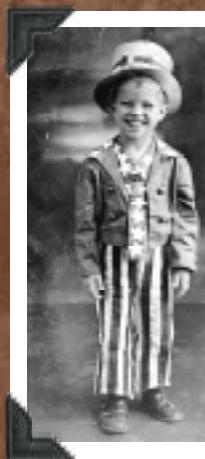


Elizabeth City  
Historic Walking Tour

*Main Street  
Commercial  
District*



Elizabeth City Historic Neighborhood Association



Founded in 1985 by a group of Main Street Historic District homeowners, the Elizabeth City Historic Neighborhood Association (ECHNA) now serves all six of Elizabeth City's historic districts. And, membership is open to all. Fundraising activities throughout the year allow ECHNA to save threatened historic structures, and contribute to local restoration projects.

Past projects include:

- Preservation of the Pendleton and Jackson-Jennings Houses
- Assistance establishing Moth Boat Park
- Contributions to the Episcopal Cemetery restoration, and Antioch Presbyterian Church renovation
- Emergency rescue of the Lowery-Chesson's building, which has been restored as Arts of the Albemarle's The Center
- Intended preservation of the Haycock-Spellman house, which was unfortunately destroyed by arson

ECHNA also runs the Jack Frost-Johnson Architectural Salvage Store (named for a founding ECHNA member and long-time store staffer), and actively spearheads efforts to save materials from structures which cannot be preserved. The store is located at 504 Hughes Boulevard, and is open to the public on Saturdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., or by appointment. Donations of restoration materials are gratefully accepted.

ECHNA's largest fundraiser is their annual Historic Ghost Walk. Visitors are invited into historic structures throughout Elizabeth City to meet "ghosts" connected with our history, and hear their stories. Information is available online, [www.historicghostwalk.org](http://www.historicghostwalk.org).

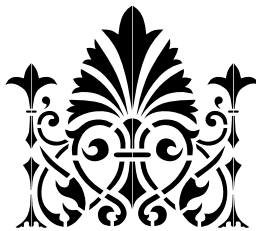
ECHNA is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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**[www.echna.org](http://www.echna.org)**



Elizabeth City  
Historic Walking Tour

*Main Street  
Commercial District*



**ECHNA**

ELIZABETH CITY  
HISTORIC  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION

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# Elizabeth City

## Harbor of Hospitality

### *An Historic Overview*

The influence of water in this area was seen early on. “Pasquotank,” originally the local Indian tribe, and now the name of our county and major river, means “where the currents divide.” In 1585, long before Jamestown and Plymouth Rock, ships brought Europeans here to explore and settle the area. Successful settlement of the area by Europeans began in earnest in the third quarter of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The first record of development at “the Narrows,” where the Pasquotank River dramatically narrows and sharply turns, was in 1757 when Daniel Trueblood was granted the authority to build a gristmill along Charles Creek. In 1764 an inspections station for colonial produce was authorized at the Narrows.

Connections to the prosperous West Indies trading routes in the 1700s made local fortunes rise, as did the construction of the Dismal Swamp Canal — our nation’s oldest canal still in operation. The Dismal Swamp Canal was chartered by Virginia in 1790, and by North Carolina in 1793. It connected the Pasquotank River to the Chesapeake Bay, via the Elizabeth River. In 1793 North Carolina chartered a community at the Narrows by the name of Redding, in honor of a local family. The first town commissioners were directed by the General Assembly to acquire the Narrows Plantation from Adam and Elizabeth Tooley, and ownership was transferred on June 10, 1794.

The name of the community changed to Elizabethtown in 1794, and to Elizabeth City in 1801. Local lore says that the new names were in honor of Elizabeth Tooley. Elizabeth City became the county seat in 1799. In 1805 the opening of the Dismal Swamp Canal brought prosperity to the city. The improvements to the canal in the 1820s fueled additional expansion of the city until the Civil War. Beginning in the 1870s, a major lumbering industry developed, with more than a dozen large mills operating along the Pasquotank River and Knobbs, Poindexter, and Charles Creeks. Bolstered by the completion of the Elizabeth City and Norfolk Railroad in 1881 (later the Norfolk Southern Railroad), the area continued to boom. Most of

the large lumber companies that had pioneered the industry nationally ceased during the Great Depression. As the economy ebbed and flowed over the ensuing years, the area maintained strong commitments to agricultural and commercial growth.

Today, Elizabeth City is a distinctive, Main Street waterfront community with six historic districts, and has been named one of the 100 most livable small towns in America. It is home to a university, two colleges, and the largest U.S. Coast Guard command complex in the nation. Day or night, on land or water, there's lots to see and do in our historic community and region.

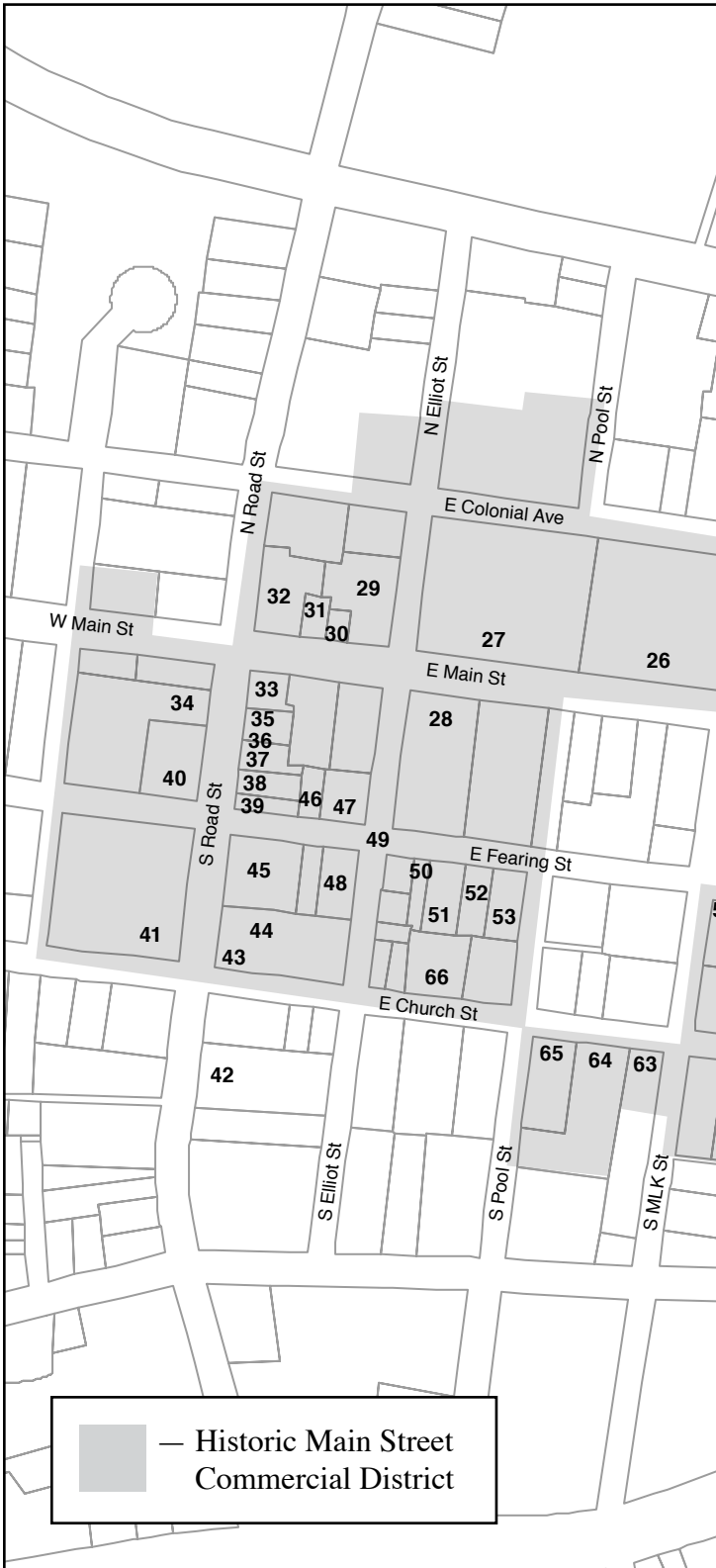
### *About the Historic Walking Tour*

The Historic Walking Tour will route you through a major portion of the Historic District listed in the National Register of Historic Places. With the book and map as your guide, you can view and read about sites and structures of historical and architectural significance. Plan on spending a few hours to complete the tour, and be sure to take advantage of public parking, and numerous downtown restaurants and shops. Please keep in mind that the sites are mostly private homes and offices, and the interiors and surrounding grounds are not ordinarily open to the public. However, the people of Elizabeth City are very friendly, so feel free to ask questions and engage in conversation with the folks you meet along the way. Just let them know you are on the Historic Walking Tour.

### *Keys to Using the Map*

As you begin the walking tour, use the map in the booklet to choose your route. You can begin the tour anywhere you choose, but the sites are numbered sequentially for easy reference on the map, and to suggest a recommended order.





 — Historic Main Street Commercial District



An unusual feature of Elizabeth City during the early and mid-19<sup>th</sup> century was the existence of two commercial sectors. The one centered at Main and Water Streets concentrated on shipping, wholesaling, and manufacturing; the other centered at Main and Road Streets provided the major mercantile and banking houses for the community. The blocks in between on Main Street — from Elliott Street to McMorrine Street — contained the county courthouse (on the block where the present one stands), and some of the oldest and largest residences in town. Many of these properties, starting in the 1880s, were redeveloped for commercial or governmental purposes. This walking tour guides you through the historic sites and structures in this downtown commercial district starting on Water Street and following Main Street west to Road Street, east on Fearing Street, and then west on Church Street.

## **1 Mariner's Wharf**

Completed in 1983, these boat slips offer complimentary 48-hour dockage to boaters sailing on the Atlantic Intercoastal Waterway. This area is where the Elizabeth City Rose Buddies, the late Fred Fearing being one of the original members, greet boaters with roses for the ladies, and host wine and cheese parties. This tradition is one major reason why Elizabeth City is known as the Harbor of Hospitality.

## **2 Reverend Forbes Monument**

The Reverend Forbes, rector of Christ Episcopal Church, “surrendered” Elizabeth City to the Union Navy on February 10, 1862, to prevent more serious damage to Elizabeth City’s structures. He was very active in promoting local education.

## **Elizabeth City Granite Historic Marker**

- 3** This historic marker, erected in 2007, shows the original plat of Elizabeth City and describes historic aspects of the waterfront area. Local lore says that Elizabeth (Betsey) Tooley’s Tavern was located on the waterfront, where Fearing Street meets Water Street. Betsey Tooley sold the land for the establishment of Elizabeth City and legend says that the city is named for her.





- 4 Late 19<sup>th</sup> /Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Commercial Buildings** 100 Block S Water St  
These commercial brick buildings are typical, and would vary from two to four stories in height. Comstock Confectionery, a very popular eatery and storied meeting place for over three decades, occupied a building in this commercial block.
- 5 Moth Boat Park**  
Once part of the bustling waterfront district, this park, at the end of East Main Street, now honors the Moth Boat. The Moth, as it is affectionately called, is the smallest international class of sailboat. It was designed here in 1929 by Captain Joel Van Sant. The Moth Boat Regatta, held in Elizabeth City each year in mid-September, shows off this small sailboat in action.
- 6 Willis S. Wright Auto Company** 700 E Main St  
This structure was built between 1915 and 1923. Although renovated in 1997 into street-level retail shops and upper-story condominiums, this two-story, brick Colonial Revival structure was originally an automobile showroom. Notice the decorative brickwork, and the accents of cast concrete on the front columns.
- Arlington Hotel Site** 110 N Water St
- 7** During 1900, on their first trip to North Carolina, the Wright Brothers stayed at the Arlington Hotel, located here on Water Street, before going to Kitty Hawk for their first attempt at what would ultimately be the “First Flight.” Listed as the Bay View Hotel in 1885, and the River View Hotel in 1891, the Arlington was a large, Neoclassical Revival edifice designed by Raleigh architects, and lavished with robust ornamentation. According to the original plans, the terra cotta Ionic capitals came from Boston, and the colored glass windows came from Chicago and Atlanta.

- 8 Hurdle True Value Hardware** 112 N Water St  
This brick commercial building was remodeled in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and now has a 1940s main façade. The building is currently being remodeled for other commercial and residential uses. The shell is probably the remains of the three-story Lathrop Oil Mills, which was on the site in 1885.
- 9 Weatherly Candy Factory Site** 225 N Water St  
Built as a three-story, brick factory building, with steel frame and metal casement windows, was the third building for the company which was founded in 1890 by W. H. Weatherly. During its heyday in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the company had 50 employees.
- 10 Perry Motor Co.** 211-217 N Water St  
This two-story brick building, built about 1923, was an automobile showroom and garage. The original main façade featured brick pilasters, and multi-paned display windows.
- 11 Motor Bearings & Parts Co.** 201-207 N Water St  
This two-story brick commercial building, built about 1923 with stucco main façade and paneled parapet, was home to a motor bearing and parts business. A previous building on the site, built in 1910, was home to the Auto Gas Engine Works, a distributor and assembler of Ford automobiles and accessories.



- 12 McMullan Building** 117 N Water St  
This building was built in three stages between 1885 and 1903. The original 1885 drug store's Eastlake style cabinets still exist on the first floor. The circa 1896 cast iron and tin metal storefront of ornate Italianate Revival design was purchased from Mesker Brothers, of St. Louis (Can you find the company's nameplates?). It is the only survivor of six other metal building fronts in Elizabeth City, and uses Victorian and classically styled ornamentation. It is also one of only a handful remaining in North Carolina.

## 12a McMullan Building Addition Colonial Ave Side

As you walk by the side of the McMullan Building, note the change in brick color between the original two-story front, the 1891-1896 rear addition, and the 1902-1908 third story. The second and third stories were maintained until the 1960s as a hotel, known first as the Lupton Hotel, and later as the Carolina and New Carolina Hotels.



## 13 Colonial Oil Filling Station 615 E Main St

With its signature blue tile roof, this unusually intact Tudor Revival-style gas station was nationally identified with the Pure Oil Company. Built in 1931, and first known as The Auto Fountain, this small building uses steeply-pitched parapet gable roofs and irregular and broken bricks jutting from the walls to create a rustic appearance.

## 14 Late 19<sup>th</sup>/Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Commercial Buildings 601-611 E Main St

Although some features of the original architecture survive in these commercial buildings, 20<sup>th</sup> century renovations dramatically changed the facades. Several buildings on the south side of the street were owned by the prominent Kramer family, and the block was once called Kramer's Block. On the north side of the street were several commercial buildings, the most prominent of which was the Lavenstein Building, the city's most elegant and stylish brick commercial building in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

## 15 Love's State/Carolina Theatre 105-111 N Poindexter St

Built in 1945 and known first as Love's State Theatre, after brothers Tom and Milton Love, this handsome art deco theatre, was later called the Carolina Theatre. The exterior displays Art Deco stonework, glass block, a horizontal marquee, and wavy patterned terrazzo that extends into the foyer.

**16 Culpepper Hardware Building** 116 N Poindexter St  
Constructed for a family hardware company, this building, built in about 1920, is typical of modestly finished Colonial Revival buildings of its time. Its most notable original interior feature is its three-sided mezzanine.

**17 Intersection of North Poindexter Street and East Colonial Avenue**  
Shown here are two of Elizabeth City's most popular paving materials (besides oyster shells), granite squares and brick. The granite squares were called Belgian block. Note the company name on the bricks.

**18 Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Commercial Buildings** 200 Block N Poindexter St  
During the late 1890s, this street became the city's leading commercial and mercantile street. This block is still lined with the period's typical two-story Victorian brick commercial buildings, with repetitive arched second-story windows and wooden or metal cornices at the roof line.



**19 Lowry-Chesson Building** 516 E Main St  
Built in 1897 as a commercial rental investment property by Dr. Freshwater D. Lowry, the building displays Tuscan-inspired Italianate details in its two-story brick arches with grouped windows. The building's first tenant was the Bee Hive Department store; a "bee hive" was a 19<sup>th</sup> century term for a variety or department store. Subsequently, Chesson's Department Store occupied the first floor of the building. The upper stories contained rental offices and the "Academy

of Music,” the city’s first opera house. It is one of the state’s few remaining vaudeville theaters. The ground floor store had a “Lamson Cash Carry Conveyer,” the only early 20<sup>th</sup> century sales and receipt conveyer system left in North Carolina. The building has been restored and renovated to house The Center, home to Arts of the Albemarle.

- 20 Rucker & Sheely Department Store** 515 E Main St  
This two-story building, built in about 1898, has been occupied by several of Elizabeth City’s most prominent mercantile establishments. Rucker and Sheely occupying the space from 1939 until the 1980s. Much remodeling of the original structure occurred in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but note the well-preserved east side containing rusticated granite window sills and modillion cornice.
- 21 Selig Building** 511-513 E Main St  
The Colonial Revival exterior of this building, built in 1926, is embellished by polychrome tiles with classical motifs and arched copper and granite storefronts. The jewelry store interior retains its original mahogany cases. Selig Jewelers was founded in 1882. The Norfolk architectural firm of Rudolf, Cook and Van Llewen designed this building for Louis Selig’s two sons.
- 22 Virginia Dare Arcade** 507-509 E Main St  
Originally part of the Virginia Dare Hotel located at 110 South McMorrine Street, the Neoclassical Revival style arcade was built about 1926. The arcade’s Main Street entrance includes a stone upper balustrade and cartouche symbolizing the Roanoke voyages. The two-story interior arcade is unique in eastern North Carolina. The nine-story hotel, the Albemarle’s first “skyscraper,” is included later in the tour.
- 23 Kramer Building** 500-512 E Main St  
The building’s Colonial Revival finish uses blond brick quoins at the comers; the sections have arched windows and a wide metal cornice. The building was built in 1909 as an investment rental property by the four Kramer brothers, the city’s leading lumber family. F. W. Woolworth Company occupied the corner store until 1960.

**24 400 Block of East Main Street** Both Sides

While nothing historic remains in this block, Governor J. C. B. Ehringhaus' residence was on the south side of this block, at the corner of Main and McMorrine Streets. His term, 1933-1937, was during the Great Depression. He is the only Pasquotank native to ever serve as North Carolina's governor. Across the street was the Hinton/Carolina Building (1912), a huge four-story brick building which also housed the Carolina movie theatre. It was totally destroyed by fire in March 1967.

**25 Alkrama Movie Theatre** 108 N McMorrine St

This two-story masonry commercial building with parapeted gable-end façade and six over six sash windows, was built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century as the Alkrama Theatre. It was later remodeled as a store.

**26 U.S. Post Office and Federal Courthouse** 306 E Main St

When completed in 1906, this stone-veneered Renaissance Revival building was the most impressive federal facility in North Carolina, east of Raleigh. Handsome classical and floral embellishments accent the postal lobby, while the magnificent mahogany-paneled courtroom upstairs features Ionic pilasters and extraordinary brass chandeliers. The wings were added in 1930. There is limited public access to the federal courthouse, but the U.S. Post Office still has regular branch office hours each day during the week.



**27 Pasquotank County Courthouse** 206 E Main St

The 1882 Victorian central section of the courthouse follows the design of architect A. L. West, of Richmond. The first courthouse on this site was finished in 1806, despite the town's designation as the county seat in 1799. On February 10, 1862, during the Civil War, the first courthouse was torched by panicked citizens following Elizabeth City's capture by Union troops. All documents had been removed beforehand. The side wings were added in 1979-1980.



**28 Charles O. Robinson House** 201 E Main St

This private home was built as a wedding present for Ivy Blades, from her father, as she married Charles O. Robinson in 1914. It is one of the state's finest examples of the "Southern Colonial" style (now called Neoclassical). The portico's monumental Corinthian columns are echoed by an extravagance of smaller columns supporting the single-story porches. New Bern architect Herbert Woodley Simpson designed the house. It remains a Robinson family residence.

**29 Shannon-Derrickson-Hollowell House** 112 E Main St

This is East Main Street's last surviving antebellum house, a house type preferred by the city's prospering merchants during the 1840s and 1850s. The stuccoed chimneys were scored to imitate stone. The present Victorian porch replaced the original two-story porch in the spring of 1894. The city's only antebellum wood frame outbuildings, an early kitchen and possible privy, are located behind the house. This immediate area was the second center of the city's early commercial activity prior to the 1880s. The shipping and manufacturing center was at Main and Water Streets. This intersection at Main and Road Streets was the mercantile center, with numerous stores and banks.



**30 Farmer's Bank Building** 108 E Main St

This is the only Gothic Revival style bank building known in North Carolina. The exterior was originally painted to simulate marble. When built in 1855, the top of the building had a tripartite arched parapet flanked by diminutive finials. Facade alterations during the late 19<sup>th</sup> century included the removal of the parapet and Gothic windows. In 1984, working solely from a circa 1870 documentary photograph, the facade was rebuilt, and the building renovated.

**31 The North Carolinian Building** 106 E Main St

Originally built in about 1859, the initial use of the building is unknown. But in 1869, The North Carolinian newspaper began being published here. The newspaper was published from 1869 to 1902, and promoted the city and Albemarle region to northern investors. The publisher was Dr. Palemon John, who took a leading role in public affairs in Elizabeth City. Typical of Victorian period brick buildings having wooden storefronts and cornice, the building also had several rental offices (a U. S. Customs Office was located here in 1891).

**32 New Southern Hotel** 102 E Main St

A hotel has stood on this corner since 1829. The present building was built in 1872, and remodeled in 1930. At that time, Art Deco tiles and cast concrete shields were added. Notice the building's sign. At some point the building was no longer considered "New" and so the word was simply covered up!"



- 33 Cluff-Pool Store** 101 E Main St  
Starting with an 1819 two-story building, the Cluff-Pool Store's present appearance dates from a 1858 remodeling, and includes Italianate Victorian arched detail — like the arched second story windows and brackets. Another remodeling during the 1890s added the cornice and the rear double-tier porch. This building is best known for serving as the county courthouse, between 1862 and 1882, after the original courthouse was destroyed during the Civil War. This is one of the few antebellum commercial buildings displaying the Italianate style still surviving in North Carolina.
- 34 Norfolk and Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company** 103 S Road St  
This large, two-story brick building was erected in 1924 by the Norfolk and Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company. The modest brick details of the building were used commonly during the 1920s for unpretentious commercial buildings. Note the cast concrete nameplate stating TELEPHONE BUILDING facing South Road Street.
- 35 George W. Bell Gun Shop** 104 S Road St  
Built soon after 1859, this small building displays an Italianate storefront with its wooden brackets and cornice. The gun shop remained here until 1908.
- 36 Wood Building** 110 S Road St  
This large, plain three-story building was erected in 1871, and illustrates the need for larger mercantile buildings after the Civil War. Notice the numerous star-shaped ends of the metal tie bars visible on the side of the building. Odd Fellows Lodge occupied the third story in the late 1880s and early 1890s. A florist occupied the first floor from the 1940s to the 1960s.
- 37 James E. Blades House** 112 S Road St  
Nearly identical to the adjacent L. S. Blades Rental House, this house is enlarged by an original two-story rear wing and later side addition. Built in 1909, the house was given by Dr. Lemuel S. Blades, Sr., to his son, James E. Blades, who was secretary-treasurer of the Norfolk and Carolina Telephone and Telegraph Company. Dr. Blades' large Queen Anne residence stood at the rear of the block facing Main Street until its demolition in 1979.

- 38 L. S. Blades Rental House** 114 S Road St  
Erected in 1909, at the same time as the one next door, this house was originally a rental property. The houses are in the locally popular Queen Anne style, with Colonial Revival details.
- 39 Achoree Odd Fellows Building** 116 S Road St  
Erected in 1896, this building's most notable element is the handsome metal cornice with foliated brackets and paneled frieze. The building was erected for the local white Odd Fellows Lodge, which had organized in 1847.
- 40 Cobb House and Store** 111 S Road St  
One of the few remaining combination antebellum residence/stores in the state, this L-shaped brick Greek Revival building, built in the 1840s, consisted of a side-hall-plan residence on the right, and a parapet-fronted store on the left, until remodeling in 1984 obliterated the original floor plan.



- 41 First Methodist Church** 205 S Road St  
Designed by church architect J. M. McMichael, of Charlotte, and constructed by local contractor Joseph P. Kramer in 1922, this monumental Colonial Revival edifice displays an impressive array of decoration. These include egg-and-dart and anthemion moldings at the front entrances, monumental Ionic columns, and the large, green-tiled dome that covers the interior sanctuary.



**42 F. H. Ziegler & Sons  
Funeral Home**

304 S Road St

This handsome two-story brick building features a pair of double-tier, hip-roofed porches flanking a large, central arched entrance. This structure replaced an older structure erected in 1893. Fred Henry Ziegler was the son of John H. Ziegler, a German native who, in 1856, began what is thought to have been the first large undertaking business in the city. Use of the building as a funeral home was discontinued in 1964.



**43 Pool-Lumsden-Peters Office**

206 S Road St

Erected for Dr. William L. Lumsden for \$1,109.94 in 1895, this handsome brick building replaced a frame doctor's office, erected here in the 1840s, for the brother-in-law of Lovey Pool. Documentary photographs and ghost marks in the bricks indicate original arched windows. Since the 1840s, this site has remained a doctor's office. It is now occupied by the third generation of the Dr. W. A. Peters, Sr., family.

**44 Pool-Lumsden-Peters House**

204 S Road St

This house, built in 1840, is Elizabeth City's finest and most intact Greek Revival residence. Note the pedimented end gables, and the entrance surround following the designs of Boston architect Asher Benjamin. It was the stylish city home of Lovey Taylor Pool, the widow. She was among the first of the "in-land" planters to summer at the newly-fashionable Nags Head in the 1840s.



**45 Grice-Fearing House** 200 S Road St

Originally built in 1798 as one-room deep and two stories high, this is the oldest house within the original city limits, and very likely the oldest structure in Elizabeth City today. Originally built for Francis Grice, a merchant from Pennsylvania, it became the home of Isaiah Fearing, a prominent merchant and well-known postmaster who originally came from Massachusetts, after he married Mr. Grice's widow in 1832. Fearing descendants continued to live in the house until the late 1980s.

**46 Grand Order of Odd Fellows Lodge** 106 E Fearing St

This narrow two-story structure of Federal-Greek Revival design was originally built in 1827, and was remodeled in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The building was believed to have originally been sited on Road Street, and was moved to the present site in 1910. This building was perhaps the first Masonic Lodge of Elizabeth City, whose first Masonic Chapter was established in 1825.

**47 L. S. Blades House** 108 E Fearing St

This two-story frame dwelling was built in 1896, and was sold to the Virgiant Lodge of the Grand Order of Odd Fellows, a black fraternal lodge. They used it until 1910 when it was sold to Dr. Lemuel S. Blades, who moved it from its original lot on the corner of Fearing and Road Streets, and converted it into a residence with elaborate Victorian ornamentation popular in the city at that time. The house was eventually the home of L. S. Blades, Jr., and his wife, Eliza O'Hagan Blades, who were prominent Elizabeth City citizens. Much of the original character of the house was lost through remodeling during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 48 Fred Fearing House

109 E Fearing St

This one-story frame Neocolonial Revival cottage, built about 1950, was the home of Fred Fearing and his wife, Florence. Fred, who died in 2007, is best remembered as a postman, baseball player and fan, collector of local historic artifacts, oral historian, and unofficial ambassador for Elizabeth City. In 1983, Fred and his friend Joe Kramer began greeting boaters at the newly constructed Mariners' Wharf with cut roses and impromptu dock side wine and cheese parties. Fred and his cohorts became known by the world's boating community as the Rose Buddies. The hospitable welcome for boaters continues today. If while you're in town there are at least five boats at the downtown dock at Mariners' Wharf, you're welcome to join a Rose Buddies' party at the waterfront. The house was renovated, and the garage added, in 2009.



## 49 Intersection of South Elliot Street and East Fearing Street

Note the original brick paving on Elliot and East Fearing Streets. Although paved over during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, this portion of the streets was uncovered by the city in the late 1980s. The brick streets date to the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 50 Creecy Rental House

203 E Fearing St

This typical Queen Anne style house was built in about 1914 for the widow Creecy, and was a rental house for many years. Rumor has it that Charles Robinson and his bride, Ivy Blades, lived in the house while their magnificent Neoclassic Revival house was being built on Main Street.

## 51 Weisel-Grice House

205 E Fearing St

Erected in 1883, this house and the next one on the tour are two of the most intact of numerous two-story, gable-front frame houses with handsome Victorian decoration erected during 1880s for merchants and shopkeepers attracted to Elizabeth City. Notice the cornice brackets and window hoods, in addition to the expansive porch.

- 52 Wescott-McCabe House** 207 E Fearing St  
Erected in 1883 for Maurice Wescott, a tailor, this very attractive Victorian displays a variety of decorative woodwork from local Elizabeth City mills. Note the elaborate scrolled brackets supporting the returning boxed cornices on the front gable and Gothic arch motifs in the bases of the porch posts.



- 53 Brockett-McMullan House** 209 E Fearing St  
Built about 1902, this beautiful house is one of the least altered of the city's Victorian residences. This house also exhibits a variety of sawn and turned mill-work on its porch and cornices. John Brockett, the original owner, operated a grocery and saloon in Elizabeth City, as well as a hotel in Nags Head.

- 54 Bradford-Aydlett-Davis House** 401 E Fearing St  
Built by members of the Clara Bartlett Bradford family, this exuberantly decorated two-story house was erected about 1902. The front (north) full-width porch is among the fanciest in Elizabeth City, and is supported by chamfered posts embellished with cutout side brackets and curved end scrolls.

- 55 Jerome B. Flora, Jr., House** 403 E Fearing St  
Completed about 1914 for the Bradford-Griggs family, this house was purchased by Jerome B. Flora, Jr., in 1923. Flora was one of Elizabeth City's most prominent leaders during the 1920s to 1950s. He served as City Manager from 1929 to 1947, and again from 1949 to 1953, and as Fire Chief from 1915 to 1949. In addition, he served as Mayor from 1927 to 1947. His record of public service stands unrivaled in the city's history. While displaying some Colonial Revival elements, the house, unfortunately has gone through many alterations that hide its original style.

## 56 Christ Episcopal Church Parish House

200 S McMorrine St

The church's parish house was designed by Wilson architects Benton and Benton. It combines Tudor Revival elements with other sophisticated details. Note the herringbone brick panels, and the use of brick laid in both Flemish and English bond patterns. The Parish House was erected in 1925.



## 57 Christ Episcopal Church

200 S McMorrine St

The congregation was organized in 1825, at first occupying a frame church finished the next year on the site of the current parish house. Completed in 1857, this church is the city's oldest existing religious structure. It was designed by J. Crawford Nelson of Baltimore, and is his only known commission in North Carolina. The Gothic Revival church's details include the three-stage bell tower, with the octagonal upper stage; slender lancet-arched window; and the defining buttresses. During the Civil War, the pastor of the congregation was the Rev. E. M. Forbes. As Union troops approached the shores of Elizabeth City, Reverend Forbes, dressed in his vestments, met the force and negotiated a peaceful surrender. A memorial to him is located at Mariners' Wharf.

*While in Elizabeth City, be sure to visit the historic Episcopal Cemetery, located on Ehringhaus Street behind the Museum of the Albemarle. It contains graves dating from 1828. The Episcopal "burying ground," as it is known in early deeds, is the oldest active cemetery in Elizabeth City, and has one of the finest collections of mid-19<sup>th</sup> century cast iron cemetery fences in the Albemarle area. Graves include unknown Civil War soldiers and Governor J.C.B. Ehringhaus, the only North Carolina governor from Pasquotank County.*



**58 St. Philip's Episcopal Church**

205 S McMorrine St

Across the street from Christ Episcopal Church you will see the new site of St. Philip's Episcopal Church. St. Philip's was originally built in 1893 as a mission church to the African-American community located in the Shepard Street-South Road Street Historic District. The design is that of an African-American builder, and is a classic example of the frame Carpenter Gothic church. Oral history says the church was built entirely by members of the local Black community. The St. Philip's congregation merged with the Christ Church congregation in the 1960s, and in 2001 Christ Church's congregation forestalled the demolition of the old church and had it moved to its current site. Note the foundation stone showing the church's name and date, and the small rose window, arched windows, and the bell tower. St. Philip's was re-consecrated in 2003.

**59 Virginia Dare Hotel**

110 S McMorrine St

Designed by W. L. Stoddard of New York City, one of the nation's leading hotel architects, the nine-story building was billed as the Albemarle's first "skyscraper" when it opened in 1927. It remains the tallest building in the region. The hotel contained 100 rooms, and a heated garage (now the rear parking lot) with an interior filling station and lubricating stand. It remained the premier hotel and center of Elizabeth City's social activities for over 40 years. Architecturally, its restrained Colonial Revival finish follows the typical division of such tall buildings into the three parts of a classical pillar: a sturdy two-story base; a simply detailed six-story shaft; and a one-story capital, which displays an abundance of decoration.



## 60 Norfolk Southern Bus Station

201 S Poindexter St

This former bus station, built in 1939, incorporates design elements typical of the International style including a flat roof, glass block transoms, and the horizontal emphasis in the structure. Look for the outline of the angled bus bays in the sidewalks at the rear of the building.



## 61 Citizen's Bank

200 S Poindexter St

This rare example of a Chateausque-style commercial building originally featured a tall, slender conical roof — often described as a “candle-snuffer” or “witch’s hat” roof — atop the corner turret. Its original details include arched windows, prominent chimneys, and roof cresting. The most singular element is the foliated corbel-like sandstone bracket over the entrance door bearing the name and date. Organized in 1898, the Citizen’s Bank failed in 1918 and the building has been used as a retail store since.

## 62 Dr. William Martin House

405 E Church St

This house was originally built in 1834 for Dr. William Martin, an early, prominent Elizabeth City physician. The two-story frame, late Federal-Greek Revival style house was remodeled in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The house was converted to a mortuary about 1950.



- 63 Neal-Dixon House** 307 E Church St  
This two-story frame house of ornate Queen Anne design was built about 1902. Alethia Neal, who ran a millinery shop, and her husband, Andrew, a farmer and lumberman, were the first occupants. Note the cross gable roof, and the elaborately finished gables with ball and spindle ornamentation. The elliptical gable windows are rather unique in northeastern North Carolina residential architecture. The Colonial Revival style porch replaced the original Eastlake one about 1920.
- 64 First Methodist Church Site** 305 E Church St  
Originally erected in 1857, the original First Methodist Church building was Greek Revival in style with a pedimented main façade, recessed portico, and a steeple. In 1930, when the congregation built its new church on South Road Street, the structure on this site was gutted and converted into apartments.
- 65 First Methodist Church Parsonage** 301 E Church St  
This two-story frame house, of ornate Queen Anne design, was built in 1877 as the First Methodist Church parsonage. The two-story east wing was built in 1910. The house served as a parsonage until 1956.
- 66 Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century Houses** 200-206 E Church St  
Built in the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, these modest, but charming, houses served as rental houses for many years. Rumor has it that Fred Fearing and his new bride lived in one of these houses before building, and moving to, their house on Fearing Street.

You have now completed the walking tour of the Main Street Commercial District. We hope you have found this tour to be both enjoyable and informative. Should you have time, and if your feet are still up to it, please consider doing a walking tour of one of the five other Historic Districts in Elizabeth City (see map opposite). Thank you for taking the tour, and come back to visit again.



# *Elizabeth City Historic Districts*

- Northside National Register Historic District
- Elizabeth City National Register Historic District
- Main Street Commercial District
- Main Street Residential District
- Shepard Street-South Road Street National Register Historic District
- Riverside National Register Historic District
- Elizabeth City State Teachers College National Register Historic District



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