

## 14 Highlights along the Downtown Elkin Walking Tour

Starting at East Main St, heading along Market Street & West Main Street, then to Standard St



**Directional Trail Tree** (East end of Main St, across from Rhythm on Main dance studio). This was a project where the EVTA and Main Street Advisory Board teamed up with Elkin High School art students, who painted the signs for the directional tree. Bob Hillyer was the project leader. The students had a great time creating their signs & being a part of the project. From this spot, head west on Main Street, cross Bridge St at the light, then head up the hill to Market St 1 block. You'll see the next stop towards the left. Walk toward mural.



**Trail Town Mural** (SW corner of N Bridge St & Market St, far side of grassy lot). This mural, painted by Carrboro artist Michael Smith, was created to highlight the features of Elkin's new trail, by showing things you might see or experience while hiking the MST from Elkin's E&A trail to the Yadkin River. Elkin holds an annual wine festival and roots music festival in the park, so that explains the grapes and the fiddle. At this location, you will also see a granite **Daniel Boone Trail** marker. You can head west on Market Street to the next stop. By the way, look around for a 2<sup>nd</sup> mural before you reach Church St.



**Richard Gwyn Museum** (129 Church St, Public parking lot just north of the Foothills Arts Council, just up from corner of Market St and Church St; one block up from Main St). This little gem is the oldest building in Surry County that was either a church or a schoolhouse. The DAR now manages it. This building will be open for tours during your visit on Fri (need hours) & Saturday (need hours). Head down the hill on Church St to W Main Street, then turn right and walk towards the stop light.



**Civil War Marker** (west end of downtown, across the street from the library, NE corner of W Main St & Front St). Enjoy reading why Elkin was *not* destroyed during the Civil War. Apparently our little town has always been known for its hospitality! The house remains today, up on the hillside, just beyond the marker. You can see it best by standing at the base of the property along the Main St sidewalk below. Now, cross the street towards the library.



**Trails Kiosk** (intersection of W Main St & Front St, in front of the library). This information panel is a part of the new wayfinding program we are installing in downtown Elkin (and throughout town). This Trails Kiosk was the first information panel placed in downtown!

There are public restrooms inside the lobby of the library, if needed. Continue west along Main St to the bridge, then over the creek.

Heading up W Main Street into the residential area, you will see the **dam behind the library**, one our most photographed images of Elkin- besides the Episcopal Church (also in the same location). Our famous blue heron loves to perch along the creek, and a huge raccoon has been seen climbing the massive Sycamore tree to the right side of the waterfalls and nesting in its high branches. If weather is rainy, you are welcome to view the dam from inside the library, where there is a picture window at the back of the room. There's a trail along the west side of the dam -a safe (ADA accessible) continuation of the trails (MST and OVT), from the park onto Main Street. Next, head west on Main Street, about 7 houses up.



**Cedar Point**, Elkin's oldest home (350 W Main St-) is listed on the National Historic Register. See an ancient Indian bowl carved from a boulder, still attached, that was likely used to grind maize. It's in the front yard left of the house. After viewing this, return back down the hill, towards the bridge (before the creek) on the right side of the street, for the next stop.



7.



8.

**Overmountain Victory Trail** intersects W Main Street at the creek's bridge. This trail starts at the mustering field located in Elkin's Municipal Park, heads along the creek, then behind the library south towards the RR tracks, then heads west towards N Wilkesboro. We have OVT images across the street to lead hikers on the right path. Now continue east to the next building on Main Street, right side.



9.

**The E&A RR ticket office** (231 W Main St), shown under renovation here, is newly renovated and will soon be an overnight Air B&B on Main Street, called Maggie's Place. The restoration is a Historic Tax Credit project and has been restored in time, to somewhere around the 1930's. Once vinyl was removed from the facade, much of the original decorative molding was discovered, and was then restored.



10.

**The Reeves Theater** (129 W Main St) was recently renovated and is a 300-seat live music venue. Due to its historic significance, it was awarded some renovation funds from the NC Main Street Solutions Fund. There is a café & bar, with future plans for showing movies and offering live radio broadcasts from the theater. The original blue, porcelain-covered tiles will also be refitted to the front facade.



11.

**Brushy Mountain Winery** (125 W Main St) is a definite stop. Walk inside and see an uncovered mural from the 1930's, depicting advertisements of Elkin shops that were open for business then. This was discovered during a renovation project, to expose the brick. Once they realized there was something unique under the wallpaper and other wall coverings, they stopped the renovation and slowly uncovered this beautiful fresco-like artwork. Every Fri & Sat night they offer fabulous free live music from 6pm – 8pm.



12.

Head right on Bridge St. One block south of Main Street (between Front St and S Bridge St) on W Standard St, you'll find our newest project underway. The trails/arts/heritage **Visitor Center** will house information, lockers and showers for MST hikers, OVT National Park info, plus local history, viticulture info, and revolving displays about the region.



13.

The old **Riverside Hotel** (S Bridge St, west side by RR tracks) was built in the late 1800s. It later became a locally owned bottling company for fruity sodas, Pepsi, then Coca-Cola. There are remnants of each company's mural on each side of the building. The purple & yellow mural was painted for Pepsi sometime between 1900 & 1910. There are only 4 known murals like this remaining that Pepsi is aware of, and they consider them a "national treasure".



14.

This **sepia-tone mural** (E Standard St across from Comb's Butcher Shop) depicts two structures we no longer have in town. There is a story board on the mural to learn more about the history of **Hugh Chatham Memorial Bridge** and our old train depot.