

Commemorating American Independence

Enfield

Established 1740

Celebrating our founding while building our future

INTRODUCTION

Downtown Enfield Restoration and Preservation Association (DERP) is dedicated to recognizing Enfield's rich history and revitalizing the downtown area. DERP is committed to celebrating our founding while building our future. This brochure highlights how Enfield played an important role in the history of this nation throughout the years leading up to our nation's 250th birthday.

Partnering with North Carolina and Halifax County for the kick-off commemorating the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, DERP will be actively involved with "Prelude to Revolution." The event, to be held at Historic Halifax State Historic Site, includes Halifax Resolves Day and a two-day living history weekend starting April 12, 2024.

Celebrating history is DERP's way of recognizing the town's deep roots in our nation's liberty and independence. Working with other community organizations – including Enfield Alliance Coalition and Enfield Economic Development and Revitalization Commission as well as the county of Halifax – DERP is planning several of its own events that will take place in February 2025 and May 2026.



General Lafayette

The American Friends of Lafayette are commemorating the Marquis de Lafayette's Farewell Tour from 1824 to 1825 when he was honored as "The Nation's Guest," the last surviving general of the Revolutionary War. Hundreds of events are planned to trace the general's footsteps in the exact date and order of his visits. A grand gala is planned for February 28, 2025, at The Cellar Plantation House in Enfield – exactly 200 years after his visit. A national landmark, The Cellar was owned by Col. John Branch, one of the wealthiest and most important men in the Roanoke Valley who served with Lafayette in the Revolution under George Washington. Col. Branch died in 1806 but his son, Joseph, occupied the house in 1825 and entertained Lafayette. The Branch family were prominent in state history. Joseph's brother, John, who resided nearby, served three terms as governor of North Carolina, was a state legislator, U.S. Senator,

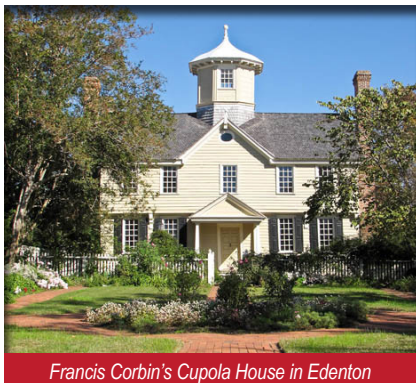
a federal judge, U.S. Secretary of the Navy under President Andrew Jackson and the last governor of the Florida territory. Joseph Branch's son, Lawrence O'Bryan Branch, born at The Cellar in 1820, was a congressman, lawyer, railroad executive and nominee for U.S. Treasury Secretary, a post he declined at the start of the Civil War; instead, Lawrence O'Bryan Branch became a Brigadier General and was killed at the Battle of Antietam in 1862. His funeral was held in the state capitol building in Raleigh. His great, great grandson is the celebrated author Armistead Maupin, who has written on the family history.



Governor John Branch, Jr.

In May 2026 a pageant will celebrate the Enfield Riots, an event which helped spark American Independence. The Riots, which involved the capture of British Tax Collector Francis Corbin of Edenton, were among the earliest armed actions against the British Crown – 14 years before the Boston Tea Party. **On January 24, 1759, a group from Halifax, Edgecombe and Granville counties kidnapped Lord Granville's corrupt land agents, Francis Corbin and Joshua Bodley, in Edenton and carried them to Enfield, where the land agents were forced to return the illegal fees that had been collected from the local settlers.**

During a second riot in Enfield on May 14, 1759, some participants in the initial kidnapping who had been arrested and jailed for capturing Corbin and Bodley were freed by a mob who broke open the Enfield jail. These protests encouraged Willie Jones and other leaders of North Carolina to push for independence from England through the Halifax Resolves of April 12, 1776, which was the first formal document in the United States to officially advocate breaking away from England.



Francis Corbin's Cupola House in Edenton

Halifax County has provided North Carolina with more leaders – governors, congressmen, generals – than any other county in the state. Our small rural town in Halifax County has a lot to be proud of and we plan to celebrate it by participating in America250 and Lafayette 200. We welcome visitors to Eastern North Carolina over the next few years and we want to highlight our hometown – its fascinating history as well as the designated historic district.

You can take a walking tour or drive out in the countryside to see the churches and homes. The addresses are listed if you would like to visit, or you can swipe the QR code to read a more detailed description on the historic sites. In addition, if you want to dive deeper into the downtown's newly designated historic district, you also can view our link to the historic district inventory for a full view of the 370 historic properties in downtown Enfield:

<https://www.dncr.nc.gov/nr/hx1640/download>

The homes and churches in this brochure are just a sampling of historic properties in Enfield. In August 2021, Enfield's downtown was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. This brochure highlights just 31 homes and churches. Some sites in the brochure are actually outside the downtown district's boundaries or have been listed individually on the National Register at an earlier time. The criteria for inclusion in this brochure was that their histories were 100 years or older. An asterisk indicates the home was individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. (The 13 properties within the downtown historic district are notated with a DHD-number, so you can find them on the historic district map provided.)

Enjoy the varied architecture. There are many styles. Just so you know: Colonial homes were built between 1559 to 1780; Federal/Georgian homes were built between 1780 and 1830; late Georgian homes were built between 1830 and 1837; Gothic Revival homes were built between 1830 and 1860; Greek Revival architecture reached peak popularity from 1825 to 1860; Italianate style was popularized in America in the mid-1850s; Victorian homes were built between 1847 and 1901; Enfield's Craftsman homes were built between 1900 and 1925. We also included several churches older than 100 years old. There are fewer than 2,000 residents in Enfield, but we have more than 25 churches.

HISTORIC HOMES AND CHURCHES IN ENFIELD

Rose Hill – 1787 – 4894 Thirteen Bridges Road

A Georgian house enlarged and reworked during the Greek Revival period, the house has been home to many families, each leaving their distinctive mark. It stands as an excellent example of how to adapt an old house to changing needs without losing its historic character. **The Georgian style is one of America's most popular styles. Its symmetrical design, classic proportions and decorative elements made it the most dominant architectural trend in the colonies between 1700 and the Revolutionary War. Georgian homes have larger windows and doors than colonial homes and their panes tend to be larger because they are needed to light bigger rooms (before electricity entered the picture). Also, Georgian homes were usually built for a clientele that could afford more expansive windows. Glass in pre-revolutionary America was usually imported from England and heavily taxed. While most Georgian homes have double-hung windows, examples with casement windows are not unheard of.**



Eden Church – 1789 – 2471 Beaverdam Road

The Eden Methodist Church was established in 1760 as an Anglican Chapel. During the Revolution evangelists from Virginia, associated with the reform efforts led by the Reverend John Wesley, moved into Halifax County to conduct revival meetings. The church formed ties with the Methodist reform movement around 1776 and was an active Methodist church by 1789. **In 1828, the church left the Methodist Episcopal Church and joined the Methodist Protestant Church. The current church was built c.1890. Later, in 1939, the Methodist Protestant Church merged with the Methodist Episcopal Church and the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, to create "the Methodist Church." In 1966, the church was designated the oldest Methodist church in continuous operation within the Rocky Mount District and one of the oldest Methodist churches in the United States. The collection contains brief histories of the church and its ministers, a copy of the 1803 deed for the church, and photographs of portraits of Reverend Henry B. Bradford, an early church minister who the church was deeded to in 1803, and his wife. In addition, the collection contains photographs of Dr. William Henry Wills (1869), a minister at Eden Methodist-Protestant Church, photographs of the church, and also a photograph of an 1860 report card and an 1860 party invitation from Elba Female Seminary in Brinkleyville, N.C.**



*** Shell Castle – c.1789 – 14040 Highway 481**

This residence was built by Matthew Cary Whitaker, a veteran of the American Revolution whose family owned land in Enfield as early as 1760. In 1789 he bought 1,123 acres, paying 900 pounds. Shortly thereafter he began building the residence. According to family history, farm produce from the plantation was sent to Norfolk on wagons, which returned loaded with oyster shells to make mortar or plaster for the house. Another account suggests the name of the residence stems from the contrast between the ambitious exterior and the simplicity of the interior. Construction of the house is said to have taken 12 years; 1802 is thought to be the completion date of the house, but a brick dated 1793 suggests part of the house may have been completed earlier. The five-bay, Georgian-style frame dwelling with a two-story rear ell was originally surrounded by apple orchards, a fishpond, deer park and a formal garden. Matthew Cary Whitaker left Shell Castle to his son in 1814. The will directed that his cotton machine be sold but that his two “Cyder Stills” be reserved for the use of his son, Dr. Matthew C. Whitaker.



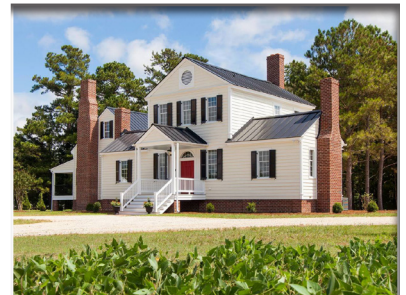
*** Strawberry Hill – 1792 – 3281 Loop Road**

Strawberry Hill has been in the Whitaker family for hundreds of years. It was built in 1792 and is a two-story, three-bay, vernacular frame dwelling with 1836 rear additions. It has double-shouldered brick exterior end chimneys and a gable roof. It was renovated in the early 19th century and again in the 1990s. By the mid-18th century, Strawberry Hill did not focus on cotton for its revenue. Instead, it appears the Whitaker family used the gin and ginhouse to operate a ginning service for neighbors who were cotton planters. Original features of the house still exist because of the maintenance and continuous use of the dwelling by many generations of the same family. The quality of the craftsmanship is outstanding, especially in the diamond-pattern headers in the chimney and the hip-raised panels of the interior wainscoting and mantels. The house still retains a spectacular view of the surrounding farm and fields, which has changed little from the 18th century. The home boasts a grape arbor and orchard as well as magnificent gardens.



*** Branch Grove – 1790 and 1845 – 16212 Highway 125**

One of only a few remaining tripartite houses in North Carolina, Branch Grove was the home of Alpheus Branch, a founder of BB&T Bank, now one of the largest banks in the U.S. (which has since merged into Truist). A Tripartite house is wood frame and has a central two-story section flanked by single-story wings set at a recess. Branch Grove's 1845 Federal Tripartite and its earlier 1790 Georgian bloc addition fell into disrepair. Originally situated on Highway 481 in Enfield, Preservation North Carolina moved the home to its new site, where it was restored and updated. An interior breezeway joins both the 1790 and 1845 sections. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, it also has six working fireplaces, a gracious front porch and a standing-seam metal roof. Windows are nine-over-nine sashes on the 1st floor and six-over-nine sashes on the 2nd floor. The home now sits on 40 acres. It was moved and restored by Andrus Construction, following Preservation NC protective covenants.



*** The Cellar – 1806 – 400 Sherrod Heights**

The home was built for the prominent Branch family – a family that included John Branch, the 19th governor of North Carolina, a senator and secretary of the navy in President Andrew Jackson's cabinet. The Cellar was visited by the Marquis de Lafayette in 1825 on his tour of America and it is rumored that he spoke to a large crowd from its second-story balcony. The American Friends of Lafayette formed a Bicentennial Committee that will commemorate Lafayette's Farewell tour at a grand gala at The Cellar on February 28, 2025. Locals often refer to the home as the “Lafayette House” because Marquis de Lafayette visited the Branch Family there on February 28, 1825. The late Georgian home boasts four Flemish bond chimneys with eight interior fireplaces and mantels, intricate interior woodwork throughout the house, six-panel doors with raised panels, wainscoting, formal central hall, original wide plank, “heart pine” flooring, nine-over-one windows, all on three acres. It is one of the earliest remaining structures in Halifax County (built between 1780 and 1806).



*** Myrtle Lawn – 1816 – 5265 Thirteen Bridges Road**

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985, Myrtle Lawn is a 19th-century plantation complex. Historically, the home was owned by members of the Whitaker family from the 18th century through the mid-20th. Myrtle Lawn contains a frame house that combines a c.1816 portion and an 1850s expansion (erected in two building campaigns; the oldest portion is the right, east three bays and then expanded two bays to the west to create the present five-bay width). It encompasses seven contributing buildings and the farm landscape. The house, of heavy timber frame covered with weatherboards, features the traditional vertical form and original Federal-style detail, combined with Greek Revival and Italianate motifs. The log and frame outbuildings are examples of earth-fast construction. (Log outbuildings are rare in this section of the state; the use of logs resting directly on the ground and their survival for more than a century are especially remarkable.) The present owners have carefully renovated to stabilize all of the structures.



*** Gray-Brownlow-Willcox House – 1820 – 18710 Highway 48**

Gray Hall is a Federal-style home. Records indicate Reverend Joseph J. Gray was the builder and construction ranges from late 1700s to 1820. The second owners were Tippoo and Martha Brownlow, who purchased the property for \$2,500, including the surrounding 604 acres. Dr. Brownlow, an educator, operated La Vallee Female Seminary, moving the school from another location in Halifax County to Gray Hall in 1833. La Vallee offered its students courses in chemistry, astronomy, history, geography and algebra. The western portion of the house, a simple federal style structure that predates the 1820 house, was moved to its present location adjoining the main house and functioned as the school room. The school closed in 1850. In 1851, the house was sold to Joseph B. Batchelor, who in turn sold it to Thomas Willcox in 1853. Mr. Willcox was a minister and farmer. The house and grounds have been restored. Many plantings, including the oldest and largest white ash tree in North Carolina, are still in place.



*** Whitaker's Chapel – 1828 – 5356 Thirteen Bridges Road**

The chapel is historically significant. In the 1820s, a schism occurred in the Anglican Church. A reform movement began when church laymen, who had no voting rights, resisted the power of the Anglican bishops. The Methodist Protestant Church was formed. On December 19, 1828, 14 preachers and 12 laymen met at Whitaker's Chapel and organized what became the North Carolina Annual Conference of the Methodist Protestant Church. Bishop Francis Asbury, one of the first two bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the U.S., spoke at the chapel in 1795, 1789 and 1804. Whitaker's Chapel was added to the National Register in 1997. The Chapel is also a Heritage Landmark of the United Methodist Church. The original log chapel was built by Richard Whitaker on his own property around 1740. It was rebuilt in 1828 and later moved across the road in 1881. The chapel was restored in 1965. The adjacent cemetery was established in the 1850s and contains the remains of several Civil War soldiers as well as Methodist Protestant preachers.



DHD – 1

Hunter-Hardison House – c.1833 – 301 Pike Street

There is speculation that the original structure served as a tavern during the American Revolutionary War, but according to *Historic Architecture of Halifax County, North Carolina*, John Branch, while territorial governor of Florida, purchased the structure c.1833 for his daughter, Sarah H. Hunter, and her husband James Hunter. A new section was added to the original structure in 1857, when Sarah and her husband returned from Florida to settle in Enfield. On the advice of the fire department in the 1940s, the Hardison family (owners



of the house after the Branch, Hunter and Pike families) removed the 1833 section of the house. In the 1940s, a “Gone with the Wind – Tara” front porch was built to replace the original porch. The “Tara” porch was removed during its most recent renovation and replaced with a porch more in character with the original Greek Revival style. At one point this house served as a school. The late Chief Justice R. Hunt Parker, a native of Enfield, received his education there.

Delphi – 1845 – 6200 Thirteen Bridges Road

Delphi is a high fashion, Greek Revival house built in 1845 by a local builder, who adapted classical details to his own limited hand tools. It was initially owned by Montgomery Terrell Whitaker. Greek Revival dominated American architecture during the period 1818-1850 and it is considered to be the first truly national style in the United States. In the Delphi house, the cantilevered, spiral staircase is one of its most outstanding features. The high ceiling rooms were intended to display the education and sophistication of its gentleman owner, Montgomery Whitaker. The floor plan, window size and roof overhang were carefully planned to catch the summer breeze and to avoid the hot eastern and western summer sun. The house, which is set back from Thirteen Bridges Road, has been restored and retains many original features. With its classic clapboard exterior and bold, simple lines, Delphi also boasts magnificent views of the surrounding countryside and cotton fields.



Sunnyside – 1854 – 8664 Thirteen Bridges Road

Sunnyside was built in 1854 by Jesse Powell, Sr., who was born in 1772. Powell built Sunnyside for his son, Dr. Jesse Cotton Powell. Sunnyside is a Greek Revival house with a bright white facade and dramatic columns. The doctor's father, a carpenter by trade and also a preacher, built his family home, Healthy Grove, as a tripartite house and then later extended it to two-stories across. Healthy Grove is just east of Sunnyside. Many Powell family members are buried in a cemetery behind Healthy Grove, which became the home of Mary Bailey Powell Lawrence. Up until recently, the cemetery at Healthy Grove was shaded by an enormous Magnolia tree (until the tree was destroyed by lightning). Both family homes – Sunnyside and Healthy Grove – are on Thirteen Bridges Road, between Enfield and Scotland Neck near Dawson Crossroads.



First Baptist Church of Enfield – c.1865 – 577 East Franklin Street

On January 1, 1865, several people assembled around a bush arbor on this site for Christian fellowship of singing, witnessing, preaching and praising God. Between 1865 and 1870, under the leadership of Rev. Annias N. Buck, First Baptist Church was built, at a time when it had 50 members. The original building is still being used but underwent renovations, with a major renovation in 1997, at which time a new wing was added. The land was deeded to the church membership from Ann Alivia Whitaker and her husband, B.F. Whitaker on July 7, 1885. The church has a long record of inspiring young men to enter the ministry, including Rev. Walter Matthews, Rev. J.H. Dixon, Rev. F.L. Bullock, Rev. Joseph Cofield, Rev. Garfield McWilliams, Rev. George Jones, Rev. O.J. Scott, Rev. R.L. Knight, Rev. Roosevelt Golson and Rev. James L. Battle. During Rev. K.P. Battle's pastorship (1937 to 1977), church membership increased. In 1938, 341 members were on the church roll. In 1945, when the new Graded School on Hannon Street was consumed by fire, First Baptist opened its doors to students and held classroom instruction daily until the school was rebuilt. The new school constructed after the fire was named after Thomas Sewell Inborden, a president of Bricks Junior College (now called Franklinton Center at Bricks). Pastor Alvin B. Harmon, who has taught middle school mathematics for decades and has a Master of Divinity degree from the Duke Divinity School, has been the leader at First Enfield Baptist Church since 2004.



* James H. Parker House – 1870s – 307 West Franklin

The James H. Parker House was part of a 41-acre tract that Parker purchased from the estate of Gov. John Branch in 1876. The two large Magnolia trees that stand in the front yard were brought back from Florida by Branch and were part of the Branch property (destroyed by fire earlier). James H. Parker (1823-1899) lived at Rose Hill Plantation until the new house was constructed in the late 1870s. The Italianate style of the Parker House is embellished with a metal gable roof and a porch paired with chamfered posts with lacy sawn brackets. One of the key features of the house is a handsome, curved stair that rises in the rear corner of the stair hall. This stair has a molded handrail, turned balusters and a faceted newel post, all rendered in walnut.

Dr. William Mann, Jr., bought the Parker House in 1993 and had the house placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Dr. Mann began a careful restoration of the elegant home, but only 70 percent was completed because Dr. Mann passed away. In 2010, the home was purchased from the Mann estate and the restoration was completed.



John T. Bellamy House – c.1873 – 613 Glenview Road

Bellamy Manor and Gardens was built by Dr. John T. Bellamy and his wife, Sarah Coffield Bellamy, in c.1873 and originally stood on 20 to 30 acres. Currently it sits on four acres of landscaped property. It features elements of the Gothic Revival, Italianate and late Greek Revival styles. To the south of the house are outbuildings, including the original kitchen. The kitchen, separated from the main house to prevent fire, was renovated as a guest cottage. The house retains all its original windows and doors. The original plan of the house featured back-to-back parlors on the first floor with a shared interior chimney. The wall between the parlors on the north side of the house was removed to make a large formal entertaining room. The different styles within the house – the Gothic Revival mantel, battered door surrounds and mantels – make the dwelling an excellent example of mid-to-late 19th century eclecticism. The current owners turned the home into a B&B and have restored the property to reflect its history. The formal gardens are based upon the historic landscape plans of French Botanist Andre Michaux, who introduced the Camellia and the Crepe Myrtle to American shores.



DHD – 3

Samuel Struthers Alsop House – 1875 – 310 West Burnette Avenue

First known owner of this house was the late Samuel Struthers Alsop, who lived there until his

death in 1908. Alsop's first wife, and the mother of his children, was Pattie Burnett (not Burnette), who died in 1875. Many members of the Alsop family were merchants and they owned property in the town and the surrounding land near town, which they later subdivided into streets (Burnette Avenue, Alsop Street and Tucker Street). Samuel Struthers Alsop, though only 13 in 1861, was a Confederate veteran; he was also a practicing attorney later in his life. In addition to law, Samuel published a local newspaper (before the Enfield Progress was formed). The Alsops left Enfield around 1920 and the property was acquired by the Wood family. Evelyn Rae, a daughter of Ira Wood who had the house on the other corner, married R.E. Buck Shervette. They owned and occupied the house until Shirley and Owen Bellamy purchased it. The Center Hall Colonial – with high ceilings, spacious rooms, built-ins and extensive molding – also had a tennis court on the western lawn, which is now graced with tall pines.



DHD – 4

Enfield Baptist Church – 1879 – 200 West Burnette

The Enfield Baptist Church was established on March 29, 1879, and continues to be a place of worship, discipleship, fellowship, ministry and missions. The church moved to its present location at the corner of Burnette Avenue and Dennis Street with the completion of its "Akron" style, octagonal sanctuary in 1916. The sanctuary has been



in continuous use since that time with frequent renovation, including restoration of classic stained-glass windows and the installation of a Moeller pipe organ. The stained-glass windows were donated by the Samuel Strother Alsop, Doris Crump, John Burrows and Richard Riddick families. The Fellowship Hall and classrooms were added in 1952, and a new education building was constructed in 1968. Additional land was purchased for parking and recreation, and a parsonage was built at 309 West Burnette Avenue in 1979.

New Bethel Baptist Church – 1879 – 16419 Highway 301 North

New Bethel Baptist Church (NBBC) was established in 1879, in its original location at 100 Plant Street. Several ministers were privileged to serve as pastor in that location. Core values of NBBC have always been Christian discipleship, worship, commitment, fellowship and community outreach. It was in 2002, under the leadership of Pastors Samuel and Katie McClain, that a new building was erected at 16419 Highway 301 North. In March 2016, Reverend Charles L. Lowe was installed as pastor and is currently serving NBBC in its new location. A strong emphasis is placed on the integrity of God's Word, and its ability to enable one to live a truly victorious Christian life. One of the outreach ministries of NBBC is the Community of Hope Center located at 201 Batchelor Street in Enfield (the former Southern Bank), founded by NBBC associate minister, Reverend Mamie Scott, which seeks to minister to the practical needs of the community. Other outreaches include a radio broadcast that covers 40 counties and southside Virginia, food distribution, prayer and visitation, and the mailing of cards to encourage those in need throughout the Enfield community and beyond.



DHD – 5

Enfield United Methodist Church – 1879

209 Whitfield Street

Set back from the street, this Neoclassical-style brick church was constructed in 1926 to replace an earlier structure built in 1879. Broad concrete steps with a brick knee wall lead to the main entrance, which is sheltered by the portico. Paired eight-panel wood doors have a classical surround featuring paneled pilasters supporting a modillion cornice. Above the doors, a blind fanlight is located within a half-round brick arch with cast concrete springers and keystone. On either side of the portico, stained-glass windows at the main level and balcony level are separated by paneled spandrels. The window openings have cast concrete sills and flat-brick arches with cast concrete crossettes. Each features paired windows at the main floor and balcony levels, matching those on the façade. The main part of the sanctuary is four bays deep with full-height, stained-glass windows in round-arch brick surrounds. At the rear of the sanctuary stands a one-story-with-basement, hip-roofed education wing, constructed concurrent with the church. The education wing is wider than the sanctuary. The concrete water table extends around this wing and the standing-seam metal roof has a wood cornice similar to that on the sanctuary.



DHD – 6

W.F. Parker House – 1880 – 310 West Franklin Street

This Italianate cottage was likely built in the early 1880s. William Fletcher Parker was a Civil War veteran. He was also a “farmer and part-time politician.” For a period of time, William Fletcher Parker was a county commissioner while living in Enfield and served two terms in the state legislature after a stint as a Halifax County treasurer. W.F. Parker also had a general store in Enfield. His father, James H. Parker, lived across the street, and he was the one who purchased this land from Gov. John Branch. The cottage was also the childhood home of Dr. Mann. It is a one-story gabled frame house, composed with an abundance of pendant brackets. At one time, the cottage was called “Boxwood Hall.” The cottage has retained a great deal of its original detail. Two frame outbuildings from the same period are behind the house. One is a garage and east of the house is a tall, front-gabled building that may have been a smokehouse.



DHD – 7

Historic Episcopal Church of the Advent – 1880 – 200 Batchelor Street

Located in downtown Enfield, the Historic Episcopal Church of the Advent has been part of

the community for 136 years. Even though the church no longer has an active congregation, it holds occasional services and makes its facilities available for appropriate use. The church was built in 1880 and is an excellent example of Gothic Revival architecture – with its steep roof, pointed arches and high spire. The original organ – an Estey organ installed in 1917 – was severely damaged when an extension cord caught fire in 1993. The Estey organ was replaced with an 1894 Odell tracker of 17 voices. The Historic Episcopal Church of the Advent was designated a “Preserved Historic Church” in 2015 by the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina and an organized committee of local citizens oversees the maintenance and restoration of the buildings.



DHD – 8

Wood-Branch House – c.1890 – 200 Southwest Railroad Street

Matt T. Wood, a merchant and cotton gin owner, probably built the house soon after his 1888 purchase of a lot on the northwest side of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad. The house had two other owners prior to its 1903 acquisition by O. C. Stallings, a prominent merchant who built several important commercial buildings in Enfield during the late-19th and early-20th centuries. Stallings willed the house to his daughter, Ruth, and her husband, Frank Branch, who were likely responsible for the early-20th- century modifications. Frank Branch was a successful businessman in early 20th-century Enfield and served as mayor of Enfield during the second decade. Italianate-style details differentiate this house from other houses in Enfield and the surrounding area, while early-20th century alterations illustrate the popularity of the Classical Revival style at that time. The house has plain weatherboards, two-over-two wood-sash windows in peaked surrounds and boxed eaves. A broad gable is centered on the facade. The house stands close to Southwest Railroad Street on a narrow but deep lot shaded by mature oak trees.



Smith Chapel Missionary Baptist Church – 1891 – 15831 Highway 301 North

The Smith Chapel Missionary Baptist Church opened its doors on September 22, 1891, a small log church built on an acre of land that was purchased by David Parker George Tillery and Augustus Pittman. The church deed was acknowledged in 1891. A project was begun in 1906 to build a new structure. Pastoral leadership at this time was provided by Rev. Tom Daniel, from 1891 until his death in 1893. Then Rev. Harry Hall served as pastor from 1893 until his death in 1933. After an unexpected fire, a new building was erected in December 1975. The church is under the leadership of Pastor Robert C. Farmer since 1989. In 2023, Smith Chapel celebrated the 132nd anniversary by hosting a mortgage burning ceremony in honor of clearing the debt for the most current additions. Praise the Lord for the forefathers who had foresight and walked by faith, which has been passed down through generations in the presence of the beloved.



Herman House – 1900 – 614 Sherrod Heights

This unique home was built by Dr. Johnson in the early 1900s and then purchased by Huldah Earle Branch Herman and Dr. Earle Herman, who practiced dentistry in Enfield from 1925 until 1960. Huldah lived in the house until her death in 2008, at the age of 98. The 100-year-old property has been restored. The eclectic style of the home, which is part Cape and part English Country Cottage, gives this home an abundance of visual surprise – with its formal entryway, manicured lawn, ornate moldings and irregular interior footprint. Stone, brick and wood used in both exterior construction and interior detail create a warm ambience. The detached two-story carriage



house on the western section of the property now serves as a home office and bonus room and is currently undergoing renovation and construction.

DHD – 9

Cotton and Tobacco Warehouse – c.1912 – 211 North Railroad Street

The exact year the Tobacco and Cotton Warehouse was built is unknown, but according to *The Historic Architecture of Halifax County, North Carolina*, the brick structure was built between 1912 and 1921. The economic fuel that drove North Carolina was agriculture, but it was tobacco that made the state a powerhouse – and home to the world’s largest tobacco companies. According to the town’s website, Enfield had a population of 700 in the late 1800s. But when the Enfield Tobacco Market opened up in 1896, prosperity followed as well as growth in new businesses and population. The brick warehouse on Railroad Street was built by the Parker family, the largest landowners in Halifax County during the late 19th century. The current owner, who did much of the renovation himself, adapted this nonresidential structure into a home. From the arched wagon entry on the front, you can see the Railroad Watchman’s Tower, the only building of its kind at its original location.



DHD – 10

The Dunn House – 1912 – 115 West Burnette Avenue

This Greek Revival house was built for the Dunn Family in 1912. Raymond Dunn, a lawyer and an orator, and his wife, the former Virginia Stella Pippin, had three children. One of those children, Dorothy Marion Dunn, married Dr. Powell Winfred Joyner. The doctor promised to set up practice in Enfield if “Marion” would marry him. They married in 1935. The Joyner family lived in the house until 1958. The house was the first home in Enfield to have a basement. The large, gracious home – with its slate roof, grand hallways, 48 doors and 41 windows – has five bedrooms and three full baths upstairs. In the 1950s, the home was renovated and a garage with a full apartment was added. A two-story addition was also added to the back of the main house. A handicap ramp and full bath were added to the downstairs in 2014.



The Whitaker House – 1920 – 500 Sherrod Heights

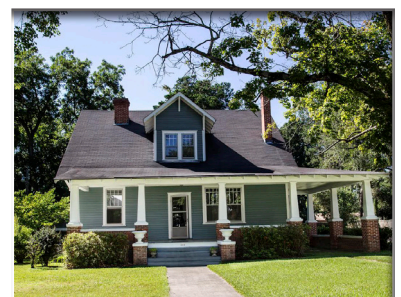
This Colonial house was built in 1920. The Whitakers owned the home for many years. The Colonial home is one of the most popular styles in the U.S. The Southern Colonial is distinguished from the New England Colonial by its high ceilings, which provide better ventilation in the summer. Colonial homes are symmetrical, or square, featuring an entry door in the middle of the front of the home. Other characteristics are a medium-pitched roof to provide drainage in rainy weather and a stairway behind the entry door that leads to a hallway that bisects the second floor. What is unique about this house is access to the stairwell is reached at the back of the front hallway.



DHD – 11

Leonard House – 1920s – 300 South Church Street

This home is an expansive “bungalow” built by Jeff Leonard and Maude Randolph Leonard in the early 1920s. Evelyn Leonard Gentry lived in the home until she passed away, at the age of 94, in June 2015. The Leonard-Randolphs were Enfield merchants who owned the Randolph Store Company, a general mercantile business in downtown Enfield (that also sold coffins). Evelyn Gentry donated many personal documents (deeds, letters, receipts and a manuscript) to ECU, including her great grandfather’s travel journal, which documents a journey Capt. Randolph and A. J. Burnbry made by foot from Norfolk, Virginia, to Alabama (November 1819 to April 1820), titled “Capt. V. M. Randolph, Journal.”



The Randolph Papers (1819-1820, 1887-1907, 1950) at ECU include correspondence, a travel journal, grade sheets, picture post cards, tobacco receipts, a school attendance book, an autograph book and miscellaneous related to the Randolph family in Halifax County. Ledger books (1912-1930) document accounts for the Randolph Store Co. in Enfield, N.C. The home has been recently updated by its new owner. It has a large property with various outbuildings.

DHD – 12

The Wood House –1920s – 212 South Church Street

The brick house originally belonged to Ira D. Wood, Sr., and Lucy Savage Wood. These were homes that were built to last. Ira David Wood Jr. remembers, “When Hurricane Hazel blew through Enfield, we went to stay with my grandparents in that house because everyone considered it one of the safest homes in Enfield.” This Craftsman-style home, with more than 4,200 square feet, features an open floor plan. It also has a low-pitch gabled roof, built-in bookcases, deep overhanging eaves, exposed rafter tails, vertically proportioned window grilles and a front porch beneath an extension of the main roof. Large front porches are considered hallmarks of the bungalow style and were considered an integral part of the home, giving easy access to outdoor spaces. Because the house is generally in its original condition, this bungalow is probably one of the best representatives of what the homes looked like before renovation changed their character – with the unpainted wood and central gabled dormer.



DHD – 13

The Kimball House – 1920s – 317 West Burnette Avenue

This home was originally built for the Kimball family by local craftsmen. The home was considered a “modern” house in Enfield because it was the first house to have central heating, which was housed in a basement. This Craftsman bungalow was built in the early 1920s. The front porch – with overhanging eaves, tapered square posts on brick pedestals, brackets and a low-pitched roof – typifies the philosophy of Craftsman architecture. This style took off when Brothers Charles and Henry Greene further popularized this style in Pasadena, California. Bungalows were the dominant style in the U.S. between 1905 and 1930. Sears and the Aladdin Company (a pioneer in the pre-cut, mail order home industry) capitalized on this trend and took it a step further by offering kits to build craftsman-style homes. There is only one “kit home” in Enfield (at 111 South Church Street). While the exterior of the home is Craftsman style, the interior of the home has a more formal flavor; neighbors said many of those updates were made by the Brewer family, who owned the home after the Kimballs.



The Briggs House – 1920s – 600 Sherrod Heights

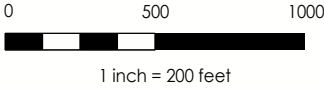
This Craftsman home was built on its own promontory – in the same neighborhood as two other sites on the National Register of Historic Places (the Enfield School Apartments – now repurposed as senior housing – and “The Cellar”). The half-acre property was originally part of Sherrod Farms. In 1923, Margaret Elizabeth Sherrod and J. H. Sherrod sold the property to Addie Hoke Briggs for about \$1,000. In 1936, Harry Branch, a successful businessman and farmer (later serving as a Halifax Commissioner and Chairman) bought the property and resided there with his family, until his death in 2004. The 2,700-square-foot home (with 564 square feet of wrap-around porch) is a characteristic of Craftsman style. Other key Craftsman features include the four brick pillars, the dormer window upstairs, the pocket doors in the bedrooms and the window molding. The tube and knob electrical wiring and the eight-facet glass doorknobs help date the house to the 1920s. The living room and dining room floors are thin pine planks. The downstairs bedroom and bath were added in 1960.



Enfield Historic District
Enfield, Halifax County, North Carolina

- Enfield Historic District Boundary
- Contributing Building
- Non-Contributing Building
- 000 Street Address
- VL Vacant Lot
- ← Photo View
- 1 Coordinates

Note:
Contributing Status is indicated for primary resources only. See inventory list for status of outbuildings and associated resources



Lat/Long Coordinates:

- 1. 36., -77.
- 2. 36., -77.
- 3. 36., -77.
- 4. 36., -77.
- 5. 36., -77.
- 6. 36., -77.
- 7. 36., -77.
- 8. 36., -77.
- 9. 36., -77.
- 10. 36., -77.
- 11. 36., -77.
- 12. 36., -77.
- 13. 36., -77.
- 14. 36., -77.
- 15. 36., -77.
- 16. 36., -77.