

## Pieces of Oxford's Past

Oxford's location was determined in the early 1800s when a site was selected for Ohio's second public university. To end the squabbling among competing towns and cities, the decision was made to locate Miami University in an almost uninhabited wilderness area that would be given the classic name Oxford.

For many years before, indigenous tribes including the Miami and Shawnee had shared the rolling hills of southwestern Ohio. After their defeat by the army of General Anthony Wayne they were banished from the region by the Treaty of Greenville in 1795. By 1809 when Miami University was chartered, descendants of European immigrants had begun to settle along the Four Mile Creek (called Tallawanda by the Native Americans).

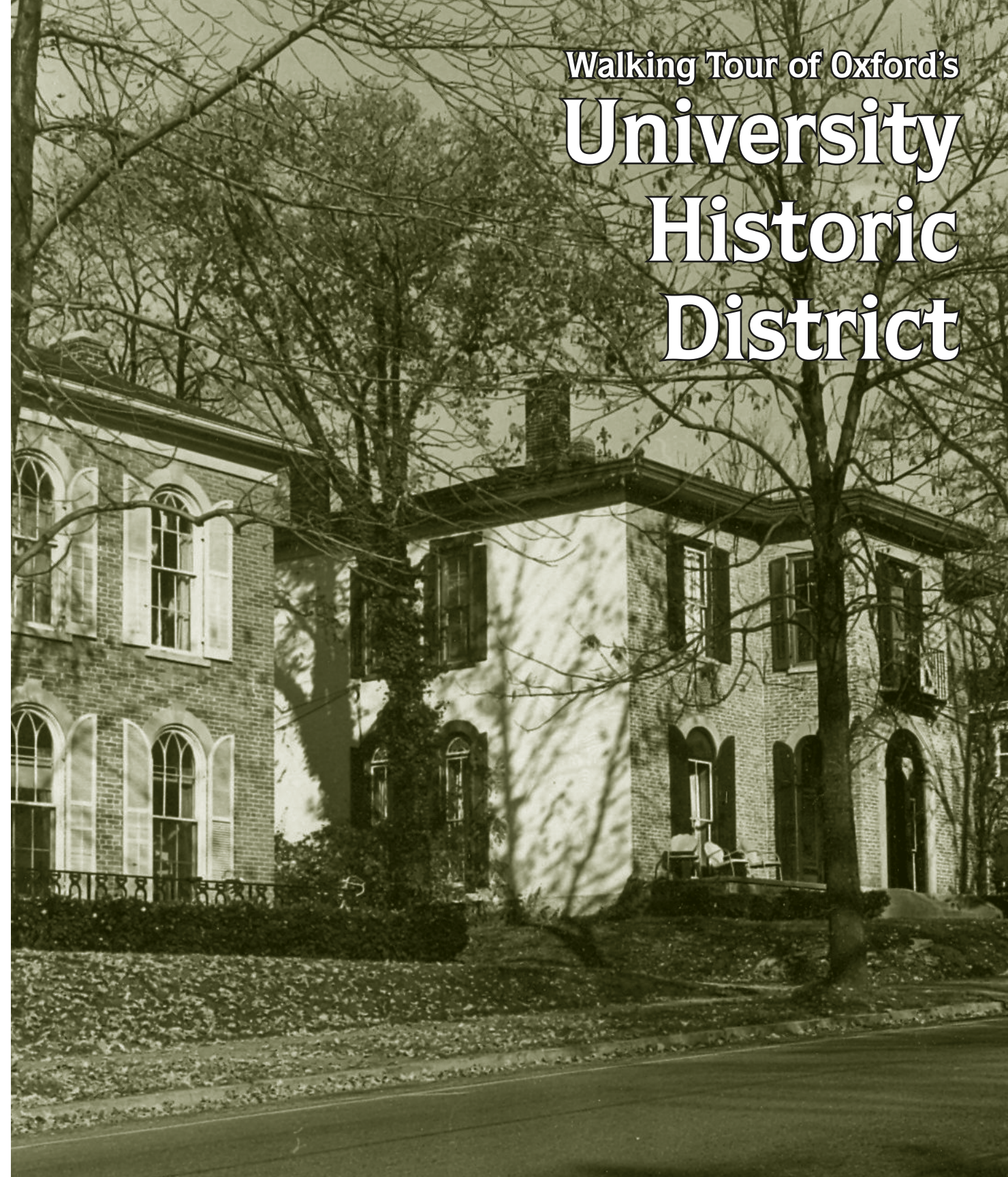
In 1810 settlers bought lots in the new village that was laid out in a tract still referred to as the Mile Square. Both the village and the university grew over the next two decades, and in 1830 (with a population of over 700) Oxford was incorporated. The new university's campus was situated at the eastern edge of what would become the Uptown business district, and people who could afford a prime location began building houses with a view overlooking the University Square.

By 1856 the village was the home of five institutions of higher learning. Miami University, the Oxford Theological Seminary, the Oxford Female Institute, the Western Female Seminary, and the Oxford Female College made Oxford a true college town much like the city in England for which it was named.

In the following years Oxonians witnessed many changes in their small town. The Theological Seminary moved to Monmouth, Illinois, and Miami students left to fight on both sides of the Civil War. The Female Institute and Female College merged into what would become Oxford College for Women. Miami University closed for twelve years, and the Female Seminary became the Western College for Women. In 1971 Oxford became a city, and by the end of the twentieth century the remaining women's schools had closed, leaving only Miami University.

Some of Oxford's best examples of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century residential architecture are concentrated in the University Historic District. Of these, some replaced earlier houses, and others were the first ones on their sites. Brief descriptions of their significance are given, with additional information available from tour escorts and from the public library.

# Walking Tour of Oxford's University Historic District



# Walking Tour of Oxford's UNIVERSITY HISTORIC DISTRICT

Designated by the City of Oxford in 1979, the University Historic District is one of the city's three historic districts and the only one that was originally comprised almost entirely of residential architecture. The U-shaped district of nine blocks on East High Street, South Campus Avenue, and East Spring Street, nearly surrounds the original University Square. This self-guided tour includes brief descriptions of the history and architecture of the first or most significant building on each of 33 sites. An illustration is included for each, although the quality of surviving photographs varies. In order to provide a more comprehensive view of the neighborhoods of some of Oxford's most prominent early citizens, pictures and information on dwellings are included even if the houses themselves have not survived into the twenty-first century.

## HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

To take the walking tour, begin at the parking lot on the northwest corner of East High Street and Tallawanda Road. The circled number next to each address in the booklet corresponds to a location on the foldout map in the back. The tour takes about one hour.

To arrange escorted group tours contact the  
**Oxford Visitors Bureau**  
14 West Park Place, Suite C  
Oxford, OH 45056  
Phone 513-523-8687  
Fax 513-523-2927  
E-mail [info@enjoyoxford.org](mailto:info@enjoyoxford.org)  
Website [www.enjoyoxford.org](http://www.enjoyoxford.org)

For additional information on Oxford history contact the  
Lane Public Libraries'  
**Smith Library of Regional History**  
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Oxford, OH 45056  
Phone 513-523-3035  
Fax 513-523-6661  
E-mail [sml@lanepi.org](mailto:sml@lanepi.org)  
Website [www.lanepi.org/smith.html](http://www.lanepi.org/smith.html)

Photographs were taken by Miami University *Recensio* staff, Frank R. Snyder, Gilson P. Wright, Stephen C. Gordon, and others whose names are not known. The only drawing is by Herbert Oerter. These images date from the early the 1900s and are part of the Smith Library collection.

Most of the research was conducted by a volunteer, and the text was written by staff of the Smith Library of Regional History. Financial assistance was provided by the W. E. Smith Family Charitable Trust.

Cover: The photograph was taken by Robert E. White in 1975. It shows the west side of South Campus Avenue between Walnut and Collins Streets.

Oxford, Ohio  
2008  
Revised 2014

# UNIVERSITY HISTORIC DISTRICT





## 1 412 East High Street

A parking lot today was once the site of the *Tallawanda Apartments*, a building no longer visible, but which figured in the history of Oxford and Miami University. Privately built by Miami faculty in 1908 after an earlier dwelling was moved from the site, the three-story, dark red brick building originally included a communal dining room for its residents. In 1929 a restaurant called “Tuffy’s” opened in the basement and served its famous toasted rolls for almost half a century. Miami leased the building for both student and faculty housing before purchasing the property in 1952 for long-term use as a women’s residence hall. A good example of Second Renaissance Revival style, it was designed by Cincinnati architect Joseph Steinkamp and was razed by Miami in 1984.

*Tuffy's*

*“those good toasted  
rolls”*

*Miami Recensio, 1935*



## 2 410 East High Street

This small, painted brick house with Greek Revival elements was built in 1852 by Samuel R. and Elizabeth (Gage) Mollyneaux. A native of Ireland, who was of French extraction, Mollyneaux was a businessman who served one year as mayor of Oxford. The house later became known as the *Old Manse* because it served as the Presbyterian Church parsonage from 1883 to 1956. During that time, ministers' families lived within five blocks of their church on the northeast corner of Main and Church Streets. Among these were the Thomas Porter family, several of whose children were born in Persia or Brazil and later the William Frazer, Rudolph Riemann, and Eliot Porter families. Nicknamed the "Coffee Mill House" because of its shape (with a widow's walk on the roof), it later housed Westminster Foundation and from 1974 to 2010, the offices of Miami's Department of Comparative Religion.

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*Oxford Citizen*, April 27, 1867



### **3 400 East High Street**

***Bishop House*** once stood on the site now occupied by an early 1960s residence that faces a side street. From 1836 to 1845, it was the home of Miami's first president, Robert Hamilton Bishop and his wife, Anne (Ireland), both natives of Scotland. Originally built as a one-story house by their eldest son in 1834, it was later the home of a younger son, Robert H. Bishop, Jr., professor of Latin, and his wife, Eliza (Lyons), who enlarged the residence with a second story to accommodate their large family. Just prior to the Civil War, the household included Mary Henry, a 17-year-old African-American servant. The frame dwelling with Gothic trim remained in the Bishop family until 1929 when it was acquired by Miami for eventual use as office space by the School of Fine Arts. In its last years, it was used by the University's Department of Music before being razed in 1960.

#### **THE OXFORD CHRONICLE**

*Is published every Saturday by W. W. Bishop and Printed by Andrew Noble.*

*Oxford Chronicle*, March 22, 1834



#### **4 322 East High Street**

A landscaped lot today was once the site of the *Kennedy House*, which was probably constructed by 1839. By 1850, the two-story, frame dwelling was occupied by civil engineer William Kennedy and his Scottish-born wife Lallias (Brough), who resided here for three decades. Living with the Kennedy family before the Civil War was a teenaged African-American servant named Mary Clay. The house was later occupied by a harness maker, and in the early years of the twentieth century by a minister and his family and then by a divorcee and her children. It was used as a lodging house during and after World War I before becoming a single-family home again where professors in the fields of education, music, English, and geography resided for most of the next fifty years. It was purchased by Miami about a decade before it was destroyed by arson in 1978.

**William Kennedy, who built the Colerain and other pikes near Oxford, was another of those heroic volunteers. He spared not himself, but although at times needing rest, never refused to suffer for others. We love to speak of the spirit of '61, but the spirit of '49 was not one whit behind.**

*Oxford News*, January 22, 1897



## 5 310 East High Street

**Lewis Place** was built in 1839 by Romeo and Jane (North) Lewis. The painted brick house, with Greek Revival elements, included features common in the South because Romeo had lived in Florida. Jane, a native of Connecticut, is said to have operated an Underground Railroad stop in the home after her husband's death in 1843. So often did she take in relatives who were invalids, widows, and orphans, that her home was sometimes called "Saint's Rest." For a period after the Civil War the household also included Irish and African-American live-in servants. Lewis heirs leased the property to Miami in 1903 and sold it to Miami in 1929. Guy Benton was the first Miami president to live in the home that has since been the official residence of University presidents for over a century. Later additions, including the largest in 2007, altered the symmetry of the north façade, which can be viewed across the back lawn from Church Street.

DIED.—In Oxford, July 11, 1888. Mrs. Jane F. Lewis, age 80 years.

Mrs. Lewis was in Flemington, Conn., July 10, 1808. She lived a noble life and her memory will be revered by our people. One need not dwell upon her character. It was a white and clearly written page. "Her career earned its respect and her death demands its sorrow. Upon her tombstone can be written: 'This was a woman!'"

Rev. J. N. Nesbitt and Dr. H. S. Osborn conducted appropriate services at the house Friday morning. Interment in the Oxford Cemetery.

*Oxford Citizen*, July 19, 1888



## 6 300 East High Street

This one-and-a-half-story residence was built about 1836 by Jane (Ridgely) and William Graham, a Presbyterian minister. When it was later owned by James Moffat, the widowed professor shared his house for a brief time with the Scott family, whose daughter would marry a U.S. President. From the 1850s to the 1920s the frame house belonged to members of the Rogers family, beginning with Julia (Riley) and William Rogers, a Presbyterian minister who had served as a missionary in India. Their daughter ran a school for local children in a front room, and at different times, the household included either Irish or African-American servants. Historically known as the *Rogers House*, it was acquired by Miami alumnus John Simpson in 1930 and given to the University to house visitors. Among the guests who stayed in the home were Eleanor Roosevelt, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Bob Hope. Called the "Simpson Guest House" for more than seventy years, it was renamed "Simpson-Shade Guest House" in 2004 when alumnus David Shade gave money for interior renovations.

The Monday Club will meet with Miss Julia Rodgers on Monday, March 6th, at No. 300 East High st., in Oxford.

*Oxford Herald*, March 3, 1911





## 7 15 University Avenue

Built in 1950 for Mary (Rude) and John Molyneaux, a retired dentist, the *Molyneaux-Fey House* was designed as a modified Cape Cod in the Colonial Revival style by architect Charles Cellarius of Cincinnati. Cellarius was also responsible for the design of over 30 buildings on the Miami campus between 1939 and 1970. By 1965, the white-washed brick house had become the home of the family of insurance agent Ralph and Bonnie (Curpen) Fey, and in 2003, the property was acquired by Miami University.



## 8 10 University Avenue

The *Richey House* was built in 1941 for Jean (Wasmer) and Sheffield Richey, a Miami law professor. Designed by Cincinnati architect Charles Cellarius, the one-and-a-half-story brick, Cape Cod residence included Colonial Revival features for which Cellarius was known. The Richeys sold the property in 1989, and within a decade, it was purchased by Beta Theta Pi fraternity.



## 9 220 East High Street

Beginning in the mid-1840s as a frame dwelling, the **Lottie Moon House** was the home of the Moon family who lived here from the 1840s until the middle 1850s. Natives of Virginia, Cynthia (Sullivan) and Robert Moon, a physician, were the parents of several children who aided the Confederacy during the Civil War. One was daughter Charlotte, nicknamed Lottie, who served as a spy. Later renovations included a brick addition to the front that included Italianate features. Before and during the Civil War, Miami's fifth president John and Catherine (Thornton) Hall lived in the home with their daughter and a servant from Ireland. Beginning with its purchase in the 1870s by druggist Sutton and Lorella (Lusk) Richey, the property was in the Richey family until their sons gave it to Miami in 1988. (Sutton Richey had served as Miami treasurer from 1869 to 1900.) In recent years, it has been used as housing for university administrators.

**“Miss Richey, of Oxford, was universally admired in white bengaline, the decolette bodice of pale blue being partially veiled in dainty lace, and finished at the belt line with embroidered passementerie.”**

*Oxford News*, December 3, 1897  
quoting the *Cincinnati Commercial*



## 10 216 East High Street

This vacant lot was once the site of a stucco-on-wood-frame dwelling that was built in 1911 after an earlier house was removed. Named for its first owner, the ***Daisy McCullough Bungalow*** featured four large porch columns and a massive dormer, making it architecturally unique in Oxford. Its owner, who graduated from Oxford College for Women in 1885, was an Oxford socialite whose tour of Europe was interrupted by the outbreak of World War I. After serving briefly as a nurse in Belgium, she returned home where, as a single woman and member of one of Oxford's leading families, she promoted worthy causes. With her sister, Elizabeth (McCullough) Heath, she left money for the construction of the local hospital. By 1949 the home was purchased by Frances (Smith) and Clyde Stafford, a physician, in whose family the property remained for almost half a century. In very poor condition, it was acquired by Miami University in 2007 and razed in 2008.

### Miss Daisy McCullough Here

Miss Daisy McCullough arrived home Monday from New York where she landed Sunday from Europe, where she had been for several months. Miss McCullough was in Brussels when war declared.



## 11 208 East High Street

While its early history is not certain, this Federal-style brick house was probably built by members of the DeWitt family two decades before the Civil War. Early residents were possibly the families of a broom-maker, a physician, and a minister. Used by Phi Delta Theta fraternity as its general headquarters from the late 1920s to the early 1940s, it became known as the **Powell House** during World War II when it was occupied by Mae (Chapin) and Elmer Powell, a retired professor of philosophy and former Oxford mayor. By mid-twentieth century, the property was acquired by Beta Theta Pi fraternity, the formerly painted exterior bricks were exposed, and the house was used as an administrative office until 1995, when the fraternity built a new national headquarters northeast of town. Today the building houses the *Alpha Chapter of Beta Theta Pi Archives and Museum*.

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RICHARD BUTLER,  
 Agent for Oxford.

H. A. BODMAN, M. D., Medical Examiner. {138

*Oxford Citizen*, September 15, 1866



## 12 200 East High Street

An early owner of the 1830s *Coulson-Kumler House* was Robert Moon whose family moved three houses down the street in the 1840s. In the 1850s retired physician David and Mary (Wade) Oliver bought the property and added Greek Revival elements when they enlarged the home. They were followed by the widow Sarah (LeFevre) Coulson and her daughters, who lived here for over twenty years. After serving briefly as the chapter house for Beta Theta Pi fraternity in the 1890s, the home was bought by farmer Theophilus and Laura (Magie) Kumler. (From time to time the households of both the Olivers and Kumlers included a live-in servant.) The next owners were the Betas, who removed the exterior paint, built a large rear addition, and changed the front porch. Since the 1920s, the Betas have used the substantial dwelling as their chapter house.

The Beta Theta Pi fraternity here have moved from their hall over the Oxford Bank to the Coulson property which they will transform into a chapter house.

*Oxford News*, September 18, 1896



### 13 130 East High Street

The *Smith-Munns House* was built in the late 1820s by Captain John Smith, replacing a log cabin on the site. In the early 1840s, the painted brick dwelling was bought by a professor of mathematics, who sold the property to Miami University in 1845. Miami's third president, bachelor Erasmus McMaster, and fourth president, William Anderson, with his family and several Miami students, resided here during their terms in office. By the late 1850s, the property was purchased by a widowed Cincinnati physician, Alexander Guy. After his sons were grown, he and his second wife employed a live-in servant, Susan Anderson, an African American from Virginia. The home was next sold to another doctor with a family, Horace Logee, who in the 1880s sold the residence and practice to a third physician. This was Charles Munns, who with his wife Cornelia (Bogart), their children, her mother, and a live-in cook, shared the spacious home for a number of years. After his death in the 1950s, the property became the home of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. Nicknamed the "Fiji House," its exterior paint was removed to match the buildings on adjacent corners, and additions were constructed to the north and west. A fire, believed to be arson, almost destroyed the house in 2013.

**H. M. LOGEE,**  
**Homeopathic Physician and Surgeon.**

Calls in town and country promptly attended to.  
Office and residence on High street, Oxford, Ohio.

*Oxford Citizen*, June 10, 1875



## 14 2 South Campus Avenue

The house that was the birthplace of a U.S. First Lady stood on this corner for over a century. A solid, two-story, painted brick residence, the **Scott House** was built in 1831 by Miami professor John and Mary (Neal) Scott, and it was here that their daughter Caroline Lavinia was born on October 1, 1832. She would grow up to marry Benjamin Harrison, Miami Class of 1852, and later the 23rd U.S. President. After the Scotts moved to Cincinnati in 1845, the house was occupied by the families of a merchant in the 1850s, a doctor in the 1860s, and a banker from the 1870s to the early 1900s. The Federal-style dwelling with a Colonial Revival porch housed students when it was part of the Miami cottage system in the mid-1920s, and it was the site of "Scott Manor" restaurant in the later 1920s and 1930s. The final owner was Phi Delta Theta fraternity, which in 1945 razed the house in order to construct a new national headquarters designed to look like the Governor's Palace in Williamsburg Virginia.

### **Dissolution of Partnership.**

Notice is hereby given, that the partnership which has heretofore existed under the firm name of Goodrich & Smith, has this day been dissolved by mutual consent. Parties indebted to us are notified that all accounts must be settled forthwith, by cash or note.

C. G. GOODRICH,  
S. W. SMITH.



### **15 10 South Campus Avenue**

The addition to a fraternity headquarters now covers the site where the *Woods House* once stood. Built by the early 1830s in the Federal style, this painted brick residence was the home of the family of Abigail (Glines) and Samuel Woods, a physician. After his death, the house was occupied by the family of David Christy, a prolific publisher, amateur geologist, and advocate of sending freed slaves back to Africa. Later residents included families of a stage coach agent, a widowed boarding house manager, and a university professor. In 1903, it became the home of Anna (Stempel) and Jesse Blickensderfer, a former Moravian minister and women's college president, who was the bookkeeper for a Hamilton meatpacking company when he lived in Oxford. The Blickensderfers' son sold the property to Phi Delta Theta fraternity, and the house was razed in 1945.

**Silas Wood of Des Moines, Iowa has been spending several days here. Mr. Wood was born here in the year 1836 in the house now owned by Mr. Blickensderfer.**

*Oxford Herald*, March 29, 1912



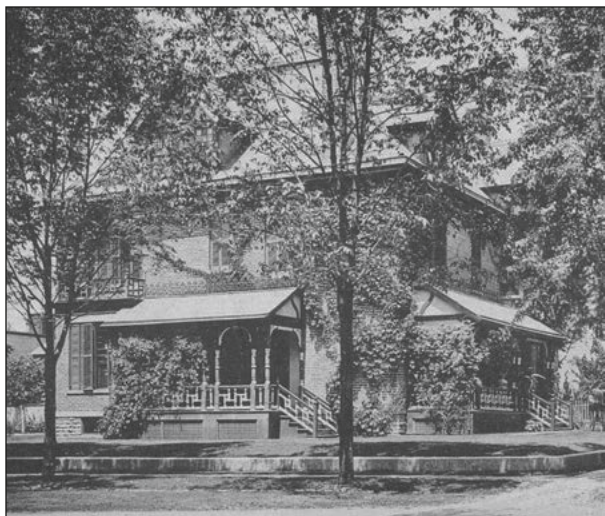


## 16 16 South Campus Avenue

Known as ***Old Stoddy's***, this Federal-style, painted brick house was built in the early 1830s and referred to by the nickname of Professor Orange Nash Stoddard. Stoddard and his wife, Eliza (Wheeler), lived here with their children from 1851 to 1870 while he taught chemistry at Miami and served as the University's president *pro tempore* in 1854. An earlier resident was Caroline Neal, a teacher at the Oxford Female Institute, located four blocks to the west. From the late 1800s to the early 1900s, it was the home of a farmer and his family, and they were followed by the proprietor of an uptown car dealership. Beginning in 1941, the building was used for various campus ministries including Westminster Foundation, United Campus Ministry, and later the Campus Ministry Center. During the 1970s and early '80s, the local crisis counseling service called "Together," also operated from here. The large rear addition was constructed in 1975.

Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Barbour,  
Miss Winona Barbour  
At Home,  
Thursday evening, December Ninetnenth,  
Eight o'clock.

*Oxford News*, December 21, 1889



## 17 22 South Campus Avenue

The *Adams-Munns House* was constructed in the mid-1880s to replace an earlier dwelling on the site. It was built of brick in the East-lake style for the family of dry goods merchant George and Sarah (Sadler) Adams, but he died only a few years after construction was completed. Their three daughters were married in the home, and the youngest, Emeline, married Thomas L. Munns, a traveling salesman of art furnishings. They moved in with her widowed mother, and the house remained the Munns family home until being sold to Alpha Delta Phi fraternity in 1954. The fraternity made interior alterations and constructed a large addition to the rear in the late twentieth century.

### MUNNS-ADAMS.

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A beautiful home wedding was the celebration of the nuptials of Miss Emeline Adams of Oxford and Mr. Thomas La Mont Munns of Cleveland, Ohio, at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. Sarah R. Adams, opposite Miami University, Thursday evening, Sept. 26.

The ceremony was performed at 7 o'clock, by Rev. E. H. Cberington of the Methodist Episcopal church, under a bower of asparagrass in the east bay-window.

*Oxford News*, October 4, 1895



## 18 100 South Campus Avenue

This vernacular style house with a Colonial Revival porch is believed to have been built as a much smaller dwelling as early as 1817. It may have been the home of one doctor before it was purchased by another in 1825. That year, Dr. James R. and Phebe (Newton) Hughs bought the house, which he enlarged after her death in order for his second wife Mary (Brace), to operate it as a boarding house. After Dr. Hughs died of cholera, his widow continued to run what became known as *Mrs. Hughs' Boarding House* until her death almost 50 years later. Sharing her home were Irish and African-American servants, who helped with all the meals that were prepared and served to many Miami students, including Benjamin Harrison and David Swing. Next were tenants Esther and Sarah Levy, who lived here with their older sister and widowed mother (a native of Germany), while teaching young women at nearby Oxford College. (The two older sisters were born in England.) By the end of the century, Miami University librarian and former Presbyterian minister, William and Huldah (Taylor) McSurely, bought the property where they lived with their children and later grandchildren for many years after his retirement. Their daughter, Ella, was one of the first women admitted to Miami, and she remained in the family home until the 1940s. It was the office of a dentist in the 1960s and '70s and of a realtor in the 1970s and '80s. By the end of the twentieth century, it was rented to college students.



### **19** 110 South Campus Avenue

Known as *David Swing House No. 3*, this brick residence with Italianate elements, was built in 1862. It was the home of the growing family of Elizabeth (Porter) and David Swing, a Miami graduate who returned to Oxford to teach at Miami after studying theology in Cincinnati. After the Swings moved to Chicago in 1866, where Swing became a nationally known minister, subsequent occupants included another minister's family with a live-in African-American servant in the 1870s, and a retired farmer and wife (both from Ireland) in the 1880s, whose daughters inherited and occupied the home until 1910. For almost a decade it was a fraternity house before being purchased by geology professor William and Katherine (Hoffman) Shideler, who lived here until the late 1950s. In the 1960s Acacia fraternity acquired the property and enlarged the house with a two-story addition to the rear and later removed the paint from the front facade.

Reverend David Swing  
desires your presence  
at the marriage of his daughter  
Helen  
to  
Mr. Mason Brayman Starring  
on Wednesday evening, October twenty-seventh,  
eighteen hundred and eighty-six,  
at eight o'clock.  
New England Church,  
Chicago.



## 20 112 South Campus Avenue

The painted brick *David Swing House No. 2* was built in the Italianate style in 1857 for Miami professor David Swing and his wife. The Swings entertained New England writer Ralph Waldo Emerson in their house when Emerson spoke at Miami's commencement in 1860. By the early 1860s, the Swings moved next door and sold this house to Mary (Keller) and Eben Brooks, the former headmaster of a Cincinnati boys' school. In addition to an African-American servant, their household included two daughters, one of whom wrote for national publications. By 1905 Mary (Beard) and William Clark, a retired farmer and realtor, were in residence and often had a single, female, Miami instructor lodging with them. (The Clarks added a front porch that was later removed.) For several decades the house was occupied by short-term tenants until Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity acquired the property in the mid-1960s. They removed the paint from the bricks and built a large addition to the rear.



## 21 122 South Campus Avenue

The *Bishop-Hinkle House* of yellow brick was completed about 1911 for Virginia (Patterson) and George Bishop, a grandson of Miami's first president. (In order for the Bishops to build on this lot, Virginia's brother razed Joel Collins' home, which was one of the first brick houses built in Oxford.) Within a few years, George died, and his widow remained in the large Colonial Revival style house with her daughter, sister, and a nurse until she died in 1923. For about a decade the residence served as a fraternity house before becoming the home of the family of radio entertainer Elmer and Eva (DeMand) Hinkle from the late 1930s until the 1970s. By the 1980s it had been acquired by Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, which constructed a large addition at the rear.

# OLD LANDMARK

—

First Brick House In Oxford Razed Recently.

*Oxford Herald*, September 24, 1909



## 22 200 South Campus Avenue

Although there might have been an earlier log home on the site, it was in this new but modest frame *David Swing House No. 1* that the Swings began married life in 1854 on property owned by her father. Within the next decade they built and moved into two grander homes farther up the street. Residents who succeeded the Swings included the families of a long line of Methodist ministers when the dwelling served as the church parsonage for over three decades. In the early years of the twentieth century, fraternities used the house until it became the home of a furniture salesman and his young daughters. During the Depression, the house was rented by a stenographer who lived with her mother and an English teacher who lodged with them and then by the proprietor of a dry cleaning establishment. In the 1940s and '50s university professors were in residence, and from the 1960s to '80s, a widow, Marguerite (Minnich) Keene, lived here while serving as the housemother for a nearby fraternity. More recently it has been rented to college students.



### 23 206 South Campus Avenue

A late 1960s fraternity house now occupies the site where once stood a two-story, frame Colonial Revival residence with Shingle style elements. Built in the early 1900s, the ***Minnich House*** was the home of Professor Harvey and Bertha (Minnich) Minnich, whose household included his mother and later their married daughter and granddaughter. Minnich organized and served as an early dean of Miami's School of Education, located in McGuffey Hall across the street. Several famous guests who stayed in the Minnich home were Jack London, Henry Ford, and Robert Peary. Briefly during the 1920s the dwelling was known as "Campus View Cottage" when the Minnichs shared their home with women students as part of Miami's extended housing system. Minnich's widow and widowed daughter, employed as a hospital office worker, resided in the home until the late 1950s. Members of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity used the residence as their chapter house from 1960 until razing it in 1968.





## 24 **210 South Campus Avenue**

Constructed of brick in 1930, this American Foursquare was built by shoe store owner Dwight and Ann (Rose) Sloane. He was a veteran of World War I who returned to Oxford to take over the family business after his father's death; his wife taught high school before their marriage. Their household included two children, usually one or two university instructors who lodged with them, and his mother, who was actively involved in the operation of Sloane's Shoe Store on East High Street. Sloane was elected village treasurer in the 1920s and '30s, and his wife served as clerk-treasurer of the Oxford school board until the 1950s. The *Sloane House* remained the family home until the 1970s. It was later sold and converted to rental property.

**NOW** is the time to buy shoes

**OXFORD** is the cheapest place to buy them,

and

**SLOANE'S SHOE STORE**

handles the best line of shoes that can be  
found in Oxford

*Miami Summer Student, 1919*



## 25 214 South Campus Avenue

The construction date of the **Conover House** has not been determined. The frame residence might have been built by the mid-1800s and extensively remodeled in the early 1900s, or this American Foursquare with attached single car garage could have been built new circa 1925 to replace an earlier house. The property was owned by the Conover family from at least the 1880s until the 1920s. By 1930 the first dean of Miami's School of Business and his family were tenants, and they were followed by additional faculty renters (who taught English, philosophy, accounting, secretarial studies, and teacher education) for many more decades before the house was converted to student rental property.

### WARRENS MOVE

Dr. and Mrs. William D. Warren moved last week to their new home in Silvoor Lane. They left Monday for a vacation in Minnesota. Mrs. Nellie Slater will move into the residence at 214 Campus avenue which the Warrens vacated.

*Oxford Press, July 19, 1951*



## **26** 131 East Spring Street

The *Roots-Baer Home* began as a log house and was relatively new in 1824 when Alanson and Sylvia (Yale) Roots came with their young children from New England to operate a woolen mill on the site. Frame siding and a two-story inset porch on the east side were among later additions to what is believed to be one of the oldest houses in Oxford. The Roots sons, who later patented several inventions, moved much of the business to Connersville, Indiana, before a fire destroyed the Oxford mill in 1876. After a few decades of neglect, the frame house was purchased in 1902 by Henrietta (McGregor) and Michael Baer, a Presbyterian minister. In 1915 their son Paul started the White Cross Dairy on the property and is credited with introducing pasteurized milk to Oxford. In the early 1920s the residence was part of Miami's cottage system when the Baers shared their home with women students. By the 1940s, Paul Baer's family was in residence, and today the property is owned by the third and fourth generation of Baers.



## 27 201 East Spring Street

A late 1960s building now covers the site where once stood the *Mitchell-Bevier House*. The residence was built after the Civil War by Deborah (Cross) and Henry Whitworth, a native of England, who came to operate the Roots' woolen mill. After the Oxford mill burned, Whitworth supported his family by selling sewing machines, real estate, and insurance. Their widowed daughter, Sarah (Whitworth) Mitchell, and her children lived in the frame dwelling for a number of years before the family sold the property to Miami University in 1920. It was subsequently remodeled and called "The Home Economics Cottage" and then "The Home Management House." There students took turns living and practicing running a home under the supervision of a professor or housekeeper. In 1959, it was officially named "Bevier Cottage" to honor a president of the American Home Economics Association who had taught a summer term at Miami. By 1964, Miami was using it for other purposes and razed it in 1967 to make way for construction of a new laboratory school.



## **28** 215 East Spring Street

The western portion of Hanna House now occupies the site where the *Huston House* stood for over half a century. Constructed in 1905, it was built by Clara (Stout) Huston, the widow of dairy farmer David Huston. She and their grown children lived in the two-story frame residence until it was sold to Miami University in 1947. It was next used as a dormitory for women students until the site was cleared in order to build a new home management house. The building was sold in 1963, and the buyer moved it several miles west of Oxford to property on Fairfield Road.

### **POST OFFICE**

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Postmaster—**PHILIP D SHERA.**

Assist Postmaster—**JOHN C. CALDWELL.**

Clerks—**W. G. CRAIG, RALPH HUSTON, WILLIAM CLARK.**

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### 29 221 East Spring Street

The eastern portion of Hanna House is now located on what was once the site of the *Lutheran Parsonage*, a dwelling that was built about 1896. St. Matthew Church in Darrtown was the nearest Lutheran Church at the time, and by 1905, its parsonage location had been chosen in order to serve Miami students. After almost two decades as the home of Lutheran ministers' families, the two-story frame residence was rented by a history professor for about ten years. After Miami acquired the property, the house was removed.

Services are held in the St. Matthew Church on alternate Sundays, and a union Sunday School is operated jointly with the Darrtown Methodist Church.

*Oxford Press*, June 24, 1954



### **30 301 East Spring Street**

***Wells Hall*** was built in 1923 on the site of two former residential units (New Cottage and South Cottage) that had been used by Miami as temporary women's housing for about a dozen years. The money to purchase the property came from the estate of William B. Wells, a successful St. Louis businessman who had lived in Oxford as a child. The red brick, multi-story dormitory was designed by Columbus architect Frank Packard in an Eclectic Mediterranean-Georgian Revival style. It has served as a women's residence hall for over eighty years, but due to changes in student preferences, the kitchen and dining hall on the lower level were closed in the early 2000s, and that space was converted to use as the University's mailroom.

Although he had been successful in business, he took life comparatively easy and found time for reading and recreation.

Obituary of William B. Wells, 1911



### **31 321 East Spring Street**

The earliest residents of this two-story frame house, built in 1910, were Presbyterian minister Charles and Meda (Mills) Herald. They were natives of Scotland and Canada respectively, and their household included a daughter, son-in-law, and grandchild. Within a few years, their home was briefly part of Miami's cottage system, which meant that they had several students lodging with them. In 1927 Miami leased the entire dwelling to house a dozen students and the assistant dean of women, and the dwelling was then called "Herald House." After being used by Miami for music studios, the house was sold by the Heralds in 1934. New owners were Mae (Drake) and Fred Joyner, a professor of history who held the distinction of living in the last private residence completely surrounded by the campus. Known as *Joyner House* even before it was sold to Miami in 1967, it was subsequently used as office space for Student Financial Aid, Public Information, Continuing Education, School of Fine Arts, and Information Technology Services.





### **32** 351 East Spring Street

***Bonham House*** was built in the Italianate style in 1868 for Anna (Stone) and Robert Stanton, who was the President of Miami University at the time. The two-story dwelling was large enough to accommodate a family of three, plus a widowed mother-in-law, widowed sister-in-law, and two young, live-in, African-American male servants. The “magnificent dwelling,” as it was described, was sold in 1871, a year after women’s rights advocate Elizabeth Cady Stanton stayed here with her brother-in-law’s family while on a lecture tour. The spacious residence was next rented to the family of millinery merchant William and Jennie (Sharp) Thayer, whose daughters’ educational achievements were notable for women of their time. When the University reopened in 1885 after being closed for 12 years, new owners took up residence. They were Mary (Smart) and Robert McFarland, professor of mathematics, who was also the University’s president. The “President’s Mansion” as it was called, was later left to the McFarlands’ daughter Frances, who moved back to Oxford with her husband, Llewellyn Bonham, a retired engineer with several patents to his credit. In 1942, fire damage forced the Bonhams to move, and the property was transferred to Miami University. It subsequently served as the location of the Speech and Hearing Clinic, the Office of Public Safety, and the Graduate School office. From 2005-2008, it housed an Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Poland because the Dean of the School of Engineering, who was the Honorary Consul, had temporary office space in the building. The handsome red bricks and the sandstone trim were never painted.



### **33 401 East Spring Street**

Constructed ca. 1832-33 for Miami professor William and Harriet (Spining) McGuffey, the brick residence (originally painted) was built in the Federal vernacular style. It was here that McGuffey compiled the first of his series of books known to generations as the *McGuffey Readers*. After the McGuffey family moved from Oxford in 1836, the property was rented for almost two decades. During the years after the Civil War, it was the home of Joseph and Catherine (Moorhead) McCord and by 1925 had become the home of Dorothy (Thompson) and Wallace Roudebush, who served as Miami's business manager until his death in 1956. Within a few years Miami purchased the *McGuffey House*, opened it as a museum, and it was soon designated a National Historic Landmark. An historically appropriate renovation was completed in 2002 with the exception of replacing the exterior paint that was removed in 1985.

To return to the starting point, walk north from the last site and follow Irvin Drive past the oldest remaining buildings constructed by Miami University--Stoddard Hall, built in the 1830s and Elliott Hall, built in the 1820s. Both of these dormitories are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.