



Visiting Cairnwood Estate



About Cairnwood

I am going on a visit to Cairnwood Estate. Cairnwood is a country estate that was built by a man named John Pitcairn and his wife Gertrude Pitcairn 127 years ago. The Estate has art, objects, and galleries to learn about people and history.



Who Was John Pitcairn?

John Pitcairn moved from Scotland to the United States with his family in 1846 when he was 5 years old. After completing 8th grade he left home at 14 years old for his first job with the Pennsylvania Railroad. He worked very hard and believed strongly in his religion. He worked his way up from a messenger boy to telegraph operator. John was promoted to secretary to the superintendent of the Philadelphia division at 19 years old. He made his fortune in the early 1870s investing in oil, coal, and natural gas, and in 1883 he co-founded Pittsburgh Plate Glass Company—the first successful large scale glass production company of its kind in America.



Who Was Gertrude Starkey Pitcairn?

Gertrude was born in 1855 in Philadelphia. Her parents were George Rogers Starkey and Caira Skelton. In 1884 Gertrude married John in Philadelphia. They first lived on Spring Garden Street and their first son Raymond (the builder of Glencairn) was born in 1885. They had 5 more children over the next 12 years. During those years John and Gertrude decided to move out of Philadelphia and helped families from their church community to move as well. The family moved into Cairnwood Estate in the spring of 1895, and it has been an important part of the Bryn Athyn community for more than 125 years.



Cairwood as a Home

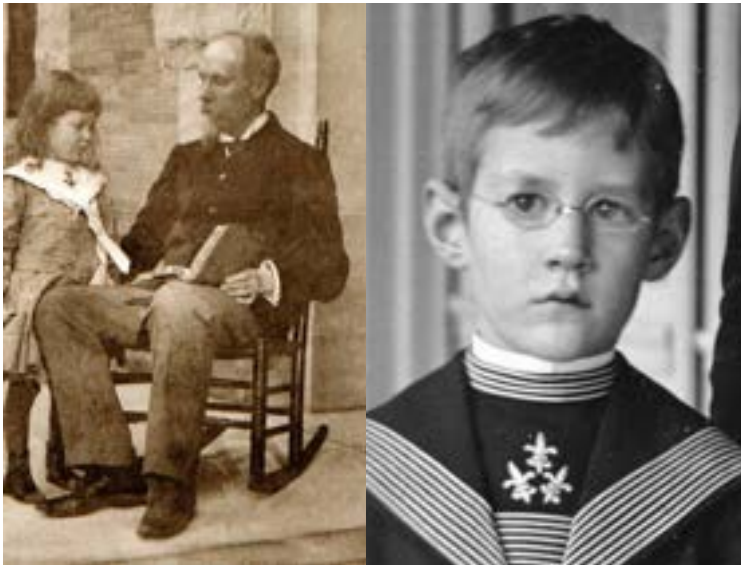
Cairwood was the home of John and Gertrude and their four children for many years. When it was a home it also included a dairy farm, greenhouses, orchards of fruit trees, and fields for vegetables and grains.



Raymond Pitcairn



Vera Pitcairn



Theodore Pitcairn



Harold Pitcairn

Who Were the Pitcairn Children?

John and Gertrude had 6 children, but only 4 survived to adulthood. Raymond went on to build Glencairn as his family's home. Vera sadly died at age 23 from appendicitis. Theodore was interested in art, writing, and his church. Harold was an inventor and an airplane pilot.



Around Cairnwood

John and Gertrude Pitcairn bought a lot of land and used some of it to build Cairnwood. The other pieces of land were used to build a church called the Bryn Athyn Cathedral, a high school, and a college. Other families who also belonged to the church built homes nearby too.



Visiting Cairnwood Today

Today, Cairnwood Estate is a place that I can come and visit. It has been preserved and restored to look a lot like it did when the family lived in it. During a visit I can learn about history and art.



Arriving at Cairnwood

There is one main parking lot which is closest to the Carriage House. I can get to the Main House from the parking lot by following the paved path. If I need accessible parking I can park in one of the spaces closer to the Main House.



Entering Cairnwood

When I arrive at the Main House, I will go to the front entrance that has large wooden doors. While I'm outside, I can look at the building and notice some of the details like the limestone around the doors and windows, the orange-pink brick, and the balconies. This building was designed by two men named John Carrère and Thomas Hastings who trained at The School of Fine Arts in Paris.



Entering Cairnwood

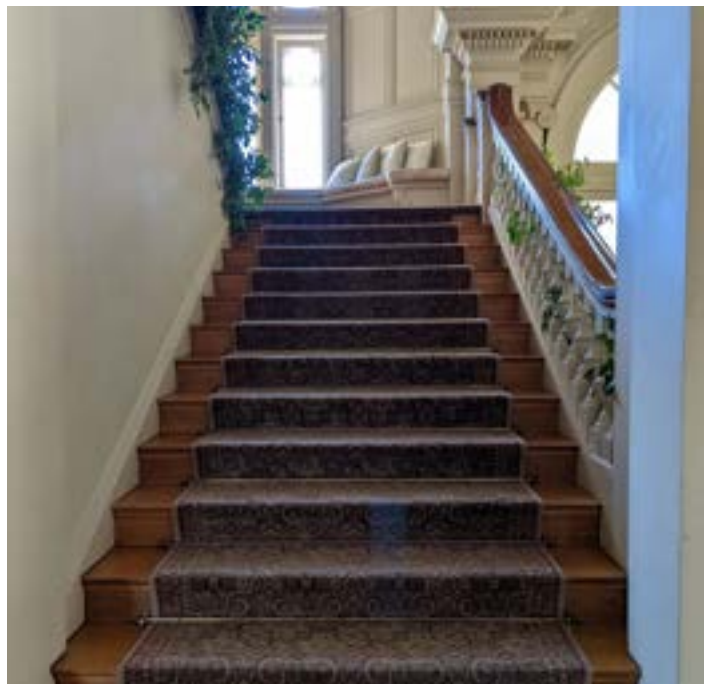
To get to the front door I can use the ramp to the left, or I can use the stairs.



Welcome Desk

Once I am inside the Main House, I will stop at the welcome desk in the Great Hall. At the desk, I will check in and pick up a bag with information. I can ask the staff member at the desk any questions I have.

After I have visited the welcome desk, I can explore Cairnwood.



Moving Around Cairnwood

While I am inside Cairnwood Estate, I can use stairs to move between floors. I can also use the elevator if I need to.



Rooms and Galleries

Cairnwood Estate has many different rooms and galleries that I can visit. Many of them have art and objects on display that I can look at and enjoy.



Big and Small Spaces

Some of the rooms at Cairnwood are very, very big with ceilings that are far above my head. Other rooms are tiny with the walls close together. There are many objects to explore and discover in each room. I can decide which rooms I would like to go into and which rooms I would not like to go into.



Carriage House

I can choose to visit the Carriage House during my visit. To get to the Carriage House I have to leave the Main House and walk outside. In the Carriage House I can see historic carriages and sleighs. I will be careful not to touch them. If I have questions I can ask a staff member.



Protecting the Estate

When I am at Cairnwood Estate, I will not touch the art and objects on display. I will also make sure to be careful as I move around and only touch or sit on things that staff invite me to. This will keep me, other visitors, and the art and objects safe.



Things I Can Do

While I am visiting today, there will be different crafts and activities that I can do. I can choose what I would like to do. I don't have to do everything. If I have any questions about what I can do I can ask a staff member.



Cairnwood at Christmas

During the Christmas season Cairnwood is decorated by local florists. A two-story tree stands in the Great Hall where one traditionally stood each year for more than 80 years. An exhibition of vintage textiles from the collections of Glencairn Museum called *Gilded Age Fashions: Life in an American Country House* is displayed throughout the 2nd and 3rd floors. This year several Nativity scenes from around the world will be on loan from Glencairn Museum and will be on display throughout the Estate.



Quiet Spaces

If I need a break from the Estate, I can spend some time in a quiet space. I can get back to exploring the Museum whenever I am ready.



Restrooms

If I need to use the restroom while I am in the Museum, I can find restrooms on every floor of Cairnwood. If I am not sure where to find a restroom, I can ask a staff member.



Gift Shop

I can visit the Gift Shop. I have to leave the Main House to get to the Gift Shop in the Garden House. It has many interesting things to look at and buy if I want to. The Gift Shop is small and may feel crowded with other people in it.




Outside Cairnwood Estate

Outside Cairnwood there are beautiful gardens. There may be flowers and trees in the spring and summertime. I can smell the flowers and sit by the fountain. In the fall there may be leaves on the ground and in the wintertime I can enjoy the snow and walk around the snowy garden.



Leaving Cairnwood Estate

I have finished my visit to Cairnwood Estate. I may not have seen everything at the Estate, but I can come back another day to see more.



For further information, questions about exhibitions, programs, tours, or assistance in planning your visit, please contact Lisa Parker-Adams at lisa@cairnwood.org or 215.947.2004

www.cairnwood.org

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