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## **Cabell County Architectural Guide, Tour E: Huntington South East Section**

Carlos Bozzoli

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CABELL COUNTY  
ARCHITECTURAL  
GUIDE

TOUR E

HUNTINGTON  
SOUTH EAST SECTION

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## Some Suggestions for Using this Guide

The Architectural Guide of Cabell County is divided in the following tours (or sections):

- A. Huntington Downtown Section.
- B. Huntington Central Section.
- C. Huntington West Section.
- D. Huntington Northeast Section
- E. Huntington Southeast Section
- F. Guyandotte
- G. Barboursville
- H. Milton

If you are visiting for the city of Huntington for the first time, you probably would like to get a short, initial tour that would enable you to see the main downtown buildings. In that case, choose Tour A. This tour has a predetermined route, explained in the attached Map 1. It is designed to be a walking-tour that should take no more than two hours.

Then, you may be interested in visiting either all, or some other selected buildings that are scattered throughout the rest of the city. For this a longer, second tour is recommended, Tour B. This tour does have not a predetermined route, and it must be taken by car, since distances are long, and some locations are on hills too steep to walk comfortably. This same criteria has been adopted for Tours C, D and E.

The buildings of other Cabell County communities are included in Tours F, G and H.

If you are interested in a particular building, please consult the alphabetical table of entries for each tour, where you will find the page giving the location of its description.

Last, but not least, please do not trespass on the owners' property, no matter how eager you are to see and appreciate the architectural, historic, and artistic value of the buildings described here.

## Main Sources

The author recognizes that he owes much of the information in this Guide to several scholars that were interested in Huntington and Cabell County buildings. Their work constitutes thorough antecedents to this Guide, and he desires to acknowledge each of them in a clear, explicit manner.

In the Guide quotes from the following works are placed in italics, followed by a number between brackets that correspond to the following sources:

- (1) D. Daniel McMillian, IV, *Spaces of Splendour*, Folio edition, 100th Anniversary Commemorative Edition, 1997.
- (2) Dr. Mack H. Gillenwater, (editor), *et al.*, *A Survey of Downtown Huntington, West Virginia*, Phase II, a report submitted to The Cabell County Landmarks Commission. Edited by the Department of Geography, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia, 1985.
- (3) Kathryn Davis, Tom Davis, S. Allen Chambers, Jr. and Susan M. Pierce, editors, *Historic West Virginia*, The National Register of Historic Places, Charleston, WV, 2000
- (4) Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1984 and 1996.

# **Tour E**

## **Huntington southeast section**

South Boulevard, Wilshire Boulevard  
and Washington Boulevard, looking southward.

1. Duncan House
2. Omar T. Frick Residence (Hillcrest)
3. DAR headquarters, Huntington chapter
4. House, McCoy Drive, near 2500
5. Huntington Museum of Art
6. Residence, 3045 8th Street Road
7. Enslow Park Presbyterian Church
8. House, 1975 Wiltshire Drive
9. House, 2105 Wishire Drive
10. Ricketts House, 2301 Washington Boulevard
11. Peter C. Minotti's House

## Tour E — Huntington Southeast Section

# 1 Duncan House

Location: 609 Hawthorne Way  
Designer: Sadler Slone & Buck Co.  
Completed: 1928



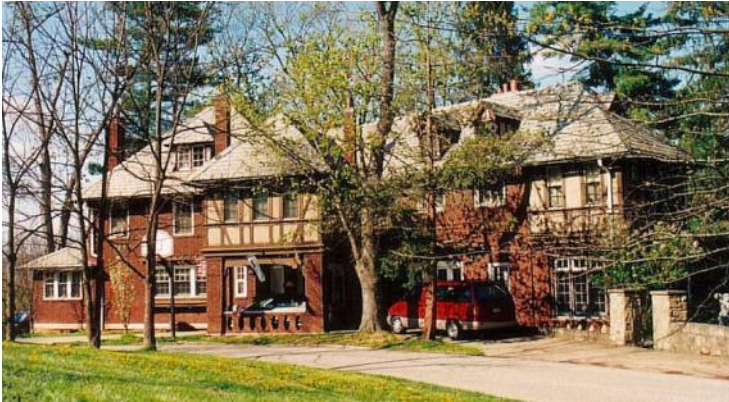
A simple, but elegant example of a Neoclassical Eclectic house, mostly Greek Revival, this residence takes full advantage of its dominant location, allowing beautiful panoramic views from its full height entry porch.

Columns are of Ionic style, and cornices have a boxed eave with a moderate overhang, supported by dentils. The main block is side gabled, and has several gabled dormers in its roof. It has wing porches, that ensures this symmetrical composition. Windows are rectangular, with double hung sashes and green tan painted shutters. *This revival of interest in classical models dates from the World's Columbian Exposition, held in Chicago in 1893. The exposition was widely photographed, reported and attended; soon these Neoclassical models became the latest fashion throughout the country.* (4)

## Tour E — Huntington Southeast Section

### 2 Omar T. Frick “Hillcrest” House

Location: 1423 Hawthorne Way  
Designer: Meanor & Handloser  
Completed: 1923-1924



This vast and impressive residence offers us this view from Hawthorne Way, its only access, but the rear façade allows a magnificent look over Huntington downtown. That façade must be much more interesting, although not visible to the common observer. The style of this building is Tudor, in fashion between 1890 and 1940. It has brick wall cladding, *...but brick first story walls are commonly contrasted with stone, stucco or wooden claddings on principal gables or upper stories. False half timbering [this is our case] occurs...with infilling of stucco or brick between the timbers, and quite often, elaborate decorative patterns in the arrangement of timber and bricks.* (4)

The plan is complex, with a change of directions using obtuse angles to get the best fit of its topographical features. The roof is hipped, medium pitched, and covered with rough cut slate. It has wide eaves, and both gabled and hipped dormers. Windows are of various shapes, either grouped or isolated. Sills and lintels are molded and quite elaborate, which succeed in the main protective function for those parts of the building. Perhaps, Meanor & Handloser were not the most innovative designers, but certainly they created their design with skill and competence.



## Tour E — Huntington Southeast Section

### 3

### DAR Headquarters

|            |                                 |
|------------|---------------------------------|
| Location:  | Ritter Park                     |
| Designer:  | Unknown                         |
| Completed: | Ca. 1820 and later refurbishing |



This small, old building is an authentic example of the so called pre-railroad architecture, and very common to the Appalachian region.

The log cabin (which is different from a log house) has *logs that have been simply stripped of their bark and assembled to form a structure. A log cabin is constructed of straight, relatively smooth, round logs usually laid horizontally, one above the other, and notched or otherwise fastened at their ends to prevent the joints from spreading at the corners beyond the joints.* (3)

The chimneys are adjacent to the rooms and are built of rustic stone, in irregular courses. This folk building tradition was imported by the early Germanic settlers, lately modified by the influence of Scot-Irish and English Pioneers. In this case, the building was the keeper home of the Beuhring Vineyard, a huge property that belonged to Frederick & Francis Dannenburg Beuhring. It now houses the Huntington Chapter of the Daughters of American Revolution, a well known institution that fosters tradition and seeks the conservation of the American heritage.

## Tour E — Huntington Southeast Section

### 4 House, McCoy Drive

Location: McCoy drive, near 2500  
Designer: Edwin N. Alger, Architect  
Completed: 1911



A picturesque design, this house mixes several features from French Eclectic, and Tudor Revival styles. Looking to the left side, a front gabled section is parapeted, and is attached to a round tower with a conical, low pitched conical roof.

Looking right, a side gabled section has two gabled dormers. The whole house is stone clad, with uncoursed and roughly cut ashlar, and quoins. Each window has a stone sill and lintel, some of which have flat arches with rusticated keystones, like those on the second floor. Windows are divided in several fixed panes, and have casement openings.

The roof is covered with slate, complimenting the rustic character of this house, and the structure fits well into the hills that surrounds it.

## Tour E — Huntington Southeast Section

# 5 Huntington Museum of Art

Location: 2033 McCoy Road  
Designer: The Architects Collaborative (W. Gropius & Partners), Dean, Dean & Kieffer Architects  
Completed: 1952, 1970, 1977



Since 1952, several designers have intervened in this cultural complex. The first building, which houses the main entrance, has a quite classical look, but with much more abstract shapes. In 1968 a commission for a new building was awarded to The Architects Collaborative, whose head was the world famous architect Walter Gropius. This addition is at the left side, with a rectangular pavilion and an L-shaped minor wing. The new addition forms a rectangular court.

The Gropius design is a sober, restrained example of modern architecture, typical of the last years of predominance of this style, as the ensuing 1970's decade witnessed the crisis that led to late modern and post-modern architecture.

In 1977 the well known Huntington team of Dean, Dean & Kieffer designed and built an open theatre and a stage, that houses a ceramics and sculpture shop in the same building. A water curtain separates the stage from a terraced lawn forecourt, already enclosed by the 1970 addition and the original first edifice.

## Tour E — Huntington Southeast Section



The Gropius addition in course of construction, 1969.

The last addition was done in 1996, a remarkable subtropical conservatory of plants, and it is an example of a widespread concern for various artistic and scientific subjects.

## 6 Home, 8th Street Road

Location: 3045 8th Street Road  
Designer: Barnes Vanze Associates  
Completed: 1997



## Tour E — Huntington Southeast Section

An outstanding residence, recently built, this is one of the most well designed and accurately constructed examples of French Provincial architectural revival style. The whole building is big and complex, with significant features that the observer will find while walking around this property. The main entrance has a two story welcoming pavilion, a rectangular block topped by a high pitched hip roof. A slightly protruding gabled axial wing has the main doorway, a segmental arched surrounding with ashlar at each jamb. A rectangular balcony door appears above, supported by a small cantilevered platform. At each side of this pavilion, the rhythm of the fenestration is balanced by a two glazed doors, while above, a square casement window is located in an advancing masonry cube topped by a hipped roof dormer, looking as if hung from above.

The rear part of the building shows a complex assembly of volumes, some rectangular, other cylindrical, but all of them organized into a pyramidal pattern. A pair of chimney stacks brings a vertical drive that plays a minor tone with the main dominant central volume. This assembly of varied shapes, together with the landscape setting, affirms the vernacular-picturesque character of this rather special residence.



## 7 Enslow Park Presbyterian Church

Location: 1800 Enslow Avenue  
Designer: Unknown  
Completed: 1930



## Tour E — Huntington Southeast Section



Photo: David E. Fattaleh

This building features the most identified image of the American church. The main hall, to gather the faithful, has an enclosure limited by walls and classical tall, round arched windows. The entrance has a full height pedimented porch, which is attached to a lobby, and above stands a square tower that supports a belfry and finally a tall, pointed pyramidal spire.

## 8 House, Wilshire Drive

Location: 1975 Wilshire Drive  
Designer: Meanor & Handloser  
Completed: 1935

A beautiful example of French eclectic house, it is also enhanced by its excellent setting. The building has an L-shaped plan, two stories high, with a dwarf tower in its angle, topped by a high, conical roof. The tower houses the main entrance. A gabled pavilion is at the left side, with a huge, massive chimney shaft. The right side has a hipped roof with windows that breaks the roof line, a typical French Eclectic feature.

Walls are of irregular coursed rubble stones. The whole building is a complete example of asymmetrical composition, akin to the

## Tour E — Huntington Southeast Section



picturesque character of this style.

Another comment about the style illustrates this example: *Many Americans served in France during World War I, and their first hand familiarity with the prototypes probably helped popularize the style. In addition, a number of photographic studies of modest French houses were published in the 1920's, giving architects and builders many models to draw from.* (4)

## 9

### R. J. Hage House

Location: 2105 Wilshire Drive  
Designer: Sidney L. day  
Completed: 1937

This charming Tudor house is both a fine eclectic design and a piece of excellent building craftsmanship. The edifice is a two story side-gabled pavilion, with a protruding gabled section that houses the main entrance, and two big wall dormers. A big chimney stack, with sloped set offs, or weathering, is located at the left side of the entrance, thus adding an asymmetrical trait to the façade.

## Tour E — Huntington Southeast Section



Its walls are of two different colored bricks, mixed together. Some parts of the masonry are of irregular coursed stone, especially in the first floor near the chimney base, and besides the entrance. Some lintels have been replaced by relieving arches. All these features have been constructed with rare skill and careful proficiency, a lesson perhaps useful to contemporary builders.

### 10 Ricketts House

Location: 2301 Washington Boulevard  
Designer: Levi J. Dean, Architect  
Completed: 1925  
National Register of Historic Places (7.15.1994)

A highlight among the prominent Huntington's architectural examples, it "*exhibits a fusion of the Tudor revival and Prairie school styles. The house is constructed of rough cut-stone laid in irregular courses, and complemented with keystone lintels above the windows. The building is completed with a large and unusual roof boasting 9 ridges, 13 valleys and 15 hips Roof shingles are seven layers thick and laid in wave courses to simulate thatch*" (3)



## Tour E — Huntington Southeast Section



Since the Prairie school fostered the building's integration with its natural environment, it is disguised among the plants, and its shape is not easy to understand.

Unfortunately the building is difficult to see from the outside, since only a partial view could be gained.

### **11 Peter C. Minotti's house**

Location: 133 Woodlawn Drive  
Designer: Peter C. Minotti  
Completed: 1939-1940

Peter C. Minotti was not an architect, but he was able to design a passable Mission Style house with several Mediterranean traits, in sympathy with his Italian ancestry.

The building has walls of brick masonry of painted white. The most visible feature is the surface treatment. The bricks have been laid with English bond, in an alternate pattern of set-off header bricks, which contrast with receding stretchers. The entrance has an imposing advancing porch supported by masonry pillars, with a shaped parapet that is reminiscent of the church facades of California missions..

## Tour E — Huntington Southeast Section



This example of the Mediterranean style is only found in a few houses in Huntington. See other examples in Tour B, No. 35 and No. 41, and in Tour C, No. 16.

## **Tour E — Huntington Southeast Section**