



2nd Annual
**West Mt. Airy
Historic
House Tour**

October 19, 2025

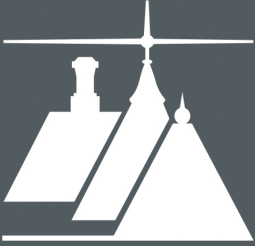
Presented by:



**MT. AIRY
LEARNING TREE**
NEIGHBORS TEACHING NEIGHBORS



2025 GOLD SPONSOR



ROOFING SPECIALISTS
PROVIDING EXPERT ADVICE
& QUALITY CRAFTSMANSHIP
SINCE 1971

KURTZ
215.247.8020
info@kurtzconstruction.com



VIEW COMPLETE LIST OF GENEROUS SPONSORS ON THE BACK COVER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome	pg. 5
30 Pelham Road	pg. 7
6825 Cresheim Road	pg. 9
100 Pelham Road	pg.11
Map and Parking Directions	pg.12-13
6723 Quincy Street	pg.14
6601 Wissahickon Ave.	pg. 15
626 West Hortter Street	pg.16
7304 Elbow Lane	pg.18
West Mt. Airy Neighbors	pg. 20
Mt. Airy Learning Tree	pg. 21
Thank You to Our Volunteers	pg.22
Gold Sponsor Ads	pg.2, 4, 6, 10
Silver Sponsor Ads	Inside Back Cover
Thank You to Our Sponsors	Back Cover

2025 GOLD SPONSOR



KHOSLA PROPERTIES

We are proud to support the
West Mt. Airy Historic House Tour

www.khoslaproperties.com
(267) 551-1955

WELCOME

Welcome to the West Mt. Airy Historic House Tour 2025, a self-guided journey through one of Philadelphia's most architecturally rich and distinctive neighborhoods. This year's tour offers a rare opportunity to step inside an exceptional collection of private homes that showcase the artistry, character, and craftsmanship that define West Mt. Airy.

Attendees will explore a stately Colonial mansion, a gracious Georgian Colonial residence, and a Flemish bond brick home that reflects the elegance of early American design. Also featured are a French Norman Revival mansion and a Jacobean-style stone manor, as well as a home that beautifully blends Victorian, Norman farmhouse, and English Village influences.

Inside, you'll find the same spirit of individuality and care that makes our neighborhood so special. Expect exquisite architectural details—from intricate woodwork and leaded glass windows to restored fireplaces and imaginative modern updates—that reveal both historic integrity and contemporary comfort.

This tour celebrates not only the enduring beauty of these homes but also the community that treasures and preserves them. As you explore, we invite you to experience the history, creativity, and welcoming spirit that make West Mt. Airy a truly remarkable place to live.

2025 GOLD SPONSOR

COMMONS & COMMONS LLP

Attorneys at Law

ESTATES & TRUSTS · REAL ESTATE
NON-PROFITS · INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS
Since 1973

30 Pelham Road, Philadelphia, PA 19119
www.commonslaw.com | 215-849-4400



30 Pelham Road, Fairlawn Manor

Fairlawn is a 10,000 square foot stone, half-timbered Tudor Revival style residence and associated carriage house, with 10 bedrooms and 5 bathrooms. Designed by architects G.W. and W.D. Hewitt, it was constructed between 1902 and 1903. It is situated in the Pelham neighborhood in northwest Philadelphia, a late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century development composed primarily of single-family houses and twins. Fairlawn is situated on a generous corner lot, one of the most prominent locations in a neighborhood comprised of many large homes of various Victorian revival styles.

The L-shaped building is three stories tall with a steeply pitched roof interrupted by cross-gables, dormer windows, and tall stone chimneys. The front elevation is dominated by a large porch that extends out over the driveway to become a porte-cochere. According to a Philadelphia Inquirer article of the time, the home was designed for industrialist Henry B. Curran, and then deeded to his daughter Constance Davison, and built as a wedding gift. The 1910 Census lists Constance and her family as living at 30 Pelham Road with their two children and four servants. In 2017, Fairlawn was added to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, and in 2022 it was nominated for the National Register. The name "Fairlawn" references the large front yard.



6825 Cresheim Road

Perched atop a hill overlooking the Cresheim Valley, the house at 6825 Cresheim was built in 1902 for the owner, F.M. Borden, at a cost of \$10,000. F.M. Borden is listed as a member of the Automobile Club of Germantown, a popular club for the men of Pelham and located at what is now the Commodore Barry Irish Arts and Cultural Club at 6815 Emlen St.

This home was designed by the architect William Lightfoot Price, an influential architect who designed many houses in Pelham and similar neighborhoods like Overbrook Farms. It is representative of an early planned suburban development which was also shaped by other prominent Philadelphia architects and developers including Robert McGoodwin, H. Louis Duhring, and Edmund Gilchrist.

Described as a turn-of-the century Victorian style home, this architectural gem still maintains many of its original and beautifully crafted features. Stylistically, it blends Victorian ornamentation with Norman farmhouse and English Village influences, featuring leaded glass, built-ins, crown moldings and a stone fireplace.

Walk through a light-filled leaded glass enclosed Mercer-tiled sun porch into a breathtaking sitting area with a wealth of original wooden pillars and moldings, matched with a beautiful fireplace. A quick glance up the winding staircase reveals a huge, magnificent stained glass window. Continue to the formal dining room with pocket doors, painted canvas gold-detailed ceiling, curved custom windows and doors, with bespoke millwork throughout. This beautiful home is in Pelham, one of the most inspiring neighborhoods in Philadelphia.

2025 GOLD SPONSOR

Mt. Airy Painters

Over **38 projects** in Mt. Airy Last Year!

Wixen & Chip Color Team Supreme!



PAINT | • INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING
• WALLPAPER REMOVAL
• CABINET REFINISHING

(267) 550-5083
paintphilly.com



100 Pelham Road

One of the most impressive houses in Pelham, the beautiful mansion at 100 Pelham Road was designed by Boyd & Boyd for Robert M. Hogue in 1896 for the sum of \$20,000.00, making it one of the most expensive homes built in the Pelham neighborhood.

Robert M. Hogue lived in the home until 1915, and the building remained prominent after his departure, even hosting Winston Churchill while he was visiting the area.

This Jacobean style stone house has Indiana limestone trim and a balanced, almost symmetrical façade with large, peaked gables on both sides and a smaller dormer between. Finials appear atop each peak and corner of the roof. Two-story bays below these gables rise to the level of the upper stringcourse, where they are topped with crenellated parapets. The stringcourses between the stories are punctuated with a series of carved, humanoid grotesques. Additional carvings of the limestone trim include a row of quatrefoils over the center second floor windows. The arched front door, off-center, is balanced by the arched window next to it. All the windows have diamond-shaped leaded lights.

This home has also been the site of the Philadelphia School of Criminology. In addition, this building, along with three other houses on the block, was owned by Combs College of Music from 1964 until 1985. The houses were then sold as private homes. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Important guidelines for attending the West Mt. Airy Historic House Tour:

- Please wear your booties inside the homes.
- Please do not block or park in the driveways.
- No photos please! Do not take photos inside of homes.
- No backpacks or large bags permitted inside of homes.

Parking Guide

-  **6825 Cresheim Road** | pg. 9
Located at the intersection of Carpenter Lane. and Cresheim Road. Park on Cresheim Rd.
-  **6601 Wissahickon Ave.** | pg.15
Located at the intersection of West Hortter Street and Wissahickon Avenue. On-street parking available on West Hortter Street.
-  **100 Pelham Road** | pg.11
Located at the intersections of Pelham Road, Emlen Street, and West Phil Ellena Street. There is ample on-street parking available.
-  **626 West Hortter Street** | pg.16
On-street parking available on West Hortter Street.
-  **6723 Quincy Street** | pg.14
Located at the intersection of Quincy and Westview Streets. Take the walkway from Quincy Street. There is ample on-street parking on Quincy Street.
-  **7304 Elbow Lane** | pg.18
On-street parking available on Elbow Lane.
- Registration/Check-In**
 **30 Pelham Road** | pg.7
There is ample on-street parking available.

You may visit the homes in any order you wish on this self-guided tour.



6723 Quincy Street

Built c. 1906, this corner home commands its perch with full grace. Its first owner, Frank Hough, made alterations to its shingled room in 1911. This three-story Flemish bond brick home, complete with a welcoming wrap-around porch, is part of the Pelham neighborhood's tradition of "twin houses." The Pelham neighborhood was the first established neighborhood in the USA that has been lauded as the most diverse and celebrated communities. Stepping inside the house, you'll find that the term "twin" hardly does justice to its airy, light-filled interior. Inside hardwood floors, a beautiful fireplace and a sunny formal living room greet you.

Many of the original details remain in the house, including the molded ornamental high ceilings, the beautiful trim around the windows and doors and the unexpected touch of stain glass. The current owners have carefully blended modern comfort with historic charm, preserving the very details that make this home special.



66601 Wissahickon Avenue

Welcome to 6601 Wissahickon Avenue, a 3-story Georgian Colonial home designed by the notable Philadelphia architect John Hall Rankin (1868-1952). Considered a historic property, it was built as his private residence in 1904. Original details are on display throughout the home, complemented by improvements for the modern day. There are seven fireplaces, and French doors opening onto a garden gracing this one acre property.

Mr. Rankin had been regarded as the dean of architects in this city. His firm designed many public buildings, including the Provident Trust Company, the Inquirer Building and the United States Marine Corps Building, as well as notable buildings in Camden, Atlantic City, and Norristown, PA. Born in Lock Haven, PA. Mr. Rankin graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and was a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects. He served on the Mayor's Committee on Comprehensive Plans from 1916 to 1924. When the Work Projects Administration (WPA) was established here in 1935, he organized the Philadelphia district. In 1935 he was chosen to organize the Philadelphia District of the WPA and construction of the Philadelphia Airport was begun under his leadership. Mr. Rankin was a member of the Rittenhouse Club in Philadelphia, among many other notable societies.



626 West Hortter Street

The 3 story stately colonial styled residence with its light walls, sloped roofs and dormer windows at 626 Hortter was built in 1906 by Charles W. Bacon and designed by George Ulrich Rehfuß. Bacon, a 4th cousin of famed Philadelphia city planner Edmund Bacon (and therefore a 4th cousin once removed of Kevin Bacon; less than 6 degrees) was 26 and single at the time he built the house. He was involved in the real estate business but seems later to have had no occupation. After his father died in 1906, his mother, Josephine La Rue Bacon, and her companion, Alice T. Norcross, came to live with him.

In 1920, the house was purchased by 44-year-old William R. Harper and his wife Jean Harper. Harper was an Aetna Life Insurance salesman. He and his wife lived here until 1945. They had no children, yet had three live-in Irish servants and a chauffeur who lived in the garage with his wife.

After a brief ownership of the N & Ada Kosmin family, S. Stanley Schary and his wife Fay M. purchased the house in 1947. Schary was a successful businessman born in New York who left school at the age of nine to tend a newspaper stand in New York.

In addition to serving in World War I, Schary had a varied career in business, from being a travelling salesman of boys' clothing to working for mortgage and loan companies as well as a company that was one of the first manufacturers of ballpoint pens. In later years, he went into technological manufacturing for things like tape records and a device known as a regiscope, which would simultaneously photograph a person and the document he she was signing; touted as a crime prevention tool.

This home along with its rich history is a showcase of fine details and craftsmanship of a time past.



7304 Elbow Lane

Built in 1924, this home is a notable example of French Norman Revival architecture. It is the earliest of a collection of 21 homes commissioned and developed by George Woodward, known as the French Village. This eclectic mix of regional and period revivals reflects an unusual style inspired by medieval farmsteads and manors of Normandy, France. Robert Rodes McGoodwin and other important Philadelphia architects designed these houses, which embraced traditional massing and forms seen in the Norman countryside. The French Village expresses a romanticized version of the native Norman vernacular architecture with exaggerated and fanciful details.

According to legend, George Woodward and his wife Gertrude were on a trip in Europe in 1923. While they were in France, they fell in love with the rural architecture of Normandy in the north of France. Woodward then incorporated a number of the French stylistic elements in the architecture of the homes he built. These features included: conical turrets, towers, garden walls, steep roofs and dormers.

The French Village neighborhood reflects the development of first-ring suburbs in the early twentieth century. This trend occurred not only in Philadelphia during a period of rapid industrialization, but throughout the country. In Philadelphia, designers and builders embraced the materials and topography of the natural Wissahickon Valley landscape, sometimes termed the “Wissahickon Style.”



About West Mt. Airy Neighbors:

WMAN is a member-supported, nonprofit civic organization whose mission is to support and advocate for the needs and concerns of the West Mount Airy community, nurture our social fabric in all its diversity, and help protect and steward the inevitable transformation of our beloved physical and natural environments.

WMAN Board

Steve Kendall, President

Jarma Frisby & Ebo Nunoo, VPs Social Environment

Peter Samuel, VP Natural Environment

Morrie Zimmerman, VP Built Environment

Lis Bass, Adrienne Carpenter, Paul Gill, Terence Jones,
Chloe Mohr, Cheryl Ann Nelson, Carla Pagan, Rob Pelzynski,
Ralph Pinkus, and Octavius Price

Josephine Gasiewski Winter, *Executive Director*

WMAN Historic Preservation Initiative

The goal of the West Mount Airy Neighbors Historic Preservation Initiative is to identify and protect the character defining features of the community by taking a proactive stance in order to preserve the historic built-environment for the future. Likewise, we aim to bolster the quality of life in our neighborhood through highlighting its history, architecture, diversity of community, and its long standing engaging spirit.

Committee Members

Adrienne Carpenter, Sherman Aronson, Morrie Zimmerman, Libbie Hawes
Monica Gonzalez, Dan Stroiman, Allory Anderson, Ed Mahlman
Moya Kinnealey, and Lisa Kolakowsky

Please visit www.wman.net to learn more about West Mt. Airy Neighbors.
Follow us on social media: @westmtairyneighbors



About Mt. Airy Learning Tree:

Founded in 1980, MALT is a nonprofit that offers over 750 classes to approximately 4,500 students each year. Held at locations throughout our community—in local churches, schools, businesses, and homes or outdoors in the Wissahickon and at local points of interest—our classes bring students of all ages together through engaging educational and recreational activities. MALT's community-focused programs create a welcoming place for neighbors and help define what we love about living in Northwest Philadelphia.

MALT Board of Governors

Rene Vargas, President; Lanina Cavicchio, Vice-President;
Janet Hoffman, Secretary; Allison Cooper, Treasurer

Christopher Coan, Rachel Falkove, Annette Gibbs,
Allyson L. Katzman, Della Lazarus, Patricia Robinson, Bob Rossman,
Cheri Skipworth, John E. Stanchak, Rae Whatley

MALT Staff

Janet Greenwood Gala, *Executive Director*

Sammy Lifson-Neubardt, *Program Administrator*

Marisia Robinson, *Operations Manager*

Please visit our website to view our classes,
register, and learn more about Mt. Airy Learning Tree.
Follow us on social media: @mtairylearningtree

www.mtairylearningtree.org
215-843-6333 • info@mtairylearningtree.org

THANK YOU!

We are grateful to our local businesses for supporting the tour:

Gold Sponsors

Commons & Commons LLP | Khosla Properties
Kurtz Construction | Paint Philadelphia

Silver Sponsors

Philly Office Retail | Quintessence Theatre Group

Bronze Sponsors

Elfant Wissahickon Realtors | Heiler Painting | Weavers Way Co-op

It Takes a Village to Create Our House Tour!

*Thank you to all of the house tour docents
who are volunteering today!*

Angus McLeod, Patricia Robinson, Kelly Tannen, Jenny Aiello,
Carrie Ogorek, Keiren O'Connell, Mark Klempner, Nancy Stedman,
Christopher Coen, Allory Anderson, Brian Rudnick, Peggy Bradley,
Kevin Keene, Kathy Krebs, Cyndi Skripak, Ed Mahlman, Cheryl Nelson,
John Stanchak, Sherman Aronson, Bob Simon, Carol Graeber,
Ralph Pinkus, Cheryl Pinkus, Lisa Kolakowsky Smith, Della Lazarus,
Adrienne Carpenter, Marisia Robinson, Eric Tillberg, Theo Wood,
Meena Nandial, Josephine Winter, Rene Vargas, Linda Bell, Ebo Nunoo,
Lynn Berkovitz, Bob Wedge, Janet Gala, Sammy Lifson-Neubardt,
Bob Rossman, Lanina Nelson-Cavicchio, Allyson Katzman,
Annette Gibbs, and Janet Hoffman

*We are especially grateful to the homeowners who are welcoming us
into their homes to share their hidden gems with our attendees.*

Peter and Katie Commons | Parris Hall and Karen Colquitt-Hall
Marian and Jeff Leknes | David Bromley and Emily Crane
Trudi G. Smith and Jay Bailey Smith
Jan Deruiter and Darragh Muldoon
Todd Franzen and Chanda Miller

*And to you, our attendees, thank you for joining us and for supporting
the mission of Mt. Airy Learning Tree and West Mt. Airy Neighbors.*

Enjoy The Tour!

2025 SILVER SPONSORS



PHILLYOFFICERETAIL
The answer to your office, retail & residential needs

Proudly supports the West Mt. Airy Historic House Tour

Strengthening Community Through Economic Development
4701 Germantown Ave Flr 3 Philadelphia, PA 19144
Check out available properties at: phillyofficeretail.com



QUINTESSENCE THEATRE
FIRE!!
OCT 8 - NOV 2
LIVE THEATRE!
MUSIC!
DANCING!
POETRY!
QT&REP.org
215 987 4450

Thank you to our sponsors!

GOLD SPONSORS



SILVER SPONSORS



BRONZE SPONSORS

