

*Saluda Walking Tours
From Charles Street Garden*

*Intown Walk
Intown Walk Number One - One Hour*

Begin your walk at the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration on Charles Street. This Victorian Gothic Structure was built in the mid-1880s to serve the summer community from the low country and midlands areas of South Carolina. Upon entering the church, notice the names and dates on the stained glass windows, also the hand hewn pews and altar rails. In the lower area of the church yard is a garden with a fine planting of rhododendron. Also, note the large maple, the Norway spruce, and the New Dawn redwood on the southern exposure as well as the huge chestnut oak immediately across the drive at Charles Street Garden. All are listed as treasured trees by the Pacolet River Conservancy.

As you walk out of the church drive to Charles Street, directly across from the front of the church, you will be viewing the location where the Charles Hotel once stood. That hotel, like a number of others in Saluda, burned during the Great Depression.

Walking to the right up Charles, you will find the site of Fairview Boarding House at 170 Charles Street. All that is left of this former boarding house complex are the family home and the foundation of the old boarding house. From here during the winter, Hogback Mountain can be seen to the southeast.

At the top of Charles Street is Columbia Avenue. This area of town is known as Columbia Heights in reference to the many families from Columbia, South Carolina, who built summer homes here at the turn of the century. Continue your walk by turning right off Charles onto Columbia, then right onto Chisolm, and again right onto Towhee. As you follow this route, you will notice a number of the homes that are representative of the construction style typical of Saluda's earliest summer residences—of primarily South Carolina families who came fleeing the heat and fever of the Low Country and Columbia areas. Both in this location and in other areas of Saluda, many older homes have been winterized to allow year-round use.

Turn to the left from Towhee onto Seminary. The large three-story structure--Ryder Hall--which was the girls' dormitory of the American Missionary Society School was operated in Saluda by the Congregational Church at the turn of the century. The seminary served both local and boarding students until 1922. Later, this building was the St. Cloud Hotel and even later the Mountain Manor. Today, it is a private residence. Continue along Seminary Street to the end where it meets Ozone. Turn right onto Ozone and walk to the intersection of Ozone and Main. At this intersection, on the opposite side of the street, is a log construction. The old chimney at the back of this lot is all that remains of the Wragg-Mosseller house. The Mosellers were fine rug designers who practiced their craft here for many years. One of their rugs graced the Roosevelt (FDR) White House and is now in the Smithsonian.

Across Main Street, as you walk toward the business district, is Ivy Terrace, a structure originally built as a summer home by the Hinson family of Charleston. In 1920 the Clippard family added the second story and made Ivy Terrace a boarding house. Later, it was used as a private resident. A few years ago, Ivy Terrace was purchased and fully renovated by the McGuires from Charleston. Immediately after passing Ivy Terrace, cross Main Street and take the narrow lane. This unmarked lane is Hinson Terrace. You will notice three small bungalows reflecting a more modest summer home construction style.

At the end of Hinson Terrace, turn left up the hill. This short street is Hill Street. As you continue at the top of Hill Street, it becomes Shand Street which circles back to Main Street. Along this street, you will see several interesting homes reflecting different periods. The large two story white house on the left in the last sharp bend in Shand was operated as the Waverly Boarding House for many years during Saluda's heyday.

At the end of Shand and back at the intersection of Main and Ozone, continue down Main Street. You will notice Saluda School on the right and to its left you will see the rear of the former Julia Goellet Library—now an

apartment house. A little further along Main Street, you will come to Culipher; turn right and go to Henderson. Then turn left and immediately back to the right onto Charles Street, taking you back to your starting point.

Saluda Walking Tours
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Intown Walk
Intown Walk Number Two - One Hour

Begin your walk at the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration. This structure, built in the mid-1880s, contains original altar rails, pews, stained glass windows and other period elements. Walking from the driveway onto Charles Street, turn left. At the foot of Charles, turn left onto Seminary. As you walk along, you will pass the old library--now an apartment building, the school, and a three-story structure—Ryder Hall--which was the girls' dormitory of a school founded by the American Missionary Society for mountain children. Just beyond Ryder Hall, you will come to the corner of Ozone Drive and Main Street. (At the turn of the century, Saluda was being promoted as a health resort. Claims of high levels of Ozone in the air and its curative properties for respiratory ailments were made—thus, the name of this street.) Cross at this intersection and, on the right, go up Shand Street for a quiet, shady stroll among mature evergreen trees. The Shands were one of Saluda's early summer families. Shand Street provides good examples of both older, turn-of-the-century construction and houses of more recent vintage. At the first bend in Shand is a large white home which was once the Whaley Boarding House. This now private residence was recently renovated.

After returning to Main Street via Shand and then Hill Street, turn left toward the business district. You will notice a dirt road to the left just after leaving Hill Street and starting up Main. This road leads to Pearson's Falls and eventually back to US 176 at Melrose which is located halfway between Saluda and Tryon. (The three-mile walk to Pearson's Falls would make another pleasant morning outing on foot or by car.) You may wish to browse in the collection of shops at this intersection of Main Street and Pearson's Falls Road and then continue toward the main business district. While on Main Street, you may wish to obtain a copy of the flyer "Historic Saluda—A Walking Tour" for later use.

At the center of town, cross the railroad tracks at Greenville Street. This location is the top of the steepest mainline track in the eastern United States. Although this stretch of railroad is currently inactive, it has not been abandoned by Norfolk & Southern, leaving the possibility that use may resume at some future time. You may wish to walk through the city park on the left. As you continue up Greenville Street, pause to look back toward Main Street and "the crescent". You will see a business district which has changed little since the early 1900s—a fact made apparent when one compares the present view with the same view in period photographs.

Continuing up Greenville Street, turn right onto Smith Drive. Saluda's first hotel was built in 1879 on this hillside overlooking the railroad. The Mountain Hotel, as it was known, was built by Col. Andrew Tanner, a railroad entrepreneur and a pioneer of the resort business in Saluda. Strolling further up Smith Drive, you will come to Smith Hill on the left. This location was the site of a children's sanatorium founded by Dr. Lesesne Smith in 1914. The homes at the top of Smith Hill were originally wards as well as staff and guest cottages in that hospital complex. From 1921 until 1958, the Southern Pediatric Seminar—also founded by Dr. Smith—trained physicians in both pediatrics and obstetrics at Smith Hill. In addition to this special health facility and program, the Spartanburg Baby Hospital—a charity institution—maintained a summer facility in Saluda in a structure which was located down the lane behind the gazebo in the city park.

As you continue your walk around Smith Hill and come to the back side, you will see the Charlton-Leland, a boarding house which opened in 1914. In more recent years, this facility has been operated as the Saluda Inn. As you pass this structure, take Kilver Street and then turn right onto Greenville Street. The Methodist Church (1882), across the street from this intersection, is the oldest church in Saluda.

Further up Greenville Street, turn left onto Walnut and then left onto Maple. This shaded route will bring you back to the city park which overlooks the business district. Just above the park, you will notice the picnic shelter on your right and the senior center and medical clinic on your left as you enter Greenville Street from Maple. Return to Main Street and enjoy more browsing before returning to Charles Street Garden.

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Town and Country Walk (Two to Three Hours)

Leaving the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration, walk downhill on Charles Street, turn left onto Seminary, then immediately right onto Cullipher. At the foot of Cullipher, you may wish to cross Main Street to browse in the shops to the left before strolling through the older part of town to the right. You may want to request a copy of the flyer “Historic Saluda—A Walking Tour” from any of the businesses on Main Street. It provides details for the town’s business district which was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1996.

Notice the railroad to your left. You are at the top of the grade for the steepest mainline railroad in the United States. The Asheville and Spartanburg Railroad reached this point from the east in 1878 and provided the stimulus for the development of Saluda as a summer resort.

Near the end of the business district, at the corner of Main and Carolina Streets, is the Saluda Library. Turn right onto Carolina Street. The Presbyterian Church (1896) will be on your right. At the end of the street, turn left onto Henderson Street or cross the street and go up the staircased sidewalk to see the original Baptist Church on the right at the head of Church Street. It was completed in 1894 and is now a private residence. Returning to Henderson Street, you will see the “new” Baptist Church on the left.

Across the street from the current Baptist Church was the location of the Melrose Hotel which burned in 1931. That hotel was one of several in Saluda which served the growing summer community at the turn of the century. In addition to the hotels, there were a number of boarding houses which also served the summer community at that time. Continuing around the curve of Henderson Street, one of Saluda’s former boarding houses—Crystal Springs—is on the left; it is now a private residence.

Just beyond the intersection of Henderson Street and Columbia Avenue is Boxwood Terrace on the left, yet another of the former boarding houses in Saluda. In recent years, the very old boxwood hedge which edged the setting and for which the property was named has been removed. Continue to the left or take the “dip” of Henderson Street up to Esseola Street. If taking Esseola to the left, the large wooded lot on your left was the site of the Esseola Inn—host to Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald. The old foundation of that inn is still in evidence in the interior of the lot. Continuing along Esseola, the location of the nursing home was originally the site of the Pace House, a stagecoach stop and boarding house during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

The first road to the left after the nursing home is Substation Road. At this point, you may choose that road, although slightly longer, or remain on Esseola to arrive at Howard Gap Road after a vigorous 15 minute walk. Turning right onto Howard Gap Road, you will be parallel to I-26. In the distance and slightly to the left, you will see Tryon Peak---one of the “three sisters”. After taking the next right—onto Laurel Drive, you will pass a beautiful stand of rhododendron on the left. At the end of Laurel Drive, turn right onto Melody Lane for a return route through a large meadow (currently undergoing development) and then an older residential area via Crescent Drive, Chisolm, Towhee and Seminary (right on Crescent, left onto Chisolm, right onto Towhee, right onto Seminary, and then up the back driveway of the Church of the Transfiguration).

