

Philadelphia's acquisition of the historic houses, beginning with Lemon Hill in 1844, resulted in the creation of Fairmount Park, one of the largest municipal parks in the country. This led to the preservation of the houses, the most significant group of eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century domestic architectural examples in the United States. Illustrating more than a century of style, fashion, and domestic life, the houses provide a unique glimpse into Philadelphia's rich history.



STRAWBERRY MANSION



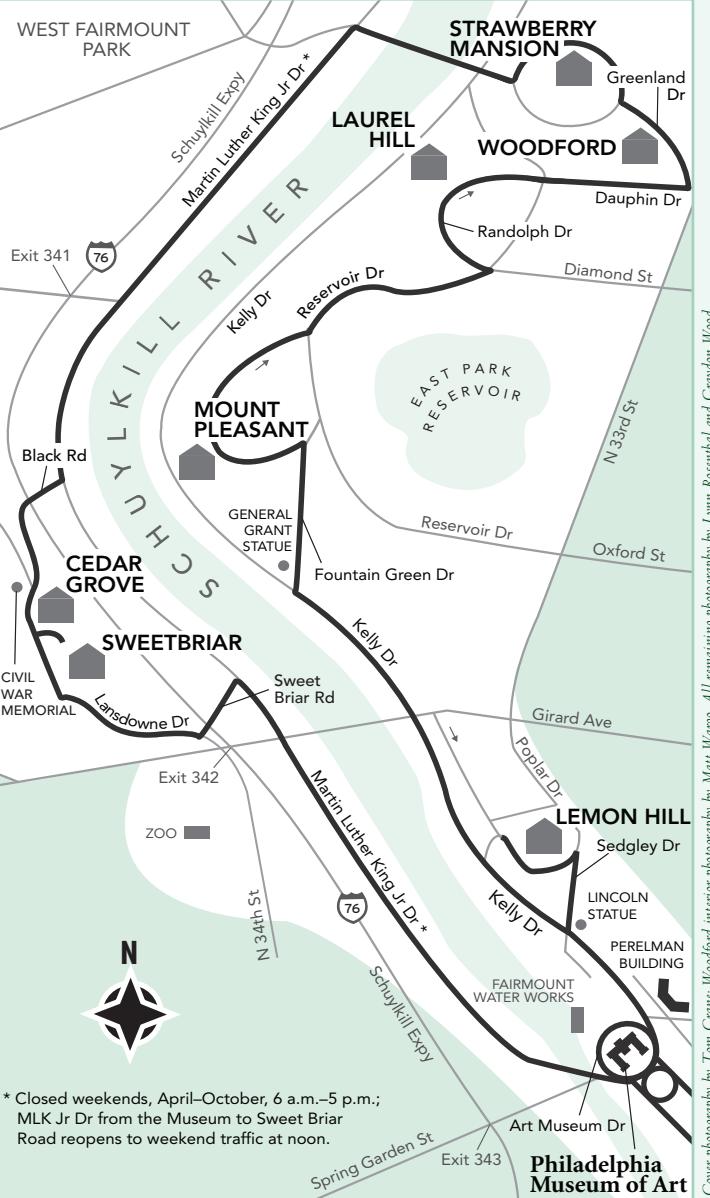
CEDAR GROVE



SWEETBRIAR

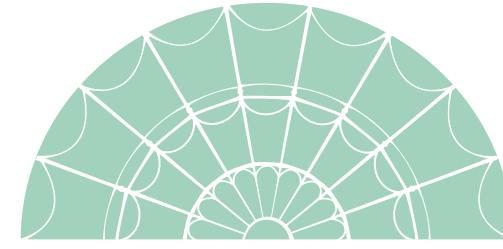
- Lemon Hill:** West Sedgley Drive and Poplar Drive (19130)
- Mount Pleasant:** 3800 Mount Pleasant Drive (19121)
- Laurel Hill:** Randolph Drive and East Edgely Drive (19121)
- Woodford:** 33rd Street and West Dauphin Street (19132)
- Strawberry Mansion:** 2450 Strawberry Mansion Drive (19132)
- Cedar Grove:** Lansdowne Drive and Cedar Grove Drive (19131)
- Sweetbriar:** 3800 Sweetbriar Drive (19131)

For directions to the Fairmount Park Houses from the Philadelphia Museum of Art, visit fairmountparkhouses.org or the Museum's Visitor Services Desks.



This brochure was made possible by the Fairmount Park Conservancy and the Fairmount Park Houses.

To learn more about Fairmount Park, visit fairmountpark.org or fairmountparkconservancy.org.



FAIRMOUNT PARK HOUSES

Philadelphia's Historic Villas along the Schuylkill River



Within Philadelphia's Fairmount Park stands a group of seven eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century historic houses established as rural retreats by prominent families of the city. Some of these homes functioned as working farms, including productive dairies, orchards, and extensive fields and game lands, while others provided an elegant, fashionable, and healthy summer retreat from Philadelphia's urban environment, heat, and periodic epidemics.



LEMON HILL



MOUNT PLEASANT



LAUREL HILL



WOODFORD

LEMON HILL: Oval Room

Philadelphia merchant Henry Pratt built this stately summer villa in 1800 on property formerly owned by merchant, entrepreneur, and financier Robert Morris. Named after the lemon trees that Morris grew in the greenhouse he had built on the property, Lemon Hill was designed in the neoclassical style and features graceful, oval rooms with curved doors and fireplaces on each of its three floors.

Administered by the Colonial Dames of America, Chapter II
Open Wednesday–Sunday, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.,
April 1–mid-December*
(215) 232-4337



MOUNT PLEASANT: Upstairs Hall

Between the years 1762 and 1765, Captain John Macpherson, a successful Scottish privateer and American patriot, established what John Adams described in 1775 as “the most elegant seat in Pennsylvania.” He employed as his master builder Thomas Nevell, an apprentice of Edmund Woolley, the builder of Independence Hall. The resulting country estate features grand classical architecture, stunning interiors and vistas, and the best craftsmanship of colonial Philadelphia.

Administered by the Philadelphia Museum of Art
Open Tuesday–Sunday, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.*
(215) 763-2719

LAUREL HILL: Dining Room

Rebecca Rawle, a wealthy widow, built a small country house in the Georgian style around 1767. After her second marriage to British Loyalist and Philadelphia mayor Samuel Shoemaker, she lost her house during the American Revolution, when the state seized property of British sympathizers, but later was successful in regaining her property. The house features an unusual octagonal room, which was added during the early nineteenth century.

Administered by the Women for Greater Philadelphia
Open Wednesday–Sunday, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., July 1–mid-December; Saturday & Sunday, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., April–June; and by special appointment*
(215) 235-1776



WOODFORD: Parlor

In 1756–58, William Coleman, a Philadelphia merchant and close friend of Benjamin Franklin, built this elegant summer retreat. Today the house is furnished with an extraordinary collection of eighteenth-century antiques begun by Naomi Wood, a Philadelphia collector. The Georgian-style house contains an impressive display of period furniture and decorative arts, including delftware.

Administered by the Naomi Wood Trust
Open Tuesday–Sunday, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.*
(215) 229-6115

STRAWBERRY MANSION: Ballroom

Formerly known as “Summerville,” the center section of Strawberry Mansion was built in the Federal style around 1790 by renowned lawyer Judge William Lewis, who drafted the first law abolishing slavery in the United States. The mansion’s second owner, Judge Joseph Hemphill, added the Greek Revival wings during the 1820s. The house features period furnishings, an important doll collection, antique toys, and other early American artifacts.

Administered by the Committee of 1926
Limited availability due to restoration. Please visit fairmountparkhouses.org for more information.
(215) 228-8364



CEDAR GROVE: Kitchen

Originally located in the Frankford section of Philadelphia, Cedar Grove was moved to Fairmount Park in 1926–28. Built by wealthy widow Elizabeth Coates Paschall in 1748–50, the house became the summer residence for five generations of her family. Featuring an unusual two-sided wall of closets and many of the original family furnishings, Cedar Grove depicts life as it might have been in the early 1800s.

Administered by the Philadelphia Museum of Art
Open Tuesday–Sunday, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.*
(215) 878-2123

*Closed on major holidays

SWEETBRIAR: Etruscan Room

Built in 1797 by Philadelphia merchant Samuel Breck, Sweetbriar was the year-round home of the Breck family. Breck was intimately involved in the development of the city of Philadelphia during the early 1800s and was active in the founding of a public school system. Sweetbriar’s neoclassical architectural style and interior furnishings reflect the new fashion of its era based on designs from ancient Greece and Rome.

Administered by the Modern Club of Philadelphia
Open Wednesday–Sunday, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.,
July 1–mid-December*
(215) 222-1333



PLANNING YOUR VISIT

Admission

Admission per house for individual self-guided tours is \$5 for adults, \$3 for senior citizens, and \$2 for children (ages 6–12).

Group Tours

Park House Guides are available for groups of 15 or more people. Reservations are required. Please call (215) 684-7863 for details. For school group information and reservations, call (215) 684-7582.

Special Programs

For more information on educational programs and events, including lectures, concerts, and specialized tours, please call (215) 684-7926 or the individual Park Houses.

Accessibility

For more information about accessibility at these sites, please call (215) 684-7601.

For general information about the park houses, visit fairmountparkhouses.org.