



Filled with buildings dating back to the mid-19th century, Gainesville has more historical value than many realize. Throughout the years, these historic homes have been delicately preserved and restored, but residents often don't realize the true value of an area that has much more to offer than a typical college town.

By preserving these historic sites, the city of Gainesville and surrounding areas maintain an intrinsic historic value along with an unparalleled aesthetic appeal.

Howard House-Kelley Lodge (Birth & Wellness Center of Gainesville LLC)

Date built: 1883

Builder: Andrew Howard

Restorers: Mark and Mary Barrow

Few realize the history behind the Birth & Wellness Center of Gainesville LLC. Formerly known as the Howard House-Kelley Lodge, it was constructed in 1883 in the Duckpond area, then known as the Northeast Residential Historic District, which was also the first suburb in the area. It was originally intended to serve as a winter home for glass manufacturer Andrew Howard and underwent many renovations under various owners. At one time, the building served as Kelley Lodge, where students stayed in the 1930s and 1940s, and later was used as a Salvation Army headquarters.

In 1987, cardiologist Mark Barrow bought the building from the Salvation Army.

Barrow and his wife, Mary, completely restored the residence into Victorian-style medical offices.

"We had a parlor, not a waiting office," Barrow said.

The building's stick architecture and distinctive Victorian style still set it apart, and it now serves as a birthing center dedicated to assisting women in the labor process.