

Town of Ithaca



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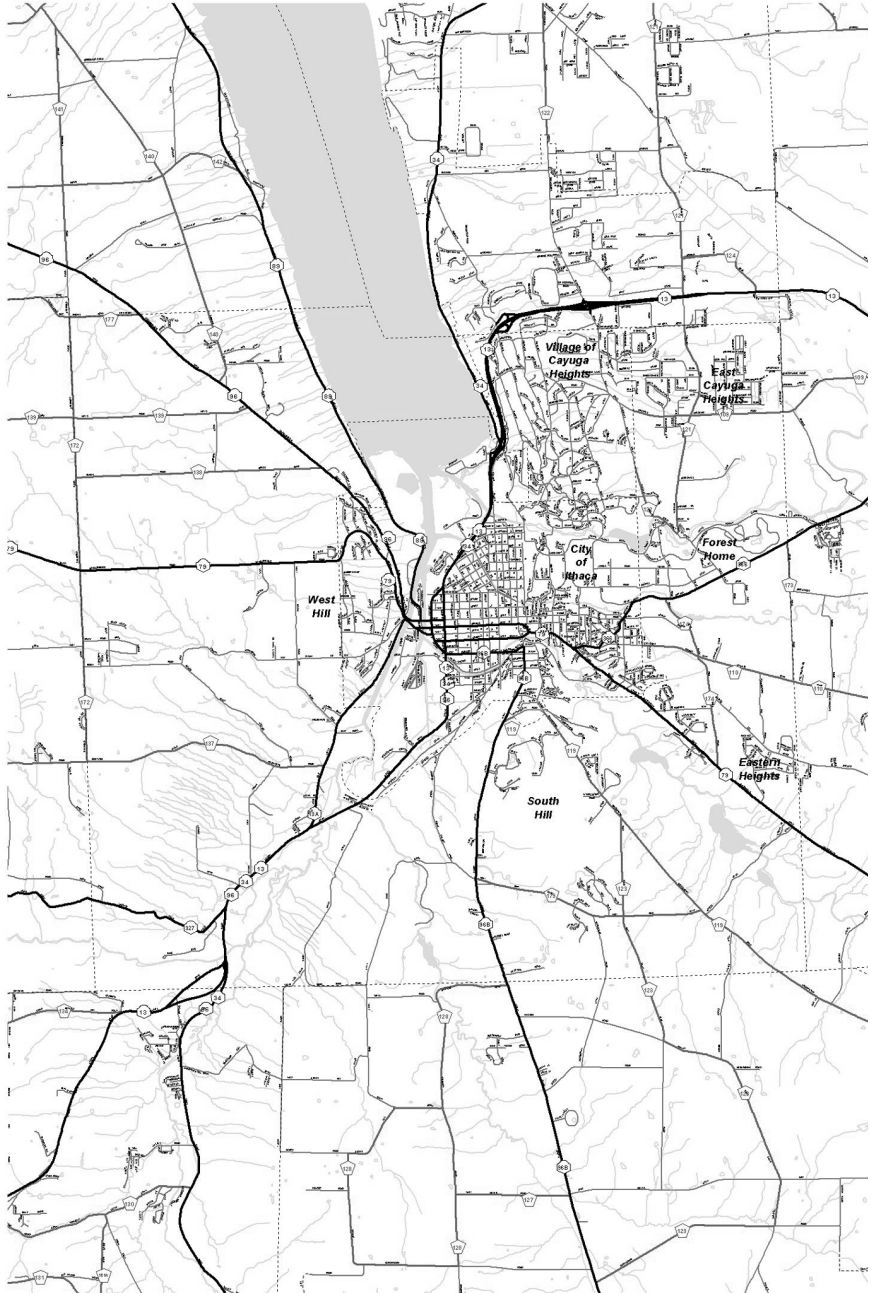


Tompkins County
Information Technology Service
GIS Division

New York State Plane Central
1983 North American Datum

One Inch represents 5000 Feet

Quantiflyps.gpr
02/13/2003



Town of Ithaca

Phyllis McNeill with Henry Cowan

Town of Ithaca. This town was created in 1821 from land removed from the Town of Ulysses. It took its name from the village of Ithaca, the county seat, which is situated within the town. The town consists of 31 Military Tract lots each of 600 acres, and it surrounds the City of Ithaca on three sides. The town's topography is insistently vertical as it rises from the Flats up and into the surrounding hills: East Hill, South Hill, and West Hill. Some say Ithaca, meaning the town and the city, is twelve square miles surrounded by reality.

The Town of Ithaca has its own municipal organization separate from the city. The Town Hall, since 2002, has been located in the Old Post Office on North Tioga Street, in the City of Ithaca.

Booltown is no longer used, but it was a small collection of worker houses built along Dryden Road near the Cornell University apple orchards. It was named for Henry Bool, who built the houses and instituted other progressive practices for the men who worked for him. *See Bool Street in the City of Ithaca.*

Buttermilk Falls was so called because "here cleft by a mountain torrent, that comes pouring over the sharp rocks of its bed in a mass of thick, frothy foam, that evidently suggested to the unaesthetic and domestic countryman the name of Buttermilk Falls." So wrote Spence

Spencer in 1866 in his book *Scenery of Ithaca and the Head Waters of the Cayuga Lake*. The Cayuga name for Buttermilk Falls, according to the William M. Beauchamp commenting on the journey of Br. Cammerhoff and David Zeisberger made in 1750 and reported in *Moravian Journals relating to Central New York* (Syracuse, 1916) was Sto-ke.

Buttermilk Falls State Park is a 733-acre tract of land bordering the southwest corner of the city of Ithaca. By 1986 it had an area of 605 acres of which 164 were a gift, donated in 1924 to the State of New York from Robert H. Treman and his wife. At the uppermost part of the gorge there is a lake, created by a 36-foot dam built in 1875 called Scott Dam. The lake is currently known as Treman Lake.

Cayuga Heights occupies a tract of land north of Cornell University, originally owned by Jared Treman Newman and Charles Hazen Blood. It consisted of a 57-acre farm purchased from Franklin Cornell and several hundred acres of land purchased from Herman Bergholtz on October 26, 1901. Because of the necessity to provide roads, the extension of Cayuga Heights Road, and the extension of water from the City of Ithaca lines, Jared Newman hired Harold Caparn, a landscape architect from New York City to draw plans.

In her book *Enterprising Families*, Carol Sisler quotes a letter from Newman to N. A. Hawkin, in which Newman describes their purchase as “overlooking and four hundred feet above the level of Cayuga Lake,” therefore “Cayuga Heights” became the name of the development.

The village of Cayuga Heights was incorporated in 1915. In order to maintain the exclusiveness of the development, Sisler notes, the deeds to the lots were very restrictive and house plans had to be approved by the developers. Sisler also points out that in 1933, the Board of Trustees of the Ithaca Chamber of Commerce paid tribute to Newman saying “Cayuga Heights has become the residential showplace of the City and is instrumental, we believe, in attracting desirable new citizens to Ithaca.”

Christopher Circle was named by builder Rocco Lucente in 1955 for his son.

Coreorgonel is the name of a village established by the Tutelo Indians on Cayuga land prior to the American Revolution. The Tutelos came north from the Carolinas and claimed linguistic relationship to the Cayugas, who allowed them to settle here. Today Coreorgonel is the site of the Tutelo Park, established by the Town of Ithaca in 2001. It was this village that the soldiers sent by Major General Sullivan under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Henry Dearborn destroyed. In his report, printed in Frederick Cooke, *Journals of the Military Expedition of Major General John Sullivan against the Six Nations of Indians in 1779* (Auburn, 1887), Dearborn writes:

I sent several small parties different ways to look for a large Town that I had been inform'd was not many miles from the end of the lake. The parties found 10 or 12 scattering houses and a number of large corn-fields on and near a stream that falls into the Lake after burning & destroying several houses & cornfields a small party that I had sent out discove'd the Town about 3 miles from the lake on the above mentioned Stream this town & its suburbs consists of about 25 houses and is called Coreorgonel & is the capital of a Small nation or tribe called the ——. My party was imploy'd from 9 o'clock am till sunset.

Coy (Coys') Glen is a small ravine that starts north and west of Bundy Road (State Route 138) and flows southeast into Cayuga Inlet in the general direction of Southwest Park. Glenn Norris suggests that the name came from a family, calling the glen Coys' but the name might also come from the fact that it is a shy, or coy, glen, its beauty not easily seen.

Eastern Heights is a development of homes east of Pine Tree Road (Route 174) between Slaterville Road (State Route 79) and Ellis Hollow

Road (State Route 110). It was created by businessman Stanley Goldberg and his associates, including builder Norman Jordan and attorney Manley Thaler in the 1950s. The name was most likely suggested by the success and popularity of Cayuga and Renwick Heights.

Elm Tree Point. *See* Remington Point.

Five Mile Drive. *See* The Tadpole.

Forest Home is an unincorporated hamlet that began as a milling community. It has a long and interesting history and for a time was called Free Hollow, or jokingly, Flea Hollow. After the founding of Cornell University it was the destination of students seeking cider pressed at the cider mill. A number of professors and their families moved into the former mills. The two historians of Forest Home are Albert Force, who lived in the hamlet for many years and wrote *The Story of Free Hollow*, and Liese Price Bronfenbrenner, who uses some of Force's material in her history, *Free Hollow to Forest Home*, published by the Albert Force Memorial Fund in 1974.

Glenside is a small development of homes just outside the City of Ithaca on the southwest corner. In 1928 John Daley, a local contractor, built the first house there on a 90-acre lot. He named it Glenside because it was across the road from Coy Glen.

Indian Creek originates in the town of Enfield west of Sheffield Road (State Route 172) and flows all the way across the Town of Ithaca into Cayuga Lake.

Judd Falls and **Judd Falls Road** are named for manufacturer Reuben Judd, who owned a water-powered woolen mill close to the falls from 1832 to 1858.

Klondike is an area on South Hill, southeast of the City of Ithaca, from Hudson Street in the city to Coddington Road and on to the South

Hill Recreation Way in the Town of Ithaca. The Recreation Way was originally the roadbed of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad tracks.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, this area was populated by immigrant squatters and was called the Klondike because the shacks in which the men, mostly of Italian ancestry and laborers on the railroads, lived, resembled the haphazard structures put up by gold miners in the Klondike region of Canada and Alaska. *See also Klondike in the City of Ithaca.*

Larch Meadows is a nature trail part of Buttermilk Falls State Park. It is about one mile in circumference and contains a variety of wildlife.

Lick Brook is a gorge descending the hillside just west of Buttermilk Falls State Park at the edge of the Sweedler Preserve, property today of the Finger Lakes Land Trust. In the nineteenth century, the stream was called Lick Brook because of a nearby deer lick, which was made by boring holes in a log and filling them with salt. In those days, the sighting of deer was uncommon.

Muriel Street was named in the 1950s by Joseph Sorace, a builder, for his daughter. In 1953 Rocco Lucente took over development on Muriel Street and as he expanded a network of streets he named them for cigarettes, Muriel having reminded him of a cigar. Lucente built Tareyton and Rosehill, then Winston Drive and Winston Court, and Salem. These came to be known as the “cigarette streets.” Lucente also added Birchwood, Maplewood, and Sycamore drives, and Pinewood Place.

Neodakheat. *See Renwick.*

Pewtown is an area at the junction of Pine Tree Road and Snyder Hill Road named for William Pew and his wife and their five sons, who arrived from New Jersey in 1801.

Remington Point is a small point of land north of Port Renwick where the Remington Salt Company drilled salt wells in 1900. William Ozmun Wyckoff, who owned the salt works, also served as an agent of the Remington Typewriter Company. The manufacturing of salt was discontinued in 1921. The point was also known as Elm Tree Point.

Renwick takes its name from James Renwick of New York City, who bought part of Military Tract Lot No. 88 in 1790 from Revolutionary War grantee, Andrew Moodie. At the time, this land was in the Town of Ulysses. Shipping from the area created Port Renwick, also known as Renwick's Landing, Renwick's or "the corner of the lake."

The Cayuga Indians built a small stockaded village in what became Renwick, called Neodakheat, meaning corner of the lake.

Renwick Heights. This small residential area was developed on the hillside to the south of the original Port Renwick. One of the earliest houses in Renwick Heights was built in 1914 by John Daley, a contractor who also developed Glenside. Renwick Heights was promoted by Herman Bergholtz, engineer and a mayor of Ithaca.

The Tadpole was the name recorded by Dr. Samuel Parker to denote the southern section of the Great Swamp that spanned from the valley flats along Cayuga Lake to Buttermilk Falls. Its appearance was supposed to resemble a tadpole with the Inlet creating its long tail. When the water was high, in order to avoid the swampy area, travelers crossing the valley used Five Mile Drive—causing a five-mile detour—or Seven Mile Drive, which added seven miles to the journey and was an extension of the shorter route necessary when the southern end of the Tadpole was soggy and impassable.

Triphammer Road runs from Thurston Avenue in Cornell Heights through Cayuga Heights to the Community Corners. Its extension, North Triphammer Road, continues north to State Route 34 in the Town of Lansing. The road was constructed after the bridge over Fall

Creek Gorge was built in 1897, opening up the land to the north of the Cornell campus for development. To this day the road serves as a main route between the university and these residential and commercial areas to the north. It was named for a triphammer, a heavy power-operated hammer lifted by a cam or lever and then dropped. In the nineteenth century Levi Coon built a triphammer at the foot of the falls to tap the waterpower of Fall Creek in order to produce guns.

Williams Brook took its name from the home built by Josiah Butler Williams on the land above Cayuga inlet between Elm and Hector streets. The home, called Cliff Park was demolished in 1964. According to *Enterprising Families* by Carol Sisler, “besides the stone wall and stairs, what remains of the Williams estate is the creek; it is known as Williams Brook.” On the 1999 *Tompkins County and City of Ithaca* map, however, this creek is identified as Cliff Park Brook. In the Town of Ithaca, Williams Brook is further north and just touches the city line.

Willow Point is on the east shore of Cayuga Lake just north of Remington Point and is named for the willow trees planted along the shore. According to Glenn Norris, this point was also known as Drydock.