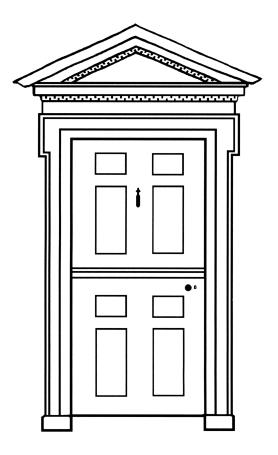
Historical Society of Princeton

House Tour 2016



Saturday, November 5 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Lead Sponsors

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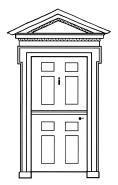
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OF PRINCETON



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Ensuring the Future of Princeton's Past

The Historical Society of Princeton's House Tour is one of our favorite days of the year. The wonderful culmination of a year's-worth of preparation and hours of time contributed by nearly 100 volunteers, the House Tour continues to be HSP's most popular program every year.

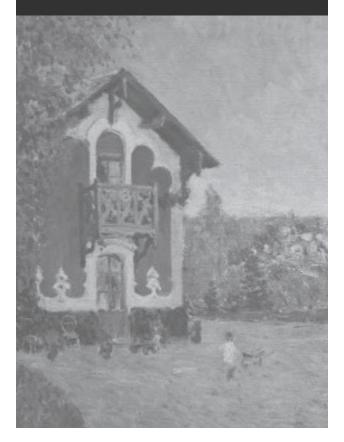
We are so thrilled to be presenting this year's collection of houses to you today, which are superior examples of stunning architecture, history, and design. You will be treated to a delightful range, from a repurposed Neo-Tudor milk barn to a presidential masterpiece to an impressive top-to-bottom remodel. This year's Tour also showcases one of Princeton's oldest dwellings, adaptively reused and captivatingly designed, and a home packed with spectacular collections of antiques and contemporary art.

The House Tour is a major source of funding for HSP's work all year 'round, the highlights of which include offering engaging school programs to hundreds of children, enlivening community events with historical content, leading weekly local history walking tours, presenting exciting exhibitions, preserving important historical collections dating back to the seventeenth century, and so much more! 2016 has been a year of tremendous change for HSP, as we transitioned our leadership and moved our headquarters out to the beautiful Updike Farmstead. We are thrilled about the opportunities the farm presents for us to more creatively use our collections and to broaden our storytelling strategies beyond the traditional exhibition format. Ultimately, HSP's work enhances community vitality and builds historical literacy, which pays dividends toward respectful and responsible citizenship. As House Tour attendees, you are supporting us in these endeavors. For that, we are so grateful.

The House Tour is truly a massive team effort, and we must so deeply thank the incredibly generous homeowners who have opened their homes to you today, the members of the House Tour Committee, the volunteer docents and house captains, and the HSP staff. We extend a huge "thank you" to our ticket buyers and corporate sponsors who make this event such a success. Thank you and enjoy!

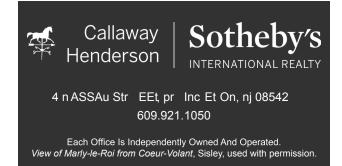
Izzy Kasdin Executive Director

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505 Mercer Road



Built as a dairyman's residence and milk barn, this house is part of the collection of outbuildings Moses Taylor Pyne added to the Drumthwacket estate in the early twentieth century, joining stables, a carriage house, a greenhouse, and a gatehouse. Now the New Jersey Governor's Mansion, Drumthwacket originally belonged to Charles Smith Olden, New Jersey's governor during the Civil War and a member of one of the six founding Quaker families of Princeton. Pyne, the great town-and-gown benefactor of Princeton, purchased the property and main house of Drumthwacket from Olden in 1893.

Pyne proceeded to convert the estate into extensively landscaped gardens as well as a model farm, a space for experimenting with new agricultural techniques - a common feature at elegant estates of the period. Pyne's model farm included Rockwood Dairy, the model dairy that is now the house at 505 Mercer. The house, like the other outbuildings added to the estate, was designed by Pyne's favorite architect, Raleigh C. Gildersleeve, and was completed in 1901. Gildersleeve also designed what is now the Hamilton Jewelers building (called Lower Pyne) on the corner of Nassau and Witherspoon Streets. The house is a beautiful example of the Neo-Tudor revival in Princeton for which Pyne and Gildersleeve were largely responsible.

When the current owners purchased the house directly from the dairyman's family in 1988, it required extensive updating. Architect Glen Fries, the owner, oversaw the renovations, which preserved many of the stunning original elements of Gildersleeve's design. Most of the unique diamond-paned windows are original and new windows in the kitchen, powder room, and mudroom were custom-made to match. The modernized kitchen features cork flooring, a cherry island, and granite countertops. A color print of Rockwood Dairy's champion cow and her calf, Alfalfa Farm Flutie and Flying Horse Bandmaster, adorns one wall. Even the original milk barn sign was preserved. The current owners added William Morris wallpaper to select rooms and also installed the fireplace and door in the cozy, enclosed front porch.

The milk barn, originally designed to process the dairy's milk, has been converted to office and studio space, connected to the house by a colonnade. Between the two tiled offices remains the cold room where a large block of ice would have kept the milk cool. Pyne spared no expense in his milk barn, which features the famous arched tilework of Rafael Guastavino, who tiled many New York City subway stations, Ellis Island, and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, among other iconic landmarks.

The property also features an oak tree of approximately the same age as Princeton Battlefield's original Mercer Oak, which stood across the street until 2000.

150 Mercer Street



A witness to the rapid, early twentieth century expansion of Princeton University, this nineteenth-century house sits in the precise location of the proposed, but never built, entrance to the University's Graduate College. The sideways orientation and earlier architectural style of the home, compared to other Mercer Street houses, indicates that this house could have been moved from its original foundation near Nassau Street to its present location, like dozens of other houses moved to make room for late nineteenth-century retail development in Princeton's downtown core.

When the present owners purchased the home, they embarked on a large-scale renovation with Nelson Remodeling. Bogle Design, and Leddy Interiors at the helm. From paint colors to furniture to moldings to light fixtures - all of which were overhauled in nearly every room the homeowners sought to mix traditional elements with modern flair. Lovers of livability and integrated, multifunctional spaces, the homeowners embarked on opening the house's many enclosed rooms. They constructed large matching archways on the first floor, removed a back staircase, and created an open floor plan between the kitchen and family room.

A full kitchen redesign involved installing new custom Applewood cabinets by Superior Woodcraft and soapstone countertops. A modern concrete kitchen table and pantry coffee bar were also added. The first floor features brand new walnut flooring throughout, as well as a back porch and an added mudroom with heated tile flooring. On the upper floors, the master bedroom was enlarged and closets were added to most bedrooms, with a bedroom suite updated and expanded on the third floor.

Legacy Landscapes oversaw the creation of a stunning back patio, complete with a 17-fish koi pond. Design details create flow between the house's linked indoor and outdoor spaces, such as matching subway tile shapes in the kitchen's backsplash and the patio's bluestone paving. The house's backyard, with freshly planted specimen Japanese maple trees, also features a gas fireplace, dog run, and former screen porch converted to a personal fitness room.

1 Haslet Avenue



Designed as a replica of the St. George Tucker house in Williamsburg, Virginia, One Haslet Avenue authentically represents one of the most complex and picturesque Georgian buildings in eighteenth-century Williamsburg, William R. Matthews, of Matthews Construction Company, built the home around 1950. Matthews received an honorary degree from Princeton University for erecting some of its most iconic structures, including Fitz-Randolph Gate, Cottage Club, and the foundation of McCosh Hall. The home replicates the rambling nature of the original structure, which was enlarged several times to accommodate Tucker's 14 children and stepchildren. London Plane trees that are nearly 100 years old line the property, which has spectacular views of Springdale Golf Course and Princeton University's Graduate College.

A major 2000 renovation utilized the philosophies of Feng Shui, which are clearly apparent throughout the home. The principles of working with nature, crossventilation, abundance of natural light, and generous spaces complement the balanced symmetry that is the hallmark of Georgianstyle architecture. The two front doors on either side of the house, in conjunction with Feng Shui principles, maximize positive energy. Along the same guidelines, every main room in the house has two doors. The most recent owners worked with Katie Eastridge of Eastridge Design to integrate their impressive collections of early American furniture, oriental rugs, and contemporary art into these architecturally unique spaces. Against a backdrop of exuberant colors, papers, and fabrics, highlights of the collections inside include eighteenthcentury chairs from Bergen County New Jersey, Senufo stools from the Ivory Coast of Africa, and the artwork of Brice Marden, Rachel Whiteread, and Joan Mitchell.

The home was updated to include a spectacular year-round garden room with radiant heating through a slate floor, French doors in mahogany casings, and wallcoverings of red grasscloth. The professional kitchen features custom cherry cabinetry with American Shaker pulls, handpainted tile, and Brazilian walnut floors. Upstairs rooms were designed to resemble a British residential college, with bedrooms separated by a central common room that combines work and lounge space. These rooms feature early American and European furniture, Phillip-Jeffries wallcoverings, and additional contemporary artworks. This home truly presents delightful surprises in architecture and design at every turn.

82 Library Place



In the company of Mt. Vernon and Monticello, 82 Library Place is one of the few homes in the United States designed and built by a U.S. President. This large Neo-Tudor style home has undeniable historical and architectural significance as Woodrow Wilson's custom-designed residence for almost a decade in Princeton. The Wilsons purchased property on Library Place from the Stockton family and proceeded to painstakingly design the home of their dreams together with New York architect Edward S. Child. The Wilsons stayed in the home from its completion in 1896 until 1902, when Wilson moved to Prospect House as the newly-appointed President of Princeton University. It was in this house on Library Place that Wilson, a scholar of political science, began writing his five-volume History of the American People and worked on his biography of George Washington, as well as on numerous articles for leading journals. The only other home Wilson owned is on "S" Street in Washington, D.C. and is now a museum devoted to him.

Surviving letters between the Wilsons provide an intimate glimpse into the design process for the home. Ellen Wilson was an accomplished artist in her own right and Wilson himself had a penchant for elegance. The letters reveal disappointment in the financial compromises the couple had to make during construction, including the elimination of a servant's staircase. The Wilsons, fascinatingly, cut corners throughout the home, while still achieving a grand interior, sometimes with manufactured pieces from the Sears catalog. Wilson also customized the space for his needs as a Princeton professor, with a large bench in the foyer, accessed by a side entrance, to accommodate students waiting to meet him in his library.

In a meticulous renovation from 2003 to 2007, the house was stunningly restored by Baxter Construction, with Ron Berlin as architect and Judie Nemeth designing the interiors. The renovation involved seeking out artisans who could replicate period techniques in plasterwork, glazing, stuccowork, and masonry, which lend impressive authenticity to the modernized home. Updates include a large renovated kitchen, a hand-painted room-sized mural of Princeton scenes in the dining room, an historic sleeping porch for hot summer nights, and period finishes such as hand-cut diamond-shaped window glass. An extensive collection of Wilson ephemera is also displayed throughout the house.

The impressive restoration of 82 Library Place earned the homeowner several accolades, including the 2007 New Jersey State Historic Preservation Award.

342 Nassau Street



The building at 342 Nassau Street is one of the oldest remaining intact Georgian structures in Princeton. A basement beam inscribed with the date "1730" presents a reasonable date of construction for the historic house, nestled in Jugtown, one of Princeton's earliest neighborhoods.

As roads in the colonies improved in the mideighteenth century, Princeton transformed from a quiet, Quaker farming community, centered around the Stony Brook and Quaker Road, to a busy carriage outpost the perfect day-long distance from both Philadelphia and New York. As many as thirty coaches, pulled by nearly 100 horses, left daily for the major colonial metropolises. Merchants quickly built taverns and shops along Nassau Street to serve travelers passing through. They also constructed modest Georgian dwellings for themselves and their families, of which 342 Nassau Street is a classic example.

Although the core of downtown Princeton retains little of this early colonial character, numerous modest eighteenth-century buildings survive closely clustered in the Jugtown area and provide a glimpse into how eighteenth-century Princeton may have looked. Concentrated at the corner of Nassau and Harrison Streets, Jugtown took its name from the earthenware pottery works and clay quarries nearby. The bustling hamlet also featured tanneries and hotels to serve the function of Princeton as a "crossroads settlement." The house at 342 Nassau Street played witness to Princeton's impressive growth over several centuries; the wing attached to the main house was originally built on the opposite side, but was moved to allow for the widening of Harrison Street, which became a main thoroughfare in Princeton in the twentieth century.

When Katie Eastridge purchased the property in 2015 for her business, Eastridge Design, she sought to continue its adaptive reuse by creatively converting the entire first floor into an open, integrated showroom, shop, and studio dedicated to all aspects of home. The second and third floors were converted to office space. Eastridge's renovation offers a surprising, fresh, and modern take on the distinct architecture of early Princeton. Eastridge exposed the historic ceiling beams on the first floor, creating a bright, welcoming space filled with natural light that pays homage to the building's original construction. The offices on the upper floors, as well as the eye-catching exterior, feature some of the vibrant custom colors. fabrics, wallpapers, and furniture pieces that are Eastridge's signature.



Many thanks to all those who helped make House Tour 2016 possible

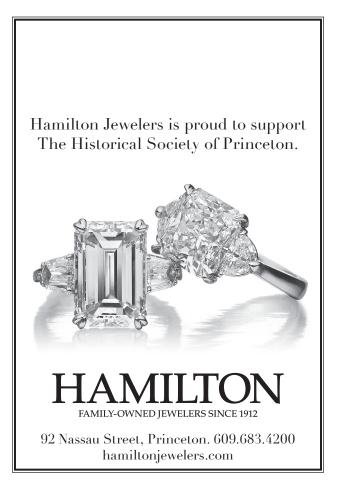
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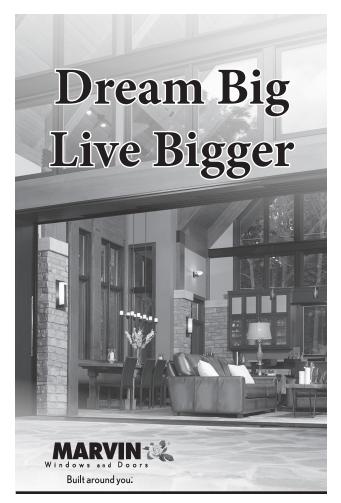
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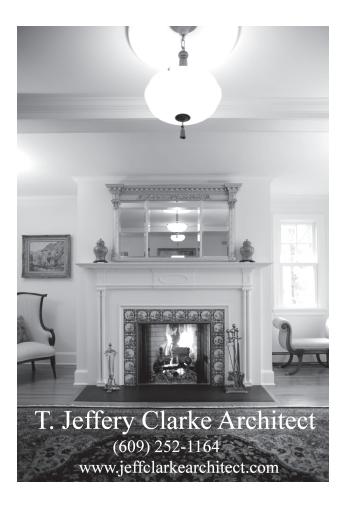
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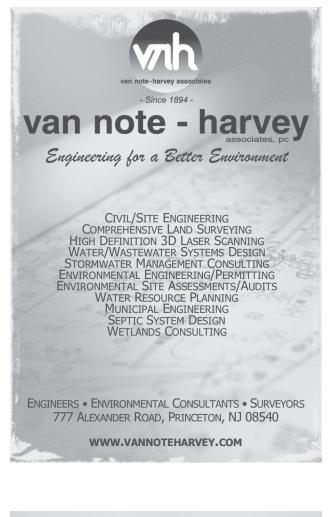


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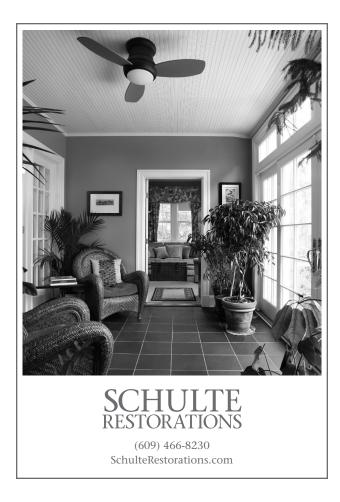






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Visitor Guidelines

- Homes are open from 10 am-4 pm only.
- You many begin the Tour at any house and visit the homes in any order.
- Food, beverages, and smoking are not permitted in any of the houses or on the grounds.
- Photography is not permitted.
- Low-heeled shoes only (no spike heels or cleats).
- Paper booties will be provided to be worn over shoes.
- Cell phones should be silenced inside the houses.
- Children under 12 are not permitted on the tour. Children 12–17 must be accompanied by an adult.

Important Information

- On the day of the Tour, credit card purchases may be made at Updike Farmstead, 354 Quaker Road. Cash and checks are accepted at all of the houses.
- Please observe all local parking ordinances. Please note: certain parking recommendations may require walking short distances to homes.
- Visitors participate at their own risk. The Historical Society of Princeton and the homeowners are not responsible for personal injury.
- The Historical Society is not responsible if any house cancels its participation after the promotion of the House Tour begins.
- All houses are private residences and may present barriers to accessibility.
- Some houses have pets that may cause allergic reactions even though the animals are not present during the Tour.
- There are no refunds.

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THIS IS YOUR TICKET!

505 Mercer Road

- 150 Mercer Street
- 1 Haslet Avenue
- 82 Library Place
- 342 Nassau Street

Please refer to accompanying map for directions and parking information. Before beginning the Tour, please read the page entitled "Visitor Guidelines and Important Information."

