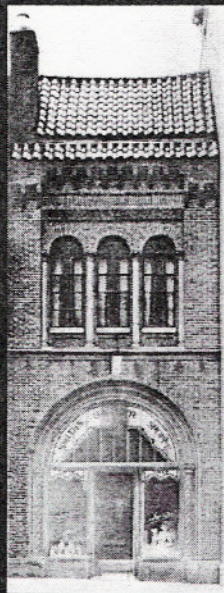


STATE COLLEGE HISTORIC SITE



Smith Building/Rinaldo's

Rinaldo's Barber Shop, which opened as Smith's Barber Shoppe on Thanksgiving weekend of 1925, is the oldest continuously operating barbershop in State College. Successive owners have maintained its 1919 barber chairs and original sinks, mirrors, cabinets, and black and white tile floor. Lacking someone who knew how to repair it, the ornate antique cash register was retired in 1997.

George Smith's original wooden barbershop on this site was destroyed by fire in 1924. Working with State College architect P. Boyd Kapp, the barber gave his new shop architectural details he admired: curved

green roof tiles, arched entryway and windows, twisted columns, and a domed chimney. The Romanesque style—popular for public buildings nationwide at this period—is unique in downtown State College.

Upstairs, George's wife, Frieda, operated Smith's Powder Puff Beauty Shoppe. It was followed by Alice & Don Hairdressers (1948–1954). In 1953, Smith's Barber Shoppe barber Dick DiRinaldo bought the shop and, in 1975, the building.

Town and gown—including Penn State presidents beginning with Ralph Dorn Hetzel—have been regular patrons.

