

Hunter House

Then. **201 East College Street**

1 Built in 1906 of hand-picked virgin pine lumber, this structure was home to Arthur Ralph Hunter. He was a general practitioner and, later in life, a cotton broker. In 1987 Warren and Violet Ward opened a flower and gift shop there, and began renovating and restoring the house, keeping as many of the original fixtures as possible. The double oak front doors have glass inserts and stained glass on each side. Today the Hunter House is Emmanuel's Hair Salon.

Emmanuel's Hair Salon [2011]

The Cemetery

Then. **100 Park Drive,
Corner of Academy and College Streets**

2 This was a family cemetery until 1889, when it was donated to First Baptist Church. One of the five original graves is from 1842 — church graves surround the five which are roughly centered in the present cemetery.

Simpsonville Municipal Cemetery [2011]

The Potato House

Then. **105 Park Drive**

3 Built in the 1930s, the Potato House was a storehouse for farmers' sweet potato crops in the winter. Today the shed serves as backup for an outdoor venue. The Tater Shed outdoor venue is designed for small concerts, evening music series, concert events, and private parties.

Tater Shed [2011]

Elementary School

Then. **Academy Street**

4 The old Simpsonville Elementary School was built in 1939. The first high school was a two story frame structure located roughly where the latter building is now. The late Miss Louise Smith attended this school and taught there for forty years. Her yearly salary in 1931 was 78 dollars. The oldest Chinese Elm tree in the Upstate grows in front—it was planted in 1938. Today the building serves as the Fine Arts Center.

Fine Arts Center [2011]

The Chapel

Then. **106 Church Street**

5 The Simpsonville Baptist Church began with a Sunday School class organized by B. M. Moore in a small frame school building in 1887. The first brick of the current chapel at First Baptist was laid on April 23, 1913, and the building was finished May 2, 1914. Both a wedding and a funeral service were held between these dates, in the unfinished building. The two large stained glass windows are a major feature, and contributed to the name, "The Friendly Church with Beautiful Windows." It was entered in the National Historic Register in 1992.

Music Dormitory

Then. **111 Church Street**

6 This structure was built in 1911 by the Goodwin Manufacturing Company on land donated by F.D. Hunter for use as a dormitory for the Music College. It was used for that purpose until music became part of the Simpsonville High School curriculum in 1918. From 1919 to 1971 it was a private residence. In 1971 the YMCA moved into the building. In 2002 the restaurant and catering service Elegant Gourmet opened here.

Elegant Gourmet [2011]

"Balancing Act"

Then. **A Mural**

7 On the side of the Curtis Street building is a low-relief mural titled "Balancing Act," commissioned by Provident Community Bank. It represents tradition and change in Simpsonville. The train and heels stand for hard work and progress, and Simpsonville's history as a 19th century center of transportation. The bell is associated with the textile industry, the anvil with the blacksmith, the geometric forms of basketry with the Cherokee tradition, and the pointed arch with Simpsonville's faith. All are carefully balanced as Simpsonville moves forward into the 21st century.

"Balancing Act" [2011]

First Brick Building

Then. **101 East Curtis Street**

8 The oldest brick building in Simpsonville was built by Sidney J. Wilson in 1886. He called it Wilson's Store — and there he carried a line of dry goods and groceries, feed and seed. Three pharmacists used the building from 1913 to 1969, and over the course of time the upstairs was used as a hat & watch shop, doctor's office, dentist's office, telephone company's first office, a law office, and apartments. An addition was made in 1924, and a restaurant currently occupies that space. There you will find a soda fountain back-bar which was (as story has it) shipped from Atlanta shortly before the city was burned in 1864 by Union Major General William T. Sherman.

Event Décor and More & Restaurant [2011]

Burdette Building

Then. **Corner of East Curtis and Main Streets**

9 B.W. Burdette established a bicycle shop on this corner in 1899 which eventually became Burdette Hardware. The original frame building burned down and was replaced with the existing yellow brick "fire proof" building in 1921. A number of businesses have occupied parts of the Burdette Building including the first manufacturing plant in Simpsonville — a shirt plant on the second floor. Others in addition to the hardware store included dry goods, a grocery, and the Star Café. Mr. Burdette died in 1965, but the building and surrounding property remains in the Burdette family, although the hardware business was sold in the 1980's. This building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Retail space [2011]

Clock Tower

Then. **Between North Main and Northeast Main Streets**

10 The Clock Tower was built in 1986 by Waldrop Construction Services, owned by current Mayor, Dennis Waldrop. A group of downtown business leaders and property owners commissioned it in order to improve the downtown and stimulate business. It was funded by Ralph Hendricks' donation. The tower was engineered with a rigid steel inner structure to withstand 200 mile per hour winds. It has become an iconic part of Simpsonville.

Clock Tower [2011]

Howard's Pharmacy

Then. **102 South Main Street**

11 Howard's Pharmacy is the oldest existing drug store in Simpsonville. It has been in business since 1934, and the first floor dates back to 1912.

Howard's Pharmacy [2011]

The Royal Theatre

Then. **116 South Main Street**

12 This 1907 building was originally used as a hardware, woodworking, and wagon-making shop. A movie screen and seats were installed in 1934. According to William Godfrey Kirby, who ran the projector back then, movies cost about 35 cents. He remembers with pride how Simpsonville got quality movies—and sometimes before Greenville's Carolina theatre. Today it is the Me Salon & Day Spa.

Me Salon & Day Spa [2011]

Train Depot

Then. **125 South Main Street**

13 The train depot building was built in 1960 by SAL Railroads. The present building replaced an old Victorian wooden train station. The Simpsonville Chamber of Commerce was located here from 1980 to 1998. It has been renovated, and is now an ice cream shop.

Ice Cream Station [2011]

Residential Home

Then. **208 South Main Street**

14 This house was built around 1910 for Jonathan Dial Armstrong by the contractors George and Henry Goodwin. Now it is owned by B Encouraged. The building is alternately known as the Todd house.

B Encouraged [2011]

Residential Home

Then. **302 South Main Street**

15 The Garden House Bed & Breakfast started out as a one story house in 1905, the home of the Simpsonville Mill's first president, Edward F. Woodside. After many renovations and additions it became the three story building (with five bedrooms and as many bathrooms) seen today.

Garden House Bed & Breakfast [2011]

Residential Homes

Then: **312, 316 & 326 South Main Street**
16 **312** was Simpsonville's first brick home, built in 1901. It was originally owned by the Rice family. The outside walls are 14 inches thick. **316** was built in 1912 by Mr. Cox, who owned the saw mill and cut wood for the house; it's said that there are no knots in the wood. The house was remodeled in 1999, but as much original material as possible was retained. **326** was built in 1904. L.L. Richardson, one of the city's first MD's and longtime Mayor lived here.

Residential Homes [2011]

Walk back down Main Street, take a left at Curtis Street

Woodside Mill

Then: **300 South Street**
17 Built in 1907 at the corner of West Curtis and South Streets, the Simpsonville Cotton Mill soon became part of the Woodside Cotton Mill Company. It brought much residential and commercial growth to Simpsonville, employing 622 people early in 1988. In 1989 the mill closed. It was named 14th most significant building in Greenville County history by the county Historic Preservations Commission. It was converted into commercial space and loft condominiums and today it is called Cotton Mill Place. The Simpsonville Cotton Mill Water Tower was built in 1908.

Cotton Mill Place [2011]

Woodside Mill Gym

Then: **310 South Curtis Street**
18 The Simpsonville Senior & Activity Center contains the Woodside Mill Gym. Textile basketball tournaments with area mills were held here. The foundation floor, wall structure, and roof trestle are original. The gym is generally open from 9am to 5pm on weekdays.

Senior & Activity Center [2011]

Farmers Bank

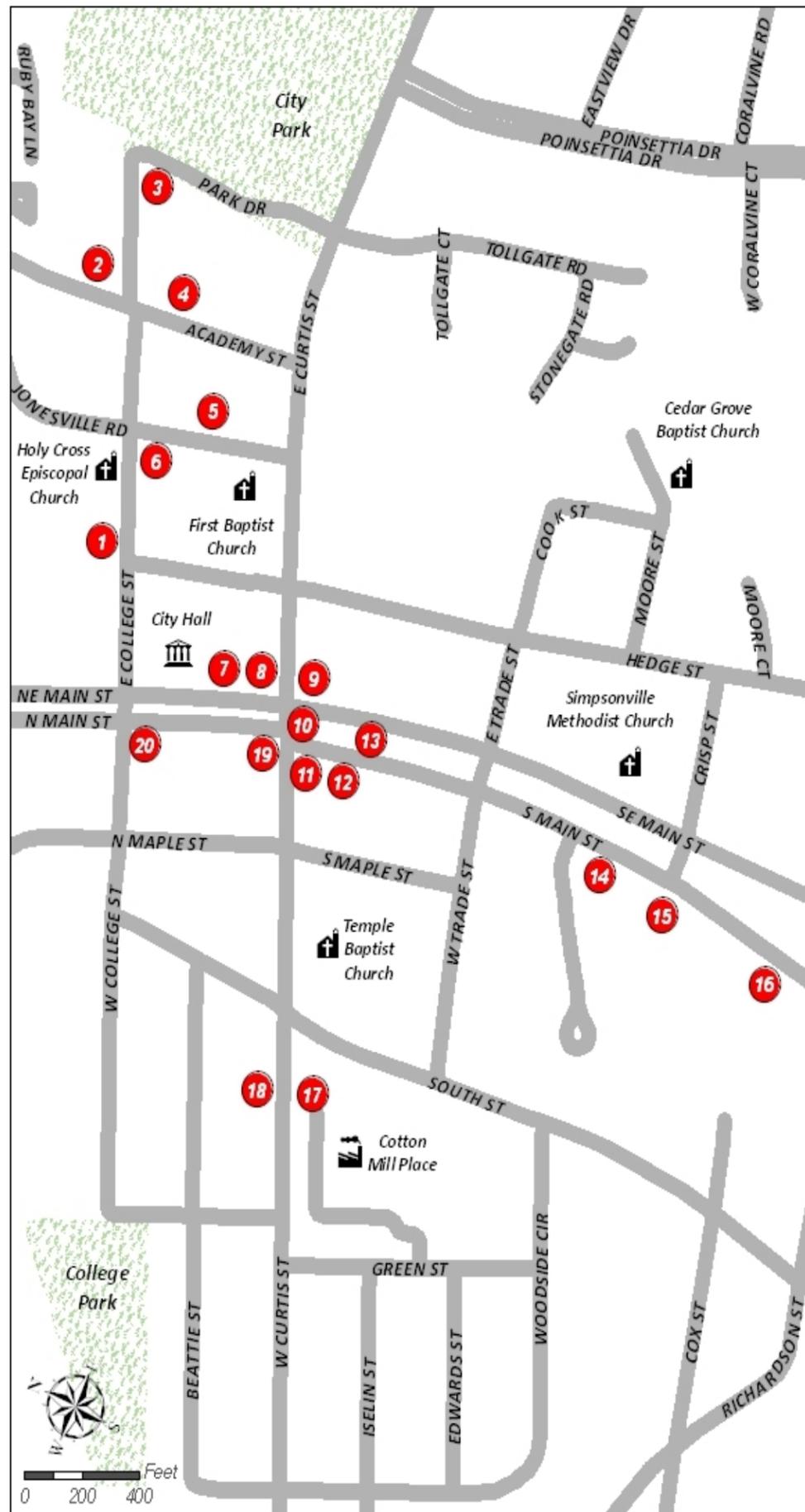
Then: **100 East Curtis Street**
19 Farmers Bank, built in 1914, was one of the few Greenville County banks which did not fold in the Great Depression (1929 to 1941). This brick building currently houses an Allstate Insurance office.

Allstate Insurance office [2011]

Statue

Then: **Corner of North Main and West College Streets**
20 This statue is in honor of Dr. Lawrence Lafayette Richardson. Richardson was a physician for 64 years, Mayor of Simpsonville for 38 years, and Chairman of the Simpsonville School Board for 20 years. He was responsible for bringing natural gas into the city, and led efforts to develop the city park.

Statue of Dr. Lawrence Lafayette Richardson [2011]



Simpsonville SC

Historic Walking Tour



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Simpsonville