

North Downtown Architectural Design Control District

The North Downtown ADC District was the first local historic district, created in 1959 in the Court Square area, and was this called the ADC District. It was expanded in 1976 and again in 2006. All properties within the Charlottesville/Albemarle County Courthouse National Register Historic District are protected on the local level by the Downtown and North Downtown ADC Districts. The North Downtown ADC district includes properties along Park Street, Jefferson Street, High Street, Court Square, 1st and 2nd Streets.

Encompassing the Albemarle County Courthouse and laid out according to the 1762 town grid, the area now known as North Downtown served as the city's first civic, religious, and commercial center. Thomas Jefferson, James Monroe and James Madison were frequent visitors to the Court Square area. Park Street residences built in the late eighteenth century for lawyers, judges and other professionals still retain their architectural integrity. Today, this district represents the socio-economic and architectural evolution of the original town.

In 1744, Albemarle County was carved out of Goochland County. Albemarle's county seat was moved from Scott's Landing (present day Scottsville) to Charlottesville in 1761 as a result of the county's boundary reductions. A year later in 1762 Charlottesville was created by an act of the General Assembly. The new town was laid out adjacent to the existing Albemarle courthouse. The area was mostly settled by Charlottesville's early lawyers, doctors, and merchants.

Charlottesville's growth was triggered by the founding of the University of Virginia as well as transportation improvements including the installation of the first railroad. The late 19th century saw continued growth in the industrial sector of town as well as in land annexations.

North Downtown ADC District
Contributing structures are identified
on this map with black shading.

