

The *Roaring '20s*

Explore the heyday of Sharon's industrial past with this tour along tree-lined streets of academic revival-style homes in the city's parkside neighborhood.



1 1019 Highland Road

One of the finest examples of Colonial Revival architecture in the Valley, this mansion features a symmetrical façade, dormers, slate roof, and heavy ornamentation. It was built circa 1924 by John L. and Katherine Considine and designed by architectural firm Wolfe & Wolfe of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Considine was President of Petroleum Iron Works Co., Director of Pennsylvania Tank Car Co., and eventually Postmaster for the city.

2 1034 Highland Road

Styled in the "Old English" style, this residence, built in 1927, features decorative stone and brickwork, dramatic gables, and a catslide roof. It was built by Alfred Taylor, a master bricklayer responsible for many of these fine homes, and purchased by Bon E. Kibbee, Vice President of Sharon Steel Hoop Company.

3 1039 Highland Road

This mansion features a mix of popular styles of the era such as American Foursquare, Tudor and Colonial Revivals. Built in 1929-30, this was the home of Harry L. Brindle, assistant superintendent of Carnegie Steel Company.

Other notable owners include Donald V. and Clara Sawhill, President of Mercer Tube and Manufacturing Company, eventually starting Sawhill Tubular Products Inc., Ray F. Eisenbies, president of Sawhill Tubular Products Inc., and Dr. Samuel G. Woodings.





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4 1057 Highland Road

Joseph B. and Elizabeth L. Myers built this fine residence circa 1929, which features a highly textured façade of brick and stone with stucco half-timbering. Myers was a partner in a clothing store, Shontz & Myers, specializing in men's and boys' clothing, hats and furnishings.

5 1152 Highland Road

This fine Tudor Revival cottage was built circa 1930-35 by Byron W. and M. Virginia Leach. Leach was the manager of The Pennzoil Company. Various steel executives and business owners lived here too. This cottage completes a row of similar houses likely built for speculation. Note the decorative leaded and stained glass transoms. A small hollow with beautiful foliage and trees adds to the "English countryside" atmosphere.

6 1166 Highland Road

In 1927, it was announced that M. V. DeForest was building three cottages opposite of his large Tudor Revival mansion. Taylor & Taylor, architects from Canton, Ohio (formerly of Sharon) designed the three cottages with Amon & Amon as the general contractors. The prominent chimney is a hallmark of this style; its oversized with multiple flues adding to its "storybook" proportions. Notice the stone arch attached to the chimney; a similar arch creates a gateway to the gardens.

Alexander and Anna Green, manager of the Foreign Department at the First National Bank, lived here.

7 1178 Highland Road

It's brick construction, rubblestone accents, false half-timbering in the upper gables, and smaller proportions affiliate this home with the Tudor Revival cottage style. Built in 1927 for speculation by M. V. DeForest, this cottage was purchased by Charles H. and Ida W. Gauchat. Gauchat was Vice President of the W. W. Moore Company, a local department store. Eisenbies and Sawhill lived here at one time too. The garage was extended in the 1950s for Mrs. Sawhill's limousine.

8 1189 Highland Road

Likely the first large-scale country home built in this neighborhood - setting the tone and expectation for grand homes on this exclusive street - this magnificent Tudor Revival residence was designed by Frank C. Taylor, local architect, in 1924 for M. V. DeForest. Troutman and Christman were the general contractors-builders, McCormick-Burns Company for plumbing and heating, J. C. Hoffman & Sons for roofing, and J. H. Seegers & Son for painting. DeForest owned DeForest's Pioneer Music House and DeForest's Buick Co. which sold and serviced Buick, Cadillac, LaSalle, and Pontiac automobiles. He was also the President of the Music Merchants Association of America. Notable owners were Oscar B. and Myrtle Rosenblum, wholesale grocers later starting Golden Dawn Foods, Henry A. Roemer Jr., President of Sharon Steel Corp., and Dr. Robert E. and Kathryn P. Sass.

The mansion is one of the finest examples of Tudor Revival architecture in the Valley. The home features brick and stucco construction, massive and elaborate chimneys, and a fine multi-colored slate roof. Note the front chimney with stacks turned 90 degrees; the brickwork is purposefully wavy to mimic the old English country estates from which this style is derived. Formal sunken gardens were in the rear.



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9 1190 Highland Road

Completing a quartet of picturesque Tudor Revival cottages, this home was built circa 1927 by M. V. DeForest for his son, William M. and his wife, Gertrude. Taylor & Taylor, Canton, Ohio architects (formerly of Sharon) designed these cottages. Amon & Amon were the general contractors. William M. DeForest was manager, Vice President, then President of DeForest Buick Co. The family had previously been in the music store business, but switched to solely automobiles. The DeForests started selling Buick automobiles in 1907, then adding Cadillac in 1914.

Brick and false half-timbering construction, arched front entry, and prominent chimney are hallmark features of the style. Most of the false half-timbering is vertical to give the illusion of height. Wood or metal fasteners are at the joints where the half-timbering meets, likely only decorative.

10 169 Case Avenue

This home attempts to mimic the thatched roofs of rural England cottages while using modern materials; the home actually closely resembles the Bachman Mansion (959 East State Street) just a smaller, less grand design. James Monroe and Ola B. Shontz built this house circa 1928. Shontz was a partner in the clothing store, Shontz & Myers, which specialized in men's and boys' clothing, hats and furnishings. The home is brick with stucco, french doors open onto the side porch, and an attached auto garage is under what may have been a second-floor sunroom or sleeping porch. The home actually faces Alcoma Street.

11 188 Case Avenue

Two different brick types are used in the construction of this fine Dutch Colonial home built between 1922-26. The design is rather common, but its unique exterior materials make it noteworthy. The original owners were William Devore and Bertha C. Sample, founders of Sample-O'Donnell Funeral Home in 1891.

12 240 Case Avenue

Fred A. and Ethel C. Belland had this house built circa 1928. Belland graduated from the Philadelphia College, interned at the Philadelphia Osteopathic Hospital, then entered the Army General Hospital in Baltimore until 1919. Arts and Crafts motifs are present here with beige and brown brick, several jerkin head roofs, and craftsman entry roof supports.

13 257 Case Avenue

Inspired by the Swiss Chalet style, this circa 1928 house was built by August and Freda Kuhnlenz, owners of a confectionary shop. A symmetrical façade, overhanging eaves with brackets, and weeping mortar. There are homes similar in design throughout the city.

14 270 Case Avenue

Many of the fine brick residences on this street were built by Alfred Taylor, a master bricklayer, who made money by building and selling homes. Built in the summer of 1925, this home was opened for public viewing as a model home known as the "Shenango Valley's First Electrical Home." Division Managers of Pennsylvania Power Co. Rufus Moses and Numa F. Vidal lived in this house in the 1940s. It is believed they were responsible for the ornate lampposts lighting Case and North Myers avenues. The home is built in the "Old English style" of brick with an irregular front façade of cascading front-facing gables. A front terrace was added sometime after it was built.



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15 290 Case Avenue

The Sharon Building Company, owned by the Bastress family, built many of the fine homes in the Valley, most on Glenwood Drive, Spencer and Case Avenues. D. W. Bastress was an architect. The house was first owned by William L. Aiken, Secretary-Treasurer and Managing Editor at the News-Telegraph, later absorbed by the Sharon Herald. Notable owners include William M. Armstrong of Armstrong Grocery Co. and Charles J. McLaughlin of The Sharon Store. The three Colonial Revival homes in this row are all similar floor plans. Long casement windows add interest to this one.

16 291 Case Avenue

An example of the American Foursquare style, this 1928 house shows simplicity in design with a full-width porch, boxy columns, hipped roof with dormers. Edward Miller was the original owner who was in finance and investments.

17 304 Case Avenue

This Colonial Revival home, with its symmetrical façade and pent roof over the first floor casement windows, was built by Dr. Howard G. and Hazel H. Lafferty circa 1928.

18 330 Case Avenue

A fine example of American Foursquare design, this home was built in 1925 by Frank G. and Katherine M. Wengler. Wengler was a well-known jeweler. This house was designed by Sharon architects, E. S. Hanna and E. E. Clepper with Troutman & Christman as the general contractors-builders. Built of dark red, textured brick with limestone accents, the home sits elevated above the street.

19 347 Case Avenue

Lyle and Sarah G. Merrick had this house built circa 1929. Merrick was Assistant Chief Engineer for Petroleum Iron Works Co., which specialized in steel plate construction, steel barrels and drums. The style here is Colonial Revival with Craftsman and Foursquare elements, like the full-width front porch with unfluted Doric columns, brackets under the eaves, symmetrical façade, and dormers. Note the bay windows on the upper floor. An original garage for two automobiles is in the rear.

20 347 Case Avenue

A picture-perfect example Colonial Revival architecture with Flemish bond brickwork and a symmetrical facade, the house was built in 1927 for George P. and Mary B. Anderson. Anderson was a dentist. The side porch was enclosed in recent years. The front entry is recessed with a fan- and sidelights, and beautifully designed with exaggerated brackets and a pedimented entry roof.

21 371 Case Avenue

Built around 1928, this is one of the few Tudor Revival homes on Case Avenue. It was built by Eustace Reagle, assistant superintendent of Sharon Steel Corp. The home is quite unique with a large arched window on the staircase and ironwork "R" on the chimney for Reagle.

22 928 Linden Street

Seen from a distance, the monumental colonnade of this Neo-Classical home is uncommon for the city. Land was purchased in 1927 by Alfred Taylor, who built the house and sold it to Walter B. Caldwell. In 1942, Sharon Steel Treasurer, J. Reid Evans and his wife, Maude, lived there. The home features brick construction, pedimented dormers, and a broken pedimented central entry with sidelights.