



Before you enter, I would like to remind you that many things inside are very old and fragile. Please stay with your group, and do not touch anything. Guides will be happy to answer any of your questions when we are finished. Please enter quietly. \_\_\_\_\_ is waiting just inside and will talk to you about some of the antiques in the entry hall.

(STAND BY HALL TREE)

Hi, welcome to the entry hall. There are many interesting antiques in this room. You have probably already noticed the wicker doll carriage. Back in Victorian times, people used a lot of wicker. It was inexpensive and easy to work with. The porcelain doll is dressed in a Christening gown like a baby might have had then. There is an oil lamp. When the house was built, there was no electric wiring. Thomas Edison had invented the light bulb in 1879, but electricity still was not in most homes. If you look up, you will see a small knob by the light fixture. This was for the gas light that hung here when the house was built.

(POINT)

This piece is called a hall tree. Back then, people would hang their coats, hats, scarves, and umbrellas on a piece like this. It is called a hall tree because the hooks reach out like tree branches. And the lady of the house would have put her shoes down right here and would have taken a foot warmer, like this one, to her bed to warm her feet at night when the room grew cold.

(WALK TO STAINED GLASS LAMP)

Now, as you look over here, you will see a lamp. Stained glass has been made since before Roman times. It was very popular around 1900. This lamp base is an old one, but the shade on top was made by Mr. and Mrs. Cormier. Also on this table are some popular things for women. The mirror, cameos, and ladies bags would have been used by a Victorian lady.

(HOLD HANDBAG)

This one opens in an unusual way. (SHOW) You take off the cap and then pull out.

As you walk into the parlor, notice the porcelain painting of this house. It was done by Becky Lucas, one of our West End parents. You'll see much more of her porcelain in the dining room.

(STAND BETWEEN WALNUT TABLE AND MANTLE)

The parlor was the formal sitting area for Victorians. Here, they would entertain guests. It was the most important room in a Victorian home. In this room, you notice first the fireplace mantle and the oil painting hanging above it. This beautiful painting was probably cut out of a stage curtain or backdrop. There is a print in the master bedroom which shows the original painting this artist had copied.

Notice that the fireplace is not as deep as most fireplaces. It's a coal burning fireplace because the coals lasted longer and burned hotter than wood. The floral tiles around it are original. That means the tiles were here when the house was built. These tiles were discovered when many old layers of paint were taken off the mantle.

The fern stand with the lion's head was once probably part of a larger piece of furniture. It may have been a piano leg.

On the walnut table just behind me are several late Victorian Valentine cards. On Valentine's day, Victorians would give and receive Valentine cards just as we do. They were decorated with fancy paper lace and flowers. Several of these are dated 1907.

(MOVE TO BETWEEN PIANO LAMP AND MUSIC CHAIR)

Here is a doll cabinet made from a wardrobe. The dolls are dressed like someone might have during this period. If you look closely in the back, you will see an old wedding gown.

This brass piano lamp is dated 1886. The shade was made by the Cormiers and has 638 pieces. The red velvet parlor set is hand carved and was imported from Europe.

Here, to my right, is an Eastlake music chair. Music can be stored under the seat. And sitting on top is a gentleman's top hat. Another item of interest in this room is the slag glass lamp on the oval walnut table. On this table are several small treasures: a book of pressed flowers from Jerusalem, a bracelet that belonged to Mrs. Cormier's grandmother, a sterling silver pencil, and a cigar snipper.

Can you guess what this is? This large wooden piece of furniture is actually a Murphy bed. It pulls down to become a bed. (PULL DOWN)

On top, here, (HOLD IT) is a piece of scrimshaw. Sailors on whaling ships would be away for months. They had a lot of extra time. They would sing songs and carve pictures of the sea, like this one, on whalebone.

Please turn now and walk directly across the entry hall. \_\_\_\_\_ is waiting there to talk with you next.

## (STAND BETWEEN TABLE AND FIREPLACE)

Something that has probably caught your attention here in the dining room is this draw leaf table. It is made of oak wood. Oak was used a lot because it was not expensive. The leaf draws out from under ---- like this. And here on the table is an old picture album. This is not any old album ---- Listen to the pictures drop. These are one kind of pictures taken a long time ago. They are called tin-types or ferrotypes. They are very stiff and are made of a thin sheets of metal. Everyone didn't own a camera back then, so having your picture made was a very special occasion.

This English postcard has a stamp 1840-1940 Victoria/George. Here is a 1939 letter written with 3 cent U.S. postage. These name cards would be presented when calling on friends. The name is imprinted behind (SHOW THEM) this picture.

On the other end of the table are several pieces of Roseville pottery. Much pottery was made then. In fact, Victorians loved glass. Behind me on these glass shelves are many glass pieces from the Victorian period. There are pieces of cut glass, pressed glass, and glass painted on porcelain. Machines could now produce much glass. Prices were lower because of the amount made -- so everybody could own some. There were glass containers for salt, olives, celery, pickles, eggs, berries, and condiments. There were special spoons and forks for many things. This ladle is dated 1896. On

these shelves are several pieces painted by Hannah's mother. (POINT TO PETS, CLOCK TOWER, AND EGGS) The paintings behind you also were painted by Mrs. Lucas and so was the painting of Cathy, Mrs. Cormier's daughter, beside the fireplace.

Notice, before you leave, the French banquet lamp, chandelier from Italy, and the oak sideboard with curved sides.

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Please return to the entry and go to the sitting room on the right.

**(WALK THEM TO THE DOOR AND BE SURE THEY WALK TO THE RIGHT)**

(STAND BETWEEN WARDROBE AND MURPHY BED)

We're here in the sitting room. Here in the center is a bronze sculpture titled "Morning Catch." It was created by Mark Hopkins. Mr. Hopkins' children attended West End. We're again surrounded by Victorian things. We've used the word Victorian a lot, but do you know what the Victorian period is?

The Victorian period started in 1837 when Victoria became Queen of England and lasted until she died in 1901. During these 64 years, many changes occurred. The Industrial Revolution introduced machines. Middle class people had more time and many things to buy. Here is one example. This pump organ was made by the Thomas Organ and Piano Company in Ontario, Canada. When it is pumped, air is pushed behind and causes vibration to produce sound. Listen. (PLAY)

On top of the organ are two pieces of delicately carved ivory. To the left is a German zither. This musical instrument is played by sitting it on a flat surface and using your fingertips or a plectrum, a pick.

Just behind me is a wardrobe. Victorian homes did not have many closets. Clothes were kept in wardrobes.

Walk now into the bedroom. There you'll see some clothes that might have hung in a wardrobe.

(STAND AT FOOT OF BED)

Here, on the bed, are several pieces of mid to late Victorian clothing. This blouse is woven net, circa 1890 and was part of a Rochester, New York museum collection. These two blouses were made in 1900. A lady would have worn a long skirt with these. The purple velvet jacket was made about 1870. (PICK IT UP) Notice the lace, the hooks, and the hand stitching. The cotton skirt is hand loomed and was made around 1865. There's an area in the back for a bustle.

This brass bed was very popular at the turn of the century. You could order one from the 1909 Sears catalog for about fifteen dollars. (SHOW PICTURE) Brass beds were more expensive than iron beds. You could buy a really nice iron bed for three or four dollars.

Here is a piece of furniture that is probably not what you think it is. It's a potty chair. A long time ago many houses did not have indoor plumbing.

Here is a working replica of the telephone invented by Alexander Graham Bell in 1877. I wish we could know when the Hillyer family first had a telephone.

Behind the potty is an oak stack bookcase. The glass door pulls up and then pushes straight back to open. On top are two pieces of cobalt blue.

On the opposite wall you'll see an 1898 calendar in almost perfect condition.

\_\_\_\_\_ is waiting for you at the stairway and will walk with you upstairs.

(STAND AT BASE OF STAIRS)

These steps and the wood floors are made of heart pine. It is the wood you get from the middle of the pine tree. There are no knots in it.

Before we go up, please look at the "Happy Christmas" silk, the old glasses, and book on the oval table to your left.

Hold the hand rail, and please be careful. Here is a picture of a guardian angel. People in Victorian times thought that if they had one, they would be protected. Just below it, to the left, is a washstand. This would have set in a bedroom. The pitcher would be filled with water and poured into the bowl for daily washing. Many Victorians did not have a separate bathroom until the 1860's.

(STAND IN FRONT OF MASTER BEDROOM ASK SOME STUDENTS TO SIT ON EITHER END ON PLATFORMS.)

The place you have entered is the upstairs hall. Here, on the platform, is an Eastlake fainting couch. During leisure times, ladies would just sit and read or relax. Just beside it is an early wicker planter

Here is a chair with a strange look; it's a bustle chair. Victorian ladies would sit in this part and put the big bushy part of their dresses, called a bustle, in this part out here, instead of putting it on the sides of the chair and risk getting caught.

On each side of the mantle are prints of Victorian women. This will give you an idea of how they wore their hair and the evening dresses they wore.

(WALK TO THE SIDE OF THE TRUNK)

This is a camel back trunk which would have held clothing and blankets. These were also used for travel. It's called a camel back trunk because it's kind of humpy, like a camel.

On this platform is another Eastlake fainting couch. To its left is an oak drop-front secretary. The front drops down to make a desk. This oil lamp has a reflector to reflect the light and make the room brighter. And here is another potty. You have already seen one in the downstairs bedroom.

Please enter the next room.

(WALK TO FRONT OF FIREPLACE NEAR DRESSER)

The room you have entered is a bedchamber. Notice this painting above the fireplace. It is almost identical to the painting in the parlor. This fireplace is one of several that had been closed in with cement plaster. Mrs. Cormier hammered away the wall to reveal the brick fireplace.

To your left is a large oak gent's chest. Gentlemen would keep their things in it. This is a bird's eye maple dresser. It has a lot of little things on it because people in Victorian times thought they could not have enough little things.

(WALK TO BED)

The bed is very old. It is a high back oak bed. We looked up the prices in the old Sears catalog. In 1909, you could buy the head and footboard and rails similar to this for about four dollars. Here, on the bed, is an Indiana Mennonite lap blanket from around 1890. People used to go riding in carriages, and it got pretty chilly. Someone would have used a lap blanket like this to stay warm.

As we leave, take a look at the kitty doorstep. It's old and is a rare find.

Please follow me to the next room where \_\_\_\_\_ is waiting to talk with you.

(STAND BY SCREEN)

You are now in the television and crafts room. This large piece is an oriental screen. Screens were for dressing areas. This screen, though, was probably used for decoration.

Here are some irons. Life was not so simple as we have it today. Women didn't just plug in an iron and turn on a switch. The stove would have to be heated. Irons were placed on the stove. When the irons were hot, they would be lifted off and used until cool. Then, another iron would be taken from the stove.

This Empire style sofa is one of the oldest pieces in the house. It has been dated around 1830. That's more than 160 years old.

(WALK NEAR OAK CHEST)

The chest, dresser, and cabinet near you are all oak. Two of the pieces, though, are special. The oak log was quartered or cut into four pieces. These quarters were then sawed. Cutting the wood this way makes these special marks. It is called tiger oak.

Follow me across the hall to the master bedroom.

is waiting there.

## (STAND BETWEEN LOVESEAT AND BED)

This green velvet loveseat is an antique. The porcelain casters help to date it.

## (PICK UP MUFF)

This mink muff looks like a finger trap but for your hands. You put your hands in to keep them warm. (PUT DOWN)

The doll is a Madam Alexander Queen Elizabeth doll. She was made after Elizabeth became Queen of England in 1952 and was Mrs. Cormier's doll when she was a child. She isn't an antique yet, but will be one day. Above the mantle is a painting dated 1885. Can you tell what this cherub is reaching for?..... We're really not sure..... Behind me are three stained glass windows. The bright colors around the outside of each top window are original. The center pieces and these, on the bottom, were designed and created by Mr. and Mrs. Cormier. The neighbor's house, on this side, is very close. This stained glass helps give privacy.

## (WALK TO OTHER SIDE OF BED)

On this mahogany chest is a plaster reclining lady. She is Marie Pauline Borghese, sister of Napoleon. And here, (PICK UP GARNET NECKLACE) is a garnet necklace from the turn of the century with garnet earrings and a bracelet beside it. On this dresser are many other pieces of Victorian or early jewelry. There are several cameos, a hand painted portrait brooch, a citrine necklace, a pocket watch, and Mrs. Cormier's mother's neck watch. (HOLD IT UP) You can see the movement through the back.

Please walk down this narrow hall \_\_\_\_\_ is waiting to talk to you about the next room you will visit.

(STAND BY WINDOW)

This room was the last to be restored. Square nails, like this, were used to build the house. (HOLD NAILS) The windows open and close using counterweights. When I raise the window, a weight like this inside here will go down. The weights are really heavy.

Mrs. Cormier's daughter, Cathy, is studying at the University of Houston. She'll be a Doctor of Optometry. This old instrument beside me is an ophthalmometer and is dated 1899. It was used to measure the curve of the eye. Here is what one looks like today.

At the back of the room is a survey transit. It's a survey instrument that measures angles and land distances. This one was probably made about 1905.

The three large oak chairs were almost certainly in a church at one time. They're extremely heavy.

The sign above Mr. Cormier's computer was once on a roadway of Mt. Etna in Sicily. This volcano is active and has erupted several times since 1983.

Please form a single file line by the hall in front of the back stairway.

This stairway is more narrow than the front stairway. Please watch your step. (WALK TO AND STAND ON LANDING WITH GROUP LOOKING AT YOU. HAVE THEM SIT DOWN TWO ON EACH STEP.)

This stairway was closed when Mr. and Mrs. Cormier bought the house. They took out the wall here to return the stairway's original opening.

The narrow shelf is lined with old bottles. Victorians had ailments just as we do, but there weren't laws governing how medicines were used. Drug control, as we know it today, began in 1914. There were many remedies. Many of them did not work. Some of them contained alcohol or narcotics. Mr. and Mrs. Cormier brought back nearly one hundred bottles from her childhood home in Indiana. They had been thrown into an old cistern which had once been used to collect rainwater. Most of them had cork stoppers, so you'll see no threads for a cap to screw on.

Some of the most unusual ones are.

(PICK UP-ONE AT A TIME)

Virol, Bone Marrow for children and invalids

Father John's Medicine

Dr. Kilmer's Swamp Root Kidney Cure

Hall's Catarrh Cure

and Dr. Miles Restorative Nervine

One summer Mrs. Cormier spent several days cleaning the attic. These are some of the items she found that must have belonged to a member of the Hillyer family.

(HOLD ONE UP AT A TIME)

Warner's Safe Kidney and Liver Cure

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This brown silk woman's shoe

A dipper

Coca Mariana Tonic Cocaine

Look closely at the framed picture. It is "Belvidere," the family home of Eben's wife, Georgia.

Continue carefully down the steps \_\_\_\_\_ is there and will show you the breakfast area.

(LEAD CHILDREN TO LARGE KITCHEN COUNTER - STAND BETWEEN HOOSIER CABINET AND TABLE)

As part of our research for this tour, we had to learn the difference between restoration and renovation. Can any of you explain the difference? (WAIT)

Restoration is to restore and make it again the way it used to be a long time ago. Renovation is to make new. You can see that this kitchen has not been restored. This is not its original size. This area was once three or four smaller rooms. (SHOW ALBUM) A fireplace and wall once stood there (POINT) separating this room from today's sitting area. To allow for modern conveniences - renovation was done.

In this area, you will also see other interesting items. The scrub board was used to wash clothes, and because there were no dryers, clothes were dried on a rack like the one under the mirror. Here is an early Bissell vacuum sweeper. This was a modern way to clean house.

On the window sills are old unopened bottles of Cod Liver Oil. Does anyone feel ill? I've been told Cod Liver Oil has a most distinctive taste.

This piece is a Hoosier cabinet. It was used to store kitchen supplies. (OPEN DOOR) And this surface pulls out to make room for kneading breads and other food preparations. It originally had a porcelain enamel top.

(GO THROUGH BAR AREA)

Above this antique bar is a piece of framed hair art. Often, when a member of the family died, hair would be cut. Then it would be woven into intricate flowers like this. This is German and is dated 1878.

Follow me to the small sitting area. (STAND BY DESK)

In this room is a leaded glass bookcase. The main thing you notice, though, is this oak S curve roll top desk. You can see the S. (TRACE - THEN OPEN PARTIALLY)

The chair is marked Haywood Wakefield, a Massachusetts company that manufactured chairs and wicker products.

(WALK TOWARD KITCHEN)

(POINT)

Look above the cabinets. You will see other crocks, bowls, and bottles. (POINT) There is an old coffee grinder. Mrs. Cormier has a collection of almost two hundred keys. Some are in this jar. Others of different sizes are on the old bar. The sizes range from this (PICK UP SMALL KEY) to this extremely large gate key. Don't you wish we could unlock some of the secrets of this old house with these keys?

\_\_\_\_\_ has something very unusual to show you.

Here, on my right, is an unusual piece of furniture. Can you guess? It's an old oak phonograph. Thomas Edison invented the phonograph in 1877. This one is a Gilbert.

Please listen. (OPEN - CRANK - PLAY - AFTER HE BEGINS TO SING, OPEN DOOR) And the volume control.

(TURN OFF)

This bronze is titled Summer, and is our classmate Summer Hopkins, who has just moved to Colorado. Her father created this. He has a life size bronze of her.

I've one more thing I want you to see. Please come with me to the laundry room. It was once the back porch. (LEAD TO LAUNDRY ROOM)

There are no antiques here. But I want to show you just a few slides. Dr. Hillyer and his family rest in the Myrtle Hill Cemetery.

(SLIDE ONE) This is the Hillyer Cemetery plot.

(SLIDE TWO) His gravestone reads:

"As he lived, so he died.

True to his friends, whom he cherished

from youth to old age.

Devoted to his family, whose well being was

his constant care.

Faithful to his church, whose service was his

soul's delight

Loyal to his country, which he served as soldier

and surgeon..."

(SLIDE THREE).. This reads, " Oh how we loved him."

Notice the year of his death. Do you see anything unusual?

MDCCCCX

1832 - 1910

We don't use the four Roman numerals together.

(SLIDE FOUR)..His wife, Georgia

(SLIDE FIVE)....Grand-daughter Maud Harris Yancey

(SLIDE SIX.....Great grandson - Ebin Hamilton Yancey

This is a special home, made so by all those who lived here before.

is waiting on the back deck. He has some other items of  
interest to show you.

(WAITING ON DECK ITEMS ON TABLE BESIDE YOU)

On this table I'd like you to see: (HOLD EACH UP SEPARATELY)

1857 Map of Plymouth, Massachusetts

1883 The Universal Self Instructor - a reference manual for Victorians

1885 U.S. History, opened to the account of the landing of the Pilgrims

1897 Harriet - The life of Harriet Tubman

1901 Vogue

1936 Radio Guide

Please handle these items very carefully.

Other items of interest here are several of the square nails used to build the house, two horse shoes uncovered in the backyard, gardening tools, and a bucket of other found iron and pottery objects.

After you have seen these things, please walk down the steps to the five terraces in the back

Parents and chaperones, please supervise on the steps. Everyone must walk.

This concludes our tour. Thank you for your attention. We hope we've helped you understand more about your city, Rome and its rich history.

(HELP SUPERVISE AT TABLE WITH BOOKS AND OTHER OBJECTS)