dutch doors in the dining room, and the original butler's pantry are but a few of the special details of this home. Be sure to take a peek at the unique carriage house at the rear of the property.

3 970 Hillside Avenue

Almost a century ago, noted architect John P. Benson designed and resided in this triple-shingled house. A gambrel roof and finely paneled double front doors are distinguishing exterior features, but the true allure of this home lies within its interior. The main staircase features intricately-carved spindles and recessed wainscoting; distinctive mosaic grace the home's six fireplaces, and an expansive sunroom overlooks the terrace and garden. The home's many architectural details are set off by the extensive Latin American art collection that the current owners have acquired during their many years living abroad. A recent kitchen renovation echoes the Latin American themes with the incorporation of the Mexican tile work. This home is truly a work of art.

4 990 Hillside Avenue

Built around the turn-of-the-century by architect Alexander Milne, this grand 2 1/2 story Colonial Revival mansion in the Hillside Historical District was initially built for the Wallace family. The residence is 3 bays wide with two-story wings on either end of the home. The facade for this magnificent dwelling has remained virtually intact. Period details include the wood shingled gambrel roof, sleeping porches and a breathtaking spiral staircase.

5 1331 Prospect Avenue

Once the home of Jane Ings, next of the playwright William Ings, this shingle-style house was once the site of "theatricals" staged in the basement. Currently the home of a professor "train set", one can find a small portion of the owner's model train collection displayed in the library, and it is difficult to miss one of the first steel cabinets manufactured after World War II situated on the ample property. Inside this 1916 house built by J. Wynman & Son, one will find original architectural details melding with later structural additions. The warm country kitchen features a tailor's table cut to fit the room, and the expansive living room measures over 30' in length.

6 1050 Railway Road

Enjoy a respite and relax on the grounds appropriately dubbed "Belle Lewa". Hot and cold beverages and light snacks are on sale at this location.

7 1039 Railway Road

From its carefully detailed exterior, teplete with dental moldings and chimes with gold leaf accent, to the equally magnificent interior design, this home makes a striking impression. The entry hall is adorned in the antique wallpaper selected by the original owner, while the grand dining room boasts a Baccarat crystal chandelier. A maker living room with a hand carved marble fireplace, unique main staircase and the collection of fine and decorative arts are but some of the numerous features that make this a grand home. Set on a rolling landscape, this home is pleasure to behold.

8 1061 Railway Road

In the archives at City Hall, Lot 2025 is 3 1/2 acres; however, anyone visiting this address will be treated to one of Plainfield's colonial treasures. Built in the early 1900's, this 3 story colonial boasts 5 bedrooms and over 10 rooms. Recent renovations were planned to maintain the "family" atmosphere of the home. The

expansive grounds provide the perfect backdrop for this remarkable home.

9 1081 Railway Road

Encumbered in history, the 100 year old foundation for this 3 story mansion sits at the highest point in Plainfield. In another era, this home overlooked the site of the Battle of Short Hills. On a clear day, from the third floor balcony, there is a view of Staten Island. The downstairs has been completely remodeled to include many of the characteristics attributed to homes built in the 1920's. Of particular note is the English Pine paneling on the second floor.

10 975 Glenwood Avenue

Built in the early 1950's, this home, while more contemporary in feel, still incorporated the grand elements of Plainfield's older estates. Designed with French Normandy influences, the house sits on one acre of fluidly landscaped lawn and gardens. Within the home is a gracious dining room featuring a bowed wall of windows. The paneled library has built in storage areas, and a back staircase can be found in the rear of the large kitchen. The current owners have made careful efforts to integrate the "old" and the "new" in their renovations - the result being an eminently livable family home with an unusual sense of space and elegance.

11 1754 Sleepy Hollow Lane

Situated on a meazy 3 1/2 acre lot, this Greek revival home with imposing two-story columns and massive stone facade was built in 1935 and renovated by noted Plainfield architect Charles H. Detwiler, Jr. in 1958. After entering through the stately exterior, visitors will find a comfortable family home that features an abundant interplay of light. The dining room is of special interest, incorporating "hidden" cabinets and a large bay window overlooking the patio, pool and extensive gardens. Boasting three fireplaces, a traditional paneled library, and a 1997 kitchen renovation, this home combines both the elegance and the comfort of a true family home.

12 1339 Watchung Avenue

Situated among matured trees, this blue and white Colonial, built c. 1906, graciously exudes its charm: craters hall design, 9 1/2 foot ceilings, 4 working fireplaces and a spacious family room. A selection lends an airy quality to the mansion. The dining room looks out upon beautifully manicured gardens. A porte-cochere and pool lend a distinct family atmosphere to this home. Though recently remodeled, the kitchen retains its period charm.