



O, the places you can go in York County

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Elmwood's 'Hobbit Hosue' is unusual for York County, Scott BUTcher writes in 'York's Historic Architecture.' Among other things, the Tudor Revival-style house bears a false-thatched roof. The author will sign books at the York Emporium, 343 W. MArket St., at 2 p.m. today. History Press published the \$19.99 book.

Scott Butcher's newest book will serve as a source for countless people interested in York County's architecturally significant buildings and structures.

The 157-page book is packed with photos and descriptions of private residences, houses of worship, commercial buildings and structures

that have seen many uses.

"From early Colonial taverns and ornate Victorian homes to the postmodern office towers of today, York's streetscape features almost every style and era of American architecture," local architectural expert Butcher wrote in a news release.

That's the much-deserved plug.

And here's how I'll use the book, and you might, too: Make a bit of a game of it using "York's Historic Architecture" as the board.

I've started checking off those buildings and residences that I've spent some time with visually. This means more than a drive by. And Scott gives short descriptions to mull as you study their facades.

For example, many times I've walked past the former mansion of Milton Martin, of library fame, standing at 145 E. Market. I've never seen the two grotesques standing guard above the entryway to the mansion, and the seal of architect J.A. Dempwolf greeting those entering.

I was familiar with most of the buildings, although the Hobbit House in Elmwood was among those new to me.

Next, if I've been inside the structures, I've started putting "Os" next to the check. I've been in relatively few of the buildings, although First Night York, home tours and other such functions

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give occasional access.

But there's no excuse for my never entering some of the public buildings. For example, I've never been on the grounds the Shoe House in Springettsbury Township when it has been open to the public over the years.

This time next year, I hope to have checks next to every building pictured and make progress with my "Os."

I've placed "Xs" next to the photos of structures that I need to get to immediately.

You never know when fire or some other disaster will strike these treasures. Or new owners can take over a building and reduce all hopes of public access.

But more likely, the bull-dozer will strike some of these architectural gems.

This possibility must have occurred to Butcher, too. He includes an essay titled "Why Preservation is Important," with pictures of West York's Helb Mansion and South Duke Street's York Collegiate Institute. Workers knocked down those priceless architectural jewels with little of significance replacing them.

He also named the now-demolished City Market, neighbor of the college. A gas station sits on its former footprint, the same use accorded the lot where the Helb Mansion formerly stood.

An example of a standing endangered building?

The old York County prison on Chestnut Street, Butcher wrote.

Let's hope in this Tic-Tac-Toe game that the "Os" beat the "Xs."

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DID YOU KNOW?

Scott Butcher's book "York's Historic Architecture" is packed with photos.

But it's also loaded with dates, details and architectural information, including many interesting tidbits about buildings, well-known and not.

Here are some points certain to pique your interest:

- Many people know that the York YMCA has long provided rooms for boys and men, as do its counterparts across America. When the Colonial Revival style YWCA was built on East Market St. in 1951, it provided housing for up to 28 girls.
- An elk is present over the entrance way of West Market Street's Royal Fire Company, now the Fire Museum of York County. It was relocated there from the Rescue Fire Company. And the

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firemen's statue in its yard was relocated from Penn Park.

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