



The Federal Building

## WILKESBORO ARCHITECTURE WALKING TOUR

This architecture walking tour includes thirteen buildings that showcase the character of the town of Wilkesboro and its historic downtown area as it has developed. All buildings that are included are wonderful examples of the distinctive styling and culture of their times and each one is included in the National Register of Historic Places. Each represents an aspect of community life that is historically noteworthy.

## WILKES TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Wilkesboro will wow you with a newly-revitalized historic downtown, mind-blowing musical talent, stunningly scenic mountain views, heart-pounding outdoor adventures, and Southern small-town charm. Wilkesboro is conveniently located close to I-77 at exit 73B and minutes from the High Country towns of Boone, Blowing Rock and Banner Elk. Visit Wilkesboro and find your back road to adventure!

# Explore Wilkesboro

FIND YOUR BACK ROAD.

Thanks for exploring Wilkesboro with us!

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Town of Wilkesboro  
203 West Main Street  
Wilkesboro, NC 28697

# WILKESBORO ARCHITECTURE WALKING TOUR



The Old Wilkes County Courthouse

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# WILKESBORO ARCHITECTURE WALKING TOUR

## 1. The Old Wilkes County Courthouse

Truly a great landmark in Wilkes County, this courthouse was built in 1902 and is an example of official Classical Revival structures built at the turn of the century.



## 2. Finley Law Office

Built in the late 19th century and a succession of lawyers have practiced here. It is a diminutive, well preserved carpenter gothic building, an excellent example of its type.

## 3. The Smithey Hotel

Built in 1891 and is located east of the Courthouse. It was once a center of mercantile trade on the ground floor, with the area's main hotel above. This late 19th century example of small-town commercial architecture remains relatively unaltered outside.

## 4. Cowles Law Office

This building dates from 1871 and is a low, small structure that suited the legal practice of the time. It is on Main Street near the Brown Cowles House and is also known as the Law and Bridal Cottage.

## 5. The Brown-Cowles House

This is the oldest known house remaining in Wilkesboro and dates from the 1830s. Hamilton Brown (1786-1870) built the central structure and Congressman William H Cowles (1850-1901) expanded it. The slave kitchen and curing house are among the outbuildings still remaining in the area.



## 6. The Wilkesboro Presbyterian Church

Established in 1837 and built in 1849 through 1850. It served the oldest Presbyterian congregation in 21 western NC counties. It's tetrastyle Doric portico is an excellent example of the popular design.

## 7. The Johnson-Hubbard House

Built in 1855 by Stephen Johnson and purchased in 1885 by Julius C Hubbard. Hubbard added some additional rooms, but the house remains much in its original state. The upstairs bedroom ceilings are unique in that they were painted with designs made with a smoking pine torch.



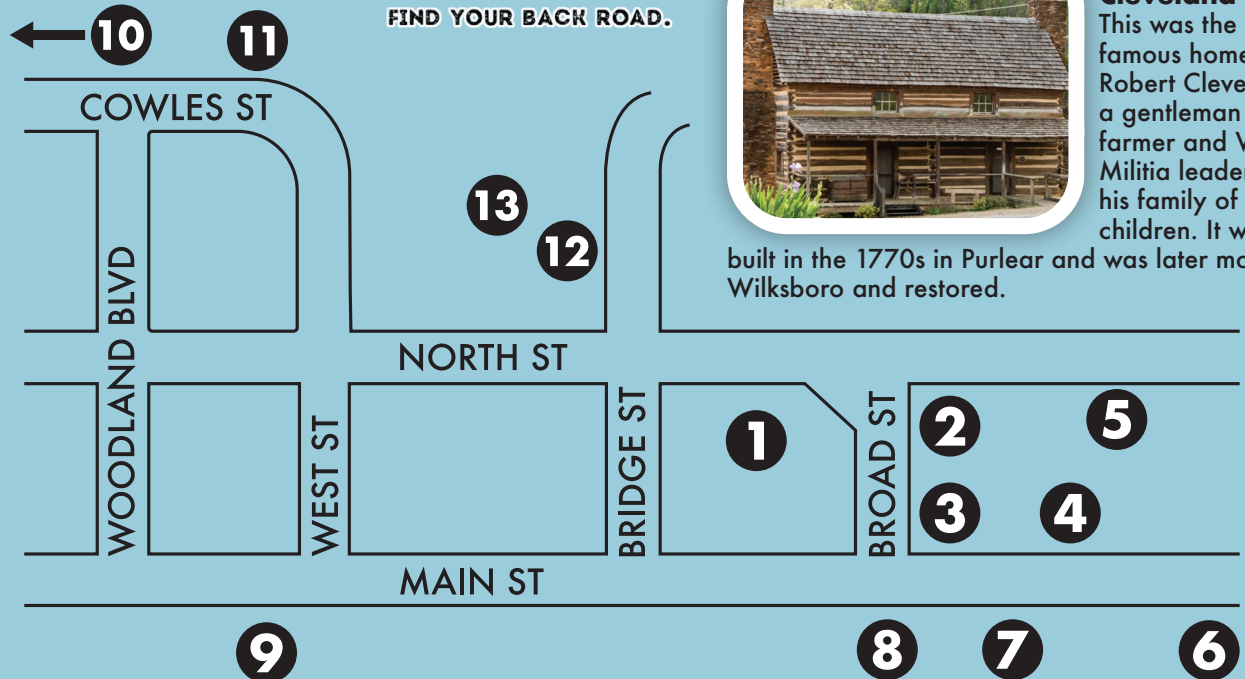
## 8. The J.T. Ferguson Store

This building's front is a cast iron and pressed metal façade produced in St. Louis in 1887. The classical and Victorian details are still bold and impressive today. The manufacturer sold over 5000 building fronts of this

sort during a 23-year period. This is one of the few of this type remaining.

Explore  
**Wilkesboro**

FIND YOUR BACK ROAD.



## 9. The Federal Building

Built in 1915 and is located on the South side of Main Street, it is an example of Federal Revival style architecture, unusual in its preserved refined classical elegance and its use of terracotta, brick, wood and plaster.

## 10. The Carl Lowe House

This home was built in 1899. It is a fine remaining example of Queen Anne and late Victorian houses with irregular design and textures and rare ornamentation.

## 11. St. Paul's Episcopal Church

It was completed in 1849 and is one of the earliest consecrated in the Episcopal Dioceses of Western North Carolina. It is a good example of small Parish Gothic Revival churches, and much of it is in its original condition.

## 12. The Old Wilkes Jail

Located behind the County Courthouse and was completed in 1860. It has been restored and is now a museum. Tom Dooley was one of its inmates. This is an outstanding example of mid-19th century jails and one of the few intact examples in the state.



## 13. The Robert Cleveland House

This was the famous home of Robert Cleveland, a gentleman farmer and Wilkes Militia leader and his family of 17 children. It was

built in the 1770s in Purlear and was later moved to Wilksboro and restored.