

## Philanthropy Magnified Reception

### Welcome

Frank Kruppa, board chair, Community Foundation

### Irene Castle: Fashion Icon, Film Star, and Philanthropist

Denise Nicole Green, Cornell University

In the early 1920s, Irene Castle was more than Ithaca's best-dressed resident—she was a global fashion icon who helped redefine women's style. This talk explores Castle's multifaceted legacy, focusing on her time in Ithaca as a silent film star, her influential fashion line developed in partnership with the Corticelli Silk Mills, and the ways her designs shaped the wardrobes of American women. We'll also highlight her passionate advocacy for animal welfare and the philanthropic work that defined her later years.

### A Journey Together

Alan Mathios, past dean, Cornell University,  
past board chair, Community Foundation

George Ferarri, CEO, Community Foundation

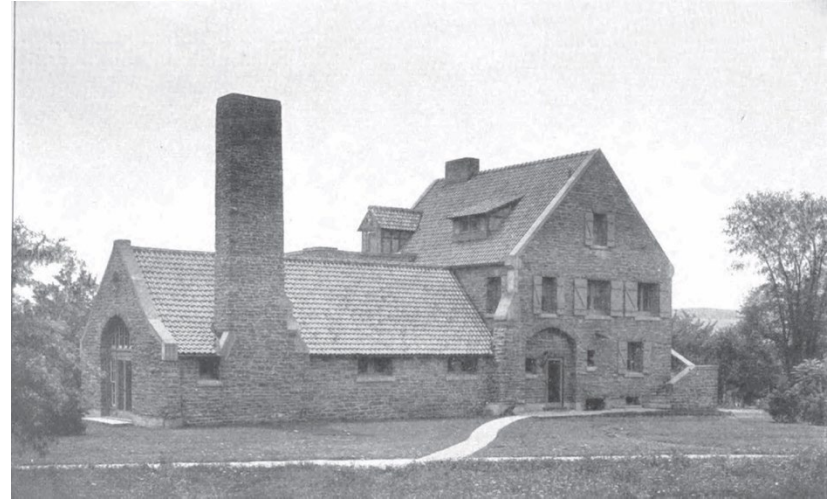
We gratefully acknowledge the contributions to this evening's event:  
Philanthropic Services and Community Relations Committee,  
Wharton Studio Museum, Historic Ithaca, Friends of Stewart Park,  
Roger Smith, WRFI Community Radio, Denise Green, Cornell University  
and John Foote, Sigma Chi of Cornell's Alumni Association

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## Welcome to Greystone!



*Exterior of Greystone as it appeared in the Cornell Rural School Leaflet (September, 1916) in Liberty Hyde Bailey's tribute to Alice Gertrude McCloskey, Cornell Professor of Rural Education, who died in 1915.*

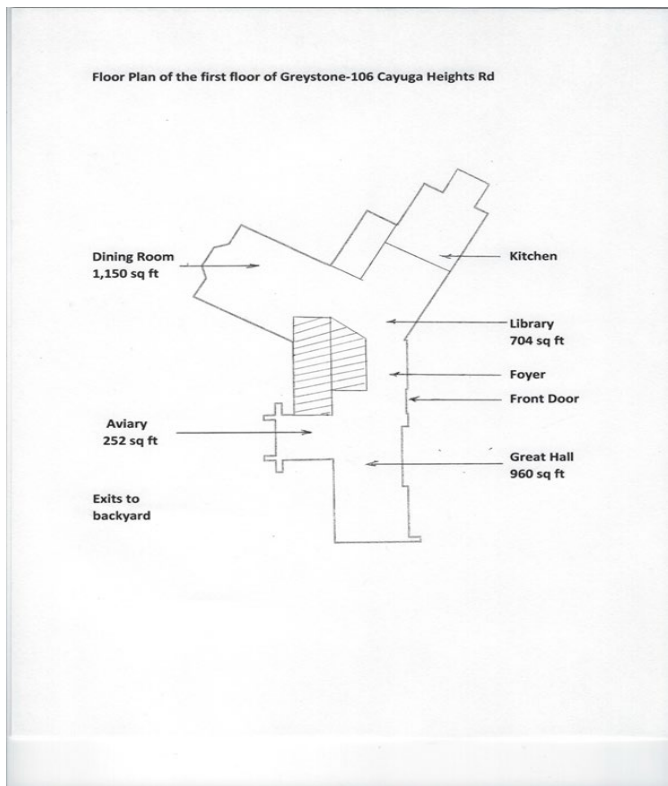
Originally built for Daisy Sandidge in 1913 to designs by architect John Van Pelt of New York City, the house was given to her friend, Cornell Professor of Rural Education Alice McCloskey, in 1914. After her death, it was willed by McCloskey to her assistant Edward Tuttle and then sold to Robert E. Treman in 1919. Treman lived here with his wife, the famous dancer and actress Irene Castle, until it was sold to the Sigma Chi fraternity in 1925. The fraternity remodeled the interior, and, in 1927, the north wing of Greystone was built. In 1959, the dining room (the "new wing") was added.

**During the tour, visitors are welcome to view the first floor rooms and the terraced gardens behind the house.**



THE GREAT ROOM IN GRAYSTONE HOUSE

*The Great Room as it appeared during the first ownership era (Sandidge – McCloskey)*



## Philanthropy Magnified Reception at the Greystone

Enjoy conversation and refreshments (food, beverages and cash bar).

Look for black and white historic photographs displayed on the first floor and in the gardens.

Ithaca's Wharton Studios, Inc.'s 1918 *A Romance of the Air*, parts of which were filmed at the house will be showing in the Great Hall. Music playlist by WRFI's radio personality, Roger Smith.

Have your photograph taken by Sheryl Sinkow Photography. Selfies also encouraged!

**Great Hall:** This large room with exposed-beamed ceiling, known as the Great Hall, forms one wing of the original house and is 60 feet long. The original owners of the house, Daisy Sandidge and Alice McCloskey, Assistant Professor of Rural Education at Cornell, apparently used this space as a type of lecture and reading room. For later owners, dancer and actress Irene Castle and Cornell graduate and businessman Robert E. Treman, the Great Hall functioned primarily as a living room, though Castle also noted that it "serves for dances we want to give or for any sort of assemblage we want to arrange." ("Greystone Notes," John Foote)

**Aviary:** Irene Castle apparently kept birds and monkeys at Greystone in this space. An undated black-and white-photograph from the Cornell Rare Books and Manuscript Collection shows a large birdcage outside this space. The room looks out toward the terraced gardens below and the swimming pool.

**Library:** Features an impressive fireplace. When the Sigma Chi fraternity bought the building, this space was used as their first dining room.

**The Terraced Gardens:** The exact appearance of the original 1913 gardens is not clear. After Irene Castle and Robert E. Treman moved into the house in 1919, they apparently terraced the grounds and built the stone retaining walls and steps. They installed the swimming pool at the bottom of the terrace, and legend has it that Castle had salt water brought in to fill it.