

3RD ANNUAL

WEST MT. AIRY HISTORIC HOUSE TOUR

OCTOBER 18, 2026

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WELCOME

Welcome to this year's Historic House Tour, celebrating the architectural richness and enduring character of Mt. Airy. This year's homes span more than half a century of design, from grand Tudor and Georgian Revival residences to an elegant stone home overlooking Carpenter's Woods, a charming pre-war apartment, and a thoughtfully transformed midcentury home.

Along the way, discover original stained glass, intricate woodwork, soaring ceilings, historic fireplaces, and beautifully crafted stonework. Explore gardens, courtyards, and outdoor spaces that reflect the neighborhood's close connection to the surrounding natural landscape. Highlights include work by celebrated architects Hewitt and Mellor, Meigs & Howe, as well as distinctive ironwork by Samuel Yellin.

Each property tells a different story—of a wedding gift, a country estate, an enclosed garden, or a home reimagined for modern living. Together, they offer a glimpse into Mt. Airy's history and the care, creativity, and craftsmanship that continue to shape its homes today.



30 Pelham Road
Fairelawn Manor

Fairelawn 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. Fairelawn 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, 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, Fairelawn was added to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places, and in 2022 it was nominated for the National Register. The name “Fairelawn” references the large front yard.



308 Pelham Road

Welcome to 308 Pelham Road, a Georgian Revival three-story stone residence built in 1902.

The owners of this beautiful home have kept the original architectural details intact while adding thoughtful updates for modern living. Enter from the gorgeous front porch into a two-story foyer with a central hall staircase showcasing its original woodwork and stained glass windows. The living room features a beautiful wooden bookcase with lead glass doors, bay window seating, and a wooden mantle over one of two fireplaces in the home. The dining room sits opposite with detailed wood features, paneling, a built-in china cabinet and beautiful William Morris wallpaper adorning the walls. The spacious music room with its colorful décor offers another bay window with wood paneling and crown moldings.

Original oak pocket wooden doors are also featured along with early 20th century wall sconces. View the 1906 Quality Roberts & Mander Stove. There is an updated and spacious kitchen overlooking the backyard with a Maple tree believed to be more than a hundred years old. The kitchen has a porcelain farmhouse sink and fireplace. The second floor showcases a 100 year old stained glass window.

Located at the intersection of Pelham Road and Emlen Street.



712 West Mt. Airy Avenue

This sophisticated, single-family house was constructed of Wissahickon Schist and built in 1929 in the Craftsman Traditional Stone style. Lovingly restored, this house is also in the Norman English Village vernacular, with coursed rough stone, paned casement windows, original steep slate shingle roofs, minimal eave detailing, articulated chimneys, and copper down-spouts. All of this and more will capture your attention immediately as you approach the handsome front door of the house.

The expansive outdoor living space, with flagstone patios and landscaped gardens, is an extension of the surrounding natural environment. This home showcases beautiful hardwood floors and an original fireplace with handsome woodwork. The house is filled with natural sunlight, creating a harmony of colors that blend effortlessly into a welcoming home with amazing space.

The renovations were creatively designed, keeping the character of the house intact. The kitchen was renovated to fit the needs of a modern lifestyle, with an oversized center island. The garage was removed to add a usable mudroom and first-floor bedroom and bathroom, while the dining room was converted into a sitting room to enjoy hot tea at night and coffee and the newspaper in the morning. The house sits on approximately 1.2 acres of green landscape in West Mount Airy, just above Carpenter's Woods and a short hike from the natural wonders of the Wissahickon Creek Valley.

Located near the intersection of West Mt. Airy Avenue and Wayne Avenue.



511 West Mt. Airy Avenue

In 1958, S. Harry and Amy Galfand at 502 W. Allens Lane carved out 1/3 of an acre from their large backyard and built this house. Over the years, only three owners have occupied the house, leaving it in original condition. The prior owners, James Smart, a columnist for the *Philadelphia Bulletin*, and his wife Barbara Tarode, who was a designer and artist, purchased the house in 1986. In 2022, the new owners began the transformation from a loved but tired 1958 house to a cozy home with a modern design, maintaining a nod to the midcentury bones. Magnificent Euro-style tilt and turn Alpen windows and extra insulation, along with a woodburning fireplace make this a super-efficient quiet home. The former carport has been completely enclosed and heightened to create a light-filled kitchen and dining room with large windows and walnut accents. The entire back wall of the original house was removed to create a wall of glass that brings the garden inside renovations designed by Alan Metcalfe Architecture and Design.

Located near the intersection of McCallum Street & West Mt. Airy Avenue.

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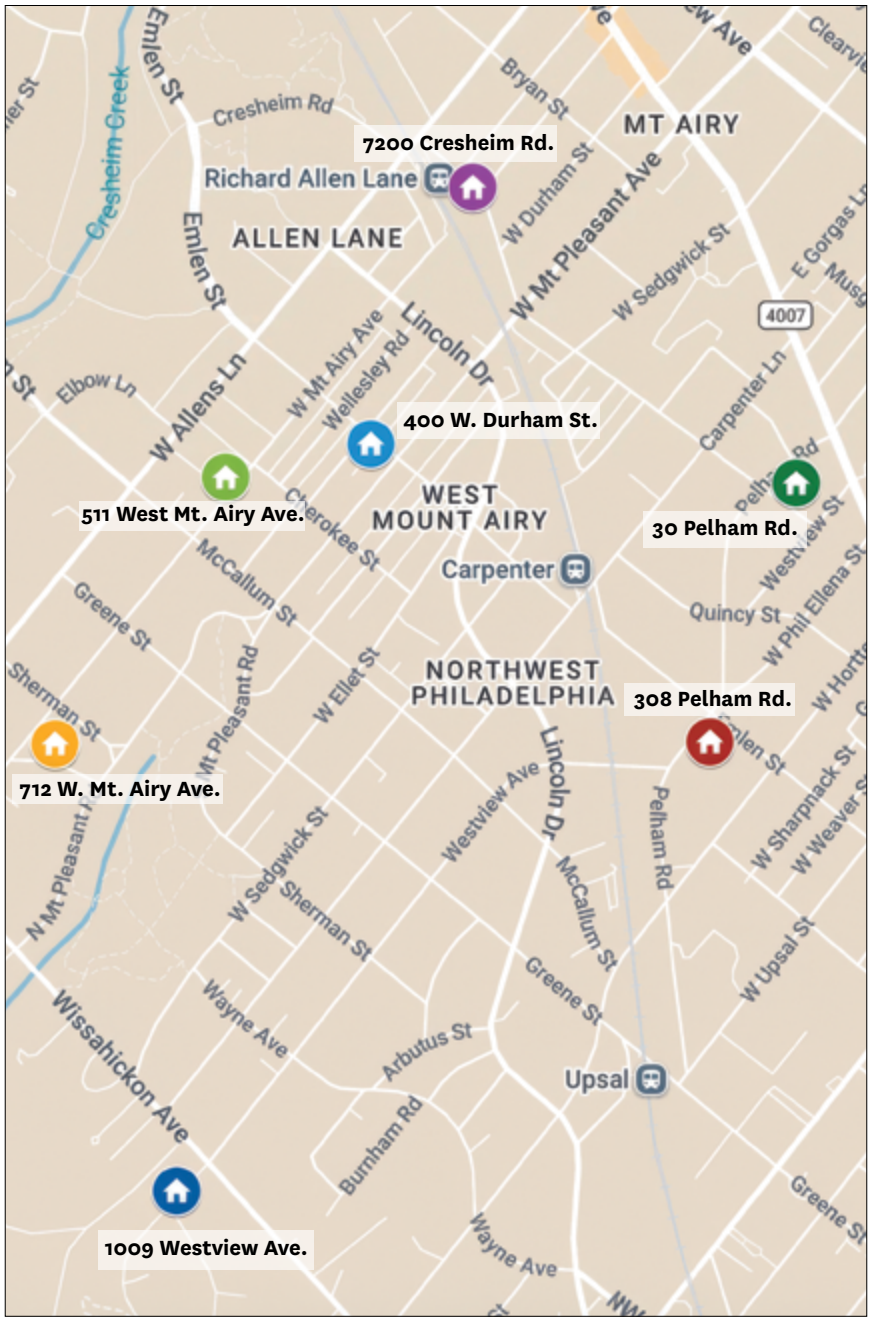


1009 Westview Avenue
Garth

This extraordinary property was designed by esteemed architects Mellor, Meigs & Howe for Robert T. McCracken, Esq. in 1920 with a 1926 addition. It is sited on Westview Avenue, overlooking parts of Wissahickon Park. The property design remains timeless: It balances indoor and outdoor living complete with the fully enclosed stonewalled garden room with a belvedere, a pergola, multiple brick and stone walkways, and a courtyard. There is ironwork by Samuel Yellin, including hardware and braces for multiple doors and windows. The updated chef's kitchen has a walk-in pantry, laundry room, and mudroom. The family room and large dining room have doors to the walled garden and greenhouse conservatory, flooded with light. The living room addition has a soaring wood-beamed ceiling and stone fireplace.

This property was named "Garth," meaning enclosed garden or yard, and began as a hunting lodge for Mr. McCracken, later substantially expanded through the 1926 addition. Mellor, Meigs & Howe were awarded the American Institute of Architects, Philadelphia Chapter, Gold Medal in 1922 for the design of this original home. It is considered one of their masterpieces.

Located near the intersection of Westview Avenue and Wissahickon Avenue.



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

308 Pelham Rd. | pg. 7
Located at the intersection of Pelham Rd. and Emlen St.
On-street parking available.

1009 Westview Ave. | pg.11
Located near the intersection of Westview Ave. and Wissahickon Ave.
On-street parking is available.

712 West Mt. Airy Ave. | pg. 8
Located near the intersection of West Mt. Airy Ave. and Wayne Ave.
On-street parking available.

511 West Mt. Airy Ave. | pg. 10
Located near the intersection of Cherokee St. & W. Mt. Airy Ave.
On-street parking available.

400 West Durham St. | pg.14
Visitation to the exterior of the house only! Located at the intersection of Emlen St and West Durham St.
On-street parking available.

7200 Cresheim Rd. | pg.16
Third floor, Apt. #6
Located at W. Mt. Airy Ave. & Cresheim Rd.
On-street parking available
Please do not park in the High Point parking lot at the train station.

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

Registration/Check-In
30 Pelham Rd. | pg. 6
Located at the intersection of Pelham Road and Cresheim Road.
Ample on-street parking available.



400 West Durham Street

Visitation to the exterior of the house only.

Welcome to 400 West Durham Street, a small row house with a storied history whose exterior has been lovingly restored by the current owner and his late beloved wife.

The current owner purchased this house during the real estate frenzy of 2003-2004. After moving in during December 2004, the front porch was demolished, repoured, and stone faced. The original railings and gate were rebuilt and reinstalled. The 80 foot tree lawn along Emlen Street was removed and replaced with reclaimed cobblestones.

A big exterior restoration push commenced around the 100 year anniversary of the construction. Roofing included installing a new main roof, replacement of the porch roof and ceiling, the addition of copper gutters and downspout, and the restoration of the slate portion. The historic painting included much carpentry and glazing of almost every window pane.

Please enjoy the house and its surrounding gardens - be on the lookout for the big beautiful Willow Oak at the corner and for a special sculpture called the 'Brick Boys'.

Located at the intersection of Emlen Street and West Durham Street.
On-street parking available.



7200 Cresheim Road
Cresheim Valley Apartments

The Cresheim Valley Apartments at 7200 Cresheim Road were designed in 1914 by architect Henry (Harry) E. DeHoff, and constructed by the Maguire Company. DeHoff designed the building in the Tudor Revival style, adding Classical Revival details for emphasis. This stylistic choice was typical of early 20th century residential and commercial development, romanticizing the "old world" designs of the English village into early American suburbs. The Cresheim Valley Apartments were constructed on a parcel immediately adjacent to the Richard Allen Lane train station (formerly Allens Lane Station) on the Chestnut Hill West Line of the SEPTA Regional Rail (originally the Pennsylvania Railroad). This rail line was completed by Henry Houston by 1884, but it was only in the second decade of the 20th century that housing was constructed nearby, some of it by Houston's own son-in-law, George Woodward. These new residential buildings set the tone for good construction, spacious interiors, and carefully crafted facades with historical reference and timeless details.

Visit a pre-war apartment in the Cresheim Valley Apartments. Built before World War II, this apartment has original details that harken back to a bygone time. Features such as hardwood floors, intricate moldings, high ceilings, and a woodburning fireplace add to the character these apartments possess. A desirable layout of pre-war apartments is the "classic six" which refers to the number of main rooms: kitchen, living room, formal dining room, primary bedroom, second bedroom, and a maid's room. Note the craftsmanship and details as you visit the rooms throughout the apartment: oak hardwood floors, bay windows, intricate crown and base moldings, archways, solid wood doors, and a decorative fireplace original to the apartment. View the antique artifacts of the period on display throughout the appointed apartment.

Located at W. Mt Airy Ave. and Cresheim Road. Third floor, Apt.#6.
On-street parking available.
Please do not park in the High Point parking lot at the train station.

THANK YOU!

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It Takes a Village to Create Our House Tour!

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

Angus McLeod, Lisa Kolakowsky Smith, Ed Mahlman, Sherman Aronson, Christopher Coan, Moya Kinnealey, Meena Nandlal, Patricia Robinson, Mark Klempner, Nancy Stedman, Vickie Hatcher, Anneie O'Connell, Thomas Harris, John Evan, Lis Bass, Cheryl Nelson, Nathan Long, Ralph Pincus, Cheryl Pinkus, Ashley Fritzche, Rae Whatley, Brian Rudnick, Laura Schwingel, Jarma Frisby, Wesley Kay Sherry, Christina Moore, Carla Pagan, Allory Anderson, Dan Stroiman, Lynne V. Hernandez, Adrienne Carpenter, Terrence Jones, Theo Wood, Lindsay Weightman, Della Lazarus, Joyce Lieberman, Nancy Elenheim, Jason Smith, Greg Smith, Rene Vargas, John Stanchak, Toni Ann Flanigan and Patrick McGrath.

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

Pete and Kate Commons | Judy and Ken Weinstein
Timothy Miller and Daniel Donahue | Rick Hock
William Dixon Shay III and Gillian O'Neill Shay
Frank V. Aloise Jr. and Sarah S. Aloise | Cynthia Dutwin | Damar Wilson

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!

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
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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, Libbie Hawes, Monica Gonzalez, Dan Stroiman, Allory Anderson, Ed Mahlman, Moya Kinnealey, Lisa Kolakowsky Smith

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.

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

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