

# Carolina Landmarks



## The Coker Arboretum

Whether for a picnic, to study, or to just have a relaxing afternoon, the Coker Arboretum is a pleasant place to be.

This five-acre naturalistic garden contains 400 varieties of ornamental plants and shrubs. While walking through the arboretum, one can find beds of day lilies, camellias, and flowers of the Western United States.

The arboretum, which was begun in 1903 at the suggestion of President Francis P. Venable as he strolled along Senior Walk with botanist William C. Coker, had for decades been a pasture used for campus animals.

The arboretum's best-known feature is a 200-ft. wisteria arbor.

A walk through the arboretum can be educational too, as several of the flowers and trees have nameplates to identify them.

## YMCA

The nucleus of many campus events is the YMCA building, located across Columbia Street from the Old Well.

Thousands of student volunteer hours are spent in the dozens of service and educational projects that the Y has to offer. The Y offers students a chance to be of service in the University community, show concern for the needy and destitute, and explore current social, religious, and educational concerns.

The Campus Police and Traffic Office is also located in the building. Y Court, with its various bulletin boards that are thickly layered with various announcements keeps the campus well informed.

This "crossroads between campus and community" was built when the University abandoned daily compulsory chapel services for all students and deferred religious activities to the YMCA which has existed on the campus since 1860. The first movie in Chapel Hill was screened in the old chapel and the first juke box was installed there to which the student flapper of the day could dance the Charleston. Thomas Wolfe used a room on the second floor to write in solitude.

The YWCA was organized and united with the YMCA in 1935.



## The President's House

The home of the UNC presidents is this spacious and impressive house which stands at the highpoint of a three-quarter acre lot on the eastern edge of campus.

The house's portico has Corinthian columns, and there are porches on three sides supported by Ionic pillars. The original cost was \$15,000; its remodeling in 1929 involved nearly \$7,000.

The first house on this site was built in the early nineteenth century by Helen Hogg Hooper when she and President Caldwell were married.

From 1849 to 1868, President Swain occupied the house. During this time, Chapel Hill's best known romance took place between Eleanor Swain and Union General Smith B. Atkins. The reception following the unpopular marriage was harassed by students who tolled the South Building bell for three hours.

Three presidents of the United States - Polk, Buchanan and Andrew Johnson were all received at the Swain home.

Today, the house is the home of UNC President William Friday.

