

Sydenham B. Alexander House

Designed in 1927 and erected by 1929, the Sydenham B. Alexander house is exemplary of the large Georgian Revival style residences built on spacious lots characterized by some of the earliest platted sections of Eastover, the first exclusive automobile -oriented subdivision in Charlotte. The home was designed by Charlotte architect Franklin Gordon (1870-1930) who is better known for designing Mercy Hospital and also two of our city's finest examples of Tudor Revival residential architecture: E. C. Marshal House at 500 Hermitage Road and Earle S. Draper House at 1621 Queens Road. The stately home was built for local businessman Sydenham B. Alexander and his wife Mary Watson Robertson Alexander. Sydenham's father (1840-1921) was born at Rosedale plantation near Charlotte, served as president of the North Carolina Railroad, and held office as a state senator and US congressman. Sydenham, Jr. operated Compton-Knowles Company, a loom works and cotton mill machinery firm. Sydenham Jr. and Mary had only one child, Mary Brevard Alexander (1901-1988) who married Billy Shaw Howell in 1922, inherited the home in 1971 and resided at 250 Cherokee until her death in 1988. Charlotte banker Alexander Waugh purchased the home in 1990 with his wife Paige and made some renovations but these do not detract from the architectural integrity of the home with major changes to the interior in the 1990s including a modernization and expansion of the kitchen at the rear and remodeling the attic into bedrooms. The original garage/quarters remains intact as it stood originally although it was converted to a pool house when a modern in-ground swimming pool was added. In 2015, the home was purchased by Charlotte native Peter Larkin and his wife Ashley. All modernization of electrical (knob & tube removed), dual heat incorporating modern HVAC along with boiler furnace, corrected plumbing concerns and minor updates to kitchen and bathroom look to honor Gordon's original design and restore it appropriately to the period of the home. A modern detached garage/office was added to mimic the historic garage/pool house along with trees, shrubbery and brick garden walls. Slate roofing material was sourced to match the original, main house and garage. With the rise of the value of the land, the recent changes to city zoning and the ongoing encroachment of multi-family and mid-rise residential buildings, we seek to protect this beloved Eastover landmark as it sits perfectly among a collection of historic homes like its neighbors the Major L. James House at 260 Cherokee Road (owned by Charlotte & John Wickham) and also 300 Cherokee Road, a 1935 home that was owned by Sarah Belk Gambrell until her death (owned by Amanda & August Roth).











