

Overview

The Town of Cary designates Cary Historic Landmarks as a way to preserve buildings that are historically, architecturally, or culturally significant to Cary. The Town Council considers designation of historic landmarks upon the recommendation of the [Historic Preservation Commission](#). Once designated, exterior changes to the property are subject to design review and approval by the Historic Preservation Commission. In return for this higher level of design oversight, property owners are eligible to apply for an annual property tax deferral of fifty percent for as long as the property is designated and retains its historic and architectural integrity.

List of Landmarks

Below are the properties currently designated as Cary Historic Landmarks:

Page-Walker Hotel

119 Ambassador Street

c.1868

Designated in 1994



Photo courtesy of the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel

The Page-Walker Hotel (now known as the Page-Walker Arts and History Center) has been designated a Cary Historic Landmark because of its historical association with Allison Francis (Frank) Page -- founder of Cary, leader in the North Carolina lumber and rail industry, and father of Walter Hines Page, U.S. ambassador to Great Britain during the Wilson administrations -- and also because of its architectural significance as a rare example of the Second Empire style in small-town North Carolina. Frank Page built the hotel around 1868 to cater to railroad passengers after tracks were built through Cary in 1854. The hotel was constructed of handmade red brick laid in 4:1 common bond with lime mortar joints. It has a Mansard roof with ten pedimented dormer windows featuring decorative wooden surrounds. The building's several chimneys are enhanced by recessed panels and corbelled caps. The six-bay façade is dominated by six full-sized wooden posts which support a balcony. The Pages sold the hotel to the Walker family in 1884, after which the building changed hands several more times. Major renovations were conducted in the 1940s, again in the 1970s, and again in the 1980s after it was bought by the Town of Cary. The internal layout is surprisingly intact given its change in use over time from a hotel to an apartment building/boarding house to a single-family dwelling to its current use as a public arts and history center. The Page-Walker Hotel is also listed on the National Register Of Historic Places.

Guess-White-Ogle House

215 S. Academy Street
c. 1830; alterations c. 1900
Designated in 2008



Photo by Capital Area Preservation, Inc.

The Guess-White-Ogle House has been designated as a Cary Historic Landmark for its architectural significance. It is the finest, most intact, and best preserved example of Queen Anne-style architecture in the Downtown Cary National Register Historic District. It is also an example of a dwelling that was expanded over time to reflect the prevailing architectural tastes of the day. Although known locally as the Guess House, this house has had many owners throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Railroad "roadmaster" Captain Harrison P. Guess and his wife, Aurelia, purchased the land on which the house sits from Frank Page in 1880 and built the original house, which is said to have been a two-story I-house, a common vernacular house type throughout Wake County, embellished with modest Greek Revival detailing. The house also had a rear ell. John White, a local Baptist minister, bought the house from the Guess' in 1896 and substantially remodeled and expanded it. He transformed the house into a Queen Anne structure by adding a three-story tower to the façade, a front bay window, and much decorative woodwork. The architectural history of the house reflects a broad pattern of continual adaptation of vernacular house types that can be seen in other houses in Wake County and across the southeast. Carroll and Sheila Ogle bought the property in 1997 and restored it.

Dr. John Pullen Hunter House

311 S. Academy Street
c. 1925
Designated in 2008



Photo by Capital Area Preservation, Inc.

The Dr. John Pullen Hunter House has been designated as a Cary Historic Landmark for its historical association with Dr. Hunter and his family, and for its architectural significance as one of the finest examples of a Craftsman bungalow in the Downtown Cary National Register Historic District. The property also contains the only intact, original chicken coop in the district. The family descended from Isaac Hunter, owner of a popular tavern in Wake County that was used as a landmark in establishing the city of Raleigh in 1788. Dr. Hunter was a practicing physician and the son of the Reverend Alsey Dalton Hunter (an early Baptist minister). Dr. Hunter practiced medicine in Cary from 1920 to 1959, and was also the president of the Cary Chamber of Commerce, served on the Cary Town Board and the Wake County Board of Education, and was a member of the Cary Masonic Lodge.

This brick bungalow, one of the best-preserved structures in the Downtown Cary National Register Historic District, features a side-gable roof with three dormers on the front and two shed dormers flanking the central-gabled dormer. The long, horizontal front porch is enclosed on the south end and extends into a porte-cochere on the north end, supported by tapered wood posts on brick piers. The interior is also well-preserved.

Carpenter Farm Supply Complex (two buildings)

1933 Morrisville-Carpenter Road

Designated in 2010



Photo by Capital Area Preservation, Inc.

The Carpenter Farm Supply Complex has been designated as a Cary Historic Landmark for its association with the agricultural history of Wake County. The complex is made up of two buildings: the Carpenter Supply Store and the Farmers' Cooperative and Meeting Hall. Both buildings were expanded in the latter half of the twentieth century, but the original late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century core buildings are largely intact. The complex has remained in the same family since the late nineteenth century. Both buildings reflect the importance of agriculture to the economy of rural Wake County in the late-nineteenth through mid-twentieth century, and both are listed on the National Register of Historic Places as contributing structures in the Carpenter National Register Historic District.

Carpenter Supply Store
c. 1895 with additions in 1916, 1917, 1983



Photo by Capital Area Preservation, Inc.

The Carpenter Supply Store is an evolved crossroads commercial building that began as a one-story, frame, gable-front store in 1895. In 1916, a two-story brick building featuring a stepped-parapet roof, a corbelled cornice, common bond brick walls, and segmental-arch windows was built beside the frame store. The brick store building is thought to be the only rural brick store building in continuous use in Wake County. The two stores were attached sometime around 1917 with a frame structure that housed the Carpenter community's post office until 1933. During the 1980s, the three building sections were unified with the addition of a shed-roofed porch, and the structure was also enlarged with two rear additions. The interiors of the original store buildings are remarkably intact.

Farmers' Cooperative and Meeting Hall
c. 1880 with additions in the 1950s, 1972 and 1985



Photo by Capital Area Preservation, Inc.

The 1880 Farmers' Cooperative building provided a place for farmers to buy and sell their goods. After the turn of the century, the building is believed to have served also as a meeting house for the Farmers' Educational and Cooperative Union and for meetings of a fraternal organization similar to the Freemasons – activities which were somewhat unusual for a rural crossroads like Carpenter. The Farmers' Cooperative building is a two-story, frame, gable-front building with corrugated metal siding. The metal-covered roof has a slight overhang and exposed rafter tails. Single-story frame additions (a

garage and a warehouse) were made to the rear and west facades respectively in the 1950s, along with a shed-roofed front porch that spans the cooperative building and warehouse. Other smaller additions were made in the 1970s and 1980s, including a rear warehouse addition, loading docks suited for trucks rather than railcars, and a metal silo. A cupola with a pyramidal roof was added in the 1990s.

First Christian Church Cemetery

300 West Cornwall Road

c. 1896

Designated in 2013



Photo by Capital Area Preservation, Inc.

The First Christian Church Cemetery has been designated as a Cary Historic Landmark because of its association with the establishment of Cary's first African-American religious congregation, and because since its earliest beginnings to the present day, it has been the location where some of Cary's most prominent citizens are buried. The cemetery is surrounded by residential neighborhoods on 1.39 acres located about 1.3 miles southwest of downtown Cary. The cemetery is situated on the site where Cary's first African-American church held its initial meeting in 1868, and is the only remaining resource associated with the congregation at this location. The cemetery's grave markers are laid out in linear rows with a north-south orientation; there are approximately 254 marked interments. Members of all denominations have been continuously buried here since the first known interment in 1896.

Hillcrest Cemetery

0, 608, 610 Page Street

c. 1840

Designated in 2014



Photo by Capital Area Preservation, Inc.

The Hillcrest Cemetery is locally significant as the final resting place of men and women who made contributions to the town of Cary's social, economic, political, religious growth and development during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Interred at the cemetery are fifteen former mayors and a number of leading local educators and businessmen, including members of the Jones, Page, Templeton and Guess families, and Cary High principal Marcus Baxter Dry, Esther Ivey, Russell O. Heater, Alfred "Buck" Jones, and R. S. "Dad" Dunham. The cemetery is a municipal cemetery located just south of downtown on 4.87 acres, and is surrounded on all sides by wooded residential neighborhoods. The Town of Cary acquired most of the cemetery in several transactions during the 1960s and 1970s, making it the town's only municipal cemetery.

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