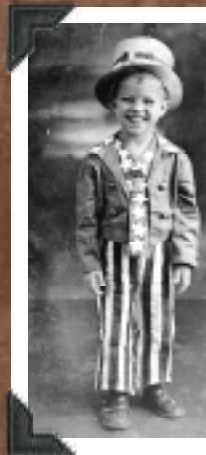


Elizabeth City
Historic Walking Tour
*Elizabeth City State
Teachers College
District*





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 10:00 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.

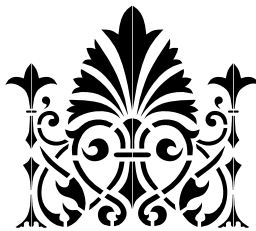
ECHNA is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

PO Box 247 • Elizabeth City, NC 27907
www.echna.org



Elizabeth City
Historic Walking Tour

*Elizabeth City
State Teachers
College District*



ECHNA

ELIZABETH CITY
HISTORIC
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

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 17th 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 the Elizabeth City Teachers College Historic District listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The district is located within the Elizabeth City State University campus. Walking tour signs, with blue stripes on the poles, are located throughout the district to keep you on course. 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 an hour or so to complete the tour, and be sure to take advantage of visitor parking and the numerous restaurants and shops near campus. Please keep in mind that the sites are University facilities, and although most of the interiors and surrounding grounds are open to the public some may have restricted access. However, the staff and students 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.

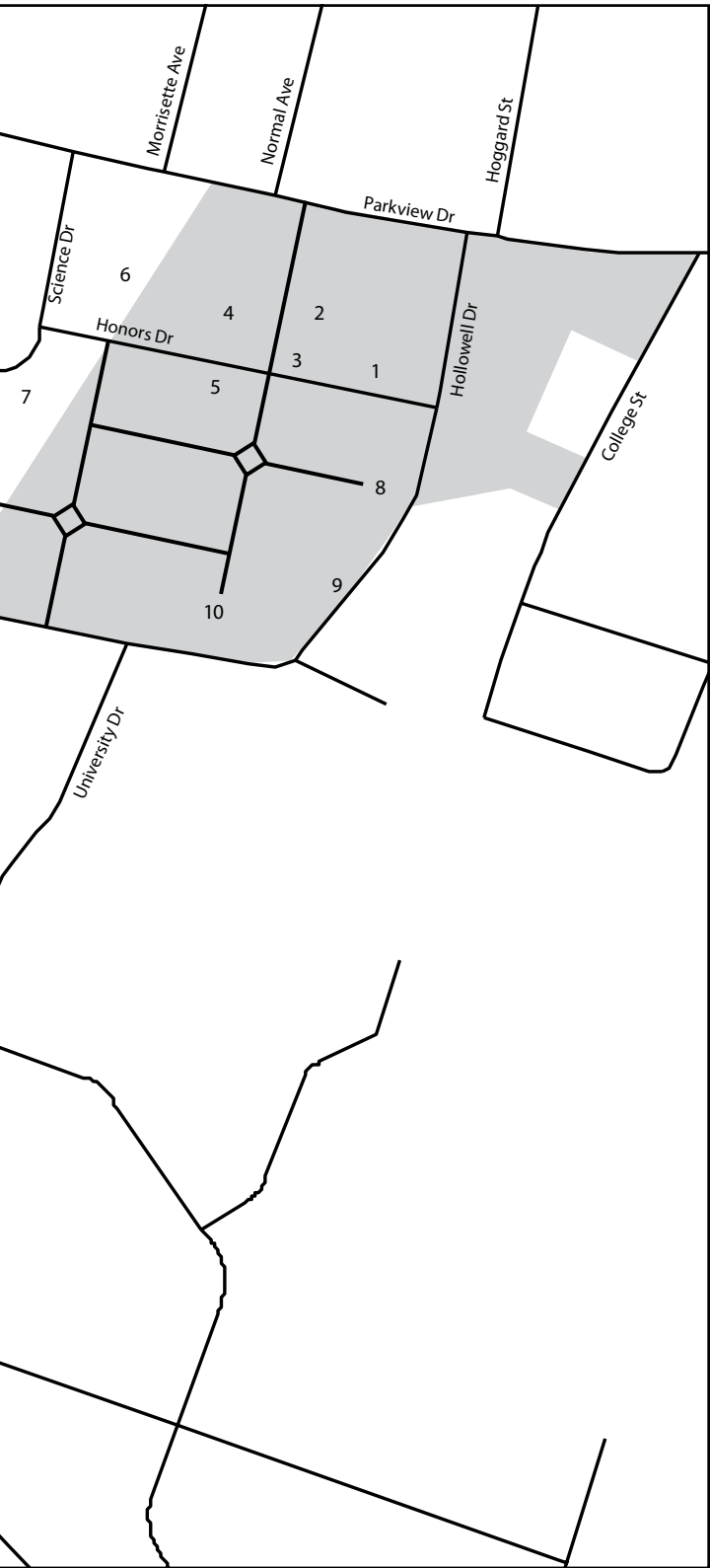
Keys to Using the Map

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.





— Elizabeth City
State Teachers
College District



The institution we now know as Elizabeth City State University was initially named the State Colored Normal School at Elizabeth City. In 1939, the Legislature renamed the school “Elizabeth City State Teachers College.” The Elizabeth City State Teachers College Historic District was named for this period of time in the school’s history, when several of the institution’s most historically significant buildings were erected. This period extends from 1939, when the school became a four-year, degree-granting institution, until 1963, when its first non-education majors were added. In 1969, Elizabeth City State College was elevated to university status.

From 1891 to 1939, a need existed in northeastern North Carolina for a school to provide educational opportunities for African-Americans. Although the school’s primary purpose was to train elementary school teachers, it also provided a certified high school education to students from all counties which did not provide a high school for black students.

North Carolina legislator Hugh Cale is considered the college’s founder. Cale submitted a bill to the legislature in 1891, which passed, and established the State Normal School in Elizabeth City. Peter W. Moore was the school’s first principal, and later first President and President Emeritus. He guided the struggling school through difficult financial and societal times, led the move to the present campus from its original location in the Shepard Street Historic District, and oversaw construction of at least six of the buildings now in the district.



1 Lane Hall

Circa 1909, enlarged 1923-31, renovated 1948 and 1955, remodeled 1955 and 2007. Although only a portion of the original two-story Colonial Revival style building labeled as the “Recitation Hall” survives, it is the oldest building on campus. Its main surviving architectural features are the stone lintels with elevated keystones over the windows. The building was first used for classrooms and chapel, but was converted into a dormitory after the completion of Moore Hall. A neo-classical facade was added in 1955 following a design of Stephens & Stephens of New Bern, a firm which also designed several dormitories on campus. The structure is now used for various administrative and classroom functions.

2 Symera Hall (Sorry, no longer part of the tour)

Circa 1911. The three-story brick building to the right of Lane Hall was erected in Colonial Revival style as the first dormitory on campus. The building was later named for Symera T. Moore, wife of Principal P.W. Moore. Between 1923 and 1931, when a dining room behind Lane Hall was built, a short wing was added to connect the two buildings. The building was torn from its foundation by an electrical storm in late August 1948. Subsequent rebuilding resulted in removal of original features now known only through documentary photographs. It remained as a dormitory but has been shut down for safety reasons since 1997. Across the Street, at 1102 Parkview Drive is the house in which “Roots” author Alex Haley once lived with his parents. Haley’s parents were professors at the Elizabeth City State Teachers College, and the author attended the school in his freshman and sophomore years.



3 Principal's House

Circa 1921-23. A two-story Colonial Revival residence to the left of Lane Hall was erected for the school principal/president, P.W. Moore. The focus of the boxy, double-pile dwelling is a central porch carried by Tuscan columns with a tripartite (3 part) window configuration adding further interest to the second story. The main porch was located on the east side for privacy.



4 Moore Hall

Circa 1922, enlarged 1939. The oldest contributing building in the district was built as an administrative, classroom and auditorium facility. The large brick building follows a "U" shape, with a gable roof ending with pediments in typical Colonial Revival style. The building's focus is the flat-roofed portico (covered entrance) carried by pairs of stone Tuscan columns, with other features including scrolled consoles above the side entrances, a classical cornice (portion supported by columns), and a cupola. Re-named to honor P.W. Moore in 1927. Each rear wing was extended 50 feet in 1939.



5 The Trigg Building

Circa 1937-39, enlarged 1957-59 and renovated 2008. Former G.R. Little Library and Thorpe Administration. Built as the first separate library building on campus, the building's one-story Colonial Revival form blended well with the earlier Moore Hall. The building's focus is a central pedimented pavilion (triangular gable) flanked by four stone pilasters and a stuccoed tympanum (recessed area above the door). The structure was named originally for George Roscoe Little Sr., a local insurance agent and realtor and member of the school's Board of Trustees from 1927- 1954, who served as chairman for many years. The building was enlarged in the rear in 1957-59. Upon completion of the present G.R. Little Library in 1966, the old library was converted into administrative offices in 1971 and renamed the Thorpe Administration Building to honor then president/chancellor, Dr. Marion Dennis Thorpe. In 1987, a new Thorpe Administration Building was built on Halstead Boulevard and the old library was renamed the H.L. Trigg Building in 1992, in honor of Dr. Harold Leonard Trigg, the institution's third president who served from 1939-45. The building's interior and exterior were renovated between 2004 and 2008 utilizing North Carolina 2000 bond referendum funds. The building now houses administrative and faculty offices.



6 Evelyn A. Johnson Classroom Building

Circa 1966. The only modern building within the historic district, this two-story building with brick and stucco walls was first known simply as the Classroom Building before being renamed in 1971 to honor Evelyn Adelaide Johnson, first chairperson of the Department of Music and a faculty member serving from 1929-1975. Although the building does not fit into the historic quadrangle area, its construction underscored the need for additional classrooms in the growing college — soon to become a university.



7 Butler Hall

Circa 1926, expanded in 1939, renovated 1994. The first men's dormitory, this three-and-a-half story brick Colonial Revival building has a parapet gable roof with secondary parapets between each of four nearly identical five-bay sections; the southern sections were added in 1939. Note the blind end walls and the repetition of Doric (fluted columns with rounded molding) pilaster-framed dormers across the front and rear. Named for John Henry Manning Butler, an Elizabeth City native who was the State Colored Normal School's first Assistant Principal and later professor at what is now North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University in Greensboro. In 1994-95, half of the building was demolished during a thorough renovation of the building.



8 Bias Hall

Circa 1938, renovated 1994. This impressive three-story Colonial Revival women's dormitory has a handsomely-finished flat-roofed portico carried by monumental stone Tuscan columns and wooden pilasters. Each end has a four-bay wing of diminished height. Gable dormers, round arched windows, boxed cornices and brick quoins (corner of wall). The main entrance contains a cross-topped architrave (extensions to the side trim at the top of the door) stone surround with fluted keystone surmounted by a broken pediment. Bull's-eye windows in the third story and end pediments complete the design with stylish flourish. John Henry Bias, president from 1928-39, died two months after dedication of the building, which was later renamed in his memory. The building remains as a women's dormitory.

9 Practice School (Former)

Circa 1921. This frame building was originally erected along Parkview Drive as a facility where students could gain teaching experience instructing the neighborhood's black children. The Craftsman-style building has a gable-front form with a diminished gable-front block sheltering a recessed porch. Typical Craftsman elements include the large banks of windows along the sides that were hallmarks of buildings erected through the assistance of the Rosenwald Fund, which was established by philanthropist Julius Rosenwald (president of Sears, Roebuck & Co.), to improve educational buildings for blacks in the south. The building was used as a practice school until the 1940s, and moved here in 1957. It now houses the Army ROTC offices.

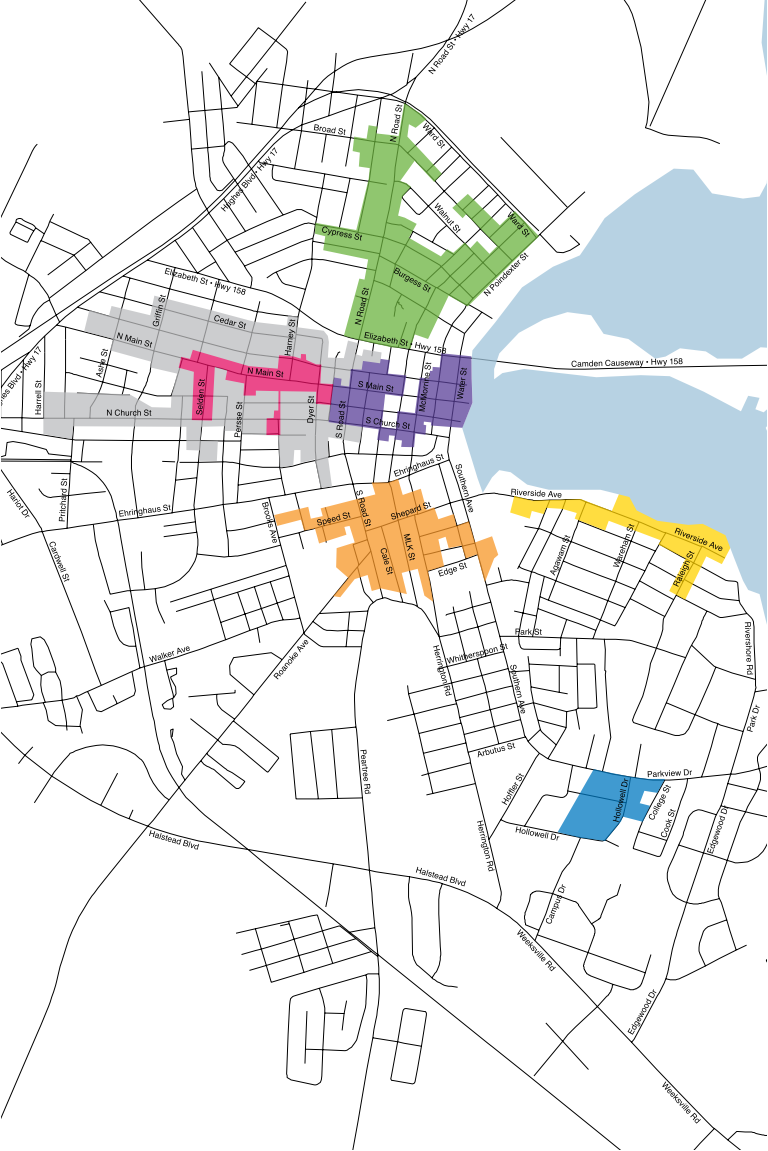


10 Williams Hall








Circa 1947. Designed by Goldsboro architect J. Alien Maxwell, Williams Hall enjoys a prominent site at the southern end of the campus quadrangle. The handsome Colonial Revival structure consists of a two-story central section flanked by one-and-a-half-story wings. The building's focus is the central pedimented portico carried by monumental stone Tuscan columns and Ionic pilasters. The building's entrance is contained within a surround of fluted Doric pilasters, classical entablature and broken pediment. Stone accents, brick quoins and water table (molding that diverts rain water), boxed wooden cornice and parapet gable roof complete the building's features. Originally built as a combination Fine Arts and Physical Education facility, the building had wings added in 1952. The building was named for Sidney David Williams, fourth President from 1946-1958.

You have now completed the walking tour of the Elizabeth City State Teachers College 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.

Information on history and styles for this walking tour guide is based on the previous edition developed by the Elizabeth City Convention and Visitor's Bureau and the Elizabeth City Area Chamber of Commerce. Additional information for this edition was gathered from On the Shores of the Pasquotank by Thomas Butchko; the staff of Elizabeth City State University, especially Jean Bischoff, University Archivist; and members of the Elizabeth City Historic Neighborhood Association (ECHNA). The current edition was edited by Vidal Falcon and Jim Calliotte of ECHNA, and is sponsored by that organization.



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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