

Chatham's Architectural Heritage

*Architecture sets the stage on which lives and history are acted out. The built environment, which consists of semi-permanent things such as landscape and buildings, helps tie us to our past. This architectural heritage is one of the most tangible pieces of evidence that indicates that others have gone before us and that we have a very real connection to our past and our future. The banister rail that Senator London must have held each evening on the way to chambers, the kitchen window view that grandmother must have gazed at during long war years, the schools and the churches we build for generations to come—all connect us with other lifetimes. ~ Kurt Lent, quoted in *The Architectural Heritage of Chatham County, North Carolina*, p. viii.*

Chatham County is fortunate that its architectural heritage has been documented and at least some of its architectural treasures preserved. Among the sources of information about Chatham's architectural heritage are:

The Architectural Heritage of Chatham County, North Carolina was published in 1991 by the Chatham County Historic Architecture Committee and continues to be distributed by the Chatham County Historical Association. The book is based on intensive research conducted in the 1970s and early-1908s that documented more than 500 historic sites in the county. Copies of *The Architectural Heritage of Chatham County, North Carolina* are available from the Chatham County Historical Association—[for sale in the Museum Gift Shop and online](#). Copies are also available in Chatham County libraries.

[Architectural Update 2019-2020](#), on our website, reports the results-to-date of the work of CCHA volunteer Kimberly Steiner, who has photographed and documented historic structures in the Bynum community and in Williams and New Hope Townships. This information supplements that in the Architectural Heritage publication, which is now more than 30 years old. Some of the structures the book describes are now gone; others have deteriorated and some have been restored. Still others were missed in the original survey. The pandemic has interfered with Kimberly's update work, but she intends to continue when possible to add inventories of Baldwin and Center Townships, including Pittsboro.

[Links to National Register Nomination Forms for Chatham County](#) provides links to documents describing more than 50 properties in Chatham County that have been listed in the National Register of Historic Places. These properties are documented in nomination forms, which provide an architectural description and historical background, as well as photographs.

[Research articles](#) about some of Chatham's architectural treasures can be found on our website.

Help CCHA preserve Chatham's architectural heritage. Please share your photographs and memories of Chatham sites and structures. Take photos of houses, barns, other structures for our collection, or share your old photos of structures to document their history. Contact us at Preservation@chathamhistory.org

