

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	<i>O.K.</i>
DATE ENTERED	<i>house pictures of st.</i>

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE 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NOT FOR PUBLICATION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

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

42

COUNTY

Centre

CODE

027

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> 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 STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

CITY, TOWN

Harrisburg

STATE

Pennsylvania

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> 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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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			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> 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, architecture.

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 | 2581850 | 45191060 |
 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

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

Ed Weintraub 2-9-79

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Continuation Sheet

Item 10

Re: Camelot

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+.

