



Tar Heel/file photo

Playmakers Theatre

Often described as one of the most beautiful buildings on campus, the Playmakers Theatre was originally built in 1851 as a combination library and ballroom.

Among this Corinthian building's features is the substitution of the traditional acanthus leaves for wheat and Indian corn to better reflect the intense Americanism of the day.

A legend has surrounded the building ever since an incident that was supposed to have happened while it was still a library. According to legend, horses of the Michigan 9th Company were stabled there following the Civil War. Since then, Michigan horses have been known for their intelligence and Carolina students for their good sense.

The theater was named a National Historic Landmark in 1974.

Silent Sam

Located between the Old Well and East Franklin Street at the University's north entrance is a well-known Civil War monument nicknamed Silent Sam.

Sam was erected in 1913 by the N.C. Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to memorialize the 321 alumni of the University who died in the Civil War, as well as the 1,062 who entered the Confederate Army. Canadian sculptor John Wilson created him for \$7,500, using Harold Langlois of Boston as a model.

The legend surrounding Sam says his gun is supposed to fire every time a virgin walks by. Sam's gun, however, has been silent for as long as anyone can remember.

On the base of the monument, a young woman touches the shoulder of a young gentleman to call him from letters to arms.

In the spring of 1986, Sam temporarily deserted his post. He was taken to Cincinnati, Ohio, for an \$8,200 restoration to remove the effects of the weather and the tannic acid from trees and car exhaust from Franklin Street. His original bronze color had turned to green.

But now Sam's back — and better than ever. His restorers say he'll stay a bright coppery color for several years.



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