

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICEPH0697320
FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 14 1979

APR 26 1979

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

CAMELOT

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

520 South Fraser Street

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

State College

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

23rd

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Centre

CODE

027

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

X PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

X YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

X PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. David A. Campbell

STREET & NUMBER

520 South Fraser Street

CITY, TOWN

State College

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania 16801

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Centre County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

High Street

CITY, TOWN

Bellefonte

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

2/10/78

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
☒ EXCELLENT	☐ DETERIORATED	☒ UNALTERED	☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ GOOD	☐ RUINS	☐ ALTERED	☐ MOVED DATE _____
☐ FAIR	☐ UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Camelot is a rambling two story house which, by virtue of its whimsical irregularity of design, romantic detailing, and landscaping, achieves an over-all storybook, or "fairytale" quality. It was designed by the late David A. Campbell, former professor of engineering drawing at Penn State College. According to his widow, Madeline Campbell, English Wayside architecture provided the source of inspiration for the house. Construction began in 1922.

The structure is wood frame, covered with stucco and dressed with limestone. The plan involves a principal section fronting on South Frasier Street, State College. To the rear, is a long extension which appears as two stories on the south and one story on the north. (Camelot is accomodated to a southeasterly slope, which accounts for the difference in stories.) An attached garage is located at the west end of the extension, behind which is a one story bedroom wing housed under a shed roof.

The entire building covers an area of 2,170 square feet. Most of the house is of wood frame construction, topped by a network of expanded metal lathe and covered with rough-trowelled stucco. Two exceptions are the west wall of the dining room and the east wall of the kitchen, both of which are built of twenty-four inches thick, randomly coursed limestone. The kitchen wall has been stuccoed on the exterior.

Camelot's roof is a series of five main interconnecting gables with gable overhang. The rafters are built up with wood pieces at the gable ends, forming exaggerated peaks and giving the illusion of sunken mid-sections. The roof is covered by composition shingles, which are inter-woven at the valleys.

The main facade of the house, on South Frasier Street, has two distinct sections. The left, or southern part is a low, one-story rectangle opened by a pair of twelve-light casement windows and a nine-light door flanked by brick pilasters and sidelights. This part of the facade encloses the sun porch area.

On the northern part of the facade, the wall forms a gable, with the roof line plunging sharply towards ground level. A recessed, arched doorway trimmed with split-face limestone and featuring voussoirs of random length, is tucked into the wall near the southern roof slope. The door, which opens into the kitchen, is a traditional string latch door built of oak planks. To the immediate right of the door is a second arched opening containing a recessed, six-light casement window. Above the window, a decorative clay tile depicting a rampant lion, is set in stucco. The arch itself possesses an attenuated keystone which intrudes upon the textured stucco above.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CAMELOT, Centre County

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Camelot's northern elevation fronts on a lane and consists of the lateral walls of the main section and extension, and the gabled front of the garage. The eaves of the main section are drawn up into two irregular gables with casement windows below. A small diamond shaped tile is set in the stucco above each window.

A sunken doorway roofed by a gabled hood divides the main section and the extension. The hood is supported by scrollwork brackets and, on the right, by a limestone wall. The wall has a rectangular aperture into which is set a baluster from Penn State's first Old Main building.

To the right of this doorway, the northern wall of the extension is lighted by two windows or markedly different scale. Both are projected from the wall as bay windows and are supported by scrolled brackets. Their heads become imbedded in a convex roll of the wall which supports the eaves of the extension.

Finally, to the right of the extension (north elevation), is a gabled entrance which projects from the gabled front of the garage.

Camelot's entire southern exposure reveals the two-story wall of the extension recessed between the southern extremities of the main section (at right) and the back of the garage with its abutting bedroom wing. This configuration forms a garden court. Once again, the picturesque contrasts of line and texture are in evidence. The stuccoed expanses of the second story are countered by the exposed rubble limestone surfaces of the lower walls and chimneys. The roof lines swoop in all directions, and casement windows appear in random scale and configuration. A stone wall becomes a stairway leading to the second floor entrance. The roof juts forward over the doorway and is supported on the left by the limestone chimney.

The interior spaces of Camelot express the same fine craftsmanship and aesthetic appeal. The living room has a long, ten feet high, barrel-vault ceiling, which along with the walls are plastered and painted white. At the center of the far end of the room is a fireplace with a plastered interior tapering flue. The fire chamber is described with split-face limestone, above which is a simple, squared matle. Flanking the fireplace is a pair of thirty-six light window bays, each having its own sixteen light arched door.

Camelot's woodsy setting, in spite of its location in a residential area of State College, compliments the whimsical character of the house, and suggests a scene from the English countryside.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION	
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE	
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE	
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☐ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
☐ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER	
☐ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION	
☒ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		☐ INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES Begun in 1922

BUILDER/ARCHITECT David A. Campbell, Arch.
John Hoy, Builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Architecturally, Camelot (begun in 1922) is one of the best examples of the imaginative and tasteful houses built by Penn State professors in the State College area in the early twentieth century.

Suggesting the quaint rural charm of the old English countryside, Camelot's architecture is said to be derived from the English Wayside style. The naive, arbitrary appearance of folk architecture is, however, romantically emphasized. As a result, Camelot presents itself as fantasy, or storybook, architectre.

Camelot was designed by the late David A. Campbell, professor of engineering drawing, as a home for himself and his wife Madeline. Wanting more than just a house on a lot, he envisioned an ideal, a dream, and in keeping with its whimsy, he called it Camelot.

Mr. Campbell taught engineering drawing at Penn State College from 1920 to 1931. In 1931 he became an associate professor of architectural engineering and remained in this post until 1940, when he resumed teaching engineering drawing. In 1948 he became an associate professor of engineering drawing and continued this position until 1959, when he retired. In his leisure time, Mr. Campbell was an amateur musician and painter. He died on May 4, 1962.

The circumstances surrounding the construction of Camelot are almost as unusual as the house itself. Upon completing the plans, Mr. Campbell found he was unable to find a contractor willing to take on such a curious design. A contractor friend, John Hoy, finally agreed to build the house, but only if the Campbells promised not to reveal who did the job. (After Camelot was popularly received by the people of State College, however, he was proud to admit his work.) Financing was another problem. Because of its odd design, no one was willing to mortgage Camelot, and so construction could only be continued as money came in. It took fifteen years for the house to reach completion.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

None Known

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .3

UTM REFERENCES

A 18 258850 4519060
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nancy A. Reade, Gregory Ramsey

ORGANIZATION

Historic Registration Project

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

203 North Allegheny Street

TELEPHONE

814-355-3249

CITY OR TOWN

Bellefonte

STATE

Pennsylvania

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE ED WEINTRAUB, Director
Office of Historic Preservation

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST Bill Calovich

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DATE

RECEIVED

FEB 14 1979

NATIONAL
REGISTER

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point on the westerly side of South Fraser Street at the southwesterly corner of Hill Alley; thence in a southerly direction eighty (80) feet along the westerly side of South Fraser Street to a point at the northeast corner of Centre County Tax Parcel # 36-17-127+; thence in a westerly direction one hundred seventy-one and twenty-five hundredths (171.25) feet along the northern boundary of Centre County Tax Parcel # 36-17-127+ to a point at the northwest corner of same tax parcel; thence in a northerly direction eighty (80) feet to a point on the southerly side of Hill Alley; thence in an easterly direction one hundred seventy-one and twenty-five hundredths (171.25) feet to the place of beginning.

Being Centre County Tax Parcel # 36-17-126+.

Property

Camelot

State

PA.

Working Number

2.14.79.323

79002192

TECHNICAL

Photos

9

Maps

1

CONTROL

OK 2.14.79

HISTORIAN

A bit of whimsy for the NR...

Defer to Arch. Hn. 3/2/79

(could have used a photograph of entire bldg)

Joe Turner

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

A part of the 1920s ~~mass~~ taste for
revival styles in domestic architecture
"Camelot" (1922-1937) is a ~~romanticized~~
romantic interpretation of an old English cottage. Its exaggerated
architectural forms are as much an expression of fantasy as
of historical precedents. While Camelot itself is atypical in
some respects, it ~~is~~ is drawn from the same context
as the more common ~~expressions~~ arch'l. designs of its
period, and is itself an expression of the 1920s.

Accept
L. Beebe
4/24/79

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

I agree with
Lynn BeebeBuilt
1922-1937Accept
L. Beebe
5/25/79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

6-5-79

Send-back _____

Re-submit _____

Entered APR 26 1979



NAME OF PROPERTY CAMELOT
CITY, STATE STATE COLLEGE, PENNA.
PHOTOGRAPHER WILLIAM L. McLAUGHLIN
DATE OF PHOTO 1977
LOCATION OF NEG. CENTRE CO. LIBRARY
VIEW see below ^{DOE} APR 26 1979
PHOTOGRAPH #149 FEB 14 1979

Centre County, Pennsylvania

DETAIL, EAST ELEVATION
(or MAIN FRONT, northern
section)



NAME OF PROPERTY CAMELOT
CITY, STATE STATE COLLEGE, PENNA.
PHOTOGRAPHER WILLIAM L. McLAUGHLIN
DATE OF PHOTO 1977 APR 26 1979
LOCATION OF NEG. CENTRE CO. LIBRARY
VIEW see below
PHOTOGRAPH # 249 FEB 14 1979

Centre County, Pennsylvania

NORTH ELEVATION, viewed
from Northwest.

MAIN PART OF HOUSE at far
left; EXTENSION at center.



NAME OF PROPERTY CAMELOT
CITY, STATE STATE COLLEGE, PENNA.
PHOTOGRAPHER WILLIAM L. McLAUGHLIN
DATE OF PHOTO. 1977
LOCATION OF NEG. CENTRE CO. LIBRARY
VIEW see below APR 26 1979
PHOTOGRAPH # 309 FEB 14 1979

~~Centre~~

Centre County, Pennsylvania

SOUTH SIDE OF EXTENSION,
at right, and its inter-
section with GARAGE.

(viewed from Southeast)



NAME OF PROPERTY CAMELOT
CITY, STATE STATE COLLEGE, PENNA.
PHOTOGRAPHER WILLIAM L. McLAUGHLIN
DATE OF PHOTO 1977
LOCATION OF NEG. CENTRE CO. LIBRARY
VIEW see below APR 26 1979
PHOTOGRAPH # 489 FEB 14 1979

Centre County, Pennsylvania

INTERSECTION OF EXTENSION
(at left, south elevation)
AND MAIN PART OF HOUSE
(at right, west elevation)



NAME OF PROPERTY CAMELOT
CITY, STATE STATE COLLEGE, PENNA.
PHOTOGRAPHER WILLIAM L. McLAUGHKIN
DATE OF PHOTO 1977
LOCATION OF NEG. CENTRE CO. LIBRARY
VIEW see below
PHOTOGRAPH # 549 APR 26 1979
POC FEB 14 1979

Centre County, Pennsylvania

MAIN PART OF HOUSE,
southern end.
viewed from Southwest



NAME OF PROPERTY CAMELOT
CITY, STATE STATE COLLEGE, PENNA.
PHOTOGRAPHER WILLIAM L. McLAUGHLIN
DATE OF PHOTO 1977
LOCATION OF NEG. CENTRE CO. LIBRARY
VIEW see below APR 26 1979
PHOTOGRAPH #649 FEB 14 1979

Centre County, Pennsylvania

LIVING ROOM
view towards
southern end



NAME OF PROPERTY CAMELOT
CITY, STATE STATE COLLEGE, PENNA.
PHOTOGRAPHER WILLIAM L. McLAUGHLIN
DATE OF PHOTO. 1977
LOCATION OF NEG. CENTRE CO. LIBRARY
VIEW see below APR 26 1978
PHOTOGRAPH # 749 FEB 14 1979

Centre County, Pennsylvania

DETAIL, SOUTHERN SIDE OF
EXTENSION (MIDSECTION)

limestone wall/steps



NAME OF PROPERTY CAMELOT
CITY, STATE STATE COLLEGE, PENNA.
PHOTOGRAPHER WILLIAM L. McLAUGHLIN
DATE OF PHOTO 1977 ^{DEC} APR 26 1979
LOCATION OF NEG. CENTRE CO. LIBRARY
VIEW see below
PHOTOGRAPH #8 19 ^{FEB 14 1979}

Centre County, Pennsylvania

SOUTHERN SIDE OF BEDROOM
WING, supporting grape
arbor

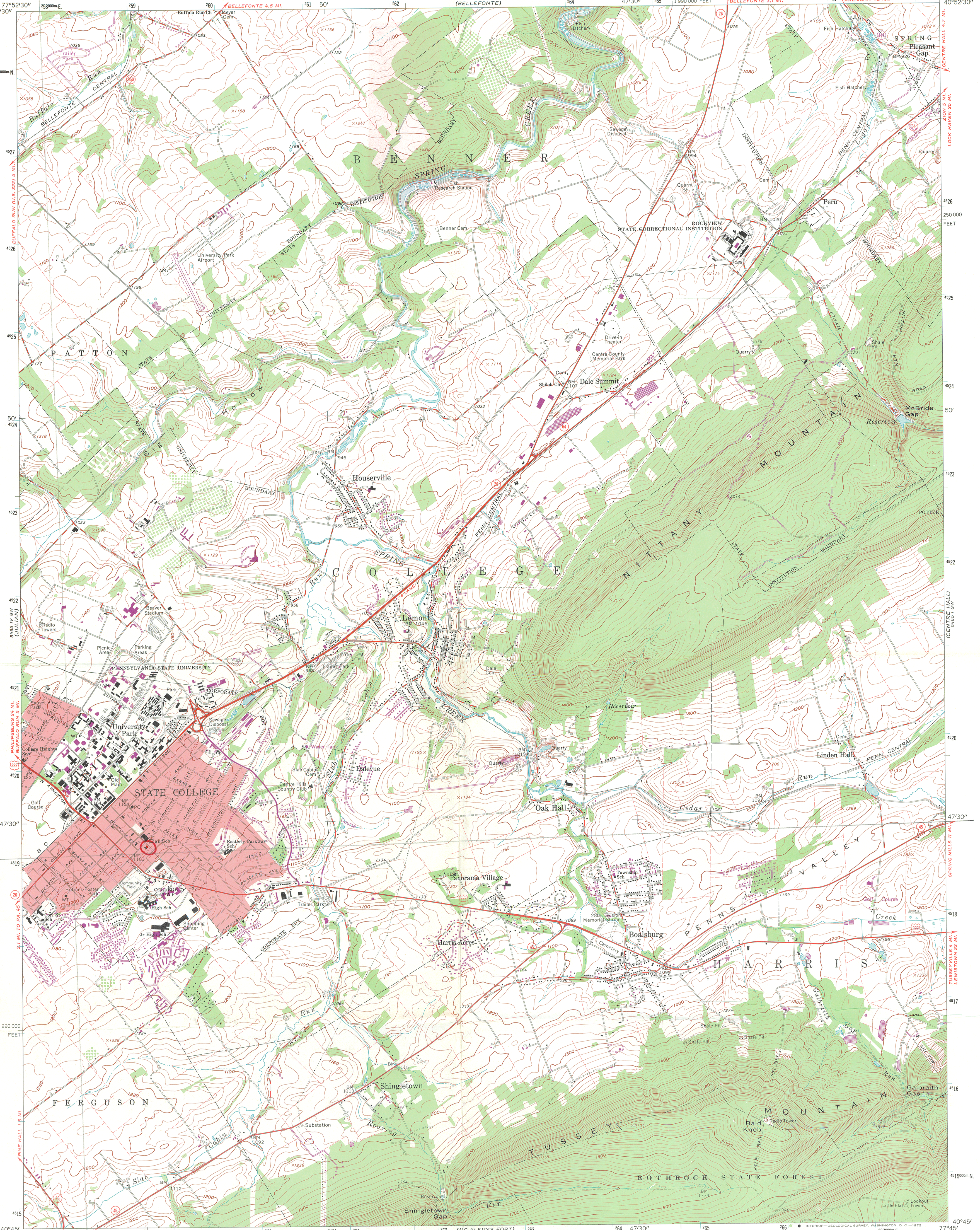
viewed from east



NAME OF PROPERTY CAMELOT
CITY, STATE STATE COLLEGE, PENNA. *Centre County, Pennsylvania*
PHOTOGRAPHER WILLIAM L. McLAUGHLIN
DATE OF PHOTO 1977 *APR 26 1979*
LOCATION OF NEG. CENTRE CO. LIBRARY
VIEW see below
PHOTOGRAPH # *949* *FEB 14 1979*

FOUNTAIN LIFEMASKS OF
DAVID A. AND MADELINE
CAMPBELL, located in
sunken picnic area

Camelot
Centre County
Zone 18 E258850 N4519060



Maped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

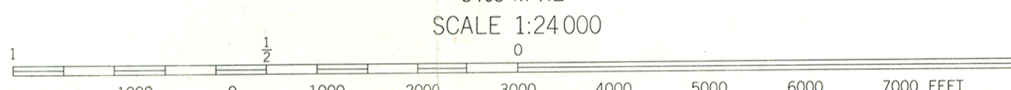
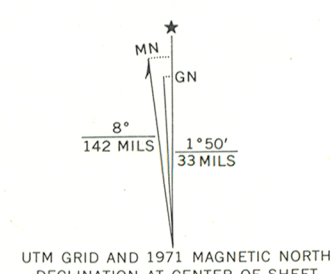
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1961. Field checked 1962

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Pennsylvania coordinate system, north zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

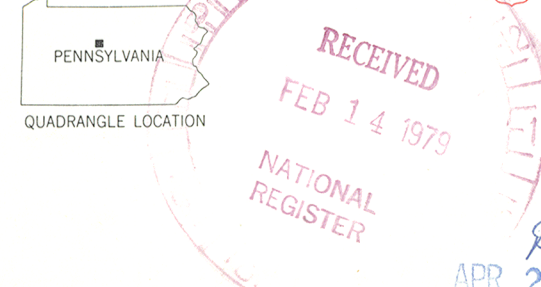
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with
State of Pennsylvania agencies from aerial photographs
taken 1971. This information not field checked



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———
U.S. Route ——— State Route ———



STATE COLLEGE, PA.

N4045—W7745/7.5

1962
PHOTOREVISED 1971
AMS 5465 IV SE-SERIES V831

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE PENNSYLVANIA

Date Entered

APR 20 1979

Name

Location

Main Library

Erie
Erie County

Camelot

State College
Centre County

Mansfield

Mercersburg vicinity
Franklin County

Also Notified

Honorable H. John Heinz, III

Honorable Richard S. Schweiker
Honorable Marc L. Marks
Honorable William F. Clinger, Jr.
Honorable E. G. (Bud) Shuster

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Ed Weintraub
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum
Commission
P.O. Box 1026
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

NR Byers/bjr 5/2/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.