



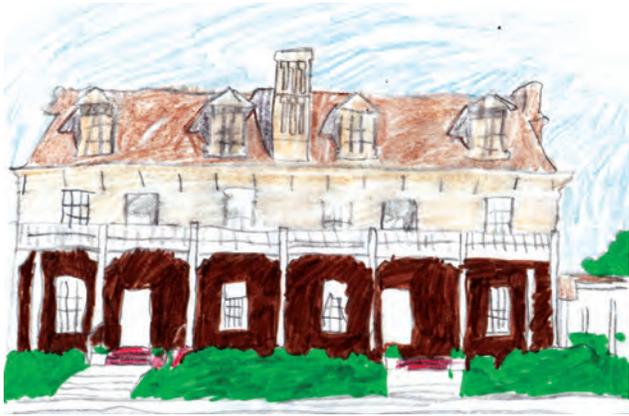
# time for a little history

Page-Walker Arts & History Center  
119 Ambassador Loop  
Downtown Cary

**TOWN of CARY**  
PARKS, RECREATION  
& CULTURAL RESOURCES

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# Downtown Cary Walking Tour



## 1. Page-Walker Hotel

**119 Ambassador Loop** (open to the public)

When the Chatham Railroad came to Cary in 1868, it meant travelers getting off the train needed to a place to stay the night or have something to eat. Cary's founder, Frank Page, built me as a hotel for those guests. I am built in the French 2nd Empire style, which is very unique for buildings so far out in the country (which I was in 1868). After being a hotel, I was a boarding house, then a home, and then I sat empty for years, until Cary residents saved me. Today I am the home of an arts and history center.



## 2. Train Station

**211 North Academy Street** (open to the public)

You could say that I am the reason Cary is here today – Cary was born as a railroad station! The North Carolina Railroad came in 1854 and the Chatham Railroad came in 1868. The same rails still take people across North Carolina and you can get on here in Cary! The old train station was torn down in the 1970s and replaced with me.

**Q1: Did you watch Thomas & Friends when you were little? Can you name 3 of the engines on the "Steam Team"? Find the answers to questions on the back.**



## 3. Ivey-Ellington-Waddell House

**135 West Chatham Street**

I am one of only two board-and-batten Gothic Revival buildings in Wake County, and I sort of look like a gingerbread house! I was built by John Ellington in 1874. In the 1890s, my front yard was a stop for cattle drivers on their way from Chatham County to Raleigh—their cows, turkeys, and other livestock rested under my trees! Today, I am home to the Cary Farmers' Market.

**Q2: How many different shapes can you see in my windows?**



## 4. Ashworth's Drugs

**105 West Chatham Street** (open to the public)

I was built in 1931 for the Masons, a men's club. You can still see my Masonic Lodge engraving on my outside walls. Later I became Adams Pharmacy, and I became Ashworth's drugstore in 1957. My owners have kept my soda fountain from the 1950s intact to preserve my history. Today you can come inside and enjoy tasty hotdogs and milkshakes!

**Q3: Go inside and find the "VIP Executive Dining Room." Do you know what VIP means?**



## 5. First Baptist Church

**218 South Academy Street** (open to the public)

The congregation that meets in me was founded in 1874. That church was at the corner of Chatham and West Streets, a few blocks from me. I was built in 1936, and the new sanctuary was added in 1968. I am built in the Classical Revival style, which is based on Roman public buildings.



## 6. Jones House

**324 South Academy Street**

The Jones family built me in the 19th century as a Queen Anne-style cottage. Mr. Jones was a wealthy man and a friend of Cary's founder, Frank Page. Sometimes, the principals, teachers, and students of Cary Academy, which was across the street, lived here. My inside and outside were renovated in 2014.



## 7. Cary Arts Center

**101 Dry Avenue** (open to the public)

Cary's founder began a school called Cary Academy here in the 1870s. In 1896, it became Cary High School. It was a model for education during the early 20th century. I was built in 1938 by the Works Progress Administration to replace a smaller building that could not hold all the students in Cary. I stopped being a school in 1998, but in 2011 I reopened as the Cary Arts Center and now give musicians, painters, singers, actors, and other artists space to work.

**Q4: What is the name of the school behind the Cary Arts Center?**



## 8. Guess-Ogle House

**215 South Academy Street**

I may be the best-known house in downtown Cary because of my unique look. When Captain Harrison P. Guess purchased this property in 1880, he expanded my original 1830s structure by adding the big bay window in front. This made me a Queen Anne-style house. A later owner, the minister at First Baptist Church across the street, added my corner tower, where he used to look over the church and town as he wrote his sermons. I am still a private home.



## 9. First United Methodist Church

**117 South Academy Street** (open to the public)

My congregation was founded in 1872 by a group of 12 families. I am the oldest church in downtown Cary. Today I have more than 4,000 members. My original building was a wooden A-frame, but I was greatly remodeled in the 1920s. I am Gothic Revival style, and I almost look like a castle, especially because of my tower.

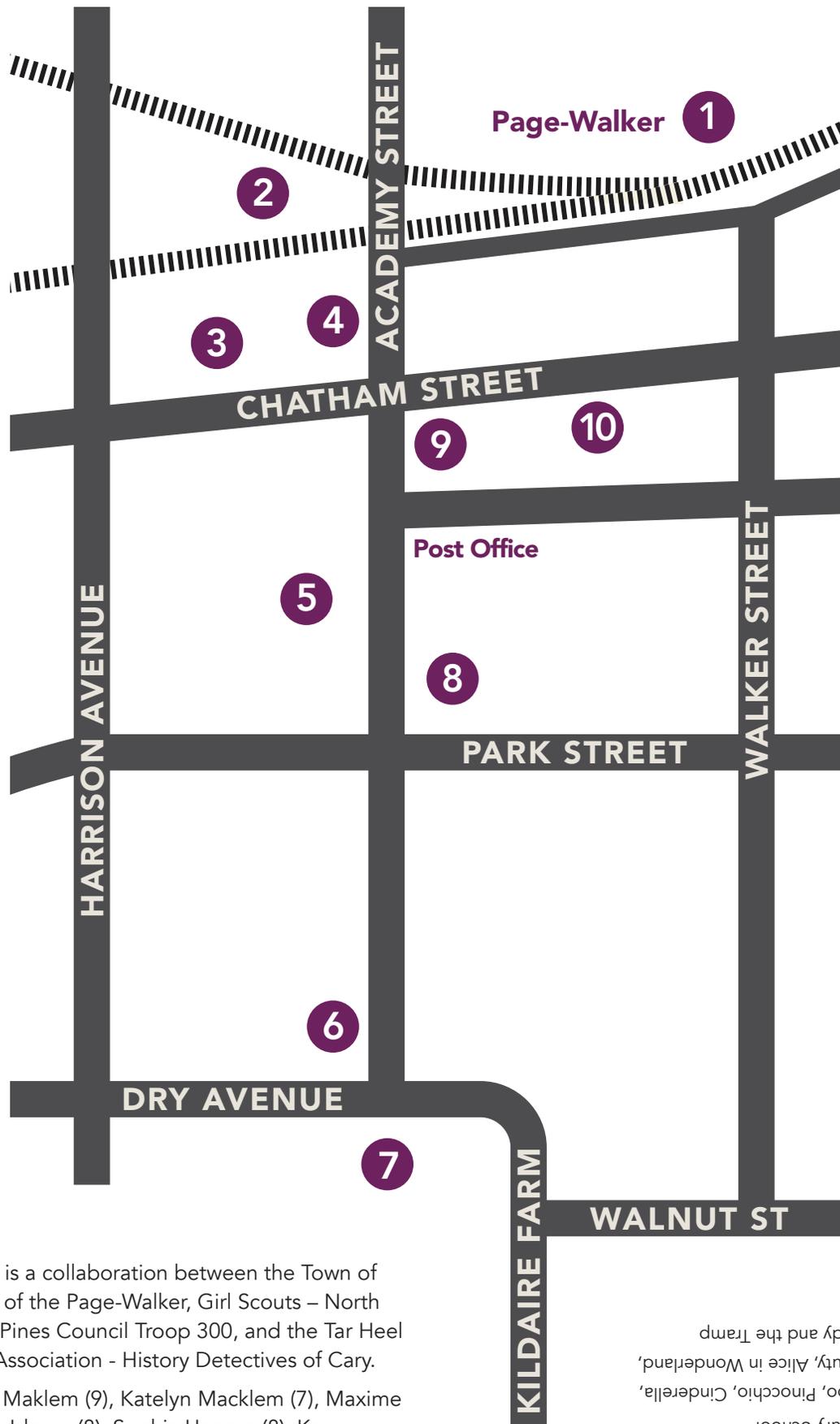


## 10. The Cary Theater

**122 East Chatham Street** (open to the public)

I was the home of Cary's first indoor movie theater back in the 1940s, but I didn't just show movies – famous singer Patsy Cline once performed here! After the theater closed in the late 1950s, I was home to a clothing store, an auto parts store, and even a recording studio. I am now a theater again and host movies, plays, and music!

**Q5: Disney movies were popular when I was open during the 1940s and 1950s. Can you name any old Disney movies from that time?**



1. Thomas, Percy, Gordon, Henry, James, Edward, Toby, and Emily
2. Triangles, rectangles, parallelograms
3. "Very Important Person"
4. Cary Elementary School
5. Bambi, Dumbo, Pinocchio, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Alice in Wonderland, Peter Pan, Lady and the Tramp

**Answers**

This walking tour is a collaboration between the Town of Cary, the Friends of the Page-Walker, Girl Scouts – North Carolina Coastal Pines Council Troop 300, and the Tar Heel Junior Historian Association - History Detectives of Cary.

Artwork by Anna Maklem (9), Katelyn Macklem (7), Maxime Idoura (10), Anais Idoura (8), Sophia Ungaro (8), Kaya Rossell (11), Maryanne Thomas (10), Sarah Major (9), Hannah Major (7), and Arianna Trent (8).

Brochure design by Leesa Brinkley.