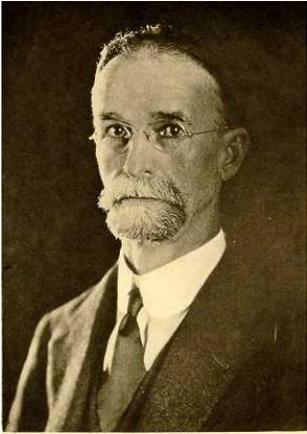


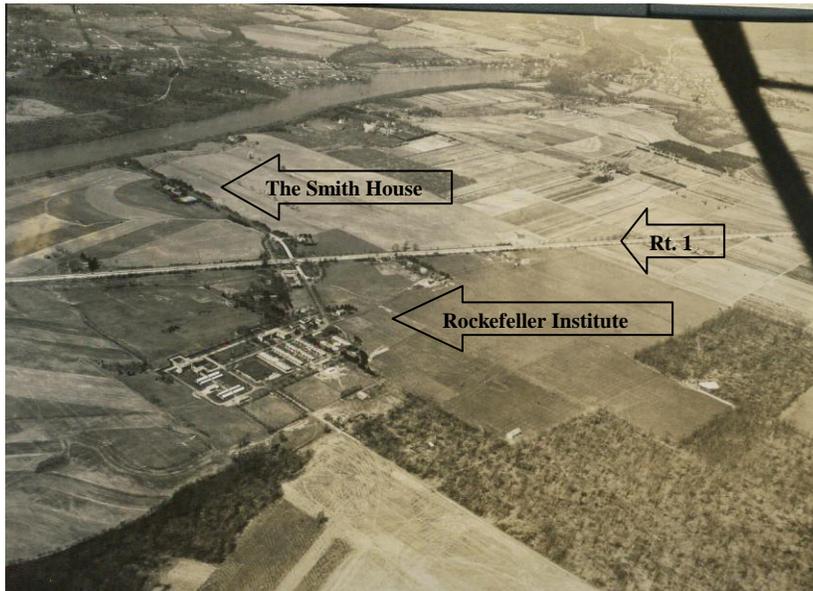
HISTORY OF THE SMITH HOUSE



Theobald Smith

The Smith House, built in 1914, was named in honor of its first resident, **Theobald Smith (1859-1934)**, who became the Director of The Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research, Department of Animal Pathology in 1915. He was one of the country's great pathologists and lived in The Smith House with his family during the 15 years (1915-29) he was director of the Institute's Department of Animal Pathology. The Rockefeller Institute later remodeled the house for use of its entire animal pathology staff.

The Institute was founded in 1901 by philanthropist John D. Rockefeller. It was devoted exclusively to medical research, particularly in the study of animal diseases, their causes and cures and later human diseases as well. With others, Smith discovered that ticks were the vectors of Texas cattle fever. He also distinguished between human and bovine tuberculosis. He authored over 300 scientific publications and reports. He was awarded a dozen honorary degrees and many medals including the highest award, the Copley Gold Medal of the Royal Society. Links to more information on Theobald Smith appear at the bottom of this paper.



The Institute's laboratories and research buildings were once located on what is now Princeton University's James Forrester Research Campus. James Forrester, a graduate of Princeton and the first Secretary of Defense (1947-49), worked to improve weapons and tried to persuade Eisenhower of the need to maintain readiness after WWII to defend against Communism. Plans and drawings of the house suggest it was built in the early part of this century. When the Institute moved to New York City in the early 1950's, The Smith House, along with other lands once belonging to the Institute, was acquired by Princeton University.

In 1942, Daniel C. Sayre (1903-1956) was instrumental for creating the Department of Aeronautical Engineering at Princeton University and became its first professor, Dr. Perkins succeeded him. The road connecting Route 1 (then Route 26 or Straight Turnpike and Mapleton Road) was named after him as Sayre Drive. That name was later extended to include all roads within Princeton Landing. Dr. Sayre conducted a project sponsored by the Army Air Forces for the study of ice formation on aircraft, its prevention and de-icing methods. He designed a 4,000-mph wind tunnel to solve basic problems connected with supersonic flight. In 1951, he helped Princeton University



acquire the Rockefeller Institute property for the James Forrester Campus. On that campus, a namesake, Sayre Hall was constructed in 1932 to match one built in 1916 in a style similar to The Smith House, including a green tile roof.

Since the 1950's, The Smith House has served as a home for a variety of occupants, culminating today as the property manager's offices and clubhouse for residents of Princeton Landing. The following is a chronology of some of its occupants and uses.

Early 1914 - 1951. It was the residence for the Theobald Smith, Director of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. He was affectionately nicknamed mellifluously "Old Baldy."

From 1951-1958. The Smith House, also known as the Clubhouse, served as the offices for employees of RCA and Allis-Chamers who were working on classified research program concerned with potential peacetime use of controlled thermo-nuclear energy sponsored by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission at Princeton University. This project has been referred to as **Project Materhorn**. The outgrowth of this research, including



the development of the C-Stellarator, the fusion research currently being conducted at the Plasma Physics Laboratories on the James Forrestal Research Campus across Route 1 from The Smith House.



Rear View. With permission from the Office of Communications Records.
Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library. Department of Rare Books and Special Collections.
Princeton University Library. Circa approx. 1970s.

and scientists and a dormitory for several graduate students. E. Glen Wever, the Eugene Higgins Professor of Psychology, was the Director of Princeton University's Auditory Research Laboratories, a complex of nine small buildings next to The Smith House.

During the mid-1970s, The Smith House was used as Administrative offices for the Princeton Forrestal Center and Forrestal Security. The second and third floors housed uniformed security officers. There was a ready room used for training.

In 1974, the garage was converted into a sales center for Princeton Landing by John P. Moran of SDDA Architects.

In the early 1980s The Smith House was purchased by The Value Group Inc., the developer of Princeton Landing, and restored to its original architectural design. The garage was converted into the bath house for the swimming pool which was built in 1983. From the mid-1980s to the present The Smith House has been the Princeton Landing community Clubhouse and the offices for the Forrestal Village Community Services Association and its management company.



The Smith House Clubhouse.

In 2012, the Forrestal Village Community Services Association Board began the renovation of The Smith House that included drainage remediation, window replacement (front), stucco renewal, and renewed landscaping. Since the building is almost 100 years old, repairs on the roof and completion of window replacement and stucco of the remainder of the building are planned.

The meeting room and hallways were covered with a floating wood paneling in 2013. The remainder of the first floor and staircase were covered with a traditional styled wool carpeting. To keep the meeting rooms as flexible as possible for various uses, new furniture and drapery were added only to the central reception room. Matching stacking chairs and folding dinner tables were purchased for meetings and dinners. With these changes the Smith House regained its reputation as a jewel for public and private receptions.



Before Renovation



After Renovation



Theobald Smith links: http://www.encyclopedia.com/topic/Theobald_Smith.aspx
<http://users.tellurian.com/tss/tedsmith.htm>
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2634653/>

Credits: Princeton University, Princeton Forrestral Center, Plainsboro Historical Museum, Dr. J. Stu Hunter (worked in the Smith House in the 1950s), Diane Nasper (Value Group), Diane Vernickas (Princeton Forrestral Center), Rudy Wellnitz (Plainsboro Historical Society), Taylor Zhong and former and current or long time Princeton Landing residents Dick Greene, Bill Hart, Sol Libes, and Mari Molenaar.