

Look Up, Piedmont Triad

**Walking Tours of 5 Towns
in the Tarheel State**

A Walking Tour of Greensboro, North Carolina

from walkthetown.com

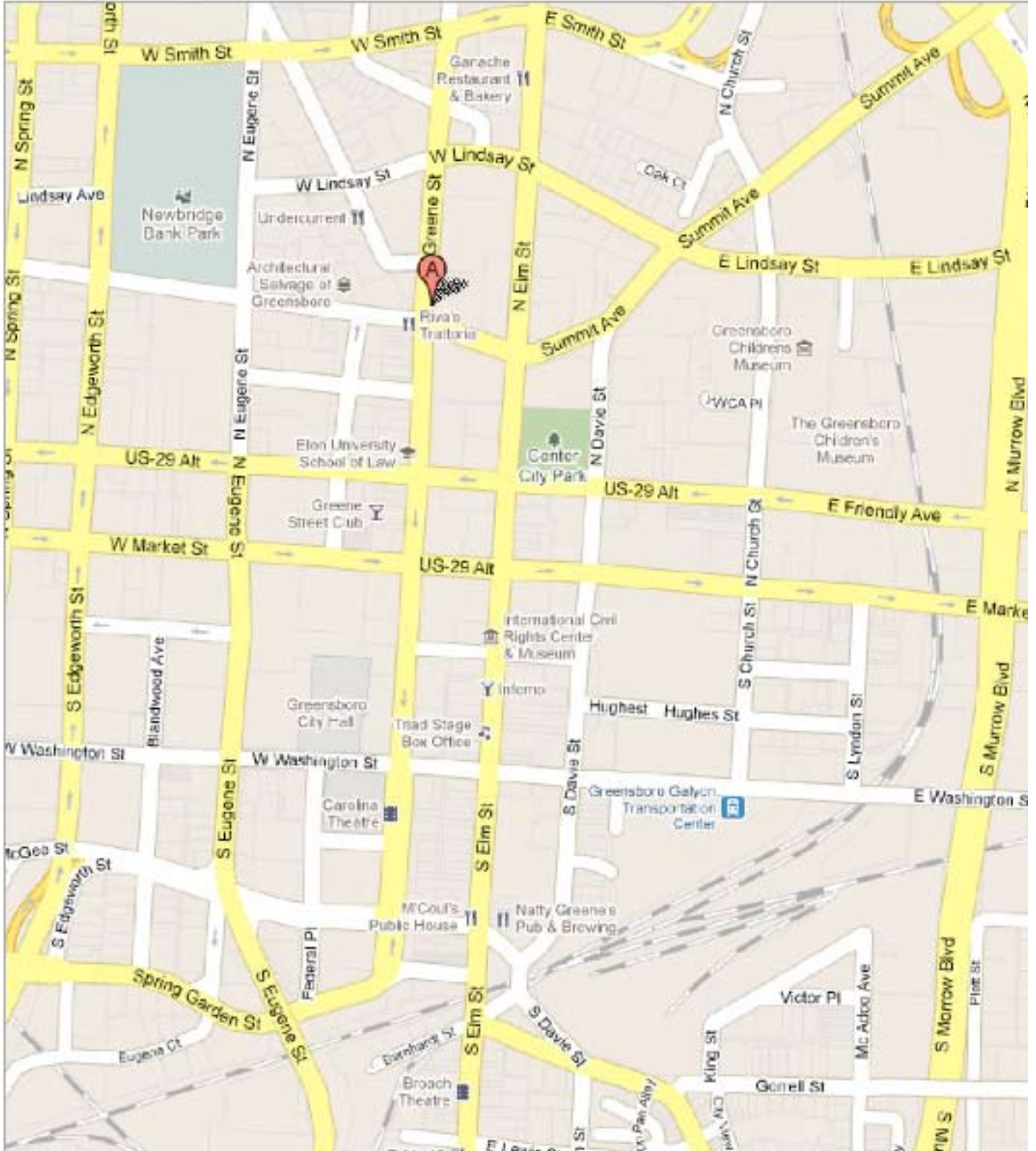
This area was settled by Quakers, Germans and Scotch-Irish who migrated down from Pennsylvania in the mid-18th century. Independent by nature, these small farmers would prove an asset in the coming Revolution. In 1770 Guilford County was carved from Orange and Rowan counties, taking its name from the Prime Minister of England, the Earl of Guilford. In 1774 a courthouse of hewn logs was raised about five miles northwest of present-day Greensboro.

On March 15, 1781 American forces clashed with the British Army of Lord Cornwallis at the Battle of Guilford Court House. The British carried the day but the cost was so steep Cornwallis pulled his battered army from North Carolina, leading to the eventual surrender at Yorktown. When the General Assembly authorized the creation of a centrally located Guilford County seat in 1808 the new town was named in honor of General Nathanael Greene, commander of the Colonial forces at Guilford Courthouse.

The settlement grew slowly but in the 1840s it had the good fortune to be the home of John Motley Morehead when he was the 29th Governor of North Carolina in the early 1840s. Morehead worked tirelessly to build the North Carolina Railroad and made sure the route for the new line passed through his Greensboro. Still, the population of the town would not break out of the hundreds until the 1870s.

By the 20th century, Greensboro was humming. Seeking to take advantage of the town's growing reputation as a transportation center, brothers Ceasar and Moses Cone established their Proximity (next to the railroad tracks) cotton mill here and soon Greensboro was turning out more denim than anywhere else. The Cone mills were followed by other mills and factories until more than 100 manufacturing concerns were churning out products across Greensboro.

Within about a decade Greensboro exploded from village to city. Virtually nothing remains of that pre-industrial Greensboro in the downtown district but several buildings remain from the hey-day of industrialized Greensboro 100 years ago. But before we find them, our walking tour will start in a very modern urban park, a place no one would have associated with green space just ten years before...



1. Center City Park
bounded by North Elm Street, North Davie Street, West Friendly Avenue
and Renaissance Tower



Landscaping on this 1.9-acre greenspace began in 2003. Three years and more than 200 trees and 2,000 flowering bulbs later, Center City Park was open for community events or quiet contemplation. Lead designer was the Halverson Design Partnership of Boston.

EXIT CENTER CITY PARK ONTO ELM STREET AND TURN LEFT.

2. Piedmont Building
114 North Elm Street



Harry Barton created this Beaux Arts office building in 1927. He outfitted the lower floors in decorative terra cotta and used multi-colored brick on the upper four floors.

3. Jefferson Building
101 North Elm Street



Charles Conrad Hartmann began apprenticing in some of New York's most famous architectural firms at the age of 16 in 1905. While in North Carolina to shepherd major hotel projects to completion he came to the attention of Julian Price of Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company who tabbed Hartmann to design a new \$2.5 million headquarters in 1921. The only proviso was that Hartmann relocate to Greensboro, which he did and established a busy practice until his retirement in the 1960s.

Hartmann blended elements of Neo-Gothic, Neoclassical and Art Deco stylings to create the Jefferson Standard Building. Sheathed in terra cotta and granite, the 17-story U-shaped tower, a feature that promoted air circulation, enjoyed a brief run as North Carolina's tallest building.

4. Southeastern Building 102 North Elm Street



This was the tallest building on the Greensboro skyline when the American Exchange Bank built it in 1920. The skyscraper adhered to the Chicago style of making high-rises in the fashion of a classic Greek column with a distinctive base (the ornate lower floors), shaft (the unadorned middle floors) and a capital (the elaborate cornice, in this case studded with dentils). The American Exchange Bank did not survive the Great Depression but the tower emerged, albeit as the Southeastern Building. In the 1940s the ground floors were stripped of their classical affectations but there are plans for them to be restored. Look up to see a terra cotta string course between the third and fourth floors.

5. F.W. Woolworth's 134 South Elm Street



Leading Greensboro architect Charles Hatmann designed this Art Deco-style corner building in 1929, then known as the Whelan Building for its largest tenant, the Whelan Drug Company. In 1939 Woolworth's, America's leading five-and-dime chain store, moved in. The space became immortalized on February 1, 1960 when it was selected by four North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University freshmen as the place for their peaceful protests against segregation. Although all other parts of the store were open to black and white alike the Woolworth's lunch counter was "Whites only."

Joseph McNeil, Franklin McCain, Ezell Blair, Jr., and David Richmond challenged that policy by simply sitting at the counter. When they were refused service, they went on sitting, until the store closed. They promised to return the next day and again were refused service. After media coverage

and word of the protest spread the four students were joined by hundreds of supporters. “Sit-in” protests began at other restaurants and in other cities. The “sit-in” at the Greensboro Woolworth’s lasted until July 25 when the entire Woolworth’s chain was desegregated. Woolworth’s closed the store in 1993 and announced plans to tear down the building. Within three days there was an agreement to save the building and in 2010, after much financial wrangling, the International Civil Rights Center and Museum opened here on the 50th anniversary of the original sit-in.

6. Dixie Building
125 South Elm Street



After honing his craft in Denver for the better part of 30 years, architect Frank A. Weston came to Greensboro about 1904 and this was his first major commission, for the City National Bank. His Dixie Building is marked by bold granite entrance arches.

7. Meyer’s Department Store
200 South Elm Street



Merchant prince William D. Meyer opened his first department store in 1905 and by 1924 he was in need of a new building. Prolific Greensboro architect Harry Barton crafted this five-story emporium of granite and pressed gray brick and terra-cotta. To lure shoppers inside he created large windows to allow sunlight to pierce the interior of his building. Meyer’s closed in the 1970s.

8. Kress Building
212 South Elm Street



Architect Edward F. Sibbert unified the S.H. Kress & Co. store street appearances across America with the Art Deco style in the 1930s. This is North Carolina's finest surviving example of a downtown Kress store. The facade is richly decorated in terra cotta with orange, gold and green decorations. Look up to see rams' heads with tobacco leaves flowing from their ears.

9. Schiffman's Jewelry
225 South Elm Street



In 1893 Simon Schiffman was making his way to Asheville to look into a jewelry business for sale. Waiting to change trains in Greensboro, he went for a walk down Elm Street, saw a jewelry business for sale and bought it on the spot. Four generations later Schiffman's is the oldest family-run business in Greensboro. This is the third location for the store and the second store on this site. The first store, a four-story wooden building burned in 1935.

10. Triad Stage
232 South Elm Street



This brick building from 1936 was once the showroom for the Montgomery Ward mail order firm but it spent many more years vacant than it did displaying merchandise. Renovations and conversion to a world class stage commenced in 2001.

11. Guilford Building
301 South Elm Street



This is Charles Hartmann's second skyscraper in Greensboro, constructed in 1927. Hartmann used a Renaissance Revival style here, wrapping the base of the brick tower in bands of terra cotta scored to look like ashlar blocks of granite. This building was the long-time home of the Greensboro Bank and Trust Company.

TURN LEFT ON EAST WASHINGTON STREET.

12. J. Douglas Galyon Depot
303 East Washington Street



When the Southern Railway constructed this Georgian Revival passenger depot in 1927 it was the largest, most elaborate train station ever built in North Carolina. The New York architectural firm of Fellheimer and Wagner drew up the design. In short order the station was serving 40 trains every day - the concourse had enough benches to seat 1,000 passengers. Fifty years later only one train a day, the Amtrak Crescent, was rolling into Greensboro and in 1979 the depot closed. After a restoration in 2003 the depot is again servicing the transportation industry - this time for buses.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO ELM STREET AND TURN LEFT.

13. Norfolk Southern Offices
400 South Elm Street



This red brick building was the first passenger depot the Southern Railway constructed in Greensboro, back in 1899. Passengers from that time and campaigning politicians like Teddy Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson would not recognize the platform today since the building was reconfigured into offices when the new station you just visited was built on East Washington Street in 1927.

WALK BACK A FEW STEPS TO MCGEE STREET AND TURN LEFT. WALK ONE BLOCK TO GREENE STREET.

14. Nathanael Greene
Elm Street and McGee Street intersection



Nathanael Greene was a Quaker farmer who ran a family forge in Rhode Island. He was self-taught and the extent of his military adventures before the Revolutionary War erupted was to help organize a local militia. He was with General Washington in all the early engagements of the Continental Army and on August 9, 1776 Greene was promoted to be one of the four new major generals under Washington.

Greene was given command of the War in the South in 1780 and on March 15, 1781 he engaged Lord Cornwallis at the Battle of Guilford Court House. Greene's troops were driven from the field but inflicted such heavy losses that the British left for the coast. Greene then swept through the interior Carolinas, penning the remaining British ineffectively in Charleston as the war came to an end.

Greene became one of the most honored figures in American history. North and South Carolina and Georgia voted Greene liberal grants of lands and money, towns and ships were named after him, monuments erected. This is one of the newest, unveiled as part of the Greensboro bicentennial

celebration in 2008. Local sculptor Jim Branhill crafted the eleven-and-a-half foot bronze likeness of General Greene.

TURN RIGHT ON GREENE STREET.

15. Cone Export and Commission Building 330 South Greene Street



Moses and Ceasar Cone were emissaries of their family wholesale grocery business in Baltimore, Maryland, combing the South in the late 1800s to find new customers for their goods. Along the way the brothers began acting as sales agents for the new southern textile mills that were coming online. In 1890 they established the Cone Export and Commission Company and five years later built their own cotton mill in Greensboro. Cone Mills quickly became known for its “heavy duty - deep tone blue denim.” Corduroy and flannel soon followed from the more than 30 Cone manufacturing plants but at the time of his death at the age of 51 in 1908 Moses Cone was known simply as the “Denim King.”

This Tudor Revival brick structure was constructed in 1925, executed on plans drawn by Harry Barton, to serve as a commodity exchange for the Cone mills. The Greensboro Daily Record did not temper its praise for the new structure, calling it “the most beautifully appointed office building in the country.” With its walnut walls and black and white checkerboard marble floor, it was easy to come to that conclusion. The Southern Life Insurance Company purchased the building for its headquarters in 1945 and stayed four decades, keeping up the elegant origins of the space.

16. The Carolina Theatre 310 South Greene Street



The Carolina Theatre opened as a grand vaudeville theater - “The Showplace of the Carolinas” - in the dying days of live vaudeville on Halloween night 1927. The owners were quick to adapt their monumental Greek temple for movies with Vitaphone speakers and the first commercial air

conditioning in North Carolina. The movie palace painted in bright greens and reds and golds hosted full houses until the late 1960s. After that the historic theater dodged the wrecking ball for several years until a multi-million dollar restoration came to the rescue.

TURN LEFT ON MARKET STREET, STAY ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE STREET.

17. Guilford Court House

301 West Market Street, between Eugene and Greene streets



Few counties have worn out more courthouses than Guilford County. This is the seventh hall of justice to serve the county, and the fifth constructed in downtown Greensboro since it became the county seat in 1809. This was the first major commission in town for architect Harry Barton after he moved from his native Philadelphia to Greensboro in 1912. Barton would go on to become the city's leading architect until his death in 1937 at the age of 61.

Barton had a long resume of creating important civic buildings, having spent a decade designing Federal buildings for the United States Department of Treasury. For this courthouse, constructed between 1918 and 1920, Barton tapped the Neoclassical style, giving his symmetrical confection a projecting pediment enhanced by fluted Ionic columns and pilasters.

CONTINUE TO THE CORNER AND TURN RIGHT TO CROSS TO THE OTHER SIDE OF MARKET STREET. TURN RIGHT AND HEAD BACK TOWARDS GREENE STREET.

18. United States Post Office and Courthouse

324 West Market Street



This is regarded as one of North Carolina's finest Depression-era buildings as it exemplifies the stripped-down classicism of the Art Deco style then in vogue. Indiana limestone and granite quarried in Mount Airy were used to fashion the new post office, with splashes of marble, bronze and aluminum accents. Look up to see the ornamentation of carved limestone including shields,

eagle heads and floral designs. Completed in 1933, this is officially the L. Richardson Preyer, Jr. Federal Building. Preyer was a superior court judge and six-time United States Congressman; his grandfather Lunsford invented Vick's Vapo-Rub.

WALK ONE MORE BLOCK AND TURN LEFT ON MORGAN STREET.

**19. West Market Street United Methodist Church
302 West Market Street**



This is the third church for the congregation that formed in the 1820s. When a two-story brick meetinghouse for the flock of 64 was completed on South Elm Street in 1831, it was the first church built inside town limits. For this building, in 1893, church leaders turned to the newly popular Richardsonian Romanesque style based on work by America's leading post-Civil War architect. Architect S.W. Foulk of New Castle, Pennsylvania adapted the brawny style highlighted by multiple materials, corner tower, turrets and broad, powerful entry arches. Construction cost for the project was \$52,000 with room for 2,000 worshippers at a time when the town population was roughly 3,500. The 75 stained-glass windows were donated by church members who had bought them at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair.

CONTINUE WALKING TO THE CORNER OF GREENE STREET. ACROSS THE ROAD, IN FRONT OF YOU, IS...

**20. Lincoln Financial Building
100 North Greene Street**



This 20-story building, Greensboro's tallest, came along in 1990 as an addition to the Jefferson Standard Building, mimicking its architectural style. The building switched presidents went Jefferson was swallowed by the Lincoln Financial Group.

TURN LEFT ON GREENE STREET.

21. Wachovia Tower
300 North Greene Street



This 21-story post-modern tower was built for First Union Bank in 1989. The property has since changed hands, most recently in 2010 when it was sold for \$45 million.

22. Central Fire Station
318 North Greene Street



This building was constructed in 1926 to house Greensboro's first four fully-paid fire companies. Charles C. Hartmann designed the ornate station with six stone arched engine bays in the Italian Renaissance style. The Central Station sported such innovations as a Gamewell alarm and recording system that linked the city's alarm boxes and did away with the fire bell previously employed. The station was decommissioned in 1980 and the building now rests on the National Register of Historic Places.

TURN AND WALK A FEW PACES BACK TO BELLEMEADE STREET. TURN LEFT AND WALK ONE BLOCK TO NORTH ELM STREET.

23. O Henry Statue
301 North Elm Street



William Sydney Porter was born on September 11, 1862, in Greensboro. As a teenager Porter worked in his uncle's drugstore and he became a licensed pharmacist. At 19 he left for Texas

hoping to tame a chronic cough. There he found work as a pharmacist, draftsman, bank teller and journalist. He was beginning to get some of his short stories published when he was convicted of embezzlement for sloppy bookkeeping. He published fourteen stories in prison under various pseudonyms but the one that stuck was "O. Henry." After being released from prison in 1901 Henry made his way to New York City where his tales became popular with readers for their surprise twist endings. He wrote 381 short stories in the next decade before he died of liver complications. Porter is honored in his hometown with this three-piece sculpture group that includes his likeness, his dog Lovey and an open book of his short stories.

TURN RIGHT ON NORTH ELM STREET AND WALK A SHORT WAYS DOWN TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT IN CENTER CITY PARK.

A Walking Tour of High Point, North Carolina **from walkthetown.com**

This area was settled by Pennsylvania Quakers as early as 1750 but there was nothing that looked like a town here until 100 years later when the North Carolina & Midland Railroad came through. The town was located at the highest point on the line between Greensboro and Charlotte and became High Point. In 1854 a 130-mile plank road following an old Indian trail and pioneer wagon road was finished between Salem and Fayetteville and crossed here, insuring High Point would develop as a trading center.

High Point was incorporated in 1859. There was early industry in tobacco but neighboring North Carolina towns were more aggressive in its promotion and the importance of High Point's two tobacco factories faded away. By 1889 word had spread among woodworkers of the abundant hardwoods available nearby and the town's first furniture factories opened. High Point was on its way to becoming the "Home Furnishings Capital of the World."

Today the region is home to more than 125 furniture manufacturers, including 15 of the nation's largest. More than 60% of all the furniture crafted in America comes from within 200 miles of High Point. Twice a year furniture designers, buyers and sellers from more than 100 countries around the world descend on the city for the International Home Furnishings Market, the largest event of its kind on the planet.

There won't be many steps on our walking tour when High Point's furniture heritage is not on display but first we will begin by the railroad where the town earned its name...



**1. Southern Railway Depot
100 West High Avenue at Main Street**



This Arts and Crafts passenger station with its distinctive red tile roof was erected in 1907 by the Southern Railway Company, created in 1894 from the bones of some 150 railroad predecessors. With the rise of automobiles the tracks were sunk into a 35-foot deep trench in the 1930s. If you look at the retaining walls in the cut you can see Art Moderne detailing in the concrete. In the 1970s the Southern Railway leased the station to a restaurant and passengers boarded trains from a small makeshift metal building. By 1990 the restaurant had shuttered and the station faced a wrecking ball. Instead a multi-million dollar renovation resulted in an award-winning restoration of the once-again active depot.

ON MAIN STREET, WITH YOUR BACK TO THE DEPOT, TURN LEFT AND CROSS THE TRACKS AND WALK A SHORT WAYS UP NORTH MAIN STREET.

**2. North Carolina Savings Bank and Trust
134 North Main Street**



The North Carolina Savings Bank and Trust Company took its first deposits on February 3, 1908 in this five-story Beaux arts-inspired building, the first office building with high-rise aspirations to be constructed in High Point. Those first depositors were paid four percent interest. By 1912 the bank was reorganized as the Bank of Commerce under president Oscar E. Kearns. With his brother Gurney, Kearns had established the Kearns Furniture Company in 1900.

TURN AND WALK BACK ACROSS THE RAILROAD TRACKS AND BEGIN EXPLORING SOUTH MAIN STREET.

3. High Point Veterans Memorial East High Avenue and Main Street



Although scarcely a town at the time, the area played a role in the War Between the States. Across the railroad tracks from this spot was the gun factory of L.M. Gillam and James Miller who manufactured rifles and gun stocks for the Confederate government. Less than a mile away was Camp Fisher where North Carolina troops trained in the early years of the war. The High Point Veterans Memorial honors men and women who served in America's wars since 1900.

4. First Factors Building 101 South Main Street



In 1902 banker J. Elwood Cox built one of North Carolina's fanciest hotels hard by the railroad tracks. The rambling Beaux Arts-inspired stone hotel featured rooms furnished with handsome brass and iron beds and imported rugs. Some even boasted their own private bathrooms, an amenity travelers typically enjoyed only in the big city. In 1966 the aging guest house was acquired and demolished for redevelopment. The nine-story white modernist building that stands here now was developed by First Factors Bank in 1972 and has done recent duty as a furniture showroom.

5. Center Theater
152 South Main Street



This movie palace from the Golden Age of Hollywood got its name because the Wilby-Kincey theater chain located it at “a point which represents almost the center of High Point.” Of course that coveted spot was already occupied in 1939 so architect Eric Stillwell of Hendersonville incorporated his 1,300-seat theater into an existing five-story commercial building that contained storefronts and the diminutive Orpheum Theater. Stillwell infused the new movie house with Art Moderne themes including aluminum handrails, curved walls, an Art Deco terrazzo box office floor and the distinctive script on the TURN AND WALK BACK ACROSS outside facade. The eagerly awaited Center Theater opened on January 1, 1939 and the mid-winter opening did not allow patrons to enjoy High Point’s first air-conditioned theater. Its days as a movie palace are over; the space is today another furniture building.

6. Radio Building
164 South Main Street



Classically trained architect Charles Conrad Hartmann moved from New York to Greensboro in 1921 to build the landmark Jefferson Standard Building, the tallest building in the South at the time. While in North Carolina he picked up other major commissions and built an important practice in the state. Many of his buildings were the first skyscrapers to appear in their communities and such was the case for this nine-story Renaissance Revival tower that was completed for the Commercial National Bank in 1924. Bank President J. Elwood Cox gushed at the ceremonial opening that his new bank building was “the finest in North Carolina” as he distributed souvenir letter openers for men and notebooks to the women in the crowd of more than 2,000 people. In 1935 radio station WMFR moved into the top floor and began broadcasting via its transmission tower anchored on the roof. The last bank moved out in 1992 but the station remains here still and lends the building its name.

7. National Furniture Mart
200 South Main Street



With nine floors and 259,000 square feet of permanent showroom space, the National Furniture Mart has anchored High Point Market Square since 1964.

8. American Furniture Walk of Fame
Furniture Plaza



The American Furniture Hall of Fame Foundation was founded to research, collect and preserve the history of the industry and honor those individuals whose outstanding achievements have contributed to the continued growth and development of the United States furniture industry. Established in 2001, the Walk of Fame salutes each new member with a bronze plaque.

9. Guilford County Courthouse
258 South Main Street



Louis Francis Voorhees was settling into a career as a design professor at the University of Virginia when he met his future wife, a High Point native. The couple moved to High Point in 1924 and Voorhees launched one of the town's busiest architecture practices. In the 1930s he embraced the popular stripped down classicism of the Art Deco style which was used for this county courthouse in 1938. The facade, highlighted by the stylized metal entranceway, three figures on the frieze, each portraying one of three major industries of the city: furniture, textiles, and agriculture. It was a measure of High Point's importance that the courthouse was built here to complement the facility in Greensboro and it was the first courthouse in North Carolina in which sessions of the Superior Court were held outside a county seat. The building has since been converted to private use.

**10. High Point Convention & Visitors Bureau
300 South Main Street**



This corner of this Art Deco-dominated intersection features the Professional Building with its richly decorated stone entrances. among its current tenants are the High Point Convention and Visitor Bureau and the Doll & Miniature Museum, home to more than 2,500 dolls.

**11. United States Post Office
100 East Green Street at Main Street**



This building was one of the thousands of Depression-era projects funded by the Federal government. Louis Voorhees provided the Art Deco design and ground was broken in 1932. Dedication took place on Independence Day, 1933. The building is sheathed in high-quality Indiana limestone, decorated with classical carvings. The government has since moved on from this stylish building.

TURN AND WALK ONE BLOCK BACK TO COMMERCE STREET AND TURN RIGHT.

12. International Home Furnishings Center
210 East Commerce Street



The first official Southern Furniture Market was held in High Point in March, 1909. Attendance was sparse, and manufacturers doubted they could ever compete with similar exhibitions in New York, Chicago and Grand Rapids, Michigan. Twelve years later, after 19 months of construction, the town's first permanent Southern Furniture Exposition Building opened for its first show with 249,000 square feet of exhibition space. The High Point Market has been held regularly ever since and today is the largest home furnishings industry trade show in the world.

The Exposition Building received its first expansion in 1950 with the construction of the Wrenn Wing. Glass walkways were constructed over Wrenn Street to link the exhibition spaces. The Southern Furniture Market was renamed the International Home Furnishings Market in 1989. In 2001 a 12th floor opened, giving the world's pre-eminent furniture showroom building 3,500,000 square feet of display space.

13. High Point Theatre
220 East Commerce Avenue



Owned and operated by the City, this entertainment complex was constructed in 1975. The 965-theater can accommodate all types of the performing arts and the facility also includes three large exhibition galleries.

14. John Coltrane Statue
East Commerce Avenue at South Hamilton Street



John Coltrane was born in Hamlet, North Carolina, on September 23, 1926 and his family moved to his grandparents' house in High Point when he was only 3 months old. Coltrane spent the first 17 years of his life in High Point at 118 Underhill Street. Coltrane played the clarinet and the alto horn in a community band before taking up the alto saxophone during high school. In 1947, after departing for Philadelphia, Coltrane switched to tenor saxophone, the instrument with which he became a legend playing in the upper register. Coltrane was just reaching the heights of his artistic powers when he died of liver cancer at the age of 40 in 1967. Thomas Jay Warren of Oregon sculpted this eight foot bronze likeness of John Coltrane for his home town.

TURN LEFT ON HAMILTON STREET AND WALK UP TO...

15. Showplace
211 East Commerce Avenue



The architectural firm of Hyndman & Hyndman of San Diego put this 450,000 feet of convention space under a dynamic curved roof. Buyers enter through a massive portico into a Cathedral-like 108-foot atrium and can relax on balconies on the third, fourth and fifth floors. The building opened in 2000.

WALK OVER TO WRENN STREET AND TURN RIGHT. TURN LEFT ON HIGH AVENUE AND WALK ONE BLOCK BACK TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT AT HIGH POINT STATION.

A Walking Tour of Lexington, North Carolina

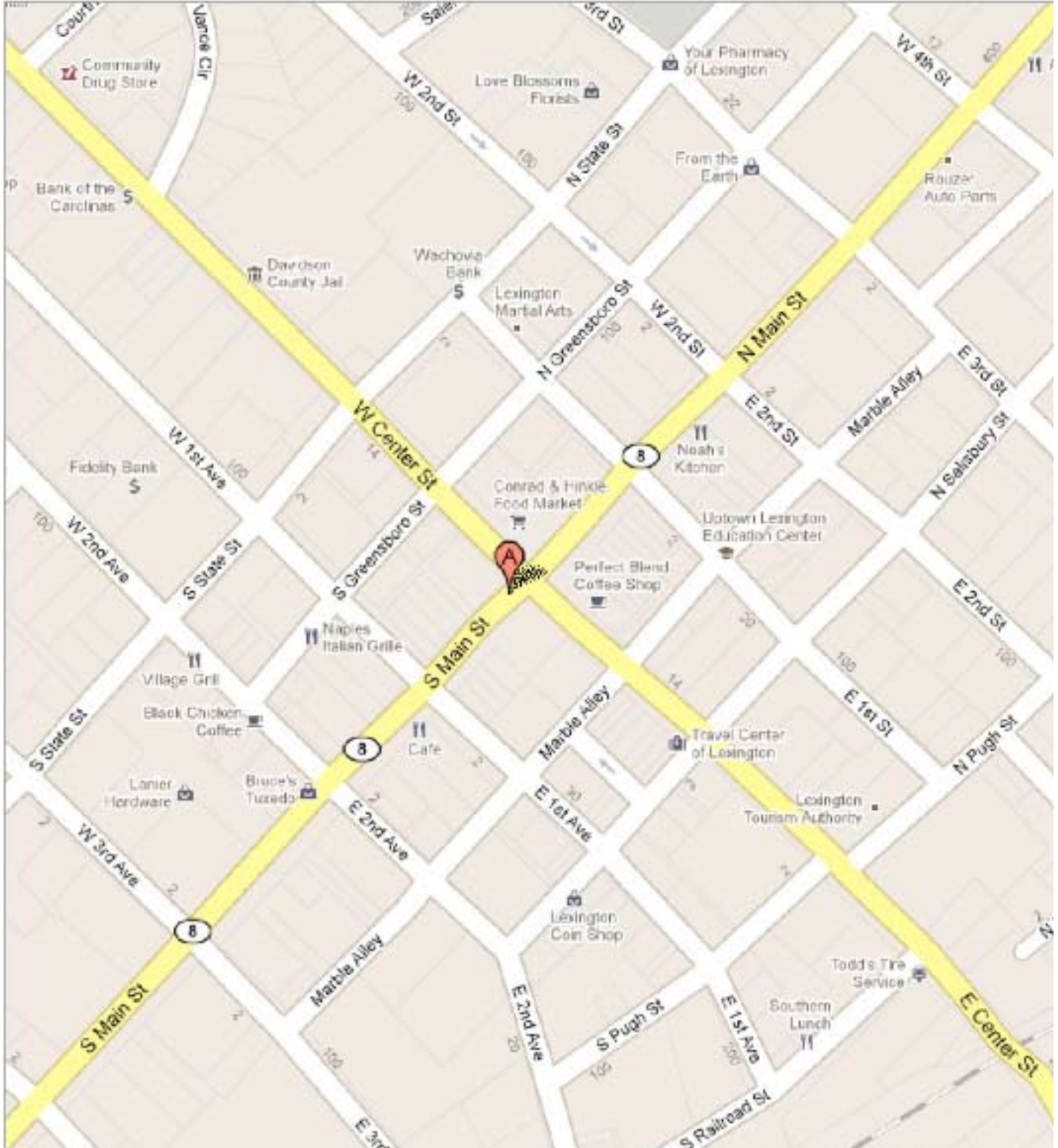
from walkthetown.com

There were settlers to this area by 1750 but the small cluster of buildings that passed for a village was so inconsequential no one got around to naming it. When the residents heard tell of the heroic acts taking place in Lexington, Massachusetts they adopted the name Lexington.

The town's history is a familiar tale in the Piedmont. Some furniture making and some textile manufacturing fueled the economy. But even after the North Carolina General Assembly sliced away a chunk of Rowan County in 1822 and named it after Revolutionary War General William Lee Davidson who fell in the Battle of Cowan's Ford and selected Lexington as its county seat, great spurts of growth did not follow.

Lexington fancies itself the "Barbecue Capital of the World" and boasts its own style of smoked meat using a vinegar-based red sauce infused with ketchup, pepper and other spices. The sauce also serves as the seasoning base for "red slaw," which is coleslaw made by using Lexington-style barbecue sauce in place of mayonnaise. Each October the town plays host to the Lexington Barbecue Festival. The event was the brainchild of Joe Sink, Jr., publisher of Lexington's daily newspaper, The Dispatch, back in 1984. The first festival was a success with 30,000 people feasting on 3,000 pounds of barbecued pork shoulder and has grown five-fold since.

Main Street in Lexington was built mostly between 1880 and 1920. Few buildings from that time have been destroyed, few buildings have been added since. Most have been modernized and altered to suit new tenants so look up to capture the flavor of Lexington a century ago on our walking tour that will begin in the square where the town's main streets come together...



**1. Davidson County Courthouse
2 South Main Street**



The first courthouse, a brick structure designed by William Nichols, was constructed in the center of the square after Lexington was named the seat of the newly formed Davidson County in 1822. It was demolished in 1858 and this courthouse, set outside the main intersection replaced it. Architect William Asher gave the building a classical Greek temple form, distinguished by Corinthian columns and pilasters, and Italianate details. Constructed at the cost of \$20,000, the stucco-covered courthouse was originally painted a fashionable rose color. The building served the Davidson courts for 100 years until 1958 and stands today as one of North Carolina's transcendent antebellum public buildings.

FACING THE COURTHOUSE, WALK AROUND TO RIGHT, DOWN WEST CENTER STREET.

**2. Raper Building
southwest corner of West Center Street and Court Square**



George Franklin Barber began designing houses in DeKalb, Illinois before setting up shop in Knoxville, Tennessee in 1888 at the age of 34. Barber quickly became one of the best-known “mail-order” architects who sold designs and floor plans via catalogs. Barber set himself apart from the other purveyors of architecture through the mail by his willingness to personalize his designs for individual clients at a moderate cost. Barber’s plans were used for houses in all 50 U.S. states, and in nations as far away as Japan and the Philippines. Most of his early designs were of the Victorian Queen Anne style but he later transitioned to Colonial Revival plans. This two-story brick building, with its hipped roof and symmetrical facade, is one of his Colonial Revival designs, executed in 1907 for attorney Emery E. Raper.

NEXT TO THE RAPER BUILDING BEHIND THE COURTHOUSE IS...

**3. Lawyers Row
8-12 Court Square**



While Emery Raper was ensconced in the stylish corner building, this long two-story building of pale patterned brick was developed as offices by a trio of attorneys in the 1920s.

ACROSS CENTER STREET IS...

**4. City Hall
28 West Center Street**



At Lexington City Hall and the adjacent Mayor's building there are no signs honoring the great politicians that shaped the town but there is a plaque remembering that this was the place where barbecue was first sold in town. The slow-cooked meat was prepared on open pits for folks on court business and farmers peddling their wares on Saturdays and sold under tents.

**FACING CITY HALL, WALK DOWN THE ALLEY TO THE RIGHT. BESIDE THE
PARKING LOT ON YOUR RIGHT IS...**

**5. Former City Barbecue
South Greensboro Alley**



Sid Weaver started cooking shoulders using hardwood and put up the first barbecue stand in Lexington across from the courthouse in 1919. Jess Swicegood put up a barbecue tent directly across the street from Weaver. The two men went head-to-head and later upgraded from BBQ tents to small buildings. This brick building from the 1930s was Swicegood's.

RETURN TO CENTER STREET AND TURN RIGHT. WALK DOWN TO THE CORNER.

**6. Grimes Brothers Mill
West Center Street at State Street**



John D. and Thomas J. Grimes constructed a four-story, frame, steam-powered flour mill in Lexington in 1879, which they expanded in 1885 with a four-story brick addition. The mill closed in 1860 and the original frame portion of the mill and later frame additions were demolished in 1961 when West Center Street was widened. The buff brick Italianate addition is all that survives of the Grimes Brothers Mill complex. It stands today as the first roller-process flour mill in North Carolina and the only such surviving mill in Davidson County. The property has been redeveloped as office space.

**RETURN TO COURTHOUSE SQUARE AND TURN RIGHT TO BEGIN TOURING
SOUTH MAIN STREET. STAY ON THE RIGHT (WEST) SIDE OF THE STREET.**

7. Black Dog Emporium
22 South Main Street



Look up at this corner brick commercial building from the 1880s to see an unusual wide arched window, segmented by tiny Ionic columns. The window is highlight by geometric blocks of rough-faced granite. The storefront is wrapped by similar pieces of granite. Look further up to see patterned brickwork typical of late 1800s commercial buildings. Step around the corner to see more granite trim on the window lintels and decorative arched brickwork.

8. March Hotel
102 South Main Street



James Edward March built his first hotel on this site in the 1880s, a two-story frame guest house with a wide wrap-around porch. The building was replaced with a brick structure at the turn of the century which evolved into this grand Neoclassical hostelry on a rusticated base with broad Ionic pilasters, keystone windows and a modillioned cornice crowned by a decorative parapet. In its original incarnation a multi-columned stone entrance stretched out to the street to greet guests arriving in horse-drawn carriages. The entire street level has been compromised to service recent storefronts so look up to capture the essence of one of Lexington's most distinctive buildings.

9. Princess Theatre
120 South Main Street



This non-descript brick building began life in 1914 as the ornate Princess Theatre where a six-piece orchestra accompanied the top entertainment acts of the day. The glory days of the Princess were short-lived and the space was put to diverse commercial purpose, most notably on the second floor where the photography studio of H. Lee Waters operated for more than 70 years.

10. Buchanan-Siceloff Building
200-202 South Main Street



At first glance this two-story building with the decorative golden brick facade appears to be one harmonious composition constructed at the same time but look up for clues as to its evolution. The circular ariel balcony with iron railing in the center does not have a decorative counterpart at the far end. And its three-pane wide window matches only the end window. That middle bay, in fact, was the end of the building when it was first constructed in the early 1920s. The building was doubled in size a few years later. The first floor has been totally altered. The Siceloffs were a pioneering family in Davidson County and E.J. Buchanan was a physician whose office stood on the site of this building's addition. The developers built the property for a department store, on the site of a former long-time shopper's destination - Pickett's Groceries.

**11. United States Post Office
220 South Main Street**



A post office was first established in the village of Lexington in 1800 when the population was still less than 100. A little over a century later the town merited this monumental Neoclassical post office, rendered in stone and fronted by a colossal Tuscan portico. It was completed in 1912 and handled Lexington mail until 1967. After that it did duty as the town library and is currently occupied by Arts United of Davidson County.

CROSS THE STREET AND TURN LEFT, WALKING BACK TOWARDS COURTHOUSE SQUARE.

**12. Edward C. Smith Civic Center of Lexington
217 South Main Street**



Jones Tilden Hedrick was an energetic entrepreneur whose interests ran from groceries to orange groves in Florida. In 1935 he built the Carolina Theater, the town's largest, that showed movies and hosted liver performances. Jones died in 1938 at the age of 61 and the Carolina, then owned by the Wilby-Kincey chain, was partially destroyed by fire in 1945. Erle Stillwell, a Hendersonville architect, helmed the reconstruction of the theater. He created a narrow street entrance and long entryway that opened into a space for 779 movie-goers that spread out behind the storefronts. The modern amenities of the Carolina were hailed at its re-opening presentation of the Bob Hope comedy, "The Paleface," in December of 1948. The Carolina closed in the late 1970s, but reopened a few years later as the Edward C. Smith Civic Center. Behind the modern facade the interior retains some of its original ornate Art Deco wall designs.

13. Varner Building
103-107 South Main Street



T.B. Eldridge put out the first edition of the Davidson Dispatch on May 6, 1882. Eldridge would eventually depart for Raleigh, where he became mayor, and the paper would land in the hands of Henry Branson Varner, who gave up selling fruit trees for journalism. He changed the name to simply The Dispatch and aggressively promoted his paper to the point where he boasted that it had the largest circulation of any local weekly paper in the United States. He moved the paper into his own building here in the 1910s just as the paper was going semi-weekly. Varner was an early motion picture enthusiast and part of the building housed a movie theater. The newspaper pressroom was in the basement which extended under the sidewalk and Varner installed translucent blocks for the sidewalk that allowed light to penetrate to the presses.

14. Moffitt Building
101 South Main Street



This dark red brick building from the 1920s displays its classical aspirations through its contrasting white terra-cotta decorations in the cornice and its urn-emblazoned panels.

15. Smith-Thompson Block
23 South Main Street



Long a drug store, this two-story corner commercial building from 1900 distinguishes itself with fancy corbelled brickwork on the upper floor, an ironwork ariel balcony and a granite-outlined arched window sporting decorative leaded glass.

16. Confederate Monument
southeast quadrant of the square



This Confederate infantryman was erected by the Robert E. Lee Chapter for the Daughters of the Confederacy in 1905. For many years it stood bravely in the center of Main Street and Center before it was finally moved over to this less exciting location, once the site of the town well. You can still see the battle scars from its days in the middle of the road around its granite base.

YOU HAVE NOW RETURNED TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT IN COURTHOUSE SQUARE.

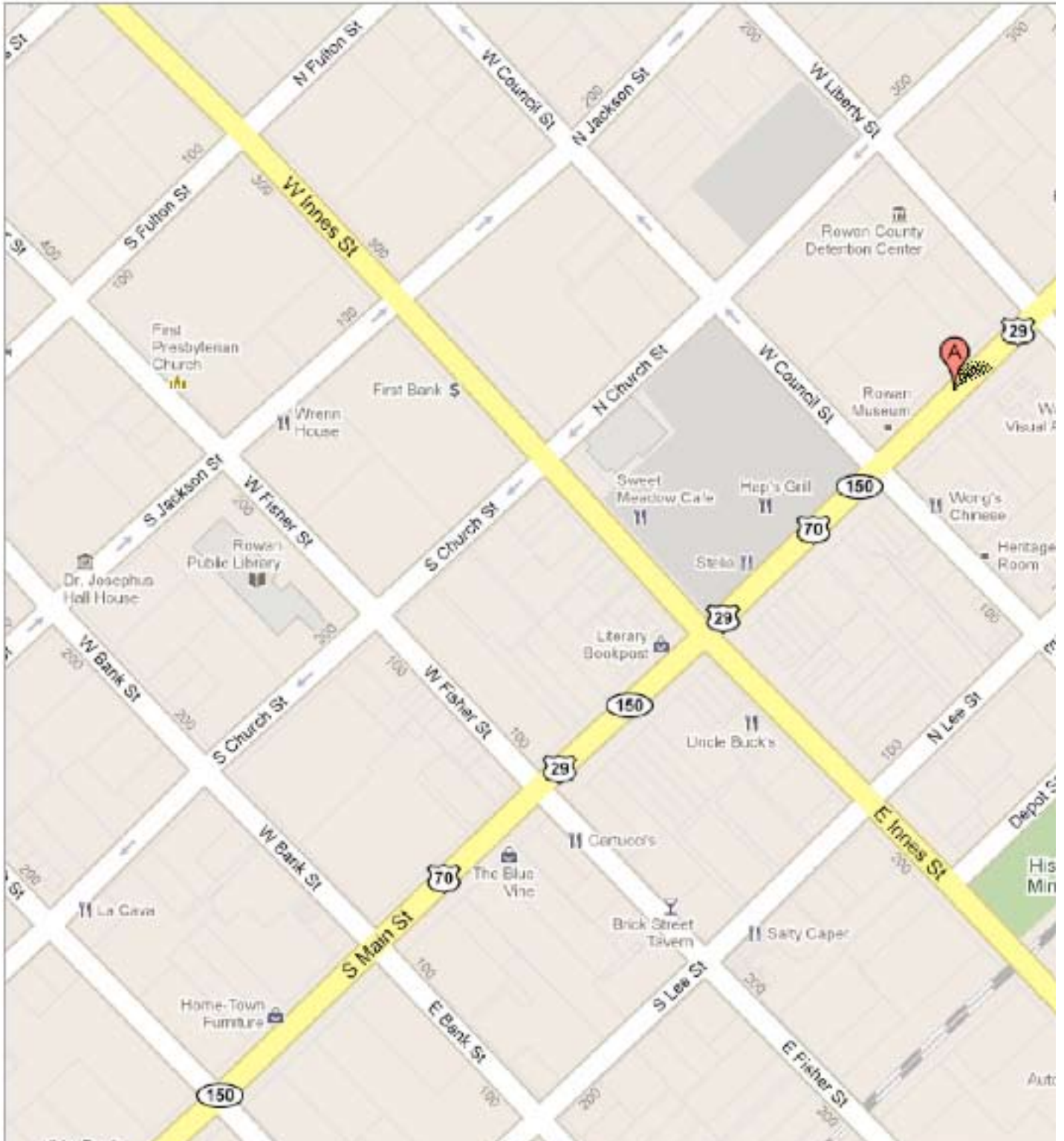
A Walking Tour of Salisbury, North Carolina from **walkthetown.com**

With the influx of settlers into the frontier of North Carolina in the 1750s the Colonial Assembly authorized the creation of a courthouse and jail to provide for their justice needs. The location of this new county seat was at the junction of the Great Philadelphia Wagon Road that brought migrants south and the Trading Path that ran east-west. The new town began in February 1755 with James Carter platting the streets in four equal squares. Within a decade there would be about 40 houses and the town, thought to be named for the English cathedral village of Salisbury, would become the biggest and most important town of western Carolina well into the 19th century.

The railroad arrived in 1855 and during the Civil War Salisbury was a Confederate stronghold, staging troops and storing critical supplies. In 1861 an abandoned cotton mill was converted into a prison, first for Confederate deserters and then, notoriously, as a detention center for captured Union troops. The Salisbury Prison became infamous for its deplorable conditions and a target for General George Stoneman who raided the town on April 12, 1865 and burned the prison.

Stoneman, however, issued direct orders not to destroy any private residences or non-military structures and Salisbury emerged from the war in better shape than its Southern neighbors, with the railroad leading the way to recovery. In 1870 the Western North Carolina Railroad had established its shops in Salisbury and had become the largest single employer. In 1896, thanks to clandestine maneuverings by John Steele Henderson the Southern Railway established its largest steam locomotive facility on the outskirts of Salisbury, spawning a new town named for the first president of the line, Samuel Spencer. The Spencer Shops would employ some 3000 people until the mid 20th century.

Many of the buildings in Salisbury's Historic District were constructed during this 1900 to 1930 period, the last time Salisbury ranked among the top ten largest cities in North Carolina. But antebellum buildings remain as well, including some that dip into the earliest decades of the 1800s. But our walking tour will begin with the railroad and a building constructed in the years of its greatest influence, when two score trains a day rolled into town...



**1. Salisbury Station
215 Depot**



Kentucky-born Franklin Pierce Milburn moved to Washington in 1902 to become the architect for the Southern Railway. Milburn designed 19 railroad stations and the Spanish Mission style Salisbury station, rendered in brick and ceramic tile, was one of his best. Opened on September 1, 1908 the Charlotte Observer gushed that Salisbury now boasted “the handsomest main line structure between Washington and Atlanta.” And it was busy - as many as 44 passenger trains per day passed through the town. A \$3 million facelift revitalized the dark red brick base and tan brick body on the building that stretches the better part of two blocks. Look up to the red Spanish tile roof and the gargoyles protecting the square central tower. Over 100 years later the station is still serving passengers on the Amtrak line.

WITH YOUR BACK TO THE STATION, TURN LEFT AND WALK TO THE CORNER OF COUNCIL STREET. TURN RIGHT.

**2. Yadkin Hotel
201 North Lee Street at Council Street**



From the time it opened in 1912 until it closed in 1973, the five-story Yadkin Hotel was Salisbury’s most elegant guest house. Louis Asbury, considered the South’s first professional architect, gave the brick building a Spanish Revival flavor to complement the train station he designed next door from which the hotel garnered most of its business. One of the most famous of the Yadkin’s early guests was circus impresario Charles Sparks. Sparks selected Salisbury as the winter home for his Sparks World-Famous Shows throughout the 1910s for its convenient location and where the nearby Spencer Shops could service his 50-car railroad train.

WALK ONE MORE BLOCK TO MAIN STREET. AT THE INTERSECTION, ACROSS THE STREET TO THE RIGHT IS...

3. Old Rowan County Courthouse
202 North Main Street



Built in 1855 as Rowan County's third courthouse, the two-story, temple-fronted structure is considered one of North Carolina's finest and most important Greek Revival buildings. The building was erected by John W. Conrad and John Wilson Williams who may have provided the design as well. When Union General George Stoneman raided Salisbury on April 12, 1865 he burned and destroyed the Confederate States Military Prison and turned 200 tons of food and military supplies including 10,000 weapons and a million rounds of ammunition into a giant bonfire seen 30 miles away. But he did not torch the majestic Doric-columned courthouse. At the time it sported an octagonal clock tower but after being battered by the weather over the years it was removed.

NEXT DOOR IS...

4. Rowan County Courthouse
210 North Main Street



This is the fourth courthouse for Rowan County, completed in 1914. Atlanta architect A. Ten Eyck Brown, who peppered Georgia with courthouses in the early decades of the 20th century, snuck over the line to deliver this Neoclassical ashlar and white brick structure fronted by a massive quartet of fluted Ionic columns.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS ON NORTH MAIN STREET AND CROSS COUNCIL STREET.

5. City of Salisbury Administration Building
132 North Main Street



Now an office building for the city, this Neoclassical building fronted by stout, engaged Doric columns, was originally the home of Wachovia Bank in Salisbury. When Wachovia opened its operation in 1903 it was the first venture for the bank outside of its Winston-Salem headquarters.

6. Horace Beard House
131 North Main Street



John Lewis Beard was born in Germany and came to the New World to Pennsylvania but stayed only briefly, just long enough to acquire a wife. In 1753 the Beards settled on a farm on Crane Creek, becoming the first settler in Salisbury. Horace Beard was his grandson and built this five-bay Federal-style house in the late 1830s atop a rough granite foundation. One of the town's earliest structures it features a soaring parapet gable on the side end. Horace Beard passed away in 1858 and after the house passed out of the Beard family it has done extensive commercial duty.

7. Washington Building
118-120 North Main Street



Lee Slater Overman was born in Salisbury on January 3, 1854 and at the age of 23 was appointed private secretary to Governor Zebulon Vance. While working with Vance, Overman decided to pursue the practice of law and was shortly in the political arena himself. Overman became a state representative in 1883, the first of many terms in the North Carolina legislature. Outside of politics

he was appointed president of the North Carolina Railroad and the Salisbury Savings Bank. He hired Charles Christian Hook, one of the state's first professional architects, to construct this commercial building in 1902. Hook created a picturesque three-story confection heavily influenced by the work of Henry Hobson Richardson, America's most famous architect of the late 19th century - broad, powerful arches, rough-faced stone bartizans, a checkerboard facade and groupings of windows in sets of three. He gave the roof a Spanish Mission feel. The ground floor has been compromised by a Neoclassical entrance so look up to see Hook's work. Overman didn't own the building long; in 1903 he became the first United States senator from North Carolina to be elected by popular vote and sold the property in 1906. Overman was noted for his support of America's entry into World War I and eventually died in office in 1930 at the age of 76. The Washington building takes its name from its historic location: George Washington stayed in the Yarborough House on this site during his tour of the Southern states in 1791.

8. Spanky's Ice Cream **101 North Main Street**



This three-story brick building was considered the tallest commercial building in North Carolina when it was constructed in 1858. Look up to see the exceptionally fine brickwork in the windowhoods and at the cornice. The cast iron storefront is a later Victorian affectation. For many years this was the home of Purcell's Drug Store and for many years Klutz's Drug Store.

9. The Plaza **101 West Innes Street at Main Street**



When this light brown brick tower was completed in 1913 it was tallest steel frame building in North Carolina and it has been the tallest building in Salisbury for almost 100 years. If you look up over the entrance you can see the initials of the man who "built a seven-story building in a three-story town" carved inside the scallop ornament. Henry Clay Grubb was either a criminal or just a "colorful character." Ostensibly a farmer, most of Grubb's money came from distilling liquor. Known far and wide for his volcanic temper, in 1905 Grubb shot and killed his brother-in-

law but was acquitted of murder. Afterwards he turned his business attentions more towards real estate development. He hired one of the South's pre-eminent architects, Frank Milburn, to design his statement building. Milburn delivered an ornate Beaux Arts confection but Grubb never saw its completion. On August 9, 1913 Henry Clay Grubb returned to house drunk and irritated and ultimately began attacking his wife with a knife. Emma Grubb was able to grab her husband's gun and shot him dead. With his reputation preceding him, Emma Grubb was cleared completely in Henry Grubb's death the next day.

TURN RIGHT ON INNES STREET.

10. Holmes Place

121 West Innes Street



This two-story, three-bay building of well-crafted handmade brick was erected in 1883 for the First National Bank. First National was a financial pillar of the community until it merged with Scottish Bank in 1951. The building underwent a pain-staking restoration in 1990.

11. United States Post Office and Courthouse

130 West Innes Street



Salisbury was granted a U.S. Post Office on June 12, 1792; this federal facility came along in 1909. The monumental Beaux Arts building crafted in fine white Italian marble far outshines most similar mail-handling facilities in towns the size of Salisbury. That is the handiwork of native son Senator Lee Slater Overman who introduced a bill in Congress for the construction of the building that included a federal court. When Overman died in 1930 the building was expanded even more as a tribute to the Senator. The post office was converted to county offices in 1996. Look up to see aluminum letters finished in bronze declaring "In God We Trust" - it was one of many public buildings around the county to have the motto added in 2007.

12. Confederate Monument
center of Innes Street at Church Street



This memorial to Rowan County's Confederate dead was dedicated on May 10, 1909 before a crowd that included Mrs. Stonewall Jackson. The 14-foot bronze is a replica of Frederick W. Ruckstuhl's statue in Baltimore, Maryland and rests on a pedestal of pink granite.

13. St. John's Lutheran Church
200 West Innes Street



This congregation was founded in the homes of German immigrants in 1747 and 200 years later it was the largest Lutheran congregation between Washington and Atlanta. The first meetinghouse was a log structure in 1768 and this sprawling Gothic Revival church, rendered in light tan brick, held its first service on January 2, 1927. It boasts flanking towers of differing sizes decorated with corner bartizans.

14. First Presbyterian Church Bell Tower
225 West Innes Street



The congregation organized on August 1, 1821 with 13 members. A church on the corner of Jackson and Innes streets rose in 1826. Working from plans drawn by Charles W. Bolton of Philadelphia, one of the country's leading ecclesiastical architects, materials from the original church were incorporated into a new Romanesque building in 1892. When that church was torn down in 1971 its soaring bell tower was saved. The red brick, arched windows trimmed in rough stone, stone

belt courses, conical bartizans, and patterned slate roof provide a glimpse of what tis much-admired church looked like. Access is through a bracketed wooden entrance. The current Neoclassical Presbyterian church stands on the square.

15. Maxwell Chambers House
West Innes Street at Jackson Street



Maxwell Chambers was born in Salisbury in 1780 and early on departed for Charleston, South Carolina. When he returned to Salisbury at the age of 45 he was a very rich man but there is no paper trail as to where that money came from. No Maxwell Chambers can be found in Charleston business records. There is speculation the money came from the illegal slave trade; one of his brothers operated a slave business in Alexandria, Virginia. Once in Salisbury Chambers used his money as a one-man bank, expanding his interests across the town. A believer in education, Chambers funneled \$250,000 to Davidson College, turning it into one of the leading schools in the South. Although not a member of any church, Chambers willed all the property here to the First Presbyterian Church and after Maxwell Chambers died in 1855 this brick Greek Revival Session House was constructed over the graves of the Chambers and Nesbit families, as specified in his will. Chambers' final document stipulated that should these graves ever be disturbed the land would become the property of Davidson College.

TURN LEFT ON JACKSON STREET.

16. Salisbury Female Academy
115 South Jackson Street



The first classes were held in Salisbury in 1784 when a school from Charlotte re-located here and named the Salisbury Academy. This Federal-style brick building, laid in elegant Flemish bond, was constructed in 1839 to house the Salisbury Female Academy; it sports dramatic stepped gable ends. The historic academy building now operates as a restaurant.

17. Utzman-Chambers House
116 South Jackson Street



Jacob Stirewelt, Salisbury's master builder of the time, constructed this Federal-style townhouse in 1819. It stands as one of the few surviving such houses in North Carolina's Piedmont region. It was later owned by Maxwell Chambers and now is ministered to by the Rowan Museum.

18. Josephus Hall House
226 South Jackson Street



This building was constructed as one of a group of classrooms for the Salisbury Academy in 1820. It doesn't look like a typical early-19th century plain schoolhouse and that is the handiwork of Josephus Wells Hall, a physician who owned extensive farmland around Salisbury, who took possession of the property in 1859 and added the double veranda with delicate cast iron detailing. After the Civil War began in 1861, Hall served as hospital surgeon at the Confederate States Military Prison at Salisbury. The house remained in the Hall family until 1972 and more additions came along, including a steep hip roof.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO FISHER STREET AND TURN RIGHT.

19. Rowan Public Library
201 West Fisher Street



The first books were lent in Salisbury in 1911. This brick library, entered through a pair of Corinthian columns, dates to 1951. Money for its construction came from Burton Craig. On the grounds is the old town well that is said to date back to 1760. It provided drinking water for the town for well over 100 years until Salisbury constructed a municipal water system.

20. Henderson Law Office
northwest corner of South Church and West Fisher streets



This small frame building was the law office for Archibald Henderson (1768-1822), a distinguished lawyer, a member of the United States Congress, and a three-term member of the North Carolina General Assembly. The building that rests on a Flemish bond brick foundation was constructed sometime between 1795 and 1818 and may be the oldest surviving structure in Salisbury.

21. Salisbury Mural
north side of West Fisher Street between Church Street and Main Street



It took three years for Cynvia Arthur Rankin to complete “Crossroads: Past Into Present,” which was dedicated in 1980. Over the past thirty years the artist has returned periodically to renew the 140 portraits and make the mural more historically accurate. The mural is painted in latex and sealed with a plastic sealant to delay weathering. Look for Ginger the dog, a fixture on Salisbury streets, roaming in and out of stores in her day.

AT MAIN STREET TURN RIGHT.

22. Empire Hotel 212-226 South Main Street



Nathaniel Boyden started building a guest house here in 1855 and his Boyden House opened in 1859. The hotel catered to traveling salesmen who could display their goods in a large 80-foot by 30-foot room. While architect Frank Milburn was in town building the Salisbury Depot in 1907 he gave the 50-year old hotel a Beaux Arts facelift. It also picked up a new name, the Central Hotel and eventually the Empire Hotel. There also was a tunnel under Main Street from the hotel to the Meroney Theatre across the street so the actors could go back and forth without the hassle of crowds. The Empire shuttered in 1963 and although the building has lost some of its splendid architectural details it still stands with an uncertain future.

23. Meroney Theatre 213 South Main Street



This is the second Meroney Theatre in town. In 1873 brothers T.J. and P.P. Meroney purchased a dilapidated building in 1873 and converted it into a “place of amusement” called the Meroney Opera House. This better model, with seating for 1,200, opened in 1905. The most famous performers of the day - Sarah Bernhardt, Lillian Russell and John Phillip Sousa among them - all graced the Meroney stage. In 1907 the Bijou screened the town’s first motion pictures in rented space on the first floor. Over the years the building has gone through many name changes, been the home to the Masons and a gentleman’s social club known as Old Hickory but after a 1995 refurbishment is the Meroney once more.

24. City Hall
217 South Main Street



The Salisbury government operates out of this Neoclassical box that is wrapped in corner quoins and boasts fluted Ionic pilasters between its five bays. It began life as a Security Bank and Trust building.

TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS ON MAIN STREET, CROSSING FISHER STREET.

25. First Union National Bank
117 South Main Street



Alfred Charles Bossom was an English architect who began his architectural practice in America in 1903 at the age of 22. He came to specialize in banks, mostly in the Italian Renaissance style, from the Northeast to Texas. Bossom was known for his high-rise structures but here he contributed a smallish Beaux Arts vault with a monumental Roman arch for the First Union National Bank in 1920. Bossom abandoned his American architectural career in 1926 and returned to England where he became a member of Parliament in 1931.

TURN RIGHT ON INNES STREET AND LEFT ON DEPOT STREET TO RETURN TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT AT SALISBURY STATION.

A Walking Tour of Winston-Salem, North Carolina

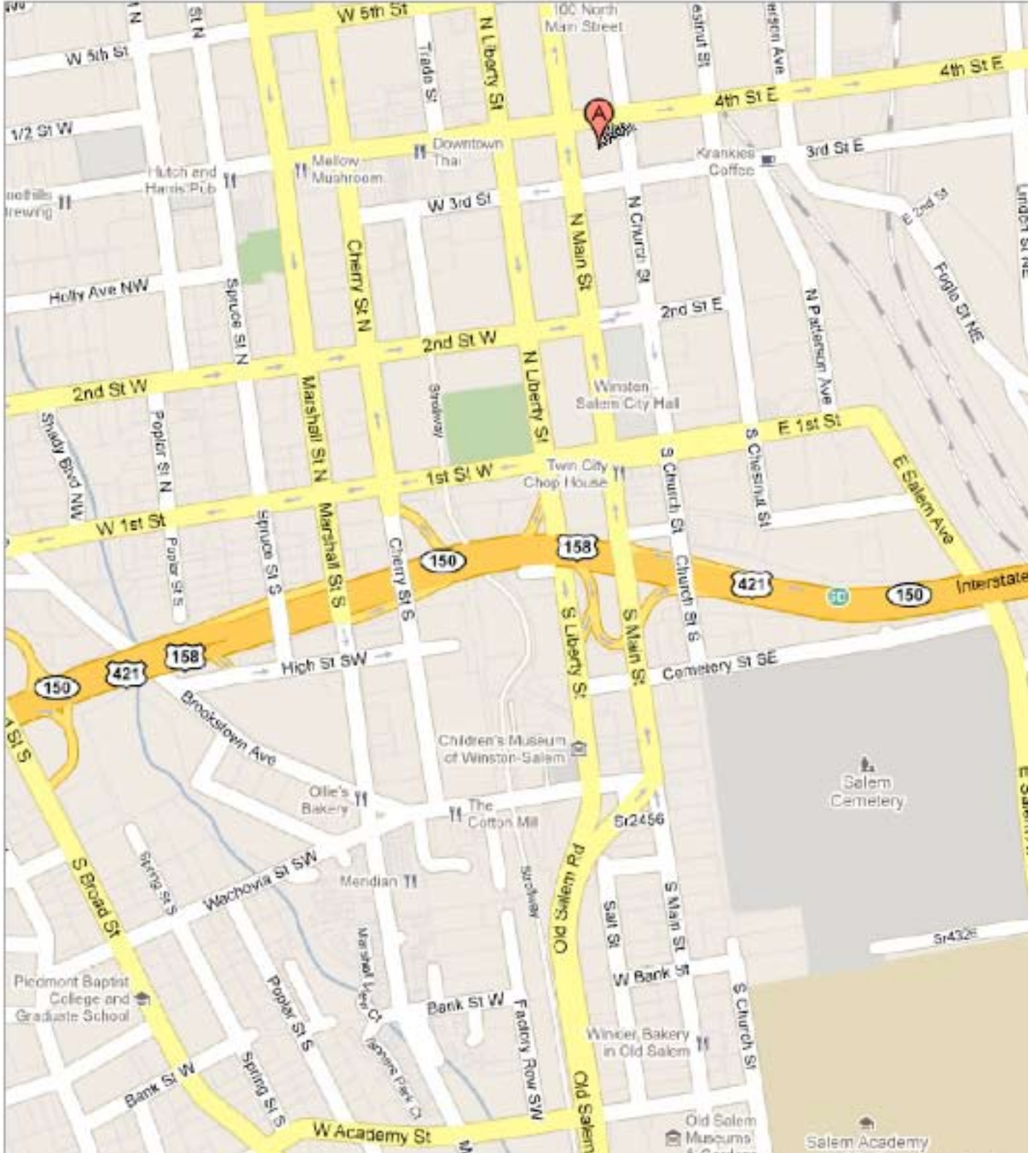
from walkthetown.com

In 1741 a small band of Moravian missionaries representing the Unitas Fratrum, founded in 1457 by followers of John Hus and now recognized as the oldest organized Protestant denomination in the world, walked into the wilderness of Pennsylvania and began a settlement on the banks of the Lehigh River near the Monocacy Creek. From the start it was to be a planned community in which property, privacy and personal relationships were to be subordinated to a common effort to achieve a spiritual ideal. On Christmas Eve of that first year the Moravians' patron, Count Nicholas Ludwig von Zinzendorf of Saxony, Germany, visited the new settlement. Over dinner, the Count christened the community "Bethlehem" to commemorate his visit.

The Moravians were industrious and eager to expand. In 1753 a small party set out from Bethlehem in search of desirable land for a new settlement. After hundreds of miles they came here to "the three forks of Muddy Creek." The Moravians purchased 98,985 acres for about 35 cents an acre and called their land "der Wachau," which was the ancestral home of benefactor Count Zinzendorf. It translated into English into the now familiar "Wachovia." A town was planned at the center of the new lands and tradition holds that the Count again had a hand in the naming, this time picking the name "Salem," meaning "peace," just before he died in 1760. Work was begun on the town six years later.

Forsyth County was formed in 1849 and Salem was the obvious choice for a courthouse site. Church elders countered by agreeing to sell land north of town for a new county seat, provided that the streets of the new town be continuous with the streets of Salem. The new community took the name of Major Joseph Winston who won fame on Kings Mountain during the Revolutionary War. Winston grew up as an industrial town, churning out tobacco and furniture and textiles.

The two towns merged in 1913, a political union that left the essential fabric of each town intact. Winston was off on a high-rise building spree befitting its position as the state's biggest financial center. Salem continued its residential feel along shaded streets. Our walking tour will begin on Salem Square in the heart of Salem where we will see some of the more than 100 buildings from 1766 to 1850 that have been restored or reconstructed on their original sites...



WALK OVER TO THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE SQUARE.

- 1. Salem College Main Hall**
northwest corner of Salem College at Academy and Church streets



In a time when education for girls was a rarity, the school for girls started by the Moravians in 1772 was a beacon for well-to-do families across the South. In 1802, it became a boarding school for girls and young women with an initial class of 30; in 1866, it was renamed Salem Female Academy. Today Salem College is recognized as the oldest women's college in America. Main Hall dates to 1855, looking onto Salem Square through a face of stately Doric columns.

WITH YOUR BACK TO MAIN HALL AND FACING SALEM SQUARE, TURN RIGHT ON CHURCH STREET.

- 2. Home Moravian Church**
529 Church Street



Church services were held in a community Gemeinhaus that was located where Main Hall stands until 1800 when this sanctuary of simple design and beautiful brick masonry was constructed. The church was originally slated for a spot of honor in the center of Salem Square but the Single Sisters were using that space for their laundry so it slid over here. Services are still conducted today and are open to visitors.

3. Vierling House
463 Church Street



This was the largest house in Salem in 1802 when it was constructed for Dr. Samuel Benjamin Vierling. Vierling received his doctoring training in Berlin and was recruited to the Moravian community in 1790. The house also contained the town apothecary.

4. God's Acre
Church Street



In the Moravian church all folks are equal in death as they were in life so all the marble headstones are laid flat. The cemetery contains more than 4,000 graves dating from 1771.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS TO SALEM SQUARE AND TURN RIGHT ON ACADEMY STREET.

5. Inspector's House
northeast corner of Salem Square at Church Street



This handsome one-and-one-half story building was constructed in 1811 for the head of the school. Additions in the 1830s and 1850s doubled its size. The main block is laid in Flemish bond brick with glazed headers. The entranceway boasts a wide, arched transom over a double flight of stone steps.

6. Boys School
3 Academy Street



This was the first educational building constructed in Salem, in 1794, for the Boys' School that had operated since 1771. It would continue into the 1900s and now serves to display exhibits on Moravian life.

TURN LEFT ON MAIN STREET.

7. Single Brothers House
600 South Main Street



Moravians lived in groups based on life circumstances, known as choirs. This half-timbered brick structure dates to 1769 and served as a home and workplace for the community's single men and older boys. Across Salem Square was a similar arrangement for the Single Sisters' Choir.

ACROSS THE STREET IS...

8. Market-Fire Engine House
west side of Salem Square



This building is a 1955 reconstruction but the original utilitarian building was built on the Square in 1803. Half of the building was used as a marketplace for fresh meat and produce and the other half was used to store the community's fire fighting equipment. On display are two of the earliest fire engines used in North Carolina.

WITH YOUR BACK TO SALEM SQUARE, TURN RIGHT AND WALK UP MAIN STREET.

9. Miksch House
532 South Main Street



When Matthew and Henrietta Miksch moved into this log house covered with clapboards in 1771 it marked the first time a Moravian family lived outside a communal house. The family sold homemade baked goods, candles and tobacco products from the house.

10. Winkler Bakery
521 South Main Street



This brick building was constructed in 1800 for the newly appointed town baker, Thomas Butner. Butner never took to the craft and in 1807 church elders imported Swiss-born Christian Winkler from Pennsylvania to be the new town baker. Winklers would man the wood-fired brick dome oven for the community until 1926.

11. Vorsteher's House
501 South Main Street



This brick structure was erected in 1797 as the office and home of the church warden who administered all town affairs, including the sale of land. It has served the community in many official capacities through the years including Office of the Salem Treasurer, Land Office and Residence of Ministers. Since 1942 it has housed the archives for the Moravians who kept detailed

records of life in the community from the day of founding. Like most Moravian residences, it was built flush to the sidewalk and stands as a beacon of Moravian architecture. The first floor walls are of stone - some of the blocks being more than eight feet long - and the second floor is of hand-made brick.

AT CEMETERY STREET TURN LEFT AND WALK DOWNHILL TO LIBERTY STREET.

**12. Salem Town Hall
50 Cemetery Street**



This was Salem's last municipal building before the Town's consolidation with Winston in 1913. The red brick Town Hall had just been completed a year earlier and continued on for the next fifty years as a Winston-Salem fire station. Leading local architect Willard C. Northup designed the building with a distinctive bonnet hood at the entrance as a nod to the local Moravian architectural influences.

TURN RIGHT ON LIBERTY STREET AND WALK UNDER THE HIGHWAY INTO WINSTON.

**13. Corpening Plaza
1st Street West at Liberty Street**



The Brown & Williamson Company warehouse once occupied this space. The public park is named for Wayne A. Corpening who was mayor for 12 years through the 1980s. The glass tower looming over the space is a 1987 creation.

TURN RIGHT ON 1ST STREET. TURN LEFT ON MAIN STREET.

14. Wachovia Center
100 North Main Street



At 460 feet, this is Winston-Salem's tallest building. It was constructed as the world headquarters for Wachovia Bank in 1995. Cesar Pelli, an Argentine-American architect with many of the world's tallest buildings on his resume, drew up the plans for this tower with an eye for the town's Moravian traditions. He used the Moravian star to decorate the lobby and crowned the building with the world's only granite dome, inspired by the Moravian arch. The Olympia white granite comes from a single quarry on the island of Sardinia. Wachovia merged with First Union in 2001 and sold the building in a package of bank properties.

15. City Hall
101 North Main Street



This plot of land was purchased in the original auction of town lots by Judge H.D. Starbuck who purchased three for \$503.00. The land was still in the Starbuck family in 1920 when it was sold to the City for \$82,500 as the site for the new City Hall. The price tag was \$82,500. Go-to local architects Northrup and O'Brien provided the plans for the monumental Renaissance Revival structure, which was financed by \$550,000 of bonds. It was the largest municipal building in North Carolina at the time. The first Board of Aldermen Meeting was held in the new City Hall on November 19, 1926. With renovations, it remains the seat of city government.

16. Wachovia Bank and Trust Company Building
8 West 3rd Street



In the 1870s William A. Lemly looked over from his bank in the staid Moravian community of Salem into the newly vibrant town of Winston and began to yearn to be where the economic action was. To move the few blocks required a new charter and new name, both of which became effective on June 16, 1879 and Lemly began taking deposits in his new Wachovia National Bank. In 1893 textile and railroad entrepreneur Francis H. Fries opened a small two-man bank in Wnston that he called the Wachovia Loan and Trust Company.

In 1911, the two Wachovias merged to form Wachovia Bank and Trust Company and, flush with R.J. Reynolds Tobacco money, the bank built this new headquarters, Winston-Salem's first metal-framed skyscraper and the tallest building in town. Frank Pierce Milburn, one of the busiest architects in North Carolina and the first to establish a truly regional practice across the South, designed the light brown Neoclassical headquarters. After the nearby O'Hanlon Building was erected in 1914, rising a few feet above their bank, restless directors brought Milburn back to add another story. Wachovia Bank would ultimately lose the early "race to the sky" but after staying in these quarters until the 1966 the bank would not surrender that battle again in creating its next two Winston-Salem homes.

17. Forsyth County Courthouse
Courthouse Square bounded by Main, Liberty, 3rd and 4th streets



Frank Pierce Milburn designed a picturesque Romanesque Revival courthouse in 1896, resplendent with turrets and a soaring bell tower. In 1926 the courthouse was drastically renovated and expanded. The building was not demolished but gone were turrets and bell tower and Victorian-era accoutrements. The walls instead supported a new, more staid, limestone Beaux Arts house of justice. It has since been expanded and modified again.

18. Winston Tower
301 North Main Street



This was called the Wachovia Building when it became Wachovia Bank's first high-rise headquarters in 1966. At 410 feet it was the tallest building in North Carolina until 1971. The glass and steel tower was a stand-out example of the International Style but after the bank moved on in the 1990s the building remained vacated for several years. It reopened in 2003 after an extensive make-over that included the replacement of all 6,033 windows with energy-saving tinted glass and was re-christened the Winston Tower.

19. Reynolds Building
401 North Main Street



Richard Joshua Reynolds grew up in a tobacco family. His father grew tobacco and sold it in plugs from his Rock Spring Plantation in southwestern Virginia. Richard was nearsighted and read so slowly his family at first didn't think he was bright. He was schooled in Baltimore and returned to manage the family factory.

Reynolds became convinced his future in tobacco lay elsewhere. He left and settled in Winston, North Carolina in 1874 at the age of 24. Winston was a dusty town of 1,400 but it did have two things to recommend it: it was in the center of the new flue-cured leaf country that made the best chewing tobacco and a newly built railroad line split the town.

Reynolds bought a tiny spec of land by the railroad tracks and built a two-story factory that couldn't hold a tennis court. He lived on the second floor of "The Little Red Factory" and turned out 150,000 pounds of tobacco the first year in the plant down below.

By 1900 Reynolds had 25% of the nation's plug market but was looking for a new product. He blended a tobacco using Kentucky burley and packaged it in nickel cloths and 2-ounce tins. Prince Albert tobacco became wildly popular. Production in the first four years increased from 250,000

pounds to 14,000,000 pounds. Next came Camel cigarettes, introduced at a time when most smokers rolled their own. Quickly 1/2 of all cigarettes smoked in the United States were Camels. RJ Reynolds died in 1918 at the age of 68 as his plants were turning out 18 billion Camels a year.

The company moved into this Art Deco skyscraper in 1929. The New York architectural firm of Shreve & Lamb, who were to build the Empire State Building two years later used this 21-story tower - the tallest building south of Baltimore at the time - as a prototype with setbacks from the street as the building rises. The 395-foot, Indiana-limestone-clad office tower remained the company headquarters for 80 years.

TURN LEFT ON 4TH STREET.

20. One West Fourth Street 1 West 4th Street



This twin tower from 2002 was limited to 250 feet so it would not disturb the view of the Reynolds Building next door.

21. Pepper Building 104 West 4th Street



Michigan-born Willard Close Northup spent time in Asheville, where his father owned a hardware store, before embarking on an education in architecture. In 1906 he gravitated to Winston and opened his own practice at the age of 24. By the next year he was able to hire a local draftsman, Leet Alexander O'Brien, and the shop became one of the busiest and most respected in North Carolina. Northup and O'Brien worked in various styles and tackled residential and commercial commissions. Here they pioneered the Art Deco style in town for a new office building in 1928 for Thomas Pepper, who owned tobacco warehouses around town. Pepper tore down the Phoenix Hotel to make way for the seven-story building with rich terra-cotta tiles. Over the years the Pepper Building housed offices, eateries and a department store but in its current dilapidated state has been dodging a date with the wrecking ball in recent years.

22. O'Hanlon Building
105 West 4th Street at Liberty Street



After his apothecary business burned in 1913, pharmacist Edward O'Hanlon retained Willard C. Northup to design his new building. In the convention of the day, Northup created a Colonial Revival tower to resemble a three-part classical Greek column with ornate ground and top stories and relatively unadorned central floors. The building lasted as Winston-Salem's tallest building for only a few years but you could still buy sundries at O'Hanlon's Drug Store on the first floor until 1962.

23. Patten Building
216 West 4th Street



Although the ground floor of this 1922 masonry low-rise has been compromised, look up to see the Colonial Revival detailing such as varying keystones above the end windows, the stone beltcourse between the fourth and fifth stories, the finely detailed cornice and stone urns on the roofline.

24. Nissen Building
310 West 4th Street



Tycho Nissen was born in Denmark in 1732 and came to North Carolina in the 1770s where he crafted wagons. His son left the trade for farming but his grandson John Phillip Nissen began building wagons on his own and by 1834 the Nissen Wagon Works had formed. During the Civil War Nissen gun carts and supply wagons were in high demand in the confederacy and after the war

the next generation of George and William continued constructing the nation's finest wagons.

William Nissen sold the venerable company in 1925 and he used the money to construct North Carolina's tallest building. He hired architect William Lee Stoddart of New York City, known for his many grand-scale hotels across the South to design his building. Stoddart delivered a Neoclassical twin tower of buff brick and limestone trim. Although it included retail and office space, it was primarily a residential affair and it was the first air-conditioned building in the Southeast. Miniature golf, or "Tom Thumb Golf," as it was called was all the rage at the time and a course was available in the basement. William Nissen and his wife Ida lived on the top floor of the 18-story building until 1954.

25. Stevens Center

405 West 4th Street at Marshall Street



This building began life in 1929 as the Carolina Theater with an opulent movie palace on the ground floor and apartments and hotel rooms above. Lynchburg architect Stanhope Johnson contributed the Renaissance Revival design with an ornate terra-cotta crown on the floors above dark brick. In the 1980s the building received a multi-million dollar transformation into the Roger L. Stevens Center, operated by the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

WALK BACK A FEW STEPS TO CHERRY STREET AND TURN RIGHT. AT 1ST STREET TURN LEFT. LOOK FOR THE ENTRANCE TO THE STROLLWAY ON THE RIGHT, ACROSS FROM CORPENING PLAZA.

26. Strollway

1st Street



Completed in 1988, the popular rail-trail links Winston-Salem's modern business district with historic Old Salem.

TURN RIGHT ON THE STROLLWAY AND FOLLOW THE PATH TO ACADEMY STREET IN OLD SALEM. TURN LEFT AND WALK UP TO THE TOUR STARTING POINT IN SALEM SQUARE.

IDENTIFYING AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE

Recognizing Early American Architecture:

Postmedieval English Colonial (1600-1700)

- * steeply pitched, side-gabled roof
- * small casement windows with many small panes (restored often)
- * massive chimney
- * vertical board (batten) door
- * little or no eave overhang, no cornice detailing
- * one room deep

Dutch Colonial (1625-1840)

- * side-gambreled roof
- * usually one story
- * batten door, most divided into upper and lower halves
- * little or no eave overhang

French Colonial (1700-1830)

- * steeply pitched roof, either hipped or side-gabled
- * one story
- * tall, narrow door and window openings
- * doors and windows typically divided vertically into pairs
- * walls of stucco (over half-timbered frame)

Spanish Colonial (1660-1850)

- * low-pitched or flat roof
- * normally one story
- * few small windows
- * multiple external doors
- * walls very thick in stucco over adobe brick or rubble stone
- * long, narrow porches opening to courtyards

Georgian (1700-1780)

- * windows with double-hung sashes, typically nine or twelve small panes per sash; windows are never in adjacent pairs
- * paneled door, normally with decorative crown (most often pedimented but at times broken-pedimented) and supported by decorative pilasters
- * row of small rectangular panes beneath door crown
- * cornice usually emphasized with tooth-like dentils or other decorative molding
- * windows typically five-ranked and symmetrically balanced with center door; less commonly three-ranked or seven-ranked

Adamesque (Federal) (1780-1820)

- * windows with double-hung sashes, typically six small panes per sash; windows are never in adjacent pairs
- * semi-circular or elliptical fanlight over paneled door, typically accompanied by sidelights, elaborated crown and surround, and/or extended as small entry porch
- * cornice usually emphasized with tooth-like dentils or other decorative molding
- * windows typically five-ranked and symmetrically balanced with center door; less commonly three-ranked or seven-ranked
- * while similar to Georgian, features are often “lighter”

Greek Revival (1825-1860)

- * gabled or hipped roof of low pitch
- * entry porch or full-width porch supported by square or round, prominent columns
 - Doric: plain capitals
 - Ionic: capitals with scroll-like spirals
 - Corinthian: capitals shaped like inverted bells decorated with leaves
- * narrow line of transom and sidelights around door, usually incorporated into elaborate door surround
- * cornice lines emphasized with wide, divided band of trim

Recognizing Victorian Architecture:

General Victorian Features (1840-1910)

- * roof ornaments
- * bay (protruding) windows
- * three-part Palladian (rounded in middle) windows
- * gingerbread porch trim

Gothic Revival Style (1835-1875)

- * high-pitched center gables
- * pointed arch windows and doors
- * pendants and finials extending from roof

Italianate Style (1840-1885)

- * brackets under roof cornices
- * cupolas on the roof
- * narrow, square porch posts with chamfered corners
- * tall, slender windows

Second Empire Style (1855-1885)

- * mansard roof, concave or convex, with dormer windows on steep lower slope
- * molded cornices bound lower roof slope above and below
- * eaves normally with decorative brackets below

Stick Style (1860-1890)

- * stick-like bracketing on porches, often diagonal or curving
- * stick-like grid on wall surfaces
- * Jerkin-Head (cut-off triangular) roofs and dormers
- * pent (or shed) roofs on dormers, porches and bays
- * decorative trusses in gables; often steeply pitched gables
- * wooden wall cladding (boards or shingles)

Queen Anne Style (1880-1910)

- * asymmetrical facade
- * patterned shingles
- * turned porch posts and trim
- * corner towers and turrets
- * wraparound porch
- * steeply pitched, irregular roofline

Shingle Style (1880-1900)

- * shingled walls without interruption at corners
- * multi-level eaves above asymmetrical facade
- * extensive porches
- * walls and roofs covered with continuous wood shingles

Richardsonian Romanesque (1880-1900)

- * based on the innovative designs of Boston architect Henry Hobson Richardson
- * round topped arches over windows, porch supports or entrance
- * most have towers, usually round with conical roofs
- * always masonry walls, usually with rough-faced, squared stonework
- * facade usually asymmetrical
- * elements grouped in sets of three

Recognizing 20th century Architecture:

Colonial Revival (1885 and beyond)

- * accentuated front door with fanlights and sidelights
- * symmetrical facade around centered entrance
- * windows with double-hung sashes
- * large dormers
- * round, smooth porch columns, often clustered

Neoclassical (1895-1950)

- * facade dominated by full-length porch supported by classical columns, typically Ionic or Corinthian
- * facade shows symmetrically balanced windows and center door
- * revivals may have curved porticos, two-story entrances, paired or tripled windows and/or bays not seen on originals
- * often very large

Tudor (1890 -1940)

- * massive chimneys, commonly crowned by decorative chimney pots
- * facade dominated by one or more prominent cross gables, usually steeply pitched
- * decorative half-timbering often present
- * steeply pitched roof, usually side-gabled
- * tall, narrow windows, commonly in multiple groups with multi-pane glazing
- * walls of brick, stone, wood, stucco or in combination

French Chateausque (1890-1930)

- * busy roof line with many vertical elements (spires, pinnacles, turrets, gables, shaped chimneys)
- * steeply pitched hipped roof
- * multiple dormers, usually wall dormers extending through cornice line
- * walls of masonry, usually stone

Beaux Arts (1890-1930)

- * wall surfaces with decorative garlands, floral patterns or shields
- * masonry walls, usually of light-colored stone
- * facade with corner quoins and columns, oftne paired with Ionic or Corinthian capitals
- * first story typically rusticated (stonework) with exaggerated joints
- * facade symmetrical

Spanish Mission Style (1890-1930)

- * shaped Mission dormer or roof parapet
- * porch roofs supported by large square piers, commonly arched above
- * commonly with red tile roof covering
- * widely overhanging eaves, usually open
- * wall surface usually smooth stucco

Pueblo Revival (1910-present)

- * flat roof with parapeted wall above
- * stucco wall surface, usually earth-toned
- * projecting wooden roof beams (vigas)
- * wall and roof parapet with irregular, rounded edges
- * unpainted wood porch columns - maybe just tree trunks
- * tile or brick floors

Prairie Style (1900-1920)

- * low-pitched roof with widely overhanging eaves
- * two stories with one-story porches or wings
- * massive square porch supports
- * detail emphasizing horizontal lines
- * hipped roofs are more common than end or side gables
- * one of few indigenous American styles developed by Chicago architects Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright and built only during first two decades of century

Craftsman (1905-1930)

- * low-pitched gabled roof with wide, unenclosed eave overhang
- * roof rafters usually exposed
- * porches supported by square columns
- * decorative braces or false beams under gables
- * columns frequently continue to ground level without a break at porch level
- * generally one or one-and-a-half stories

Art Deco (1920-1940)

- * zigzags and other geometric and stylized motifs
- * towers and other vertical projections
- * smooth stucco wall surface
- * decorative motifs: geometric floral; chevron with lozenge; reeding and fluting, often around doors and windows; sunrise pattern

Art Moderne (1920-1940)

- * streamline, curved corners
- * smooth stucco wall surface
- * asymmetrical facade
- * flat roof, usually with ledge at roof line
- * horizontal grooves, lines, balustrades
- * windows can turn corners and can be roundly shaped
- * glass-block windows or sections of the wall

International (1925-present)

- * no decorative detailing at doors or windows
- * smooth, unornamental wall surface
- * asymmetrical facade
- * flat roof, usually without ledge at roof line
- * windows usually metal casements set flush with outer walls