

2-3-99  
2-8-99 - HLC - app. for  
Study Hist

**Crowell-Kemp House**  
1604 East Eighth Street  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28204-2304

The following information is paraphrased from your website - [www.cmhpf.org/neighborhoods/elizabeth.html](http://www.cmhpf.org/neighborhoods/elizabeth.html).

The Crowell-Kemp House was built in 1911 by a local contractor named W.A. Crowell. It is typical of Elizabeth Heights architecture and was built at the same time as several other wood shingled houses on the 1600 block of East Eighth Street.

In 1921, Southern Railway bridge engineer T.D. Kemp moved his family into the house. It was there that his teen-aged son Hal formed his first musical group with piano player John Scott Trotter. By the late 1930's the Hal Kemp Orchestra was one of the most popular "sweet" sounding big bands in the United States, responsible for such hits as "I've Got a Date with an Angel" and "You're the Top".

Hal Kemp died in a 1940 automobile accident, and Trotter went on to fame and fortune as the musical arranger for Bing Crosby.

Hal Kemp and the Crowell-Kemp House (also referred to as the Bing-Kemp House for some reason) are featured prominently on the CMHPF web site write-up of the Elizabeth community. The property is listed as a "Significant Site in the Elizabeth Neighborhood" and was the subject of Dorothy Fry's "Crowell-Kemp House: Survey and Research Report" (Charlotte: Charlotte Mecklenburg Historic Properties Commission, 1984).

