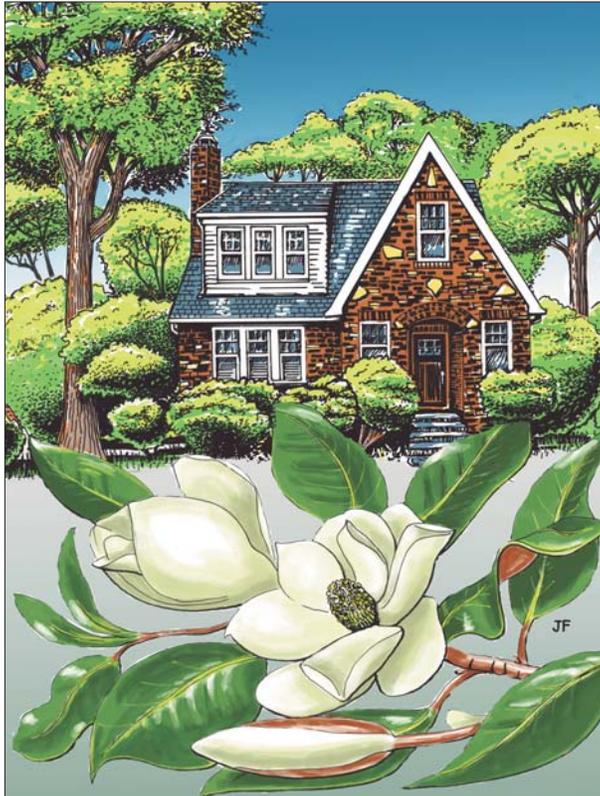


# University Park Walking Tour



## Two Self-Guided Routes

Short Route: 1.9 miles ~ 10 stops

Long Route: 3.8 miles ~ 17 stops

[www.upmd.org/walkingtour](http://www.upmd.org/walkingtour)



© University Park 2011



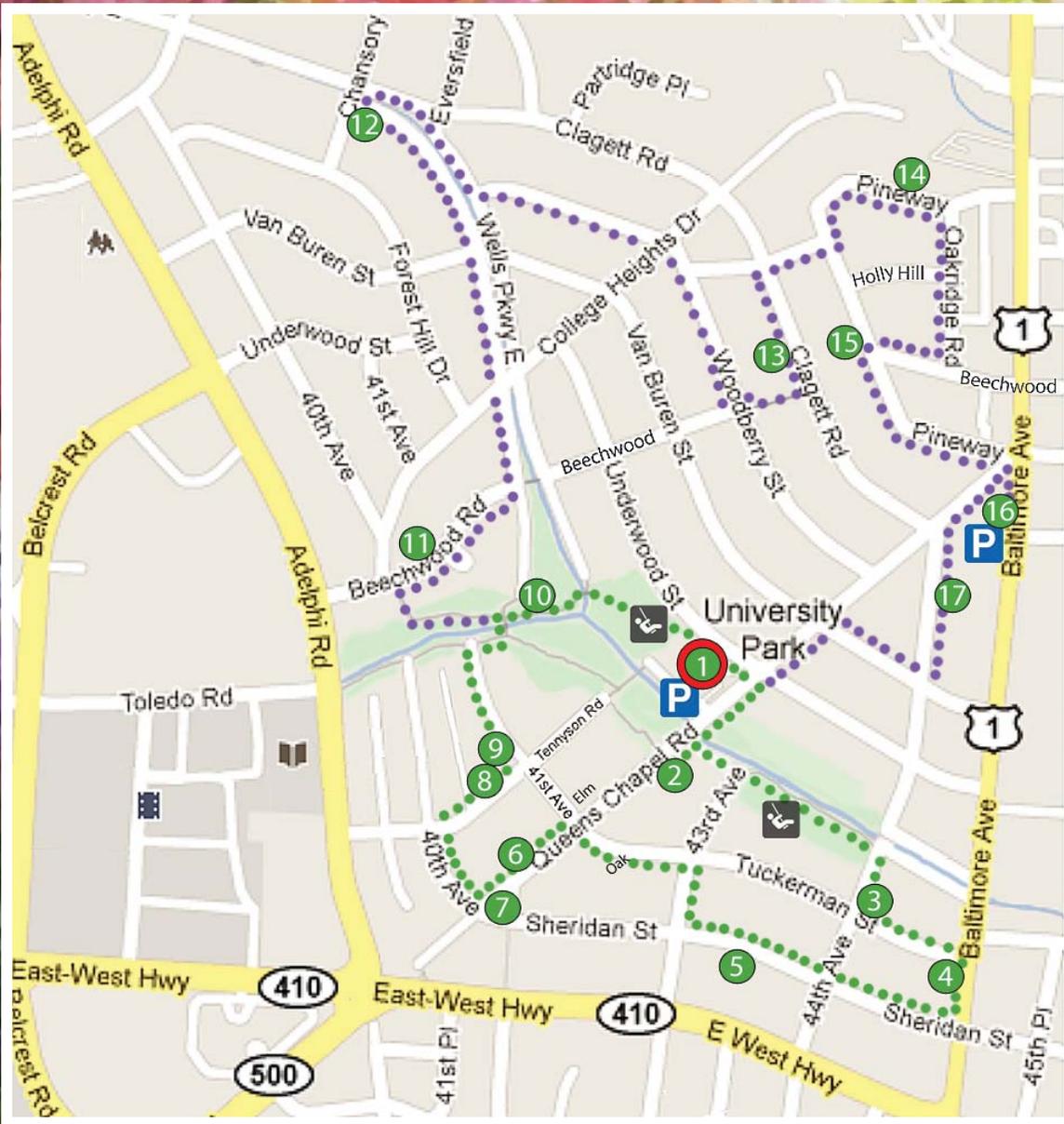
- Parking
- Start

Recommended Routes:

- Short ~10 stops  
1.9 miles - Flat
- Long ~17 stops  
3.8 miles - Hilly



Basemap © Google 2011



1. UP Elementary School
2. Word of God Baptist Church
3. 4400 Tuckerman ~ First UP school
4. University Park Church of the Brethren
5. 4307 Sheridan ~ Home of Gordon Prange
6. 6404 Queens Chapel Road ~ "Bloomfield"
7. Henson Green
8. 4012 Tennyson ~ First Home of Jim Henson
9. Deakins Family Cemetery

10. 9/11 Memorial (end of short route)
11. 4002 Beechwood ~ Second Home of Jim Henson
12. 6912 Wells Parkway ~ Home of Coach Wootten
13. 4311 Clagett Road ~ Home of Drs. Calcott
14. 6924 Pineway ~ Home of Louis Harlan
15. 6824 Pineway ~ Home of Gov. Glendening
16. 6724 Baltimore Ave. ~ Town Hall
17. 6707 44<sup>th</sup> Ave. ~ Home of James Cain

## About University Park

The Town of University Park is a small, picturesque community of 923 single-family homes situated along the Route 1 corridor of northwestern Prince George's County, MD. Only two miles east of the nation's capital, with easy access to the Capital Beltway and two Metro stations, University Park provides an attractive location for commuters. The words of a 1924 advertisement for the University Park Co. development ring true today, "...all the modern conveniences will be enjoyed in the perfect environment of gorgeous woodland, out of the whirl and bustle of Washington—and yet a scant thirty minutes from the city's center." As its name suggests, the University of Maryland bounds the town on the north. Incorporated in 1936, University Park provides a "small town" atmosphere with urban convenience and amenities. The Town has its own municipal government and provides police and sanitation services. A large wooded park, tennis courts, and playing fields are maintained by the Town. University Park Elementary School is a special point of pride for the residents.



All of University Park has been listed on the National Register of Historic Districts. The historic district is significant as a large and essentially intact example of an early twentieth century, middle class, automobile suburb. It is one of the first in Prince George's County designed specifically to accommodate automobiles as indicated by free-standing garages, usually placed toward the rear of the houses.

This walking tour guides you through the streets, by beautiful homes and along the meandering creek in the park. As you stroll along, you will be transported to a simpler time when people knew their neighbors and children walked to school. You will see varied architectural styles, including Colonial Revival and Craftsman Aesthetic. Some yards and gardens are formal, while others are nature sanctuaries. Take note of the large trees that create a true urban forest within the Town. The sites along your tour provide a glimpse of the interesting places and people who have helped to create "The Park."



**NOTICE: The private residences and their yards are NOT OPEN to the public.**



- 4315 Underwood & University Park Elementary School.** The current building was constructed in 1978, replacing the 1928 school.



- 6513 Queens Chapel Road & Word of God Baptist Church (formerly Riverdale Presbyterian Church).** Established in 1896, the original church was located near the Calvert family cemetery in Riverdale Park. In 1949, the congregation decided to move to University Park. A neo-Georgian sanctuary featuring limestone accents and elaborated door surround, was constructed at that time. The education building was added in 1954. The property was purchased from RPC by Word of God Baptist Church in 2015.

*Proceed through the church parking lot and into the park, then at the end of the park take the first street to the right.*



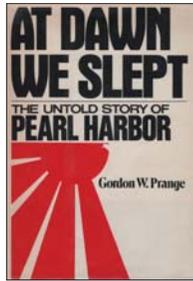
- 4400 Tuckerman & First school in University Park and sales office of the University Park Company.** From 1924 to 1928 the first school used two rooms in the sales office of the company. The original structure is distinctive with its use of large bricks. It is still visible on both sides of a newer residential addition.



**4 4413 Tuckerman ✻ Church of the Brethren.**

Opening its doors in 1927, the church was founded by Brethren moving into the area from the District of Columbia and the Frederick region. It is the first and only Church of the Brethren in Prince George’s County. Expanded in 1952, the church provides space for a wide variety of community groups and now hosts an array of solar panels owned by UP Community Solar L.L.C. which generates all the electricity for the church and some of the wider community.

*Proceed along Route 1 to see the solar panels mounted on the south-facing roof. You will also see two homes Italianized with red tile roofs as you turn right onto Sheridan Street.*



**5 4307 Sheridan ✻ Home of late Dr. Gordon Prange and his wife Anne R. Prange.**

Dr. Prange, Professor of History at the University of Maryland, was a naval officer during WWII and served as Chief Staff Historian to General Douglas McArthur after the war. Dr. Prange was the author of the best sellers *Miracle at Midway* and *At Dawn We Slept, the Untold Story of Pearl Harbor*, the basis for the screenplay *Tora! Tora! Tora!* Anne Root Prange served on the University Park Town Council for 12 years.

*Admire the trees. At 4205 Tuckerman the black oak was alive when the land was still a pasture. The American elm on the north side of the Queens Chapel and 41<sup>st</sup> Ave. intersection is the largest tree on town property.*

*Both trees are more than 175 years old!*



**6 6404 Queens Chapel Road ✻ “Bloomfield.”**

Built c. 1830 (possibly incorporating an earlier dwelling) Bloomfield was part of a tract of about 224 acres purchased in 1758 by William Deakins, Sr. and willed to his son, Revolutionary War Col. Leonard Deakins (see cemetery site #9). Bloomfield was sold by his descendants to the University Park Company in 1920 along with the surrounding land which became the Town of University Park. The home was renovated by J. Frank Rushe, first president of the company, who rotated the structure to front on what is now Queens Chapel Road, and added a pedimented portico supported by Tuscan columns. Later owners include Perry O. Wilkinson and his wife Mabel, both members of the Maryland House of Delegates, the former serving as Speaker from 1959 to 1962.

**7 Henson Green.** Named in 2011 as a tribute to Jim Henson, the world renowned puppeteer and creator of the Muppets. The triangular park has been the site of the Town Christmas tree for more than 60 years.



**8 4012 Tennyson ☼  
First childhood home in  
University Park of Jim  
Henson, from 1939–1943.**

The Henson family moved frequently between Mississippi and Maryland during Jim's early years before settling in University Park in 1949. See also site #11.

*On the left of the house is the back alley between 40<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> street, another feature of a town designed for automobiles.*



- ☼ *To end the short tour: continue straight toward the school (walk through the playground after the bridge).*
- ☼ *To proceed with the long tour: make a U-turn at the Memorial and follow the creek upstream.*



**11 4002 Beechwood Road ☼  
Home of Jim Henson from 1949 to 1959.**

While living here Henson attended Northwestern Senior High School and the University of Maryland. During these years he made his first TV appearances and created the world-famous Muppets.

*You have now entered the newer section of the town and sidewalks might disappear.*



**12 6912 Wells Parkway ☼ Home of  
Morgan B. Wootten and Katherine B. Wootten.**

Coach Wootten is the winningest head coach in the history of basketball on any level. He coached at DeMatha Catholic High School from 1956–2002 and had a record of 1,274–192. In October, 2000, Coach Wootten was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame.

*When you reach the intersection of Woodberry and Beechwood, take the narrow public alley on your left to reach Clagett.*

**9 6500 Block—41<sup>st</sup> Avenue ☼ Deakins Family  
Cemetery.**

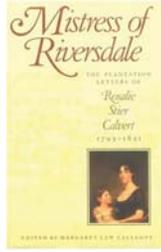
After you turn onto 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue and reach the end of the brick wall, peek through the foliage from the street and you might be able to see a few tombstones. There are 19 family members buried in the plot, including soldiers who fought in the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. **There is no public access to the cemetery.** It is also visible from the alley you saw on the left of house #8.

*Proceed down 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue and turn right into the park, then cross the bridge and turn right again.*

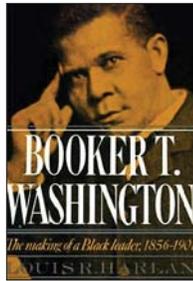


**10 6600 Block Wells Parkway ☼ 9/11 Memorial.**

Created to remember five residents of University Park who were killed on September 11, 2001, when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the Pentagon.



**13 4311 Clagett Road** ✻ **Home of Dr. George H. Callcott and Dr. Margaret Law Callcott**, two of Maryland's most distinguished historians. Dr. George H. Callcott is a leading scholar of our state's history and of the history of the University of Maryland. Dr. Margaret Law Callcott is nationally known for her book, *Mistress of Riversdale: The Plantation Letters of Rosalie Stier Calvert, 1795-1821*.



**14 6924 Pineway** ✻ **Home of the late Dr. Louis R. Harlan**. 1984 Pulitzer Prize winner. Distinguished Professor of History, University of Maryland. Edited the papers and wrote the definitive biography of African-American educator and political leader Booker T. Washington.

**15 6824 Pineway** ✻ **Home of Gov. Parris N. Glendening, 59th Governor of Maryland from 1995 to 2003 and Frances Hughes Glendening, First Lady of Maryland from 1995 to 2001.**

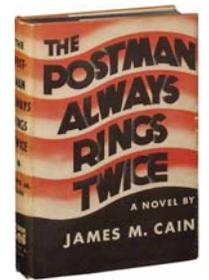


Governor Glendening also served as Prince George's County Executive from 1982 to 1994. Frances Hughes Glendening serves on the Executive Committee of the Maryland Women's Heritage Center and the Women Legislators of Maryland Foundation.

On the way to Town Hall, look for examples of Tudor and Colonial Revival houses from the 1920s.

**16 6724 Baltimore Ave.** ✻ **University Park Town Hall.**

Built in 1926, this ten room house served as a private residence and later lodging for tourists before it was purchased by the Town in 1981 to serve as the Town Hall.



**17 6707 44th Ave.** ✻ **Home of the late James M. Cain.**

Playwright and author of award-winning *Double Indemnity*, *Mildred Pierce*, and *The Postman Always Rings Twice*, which is included in the Modern Library's 100 Best Novels.



Residences featured in *University Park, Suburban Residence at its Best*, an original promotional booklet provided by the University Park Company, Inc.

This project has been financed in part with State Funds from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority, an instrumentality of the State of Maryland. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority.

**Funded in part through a mini-grant from Anacostia Trails Heritage Area, Inc.**

BROCHURE DESIGN: John Brunner, Sarah Moseley, Catherine Plaisant, Joel Floyd, John Klinovsky



*The old Deakin Homestead with its century and a half of traditions.*

## Opening of the Homestead Section of University Park

In many respects the most picturesque tract of the entire Deakin estate

Old Maryland, adjacent to Washington, hasn't a parallel estate to this Deakin property—in virgin effectiveness and community adaptation. This has been proven by the wonderful sale of lots and houses in the first section, lying along the Boulevard.

The HOMESTEAD SECTION invites you into the very heart of the property—the center of those gardens of Colonial days—over which the towering oaks stood sentinel, then as now. Directly through this Homestead Section will gracefully roll the new contemplated highway, to connect the present boulevard with Brookland—thus providing a still more direct road into Washington.

The natural knolls and valleys will be preserved—avoiding that monotony for which you leave the city and seek the realm of undisturbed nature.

The Suburban Sanitary Commission has perfected plans for the early installation of sewers, water, gas, electricity. Concrete roadways and sidewalks will be laid. All the modern conveniences will be enjoyed in the perfect environment of gorgeous woodland. Out of the whirl and bustle of Washington—and yet a scant thirty minutes from the city's center.

### The purchase of a lot in the Homestead Section of University Park insures—

The best approach to Washington from any suburb. The most inspiring and artistic surroundings. A community of refinement and responsibility. Protection of practical regulations which will not curtail owner's freedom, but eliminate objectionable features. Perfect highways and byways—together with all the utilities assured of prompt installation and official maintenance.

The pure air of uncontaminated country with the inspiring freedom of the open. Lots of generous size—and moderate cost. Sold upon decidedly easy terms. The University Park Co.'s assistance in financing the construction of your home. Minimum taxes, as based upon the stabilized state assessment—which cannot be raised for a period of years.

In the new Homestead Section there are 40 beautiful lots—50 feet front to a depth of 150 feet and are offered at this opening of the sale at

**\$1,125** Small cash deposit and convenient terms

Behind you and your investment here stands the University Park Co., Inc. Not real estate speculators, but a body of gentlemen who are deeply impressed with the beauties of this tract and the possibilities of its development into a model suburb of America's Capital City.



*One of the stately oaks that have stood sentry near the Manor for well nigh two centuries.*

Come out and let one of our representatives go over the new section with you—pointing out its many attractive features—its home-building possibilities—and enter your engagement for the lot which appeals to you. There are only 40 to be sold at this \$1,125 price—so don't delay a day. Come at once!

Motor out the Washington and Baltimore Boulevard to just beyond Hyattsville—or take the G St. suburban trolley—or the new bus line on the Bladensburg Road will bring you within a step of University Park.

B. O. L. Wells  
Representative

University Park Co., Inc. Phone Hyattsville 48-R

Advertisement enticing buyers to live in University Park  
(The Washington Post, November 9, 1924)