

The College Park Neighborhood Association has held Historic Homes Tours since 1991. This year, we are visiting houses that represent different approaches—one that was traditional, one that was thoroughly modern and one that mixed the two schools of design.

The first styles are called “Revival” styles. They were based on historic precedents from across the globe. We are familiar with the Colonial, Mediterranean, Neoclassical, Mission and Tudor Revivals, all of which can be found in College Park. We will visit homes today of the Colonial and Mediterranean Revival styles.

The **Colonial Revival** style was a nationalistic movement started in the late 19th century after Philadelphia’s Centennial Exhibition of 1876 reawakened Americans to their colonial past. In the 19th century, Colonial Revival houses were asymmetrical with large columned porches. But with the popularity of historic attractions like Colonial Williamsburg, the subsequent Colonials were more authentic copies. These usually were two stories tall with side facing gables, symmetrical front facades with accented doorways, groupings of windows and one story side wings—typically Florida rooms or porte cocheres.

The **Mediterranean Revival** style was an eclectic movement that rose after the Pan American Exposition of 1915 in San Diego. At that event, the Mission Revival style, based on the Spanish missions of the Southwest, was introduced. Architects soon went directly to Spain and the countries surrounding the Mediterranean Sea for inspiration. Mediterranean Revival is characterized by stucco walls, tile roofs, parapet walls and arches. Much of the wood ornamentation is pecky cypress and exterior detailing is often cast stone or terra cotta. Balconies and window grilles are common and are made of wrought iron or wood.

Modern styles that eschewed historic precedents are common in College Park. They include the Prairie style, introduced by Frank Lloyd Wright and the Craftsman style, developed by Charles and Henry Greene. We will see examples of the Craftsman style.

The **Craftsman** style was developed in California by the Greene brothers, who designed houses for the wealthy in Pasadena from 1893 to 1914. A reaction to Victorian opulence and mass-produced housing elements, the style incorporated clean lines, sturdy structure and natural materials. Their modern style combined practicality and fine art into refined, crafted masterpieces. Other architects and plan book illustrators took the forms and details and presented them to the mass market. The new architecture resulted in a contemporary style of furnishings that followed the doctrine of natural materials, solid construction and hand-made ornamentation. The Craftsman style of architecture features wide overhanging eaves; groupings of windows; large front porches; porte cocheres; and simple wood interior trim with built-in buffets, bookcases and breakfast nooks.

The excitement of the Florida Land Boom started waning in the mid 1920s. Prices escalated out of control, foreclosures were common, banks closed, hurricanes caused much damage in South Florida and the downward spiral accelerated after the stock market crash of 1929. Few homes were built in Orlando during the Great Depression. When the Federal Housing Administration was created in 1934, it changed the lending industry with new insurance terms. In the 1940s, the GI Bill encouraged home construction for veterans returning from duty. Because of these practices, the landscape started to change in College Park.

Out of this period of economic uncertainty and war grew a new style that melded the traditional architecture of the past with a new modernism that was prevalent in Europe. The Minimal Traditional style was formed.

The **Minimal Traditional** style incorporates Colonial, Tudor and Mediterranean forms with the Modern and International preference for as little ornamentation as possible. Nevertheless, Minimal Traditional homes continued to have traditionally detailed built-ins, cabinetry and woodwork though somewhat simplified. This style has asymmetrical facades, gable roofs with no eaves, small covered porches and occasionally corner windows. This style was the first to feature attached garages with regularity. The Minimal Traditional style was prevalent here until it was supplanted by the Ranch style around 1950.

Please enjoy the tour this year and, as always, please respect others’ property. In the end, we hope you learn a little something about our wonderful neighborhood.

1) 11 West Yale Street According to the Property Appraiser’s records, this Craftsman style house was built in 1926. It was built as a speculative venture and was a rental unit for many years. This “modern” structure is a two-story, front gabled house with large overhanging eaves supported by triangular brackets. Its large front porch, groupings of 3 over 1 double hung windows and porte cochere are details common to the style.

2) 722 Alameda Street The Casa Alameda complex was designed by Maurice Kressly and built by A.B. Struble for Georgian John A. Porter starting in 1930. Betty (Hammons) Gilbert, a realtor who became the 2nd wife of industrialist Thornton Round, further expanded the home. This is one of the most elaborate Mediterranean Revival style houses in Central Florida and it is surely influenced by the work of South Florida architect, Addison Mizner. On the interior, the use of tile, painted and beamed ceilings and carved mantels may be without equal. Inside the round entryway is an extension of the weather vane that shows which direction the wind blows! The exterior features textured stucco, decorative wrought iron grilles and an unusual arched opening for the front door.

3) 1000 Cordova Drive This Mediterranean Revival style house was designed and built by Raymond C. Stevens, later founder of R.C. Stevens Construction, for the Judge William K. Whitfield family in 1928. The most notable owner was Florence Gluckman. She and her husband Sidney bought the house in 1953. Florence, who attended both law and medical school after the purchase, founded and staffed Orlando’s first free legal aid clinic, led local integration efforts and served in the Peace Corps. The house retains much of its original integrity even though owners have altered the kitchen, enclosed porches, installed a pool and replaced the porte cochere and garage with an attached garage. Note the twisted rope columns between arched openings and the use of decorative wrought iron, pecky cypress, balconets terraces and wood casement windows.

4) 836 South Lake Adair Boulevard In 1936, builder Kiehl and Stevens (Raymond C. Stevens) constructed this Minimal Traditional house for William Sharkey and his wife Anne for \$12,000. Sharkey owned an eatery downtown and later managed the restaurant at the Angebilt Hotel. This house is influenced by the Tudor Revival with its plank doors and more steeply pitched roofs. Its elegant interior trim and detailing are more elaborate than the typical house of the style.

5) 1132 Overbrook Drive This Colonial Revival house was built by W. A. McCree for the Jack Branham family at a cost of \$8,000. It was the first house on Overbrook Drive. Up until 1939, the road on which this house faces was known as Spring Lake Drive, as the road went toward Spring Lake just to the west of Orange Blossom Trail. Mrs. Branham convinced the City that Spring Lake Drive was a confusing name. She chose Overbrook, as a nod to the small waterway that connected Spring Lake and Lake Adair.

6) 1114 Seville Place According to City Directories, this Minimal Traditional house was constructed around 1942. The first owner was James Cumbie, a car dealer, and his wife Alice. The house has details typical of the style, including low-pitched roofs with no eaves, an asymmetrical façade, multi-paned wood windows and a small entry porch. The simple fireplace, arched openings and the built-in cabinets are also common to the style. More unusual features include a prominent chimney, bay windows and shingle clad walls.

7) 1418 Clouser Avenue This simple bungalow is on the property that Daniel and Margerite Clouser bought in 1919 and later developed. The rear of the house was altered around 1950 to create a small apartment. From the summer of 1957 to the spring of 1958 **Jack Kerouac** and his mother lived in the new apartment.

It was here he was living when ***On the Road*** was published and made him an overnight literary sensation. And it was in this home that Kerouac wrote his follow-up, ***The Dharma Bums***. Like the other places in Kerouac’s nomadic life, he didn’t live here long. The home represents a critical juncture for Kerouac when he made the transition from a 35-year-old nobody writer to the bard of the Beat Generation.

When the house was threatened with demolition in 1998, the Jack Kerouac Writers in Residence Project of Orlando, Inc. was formed to buy and renovate the home and offer 3-month residencies to writers. The Kerouac House is an Orlando Historic Landmark.

The current writer in residence, Bill Miles, will be available to receive guests and give a sample of the Kerouac Project’s program with short readings at 1, 2, 3 and 4. Bill Miles has lived and worked as far north as the Arctic Ocean in Alaska and as far south as Antarctica, at jobs ranging from truck driver and bartender to advertising executive and legislator. He has one published book of short stories, [Alaska Unsalted](#).

8) 1005 Guernsey Street Edward and Florence Vrabek, the first documented owners of this house, owned Eddies, which was a liquor store just west of downtown Orlando. The house first appears in the City Directory of 1943-44. The design of this Minimal Traditional house is heavily influenced by the Colonial Revival with its side facing gables, small entry porch, nearly symmetrical front façade and recessed wings (including a garage).

9) 1128 West Princeton Street Attorney Charles Lemire and his wife Gertrude were the first owners of this house, constructed around 1939. He worked for Maguire, Voorhis and Wells, one of the city’s oldest law firms. The Minimal Traditional style house has typical details of the style, including the gable roofs with no eaves, an asymmetrical façade, the front entry featuring the smallest of overhangs and grouped multi-paned windows. The original arched opening at the entry exemplifies the quaintness of this style.

10) 3018 Helen Avenue M.F. Garrison built this Craftsman style house in 1926 for \$6,000. He apparently did not own it for long, because within a few years, John and Willie Newman owned this house. John was a sales manager for Oliver P. Swope Realty. This is another example of the “modern” house in a form called the “American Four Square”. Typical details of this type are hip roofs, wide porches, fairly symmetrical facades and floor plans that had four rooms on each floor.

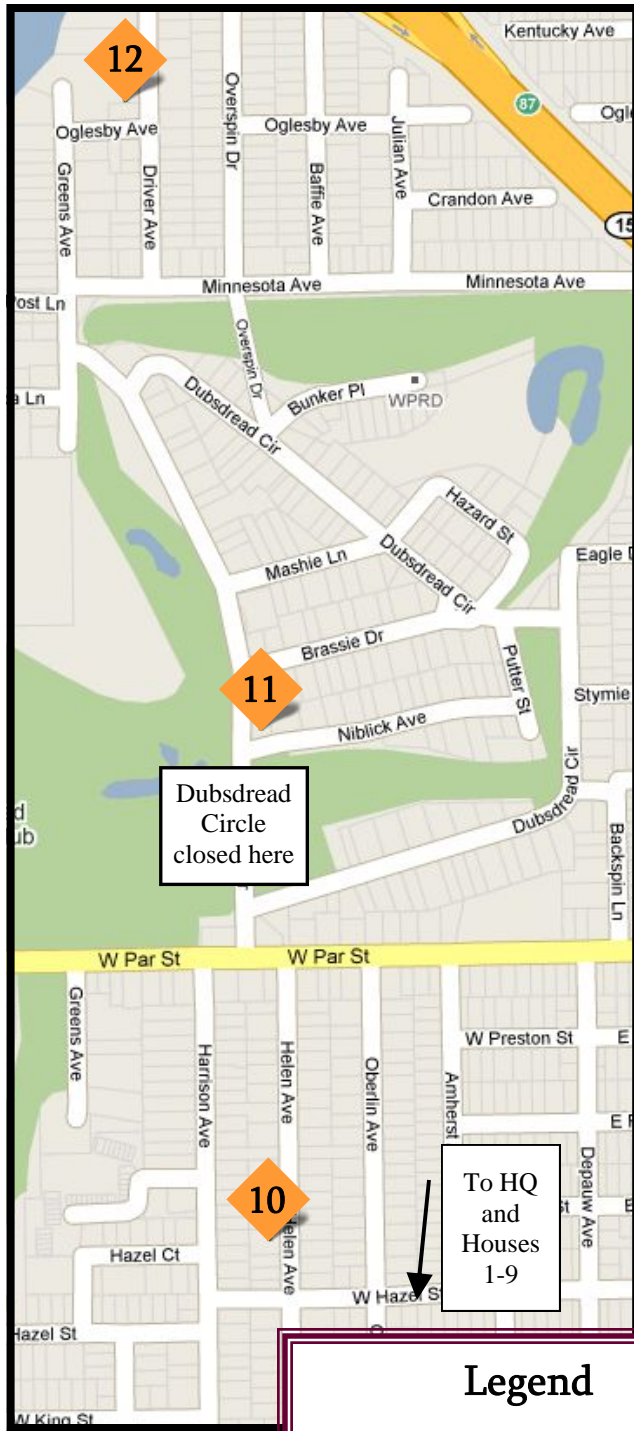
11) 405 Niblick Way The 1923 plat of this subdivision shows this lot as the location of the tee for the 305 yard 8th hole on the golf course. For reasons unknown to this writer, the course was re-configured and the lot was sold for development. According to city directory research, this Dutch Colonial Revival house was built circa 1942, although the architectural details suggest an earlier date of construction. The house is characterized by its gambrel roof, small entry porch, groupings of 6 over 1 windows and a one-story wing.

The first documented owners were Daniel and Laretta Kress. They had come from Maryland after careers at the Washington Sanitarium (now Washington Adventist Hospital). According to a booklet from the hospital, Daniel was the sanitarium’s first medical superintendent and surgeon. Laretta was Montgomery County’s first female doctor and the first female surgeon registered in Maryland. She opened a maternity ward at the sanitarium and they created a School of Nursing there. They retired and made their way to Orlando, where for a short while he was listed as a doctor at the Florida Sanitarium and Hospital (now Florida Hospital). Kress Memorial Seventh Day Adventist Church is named for them.

12) 701 Driver Avenue This Mediterranean Revival home was the private residence of Judge Thomas Picton Warlow, Sr., who also was the Vice-President of the State Bank and Trust Company of Orlando. Warlow came to Orlando from England in 1884. The judge had lived near Lake Lucerne before moving to “Azalea in the Wood”. The builder of this house may have been his downtown neighbor Raymond C. Stevens. When the bank failed in 1932, Warlow sold off much of his property and belongings to protect his depositors. Upon his wife’s death later that year, Warlow returned to his residence downtown. After a series of owners, the house would later serve as a nursing home in the 1950s, when a large one-story wing was built to accommodate residents..

The house is entered through an intimate foyer that opens to a spacious living room with views through a screened porch to Little Lake Fairview. The mixture of intimate and spacious rooms is typical of the style, as are the stucco walls, entry tower and irregular floor plan. The green terra cotta roof and plentiful steel casement windows are indications of Warlow’s status. The current owners have been restoring the house and grounds. The house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places this year.

This brochure was prepared by Jodi Rubin with research assistance from Tana Porter, librarian at the Orange County Regional History Center, College Park resident Grace Hagedorn and the homeowners. The City of Orlando’s Office of Communications and Neighborhood Relations graciously donated the printing.



- Legend**
- HQ 2393 Elizabeth Avenue
- 1) 11 West Yale Street
 - 2) 722 Alameda Street
 - 3) 1000 Cordova Drive
 - 4) 836 South Lake Adair Boulevard
 - 5) 1132 Overbrook Drive
 - 6) 1114 Seville Place
 - 7) 1418 Clouser Avenue
 - 8) 1005 Guernsey Street
 - 9) 1128 West Princeton Street
 - 10) 3018 Helen Avenue
 - 11) 405 Niblick Way
 - 12) 701 Driver Avenue



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19th Annual
Historic Homes Tour

Sunday, November 15, 2009
12:30 PM to 5:00 PM

Revival Styles and More

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Consult the two maps on the back.