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# The Duke Mansion celebrates 100 years in Charlotte

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The grand entrance and fountain of The Duke Mansion.

*Mary Gilbert*

Built in 1915 and listed on the [National Register of Historic Places](#), [The Duke Mansion](#) in [Charlotte, N.C.](#), now an elegant boutique inn and meeting facility, is marking its [100th anniversary](#) this year as both a private home and a place of prominence to welcome visitors.

Under the theme “Celebrating 100 Years,” The Duke Mansion has planned a variety of events and activities: telling the story of The Duke Mansion during its quarterly history talks;



*Mary Gilbert*

renovating the nearly five acres of gardens and grounds; hosting a homecoming for the previous resident families; and hosting a free public open house. In addition, The Duke Mansion will conclude a capital improvements and endowment campaign.

The fact that The Duke Mansion is still standing after 100 years – and grandly so, despite having survived such earlier trials as a huge fire and conversion to condominiums – is a testament to the community’s efforts to maintain this treasure.

The illustrious **history** of The Duke Mansion, one of the best examples of Colonial Revival architecture in the state, began a century ago when Zebulon V. Taylor built his home in the prestigious Myers Park neighborhood near Uptown Charlotte.

In 1919 **James B. “Buck” Duke**, founder of the American Tobacco Company and Catawba Power Company (now **Duke Energy**), bought the mansion that now bears his name. He tripled its size to the current 32,000 square feet and expanded the acreage. Five years later the industrialist gathered his close advisors in the home’s solarium and created **The Duke**

**Endowment**, a renowned philanthropic endeavor in Charlotte that continues to enrich lives and communities within North Carolina and South Carolina based upon Duke's combined \$100 million donation and bequest.

Other prominent families subsequently owned the estate, adding their personal touches to its legacy, according to Pat Martin, director of development and marketing. One notable guest attending the 1940 wedding of Frances Ann Cannon, whose family founded Cannon Mills, was her former beau – a young John F. Kennedy.

In 1996 the nonprofit **Lynnwood Foundation** was established to own, operate, and permanently preserve and protect the Charlotte landmark. Two years later the organization opened The Duke Mansion, providing Southern splendor and modern luxury for guests to “stay, celebrate, meet and relax.” In addition to welcoming some 18,000 visitors annually for overnights, meetings, family reunions, and assorted gatherings, The Duke Mansion is the site for a maximum 25 weddings per year.

**The Duke Mansion's** many amenities and services include:

- 20 individually decorated guest rooms, some with sleeping porches with rocking chairs
- Accessible rooms
- Guest business center
- Free wi-fi throughout
- 24-hour front desk service
- Full breakfast daily
- Guest library and book collection
- Professional meeting and event planning staff
- Ability to host events from 2-300 guests
- Onsite executive chef and culinary staff

With an imposing 100-year heritage in Charlotte and its role today epitomizing Southern charm and hospitality, The Duke Mansion has plenty to celebrate.

### **When you go**

The Duke Mansion  
400 Hermitage Road  
Charlotte, N.C., 28207  
704-714-4400

[thedukemansion.com](http://thedukemansion.com)

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Charlotte Travel Examiner

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