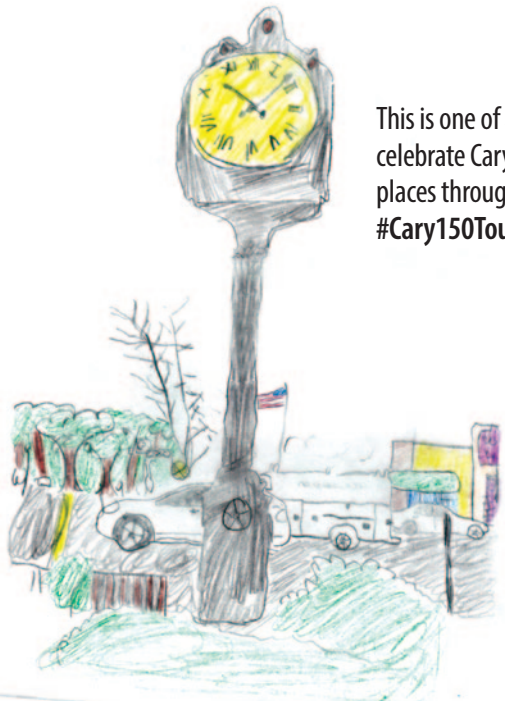


Downtown Cary Walking Tour

CARY, NORTH CAROLINA



CELEBRATE CARY
EST. 1871



This is one of a series of tours developed for Cary's sesquicentennial celebration in 2021. These tours celebrate Cary's past, present and future by guiding participants to many significant and interesting places throughout town. Share your tour experiences and photos on social media using **#Cary150Tours**.

The tours are not comprehensive; there is much more to learn about Cary than can be included in a tour designed to be completed within an hour. Visit **www.cary150.org** to learn more about Cary's 150th anniversary celebration, find other tours, share your stories and see what else is happening in 2021 and beyond!

Please be mindful of when schools or churches might be in session and be respectful of private property. Businesses and public places might be open for you to visit, but many tour stops are on private property, so please remain on the sidewalk when visiting them. Circumstances might prevent stopping at some tour stops. Please adhere to appropriate COVID-19 guidelines during your tour.

Cary's History

The earliest known inhabitants of present-day Wake County were Tuscarora Native Americans. Around 1790, John Bradford operated an "Ordinary", or inn, and the community was known as Bradford's Ordinary. About 1871, Allison Francis "Frank" Page and his wife Catherine Raboteau Page built a hotel to serve railroad passengers (now the Page-Walker Arts and History Center). In 1871, the Town was incorporated and named for Samuel Fenton Cary of Ohio, whom Frank Page admired. Cary began as a small farming community and remained that way until about 50 years ago when RTP was created. Today, Cary is a thriving community with more than 170,000 residents.

1. Page-Walker Hotel

119 Ambassador Loop

When the Chatham Railroad came to Cary in 1868, it meant travelers getting off the train needed a place to stay the night or have something to eat. Cary's founder, Frank Page, built me as a hotel for those guests. I am built in the French 2nd Empire style, which is very unique for buildings so far out in the country (which I was around 1871). After being a hotel, I was a boarding house, then a home, and then I sat empty for years, until Cary residents saved me. Today I am the home of an arts and history center.



2. Train Station

211 North Academy Street

You could say that I am the reason Cary is here today – Cary was born as a railroad station! The North Carolina Railroad came in 1854 and the Chatham Railroad came in 1868. The same rails still take people across North Carolina and you can get on here in Cary! The old train station was torn down in the 1970s and replaced with me.

**Q1: Did you watch Thomas & Friends when you were little?
Can you name three of the engines on the "Steam Team"?
Find the answers to questions at the end of this tour guide.**



3. Ivey-Ellington House

135 West Chatham Street

I am one of only two board-and-batten Gothic Revival buildings in Wake County, and I sort of look like a gingerbread house! I was built by John Ellington in the early 1870s. In the 1890s, my front yard was a stop for cattle drivers on their way from Chatham County to Raleigh – their cows, turkeys, and other livestock rested under my trees! Today, I am home to the Cary Farmers' Market.

Q2: How many different shapes can you see in my windows?



4. Ashworth's Drugs

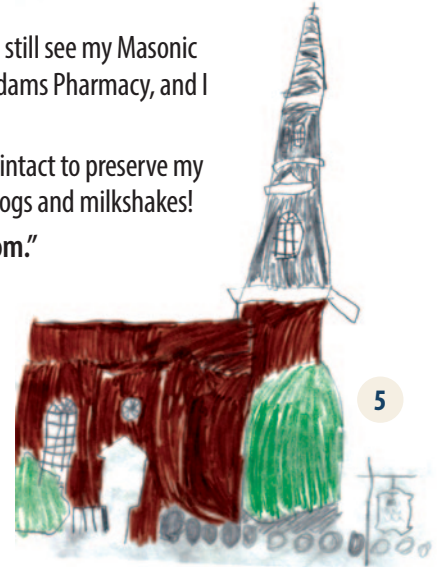
105 West Chatham Street

I was built in 1931 for the Masons, a men's club. You can still see my Masonic Lodge engraving on my outside walls. Later I became Adams Pharmacy, and I became Ashworth's drugstore in 1957.

My owners have kept my soda fountain from the 1950s intact to preserve my history. Today you can come inside and enjoy tasty hotdogs and milkshakes!

Q3: Go inside and find the "VIP Executive Dining Room."

Do you know what VIP means?



5. First Baptist Church

218 South Academy Street

The congregation that meets in me was founded in 1874. That church was at the corner of Chatham and West Streets, a few blocks from me. I was built in 1936, and the new sanctuary was added in 1968. I am built in the Classical Revival style, which is based on Roman public buildings.



6. Sams-Jones House

324 South Academy Street

Andrew Fuller Sams built me around 1890 as a Queen Anne-style cottage and members of the Jones family owned me for 61 years. Mr. Jones was a wealthy man and a friend of Cary's founder, Frank Page. Sometimes, the principals, teachers, and students of Cary Academy, which was across the street, lived here. My inside and outside were renovated in 2014.

7. Cary Arts Center

101 Dry Avenue

Cary's founder began a school called Cary Academy here in the 1870s. In 1896, it became Cary High School. It was a model for education during the early 20th century. I was built in 1938 by the Works Progress Administration to replace a smaller building that could not hold all the students in Cary. I stopped being a school in 1998, but in 2011 I reopened as the Cary Arts Center and now give musicians, painters, singers, actors, and other artists space to work.

Q4: What is the name of the school behind the Cary Arts Center?





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8. Guess-Ogle House

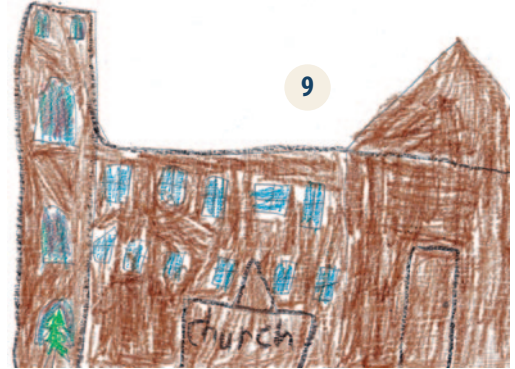
215 South Academy Street

I may be the best-known house in downtown Cary because of my unique look. When Captain Harrison P. Guess purchased this property in 1880, he expanded my original 1830s structure by adding the big bay window in front. This made me a Queen Anne-style house. A later owner, the minister at First Baptist Church across the street, added my corner tower, where he used to look over the church and town as he wrote his sermons. I am still a private home.

9. First United Methodist Church

117 South Academy Street

My congregation was founded in 1871 by a group of 12 families. I am the oldest church in downtown Cary. Today I have more than 4,000 members and I'm celebrating my 150th birthday this year along with the Town of Cary. My original building was a wooden frame, but I was greatly remodeled in the 1920s. I am Gothic Revival style, and I almost look like a castle, especially because of my tower.



9

10. The Cary Theater

122 East Chatham Street

I was the home of Cary's first indoor movie theater back in the 1940s, but I didn't just show movies – famous singer Patsy Cline once performed here! After the theater closed in the late 1950s, I was home to a clothing store, an auto parts store, and even a recording studio. I am now a theater again and host movies, plays, and music!

Q5: Disney movies were popular when I was open during the 1940s and 1950s. Can you name any old Disney movies from that time?



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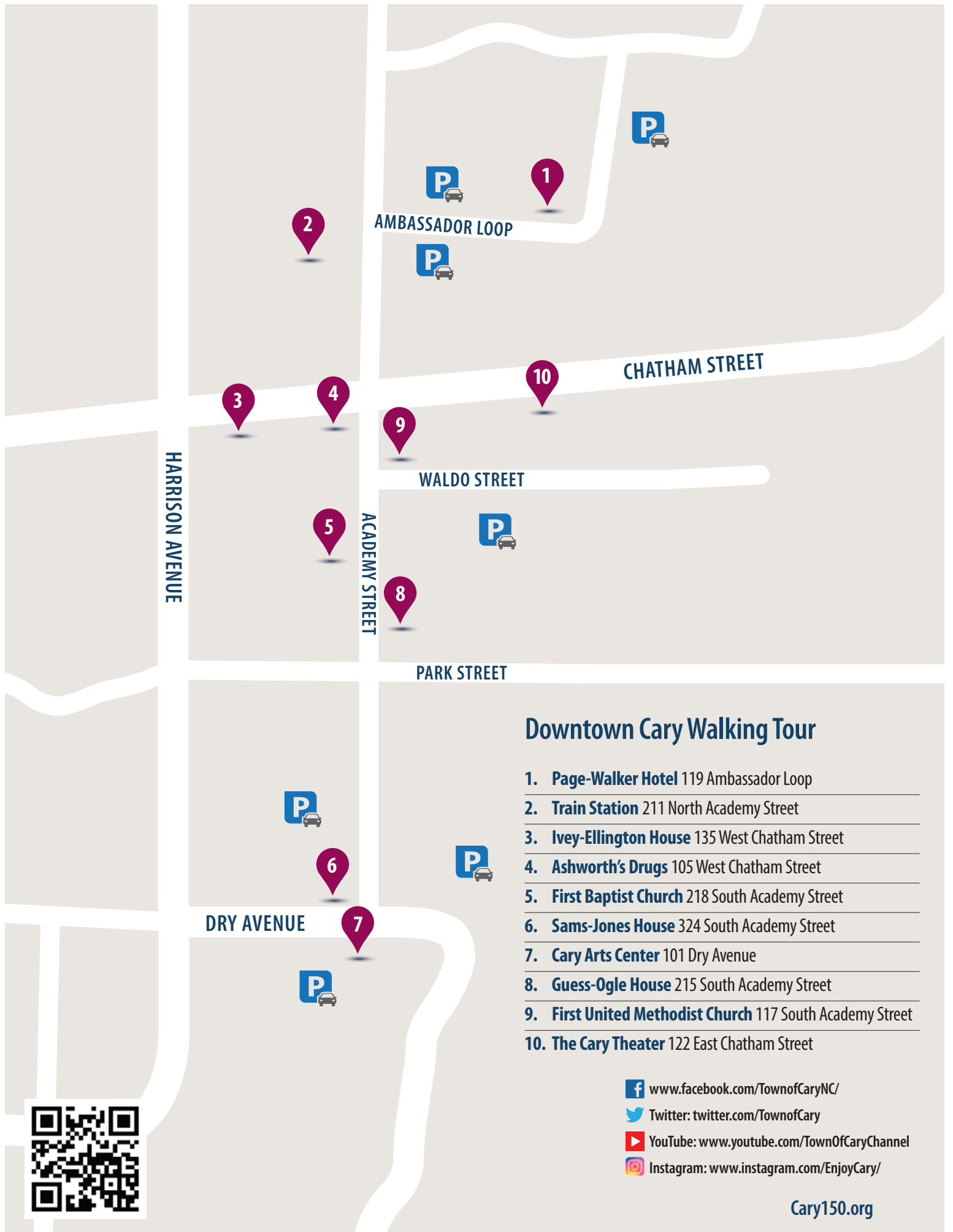
This tour includes several highlights of Cary's rich history, but it represents only a portion of a much larger story. The original material for this tour was a collaboration among the Town of Cary, the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel, Girl Scouts – North Carolina Coastal Pines Troop 300, and the Tar Heel Junior Historian Association - History Detectives of Cary.

Artwork by Anna Maklem (9), Katelyn Macklem (7), Maxime Idoura (10), Anais Idoura (8), Sophia Ungaro (8), Kaya Rossell (11), Maryanne Thomas (10), Sarah Major (9), Hannah Major (7), and Arianna Trent (8).

Prose by Cherri Caggia, Chandler Chestnutt, Nidhi Desai, Sarah Flexman, Caroline Haw, Sarah Hooper, Parthana Kalmath, Olivia Loyack, Erica Samios, and Jennifer Savage.

If you would like to make your own artwork, the Town of Cary's Historic Preservation Commission provided several coloring pages. Please feel free to share them using #Cary150Tours.

- Answers**
1. Thomas, Percy, Gordon, Henry, James, Edward, Toby, and Emily
 2. Triangles, rectangles, parallelograms
 3. "Very Important Person"
 4. Cary Elementary School
 5. Bambi, Dumbo, Pinocchio, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, Alice in Wonderland, Peter Pan, Lady and the Tramp



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1. **Page-Walker Hotel** 119 Ambassador Loop

2. **Train Station** 211 North Academy Street

3. **Ivey-Ellington House** 135 West Chatham Street

4. **Ashworth's Drugs** 105 West Chatham Street

5. **First Baptist Church** 218 South Academy Street

6. **Sams-Jones House** 324 South Academy Street

7. **Cary Arts Center** 101 Dry Avenue

8. **Guess-Ogle House** 215 South Academy Street

9. **First United Methodist Church** 117 South Academy Street

10. **The Cary Theater** 122 East Chatham Street

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Guess-White-Ogle House

circa 1830

A Town of Cary Historic Landmark

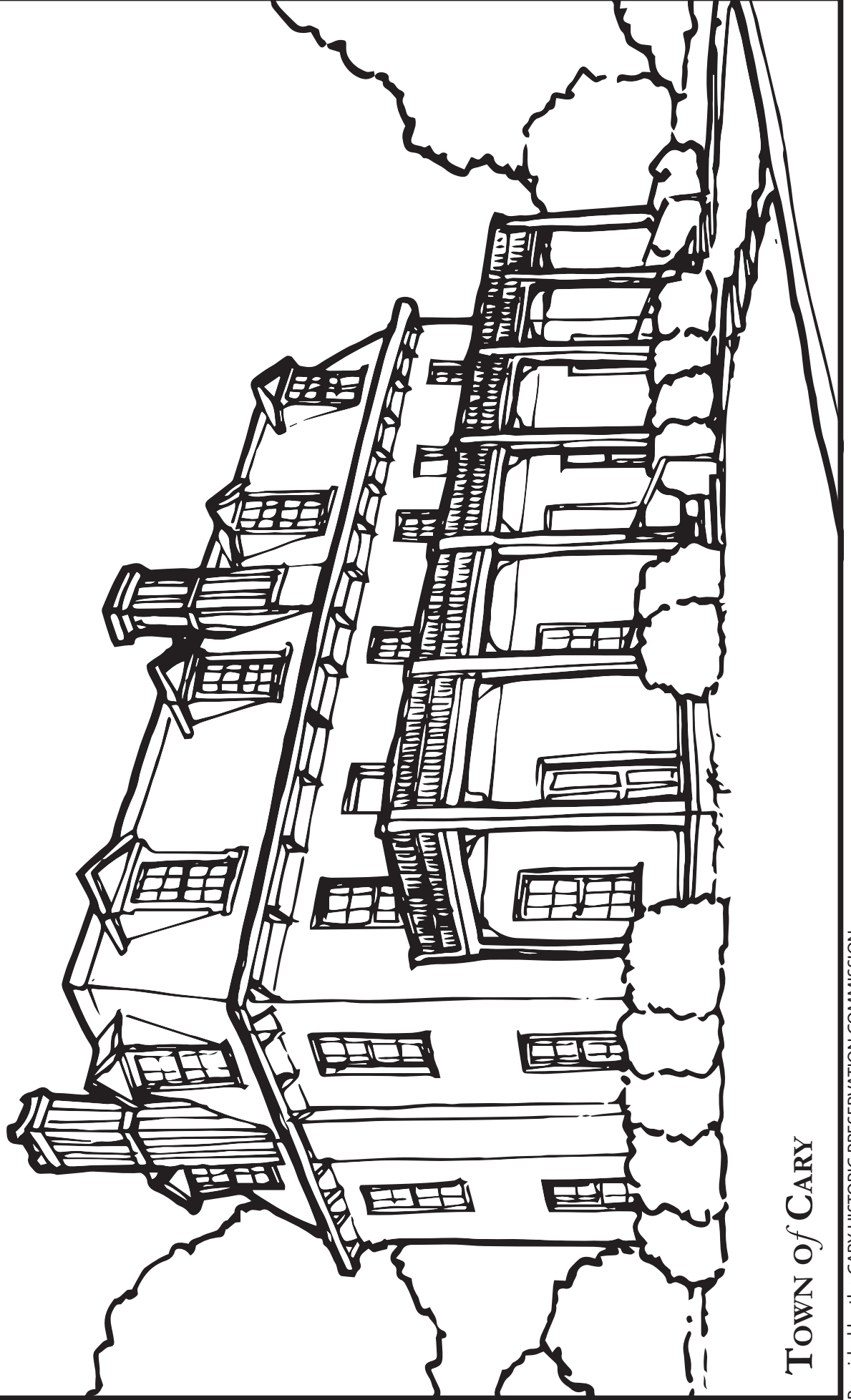


TOWN of CARY

The Page-Walker Hotel

circa 1868

A Town of Cary Historic Landmark



TOWN of CARY