



Coles County

HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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presents

**Walking Tour of
Charleston's
6th and 7th Street
Historical District**

Take a leisurely walk along Charleston's historical district and view some of the buildings that make Charleston famous. Charleston has maintained its historic homes which remind visitors and residents of the changes that have taken place over the years. The preservation of some of these buildings have helped to make Charleston the special place it is today. Redevelopment and expansion of 6th and 7th street made it a popular place to live many years ago. This area, which is part of the original townsite, continues to reflect the character of this city.

Charleston's Famous Architect

Charles D. Mitchell designed and built many of the homes, stores, and public buildings in the 6th and 7th street district over his career of 37 years. One of the first homes he designed was the C.F. McFarland home at 895 Seventh Street which was completed by May of 1892. Mitchell was known for his high quality standards in construction. His first homes had the most "gingerbread" design and reflected the spindlework style of Queen Anne while his later houses often had a touch of classicism with a four-square arrangement as in the Eclectic and Prairie style. Mitchell's own house was built at 1002 Seventh Street in 1901-1902 and was famous for its Embarrass sandstone that was constructed by a well-known stone mason in Charleston.

Introduction to Architectural Styles

Queen Anne Architecture (1880-1910)

This style is typified by a steeply pitched roof of irregular shape, usually a dominant front-facing gable, patterned shingles as decoration, cut-away bay windows, asymmetrical façade and a partial or full-width porch. Queen Anne styles try to avoid flat, smooth surfaces or lines so decorations are used on the walls including many textures with bay windows, towers, dormers, or inset porches.

Lower cross gables are seen in over half of all Queen Anne structures with half having spindlework designs on the porches or at the gable, being lacy or gingerbread trimmed. They have classical columns grouped in two's or three's, Palladian windows, and cornice dentils that were more common after 1890.

This was the dominant style in this new suburb of Charleston and 43% are Queen Anne. It was also the most popular style of this period throughout the Midwest.

did the stone work. It's said that Mitchell and his wife lived here for about 20 years and his son, Sam, lived with them from 1916 to 1919. The house is Eclectic and Neoclassical in design without much change in the past century. The kitchen window was possibly once framed by a grape arbor. Decorative oak woodwork is through the downstairs. Note the curved and leaded glass windows, a staircase with a cupola as well as a large attic with arched windows.

1014 Seventh Francis House Designed by Charles D. Mitchell, this home was built in 1906-1909. It was part of Lot 9 that Mitchell bought in 1897 and was the last of the three houses that he constructed. It was sold to J.E. Francis in 1909. It is a Queen Anne, Free Classical or Neocolonial style home.

1016 Seventh Bond House This was built pre-1902. This is one of the three houses that Mitchell built on Lot 9. It is pictured in the 1902 City Directory, though the owner, Charles Bond, isn't listed there. It is a Queen Anne, Free Classical or a Neocolonial style home. The front porch has been greatly changed over the years.

916 Seventh This is a Bungalow style built in 1906.

910 Seventh This is a Queen Anne style built in 1896.

904 Seventh This is a Queen Anne style built in 1896.

900 Seventh This is a Queen Anne style built in 1891.

907 Seventh Buzzard/Heartknee House Built in 1892-1893, this may be a Charles D. Mitchell house. R.G. Buzzard, a strong democrat, arranged for Eleanor Roosevelt to come speak at EIU. While she was visiting, it is said that she had tea in his house. This is a late Queen Anne style.

899 Seventh Montgomery/Wyeth House Built in 1892 and designed by Charles D. Mitchell, this is a Queen Anne style. The sweeping roof is a new feature in Mitchell's designs. Dr. John T. and Mary Montgomery and his brother Mack A. Montgomery shared the house. Mack and John later moved to a house on Division Street that would eventually become Charleston's second hospital. The Wyeth family purchased the home in 1903.

951 Sixth Built in 1915, this is a Bungalow with brick veneer.

959 Sixth This Bungalow with stucco was built in 1917. The front has been altered over the years.

956 Sixth Sigma Pi House This home, built in 1910, may have been a Queen Anne originally. The roof-line is typical. The porch was added much later and probably replaced a wrap-around. The balcony on the second floor could have looked similar to the one at the Dudley house.

964 Sixth Built in 1896, this is a late Queen Anne, Free Classic style. It has some of Mitchell's trademark elements including a bay window upstairs and a second story porch.

1010 Sixth Shortress House Built in 1906, this may have been designed by Ben Maxwell. John A. Shortress upscaled his home when this was built over his prior residence on Fourth Street. It's a Neoclassical or Classical revival style that has been altered little since it was built. Note the Palladian window and the massive columns on the front porch.

1003 Sixth This Spanish Colonial Eclectic style was built in 1905. The style is apparent in the roof tiles and the arches in the portico.

1011 Sixth Whisnand House Built in 1899, this home was designed by Charles D. Mitchell. He bought his land in September 1897. He must have started building the 6th Street house in 1898 for he sold the uncompleted house to Mrs. Kate Vandyke and John and Flora Whisnand in January 1899. As part of that deal, Mitchell was to complete the house, build a barn and make other improvements as defined in a contract entered into the deed records all by April 15, 1899. He must have been done with most of the outside of the house because they were calling for the plumbing, heating and plastering to be done "at once." It is pictured in the 1902 City Directory. Sixth Street was probably being paved at the time he bought the land because he had to pay the "special pavement tax on South 6th Street." The style of the home is Queen Anne, Free Classical or Neocolonial. Notice all the eyebrow dormers or windows.

1002 Seventh Mitchell House Built in 1901-1902, this was designed by Charles D. Mitchell. In 1904, a photograph of the home was featured at the St. Louis World's Fair in an exhibition for Olive Quarries about Embarrass sandstone. Alex Briggs, a well-known stone mason in Charleston,

Classical/Neo-Classical (1860-1900)

This style includes clapboards, sills, and rafters. The plan is expansive in scale, symmetrical, tightly organized, and clearly defined. The elevation is of expansive scale, with motifs borrowed from specific models or a single style such as Renaissance, Georgian, or Neoclassical. Proportions are low and broad, horizontal dimensions are emphasized by widely spaced windows, and horizontal coursing is strong though shallow projecting cornice lines exist.

Period Revivals (1910-1930)

Sixth Street was greatly reshaped in the early 1900s as older homes were replaced by more modern ones. The variety of revival styles is one of the rich treasures of this street.

Spanish Colonial, English Tudor, and Dutch Colonial

The plan is conventional symmetrical with a laterally extended plan that relates to outdoor living with sleeping porches, patios and terraces, interior balconies and a garage is integrated with location near the kitchen and front entrance.

The elevation is quaint, informal, and carefully disciplined. It's assimilated and combines diverse motifs for convenience, gracious living and artistic effects, a garden setting, additive composition, irregular fenestration and vernacular roofs i.e. gambrel, shed, heavy cornice, tile roof, cross gables, dark-stained oak lintels, and tapestry brick laid in texture.

Bungalow Style (Most popular 1905-1925; 1900-1940)

This style is often Craftsman or Prairie however it is also used as a style by the public. This means a large, front gabled dormer, commodious porch, and a side-gabled roof. The plan is similar to that of the Prairie style. The elevation consists of widely overhanging gables forming a porch at the front, supported by heavy battered piers, and natural materials such as stone as cobble or boulder, wood in earth tones, and shingle or stucco for texture. One of the main attributes is that the roof covers both the porch and the house and often there is a dormer in the center. Utility, convenience and affordability is the common goal. 15% of the homes in the Historic District are of this type. The Sears & Roebuck Co. had several styles of Bungalows for sale. You could order these and they would be delivered by the railroad to your town and a local carpenter would re-assemble the house on site.

895 Seventh McFarland-Dudley House

Your tour begins at the Dudley-McFarland house which Mitchell designed and built this home between 1890-1892. Corey F. McFarland moved to Charleston in the 1880's where he and his wife Mamie purchased this lot for \$600 in June of 1890 and sold it two years later for \$5000 during the time which the main house was built. The back exhibit room and bedroom over the kitchen were added by another owner in 1912. George Lippencott, a broom corn dealer, had to house six people in the home. Although we don't know what McFarland did for a living here, once he left he founded a paper manufacturing company in Keokuk, Iowa. The style and detailing in the house indicated it was fairly costly so he must have been well-off. He is a descendant of William Bradford, one of the first governors of Massachusetts.

Dr. Gerry Dudley purchased the home in 1920 after returning from service in World War I. He and his wife Ether and four children lived here until 1950 when his son, Tilford, took ownership. The house was then rented through the 1960's and 1970's until 1982, when he gave the home to the Coles County Historical Society.

The House is a Queen Anne style with the exterior having the wrap-around porch and elaborate woodwork surrounding all the windows. Rounded surfaces, decorative brackets on the porch and wood-carving along the gables, porch railings, and placement away from the street in the center of the lot are typical features of this style. Interior features include spindlework balusters in the foyer, stained glass transom light and the convexly curved side windows in the front parlor, the fireplace, pocket doors, fine wood finishes and superior quality of all interior woodwork, and it still includes the original ceiling light fixtures.

The interior of the home has been decorated to resemble the way it may have looked in the 1920's. Notice the spindles around the parlor, the doorway may have had a fabric cover at one time from the looks of the marks on the sides. Dr. Dudley's wife, Esther, was an antique collector who like to find unusual ways to decorate. The square piano was redesigned into a table. A more open house became popular in the 1930's when Esther had the solid wood panels removed from the pocket doors and replaced them with glass. The house and furnishings reflect Esther's interest in the Eastlake style which is seen in the dining room table, the two office tables, the stairway and the spindles over the doorway to the parlor. The cabinet between the kitchen and dining room is original to the house. The upstairs has four bedrooms, a nursery and a full bath. Because the historical society stores their collection up there, it cannot be shown to the public.

924 Sixth Dunn House Built about 1885, the Queen Anne styling was added about 1898. The owner of the house was Frank K. Dunn, from Gilead, Ohio who was an Illinois Supreme Court Justice. He moved to Charleston in 1878 to set up a law practice after attending Kenyon College in Ohio and Harvard Law school. The house was first built in the Stick Style, a simpler predecessor to the Queen Anne. After Dunn was well established and elected to the Circuit Judgeship, he remodeled his house to the Queen Anne style. The wrap-around porch and small tower were added. The gingerbread around the gable and porch roof balustrade were removed after 1960.

935 Sixth Norfolk/Winkleblack House This home designed by Charles D. Mitchell was built in 1904. Cora Wyeth Norfolk lived in this house all her life. Her father also lived with her and died in the house in 1910. The Winkleblack family purchased the house in 1940 and would live there for 40 years. Sallie Cougill bought the property in 1990 while her husband was serving in Desert Storm. The house is Eclectic with Neoclassical styling. Note the bay window on the second floor, the classical columns on the porch and the asymmetrical look which are all elements found in Mitchell's later works.

947 Sixth Starr House Built in 1893, this Queen Anne has lost its wrap-around porch over the years. Dr. Nathan Starr lived here and the house is shown in the 1898 City Directory. He owned the Marshall House at 218 Jackson, where Lincoln stayed his last visit to Charleston.

938 Sixth Built in 1918, this Flemish Revival style home is reminiscent of the burger houses in Brussels.

948 Sixth Connelly House This house, built in 1863, is the second original structure still standing on Sixth Street. Colonel J.A. Connelly moved here from Ohio in 1860 and left Charleston in 1862 to serve in the Civil War. Tradition has it that he built the house for his bride in 1863, Miss Mary Dunn. Connelly was a member of the President's honor guard. He returned to Charleston and started a law practice in 1865 and was elected to the Illinois Legislature and appointed U.S. District Attorney for the Southern District by President Grant in 1876. The Italianate structure home was made of bricks from a kiln located on EIU's property. The clay came from the college pond (Lake Ahmoweenah). This is a typical Italianate with decorative brackets, arches over the windows, and long narrow windows in a square facade.

803 Sixth 1st United Brethren Christ Church This classical Eclectic style was built in 1912-1919.

805 Sixth Built in 1906, this is a Queen Anne Free Classic style.

810 Sixth Chenault Kelly House This modern, international style was built in 1949. Chenault was the daughter of James Y. Kelley who lived next door.

840 Sixth R. Teepell House Built in 1910, this is a Prairie style house with a gable barn in the rear. It seems to be a stone like brick covering on the lower level.

848 Sixth Built in 1899, this is a Queen Anne, Free Classic design. Notice the porch and windows.

850 Sixth This English Tudor Revival was built in 1934. It has a steeply pitched roof with a gable on front.

855 Sixth. This is a Bungalow with Prairie or Craftsman style built in 1922. It's difficult to see through the shrubbery.

903 Sixth This brick Prairie style was built in 1910.

904 Sixth

909 Sixth Built in 1918, this is a Queen Anne with diamond and octagonal windows on the north side.

910 Sixth Linder House Built in 1921, this home replaced an 1870's Italianate. It is a Prairie or Spanish Revival style. The original house was built by George Sefton, the railroad agent for the Big Four. The Linders intermarried with the Sefton family. This home is a perfect example of how older homes were torn down so more modern ones could be built. This is a trend that goes on today, but also has a long history.

921 Sixth Built in 1907, this is a Queen Anne. Especially note the variety of windows including the small turret on the north side.

931 Sixth This is a Queen Anne cottage built in 1876.

890 Seventh Built in 1880, this home is a Queen Anne Cottage style.

885 Seventh Taylor-Davito House Built in 1893, this was designed by Charles D. Mitchell. The Queen Anne was altered a lot in the early 1900's when it was modernized. It shows spindlework variety. Edson Taylor, the first Professor of Mathematics at the Normal School in 1899, was the first owner.

875 Seventh Johnston House Built in 1892-1893 and designed by Charles D. Mitchell, this home showed Queen Anne spindlework originally. Felix Johnston was the first owner, son of the president of the Second National Bank. It is said that Johnston and his wife received this property as a wedding gift from her parents, Albert and Catherine Compton. It is also said to be one of the first ones built after the addition was platted in 1889.

880 Seventh George Wyeth House This home was built before 1895. Wyeth was a grain dealer who had a partner with a house a couples doors north and his daughter who lived on Sixth Street. The Queen Anne spindlework has been removed. There were also five moon gates or "Moorish arches" on the porch and the upstairs porch had two gates. Notice the variety of wood shingle shapes on the front facing gable.

870 Seventh Built in 1900, this home is a late Queen Anne Style.

865 Seventh Built in 1800, this is a Prairie Style. (This will be seen later in the tour).

860 Seventh Jenkins House Designed by Ben R. Maxwell, this was built in 1893-1894. William Jenkins was the son of E.A. Jenkins, a dry goods merchant, who married the artist Martha E. Johnston. She had her studio on the third floor with a kiln to fire pottery and china in that she painted on with oils and watercolors. Because she spent so much time upstairs, she had a speaking tube installed to connect her with the rest of the house. Two or three fireplaces bare some of her artwork. This is a great example of Queen Anne spindlework with a fabulous bell-roofed tower and circular awning over the front gable window. Notice the irregularly shaped windows, fish-scale trim and spindled porch.

855 Seventh Hardin House Built in 1893, this home has a 1920's porch that replaced a more ornate spindlework one. The Queen Anne style on a cube house was owned by A.L. Hardin, who was a partner in the grain business with George Wyeth.

835 Seventh Briggs-Johnston House This Georgian Revival house of Neoclassical design was built in 1899 and designed by C.W. Rapp who also did the Courthouse. Manning Briggs was a relative of the outstanding stone mason Alexander Briggs.

829 Seventh Compton-Parker House This Neoclassical design was built in 1894-1904. Albert and Catherine Compton lived on this property since 1841. For year, this and her father's house were the only two homes on the east side of Seventh Street between Harrison and Polk.

838 Seventh Lord House This home was built in 1893 by Charles D. Mitchell. Livingston C. Lord, first president of the Normal School, lived in this home from 1903-1933. This Queen Anne, Eastlake style often is reminiscent of half-timbering but in a more delicate fashion. It was a popular form between the 1860-1900 time period.

830 Seventh Built in 1900, this Queen Anne Eastlake style has a 1920's porch addition.

827 Seventh Quigley-Harris House Built in 1924, this Prairie style or Queen Anne style has masonry construction.

818 Seventh Wilson-Popham House This home was built in 1890-1895 and designed by Charles D. Mitchell. Oscar L. and Mary Alpha Wilson purchased the property in 1890 and the house was built by the time the Sherman Popham family purchased it in 1895. The Pophams moved here from Seven Hickory Township and they kept two horses, two cows, and some chickens on the property. Note the two round windows on the Queen Anne Free Classic design.

804 Seventh Stoddert-Hill House This home was built in 1887. W.E. Stoddert owned the house originally and sold it to W.E. Hill in 1892. Hill owned and operated a variety store on the south side of the square. He owned the house until 1938 when his son, Robert, took over ownership. The Queen Anne spindlework home originally faced Sixth Street

180 degrees to face Seventh Street. The three story octagonal tower has an encircling verandah that dominates the house and has notable gingerbread exterior woodwork. The interior has outstanding woodwork with window shutters and wood grillwork above door openings. The parlor fireplace is metal enameled to look like inlaid marble with a tile hearth and detailed grille. At the top of the tower is the "observatory" covered with Art Nouveau wallpaper from 1902. The lighting fixtures are original to the house.

785 Seventh Faith Builders Church Built in 1904, this was designed by B.R. Maxwell. It was built for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and was bought by the First Baptist Church in 1910. A lot of reconstruction and remodeling projects have occurred over the years. The Faith Builders moved here in 1984. In 1956, the Marshall House from Seventh Street was relocated to the church and attached.

615 Harrison or 627 Sixth Mitchell House Built in 1920-1921, this home was designed by Charles D. Mitchell. Mitchell purchased this property in 1915 from William Stodert who had a home there since 1869. Mitchell and his wife, Flora E., lived here until his death on June 1, 1929. Flora had to purchase the house from his estate at a cost of \$7,000. Shortly before her death, her granddaughter started to purchase the house on contract. She inherited the home upon Flora's death. The house was divided into apartments and housed various families until bought by George L. and Nell Cunningham in 1968 or 1969. It's a four-square, Prairie style house with heavy Italian Renaissance influence as seen in the tiled roof. The Prairie style is seen in the wide eaves and horizontal orientation.

Sixth Street Development & Streets

The west side of Sixth Street was one of the first expansions on the original town. Three of the homes built by wealthy merchants in the 1860's remain. Two are near the area and one is the brick house on Harrison Street around the corner. The Alvey House and an Italianate are located further South. The streets were originally dirt on Sixth Street until they were paved around the Courthouse in 1894. In 1899, a Sixth Street paving tax was assessed to all the people owning property along it. It was also known for the street car that ran down the enter starting in 1911 called the "Yellow Peril." The line linked EIU and the Big Four Station until it was closed in 1928 when the City Council changed to buses.