Landmark Society and Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery to Stage Major House and Garden Tour

The Landmark Society will stage a major house and garden tour of the Mount Hope Avenue area on Saturday, June 12, and Sunday, June 13, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

Grand mansions with elegant gardens and modest but charming middle-class houses combine to make a fascinating tour of the historic Mount Hope Avenue area. With 14 separate tour stops, this is the largest house and garden tour in recent years of Rochester home tours.

Tickets to the tour are a modest $10 on the days of the tour, but if you purchase in advance, the tickets are an unusual bargain at $8.50. Tickets go on sale Monday, May 24, at Landmark Society headquarters, 133 South Fitzhugh Street. They can also be purchased at the following locations:

- Rite-Aid Pharmacy, 877 South Avenue,
- Parkleigh, 215 Park Avenue at Goodman St.,
- Village Green Bookstore, 766 Monroe Ave.,
- Irondequoit Garden Center, 1936 Hudson Avenue.

Ample free parking on the days of the tour is available on Mount Hope Avenue and on the side tour streets, Reservoir Avenue and Linden Street.

Friends of Mount Hope Plan Special Activities for House Tour

On the days of the house tour, the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery have planned special short tours of the oldest parts of the cemetery. These will be offered every half hour from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Here's a chance to visit the gravesites of Susan B. Anthony, Hiram Sibley, Margaret Woodbury Strong, George B. Selden (the inventor of the automobile), and some of the more spectacular funerary sculptures in America's oldest municipally operated Victorian cemetery.

In the 1800s this was the main office of the largest nursery in the world. It will be open for viewing on this year's house and garden tour.
Events at Mount Hope Cemetery continue with free concerts by the Golden Link Folk Singers. Seating will be arranged at the Moorish Gazebo, just inside the cemetery’s north entrance, for weary walkers to take a pleasant respite from house touring and listen to the exceptionally talented folk singers and musicians. The Golden Link singers and players will perform on both Saturday and Sunday from noon to 3 p.m.

The north entrance on Mount Hope Avenue, opposite Robinson Drive, is also the house tour headquarters. Tickets for the tour can be purchased here on the days of the tour, and there will be free lemonade provided by the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery. While you sip your lemonade, you can browse through the gift shops that will be set up under a large tent by the Landmark Society, the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery, and the Golden Link Folk Singers.

The gatehouse has rest rooms available for tourgoers. For additional information about the tour, call the Landmark Society at 546-7029.

On June 12 and 13, the snow will be gone and the sounds of the talented Golden Link Folk Singers will waft from this Moorish Gazebo.

**Rare Chance to See Beautiful Landmark Houses**

The 1993 Landmark Society/Friends of Mount Hope house and garden tour concentrates on the Mount Hope/Highland preservation district. The district is also listed on the State of New York and National Registers of Historic Places. The area retains its elegant and spacious character of park land that is punctuated by notable mansions. On the fringes of the preservation district are tightly knit, early 20th-century subdivisions. The tour also includes several houses in these subdivisions on Reservoir Avenue and Linden street.

The architectural gem of the tour is the Patrick Barry House, which was designed by a famous British architect, Gervase Wheeler, and built in 1855-1857. It is considered by architectural authorities to be one of the finest American houses in the Italian Villa style.
Currently the home of the Provost of the University of Rochester and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Brian Thompson, the house has been completely and carefully restored to its original elegance. The whole house, including both first and second floors, and a spectacular English garden designed by Mrs. Thompson will be on view.

Patrick Barry and George Ellwanger built the world's largest nursery on 650 acres of Mount Hope land in the middle 1800s. Ellwanger's historic home and outstanding perennial garden will also be on the tour. The house, remodeled and expanded with extensive additions by the famous Rochester architect, J. Foster Warner, has one of the largest living rooms of any house in Rochester, and there is a working pipe organ on the main stair landing.

In 1906, a handsome house in the Georgian Revival style was built for William C. Barry, Jr., grandson of Patrick Barry. This house was also designed by J. Foster Warner and echoes the style of the George Eastman House, which Warner completed one year earlier. Mr. and Mrs. Dennis O'Brien (he is president of the University of Rochester) currently occupy the house, and they have graciously offered to open their fine home with their extensive art collection for this tour.

The charming Gothic Revival building next door, which was erected in 1854, was at one time the center of the largest nursery establishment in the world. You can view the interior rooms, which are now offices of the University of Rochester, and enjoy the romantic Gothic-arched windows and elegant marble fireplaces.

Also on Mount Hope Avenue, the tour includes two houses of more modest proportions and architectural decoration. One is an early real estate venture of Ellwanger & Barry Realty. It is one of four Gothic Revival houses between Linden and Cypress Streets that were built for sale in 1868. The other is a handsome 1870s house that was used as a residence for Mount Hope Cemetery staff for over a century.

When you add the mini-tours of Mount Hope Cemetery, this is a remarkably large, diverse, and interesting house and garden tour. It will be a truly rare opportunity to see the interiors of some of Rochester's finest historic houses.

The tour is limited to a four-block stretch of Mount Hope Avenue so that you can park your car once and easily walk the entire tour. To prevent overcrowding of houses and long waiting lines, a limited number of tickets are being printed, so be sure to buy yours early. It will certainly be one of the most popular Landmark Society house tours in their 23 year history of presenting the largest and finest house and garden tours in Western New York.

The Mount Hope Cemetery gatehouse will serve as headquarters for the 1993 house and garden tour.
Volunteers Needed to Staff Friends of Mount Hope Activities During House Tour

The Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery need volunteers to help staff our activities on the days of the tour — Saturday, June 12, and Sunday, June 13. These activities include selling Friends T-shirts and other gift items, serving lemonade, and providing tour information. Two work shifts of three hours are planned each day: 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If you can help, please call the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery at 461-3494 and leave a message. Someone will call you back to sign you up and confirm your shift.

— Richard O. Reisem

NEW MEMBERS
Ann N. Baker
James L. Swarts

Tours
Dick Brown will conduct a "Memorial Day Remembrance Tour of the Civil War at Mt. Hope Cemetery" on Monday, May 31, at 2:00 p.m. It starts from the Old North Gatehouse opposite Robinson Drive and Highland Park. Join us on this tour.

Regular Sunday tours resumed on May 2 at 2 and 3 p.m. from the gatehouse. Special tours are available throughout the year. For information call 461-3494 and leave a message. You will be contacted.

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THE FRIENDS OF MT. HOPE CEMETERY

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I cannot join, but would like to contribute $ ________

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FRIENDS OF MT. HOPE CEMETERY
791 Mt. Hope Avenue
Rochester, New York 14620-2752

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