



## Octagon House

Located in the Lake Landing National Historic District on US 264 near Engelhard, NC, this unique house was built by Dr. William Sparrow in 1857 without posts, except for the windows and doors. Stories vary as to why Dr. Sparrow decided to build a house with eight sides. The most popular story was that he had previously lost a house of conventional shape to a hurricane, and he felt that a house with eight sides would better resist the wind. When historians delved into the history of the house, it was learned that there was probably another reason for building a house with eight sides.

The house's unusual shape likely reflected a 1850s fad detailed in the book The Octagon House – A Home for All. The author, phrenologist Orson Fowler, studied the correlation between the shape of the skull and a person's mental capacity. Presumably, he applied the same connection between a house's shape and its structural strength.

The original wood floors have been kept where possible and four different fireplaces are served by a central chimney. There are six rooms with a hall both up and down stairs. This unique building is one of only two of its kind in North Carolina that were built in the 19th century.

The Octagon House is listed on the National Register for Historic Places. Partnership for the Sounds works with Octagon House Restoration Inc., to keep the site open for tours and provide visitor information for other attractions in Hyde County and the surrounding area.





### **Hours of Operation**

Thursday-Friday | 10 am – 5 pm (groups tours can be scheduled for other days)

### **Public Contact Information**

Street Address | 30868 Hwy 264, Engelhard, NC 27824

Telephone | 252.796.3008 or 252.925.4150

Web site | [www.partnershipforthesounds.org](http://www.partnershipforthesounds.org)

