

A WALKING TOUR OF



Historic
WAXHAW



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
HISTORIC DISTRICT




Waxhaw, North Carolina
Incorporated 1889

Thanks to the individuals who created this brochure:

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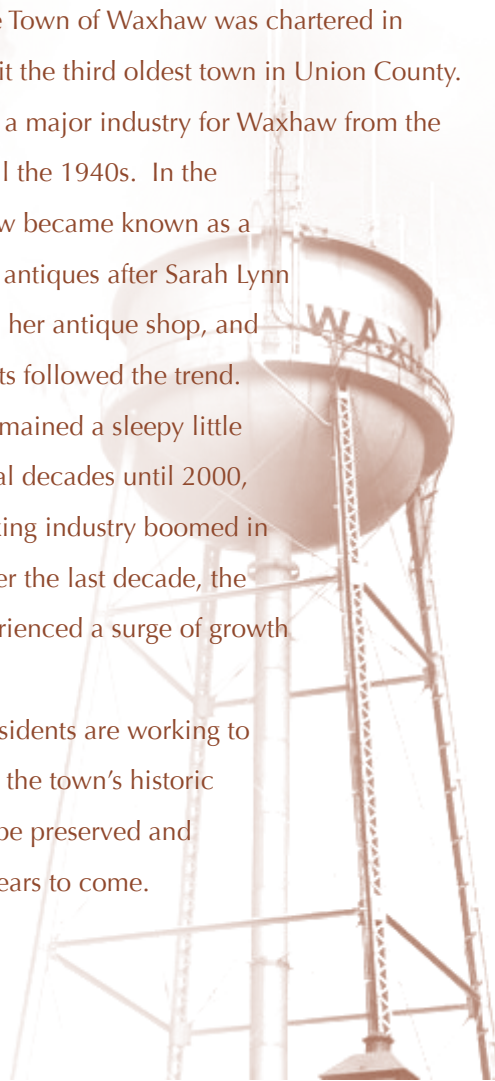


The Waxhaw settlement was originally called "Wisacky," a hunting ground for the Waxhaw Indians. John Lederer, a German traveler and scholar, discovered the Indian village of the Waxhaws in 1670. It was located along a busy traders path between Petersburg, Virginia, and Augusta, Georgia. The Wisacky area became a fountain of lore and legend, the most famous being the controversy over Andrew Jackson's birthplace. Both North and South Carolina claim him as a native son. The Town of Waxhaw was chartered in 1889, making it the third oldest town in Union County.

Cotton was a major industry for Waxhaw from the late 1800s until the 1940s. In the 1960s, Waxhaw became known as a destination for antiques after Sarah Lynn Byrum opened her antique shop, and other merchants followed the trend.

Waxhaw remained a sleepy little town for several decades until 2000, when the banking industry boomed in Charlotte. Over the last decade, the town has experienced a surge of growth in population.

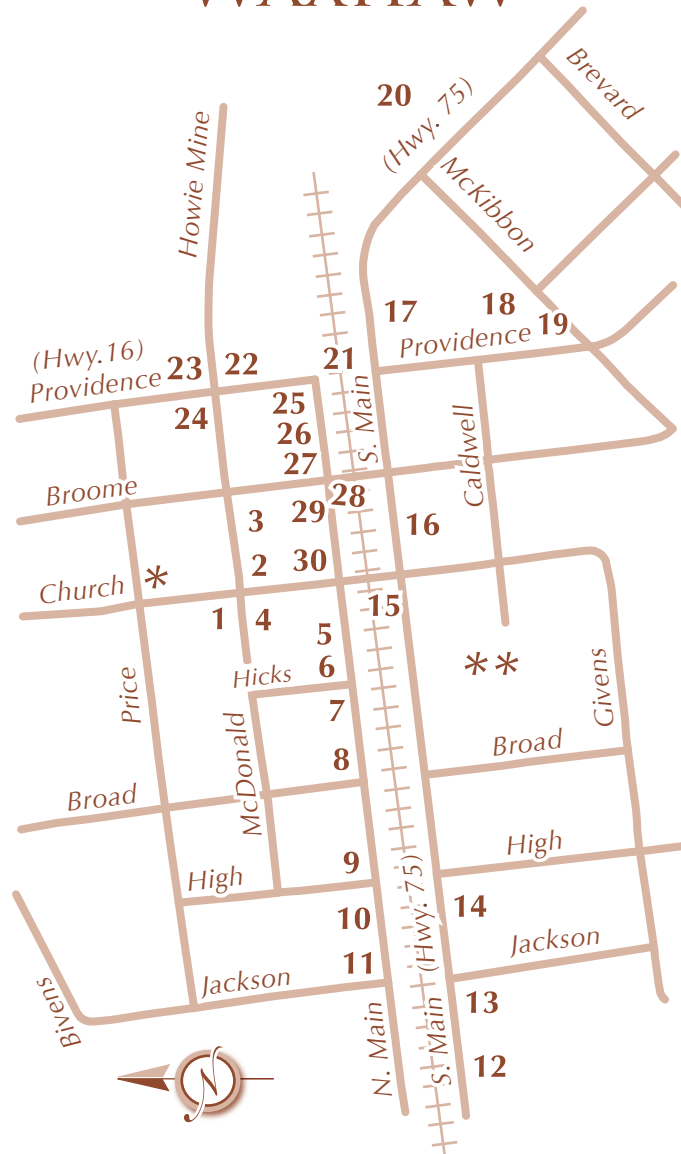
Waxhaw residents are working to make sure that the town's historic buildings will be preserved and treasured for years to come.



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Historic WAXHAW



* Farmer's Market
** Church Street Park

1. WAXHAW UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

This church was established in 1888, one year prior to the incorporation of the town. It was the first church established within the town limits. The original wood framed church sat behind the current location. The present church exemplifies Gothic Revival-style architecture. It was constructed in 1929.



2. THE DUNCAN McDONALD HOUSE

Built in 1888 by Mr. Duncan McDonald, this is considered one of the oldest, if not the oldest, house in Waxhaw. Mr. McDonald was the first postmaster. Years after it was built, the home temporarily housed a telephone switchboard for the town.

3. WATER TANK

The Waxhaw water tower is a 100,000-gallon steel tank, and on December 2, 1940, the Town Commissioners adopted a resolution to approve the building of the water tank by Taylor Water Works of Macon, GA, for \$7,337. It has been said that whenever a person was returning to Waxhaw, they knew they were getting close to home when they saw the water tank.

4. THE OLD POST OFFICE

The first post office was run out of Mr. McDonald's home; however, this building was the site of the first "stand-alone" post office in Waxhaw.

5. NIVEN-PRICE COMPANY

Built in 1906, this was the second location for the Niven-Price Company, a mercantile which sold

feed, fertilizer, seed, dry goods and groceries. The first was farther west, and destroyed by fire in 1924. The Niven-Price Company was operated by Ben Franklin Price and John Malcolm Niven, who were also landowners and cotton brokers.

6. THE MCDONALD HOTEL

The Hotel was built by Mr. W.R. McDonald, Duncan's brother, in 1912, in Colonial Revival-style architecture. It was home to traveling businessmen, teachers, and it served Sunday dinners. The hotel remained in operation until 1946. Now it is a private residence.



7. WILLIAM MASSEY HOUSE

Built in 1932, this was the first house in Waxhaw to have a furnace. The home was built for the grandson of A.W. Heath, a local merchant.

8. HEATH-MASSEY HOUSE

Built by A.W. Heath in 1898, this Victorian-style home was the first to receive electricity in Waxhaw. Charles Massey, son-in-law of A.W. Heath, represented Union County as a State Senator in 1937.

9. FORMER WAXHAW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The current church was built in 1929, replacing the wooden structure built in 1888. The land the church is built on was donated by the Seaboard Railway Company.



There are several different types of architecture present in the current structure, which is now home to the Amazing Grace Lutheran Church.

10. W.C. GAMBLE HOUSE

Constructed early in the 1900s, this house is a great example of Colonial Revival-style architecture.

11. FORMER PRESBYTERIAN HOUSE

This house was constructed around the turn of the century. It was a manse for the Presbyterian Church until 1959, and is representative of the late 19th Century Eastlake-style homes.

12. STEELE HOUSE

Considered to be one of the oldest homes in Waxhaw, this house may have been constructed before 1900. The home has been in the Steele family since 1917. It once had the same sunburst pattern in the front gables, indicating that both homes it was probably constructed by the same builder as the Hudson-Belk house which also has the sunburst motif on the front.

13. HUDSON-BELK HOUSE

This house was occupied by the son of Ralph J. Belk, manager of the local Belk store, and remained in the Belk family until 1969. The home has a unique sunburst pattern in the front gables.

14. MCCAIN-COFFEE-EARGLE HOUSE

This home was built around the turn of the century. The home's name speaks of its three longest owners: Irving McCain (? - 1933), Dr. L.H. Coffee (1933 - 1948), and the family of Ruth Eargle (1948 - present). The brick smokehouse out back was once a gift shop called "Under the Pecan Tree."

15. OLD DEPOT

The railroad depot was located near the intersection of Church and West South Main Streets. It was constructed in 1888 right after the Georgia, Carolina, and Northern railroad was built through town. The depot was burned at least three times and was later

moved to Old Waxhaw-Monroe Road where it is now two homes.



*the Old Depot
around 1890*

16. A.W. HEATH COMPANY

In operation from 1906 to 1966, this was one of Waxhaw's most successful mercantile enterprises. It is a Romanesque Revival-style building that still displays the signage from the store, "Groceries, Hardware, Furniture, and Wagons & Buggies." These painted signs extend onto several adjacent buildings, which were A.W. Heath Company storefronts. The first telephone exchange was operated on the 2nd floor.

17. R.J. BELK STORE

Originally called "New York Racket," the Waxhaw branch of the Belk Store was one of the first two branches to be located outside of Monroe, NC; the other was in Charlotte. Founder William Henry Belk's cousin, Ralph, operated the Waxhaw branch until the branch closed in 1936. Since that time, the building has served many purposes, most notably Gambles Drug Store. The Belk family donated the building to the



Waxhaw Woman's Club in 1971. The Waxhaw Woman's Club has made repairs to the building and uses it for meetings and special events.

18. DR. WILLIAM ROBERT MCCAIN HOUSE

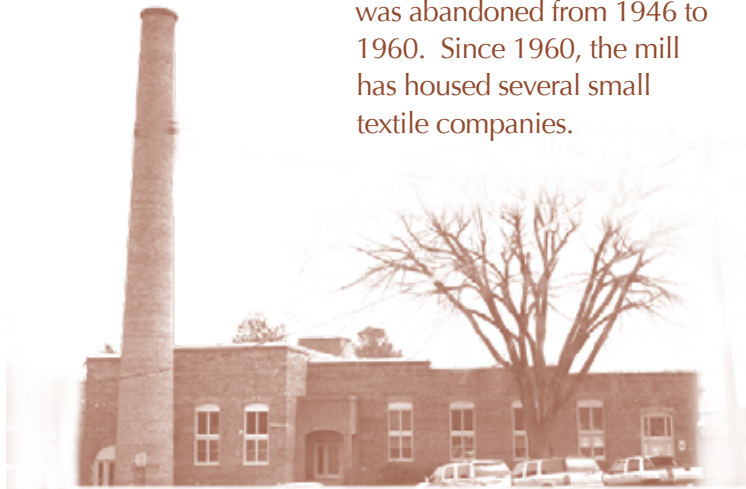
This home was occupied by Dr. McCain from its construction in 1914 until 1928, when the McCain family moved to High Point, NC. This house is a mixture of Colonial Revival and Victorian architecture.

19. THE DARE STEELE MEMORIAL GARDEN

This garden was constructed in memory of the beloved teacher, historian, and playwright. She was the author of the outdoor drama "Listen and Remember."

20. RODMAN-HEATH COTTON MILL

The mill was established in 1898 by John Lafayette Rodman, Sr., and E.J. Heath. The mill was Waxhaw's largest employer during its operation from 1898 to 1946. It once employed as many as 300 people. At one time, nearly forty homes surrounding the property supplied housing to the mill workers. Now only two of those homes still stand. The property was abandoned from 1946 to 1960. Since 1960, the mill has housed several small textile companies.



21. THE OVERHEAD BRIDGE

Circa 1888, the bridge was owned and maintained by the railroad. The narrow bridge served automobile traffic on the then main road through town over the railroad line until approximately 1940, when it was designated for pedestrian use only. The Town partnered with CSX to renovate the bridge in 2007.

22. JOHN LAFAYETTE RODMAN HOUSE

Mr. Rodman played a role in several important Waxhaw businesses. Not only was he the cofounder of the Cotton Mill, but he also helped form Waxhaw Banking and Trust Co. in 1906. At one time, Mr. Rodman was considered the richest man in Union County. The home is reminiscent of Victorian-style architecture.



23. GUION PLYLER HOUSE

Dr. Lemuel Edwin Guion was believed to have purchased the home at the time of his marriage in 1908. Dr. Guion attended Davidson College and Charlotte Medical College. He was elected mayor, but he had so many patients that it was said he never attended a meeting. The home was purchased by Mr. Jonas Plyler in 1918. Mr. Plyler was the operator of the Waxhaw Ford dealership.

24. CONNER STEELE HOUSE

Built around 1920, this home was considered one of the most substantial homes of its time. Mr. Steele was a local merchant. The home remained in the Steele family until the 1960s.

25. WAXHAW VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.

This site was home to the Waxhaw Ford dealership, operated by Mr. Plyler, until it was destroyed by fire in 1931. The site became home to the Waxhaw VFD in 1963. The original VFD was started in 1954 and was located on the corner of South Main and Church Streets.

26. ORIGINAL WAXHAW WOMAN'S CLUB

The Waxhaw Woman's Club originated in 1911 as a Civic League. It was given the formal name of the

Waxhaw Woman's Club in 1916. The Belk family gave the Belk Building to the WWC in 1971. Currently the Woman's Club uses the Belk Building for its meetings.

27. BROOME-RODMAN BUILDING

This building was built prior to 1910. The first story has always been predominantly anchored by some form of commercial enterprise. The second story was once leased to a Charlotte businesswoman who ran a small hotel operation. During the 1920s, the left portion of the building housed the Roco Movie Theatre that showed the popular silent films of the time. The building looks much like it did when it was reconstructed in 1924 after a large fire almost destroyed the entire block.

28. JUG & WELL

This large clay urn was originally used at the Rodman-Heath Mill. It was moved to the location of the current Dare Steele Memorial Garden in the mid-80s and was slightly damaged in the process and then moved to its current location near the well around 2003. The well was originally dug circa 1900 to serve the trains and crews of the Depot that once stood near this spot. The current replica was constructed in 1989 to commemorate the Town of Waxhaw Centennial.

29. RODMAN-HEATH GENERAL STORE

In 1888, this now-vacant lot was once occupied by a general store operated by J.L. Rodman, Sr., and E.J. Heath. The duo would go on to establish the Cotton Mill.

30. 100 BLOCK OF WEST NORTH MAIN

This block of downtown has housed many commercial enterprises throughout the years. Most notably Broome's Barber Shop, which has been in operation since 1946, and is currently the longest-running business in Waxhaw. The local chapter of the Masonic Lodge has been meeting on this block since the mid-1900s.