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# HOMES

## REAL ESTATE

# SAVE THE MANSION

### HISTORIC HOMES IN SEDGWICK OPEN TO PUBLIC

**THIS MANSION** at 930 James St. is on the route for the "Save the Mansion" house tour in Sedgwick Saturday.



**THIS ROOM** is used by Corinthian Club members as a dining room.

**PATRICIA CORBETT CONOLE**

CONTRIBUTING WRITER



After seven years of research and documentation, the brick house with white columns at 930 James St., Syracuse, has been named to the New York State Register of Historic Places this spring.

Since 1949, the stately house was owned and operated by the Corinthian Club. But with the financial strain of running a club and maintaining a 19th-century mansion, the board gave the building to the George and Rebecca Barnes Foundation last year. The club is still run out of the building.

"Now we can open the house to the public for all kinds of educational programs," said Arlene Stewart, who has spent hours at the Onondaga Historical Association researching the history of the house and the people who lived in it.

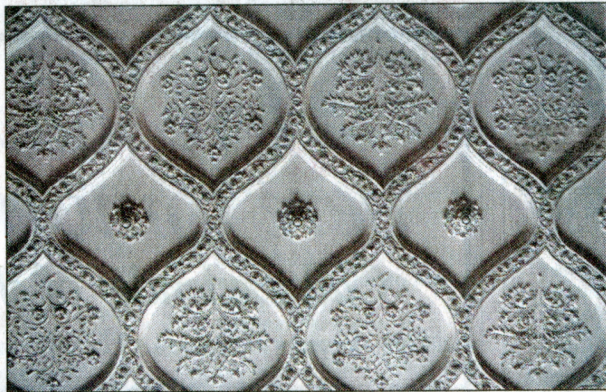
See a gallery of photos of the House of the Week at [syracuse.com/homes](http://syracuse.com/homes).

Photos by Dennis Nett / The Post-Standard





**THE CEILING** in the dining room is ornately designed.



**THE FRONT DOOR** is adorned with columns and elaborate molding.

"The research becomes addictive; it's like putting the pieces of a puzzle together," said Stewart, a writer, who owns Signature Publications.

The house has received the support of more than 140 members of the George and Rebecca Barnes Foundation, who will be sponsoring the Fifth Annual Save the Mansion Tour, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

The tour will begin at the mansion, where Stewart will give tours every half hour. Five other homes in the Sedgwick Farms neighborhood of Syracuse will also be open for touring.

"It's saving an irreplaceable piece of history," Stewart said.

In addition to the New York state historical designation, the house has also been designated one of 11 stops on the Syracuse Freedom Trail, which marks sites of significance along the Underground Railroad.

Stewart's knowledge of the home's famous owners makes the house come alive. Before George Barnes had the house built in 1857, he was active in antislavery meetings in Syracuse. In 1851, thousands gathered in Syracuse for an antislavery convention and county fair. Federal marshals and the Syracuse Police arrested William "Jerry" Henry under the Fugitive Slave Law. But the trial was moved to Auburn because of the riots in Syracuse, Stewart said.

"George Barnes put up \$4,000 bail money for two people who tried to help Jerry during the Jerry Rescue," she said. She later found Barnes was writing antislavery articles in the first person for the Evening



## HOME & REAL ESTATE

HOUSE OF THE WEEK PHOTOS BY DENNIS NETT / THE POST-STANDARD

# President Taft frequently visited the home

PRESIDENT, FROM PAGE H-1

Chronicle, a newspaper he founded.

U.S. President William Howard Taft was another famous visitor to the house and frequently stayed overnight. He was a close friend of the second owner of the house, Judge Frank Hiscock, who was married to the Barnes' only daughter, Bessie. Hiscock was chief justice of the New York State Court of Appeals, and Taft was chief justice of the Federal Court of Appeals.

Bessie remodeled the house in 1884 by adding a third floor and a large addition on the back.

"There were 800 people invited to the house to celebrate the restoration," Stewart said.

From the foyer, there is a view of the sweeping staircase and center hallway that extends to the back of the house. The library, to the right, has paneled walls and a decorative plaster relief ceiling. The marble-faced fireplace is adorned with carved lions.

An archway leads into the adjoining parlor, which once had a view of Syracuse University. The parlor opens to an arched alcove that is furnished with a grand piano.

To the left of the foyer is another parlor with a plaster relief ceiling dotted with original lights that work but are not allowed because of the old knob and tube wiring. "We call it 'Starry Night,'" she said.

### The details:

**What:** Save the Mansion Tour.

**When:** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday.

**Cost:** \$20 for public, \$15 for Barnes members.

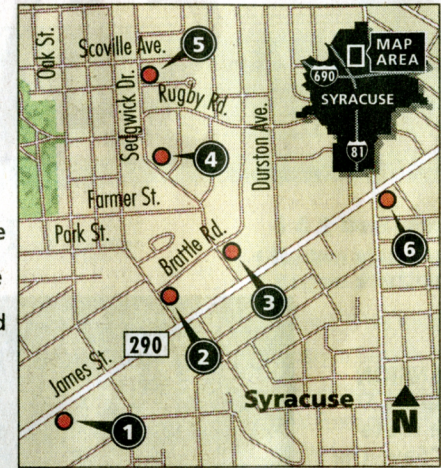
**Houses on tour:** 930 James St., 1718 James St., 400 Sedgwick Drive, 12 Brattle Road, 104 Sedgwick Drive and 100 Sedgwick Road.

**For more information:** [www.grbarnes.org](http://www.grbarnes.org).

**If you have a nominee for House of the Week, contact Patricia Corbett Conole at [patriciaconole@gmail.com](mailto:patriciaconole@gmail.com) and tell her what is special about the house. Leave a phone number, so she can call you. She's looking for houses in all price ranges.**

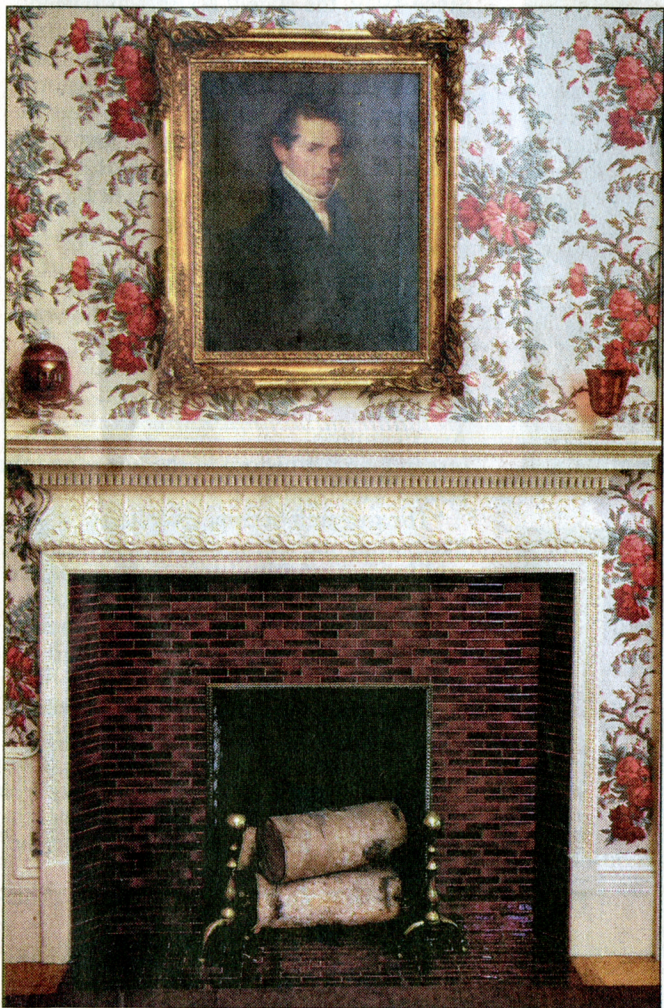
### Stops on Save the Mansion Tour

- ① 930 James St.
- ② 12 Brattle Road
- ③ 104 Sedgwick Drive
- ④ 400 Sedgwick Drive
- ⑤ 100 Sedgwick Road
- ⑥ 1718 James St.

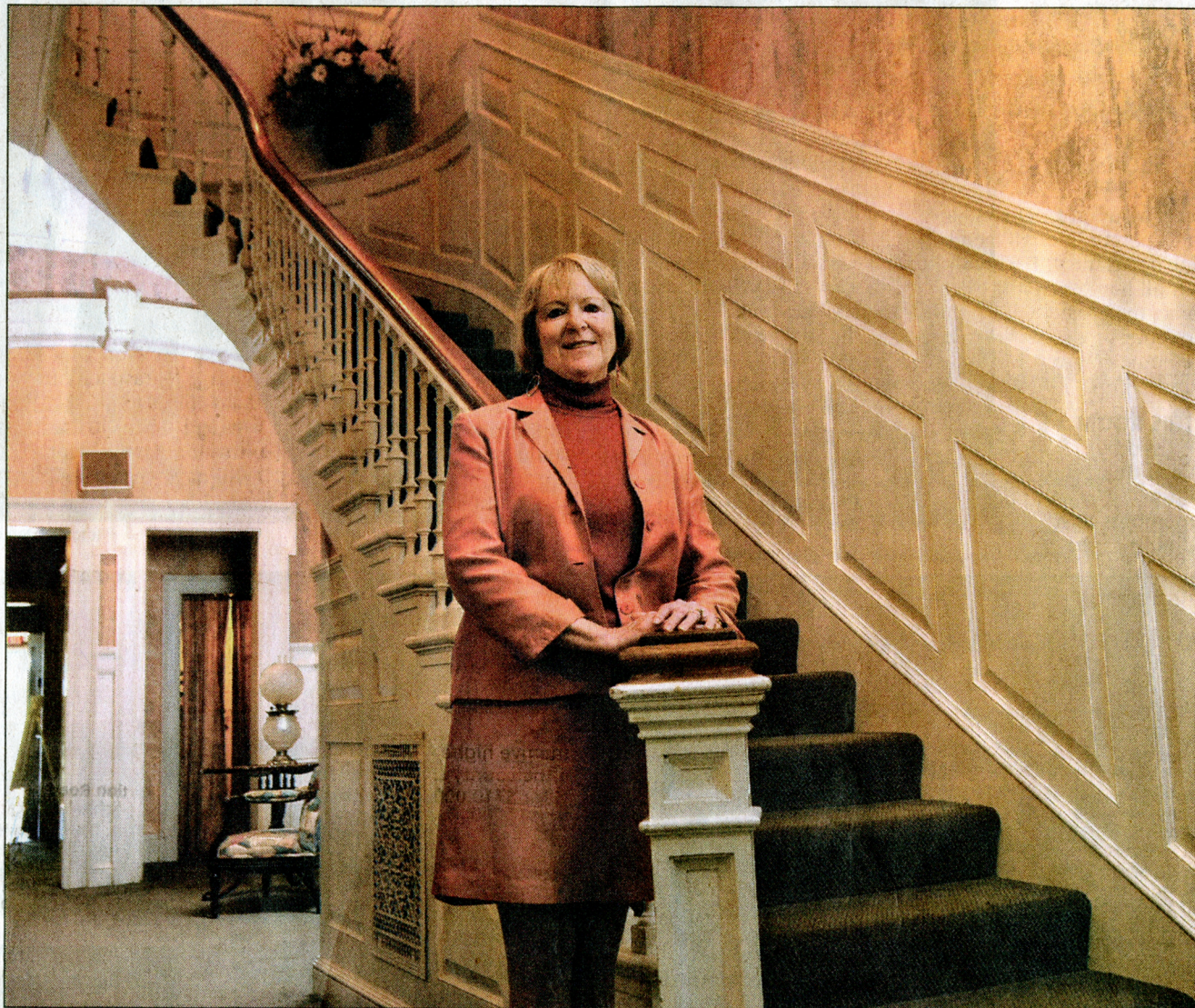


The Post-Standard





**THIS FIREPLACE** is in the Luther Hiscock bedroom.



**ARLENE STEWART** stands by the mansion's staircase. She was influential in getting the house named as a historic site.