

Cary Historic Landmarks Driving Tour

CARY, NORTH CAROLINA



Page-Walker Arts & History Center

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 our community. 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!

Refer to the map for the approximate tour locations and visit them in any order you prefer. Several parking areas are highlighted if you wish to walk parts of this driving tour. Please drive safely and be respectful of cemeteries and other private property by remaining in your vehicle when visiting them. Circumstances might prevent stopping or parking at some tour stops. Please adhere to appropriate COVID-19 guidelines if you exit your car.

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 & 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.

What is the Landmark Program?

A landmark is a property designated by Town Council for its special historical, architectural and/or cultural value. Landmark owners are eligible to apply for an annual 50 percent property tax deferral for as long as the property's historic features are maintained.

The Landmark Program differs from the National Register Program because it is locally administered, and landmark owners must present their plans to the Historic Preservation Commission for review before making any significant exterior changes.

What is the Historic Preservation Commission?

The Historic Preservation Commission is a seven-member board appointed by Town Council. The commission's responsibilities include maintaining an inventory of properties that have historical, architectural and/or cultural significance, as well as nominating and recommending to Town Council properties eligible to be Cary Historic Landmarks.



Guess-Ogle House

1. Page-Walker Arts & History Center (ca. 1871)

119 Ambassador Loop

The Page-Walker Hotel, now known as the Page-Walker Arts & History Center, was built by Allison Francis (Frank) Page, the founder of Cary, to cater to railroad passengers after tracks were built in town.

Frank and his wife Catherine Raboteau Page sold the hotel to the Walker family in 1884, after which the building changed hands several more times. Major renovations were conducted in the 1940s, 1970s and 1980s when it was purchased by the Town of Cary.



2. Guess-Ogle House (ca. 1830)

215 South Academy Street

The Guess-Ogle House was built in stages beginning in the 1830s. Previous owners include railroad "roadmaster" Captain Harrison Guess and his wife, Aurelia, and John White, a local baptist minister who bought the house in 1896 and substantially remodeled and expanded it. Carroll and Sheila Ogle bought the property in 1997 and restored it. It is the finest, most intact and best-preserved example of Queen-Anne style architecture in downtown Cary. Please be respectful, currently this is a private residence.



3. Dr. John Pullen Hunter House (ca. 1925)

311 South Academy Street

The Dr. John Pullen Hunter House is significant for its historical association with Dr. Hunter, a Cary physician, and his family.

Hunter was an influential civic booster for the Town of Cary. His major contributions included serving on the school board for 14 years and helping organize the Cary High School Band. Today, the house is one of the finest examples of a Craftsman bungalow in downtown Cary. The property also has the only intact, original chicken coop (shown above right) in the district. Please be respectful, currently this is a private residence.



4. Sams-Jones House (ca. 1902)

324 South Academy Street

The Sams-Jones House is an excellent and locally rare example of a Queen-Anne cottage dating to the turn of the 20th century. The house was likely built by Andrew Fuller Sams, a teacher and principal at Cary High School in the early 20th century. Members of the Jones family owned the house for 61 years beginning in 1914. Currently, this is the location of the Asian Fusion restaurant called MC Restaurant.



5. Cary Arts Center (ca. 1939)

101 Dry Avenue

This monumental building reflects the importance civic leaders in a small railroad town placed on education. The site was originally home to Cary Academy before the state purchased the private school and turned it into Cary Public High School, the state's first state-funded public high school.

Today, this facility has progressed from school to arts center. It has several art installations, including a stained glass stairway on the flytower at the rear of the building (shown left). The historical images inside showcase the building's past and emphasize its historical and future importance as a focal point for the community.

Three of Cary's landmarks are cemeteries

6. Hillcrest Cemetery (ca. 1840)

608 Page Street

The Hillcrest Cemetery is significant as the final resting place of men and women who made contributions to Cary's social, economic, political and religious growth and development during the 19th and 20th centuries. Interred at the cemetery are 17 former mayors and a number of prominent local education and business leaders. The Town of Cary acquired most of the cemetery in several transactions during the 1960s and 1970s, making it the Town's only municipal cemetery.

7. Cary First Christian Church Cemetery (ca. 1896)

300 West Cornwall Road

The Cary First Christian Church Cemetery is significant because of its association with the establishment of Cary's first African American religious congregation. Some of Cary's most prominent citizens, from its earliest beginnings to present day, are buried there. The cemetery is situated on the site where Cary's first African American church held its initial meeting in 1868 and is the only remaining resource associated with the congregation at this location. There are approximately 254 marked interments. Members of all denominations have been continuously buried here since the first known interment in 1896.



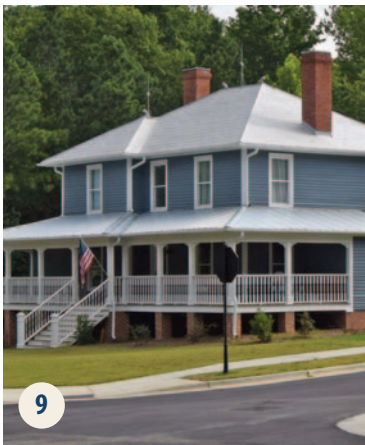


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8. White Plains Cemetery (ca. 1815)

100 Tolliver Court

The White Plains Cemetery, also known as the Nathaniel Jones Graveyard, is the final resting place of Nathaniel Jones, a Revolutionary War patriot who at one point owned over 10,000 acres of land in what is now eastern Cary. He served as a Wake County Commissioner, Justice of the Peace, Sheriff, Clerk of Court and a member of the N.C. General Assembly. Jones named his house and property "White Plains" for the vast fields of cotton that surrounded his home. The house is no longer standing.



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9. John L. & Henrie G. Sears House (ca. 1915)

5104 Sears Farm Road

The John L. and Henrie G. Sears House is an early 20th century farmhouse that reflects the domestic life of middle-class farmers in that period. John and Henrie built the house around 1915 and proceeded to farm and raise their three children on the land. At one point they owned 214 acres. The house originally



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stood facing Green Hope School Road but was moved in 2017 to its current location, which is still on the original farm acreage. The current owners purchased the house after the relocation and have rehabilitated it, preserving all the surviving original features with minor changes to the floor plan on the second floor. Please be respectful, currently this is a private residence.



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10. Farmer's Cooperative and Meeting Hall (ca. 1880)

1933 Morrisville Carpenter Road

The Farmer's Cooperative, located across the road from the Carpenter Farm Supply Store, provided a place for farmers to buy and sell their goods. After the turn of the century, the building is believed to have served as a meeting house for the Farmers' Educational and Cooperative Union. A garage, warehouse and front porch were added to the rear and west side of the building in the 1950s.

11. Carpenter Farm Supply Store (ca. 1895)

1933 Morrisville Carpenter Road

The Carpenter Farm Supply Store is an evolved crossroads commercial building that began as a one-story, gable-front store in 1895. In 1916, a two-story brick building was built beside the frame store. It is thought to be the only rural, brick store building in continuous use in Wake County. The two stores were attached around 1917 with a frame structure that housed the Carpenter community's post office until 1933.



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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. This tour is based on the "Cary Historic Landmarks" brochure developed by the Town of Cary's Historic Preservation Commission. To learn more, visit www.townofcary.org/landmarks.



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

3. **Dr. John Pullen Hunter House**
311 South Academy Street

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

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

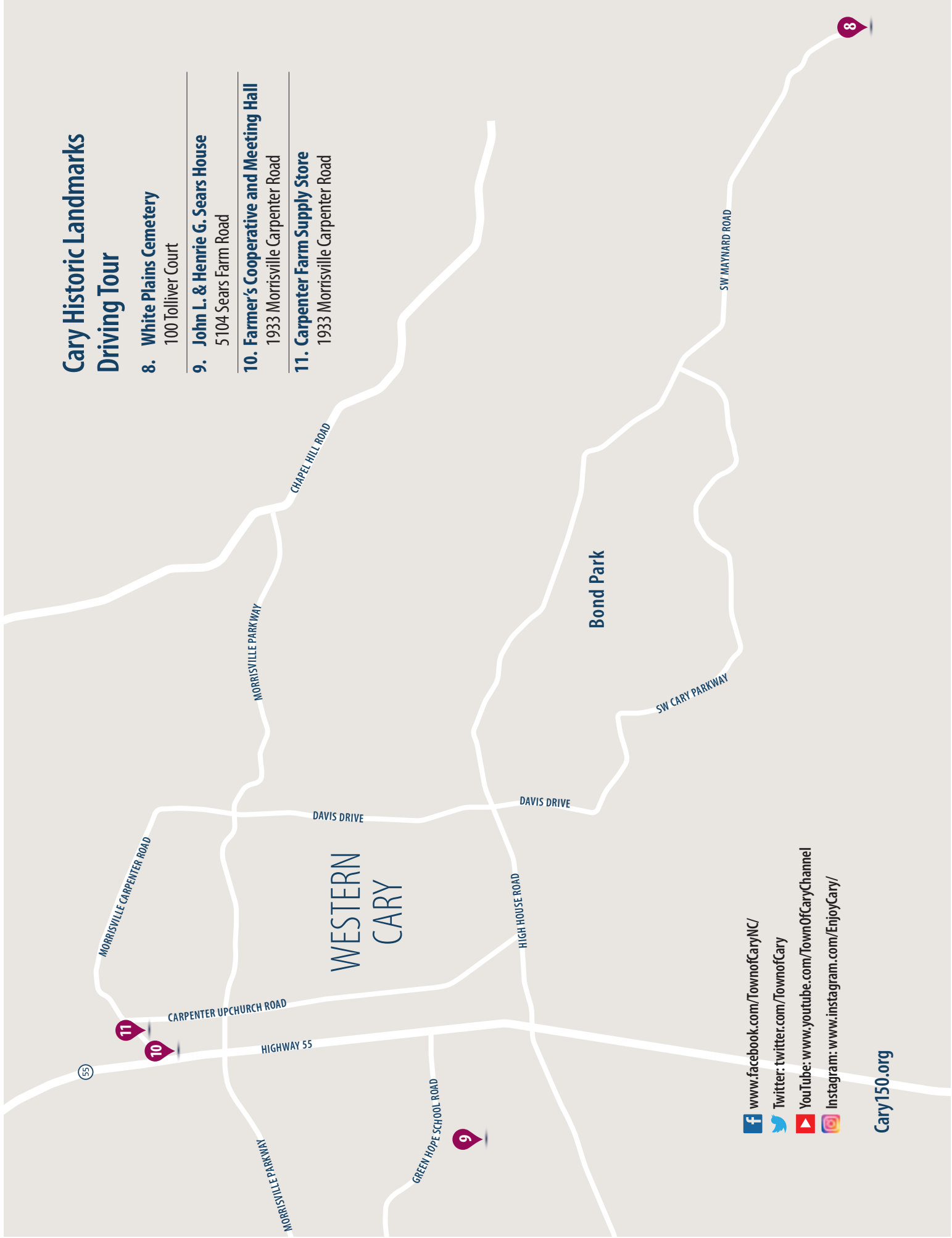
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- 10. **Farmer's Cooperative and Meeting Hall**
1933 Morrisville Carpenter Road
- 11. **Carpenter Farm Supply Store**
1933 Morrisville Carpenter Road



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