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

© University Park 2011
1. UP Elementary School
2. Riverdale Presbyterian 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 44th 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.

1. 4315 Underwood – University Park Elementary School. The current building was constructed in 1978, replacing the 1928 school.

2. 6513 Queens Chapel Road – 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.

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

3. 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.
4413 Tuckerman is 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.

6404 Queens Chapel Road is “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.

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 41st Ave. intersection is the largest tree on town property. Both trees are more than 175 years old!

4307 Sheridan is 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.

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.
**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 40th and 41st street, another feature of a town designed for automobiles.

---

**6500 Block—41st Avenue**
Deakins Family Cemetery.
After you turn onto 41st 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 41st Avenue and turn right into the park, then cross the bridge and turn right again.

---

**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.

---

**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.

---

**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.**

---

**6000 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.


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.

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

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.
Opening of the Homestead Section of University Park

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

Old Marshland, adjacent to Washington, hasn't a parallel estate in the District—many views, in which attractiveness and community advantages. This has been proven by the wonder of the park and its patrons. It is a large tract of ground, near the center of the City, and in the very center of the city. The Homestead Section contains 40 acres. It is a lovely site, with views of the city, and a short walk into Washington. The Homestead Section, with its wonderful views of the city, and a short walk into Washington, will be open to the public for a limited time. The Homestead Section will be open to the public for a limited time. The Homestead Section will be open to the public for a limited time.

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

The lot is an investment property with the best of views, and can be divided at any time. It is a lovely site, with views of the city, and a short walk into Washington. The Homestead Section, with its wonderful views of the city, and a short walk into Washington, will be open to the public for a limited time.

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

Come out and visit our representatives at the new Homestead Section with you—having in mind the many attractive features of the Homestead Section and the many advantages which it offers to you. There are only 40 to be sold at this $1,125 price—we don't delay a day. Come at once!

R. O. L. Wells
Representative
University Park Co., Inc.
Phone: 4858

Advertisement enticing buyers to live in University Park

(The Washington Post, November 9, 1924)