

Saluda Walking Tours
From Charles Street Garden
In Town Walk
In Town Walk Number One - One Hour

Adjacent to Charles Street Garden is the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration. 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 in Charles Street Garden; all are listed as treasured trees by the Pacolet Area Conservancy.

As you walk out of the church drive to Charles Street, look left directly across the street 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, recently remodeled, 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 last century. Continue your walk by turning right off Charles onto Columbia, then right onto Chisolm, and then 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, was the girls' dormitory of the American Missionary Society School which was operated in Saluda by the Congregational Church at the turn of the last century. The seminary served both local and boarding students until 1922. Later, this building served as the St. Cloud Hotel and even later as 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. In the early 1990s, 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 on the left which reflect 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 Whaley Boarding House for many years during Saluda's heyday.

At the end of Shand and back at the intersection of Main and Ozone, continue left 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 Cullipher; 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
From Charles Street Garden
In Town Walk
In Town Walk Number Two - One Hour

Leaving Charles Street Garden, turn left onto Charles and at the corner turn left onto Seminary. As you walk along, you will pass the former Julia Goellet library which served as the social hub of the early summer community and which is now an apartment house. You will pass the Saluda school and then Ryder Hall which was the girls' dormitory of a school founded by the American Missionary Society for mountain children at the beginning of the last century. Following the establishment of public schools, Ryder Hall became a hotel for summer guests and is now a private residence. Just beyond Ryder Hall, you will come to the corner of Ozone Drive and Main Street. (In its earliest days, Saluda was 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 miles 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.

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 sanitorium 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 Saluda 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.

Saluda Walking Tours
From Charles Street Garden
Town and Country Walk
(Two to Three Hours)

Leaving Charles Street Garden, 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 take with you from the suite a copy of the flyer “Historic Saluda—A Walking Tour”. 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 right onto Henderson Street and, at the next corner, go up the stair cased 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.

Return to the intersection of Carolina and Henderson. 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 last 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.

Continuing along Henderson Street, you will see the Robinson Community Garden on the left. 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 a slightly longer route, or remain on Esseola to arrive at Howard Gap Road after a vigorous 15 minute walk. Turn right onto Howard Gap Road which dates from the colonial period and connected Spartanburg to the State Road and Asheville. 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 above the creek. At the end of Laurel Drive, turn right onto Melody Lane for a return route through a large meadow filled in recent years with new homes and then through an older residential area via Crescent Drive, Chisolm, Towhee and Seminary (from Melody Lane, turn right onto Crescent, left onto Chisolm, right onto Towhee, right onto Seminary, and then up the back driveway of the Church of the Transfiguration).

Saluda Walking Tours
From Charles Street Garden
A Walk to and on the Lazy Girl Loop Trail
And the Connector
(One to One and a Half Hours)

This pleasant walk includes a stroll along city streets paired with an easy to walk, in town nature trail which was created by the Saluda Community Land Trust. To begin the walk, take the garden path from the suite to the front garden gate and go through the gate onto Charles Street. Go uphill a short distance and turn left onto Florida. Behind you and over Charles Street Garden and the church, you can see the ridge of Hog Back Mountain. As you walk along Florida, look to the left for a view of Judd's Peak in the distance. This short street will meet Church Street and you will go to the right. At the end of Church Street, turn left onto Columbia and then, at the first intersection, turn right onto Henderson. Proceed down and then up the DIP where you will turn right onto Esseola. Just after Autumn Care and about 100 yards after Substation Road (seen on your left after Autumn Care), you will see on the right the entry path to and a sign for the Lazy Girl Loop Trail.

After entering the trail, take the left fork at the second bench. You will encounter several side trails along the way and a third bench. About half way through this section you will cross a clear cut power line right of way. At this point, the part of the trail called the Connector begins. Continue straight ahead and you will soon reach a creek and the first of several foot bridges. Following the creek, you will reach the exit onto Laurel Drive. Rather than exiting, retrace your steps along the Connector and bear to the left just before crossing the clear cut power line right of way and continue to the third bench that you encountered earlier and bear left back toward the creek. You will notice the remains of an old spring house on the right and will then reach another intersection where you will once again bear left back toward the creek. You will cross several foot bridges before reaching the end of the trail. You will arrive at the edge of a lawn at the back of a white house. Walk along the right edge of the lawn and you will exit onto the DIP! Turn left and retrace your steps to Charles Street Garden or take a different return route by staying on Columbia. You will pass by Church Street and further up Columbia you will find Charles Street on your right. Follow Charles Street back to the front garden gate.

Charles Street Garden – January 2012