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Neil Avenue Article

Mary McGarey

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The home at 1045 Neil Avenue.

SITES TO SEE

By MARY McGAREY

neil avenue

NEIL AVENUE looks north to the sleek new buildings of expanding Ohio State University and south to the convolutions of the busy freeway.

In between, its tree-shaded length is remarkably as it was at the turn of the century when business and professional men of Columbus lined the street with massive homes of brick and stone.

"A rare quality of continuity" is a feature cited in the application to have Neil Avenue listed as an historic district by the National Park Service.

In a small volume, *Handsome Homes of Columbus*, published in the early 1900s, more than a third of the residences pictured are Neil Avenue addresses — and a surprising number of them are still there.

Ornate window treatments, large porches, decorative chimneys and towers are common exterior features of the big houses. Shuttered windows, massive staircases and many high-ceilinged rooms to house large families and frequent guests mark the interiors.

Mentioned particularly in the application are the Caldwell home at 1265, restored by Battelle Memorial Institute; the Rogers house at 1045, with its bay windows and three-story tower; the arcaded window and double dormers of the Eckert home at 1260; and the complementary style of Neil Avenue United Methodist Church at 606.