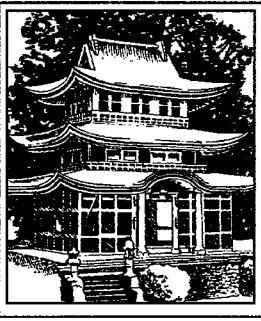


SAVE OUR  
SEMINARY

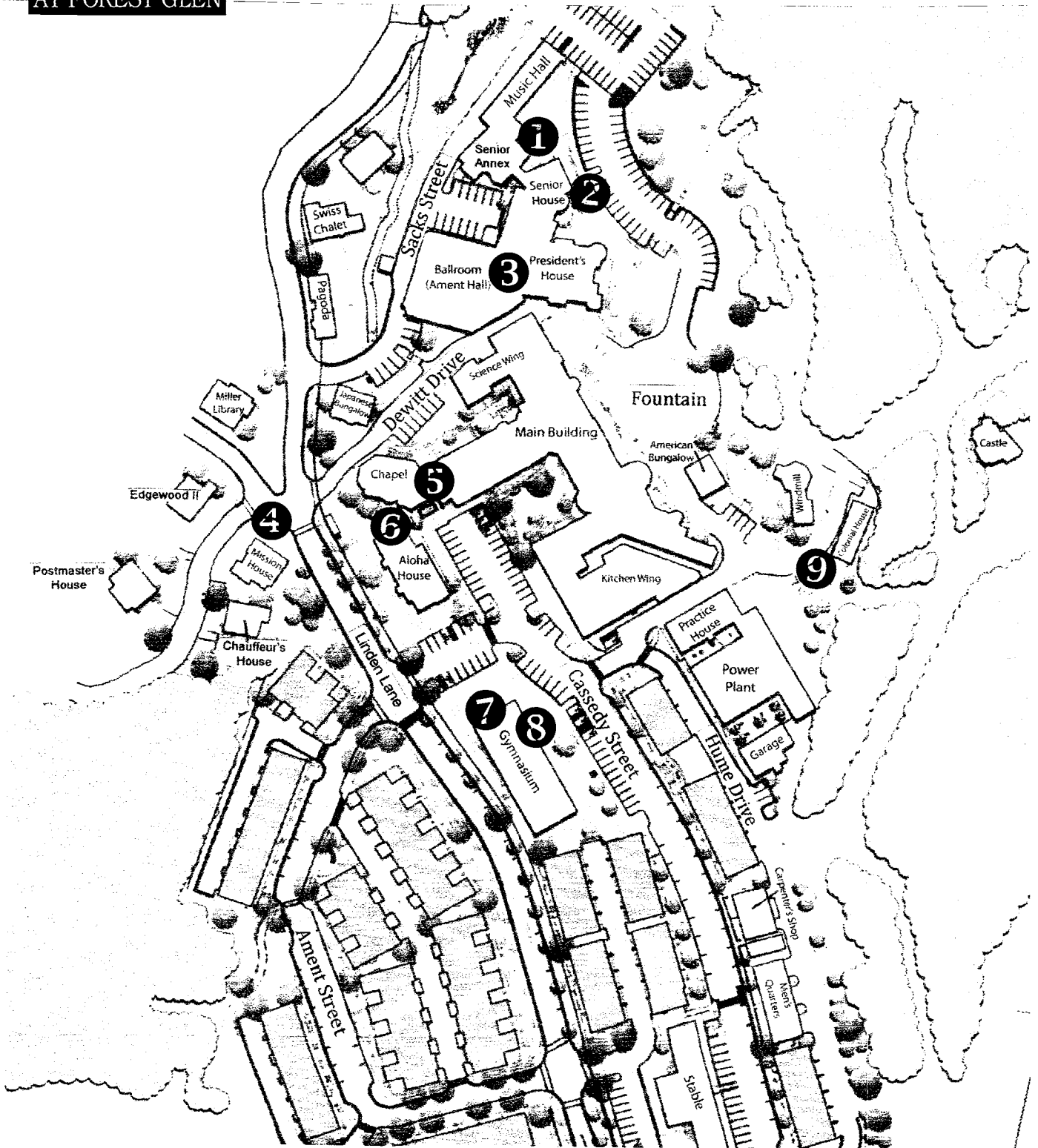


AT FOREST GLEN

# SOS Historic House Tour at National Park Seminary

Sunday, September 30, 2018

1:00 – 4:00 pm



# Welcome to the SOS Historic House Tour

Each of the following sites are open from 1 to 4 pm today only for this **self-guided tour**. Although the sites are numbered, you can **visit them in any order** within those hours.

Complimentary light refreshments are available in the Ballroom during the tour hours, along with historic photo displays and National Park Seminary-inspired art, jewelry, and framed photos for sale.

You must wear your Save Our Seminary (SOS) sticker/ticket for entry into all of the sites on the tour. At those homes where requested, please wear the shoe covers provided or remove your shoes to protect the floor coverings. Stairs are necessary to tour all the sites. No interior photographs are allowed, except by permission of the homeowners. Exterior photographs are permitted.

## Brief History of the Site

The National Park Seminary opened in 1894 in a former hotel, Ye Forest Inn, as an exclusive boarding school for young ladies from well-to-do families. Although the U.S. Army took over the school in 1942 for a rehabilitation annex for patients at Walter Reed Hospital, the buildings largely fell into disuse and disrepair by the 1980s. Beginning in 2004, The Alexander Company and EYA acquired and redeveloped the historic buildings and grounds as a residential complex of condominiums, apartments, townhomes, and single-family houses that successfully blend new and old. This tour will take you into eight of the school's two dozen original structures that make up the architecturally unique campus to show how they have been adapted for modern living.

## Tour Sites

You must enter President's House at the ticket table to access sites 1, 2, and 3.

### ① Senior Annex – SA303, 2829 Sacks Street

Built circa 1910 to accommodate the expanding number of students, Senior Annex served as a dormitory addition to Senior House attached via a staircase at different floor levels. Now a condominium building, each unit in Senior Annex has been redesigned as two floors. This unit includes an impressive brick fireplace in the main living area that served as a central gathering place for the girls in this dormitory. Enjoy the close-up view of the grand classical columns of the Music Hall from the master bedroom window.

### ② Senior House – SH102, 9610 Dewitt Drive

One of the earliest Seminary buildings constructed in 1898-99, Senior House was built as a freestanding dormitory for senior students only. Seniors were given special status at the school, and were feted throughout the year, culminating in a days-long celebration at graduation. Class years from 1894 to 1928 are recognized with marble plaques set into the granite walls at the front of the building, many of which identify ivy specimens from historical locations around the world planted by the graduates. Like the Senior Annex condo unit, this Senior House unit was renovated into two floors. The few steps up to the living room likely mark the point at which Senior House was connected to the Ballroom building during the school years, matching the slight level change in the adjacent lobby hallway.

### ③ **Ballroom – 9610 Dewitt Drive**

The grand Ballroom in Ament Hall was completed in 1927 from the design of Dr. James Ament, the second president of the school. Its Gothic arches, stained glass windows, balconies, and crystal chandeliers create an awe-inspiring space. The Ballroom was a popular place for dances and celebrations during the school years and later provided the recuperating soldiers an impressive recreation room. Today the Ballroom is an amenity for the community residents. Complimentary refreshments and unique sales items along with historic photo displays are available here during the tour hours of 1 to 4 pm.

### ④ **Mission - 9519 Woodstock Court**

One of the more distinctive of the eight sorority houses built by the school, Theta Sigma Rho, built in 1903, is commonly known as the Mission house. It was furnished originally with items reflecting the Southwest to complement its architecture, serving as a club house and not a residence for the sorority. The Army removed all of the distinctive mission elements of the façade when the building was converted to officer housing. Using SOS's collection of historic photographs, however, the decorative parapet, arcaded porch, and diamond-paned windows were replicated in the original style during the renovation of this single-family home. The historic statue of the Indian Hiawatha that stands in the yard adds to the Southwest style of the house.

### ⑤ **Chapel - 9601 Dewitt Drive**

The non-denominational chapel was among the first buildings to be constructed at the Seminary in 1898. Sunday services and lectures on religious and moral topics were offered here. The chapel also served as an assembly hall where the students convened each school day. Expanded twice during the school years to accommodate the growing student body, it still features nearly all of the original stained glass windows. The Army continued to use the building as a chapel until the late 1980s. After years of deterioration, the chapel was renovated into a single-family home, incorporating a kitchen, bedroom, study, bathrooms, and loft space reached by a curved staircase into the formerly fully open space. Notice the interesting scissor-style roof beams.

### ⑥ **Aloha House - Unit 5, 2755 Cassedy Street**

Aloha was the private residence of the Seminary's founder and president John Cassedy and his wife Vesta, who was the school's principal. Built in 1898, the home was originally a modest, freestanding, wood-clad cottage. Within a few years the Cassedys extended their home to create a dormitory for the school's youngest students so as to be available to them and make them feel welcome, hence the name Aloha. When Dr. James Ament became the next president of the school, he built the prominent President's House as his home and Aloha remained a dormitory. Now a condominium building, the unit open today encompasses the entire second floor of the original Cassedy cottage.

### **Gymnasium – 2747 Linden Lane**

The Gymnasium was built in 1907 by the school with the most up-to-date equipment and amenities, including an open gym floor with basketball court, a swimming pool, bowling alleys, locker rooms with showers, and a solarium. During the Army's ownership of the site, the main floor of the gym doubled as a movie theater for decades. After years of deterioration, the gym was converted into 12 condo units in 2015. The central hall and units on each side at both the

first and second levels now fill the once open upper gym floor and the lower level. The original solarium on the upper level and the swimming pool on the lower level are incorporated into condo units that span the width of the building at the end of the central hallway.

⑦ **#202** - In this front corner loft unit, note the interesting pattern of the original interior roof framing and the substantial beams. From the loft level you can see how part of the preserved railing of the original mezzanine is incorporated into the unit. If you climb the ladder on the upper level - *at your own risk* - you will see some of the salvaged basketball floor.

⑧ **#203** - This smaller loft unit is enhanced by the very large arched windows that reveal the trees of the wooded glen beyond the tops of the neighboring buildings. The view from the loft also gives a bird's eye view of the chimney swifts that fly down the chimney at the Power Plant in a tornado-like pattern almost daily during the summer months. If you are able to climb the circular stairs - again, *at your own risk* - you can view more of the basketball floor.

### ⑨ **Colonial House - 21 Dewitt Court**

The Phi Delta Psi sorority house, familiarly known as Colonial House, was built in a grand style. Organized in 1903, this sorority, like the other seven sororities at NPS, was not part of a national system, but was unique to the school. As every student was a member of one of the sororities, the houses functioned as club houses and not residences. The unique collection of architectural styles of the sorority houses at National Park Seminary is a hallmark of the site's historic significance. Used as officer housing from the 1940s through the 1980s by the Army as were the other sororities, Colonial House is now a single-family home for sale since its recent renovation. It includes a portion of the elevated covered walkway that connected to other school buildings to protect students from the weather.

### **Save Our Seminary at Forest Glen**

The mission of SOS is to preserve the historic National Park Seminary and to engage the public through education and advocacy.

We hope this special historic house tour will encourage you to learn more about and support our efforts to preserve and share the history of the enchanted National Park Seminary.

**SOS greatly appreciates the generous homeowners and  
the many willing volunteers who made this tour possible.**

Save Our Seminary  
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