

A Bit of History

In 1841, Cleveland County was carved from existing Lincoln and Rutherford counties and named for Colonel Benjamin Cleveland, Revolutionary War hero at the Battle of Kings Mountain. In 1842, the county seat was established and named Shelby, after another of the Battle's heroes, Colonel Isaac Shelby.

James Love and William Forbes donated land for the city. Mr. Love had visited Washington, D.C., and was impressed with its design and wide streets. He encouraged the city planners to adapt the same ideas for the new county seat. Shelby's main streets are named for Revolutionary War heroes.

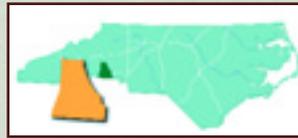
Shelby was home to several important political leaders in the first half of the 20th century. A powerful group known as "The Shelby Dynasty" included brothers James and Edwin Yates Webb, Otis Mull, O. Max Gardner and Clyde R. Hoey. Gardner, elected in 1928, and Hoey, elected in 1936, served the state as governors.

Cleveland County is also known for its musical heritage. It is the birthplace of country music legends Earl Scruggs and Don Gibson, whose grave is in Sunset Cemetery. The cemetery is also the resting place of literary legends, W. J. Cash and Thomas Dixon, Jr. The names of many of the community's leaders will also be found here.

Two institutions of higher learning are located in Cleveland County-Gardner Webb University, a private four-year institution, and Cleveland Community College.

Location

Shelby is served by U.S. 74, N.C. 18, 226 and 150. Other highways crossing the county are N.C. 10, 198 and 180. Approximately 10 miles southeast of Shelby is Interstate 85.

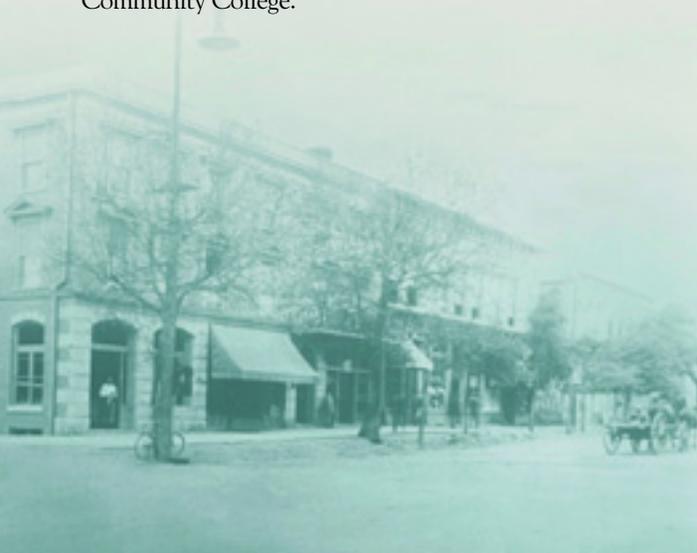


CENTRAL SHELBY HISTORIC DISTRICT *Walking Tour*



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Cleveland County Chamber
Travel & Tourism Division
200 S. Lafayette Street
Shelby, NC 28150
(704) 487-8521
Fax: (704) 487-7458
www.clevelandchamber.org

*We hope that you enjoyed your visit and
look forward to having you back soon!*



NOTEWORTHY POINTS OF INTEREST



★★

Banker's House (1874-1875)

319 North Lafayette Street This house is a resplendent example of Second Empire domestic design and one of the state's leading works in the popular Gilded Age style. Jesse Jenkins, one of the state's early bankers, had this house built for his wife Harriett. In the late 1870s, Mr. Jenkins was forced to sell the house at public auction. The property was acquired by banker H. Dekalb Lee who, in 1894, sold it to his business partner, Burwell Blanton, also a banker. The house remained in the Blanton family for over 100 years and was recently given to Preservation NC, the statewide, non-profit preservation group.



The Gibbs House • 520 West Warren was built in 1920-1921 and was named El Nido ("the nest"). It is a Spanish Mission-style bungalow designed by California architect Aurelia Swanson. This property has been donated to Preservation North Carolina when the owner has no further use.



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Webbley-C 1852 • 403 South Washington St.

J.A. Anthony remodeled this 19th century house in the Neo-Classical style. Judge James L. Webb occupied the house in 1911. Webbley was later home of Governor and Mrs. O. Max Gardner. Mrs. Gardner was the daughter of Judge James L. Webb.



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The McBrayer House • 507 North Morgan Street

This house was built by Dr. Victor McBrayer in 1893 and served as a residence for his descendants. It was later purchased by Frank Hannah, a local doctor, who used the home for medical offices. The home has recently been resold and is once again a private residence. The architecture of the home reflects the influence of several late 19th century styles—Italianate, Gothic Revival and Queen Anne.



The Governor Clyde R. Hoey House

602 West Marion was built in 1920 by Governor Hoey; a Colonial Revival of stuccoed pre-fab construction. Hoey served as NC governor from 1937 to 1941, and as a US senator from 1944 to 1954. He lived in the house until his death in 1954.



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Blanton House • 303 West Marion originally a 1 1/2 story farm house of the 19th century was acquired by George Blanton, Sr. from his brother in 1898 and remodeled to a Brick Colonial Revival in 1928. The Blanton heirs donated it to Gardner-Webb University in 1981 and designated it as the college president's residence.

★★

Denotes properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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Denotes contributing structure to Central Shelby Historic District.