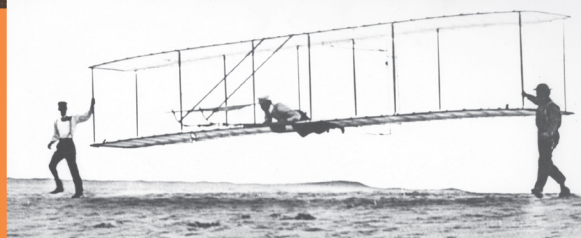
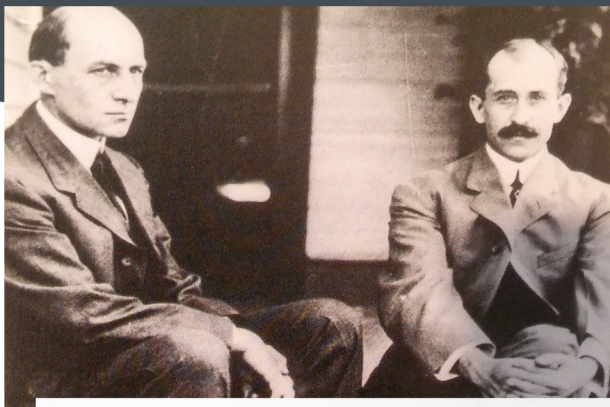


# Elizabeth City **AVIATION** **TRAIL**



## **WRIGHT BROTHERS** **IN ELIZABETH CITY**



The first leg of the Wright brothers' quest for flight was actually aboard a train. Wilbur Wright traveled aboard the Norfolk-Southern Railway to Elizabeth City in September, 1900. The city, then and now, serves as the gateway into North Carolina and the Outer Banks and Wilbur was looking for passage on to Kitty Hawk. He eventually hired boat Captain Israel Perry to carry him to the Outer Banks. The trip took four days, and Orville joined his brother about two weeks later.

The bicycle boys with dreams of taking flight returned to Elizabeth City on many occasions to buy supplies and goods as the town was the only urban center of activity at the turn of the century.

In 2000, The Elizabeth City First Leg of Flight Committee commemorated those trips by placing historical markers around town where the Wright brothers visited, bought materials, and where the first recordings of their undertaking took place.

These nine markers have been incorporated into the Aviation Trail that weaves its way through town.



## 1 | WATERFRONT PARK

The "world's first flight crew" were the surfmen of the U.S. Lifesaving Stations along the Outer Banks. The Wright brothers relied on them as they tested their experimental aircraft (1900-1903). This service evolved into the U.S. Coast Guard (1915).



## 2 | MARINERS' WHARF

On Water Street, was where Wilbur Wright contracted Captain Israel Perry to sail his Curlicue with Wright and provisions on board to Kitty Hawk on September 11, 1900.



## 3 | THE TAR HEEL

On Oct. 3, 1902, the Tar Heel, an Elizabeth City newspaper edited by Walter L. Cohoon, printed the first article that mentioned the Wright brothers by name. This marker can be found on Water Street next to Singer Sewing & Vacuum Center.



## 4 | ARLINGTON HOTEL

Wilbur Wright stayed at the Arlington Hotel during his first trip to Elizabeth City. The site, now residential condominiums on Water Street, marks the starting point for Wright's quest to find someone to take him to Kitty Hawk.



# Elizabeth City AVIATION TRAIL



## N.G. GRANDY COMPANY | 5

In 1902, the Wright brothers purchased a barrel of oil from the N.G. Grandy Company located on Water Street. This was the first distribution point for Standard Oil Company in the area.



## THE BROWN BUILDING | 6

Home of The Daily Economist, a local newspaper, that provided the world with the first interviews with Orville and Wilbur Wright after their successful heavier-than-air flight on December 17, 1903. The interview took place at the Arlington Hotel on Water St.



## NORTH CAROLINIAN | 7

The newspaper building at 106 E. Main Street housed the offices where initial stories of the Wright Brothers' work toward flight were reported.



## ELIZABETH CITY MIDDLE SCHOOL | 8

306 N. Road Street was the general location of the Kramer Mill Company from which Orville and Wilbur Wright bought lumber and materials for their experiments and eventually their first powered flight.



## MID-ATLANTIC CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY | 9

715 N. Poindexter Street was once the site of the Norfolk-Southern Railroad Depot where Wilbur Wright first arrived in Elizabeth City on September 8, 1900.





# 10 | UNITED STATES COAST GUARD BASE

The home of the largest USCG base on the East Coast. In addition to the Air Station's search and rescue operations, the Aircraft Repair & Supply Center is the main repair depot for the Coast Guard's helicopters and airplanes as well as training facilities.



# 11 | TCOM

Lighter-than-air ships have had a major impact on Elizabeth City's history and economy. The Weeksville Dirigible Hangar is an airship manufacturing, storage and test facility originally built by the US Navy in 1941 for servicing blimps conducting anti-submarine patrols of the US coast and is now home to TCOM. Limited tours are available and need to be prearranged by calling 252-330-5555.



Elizabeth City Area Convention and Visitors Bureau  
(located in within Museum of the Albemarle)

**501 S. WATER STREET  
ELIZABETH CITY, NC 27909**



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