

Hillandale-An Estate of Clever Contrasts

FROM THE MAGNIFICENT MANSION TO THE PEACEFUL LOG CABIN, RICHNESS VIES WITH PICTURESQUENESS

By JOSEPH P. GOMEZ

"HILLANDALE," as the name implies, is a wonderland of hill and valley country, forty-five acres in extent, and located on Euclid avenue, twelve miles east of Cleveland, Ohio. B. G. Tremaine, the owner of this country estate, has within his grounds everything to make life worth living, from a magnificent mansion to a peaceful, cozy log-cabin.

The residence on the estate is perched upon a high ridge, seventy-five feet above Euclid avenue, and one thousand feet distant from that thoroughfare. It is an ideal summer residence. From its windows, the sparkling waters of Lake Erie can be seen for eighteen miles east and west, on a clear day.

The mansion is constructed from the front in a concave, semi-circular plan. Gables and cupolas are strewn over the roof. The lower half of the house is brick, aiding to make the wonderful piazza, eighty-nine feet long, cool and extremely neat in appearance. The upper part of the house is constructed of closely banked shingles. The wide porch, passing across the entire north side of the edifice, extends fourteen feet outward from the house, giving a total porch floor space of one thousand two hundred forty six square feet--almost a house floor space in itself. This immense porch is equipped with willow rockers, and is shaded by striped awnings. Potted plants and ferns, along the edge of it, give an added artistic effect.

Over two-thirds of the ground-floor space in this beautiful home is utilized for a great, glass-enclosed living room. The floors are parquet and tile, covered with elaborate rugs; the ceilings are beamed, and between the beams are puffed chintz hangings. At one end of this main living-room is a commodious fireplace. The upper story of the house is divided into capacious bed-chambers, sewing-rooms, etc.

In sharp contrast to this beautiful and roomy 1911 country residence is the great out-of-doors of the remainder of the vast estate. The gardens and farm buildings are separated from the main residence by a natural ravine, sixty feet deep and two hundred feet wide. A high, level bridge, crossing the declivity beneath arching tree-tops, and having a sidewalk for foot passengers and a roadway for automobiles and carriages, connects the mansion-ridge with the farm. Beautiful old maples and shrubbery soften the sharp edges and depths of the ravine.

A natural spring in the bosom of the ravine furnishes Hillandale with spring water, used on the table for drinking purposes in the great house at the top of the ridge. The spring is protected from falling twigs and dirt by a brick shelter structure. Near the natural spring is a rustic bridge, shaded by the beautiful trees above, and making an ideal spot to explore on a hot summer day. The ravine is also intersected through its whole extent by split-stone walks, lighted at night by electricity. Here the hand of the designer of Hillandale comes in: but the natural beauty and rustic simplicity of the spot has not been sacrificed in an effort to obtain comfort and utility. The electric light fixtures, even, in this natural declivity, are set in twisted grape-vines, and the lanterns are of the old candle pattern.

The most beautiful part of all Hillandale, however, is the log cabin. The owner of this vast country estate had this unique structure built for a rest place; and it fulfils its mission. It is located on the westerly side of the farm, snuggled in among the woods, and is one of the most peaceful and restful places imaginable.

The south side of the log cabin opens into a wonderful vista of young maples, arrayed like sentinels, and guarding the approach from inquisitive visitors in that direction. At the west end of the cabin is an immense cobblestone chimney, with its base spreading entirely across the side of the cabin, and narrowing to the proper proportions at the top. The feature which first strikes the visitor, at the front side of this rustic abode, is an immense iron kettle swung from natural - forked tree poles, and resembling those used by the early colonists.

This cabin of the woods is about sixteen by twenty-four feet, and is constructed of logs and slabs. It has a hard-pine floor, out of deference to civilization, and the doors, windows and screen frames are made of oak. The hardware of the cabin is of solid copper, and is modeled after an ancient Spanish design.

Besides the large iron kettle, at the front of the cabin is the wood-pile, sawbuck and a saw, and plenty of rustic seats scattered about in profusion. Here, too, is the wash-dish, water-pail, towel, comb and brush; and, after a tramp through the maples, these simple toilet articles are in great demand.

Inside the cabin, the west end is the most picturesque. Here is the open fireplace, flanked on the left by the ice-box cupboard, and on the right by a similar receptacle containing light refreshments. The cupboards shown in the photograph of this end of the cabin, above the fireplace and to the right and left of the clock, states in the entire Middle West--and perhaps are used for tea, coffee, cups, etc. The natural rafters inside the cabin are smoked, to give them an appearance of old age. The curtains and the rest-couches have been covered with a gray, smoke-like homespun, to effect harmony with the coloring of the logs. Every bit of furniture in the cabin is rustic.

Hillandale is a wonderful place of contrasts. From the beautiful residence on the ridge, far above Lake Erie, to the log-cabin is virtually only a step: the estate is a natural mixture of little hills and valleys; the ravine is distinctive and bizarre; and travelers who know claim that Hillandale is one of the most beautiful country estates in the entire Middle West--and perhaps in the whole land.