

The Obstler House

(Home and Bonsai Garden)

Please watch your step

135 Hawthorne Drive



This sophisticated brick and stone ranch was built in 1950, and designed by Architects Thompson & Ragland. The foyer boasts a ceiling medallion hand painted by Philip Ramsey and marble floors. It is flanked by the large formal living room, featuring a grand piano and accordions. An expansive patio overlooks the stunning Bonsai Garden. When the current owners purchased the property in 2018, the future garden area was covered with overgrown boxwoods. The boxwoods succumbed to blight, prompting the removal. This revealed a hidden concrete border around the garden. They sought the expertise of Kathy Walton, a local landscape designer, who envisioned the space as a perfect home for their bonsai collection. Mr. Obstler took on the task of transforming the area, planting hardwoods, shrubs, and perennials, and constructing a pergola. The bonsai garden took shape with the addition of a fountain, a Japanese garden bell, and a pagoda. The bonsai collection of more than 30 trees includes species of maple, juniper, elm, Korean hornbeam, and cotoneaster to name a few. Most of the trees were started by Ms. Obstler under the tutelage of Kathy Walton. Several of the trees belonged to her mother, also a former student of Ms. Walton.

*Joyce & Neal Obstler,
owners*

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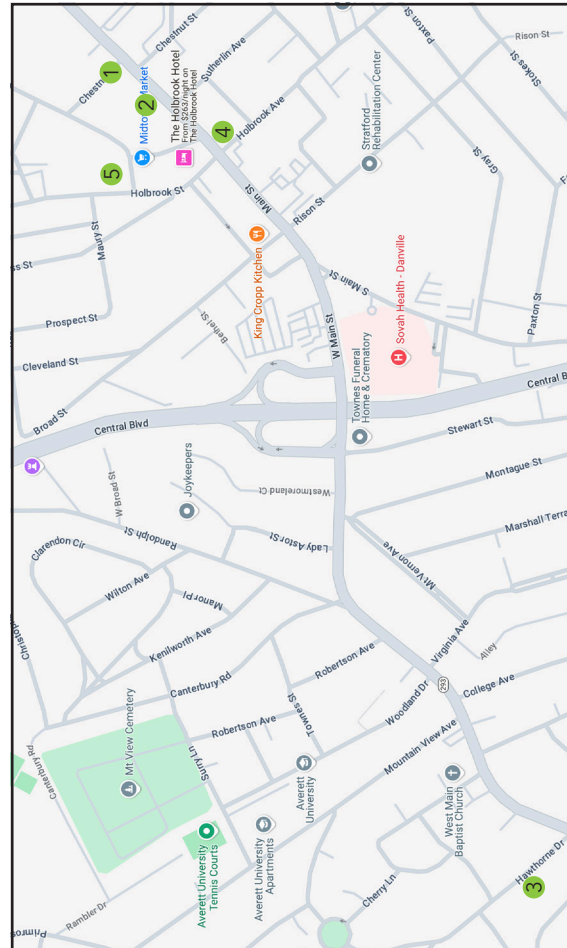
Davenport Energy

Dr. Joseph Carbone

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Younger Construction



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878 Main Street

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3 The Obstler House
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4 Danville Museum of
Fine Arts & History
975 Main Street

5 Grove Street Cemetery
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Historic Garden Week

Danville - Chatham Tour

Thursday, May 1, 2025

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Hosted by:

*The Garden Club of Danville
Gabriella Garden Club
Chatham Garden Club*

TICKETS

Advance \$25 / Tour Day \$35

In advance on-line

(Available on-line until April 30th)

www.vagardenweek.org

Locally

The Ginger Bread House

Haymore Garden Center

The Wooden Ladder

Fox Glove Clothing

Raywood Landscape Center

Chestnut Lane

M&W Flower Shop Chatham

Hue by Nancy Parrish Interiors

Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History

(day of tour only)

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History

(tour headquarters)

975 Main Street

Refreshments 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Grove Street Cemetery

940 Grove Street

Performance "Voices from the Past"

11:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m.

NOTE

Please wear flat-heeled shoes as a courtesy to the property owners and for safety.

PARKING

*Parking is available at The Holbrook Hotel,
990 Main Street and at each property.*

Danville-Chatham@vagardenweekdanville.org

 Historic Garden Week in Danville - Chatham

 @historicgardenweekdanville

W.F. Patton House

926 Main Street



Unique along Millionaire's Row, this Richardsonian Free Style mansion has been attributed to Captain Marion J. Dimmock (1842-1908), considered the dean of Richmond architects. No expense was spared during the five years of construction when William F. Patton, a banker, had this stone and brick mansion built in 1890. Constructed in contrasting materials, the lower facade is expensive rusticated greenstone. The balance of the main floor and upper floors are made of smooth brickwork with the smallest amounts of mortar inset with patterned terra cotta. The slate roof is topped by decoration reminiscent of a Viking ship. Massive Lions guard the entrance. O.W. Dudley, a tobacconist, became the second owner and converted into apartments in 1940, which ultimately led to the threat of demolition in 1965. Forty years of commercial use followed and ensured its survival. In 2003 Paul and Marjory Liepe bought the property. Newcomers to the area were attracted to Danville by its wealth of historic architecture. Visitors today will appreciate ten years of renovation and restoration, as well as the property's return to a single-family home. Marjory, an artist, curated the art in the home.

*Dr. Paul Liepe & the late Marjory Liepe,
owners*

The Sublett-Miller House

(first time open for tour)

878 Main Street



Charles M. Sublett came to Danville from Lynchburg in 1858. He set up shop in the hardware firm of Hickey & Sublett. In 1866 he married Jennie Cosby, daughter of a fellow hardware businessman. As a wedding gift, Charles built his wife a home at 878 Main Street. The original structure was not the Gothic-Victorian we see today, but a symmetrical four-over-four style. Charles died two years later in 1876. In 1878, Jennie married Edward Howe Miller. From Massachusetts, he came to Danville in 1877 to work for Jennie's father, and later in the booming tobacco industry. In 1885, Mr. Miller engaged contractor Charles Orchard to begin a series of elaborate renovations to the house, transforming it completely. Jennie Cosby Sublett Miller died in 1917, and Mr. Miller followed ten years later, leaving the house to their only son, Edward Howe Miller Jr., a surgeon. In 1913, Edward Jr. married Elizabeth Noell. During the First World War, Dr. Miller served at a hospital in France, upon his return, Dr. Miller converted a portion of the house into his office. Elizabeth passed away on April 3, 1940. Dr. Miller survived 21 years, died in 1961. Edward Howe III inherited the house with his wife Louise. Upon his death in 1997, the home had been in the family for 125 years. In 2000, the house went up for auction and was purchased by Tom Belles and Carla Minosh from Falls Church, Va. Tom and Carla have spent the last 25 years painstakingly restoring this grand home to its Victorian Glory.

*Carla Minosh & Tom Belles,
owners*