

PRESERVATION BURLINGTON'S
Walking
***Tour of
Homes***

– **West Davis** –
Fisher to Hillcrest

We here at Preservation Burlington love a tour! There is nothing more enjoyable than spending time outside looking at historic homes and imagining what life was like when they were originally built.

This is the first of what we hope to be an ongoing series of self-guided walking tours. Each tour will feature a small grouping of homes within the historic districts, with the intention of eventually having a tour for each historic district available. This is a living document, so if you have any additional information to add to any of these homes' history, please let us know!

Enjoy!

~Preservation Burlington Home Tour Committee



405 West Davis Street: ca. 1900: This late Victorian, two-story, frame dwelling was moved from its original location on West Front St. It served for many years as a multi-family dwelling, first as a boarding house and more recently as apartments. The structure features a high hipped roof, extending to clipped gables with simple barge boards over projecting front and side bays. The sides of the porch have been closed in, leaving a two bay porch with tapered post on brick pier and simple balustrade leading to double- leaf glazed doors. *Photo Courtesy of Darrell Coble Photography.*

409 West Davis Street: The J.W Teague House, ca. 1870:

Believed to have been built in the early Company Shops era by a railroad employee, James Teague, this one-story frame house has been remodeled since its construction. It was purchased in the 1880's by W.W. Lasley soon after he arrived in Burlington to begin his local business career; he lived there until he built a new home just to the west in the early 1890's. Features of the house currently include a hip roof extending over the engaged porch, supported by square wooden posts, a central chimney and an off-center entrance with transom and sidelights. *Photo Courtesy of Darrell Coble Photography.*





413 West Davis Street, ca. 1940: An entrance surround featuring fluted pilasters and a broken pediment distinguishes this brick veneered Colonial Revival style foursquare built sometime in the 1940's. *Photo Courtesy of Darrell Coble Photography.*

415 West Davis Street: The W.W. Lasley House, ca. 1890: Built for W.W. Lasley, a prominent local business man, this house is an important early West Davis Street structure, combining elements of mid-nineteenth century forms and Queen Anne style ornamentation and representing the prominent growth of the 1890's. W. Winslow Lasley and his older brother, Doctor J.W. Lasley, owned a general store on West Front Street. He later helped organize the First National Bank, and served as president for many years. The house is a two-story frame structure built on a gable-roofed T-plan with a two-story west wing. It features elaborate sawn work gable ornament, triangular-head window and door surrounds, an unusual one-story porch with spindled frieze and sawn balustrade, and late Victorian interior details, such as molded door and window surrounds with bulls-eye corner block and turned balusters and newel post on the staircase. *Photo Courtesy of Darrell Coble Photography.*



419 West Davis Street: S. J. Hinsdale House, ca. 1920: A bungalow built for S. J. Hinsdale, an official of Atlantic Bank and Trust Company, clad in German siding, with wide shed dormers on the front and rear, tapered, square in section posts supporting the engaged porch, and purlin brackets. *Photo Courtesy of Darrell Coble Photography.*

423 West Davis Street: C.B. Ellis House, ca. 1901: C.B. Ellis, a sewing machine dealer who later founded a music company, erected this two-story T-shaped house with modest Queen Anne and Colonial Revival details in 1901. The frame structure is double-pile to the left and single-pile to the right of the central hallways whose staircase rises from the rear to the front. One-story rear additions expand the houses' available living space. The on-story porch with square paneled wooden posts on brick piers spans the three-bay facade and extends to the rights of the house to form a porte cochere. A one-bay second story porch is above the entrance which features a beveled glass door and sidelights; the gable roof has sawn work ornament on its front and side (cont.)



elevations. On the interior, two rooms were finished with plaster, while the others were sheathed in rough vertical boards which were wallpapered. Other interior features include two double mantels with beveled glass mirrors, colonettes, and tile hearth, and some molded door surrounds with bull's eye corner blocks. *Photo Courtesy of Darrell Coble Photography.*



Coble Photography.

427 West Davis Street (previously 413): The Roy O. Browning House, ca. 1924: One of several homes built by Roy O. Browning, who was prominent in the city's business and civic affairs, this house incorporates many features of twentieth century Colonial Revival style. Built on a symmetrical two-story plan with central hallway and hip roof, it has one-story side wings. The frame construction is clad with German siding, and the projecting central portico with gable roof and paired fluted posts frames the main entrance with its eight paned sidelights and simple surround (Black, 1987). *Photo Courtesy of Darrell*

503 West Davis Street: ca. 1925: This bungalow has been restored by removing previously added brick veneer. It was previously used as a doctor's office. *Photo Courtesy of Darrell Coble Photography.*



507 West Davis Street: The Dr. J. W. Page House, ca. 1900: Built for Dr. John W. Page, this house represents the substantial residences built by the growing professional and business community as a result of the textile industry boom of the late nineteenth century. This house features a slate, high-hipped roof with pedimented gables over bays on the façade and both side elevations. A one-story wraparound porch supported by Roman Doric columns extends to a porte cochere on the east side. A notable projecting elliptical portico with composite columns and garland frieze frames the entrance which has double leaf doors, leaded glass transom and sidelights, a treatment echoed directly above. The original staircase was moved during the 1920's when M. B. Lindsay, owner of a local lumber yard converted the house to apartments, but much of the original woodwork was retained, including fine double mantels on the first floor. *Photo Courtesy of Darrell Coble Photography.*



511 West Davis Street: ca. 1935: The National Bank of Burlington sold this property to Brodie McDade, M.D. in 1934. A one-story, 9 room office structure was built in 1935. A second story was added sometime before 1967. Dr. McDade used the first floor for his medical practice and the second floor as a wildlife museum. The National Red Cross bought the property in 1967 for their Triad headquarters. The property sold in 2018 and the City of Burlington approved plans to convert it (cont.)

to a 4-unit Residential Apartment in 2019. Plans were provided by Plageman Architecture, a local Burlington Firm. Renovation started in 2019. All 34 Original Wooden windows restored by Lynco Restoration & Design, LLC a local Burlington Company. The General Contractor is Frank L Blum, a Winston-Salem based company with the oldest GC license in North Carolina. Estimated completion date for the project is September 2021. *Photo Courtesy of Darrell Coble Photography.*

603 West Davis Street: ca. 1915: Originally a one-story structure, this frame residence of Cicero Holt, a partner in Burlington Hardware Company, contributes to the early twentieth century character of the West Davis St neighborhood. Sanborn maps indicate the second floor was added in the early 1920's. It is currently a boarding house. This house is covered by a hipped roof and features a one-story wrap-around porch, enclosed on the east side, with tapered wooden piers. *Photo Courtesy of Darrell Coble Photography.*



607 West Davis Street: The R. Edward L. Holt House, ca. 1905: Edward Holt, president of Burlington Hardware Company, built this significant Colonial Revival structure.. The two-story frame residence is deceptively large, with a relatively narrow façade but great depth. A high hipped roof tops the central part of the house with pedimented gables over several projecting bays. Attenuated classical columns on brick piers support the one-story porch which wraps around the east side and extends to a porte cochere on the west. A second- floor balcony porch rises above the main entrance, which leads to a side stair and entrance hall lighted by a large oval window. Interior features include paneled wainscoting, molded surrounds, and colonial revival mantels. *Photo Courtesy of Darrell Coble Photography.*

611 West Davis Street: The D.E. May House, ca. 1924: Built in 1924 for local business man Eugene May, this house is said to have been based upon a design found in House Beautiful magazine. This one story brick structure represents the 20th century take on the Georgian style. *Photo Courtesy of Darrell Coble Photography.*



612 West Davis Street: This home was built in the early 20th century for the large family of Leander Gross, a local fish merchant. His daughters, Evie and Dessye, continued to live there for many years. Evie was in charge of the millinery department at Jos A. Isley & Bro Co and would frequently travel to the "Northern cities" to study the latest fashions in the 1910's. This house is one of several square box houses contributing to the character of the neighborhood. It features a two-story configuration with high hipped roof, symmetrical interior (cont.)

chimneys, and one-story full-façade porch with square posts on brick piers. Classical touches include the window surrounds corner boards, and entrance with beveled glass sidelights and tripartite transom. *Photo Courtesy of Darrell Coble Photography.*

615 West Davis Street: The B.F. Walker House, ca. 1910:

Incorporating several architectural elements popular to the time, this two-story frame dwelling is notable as the only non-Bungalow structure clad in wood shingle siding. The mostly square structure has projecting bays on the façade, both side elevation and the rear, and is topped by a low hip roof. Tapered, square-in-section wooden posts on brick piers support the one-story wraparound porch. The entrance, flanked by beveled glass sidelights leads to a receiving room with a fireplace, behind which is located the staircase, rising to the west side projecting bay. *Photo Courtesy of Darrell Coble Photography.*



617 West Davis Street: Featured on the 2019 Holiday Tour of Homes. The Harold Eaton House, ca. 1923:

This foursquare type Colonial Revival was built for the superintendent of King Cotton Mills. The two story wood clapboard house has a high hip roof with attic dormer, short Tuscan columns on brick piers and a one-story porch that spans the facade. The front door is off center, and surrounded by multi-paned transom and sidelights.

The house was purchased in 1936 by E. Harold Eaton, an accountant and later president and general manager for the Burlington Coffin Company. He was an accomplished photographer who won awards in the 1958 Arts & Crafts Festival. Mrs. Helen Eaton was president of the Front Street Methodist Church Women's Society of Christian Service and was a composer, musician, and director of the Burlington Music Society. She had a popular column in the Burlington Times News called "Miss Burlington Goes Shopping" and she was also published in the American Jewish Times. Mrs. Eaton lived in the house until 1990. Updates to the house include extensive renovations to the kitchen and butler's pantry and enclosed porch, which is now used as a breakfast room and entertaining space. *Photo courtesy of Kessler Photography.*



618 West Davis Street: The Leslie D. Tucker House, ca. 1929:

Said to have been built for Leslie D. Tucker, an employee of May Hosiery Mills, who later became an executive with Burlington Mills, this two-story square brick veneer house is an interesting example of the "Period House" popular in the 1920's and 1930's. The plan was selected by Mrs. Tucker from one of the popular pattern books. Notable features include the eyebrow attic vent on the high hipped roof, the three round arch windows with latticed upper sashes framed by a brick Tudor arch, the copper bracketed hood protecting the entrance, and a brick archway extending from the northwest corner. *Photo Courtesy of Darrell Coble Photography.*

622 West Davis Street: Featured on the 2019 Holiday Tour of

Homes. The A.L. Davis House, ca. 1905: This stately 3,900 square foot Classical Revival home was built by A.L. Davis, an officer of First National Bank in Burlington. His wife, Mamie Davis was the cafeteria manager and dietician at Burlington Highschool. The Davises attended Front Street Methodist Church. A.L. Davis died in 1920 at the age of 42. Mamie Davis died in 1951.

The two story house features a prominent central hall, and double-tier portico projecting from the center of a three bay facade, a high hip roof and pedimented gables on each side.

The entrance is framed by massive paneled columns and a transom with sidelights and leaded glass window. Interior features include a spacious foyer, walnut paneling, four decorative mantels (there were originally 7 fireplaces), original hardwood floors, heavy crown moldings, and ornate window and door casements.



In later years, the house was divided into apartments and fell into a state of dangerous disrepair. The roof was deteriorated, ceilings and floors were rotten, and the house was infested by animals. The house was condemned by the City when Jim and Paula Lowe bought it in 1991 for \$45,000 and painstakingly restored it. The Lowes became only the third owners of the house, following the Davis family and the McCauley family. The Lowes made several exterior changes, including eliminating a stoop and entrance on the east side of the house, and adding a pantry on the back of the house. *Photo courtesy of Hanna Garner-Ezrine.*

623 West Davis Street: The Sharpe-Somers House, ca. 1895,

ca. 1911: This frame Tudor revival is associated with two locally prominent businessmen. The first owner, Walter E. Sharpe transformed the structure around 1911 from a typical one and a half story Victorian cottage to the much larger Tudor Revival. Sharpe, the developer of the Fountain Place subdivision, was associated with many local business ventures beginning in the early 1890's. Claud G. Somers acquired the house in the early 1930's and was also active in local real estate development, including the Westerwood section in the late 1920's. He also was an organizer of the Community Federal Savings and Loan Association. The house today is clad in weatherboard on the



first floor and half-timbered stucco on the second. A gable and clipped-gable roof of slate covers the structure which features one-over-one double hung sash windows on the first floor and multi-pane casements, typical of the Tudor Revival, on the second. Brick posts rising from a lozenge-pattern brick balustrade support the one-story wrap-around porch, whose entrance bay is the only section fully roofed. *Photo Courtesy of Darrell Coble Photography.*

702 West Davis Street: Featured in the 2019 Holiday Tour of Homes. The E.L. Morgan House, ca. 1912 :

This two story Colonial Revival style house was built by Edward "E.L." Morgan, owner of a tobacco warehouse on West Davis Street, and remained in the Morgan family until the 1940s. The house was previously numbered as 700 West Davis. The Morgans were very involved with the Baptist Church where Mrs. Morgan taught Sunday school. Mrs. Morgan enjoyed entertaining in the house and was noted in the local paper in 1914 as hosting "one of the most enjoyable social events ever witnessed in Burlington." Mrs. Morgan died in 1951. Later the home was owned by the Southern family, who lived and operated Southern Music Studio for thirty years in the house. The house has undergone several renovations, including removal of the widow's walk and replacement of the original wraparound porch with a single bay projecting portico with pedimented gables supported by Tuscan columns. The porch includes a leaded glass transom with sidelights.



The interior of the house features a central-hall, double-pile plan with gabled roof projections on both sides. On the rear of the house, there is a one story ell addition and a two story enclosed porch, which were used as musical practice rooms. The location of the main staircase was changed, and several fireplaces were closed but several original mantles remain intact. The house retains original pocket doors, paneled wainscoting, and bathroom tile. Burlington Mayor Ian Baltutis and Dr. Kristina Baltutis purchased the property and in 2019, did an extensive kitchen renovation, including new flooring and cabinetry. *Photo courtesy of Kessler Photography.*

703 West Davis Street: Featured on the 2018 Holiday Tour of Homes. The J.W. Murray House, ca. 1900. This home was built for James W. Murray and his wife Julia Elizabeth "Lizzie" Atwood Murray. Murray, a lawyer and prominent businessman, was president of the local Piedmont Bank and Trust Company. James and Lizzie lived in 703 with their six children and Lizzie's widower father until a tragic yachting explosion killed Mr. Murray in 1915. Lizzie was blown from the boat and survived by clinging to a life vest until she was rescued by fisherman. She later moved to 716 West Davis (also on the tour). The house was later owned by prominent physician and businessman J.L. Kernodle.



At 4,983 sq. ft., this commanding two story NeoClassical Revival house sits high on a terraced rise at the corner of West Davis and Peele Streets with a pair of dramatic Ionic columns that frame first and second floor entrances from two story projected porticoes. A restored second story ballustratrade graces the porch roof. The main entrance features a heavy entablature on pilasters and leaded glass sidelights leading to a grand central and transverse hall. The wide staircase has symmetrical divided flights over bracketed archways. Original interior features include paneled wainscoting, late Victorian mantels, period trim and hardware.

The current homeowners have renovated and modernized the kitchen and master suite. Additional projects include restoring plaster, original hardwood floors and sensitively adapting the floor plan for today's living. *Photo courtesy of Deb's FlashMe Photography.*



706 West Davis Street: The John A. Hall House, ca. 1917.

Featured in the 2019 Holiday Tour of Homes. Previously 702 West Davis, this craftsman bungalow home was built by local businessman John A. Hall, and is representative of a style popular to Burlington in the early 1900s. The one and a half story structure features a side gable roof, a deep engaged gable porch with purlin brackets, unelaborated wooden porch columns on brick piers, a shed dormer, and windows with five over one vertical lights. The interior features original wood floors, pocket doors, wavy glass, and 6 fireplaces. The bathrooms and kitchen have been tastefully renovated in keeping with the house's historic character.

Mr. Hall worked in the retail and wholesale shoe industry. The Halls were active in the First Presbyterian Church. Mr. Hall was a hunter and member of the Burlington Elk Lodge. Mrs. Agnes Hall was a gardener, bridge player and volunteer for the Sorosis Club. The Halls employed a live-in cook named Pinky Paris who was a beneficiary of Mr. Hall's estate. Mr. Hall died in the home in 1946 at age 63. *Photo courtesy of Kessler Photography.*

712 West Davis Street: Featured on the 2018 Holiday Tour of Homes. The Walter and Pearl Brown House, ca. 1920.

This one and one half story bungalow features a wide shed dormer, a large front porch supported by wide wooden posts on brick piers, a side-lighted entrance, and solid triangular brackets under the gable roof. The original wooden clapboard shingles were covered by aluminum siding prior to the mid-1980s. Original oak and quarter-sawn heart pine floors remain in much of the house. At the front of the house are two side-by-side parlors – perhaps a gentleman's and a ladies' parlor – separable by large, wood pocket doors. A restyled fireplace remains in one of these rooms, and a former coal-burning fireplace in the first-floor bedroom retains original tile. Over time, exterior porches on the first and second floor were incorporated into the house to expand living space. The current owners undertook a major renovation in 2016 to modernize the kitchen and open it to the living room, removing the butler's pantry and an unused furnace chimney. A second floor bedroom was converted to a bathroom and its pine floor restored. Original two-panel fir doors throughout the house were also restored. Walter M. and Pearl V. Brown lived there until the 1930s with their daughter Lila. Mr. Brown worked as the Vice President of the Burlington Textile Company and Secretary/Treasurer of Brown's Hosiery Mills, owned by his father, William W. Brown. Later residents included Lloyd Pritchett, a distributor for Gulf Oil, and his wife Lois, who are listed as the homeowners in the 1940 census, and Dr. Raymond P. Flagg of Carolina Biological, a community leader who resided here from the 1960s to the 1980s. *Photo courtesy of Deb's FlashMe Photography.*



715 West Davis Street: Built in 2000 this home had to conform to architectural standards of the neighborhood. For example, the garage was built detached per the historic district guidelines. *Photo Courtesy of Darrell Coble Photography.*



**716 W. Davis Street:
Featured on the 2018**

Holiday Tour of Homes. The Mrs. J.W. Murray House, ca. 1919: Mr. James W. Murray was a lawyer, businessman and President of the Piedmont Trust Company in Burlington. (See 703 West Davis). On January 12, 1915, Mr. Murray, his wife Elizabeth and two guests were boating on a yacht in Pamlico Sound when an explosion occurred after someone lit a cigarette. Only Elizabeth Murray survived after being blown through a window of the boat and set adrift for two hours clinging to a life preserver before being rescued by fishermen. Local newspapers reflect that Mrs. Murray was an award winning quilter.



Elizabeth Murray inherited 703 West Davis, but in 1918, the widow built and moved to a smaller house down the street, which is now 716 West Davis Street. The one-story bungalow has a hipped roof with intersecting gables over side bays, a large front porch with brick piers and gable roof, sidelighted entrance, and gabled dormer.

The address of the house changed from 706 to 716 West Davis after 1940. Like many other houses on Davis Street, the 1940 census suggests it was a boarding house during that period. The house has modern updates, but retains many original architectural details, including an original central vacuum system. In 2010-2011 the current owners renovated the kitchen and bathrooms. *Photo courtesy of Deb's FlashMe Photography.*

Thank you to Lisa Kobrin at May Memorial Library for helping us research the information used in these articles –We are also indebted to the following valuable sources: An Architectural History of Burlington, North Carolina (Allison Black Harris), Burlington Daily-Times News, Twice-A-Week Dispatch, The Daily Times-News, Greensboro Daily News, Raleigh News and Observer, Newspapers.com by Ancestry, City-County Magazine; Modern Progress; Greensboro News & Record; Burlington Daily Times.

To support this project and others like it, please visit us at www.presburlington.org.



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West Davis/ Fountain Place Local Historic District

City of Burlington Planning
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Legend

West Davis/ West Front St.

Local Historic District

0 75 150 300 450 600

Feet

This map was compiled from the GIS resources of the Burlington Regional GIS Partnership for public planning and agency report purposes. These resources include public information sources of different scale, time, origin, definition and accuracy, which require prudent interpretation and caution in their use. The City of Burlington and the Partnership shall be held liable for any errors in this map or supporting data. Primary public information sources from which this map was compiled, in comparison with field surveys where required, must be compiled for the verification of the information contained within this map.

