

ELIZABETH was Charlotte's second suburb, when it opened in 1891. Like Dilworth, Charlotte's first such neighborhood, Elizabeth grew up along streetcar lines. One set of trolley tracks ran from downtown up Elizabeth Avenue to Elizabeth College, now the site of Presbyterian Hospital. They turned left on Hawthorne Lane, across Independence Park, then right on Seventh Street, all the way to the end of the line at Clarice Street. A second track ran out of downtown along Central Avenue.

Before neighboring Myers Park became popular, Elizabeth was an elite residential area. Many city leaders lived in fine houses along Elizabeth Avenue, Hawthorne Lane, Clement Avenue, and Central Avenue. Middle class bungalows lined the side streets. At the center of the neighborhood was the quiet greenery of Independence Park.

Over the years, much has changed in Elizabeth. Two of Charlotte's three general hospitals, Presbyterian and Mercy, now make their homes here, as do Central Piedmont Community College and Kings College. But Elizabeth remains a picturesque residential area, where the huge willow oaks planted at the turn of the century shade comfortable homes.

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THE ELIZABETH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
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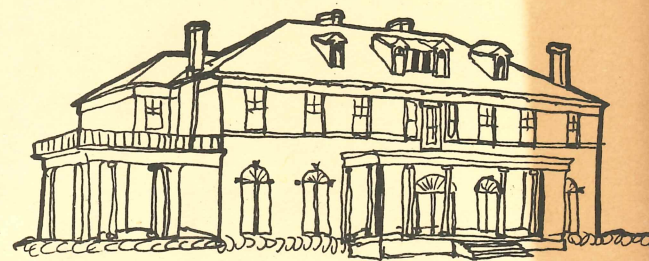
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Properties Commission

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A WALKING TOUR OF

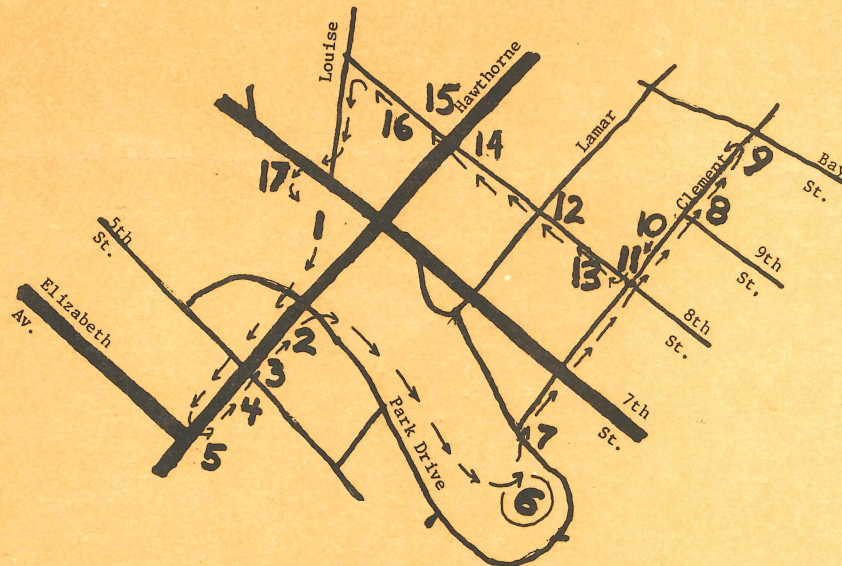
Historic Elizabeth

CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA



BELK MANSION

1. **INDEPENDENCE PARK, 1905**
Independence was Charlotte's first public park. Nationally renowned Boston planner John Nolen, who later created the city's Myers Park neighborhood, designed it. At the center is the stone pavillion and pool commemorating Charlotte teacher Lillian Arhelger. Read her story on the bronze plaques.
2. **JAMES L. STATEN MANSION, circa 1912.**
322 Hawthorne Lane.
This NeoClassical style house with its two-story columns is Elizabeth's finest old home. Staten managed the Little-Long Company, an early department store.
3. **ST. JOHN'S BAPTIST CHURCH, 1925.**
300 Hawthorne Lane.
Architect James M. McMichael, who designed many Carolina churches including what is now Spirit Square downtown, hated steeples. St. John's elegant design is based on the temples of ancient Greece -- no steeples!
4. **WILLIAM H. BELK MANSION, 1918.**
250 Hawthorne Lane.
From a small start in Monroe, N.C., William Henry Belk built the huge Belk Department Store chain, now the largest in the South.
5. **PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL, circa 1940.**
200 Hawthorne Lane.
Originally, Elizabeth College stood on this site, and gave the neighborhood its name. Presbyterian moved here from downtown in 1918. The present main building dates from 1940, and the hospital has been expanding ever since.
6. **INDEPENDENCE ROSE GARDEN.**
Transplanted from the path of the Independence Boulevard expressway, this circular garden now blooms throughout the summer here.
7. **H.P. MURRAY HOUSE, circa 1921.**
1901 Park Drive.
Harry P. Murray, a "custom merchant tailor" with a shop downtown on South Tryon Street, had this handsome home built about 1921. Note the rustic stonework.
8. **THAD ADAMS HOUSE, circa 1909.**
604 Clement Avenue.
This delightful dwelling is Elizabeth's earliest example of Dutch Colonial architecture. Note the barn-like "gambrel" roof, the trademark of the style. Adams was a Charlotte lawyer.



THE HEART OF ELIZABETH

9. **JONES-BRENIZER HOUSE, 1912.**
622 Clement Avenue.
Built for lawyer J.L. Jones, this was later the home for many years of Chase Brenizer. A state senator and a founder of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, Brenizer was one of several prominent Charlotteans who lived on Clement Avenue in its early days.
10. **W.L. ALEXANDER RESIDENCE, 1915.**
523 Clement Avenue.
This house is one of three on the block built for the Alexander family, leading Carolina real estate developers. Walter L. Alexander created the Mayview Manor resort at Blowing Rock, N.C., among other projects. He was son of W.S. Alexander, who had laid out much of Elizabeth.
11. **J.B. ALEXANDER RESIDENCE, 1913.**
509 Clement Avenue.
John Baxter Alexander was W.S.'s brother, and partner in the Elizabeth development. His grand, rambling house has a cool wrap-around porch.
12. **MISS J.J. ALEXANDER DUPLEX, 1921.**
1801-1803 East Eighth Street.
Miss Jennie Alexander was J.B.'s maiden sister. This elegant duplex was built to house her and a rental tenant. Note the servants' quarters behind, also duplex!

13. **HARRY ARTHUR ZEIM HOUSE, 1910.**
1812 East Eighth Street.
Zeim, a commercial artist, came to Charlotte from Chicago, where he had witnessed the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. He built his house of a new fireproof material -- concrete block. Note how all the blocks are cast to imitate stone.
14. **COCKE-GOLDEN HOUSE, 1913.**
1701 East Eighth Street.
Harry Golden achieved national fame as a Jewish writer and humorist in the 1950s and 1960s. After his home on Elizabeth Avenue was torn down, he spent his last years in this English Cottage style dwelling. Its first occupant, by the way, had been Duke Power executive Norman Cocke, for whom Lake Norman is named.
15. **HAWTHORNE LANE UNITED METHODIST, 1914.**
301 Hawthorne Lane.
This red-brick church is the work of Louis Asbury, Charlotte's first professionally-trained architect. Department store founder J.B. Ivey, who lived a short walk away on Central Avenue, helped provide the money to build it.
16. **BING-KEMP HOUSE, 1917.**
1604 East Eighth Street.
One of a block of fine Bungalow style dwellings. Hal Kemp grew up here, and went on to international fame as a Big Band leader in the 1930s. Critic George T. Simon calls the Kemp Orchestra "one of the greatest sweet bands of all time."
17. **ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, 1912.**
1510 East Seventh Street.
St. Martin's was Elizabeth's first church, and one of the first "suburban" churches outside the center city. Read the plaques on the trees along Seventh Street which honor World War I servicemen.

This short walk is not all there is of Elizabeth. Look for the "trolley walk" opposite Clarice St. between 7th and 5th streets, built to shorten the walk home for streetcar commuters. Or explore Sunnyside Avenue beyond Independence Boulevard, including the colorful Victorian style Reverend Detwiller House. Have an ice cream cone at Spoons' Ice Cream Parlor on Hawthorne, or listen to the music at Mac Mac's DeliPub on 7th. ENJOY OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!