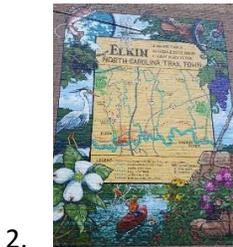


## 14 Highlights along the Downtown Elkin Walking Tour

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. 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 Brown, 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 music festival in the park, so that explains the grapes and the fiddle! 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, also painted by Michael Brown.



**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 used as either a church or a schoolhouse. The DAR now manages it, but it can be accessed Thurs – Sat by asking for a tour at the Foothills Arts Council if they are open.. 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 the 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 wonderful picture window at the back. 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 Register of Historic Places (as is our downtown). 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 Revolutionary War mustering field located in Elkin's Municipal Park, heads along the creek then behind the library south towards the RR tracks in downtown. From there, it heads west towards N Wilkesboro. We have OVT images across Main 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 after renovation here, is an adorable overnight vacation rental on Main Street, called Maggy's Place. The restoration is a Historic Tax Credit project and has been restored in time, to somewhere around 1930. Once aluminum siding was removed from the facade, much of the original decorative German woodwork was discovered and repaired, and was then restored. This restoration has won an award of merit from the NC Main Street Program for 2017 for Best Historic Restoration.



10.

**Elkin Post Office** (213 W Main St) has a 1930's plaster sculpture from NY City artist, Anita Weschler. The government commissioned artists in the 1930's as part of the Works Progress Administration to create art for federal buildings.



11.

**The Reeves Theater** (129 W Main St) opened in 1941 & during the 1900's Elkin had 3 downtown theaters. The Reeves closed in the 90's, and fell into disrepair. Renovated and reopened in 2017 by local residents, the Reeves Theater is now a 290-seat music venue, Farm-to-Table café that serves local beer and wine. The restaurant was the first to apply for a sidewalk café permit, offering outdoor seating along Main St. It too won a NC Main Street award for Best Historic Restoration in 2018. Photo shows the pre-restoration condition before the Art Deco façade was restored.



12.

**ReMax** (125 W Main St) is a definite stop. Look thru the windows and see an uncovered mural from the 1930's depicting advertisements of Elkin shops that were open for business then. This was discovered during an interior renovation project, to expose the brick along one wall. Once they realized there was something unique under the wallpaper and paint, they stopped the removal of plaster and slowly uncovered this beautiful fresco artwork.



13.

Head right on Bridge St. One block south of Main Street (between Front St and S Bridge St) on W Standard St, and look to the right...you'll find a new Town 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. The Chamber of Commerce offices have relocated there.



14.

This **sepia-tone mural** (E Standard St across from Comb's Butcher Shop) depicts two structures we sadly 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 the old train depot. The DOT deconstructed the bridge in 2012. It had been closed to vehicular traffic for years and used as a pedestrian bridge prior to being removed.