

MAP OF THE
SCHENLEY FARMS COMPANY PROPERTIES
SITUATE IN
13TH AND 14TH WARDS, CITY OF PITTSBURG

Map from original builder's brochure courtesy of Carnegie Mellon Architecture Archives
(see centerfold for current guide map)



Schenley
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Table of Contents

About Preservation Pittsburgh	4
Credits & Tour Committee	5
How to Tour	6
About Schenley Farms	7
Tour Sites	8
Guide Map	(see centerfold)





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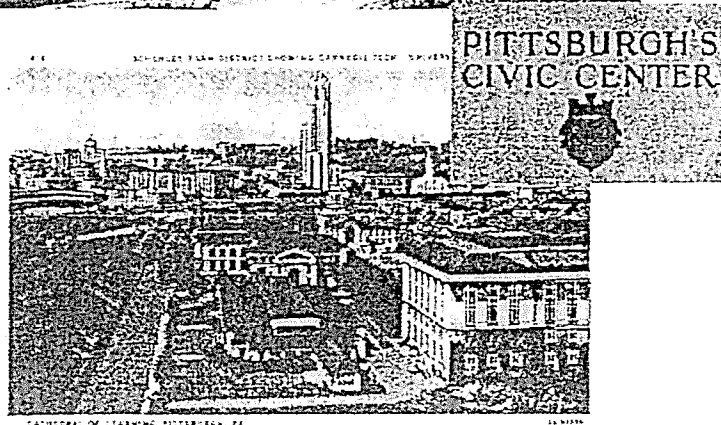
About Preservation Pittsburgh

Preservation Pittsburgh is a non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to preserving our region's historic, architectural, cultural and environmental heritage. We focus on the practical goal of championing significant buildings and districts by:

- Working with property owners to find viable uses for historic buildings.
- Intervening in court cases when appropriate.
- Advocating for reasonable policies to regulate the built environment and effective public agencies to implement them.

Our current priority is the preservation of downtown Pittsburgh's unique sense of place. Accordingly, we are working with other stakeholders in the Golden Triangle to avoid the homogenizing effects of contemporary commercial and transportation design.

If you care about being a good steward for buildings and landscapes, there is an important role for you as a member of Preservation Pittsburgh. Please join now and make a contribution to our efforts.



CATHEDRAL OF LEARNING, PITTSBURGH, PA.



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Tour Committee & Credits

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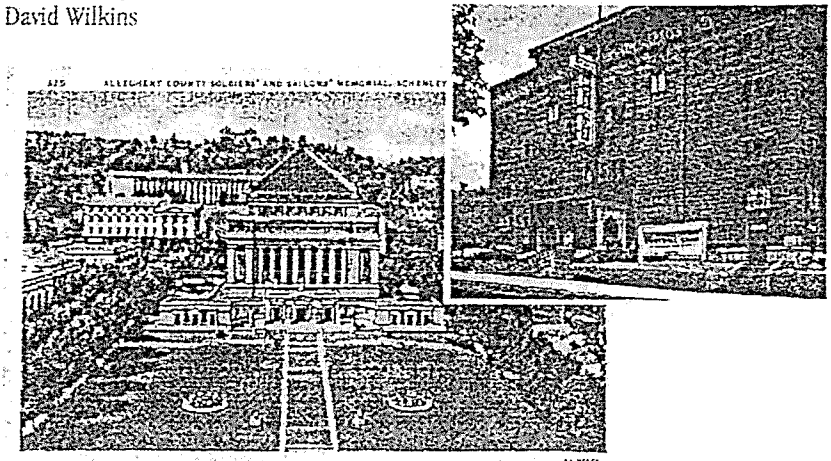
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**Special thanks to
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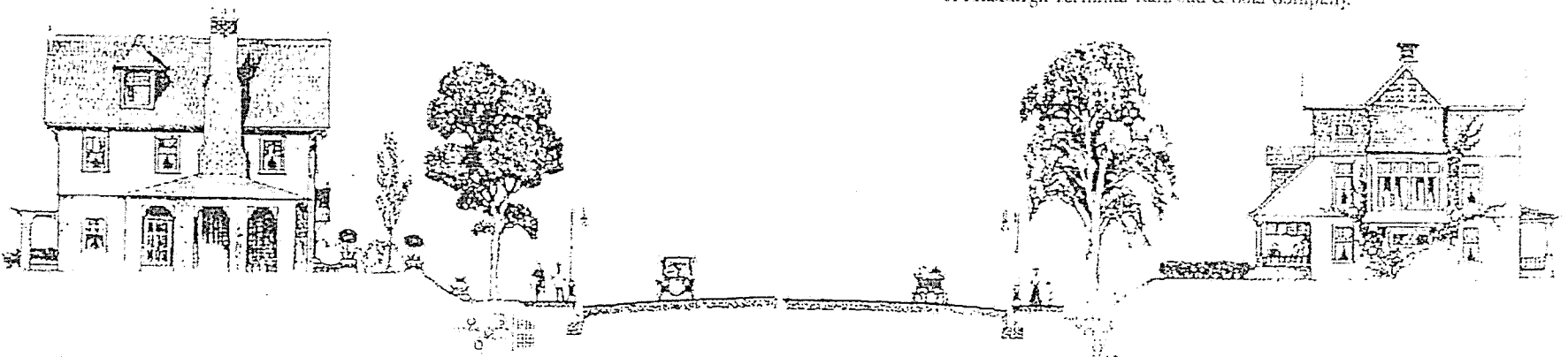
How to Tour

Welcome to historic Schenley Farms! This guide provides architectural and historic details and highlights of the homes and gardens on the tour. The tour is self-guided. The map provides a recommended route and the homes are listed in the guide by address as they appear on the map. On your walk you will see balloons that designate an Open House or Garden. This guide also provides information about other homes you will pass.

A Bathroom is available at 4040 Bigelow Boulevard.

Present your 'passport' at each Open House.
And *please*:

- No smoking
- No interior photographs
- No food or drink
- Respect people's property & furnishings
- Stay on paths and walks
- Children under 12 not permitted in homes



About Schenley Farms

Schenley Farms was developed in the years following the sale of the estate of Mary Schenley in 1905; her family had owned the land for over a hundred years. Real estate developer Franklin F. Nicola turned 170 acres of hilly cow pasture into a model neighborhood between 1905 and 1930 for "people of means." Through the Schenley Farms Company he envisioned an ideal neighborhood of quality homes near the growing Oakland Civic Center of museums, universities, clubs and churches. Schenley Farms boasted underground gas and electric utilities, six-foot wide sidewalks, asphalt streets, and ornamental streetlights (copied from New York City's elegant Fifth Avenue). In order to ensure the quality and safety of investment in these homes, original deeds contained a number of restrictions, such as fence and hedge heights. These restrictions were a model for other residential developments and for later zoning laws.

Schenley Farms Letters

Around 1914 the developer of Schenley Farms solicited testimonial letters from the new homeowners. These letters, along with photographs of the properties, were printed in a booklet. Most of the original owners were entrepreneurs, top management or financiers in the industries that define Pittsburgh even today, e.g., coal, steel, glass, railroads. One can understand Pittsburgh's former smoky gritty reputation from this homeowner's testimonial: "As to the relative amount of dirt found in the atmosphere at this location as compared with the Highland Park District where we formerly lived we think there is no material difference it is bad enough in both locations as in all others in Pittsburgh." W.W. Keefer, President of Pittsburgh Terminal Railroad & Coal Company.



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4211 Bigelow

Begin your tour...

1 4211 Bigelow Boulevard

This elegant Tudor Revival home, designed by architects Vydraugh and Wolfe, was built in 1911. The revival of medieval English half-timbered architecture in the late 1800s and early 1900s was closely related to the rise of the Arts and Crafts movement. Both looked to a simpler, more authentic past for remedies to the perceived vulgarity and inhumanity of industrial urban life. This house demonstrates the picturesque qualities of the Tudor Revival with its asymmetrical composition of porch, bay window and projecting gables on its Bigelow Avenue side.

The formal rooms of the house remain as they were built, with rich paneled walls, hardwood floors, butler's pantry, and even original bathroom fixtures. This home, like most in Schenley Farms, has a wide medieval-style entrance hall and staircase, as well as a narrow service stairway. After touring the house, exit through the kitchen to the garden.



Evergreens create a private haven with interesting elevations.

2 4215 Bigelow Boulevard



4215 Bigelow

This home was built around 1909 for Mr. and Mrs. Charles McFeely—grandparents of Fred Rogers of WQED-TV's "Mr. Roger's Neighborhood."

Like its 17th century English Jacobean models, this Tudor Revival house contains elements of both medieval design (the picturesque half-timbered gables with flaring rooflines) and Renaissance design (the classical pilasters and cornice which compose the sidelighted main entrance). The rounded bow window topped by the projecting triangular gable on the Tennyson Avenue side is a medieval detail characteristic of the American Queen Anne style, which was enormously popular in the years between 1876 and 1900.

The home has one of the largest lots in the development, beautifully landscaped by the current residents, Mary Lynn and John Majors. Johnny is the former head football coach for the Pitt Panthers.



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3 4405 Bayard Avenue

This palatial home was built in 1919, commissioned by the first owner, Harry J. Parker, a pioneer in the oil business. It was designed by Pittsburgh architect Louis Stevens, who was inspired by Villa Lante, a 16th century house designed for a Cardinal Gambera by the noted Italian architect Giacomo Vignola. This home mixes formal Renaissance details with the overall form of a Northern Italian rural villa. The smooth finished stone walls and classical surrounds on windows stand in contrast to the rough-finished stone entrance arch and quoins (at the corners of the house). The pantile (rounded tile) roof and rooftop belvedere are additional informal touches. 4405 Bayard has since been home to among others, a president of Joseph Horne Co. and faith healer Kathryn Kuhlmann.

Walk along the right side of the house to the formal garden behind. Please stay on paved areas.



4147 Bigelow Boulevard

This red-brick Georgian Revival style home was built in the early 1920s. Several details on the house are borrowed from the high style Georgian mansions of 18th century Philadelphia. Look for the flat arches over the windows with three oversize stone voisoirs and for the elliptically arched ceiling in the entrance porch. On the third floor of this home is the "boat room," showcasing a wall mural painted by the daughter of the original owner and restored by the current residents.

4 4136 Bigelow Boulevard

This brick house takes the general form of a hip roofed Italian villa, but much of its design is influenced by the Prairie Style of Frank Lloyd Wright and related Arts and Crafts-influenced movements. Designed in 1913, architects Kiehnel and Elliott used Prairie Style terra cotta ornament and leaded glass window designs in this house much as they did in their 1912 Central Turnverein building (now Pitt's Steel Conference Center). Notice the inglenook—the cozy alcove with built-in seating—in the living room and the stepped banister and paneling on the main stairs.



4136 Bigelow



4142 Bigelow Boulevard

This picturesque brick Tudor cottage is typical of a style which was most popular in this country in the 1920s. The house is said to be the work of Alden and Harlow. This home was built in 1928 for the owner of the Sea Breeze Corporation. Unfortunately, he never lived in the completed home, as he was financially devastated in the stock market crash of 1929.

4114 Bigelow Boulevard

This hip roofed brick home, formerly known as the Tabor Home, was designed by T.E. Bilquest. It is strongly influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement. In particular, the trellis cornice on the entrance and front bay window are details which frequently appeared in such influential Arts and Crafts publications as Gustavus Stickley's *Craftsman* magazine. The mock half-timbering on the second floor sleeping porch and the massive chimney are also characteristic Arts and Crafts style details.

The home has been owned since 1952 by Paul Teajen, a maritime engineer and former vice president of J&L Steel. The name plate of a retired freighter, named after Mr. Teajen, is proudly displayed over the garage. A few of Bilquest's original blueprints for the home are on display in the registration area.



Illustration from Schenley Farms Company sales brochures

5 4040 Bigelow Boulevard

This 1912 home was designed by architect Henry Hornbostel as the residence for the first president of the Carnegie Technical Institute (now Carnegie Mellon University), Arthur Hamerschlag. Hornbostel designed the original CMU campus and was first dean of its architecture school.

The triangular corner lot and the stone wall of the site influenced the design. The long hip roofed house turns the corner at an oblique angle. Rising from the hillside like an ancient stone wall, the high rubblestone first floor has stepped false arch window openings and a massive round arch doorway. As a piece of architectural irony, these rough openings reveal behind them smooth concrete arches which actually form the door and window openings.

The short second story is brick laid in an unusual stacked bond, in contrast both to customary staggered brick bonds and to the rugged stonework below. In another paradoxical detail, the lower sashes of the windows have four elongated lower lights, thus creating a sense of verticality in a house which is otherwise overwhelmingly horizontal.

From 1961 to 1995 the home was known as the Oratory, a rectory for priests who ministered to Pitt's Catholic students. The current sunroom was a chapel where many marriages, baptisms, and weekly services were held. An original candle chandelier and sconces were found in a crawl space and returned to the dining room. The present owners returned the Oratory into a single-family home in 1995.

A new perennial and herb garden is taking root between the existing variety of trees and shrubs. This is the only home where the terraced portions of the massive wall are exposed. The terraces were partially cleared by a prior priestly gardener and planted with phlox and sedum.



4040 Bigelow Boulevard





214 Tennyson Avenue

Hollywood came to Schenley Farms four years ago when the feature film, "The Cemetery Club" was staged inside this home. (The movie starred Olympia Dukakis, Ellen Burstyn, Danny Aiello, and Diane Ladd.) The expansive interior accommodated the need for wide camera angles.

The first floor and master bedroom were redecorated, including a layer of removable wallpaper. The film was shot around the clock, and daylight was created at night with the use of 30,000 watt bulbs. For three months the family lived in the set, and when production was done the home was returned to its prior decor.

6 219 Tennyson Avenue



219 Tennyson

This brick house with half-timbered front gables displays Jacobean Revival details which are typical of 17th century English originals, such as the brick parapet walls rising above the end gables and pierced at their peaks by massive chimneys. Note also the Gothic hood mold on the main entrance.

Interior features of this home, including crown molding, deep-set windows with hand blown glass, recessed radiators and window seats, are typical of the quality and amenities of Schenley Farms homes.



Landscaping highlights include pink dogwood, ornamental pear, plum, magnolia and mock orange trees, wisteria, and a fountain.

218 Tennyson Avenue

This three-story brick Tuscan villa was designed by T.E. Bilquest and built in 1911. The elaborate brickwork features much inset stone decoration. The symmetrical cube-like house is flanked by a smaller entrance block on the left and a porch on the right. Narrow horizontal windows under the eaves light the third floor. The hip roof is clad with panicles and displays rustic open rafter ends.

217 Tennyson Avenue

This is a house where childhood must have been magical. The McSwigan family owners of Kennywood, were original residents of the home. Mr. McSwigan conceived the idea of placing amusement rides at the end of the trolley line while he was working for a trolley company. He soon purchased the park which was on a



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wooded lot owned by Mr. Kenny. The rest of the story is roller coaster history. Another family member, Marie McSwigan, authored children's books, some set in the neighborhood.

Special View: As you reach the top of Lytton Avenue, note the gothic arch formed by the Sycamore trees.



7 260 Lytton Avenue

This garden includes plant species and forms suited to the sun and size limitations of an urban garden. Slow growing Weeping Alaskan Cedar, low spreading green-leaf Japanese Maple, and glossy leaved Hydrangea petiolaris climbing garage walls add color, foliage and form to each season. The trees and shrubs are complemented by a variety of perennials. A "Korean Spice" Viburnum and bayberry add fragrance to the front porch and the front bank.



8 254 Lytton Avenue

This house is one of several in Schenley Farms which is strongly influenced by the work of English Arts and Crafts style architects such as C.E.A. Voysey. Note especially the steep flared gable roof; the simple beam-like brackets which support the projecting front gable and oriel window (second story bay window); and the squat Doric columns on the front porch. The decorated urns on the porch parapets and steps are also characteristic of the Arts and Crafts style. The house was designed by Charles D. Cooley.



254 Lytton Avenue

The interior again demonstrates the use of quality of materials and workmanship typical of the Arts and Crafts style: stained and leaded glass, glazed tile, arches, pillars, and interior woodwork detail create character and warmth. As you pass through the center hall, be sure to appreciate the artistry of the stained and leaded glass window on the landing above. An original large butler's pantry is still useful today. Also, a remodeled kitchen with updated wood and glass cabinets complements the home's architectural style.

9 244 Lytton Avenue

This Tudor cottage has the steep asymmetrical eaves characteristic of the style. The house is distinguished by its corbelled chimneys and by its heavy timber lintels and brackets which support the gabled porch. The garden is a blend of formal and cottage garden styles intended to complement the architecture of the house. The conventional lawn and border landscaping were transformed, incorporating some of the original plantings.





New plants were brought back from the owner's travels in England, Ireland and Italy: Sienna, Urbino, Wisley, Great Dixter, Yarn and Munstead Heath. The overhead trellis on the porch was added for a canopy of wisteria and clematis.

The trellis structure adds to the feel of a private room and supports a 70-year-old climber rose transplanted from a grandfather's garden. The back garden pathways, patio, planters and wall are constructed of Pennsylvania bluestone. The garden bed against the house is a white "moonlight" garden. Shade tolerant perennials are planted in the eastern corner around the lilac and American redbud trees. Both front and rear gardens are in their second full growing season.

10 213 Lytton Avenue



213 Lytton Avenue

This hip roofed brick house is of a style recently dubbed American Foursquare: it is influenced in equal parts by the Colonial Revival and the Arts and Crafts movement. The open eaves with decorated rafter ends, horizontal soldier courses of brick which frame the second story windows, diamond-shaped window lights, and the large arches on the front porch fastened with butterfly-shaped tenons (wooden pegs) are all Arts and Crafts style details.

This is one of the first homes constructed by Nicola and it is noted in the original Schenley Farms sales brochure. Compare the floor plan and sketch of the home on display to the current interior. Prior owners of this house chose contemporary remodeling to open the space. The house was built in 1906 for E. P. Smitley, who was the vice president of Reymier & Brothers, makers of "Reymier's Blend." Blend is still made locally and the current manufacturers have provided us with this Pittsburgh specialty. Enjoy a taste of Blend at 4220 Centre Avenue.

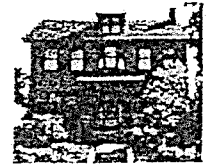
216 Lytton Avenue

This eight-room stone house was built in 1958 on one of the last undeveloped lots in Schenley Farms. The style is said to be French Normandy, built by Pittsburgh architect Maurice Parker. The original owner, James P. Kirk, was City of Pittsburgh Treasurer for 17 years in the 30s and 40s, and assumed the responsibilities of Mayor when needed. The current owner, the daughter of Mr. Kirk, has lived at 216 Lytton her entire life.



11 238 Parkman Avenue

This Colonial Revival house, designed by Frank G. Galati and built in 1927, displays the characteristic five bay (i.e., door and window openings) design typical of the symmetrical center entrance house which was widely built during the 1700s and early 1800s in this country. Unusual features are the central oriel window above the entrance, the decorative brickwork at the base of the walls, and the flat tile roof (a material more characteristically used in Tudor Revival architecture).



238 Parkman Avenue

The current owner is winding up a complete renovation of her kitchen, which includes the restoration of the original red fir floor. Guests are invited to tour the entire three floors. The owner says her gardening goals are to grow "what she loves" — with low upkeep. The outcome is an eclectic arrangement of trees rarely found in most gardens. Some of the trees in this self-styled garden are a Lacy Leafed Japanese maple, a tri-color beech, a Harry Lauder's Walking Stick, mahogany leafed smoke trees, and Weeping Larch and Cherry trees.



At the top of Parkman Avenue, looking south, you can see a grand plan of the Oakland Civic Center.



246 Parkman Avenue

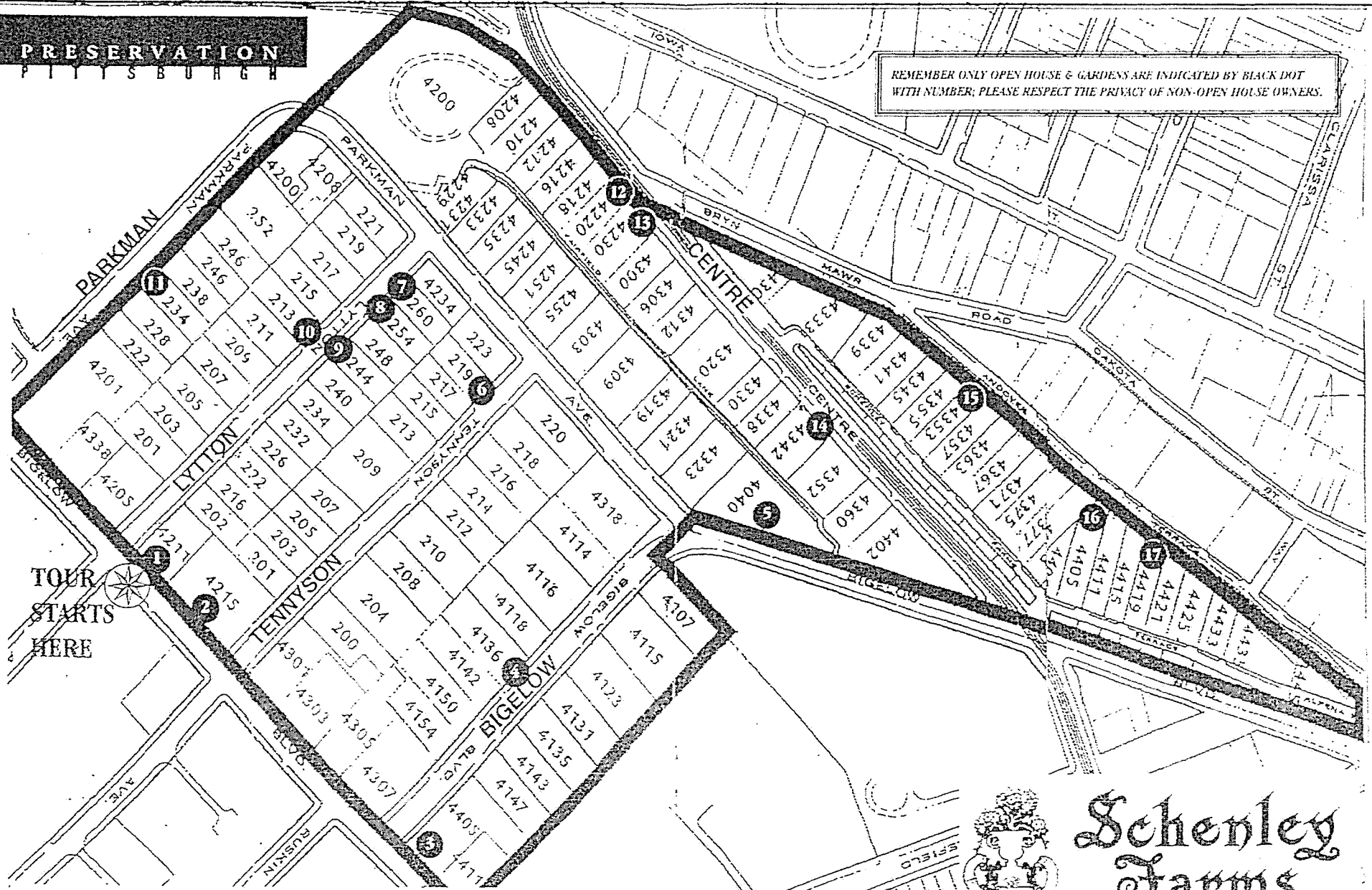
Sitting on one and a half lots, this 1950 ranch style home with nine skylights was designed by Pittsburgh architect Elmer B. Milligan. The home was originally built in the shape of an H, with the living room in the middle of the house and a plant room with a glass ceiling attached to the family and living rooms. The current owners have significantly remodeled parts of the home. Rumor has it that an early proprietor had an outdoor privacy screen built of redwood slats so that she might sunbathe au naturel.

4231 Parkman Avenue

Notice the design of the small glazed tiles (possibly the work of the Moravian Tile Works in Bucks County) in the vestibule surrounding the doorway of this Tudor style home. This attention to hand-crafted detail is one of the hallmarks of the Arts and Crafts movement. Note, you are invited to walk along the right side of the house to the rear. See how the house fits snugly into the wall behind, creating an intimate courtyard. In early spring unusually long branches of forsythia cascade down the hillside behind the house, creating a waterfall effect.

PRESERVATION
P I T T S B U R G H

REMEMBER ONLY OPEN HOUSE & GARDENS ARE INDICATED BY BLACK DOT WITH NUMBER; PLEASE RESPECT THE PRIVACY OF NON-OPEN HOUSE OWNERS.



TOUR
STARTS
HERE



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Schenley Farms: A City of Pittsburgh Historic District



About Schenley Farms Terrace

Schenley Farms Terrace was an adjunct development to the Schenley Farms project. Most of the homes were designed by architects Janssen and Abbott and built between 1910 to 1914. As with most of Pittsburgh there are deep coal mines below the neighborhood.

The homes were built to house the families of "lower" level business managers. Some of the first homeowners were women secretaries to the most influential executives in Pittsburgh. Bankers at that time, however, would not do business with a woman—particularly a single one. A single woman was told to "get married and send in your husband" if she wanted to buy a house. Some women paid with cash, others had male friends handle the transaction.

The homes on Schenley Farms Terrace were smaller than those in the lower development, yet had many of the same leading edge features. Interestingly, most of these state-of-the-art features were backed up with proven amenities. The homes were fully wired for electricity, yet had gas lights.

These, like most Schenley Farms homes, had live-in servants' quarters with a bell call system. Servants had their own entrance, usually on the side of the house.

The street was a particular danger to early automobiles. The brakes were marginal and cars were known to break free and roll down the street—only to wind up perched on the stone steps leading to Bigelow and Centre Avenues.

Earl LaFean, a third generation resident, said when his grandparents bought their first car they built the first garage in the neighborhood (until 1916 most owned a carriage and rented horses to travel, storing both at a local livery). Others soon followed. Another car problem was settled in the 50s when Miss Emily Reed extended her garage to fit her new Cadillac by blasting through the hillside.

Nearby Schenley High School was the most expensive public school in the United States when it was built in 1915. Because many of the rural communities around Pittsburgh offered only two years of high school, students came to Schenley by Pennsy Railroad, which had a station in Shadyside.



Former residents include Reverend Clausen, known for his Easter Sunday sunrise service from an airplane, and Burton Glenn, one of *Life* magazine's most famous photographers.

15 4355 Schenley Farms Terrace

A French Lop bunny presides over this whimsical garden. Steps, landings and terraces are filled with flowers, and inviting to birds and gardeners. Please walk carefully as you explore this unusual urban landscape.



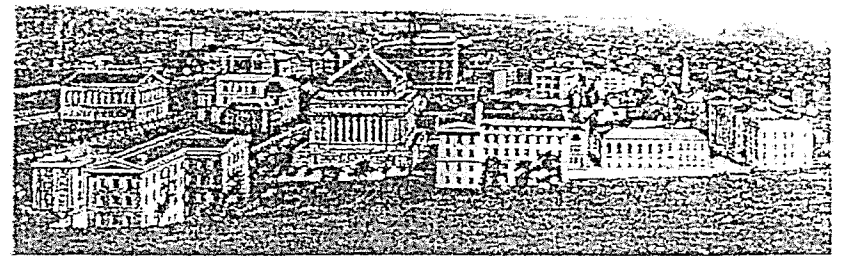
16 4405 Schenley Farms Terrace

This delightful semi-formal garden and patio features more than 30 roses, from miniatures to rare standards. A lovely goldfish pond circled by a boxwood hedge and blooming iris shares space with small potted trees and unusual architectural ornaments.



17 4419 Schenley Farms Terrace

This Georgian Revival home is influenced by English suburban architecture of the early 1900s. Striking features of this well-preserved home are the spacious center hallway and winding staircase leading from the first to third floor. Look to the right and up as you enter the kitchen and you'll find a servant's callbox. Take a walk up the stairs to the second floor study (once called the "Captain's Room"), a cozy study completely paneled in oak, including the ceiling. From the study a very impressive nine-paneled bay window looks onto the hillside and garden.





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GEOGRAPHICALLY, the Schenley Farms property lies in the centre of greater Pittsburgh. It is located on Fifth Avenue, Boquet Street, Centre Avenue, Bellefield Avenue and Forbes Street, immediately adjoining Schenley Park, and is reached in fourteen minutes by surface line from the downtown center of Pittsburgh, twelve minutes from East Liberty and the South Side, fourteen minutes from Wilkesburg, twenty minutes from Allegheny and Homestead.

