

CHAPTER V-H

CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESOURCES

Cabarrus County was formed in 1792 from the northeast portion of Mecklenburg County. Three years later in 1795, legislation was passed that named local commissioners to establish a courthouse on a predetermined site owned by Samuel Huger and lay out the Town of Concord as the county seat. Concord was incorporated eleven years later in 1806.

1. Historic Districts and Sites

A comprehensive architectural countywide survey of historic structures in Cabarrus County was completed in 1980 and published in 1981 by Peter R. Kaplan (well known nationally) as *The Historic Architecture of Cabarrus County, North Carolina*. Nineteen individual properties and 6 historic districts in the County are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The statewide inventory of archaeological sites lists 240 prehistoric and historic archaeology sites throughout the County as well.

The City of Concord is fortunate to have a wealth of intact historic sites and structures located in the Center City area. The City has three Historic Districts, designed to preserve the architectural and historical character of these special areas. The North and South Union Street Historic Districts were established in 1982. The Edgewood Neighborhood was designated as a Historic District in 1988. The North and South Union Street Historic Districts were entered on the *National Register of Historic Places* in 1986. The Edgewood District is a locally designated district. All three historic districts are located within the Center City area.

In 2003 the Union Street North/Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Historic District became the newest district in Concord. However, this district is not subject to the City's Historic District Ordinance. This district includes the historic Concord Hotel and Paramount Theater building, now being renovated, along with other nearby buildings.

The City of Concord became a Certified Local Government (CLG) in 1999. The Concord Historic Preservation Commission is tasked with the job of promoting, enhancing and preserving the character of the Districts and the administration of the City's Historic District Ordinance. Concord's Historic Districts that subject Historic District Ordinance are depicted in Figure V-H-1 and the City's historic Districts and places are listed in Table V-H-1.

As listed in Table V-H-1, 4 individual properties within the City are listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*, including the former Cabarrus County Courthouse (next to the new Courthouse), South Union Street Courthouse, Barber-Scotia College, Union Street and the Odell-Locke-Randolph Cotton Mill. All of these properties are located within (walking distance of the Downtown area) the Center City area.

Other structures of national significance and Historic Districts of note in Cabarrus County are the MacDonald J. Hartsell farm site, Poplar Tent Presbyterian Church, Mill Hill, the Stonewall Jackson Training School Historic District, and the Mt. Pleasant Collegiate Institute Historic District.

In addition, the Stonewall Jackson Training School Historic District is located just outside the City to the south off NC Highway 49 between Old Charlotte and Stough Roads.

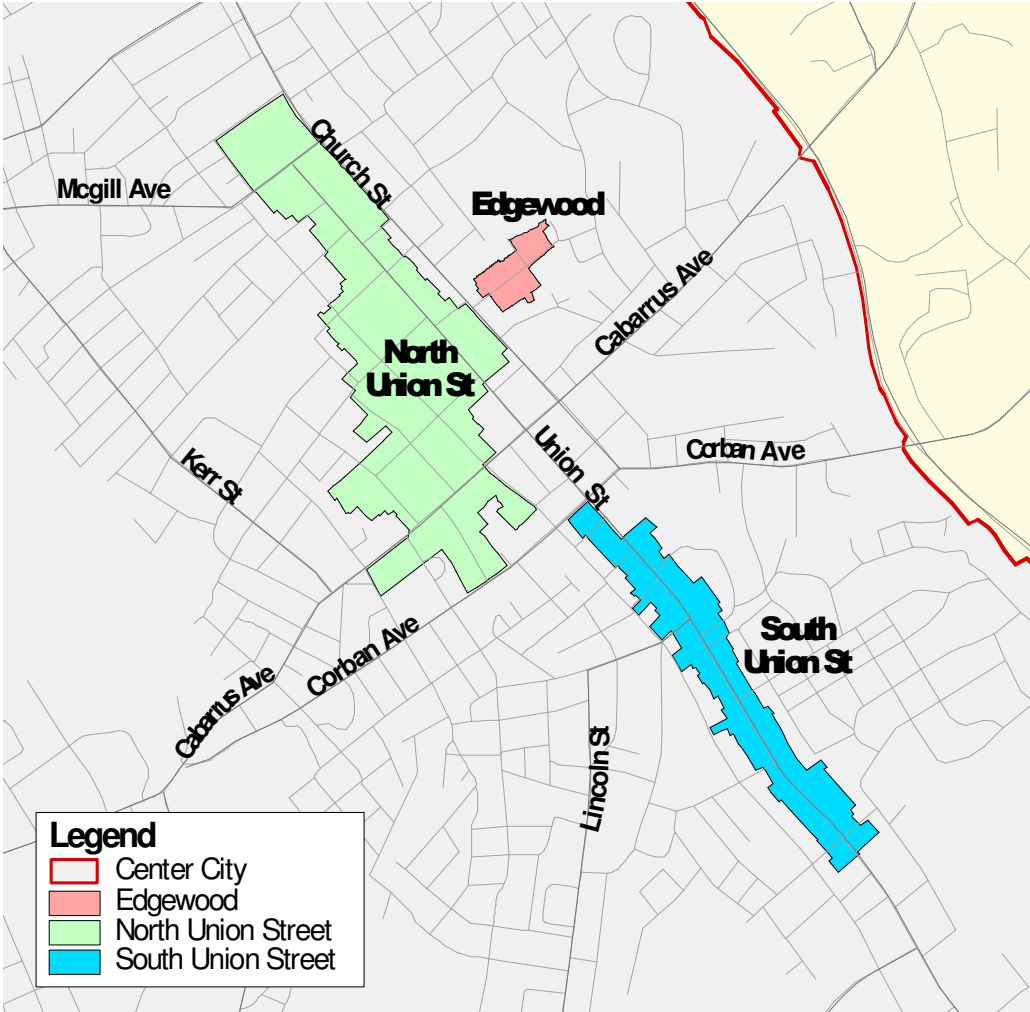
More than \$11 million in income-producing tax credit projects have been completed in Cabarrus County for five restoration projects to historic properties. The Odell-Locke-Randolph Cotton Mill restoration is one such tax credit investment.

**Table V-H-1
Historic Districts and Places
City of Concord**

<i>District or Place</i>	<i>Year Designated</i>	<i>Area of Significance</i>	<i>Historic Function</i>
Historic Districts			
North Union Street	1986 (est. 1982)	Architecture, Industry	Domestic
South Union Street	1986 (est. 1982)	Industry, Commerce, Architecture	Domestic
Union Street North/Cabarrus Avenue Commercial Historic District	est. 2003	History, Culture, Archaeology, Architecture	Commerce, Trade
Edgewood Neighborhood	est. 1988	Domestic	Domestic
Historic Places			
Barber-Scotia College	1985	Education, Architecture, Social History	Domestic, Education
Cabarrus County Courthouse	1974	Military, Architecture	Government
Odell-Locke-Randolph Cotton Mill	1983	Industry, Architecture	Industry, Processing, Extraction
South Union Street Courthouse and Commercial Historic District	1997	Architecture, Commerce, Politics, Government	Commerce, Trade, Government, Social

(Source: City of Concord, 2002 and National Register of Historic Places, 2002)

Figure V-H-1
Historic Districts in Concord Regulated
by the Historic District Ordinance



Source: City of Concord, 2002

2. Cultural Resources

Both Concord and the surrounding area host an abundance of cultural resources. Museums, performing arts, theatre, libraries and other resources are accessible throughout the Charlotte region and through nearby higher education institutions. Many cultural opportunities are conveniently located within the City of Concord.

- ❑ The Old Courthouse Theater (formerly the First Baptist Church) is an award-winning community theatre established in 1976. The Theater offers musicals, comedies, dramas, classics and new play works as well as youth and children's theatre productions and acting classes. It is also home to *Senior Adult Reader's Theater* and productions and the annual *New Year's Eve Murder Mystery*. The Theater depends on the community not only for its audience, but for cast and crew as well. The staff of Old Courthouse Theater is, except for the artistic director, made up completely of volunteers. Most of this non-profit organization's costs are met with revenue from season tickets. The Old Courthouse Theater is located on Spring Street in the Center City area of the City.
- ❑ The Cabarrus Arena and Exposition Center opened in 2002 and features a main arena and events center with 10,000 square feet of meeting rooms, a 28,800-square-foot arena floor and two exhibition halls totaling more than 65,000 square feet. The Arena and Exposition Center is home to the annual Cabarrus County Fair and is located west of the City on NC Highway 49.
- ❑ The Charles A. Cannon Memorial Library is the public library serving Cabarrus County. The County library system is comprised of three library facilities located in Concord, Kannapolis, and Mt. Pleasant. The three libraries function as a single system through a contractual agreement between Cabarrus County and the City of Concord. The Charles A. Cannon Memorial Library is the Main Library in the system and is located on Union Street in the Center City area of Concord. The Library maintains a collection of 205,650 volumes, including the Local History Collection that is housed in the Lore Room. The collection contains materials on Cabarrus County history and genealogy from 1750 to the present, with the majority of the Collection consisting of genealogical notes and records in book, microfilm, and folder form. The Cannon Library is owned and operated by Cabarrus County and is funded by local, state and federal tax revenues as well as private donations.
- ❑ The Cabarrus Courthouse, constructed in 1876, and the Concord Museum is located on Union Street in the Center City area of Concord. The Courthouse is on the National Register of Historic Places and the Concord Museum is home to an extensive library that is used for genealogical and historical research as well as the history museum.
- ❑ Established in 1804, Memorial Garden is a three-acre garden located in the heart of Concord. Nearly two centuries old, the Garden began as a cemetery and features an ancient stone foundation, flanked with stone resting benches and beds of pansies, hyacinths, daffodils,

azaleas, tulips and annuals. The Garden also features enormous oaks, magnolias, dogwood, rosebud and twisted crepe myrtles. The First Presbyterian Church Columbarium is also a place of quiet solitude, which is well landscaped with a variety of flowers and shrubs.

- Founded in 1867, Barber-Scotia College is a 4-year liberal arts college affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA). The Barber-Scotia Choir offers an annual concert schedule with performances on campus and at venues throughout the region.
- Sports – Lowe’s Motor Speedway and other professional sports venues, including Concord Motorsport Park, provide entertainment and economic contributions to the city and county.
- Other Arts and Culture offerings include: Cabarrus Arts Experience, Cabarrus Art Guild, Genesis II Community Choir, Cabarrus County Vocal Ensemble, Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site, annual Downtown Festivals, and Special Events offered through the Concord Parks and Recreation Department.