

Historic District Walking Tour

The Highlands Neighborhood

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Neighborhood

Walking Tour is one
of three self-guided

residential tours developed to highlight the
Borough's architectural heritage. Each tour



encompasses a
part of two districts
included in the
National Register

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Early 20th Cen-
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This Highlands Neighborhood Walking Tour is one of three self-guided residential tours developed to highlight the architectural history of State College. Each tour encompasses a part of two districts included in the National Register of Historic Places.

The two National Register districts, Holmes-Foster/Highlands and College Heights, are made up of properties that contribute to the rich architectural heritage of State College. Ranging from vernacular Victorians to the International Style, from Craftsman Bungalows to Colonial Revivals, from mail-order English Cottages to highly sophisticated Tudor Revival-style fraternities, these districts offer a virtual field guide of early 20th century architectural styles.

State College borough map from the 1930s showing historic district areas.

State College, Pennsylvania

Incorporated in 1896

Most Pennsylvania communities had peaked and then receded in building activities when State College, enjoying the economic stability provided by Penn State, was in its building heyday.

As early as 1904 the *State College Times* cited a housing shortage. Even though some proportion of faculty were able to achieve home ownership, many instructors, support staff, and off-campus students sought rental space. By 1912, more than seventy building tradesmen — contractors, carpenters, painters and paperhangers, plasterers, plumbers, stone and brick masons — were providing their services to a town with a population of only 1,650.

Subdivisions were developed to meet this building boom for a local population with a sophisticated interest in architectural housing choices. This development coincided with the increased availability of nationally stylish residential options provided through pattern books and by mail-order companies, and locally through faculty members with architectural design expertise.

The Highlands is home to an impressive collection of richly detailed fraternity houses.



The Highlands Historic Neighborhood

The Highlands, part of the Holmes-Foster/Highlands District, encompasses land and historic buildings associated with the residential history of State College from its incorporation in 1896 to 1941 and the beginning of World War II. It is roughly bounded by Highland Alley to the north; High and Keller Streets to the east; and Irvin and Prospect Avenues to the south. Atherton Street represents its western edge.

At an elevation of 1200 feet at its highest point, Highlands is an appropriate name for this area immediately south and east of Penn State and the central business district. In 1909, the Highland Park development became one of the first additions to extend the Borough's southern limits. A little over a decade later, owner and contractor John Henszey and developer Eugene Lederer introduced a new Highlands development that offered "the most desirable lots of Foster, Fairmount, Prospect and Hamilton, all within one-half mile of the post office," along with the promise of developing "the most beautiful fraternity section in the country."



Fraternity Mansions and Family Homes

Early in the 20th century, classical themes and correct interpretations of European styles became the basis for residential architecture across the country, as tastes shifted away from the Victorian styles of the past. Large and elaborate period houses, similar to those designed by architectural firms for wealthy clients in cities, were being designed in State College by area architects for national fraternity associations. In an eight-year period, 1925–1933, more than twenty such houses of between 7,000 and 15,000 square feet were built, many on large lots with appropriate landscaping — landmark representations of Colonial Revival, Neoclassical, Tudor Revival, and other historic styles.

At the same time, smaller period style houses were being selected by State College residents — some designed by area architects, some chosen from pattern books, and many selected from mail-order company catalogs.

Mail-Order Houses

Sears, Roebuck and Co., the Aladdin Co., and the Gordon-Van Tine Co. all were offering State College residents not only the latest in style choices to meet space needs, budgets, and specific tastes of their owners, but total house packages with first-rate materials. Building parts arrived by railroad, pre-cut and numbered. Sears also offered household furnishings to enhance the design, along with a mortgage plan to help owners acquire their new homes. It included a guarantee that promised satisfaction or Sears would pay all shipping costs and refund the purchase price.

The Highlands, home of John and Elizabeth Hamilton, now Delta Upsilon Fraternity



Examples of mail-order catalog offerings showing exteriors and floor plans.

Once the lots and foundations were ready, the homes were assembled by local builders or possibly even by the purchasers themselves. In some cases, local contractors were engaged by Sears and construction was supervised by a company representative. Records from one of those local contractors, John Henszey, show that materials were received from Philadelphia, Kushequa, Summerdale and Bolivar, Pennsylvania; Camden, Newark, and Bayonne, New Jersey; and as far away as Detroit. Shipping dates were staggered so that materials arrived as needed, carried to State College on the Bellefonte Central Railroad.

While only a sampling of historic properties have been highlighted for this walking tour of the Highlands Neighborhood, tour takers are urged to look for examples of other outstanding properties and interesting architectural features as they explore this area of State College. The tour begins at the north-eastern edge of the fraternity district. Parking is available at the McAllister Street Parking Garage or along some side streets.

1 Delta Upsilon — 229 Locust Lane

Located along a lane of locust trees and called The Highlands, this property was originally a Queen Anne-style farmhouse that belonged to John and Elizabeth Hamilton. Hamilton was a prominent local



farmer who served for many years as Penn State's treasurer and superintendent of farms; Mrs. Hamilton was a daughter of Moses Thompson, co-owner of the Centre Furnace Iron Co. and the owner of much of the land upon which the Borough and the University developed. The house, built in 1890, was designed by Bellefonte architect Robert Cole. In the 1920s, its Victorian architectural details were replaced by those in the Tudor Revival-style when it became the home of Delta Upsilon fraternity.

2 Acacia Fraternity — 234 Locust Lane

Frederick Disque, a Penn State professor of architecture, reused the barn foundation from the Hamilton farm when, in 1925, he designed this Colonial Revival-style property. You may want to walk around to the East Prospect side of the street to view the front of the building. This is the first of four fraternities on the tour designed by Disque in the 1920s.

3 Locust Lane Apartments — East Foster and Locust Lane

Although planned on a 1920s development map as a fraternity site, John Henszey constructed this well designed apartment building in 1929. Henszey, a grandson of John and Elizabeth Hamilton and great-grandson of Moses and Mary Irvin Thompson of Centre Furnace, was a major contributor to the development and the architectural appearance of the Highlands neighborhood as was his partner, Eugene Lederer.

The urbanization of newly developing State College was greatly aided by the addition of apartment buildings such as this one, and especially by the relocation and rebuilding programs of the fraternities in the Henszey-Lederer subdivision west of Pugh Street. National fraternity organizations took advantage of this building program to advance the Henszey and Lederer goal of developing "the most beautiful fraternity section in the country."

4 Sigma Pi — 303 Fraternity Row

Superior detail and distinctive massing make this one of the finest examples of Tudor Revival-style architecture in the fraternity district. Features to notice: a combination of coursed (layered in horizontal rows) rubblestone and brick, that covers the building's frame construction; half timbering decoration between brickwork and a carved stone entrance; a steeply pitched slate roof; steep cross gables; leaded and diamond paned-windows; and a massive front chimney. Built in 1931 by O.W. Houts of State College, it was designed by P.J. Bartholomew, who also was the architect for Beta Theta Pi on the Penn State campus.



5 Alpha Tau Omega — 321 East Fairmount

The front façade of this Neoclassical-style fraternity is dominated by a huge two-story rounded front entry porch or portico and a roof balcony supported by classical columns. Other classical details include a swan's neck pediment over the door and a Palladian window above the doorway. Flemish bond brick (alternating brick headers and stretchers) and colored keystones in the window arches add to the detail of this well-proportioned building. Estimated to cost \$50,000 when the building permit was taken out, it was designed by architecture faculty member Frederick Disque, and built in 1927.



6 Alpha Sigma Phi — 328 East Fairmount

A slate roof, entrance gable, casement windows, and three large stone chimneys with brick tops are some of the stylistic features of this handsome stone-faced Tudor Revival-style fraternity, built in 1930.

7 Phi Kappa Theta — 338 East Fairmount

Randomly placed square-cut stone (ashlar) was used for this Colonial Revival fraternity, built in 1928. Doric pilasters (flattened columns) on either side and a fanlight (semicircular window) above the door, and 8 over 8 (panes) windows, are some of its classical features.

8 Lambda Chi Alpha — 351 E. Fairmount

According to a 1925 issue of the *State College Times*, the pre-construction estimate for this fraternity was \$50,000. Tudor Revival architectural features include an exterior of stone, plaster, and half timbering, flat arches over the windows, and a brick arch around the doorway.

A Three English Cottages — 437, 441, & 447 East Fairmount

Three Sears English Cottages were built side-by-side in 1933 by contractor John Henszey. Sears recommended brick facing, but all three owners chose to use stone, undoubtedly reflecting the local availability both of stone and qualified stonemasons. The houses are similar in size, all have steep gables and stone-decorated doorways, two have distinctive front chimneys. The Sears catalog described the three this way: the



Croydon, “a small house, absolutely modern, without a single trace of faddishness;” the *Stratford*, “the latest idea in English architecture;” and the *Hillsboro* with the addition of shutters and wrought iron “to give the right feeling.”

9 357 East Prospect

A. Lawrence Kocher, a former head of Penn State's Department of Architecture, designed this English Cottage for himself in 1921–22. He left Penn State in 1926 to head the School of Art and Architecture at the University of Virginia, and later became managing editor of the *Architectural Record*. For four decades he was a historic preservation advocate and an expert on the restoration and conservation of landmarks, serving as supervising architect for the restoration of Washington Irving's home in Tarrytown, NY, and on the advisory committee



for Colonial Williamsburg. As a practicing architect, he experimented with design methods and materials and was an early member of the International Congress of Modern Architects.

10 Tau Kappa Epsilon — 346 East Prospect

Percy Ash, a member of the Altoona architectural firm of Hersh and Shollar (responsible for Altoona's City Hall), was the designer of this 1930 Tudor Revival fraternity at the corner of Garner and East Prospect Avenue. It was built by the State

College Construction Co., the firm owned by H. O. Smith, a graduate of Penn State's architectural engineering program and former faculty member. The exterior wall is faced in uncoursed (unevenly layered) rubblestone; the sharply peaked roof is slate. Features of note: a four story front gable with stone trim around the door, front chimney, bay window, and diamond-paned stained glass.

11 Sigma Chi — 400 East Prospect

Built in 1928 originally as Delta Tau Delta, this fraternity is another landmark example of the Tudor Revival style. It is faced with randomly placed ashlar stone and decorative half timbering. The gabled entranceway has a Tudor style doorway trimmed in a darker cut stone, and a two-story turreted stairtower topped by a weathervane. Diamond shaped, leaded casement windows in the dormers and a second floor oriel window are other architectural features to notice.

12 413 East Prospect

O. W. Houts was the builder of this Colonial Revival-style mail-order home from Sears, "a design of perfect symmetry." Rather than the wide wood siding recommended by Sears, Houts faced this 1937 house with stone that had originally been part of old Old Main. A fanlight and sidelights above and on either side of the front door are sheltered by an entrance hood.

13 Pi Kappa Alpha — 417 East Prospect

Flemish bond brick and stucco with decorative half timbering have been combined in the design of another fine example of the Tudor Revival-style, also built by the State College Construction Co. in 1930. Of special note: the stone surrounding the front door, the coat of arms above it, and the chimney pots topping its large chimneys.

14 Kappa Delta Rho — 420 East Prospect

This excellent example of the Tudor Revival style was designed by Clarence Bauchspies, a 1932 Penn State master's degree graduate, registered architect, and faculty member. It was built in 1933. Some outstanding features of this well-maintained fraternity are: the use of random ashlar stone and

decorative half timbering; a slate roof with flared eaves; roof dormers; casement windows; and three front gables, including an entrance gable that has a two-story stained glass bay window, with a turreted roof and weathervane.

15 Two Sears Houses — 505 & 511 East Prospect

As described by Sears, the *Lynnhaven*, "a cheerful well-proportioned residence with a deep set door and flower boxes," and the *Winthrop*, with an exterior that "expresses good taste," are two more of a group of Sears houses built by John Henszey in the late 1920s and early 1930s in this eastern section of The Highlands. Other examples of the popular Lynnhaven are located in both the Holmes-Foster and College Heights neighborhoods.

16 500 East Prospect

Stucco, half timbering, and decorative brickwork were used by John Henszey for this charming



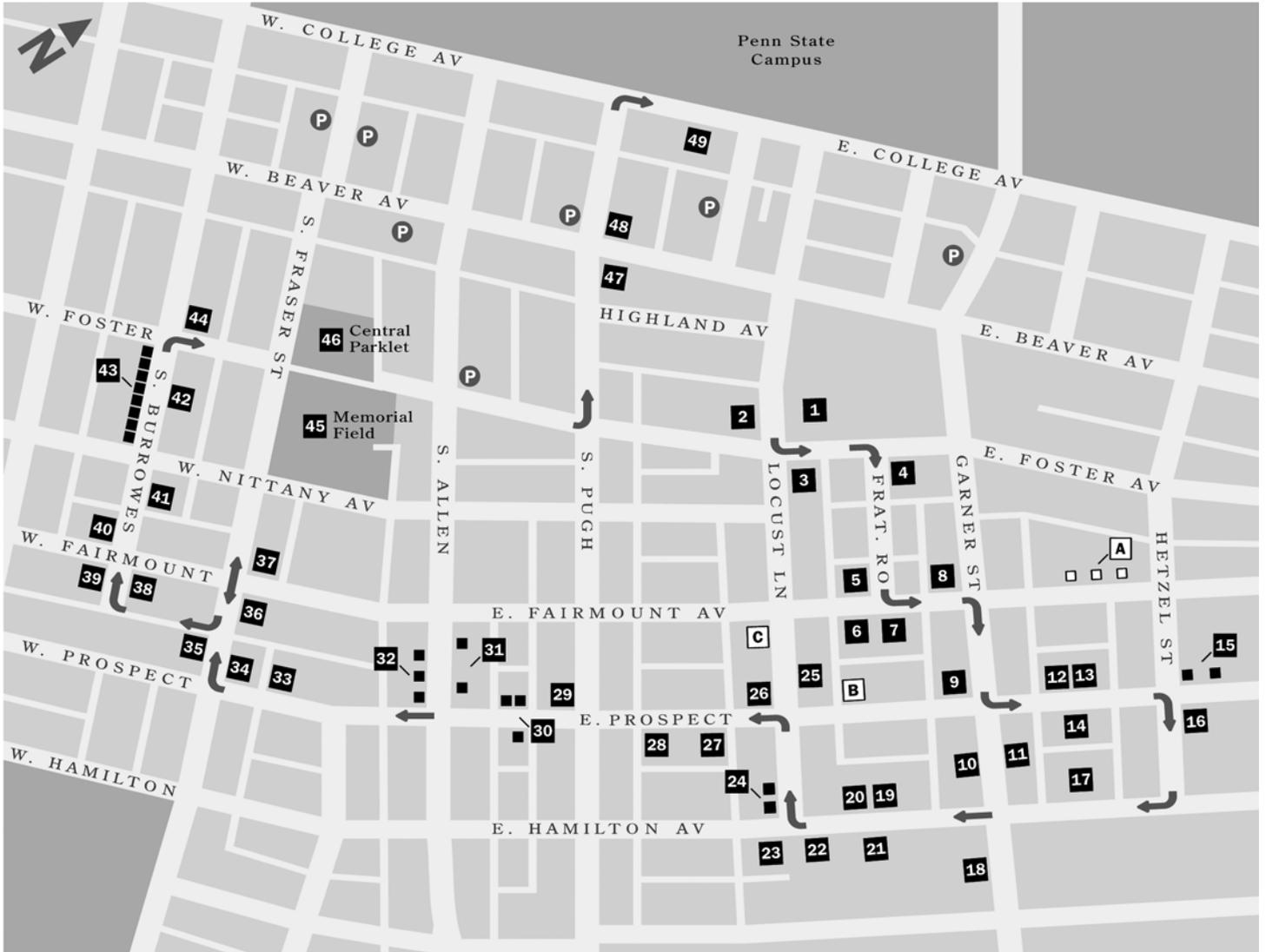
English Cottage, built in 1933. It was called the "honey-moon cottage," given by his mother as a wedding gift to Henszey and his bride.

Mature trees, many of them fifty or sixty years old and with circumferences of over sixteen feet, line and canopy the streets in the Highland District. Early on the Borough recognized the importance of its tree resource, establishing the Street Committee in 1903 to oversee street tree planting, and the Shade Tree Commission in 1926. As a result, State College is recognized annually by the National Arbor Day Foundation for its commitment to its urban forest resources.

17 Delta Tau Delta — 429 East Hamilton

Built in 1929, this symmetrically designed ashlar stone building has a wide gabled entrance with an arcaded front porch and matching side wings. Each wing has exterior end wall chimneys with chimney pots.

The Highlands Neighborhood Walking Tour Map



Parking: In addition to the parking areas indicated on the map, metered and 2-hour parking is available along many streets along the tour route.

Parts of the tour are on steep hills, especially between Nittany and Prospect Avenues.

-  Tour route
-  3 Noted property along main route
-  C Noted property off main route
-  P Parking lot/garage

18 Chi Phi — 360 East Hamilton

A sweeping corner entrance is one of the outstanding features of this 1931 example of the Tudor Revival style. Roughly coursed rubblestone, half timbering, a flared slate roof, and a semi-circular front porch with a conical roof, are some other architectural features of this stylistic building.

19 331 East Hamilton

American history professor Wayland F. Dunaway and his family chose this Colonial Revival-style plan for their home (1930) on East Hamilton Avenue. Be sure to notice the beautiful tulip tree in the front yard. It has been called the “foresters’ tree” because of its resistance to insects, including the gypsy moth. It attains the greatest height of any native hardwood and is known for its cream and orange cup-shaped flowers that bloom in late May.

20 323 East Hamilton

Mrs. Edward Steidle, the British-born wife of the Dean of the College of Mineral Science, wanted their home to look like an old English country cottage and selected a plan and building materials accordingly. Constructed in 1929, the builder was H. O. Smith. Rough red brick was used, some laid with sharp ends showing, to support the look of an older house. Other details include a steeply pitched roof with random sized slate, leaded stained glass, heavy plank doors, and chimneys with terra cotta tops in the shape of chess pieces (castles). Recent owners added extensive plantings of evergreens and flowering trees, and a large curvilinear brick entrance, using old bricks from the demolished Fraser Street School.

21 320 East Hamilton Avenue

When this home was built for the J.W. Henszey family in 1922, it was located on a large wooded lot that had been part of the Hamilton farm, and considered to be out-of-town. Mrs. Henszey was the daughter of John and Elizabeth Hamilton. Designed by architecture professor A. Lawrence Kocher, he described properties like this one as “modern Colonial country houses” in the *Architectural Record*, and stressed the importance of an appropriate landscape plan. John Bracken, a Penn State graduate and



department head from 1926–1957, was the landscape architect for the property. His plan is still mostly intact and is an excellent example of Bracken’s naturalistic style.

22 300 East Hamilton

Contractor John Henszey built his own home over a period of years (1936–42), patterned somewhat after one he had built earlier in College Heights. Architects P. Boyd Kapp and Dean Kennedy worked with Henszey on both projects. Sharp gables, a turreted entrance, massive chimney, narrow wall-gabled windows, and a copper-roofed bay with case-



ment windows are a few of its architectural features to notice. Also part of the property, John Henszey’s office is faced in stone, with a separate turreted tower. Stone entrance gates add to the authenticity of this excellent example of a Tudor Revival residential property.

23 262 East Hamilton

Architecture professor Frederick Disque designed single family homes as well as fraternities. The Dutch Colonial at 262 E. Hamilton, with its traditional gambrel roof and shed-roof dormer, was built in 1925 and faced with local dolomite. Architect-designed cabinets and teak floors, said by Disque to have been from a World War I battleship, were additional features of this property. He also designed the Colonial Revival house next door.

24 624 & 628 Locust Lane
H. O. Smith was responsible for matching English cottages with attached garages on Locust Lane. Built in 1929, these twin residences have first floors of stone, and second floor stucco dormers with decorative half-timbering. Sharply pitched roofs, large front chimneys, and gable entrances also emphasize the characteristics of English Cottage architecture.

25 Theta Delta Chi — 305 East Prospect
One of the outstanding features of this 1924 Neoclassical-style fraternity is its entrance porch,



extending across the entire front of the building. A chinoiserie or oriental-style railing surrounds the balcony; the doorway has a recessed plaster arch and

sidelights. H. O. Smith's State College Construction Company was the builder.

B 317 East Prospect
A steep slate roof broken by three hipped roof dormers in the English Cottage style was chosen by H. O. Smith for his own nearby stone-veneered home, built in 1925. Two wings to the left of the recessed main entrance are faced in a combination of stone and brick. The larger of the two has a gabled dormer over a large rounded wooden plank door trimmed with heavy iron hinges. Smith included Moravian tiles, a lock from a local ironmaster's mansion, and chestnut paneling from the bleachers of Penn State's Old Beaver Field for the interior of this home.



26 Sigma Phi Epsilon — 524 Locust Lane
Penn State professor Frederick Disque was the architect for this landmark fraternity in the Spanish Colonial Revival style, the only one of its

kind in the district. Built in 1926 and faced in stucco, note its prominent three-story front gable and two-story wings with arcaded porches and balconies at either end. Cut stone surrounds the rounded doorway; first floor windows are full length and also rounded.

C Delta Sigma Phi — 508 Locust Lane
This fraternity, also designed by Frederick Disque and built in 1927, offers another landmark example, this time in the Italian Renaissance Revival style. It has a stucco exterior, decorative limestone corner detail called quoining, full-length first floor windows, recessed entry porch, arcaded porches, stone door surrounds, and a hipped roof.

27 Phi Sigma Delta Sigma — 240 East Prospect
Built in 1927, this fraternity is another good example of the Colonial Revival style. Palladian-style windows, named for 16th century Italian architect Andrea Palladio, are located in each gable end. Other details to notice: decorative limestone quoining at the corners of the building, a belt or string-course running horizontally across the façade, and a front entrance with Ionic columns.

28 218 East Prospect
The J. Orvis Keller family chose this stone-faced Colonial Revival style with a two story gable entrance for their home on East Prospect Avenue. Sunrooms (such as the one to the left) and sun porches were popular additions to these symmetrical houses built in the 1920s and 1930s. Keller was a major contributor to Penn State's educational extension efforts; the Conference Center on campus is named in his honor.

South Pugh Street, an early main thoroughfare from College to Fairmount Avenues and the outskirts of State College, was lined with large rooming houses such as these on the 500–600 blocks. The combination of 2½-story Four Squares and vernacular Queen Annes are reminders of housing used by faculty, staff, and students in the early 1900s. Both styles were available through mail-order catalogs, but Four Squares with their pyramidal roofs were especially popular.

29 526 South Pugh

Built in 1925, this stylish Tudor Revival-style fourplex offered a unique architectural alternative to the adjacent multiple family properties along Pugh Street.



30 100 block of East Prospect

The 100 block of East Prospect offers examples of most of the nationally popular housing styles of the early 1900s. The oldest are a Queen Anne (128 E. Prospect) and a vernacular Victorian across the street (125 E. Prospect). The bungalow at 127 East Prospect has a characteristic long, low-pitched roof extending over a large open front porch.

31 500 South Allen Street Fraternities

Theta Chi (1933), and its neighbor Phi Sigma Kappa (1927), serve as familiar architectural landmarks on the 500 block of South Allen Street. They were built by H. O. Smith's State College Construction Co. at what was then the edge of town, in the Federal Revival style, a style of balanced symmetry in proportion and decoration.



32 524, 518, & 510 South Allen

These three handsome properties, two faced with stone and clapboard and one with brick, were built by 1925. Each was home to Penn State staff members and their families. C.W. Stoddart was Dean of the School of Liberal Arts (524); F. W. Haller was a horticulturist and superintendent of the College's vegetable gardens (518); and John W. White was a professor of soil technology (510).

33 157 West Prospect

In sharp contrast to its neighbor on the corner to the west, this 19th century farmhouse is the oldest property in the Highlands neighborhood. It is known as the Foster farm house and was built about 1860. Originally located just up the hill on Fairmount Avenue, it was moved in 1917 to make way for the larger Colonial Revival home built at the southeast corner of Fraser and Fairmount.



34 527 South Fraser

The Moderne Style found favor with some State College homeowners and builders. This 1939 triplex with its simple lines and lack of ornamentation provides a good example of a newly emerging architectural style of the 1930s. A matching example is at 524 South Atherton Street.

35 520 South Fraser

A cottage, called Camelot, reminiscent of an English wayside inn, was designed in 1922 by David and Madeline Campbell. He was a professor of engineering drawing. The Campbells initially had problems finding a builder and a lending agency because of the unconventional style of the house, but when



completed by contractor John Hoy it was enthusiastically received by the community. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979.

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36 160 West Fairmount

Across the street and up the hill from Camelot, this five-bay Colonial Revival home was designed by Arthur W. Cowell, the first department head of Penn State's Department of Landscape Architecture. He designed it for his colleague, Stevenson Fletcher, a professor of horticulture and later Dean of the College of Agriculture. It replaced the Foster farm house that was moved down the hill to West Prospect, but the giant horsechestnut tree on the property was apparently already well established when the Fletchers built next to it in 1917.

37 Fairmount School

A. Lawrence Kocher joined forces with architecture department colleague Frederick C. Disque to design the first portion of the Fairmount School, then the local high school, in 1920. The building has undergone many changes and several additions over the years, and now is used as both an elementary school and the location of the junior-senior high Alternative Program. A special interior feature are two 1946 murals: *The Pioneer*, designed and painted by artist Stuart Frost, while a student at Penn State; and *Mount Nittany*, a community project under the direction of art educator Dr. Viktor Lowenfeld, that combined the efforts of State High faculty members, alumni, and students.

Continue west either along Fairmount Avenue to Burrowes Street or follow Hill Alley — behind Camelot — to the Burrowes Street walkway to Fairmount between the two large stone residences.

38 234 West Fairmount (southeast corner)

Located at the crest of a hill, on a street appropriately called Fairmount, this 2½-story stone house with its many windows offers an excellent view of the Tussey Mountain to the south. It was built in 1922 in the Colonial Revival style for electrical engineering professor E. C. Woodruff, and is another example of architect A. Lawrence Kocher's "modern Colonial country house." A carefully detailed Georgian-style doorway met Kocher's requirement that the doorway be "the center of interest." A one-story side sun porch with large half circle windows and balcony to the right of the doorway and a *porte*



cochere or carriage entrance, also in stone, to the left are some of its other outstanding features. Now called The Fairmount, it is being operated as a bed and breakfast.

39 300 West Fairmount (southwest corner)

This large 1917 Dutch Colonial Revival-style home, with a first floor faced in limestone and the second story in wood shingles, was probably designed by owner Paul B. Breneman, a Penn State professor of mechanics and materials of construction. It was built by William Kennedy. Three generations of Kennedys were involved in architectural development of State College. William Kennedy's father, Tom, was a contractor who built the Fraser Street School in 1897 and served as the first school board president. Son Dean Kennedy was the architect (with partner Boyd Kapp) of the handsome John Henszey home (#22 on the tour).

40 420 South Burrowes

Professor John Dale built this 2½-story brick home with a wrap-around porch on a farm field, on the outskirts of State College, in 1912. He used native oak and cherry lumber, including cherry beams for the dining room ceiling, and incorporated stained glass windows and a second floor bay. A red barn is still located behind this well-maintained property — only four blocks from College Avenue and amidst a greatly expanded State College Borough.

41 411 South Burrowes

The University Baptist and Brethren Church, built in 1920, is one of several handsome landmark

churches in or adjacent to the Highlands historic neighborhood.

42 313 South Burrowes

Department of agronomy professor C. F. Noll and his family selected a two-story Craftsman-style bungalow with a full-width front porch for their



1920s home. The natural quality of materials and colors were emphasized in these larger variations of traditional bungalows — wood

stained in earth tones, finishes in stucco or shingles, and projecting rafters, such as those visible in the gabled dormer that opens onto a balcony.

43 300 Block — South Burrowes

Several Queen Anne-style homes line the 300 block of South Burrowes, one of the more intact older streets in town. Built about 1910 in similar styles and with similar building materials, they were probably constructed from mail-order company plans. Sears, Aladdin, and Gordon-Van Tine all offered vernacular Victorian patterns such as these in the 1910s and early 1920s. Of special note is the careful refurbishing that has taken place on several of these properties. Newly painted and newly landscaped, some of them are being reused as small office buildings.



44 229 West Foster

Businessman Henry Fisher and his wife, Rose, chose this stylish home, pattern #535, from a Gordon-Van Tine mail-order catalog in 1924. It was described as “a beautiful home...a favorite with the discriminating home builder,” offering “simplicity of good taste, the charm of fine design...a show place in fine residence districts in scores of cities.” It appears to have been at the top of the company line since Gordon-Van Tine president E. C. Roberts



chose it for his own home in Davenport, Iowa. You can see other examples of #535 at 343 East Prospect and 501 West Fairmount.

45 Central Parklet

Central Parklet, a wonderful stopping point along the tour, was established through the efforts of Stevenson Fletcher, a former Penn State dean who served as president of the State College Board of Education. He advocated setting aside centrally located land areas for use by the community, with this park providing an example. Plaques commemorating his efforts and information about the history of the turn-of-the-century drinking fountain, relocated in the parklet as part of the State College Centennial Celebration in 1996, are nearby.

46 Memorial Field

The parklet offers a glimpse of the earlier educational core of State College, with the Nittany Avenue School (now the administrative offices for the School District) and Fairmount, the former high school, in view. State College High School's Memorial Athletics Field, located in what was once called The Hollow (a limestone sinkhole), was designed by John R. Bracken, a Penn State graduate and head of the Department of Landscape Architecture for more than 30 years. Each year the Department selects a John R. Bracken Fellow to honor him, chosen from internationally known scholars and professionals in landscape design and interpretation.

Follow the walkway between Central Parklet and Memorial Field to Allen Street and then turn left to Beaver Avenue.

47 Sigma Alpha Epsilon — 200 East Beaver

Building costs for this ashlar stone-veneered fraternity in the Colonial Revival style were estimated at \$75,000 according to a 1925 edition of the *State College Times*. Particularly noteworthy features include its huge front portico supported by large

Doric columns, its stone lions on either side of the doorway, and its imposing location set back from Beaver Avenue.



48 Glennland Building — 205 East Beaver

Built in 1933 by local businessmen O. W.

Houts and Dr. Grover Glenn, the Art Deco-styled Glennland Building represents several firsts: at five stories, it was the tallest building in town until the 1970s; with forty apartments, the largest; and with the first indoor swimming pool, it served not only the community but was used by Penn State for its men's swimming classes and team meets. The pool was removed in the 1960s, but pool tiles are still visible in some of the ground floor offices.

49 Centennial Walkway — McAllister Alley

Before ending the tour, be sure to visit McAllister Alley to see the State College Centennial sculpture, a bronze pig and two piglets; and to peruse more than 2,900 engraved bricks with the names of present and former State College residents — a pedestrian walkway connecting College Avenue with Calder Way that commemorates the Borough's Centennial Celebration of 1996.



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For additional information:

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The Highlands Historic Neighborhood brochure has been developed by the Historic Resources Commission, Borough of State College.

For additional copies or information about the walking tours, contact:

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ILLUSTRATIONS
Sears, Roebuck Catalog of Houses, 1926 and *117 House Designs of the Twenties* published by The Athenaeum of Philadelphia and Dover Publications, Inc.

