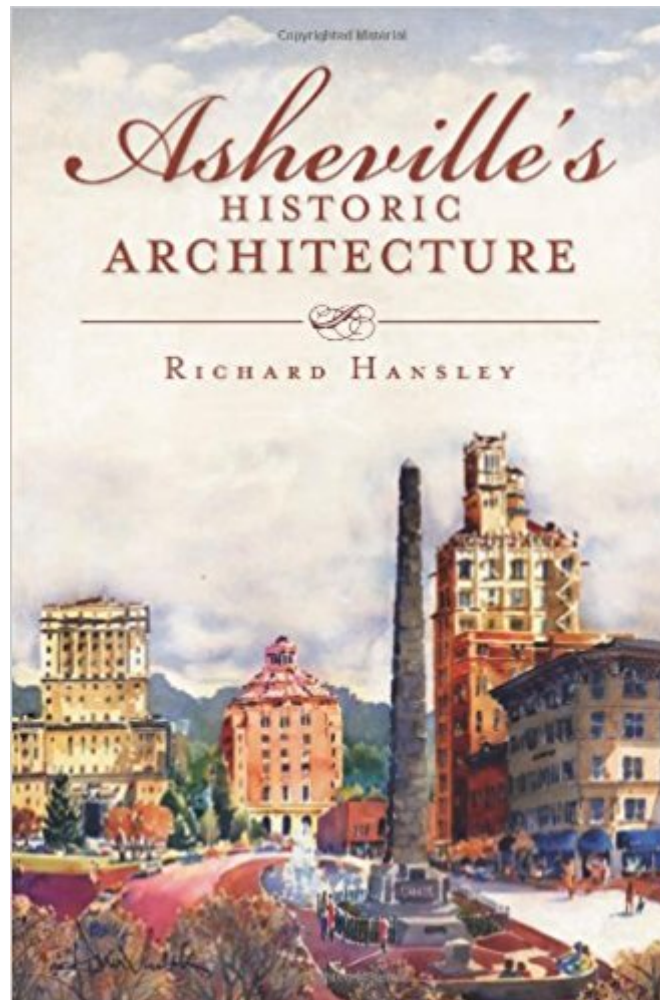




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Asheville's Historic Architecture (Landmarks)



Synopsis

Asheville, known for its architectural diversity and intriguing Art Deco style, has been fortunate in attracting brilliant architects who, with imaginative foresight and design expertise, have created lasting testaments in brick and stone. Local architectural enthusiast Richard Hansley recounts the history behind dozens of Asheville's most prominent buildings and historical neighborhoods in Asheville's Historic Architecture. Discover how Douglas Ellington, Richard Sharp Smith, James Vester Miller and Tony Lord influenced this busy metropolis, as landmarks like the Jackson Building, the Grove Park Inn and the Art Deco City Building were constructed along the city's thriving streets. These buildings have stood the test of time and remain as breathtaking in concept and appearance today as when first completed.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Richard Hansley, a native of Lancaster, Ohio, moved to Asheville in the 1960s. His teaching career started at Asheville High School, where he taught architectural and mechanical drafting. It was there that a strong interest in the diversity of Asheville's magnificent architecture developed. That interest has extended to the North Carolina Center for Creative Retirement at the University of North Carolina at Asheville, where he now teaches a yearly class on the architectural history of Asheville. Mr. Hansley obtained graduate and undergraduate degrees from Western Carolina University.

Asheville, North Carolina gets a LOT of hype. Let's think about it for a minute. It's a small city with a rich history, set in a geographic wonderland between the Black and Great Smoky Mountains. The Appalachian Trail runs through, as does the Blue Ridge Parkway. The combination of its western location and its relatively high elevation (about 2,200 feet above sea level) means the weather is picture-perfect for ALL four seasons. Close to skiing, biking, hiking, boating not to mention in-town diversions such as seven operating breweries, an active theatre, multiple (and diverse) music venues, hip cafes and a thriving culinary scene, a branch of the University of North Carolina, and you have a miniature Austin tucked away in the mountains of North Carolina. Then, of course, there's the incredible architecture. That's what this book is all about. The author has chosen about 100 of the most noteworthy sites in Asheville and given us exhaustive treatment of each of them. The famous Biltmore House and The Grove Park Inn are included. Asheville's architecture isn't particularly old, nor is it particularly modern. What makes the architecture so lovely is its continuity. There's a lovely mixture of styles and examples from about 1860 to 1930 that blend together to make a breath-taking ensemble. It's as if the city built itself up until about 1930, and stopped, leaving itself in a nearly perfect state of preservation. Parts of Asheville remind me very much of Pioneer Square in Seattle. Each entry includes a nice monochrome photograph and an extensive history of the structure. There are few maps or diagrams. I recommend this book to architectural historians as a piece to enjoy rather than as a research work, and I highly recommend it to enthusiastic amateurs and architectural travelers. Sadly, I learned about the demise of the awesome Richmond Hill Inn (entry No. 41) from this book. What a magnificent landmark it was!

Asheville is a remarkable city, richly adorned with classic architecture rarely found in the construction of modern buildings. Visiting the city after reading Richard Hansley's book, you'll be forever looking upward to view and appreciate each building's architectural detail and beauty, knowing in advance the stories behind their creation and creator.

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