Thank you for joining SESAH in Greenville! I hope that this information will provide a little background and be used as a document for future reference. Thank you to the many people who gave their time to create this overview of all the great architecture Greenville has to offer. If you would like contact information for any of our generous hosts, please email me.

— Tour organizer, Lydia Mattice Brandt, The University of South Carolina (lbrandt.usc@gmail.com)

9.00-10.20

**Furman University**

Hosts: Jeffrey Makala & Anne Martin, Furman University (special thanks to Judy Bainbridge, Brandon Inabinet, Courtney Tollison, and Christine Velasquez, Furman University)

The South Carolina Baptist Convention (SCBC) formed The Furman Academy and Theological Institution in Edgefield, South Carolina, in 1827 and named it in honor of minister and educator Richard Furman. The state legislature chartered the institution in 1850 and the first classes were held near the Reedy River in downtown Greenville. In 1924-25, the university received its accreditation and a Duke Endowment. It grew alongside the women-only Greenville Baptist Female College (chartered in 1854, later renamed Greenville Woman's College, and located on a separate campus), which coordinated with the university in the 1930s.

The university has moved four times. The encroachment of the developing highway system upon the downtown campus brought Furman to finally initiate is current, 1000+ acre campus in Greenville County in 1953-58. Colonial Williamsburg architecture firm Perry, Shaw and Hepburn (name changed to Perry, Shaw, Hepburn and Dean in the 1950s) master planned the campus and designed its colonial revival buildings. The Bell Tower, an iconic feature of the downtown campus, was recreated at the Furman Lake after engineers discovered that the 1850s structure was too delicate to move.

Women joined the campus in 1961 and the university integrated in December 1964, against the wishes of the SCBC. The university formally separated from the increasingly conservative SCBC in 1992. It remains a leading private liberal arts institution with 2,800 students and an 11:1 student to faculty ratio. Chaired by Associate Professor Brandon Inabinet, Furman initiated the Task Force on Slavery and Justice in 2017 “to examine Furman University's historical connections to slavery and to help Furman better understand and learn from its past.”

**Cherrydale**

Now known as the Cherrydale Alumni House, this vernacular Greek Revival residence was built in the 1850s as the plantation house for Baptist preacher and president of Furman University, James Furman. It was moved to the new campus in 1939. The recent Task Force on Slavery and Justice has recommended that the space near the Alumni House be redesigned and named for Abraham Sims, a man who had been enslaved by James Furman.

**White Oaks**

Atlanta architect Philip Trammell Shutze designed the 9,750-square-foot mansion for Charles E. Daniel (founder of the Daniel Construction Corporation and U.S. senator for South Carolina) in 1957 based on the reconstructed Governor's Palace in Williamsburg. Herbert Milliard carved the interior details. Daniel descendants bequeathed the house to Furman University to serve as the home of the university's president in 1992.

**Sources**


Clockwise from top: library under construction from across the lake in the early 1960s; nineteenth-century Cherrydale with Abraham Sims in center; White Oaks; bell tower on the downtown campus, c. 1911. Photos courtesy of Furman University and the Greenville County Public Library.
10.25-10.50  
Spring Park Inn  
Hosts: Nell Anderson Gibson (owner), Kyle Campbell

Sitting in the heart of Travelers Rest, this five-bay, frame, I-house was built c. 1810 with additions in 1852 and 1920 and an interior up-fit in 1988. It exhibits Greek Revival, Federal, and colonial revival attributes and details. Much of the original floor plan survives, but the porch details have changed. The swimming/wading pool and stone barbecue in the yard were added in the 1920s. It is likely the oldest building in Travelers Rest and one of only a few early residences to survive in the area (the John Goodwin House and George Salmon House are other notable exceptions).

The house was an important center for the Travelers Rest community in north Greenville County. Initially built for Aquilla Bradley as a private residence, subsequent owner C. C. Montgomery doubled the home's square footage and opened it to travelers in 1852. Early guests included those traveling the Buncombe County Turnpike stagecoach route to North Carolina (opened 1827) to visit the area's hydropathy resorts and the Greenville County Court House (it was often called the “Nine Miles House” to indicate the distance between the two sites). The house was used as a polling place and gathering location for the local militia before the Civil War.

Robert Anderson purchased the house in 1874 and subdivided the land to form the new town of Travelers Rest in 1888. The next year, he sold 1.5 acres in front of the house for the construction of a freight platform for the newly expanding Carolina, Knoxville and Western railroad and became the town's postmaster, making the inn the town's post office. He renamed it the Spring Park Inn, referencing the spring behind the house and to take advantage of the surge in hydropathy's popularity (Chick Springs Hotel and White Sulphur Springs were competitors). His daughter, Minnie Anderson Hillhouse, continued the inn operation for white guests, especially passengers on the Swamp Rabbit Railroad (completed 1905). Her nephew, Robert Leroy Anderson, returned the house to a private residence in 1941 (though he took in local teachers as boarders). It remains a private residence.

The town of Travelers Rest has seen considerable growth since the 22-mile Swamp Rabbit Trail Network was developed to reach it in 2009. One of the highlights and tourist drivers for the county and city, it accommodates walkers and bikers and is currently undergoing an expansion.

Source

*Spring Park Inn in 2018 and c. 1895 (note sign on right and details of porch since replaced). Photos courtesy of the Historic Properties Record, South Carolina Department of Archives and History.*
11.05-11.25

**Goodwin House**

Host: Kyle Campbell (special thanks to Cynthia Cole Jenkins and Ty Houck, Greenville County Parks & Rec)

Built c. 1790, this two-story, frame, vernacular I-house is a rare survivor in Greenville County. The house was enlarged, the interior reconfigured, and the detached kitchen connected to the porch c. 1840. It was likely built for Robert Cooke and enlarged by slaveowner John H. Goodwin. It was used a stage-stop, post office, and trading post. The late-nineteenth-century frame general store in front of the house was moved to the site.

In the early 2000s, the non-profit Greenville County Chapter of the Cherokee Foothills National Scenic Byways Association purchased the house and received a $200,000 Federal Highway Administration historic preservation grant with matching funds from Greenville County. Preservation South undertook the exterior restoration and stabilization of the structure. The Greenville Convention & Visitors Bureau used the store briefly as a visitors center and the association transferred the deed to the house to Greenville County in 2014. The building and store are currently not open to visitors.

**Sources**


Clockwise from top: Goodwin House before and after restoration; interior c. 1983 (note faux finish on mantle); side elevation featuring original brick chimney. Photos courtesy of Preservation South and the Historic Properties Record, South Carolina Department of Archives and History.
Another remarkable survivor in north Greenville County, the George Salmon House likely grew from an initial log cabin built by George Salmon overlooking the North Saluda River as early as 1784. He probably enlarged the cabin's loft into a second story. It was expanded into a two-story I-house in the mid-nineteenth century and the kitchen ell later added to the rear.

Salmon was one of the county's earliest settlers, a representative in the South Carolina legislature, and a surveyor who helped to establish the nearby borders between the Carolinas and to lay out Greenville County (ceded by the Cherokee Nation after considerable violence in the 1770s).

In 1984, a sympathetic addition was made and the house moved approximately 100 feet and turned 90 degrees. It remains a private residence.

Source
The one-story-over-raised-basement, Classical Revival Beth Israel Synagogue was built in 1929-30 in the then-predominantly Jewish Stone Avenue neighborhood (much changed by infrastructure and commercial development). The first Jews immigrated to South Carolina in the seventeenth-century, thanks to the colony's early recognition of religious freedom, and established the first synagogue in Charleston in 1749. They likely began to settle in Greenville at the end of the nineteenth century and 25 families formed the Orthodox congregation Beth Israel in 1910. This was their first synagogue.

Clemson University graduate and local architect Joseph G. Cunningham, designed the brick synagogue with cast-stone and wooden details. The choice of the Classical Revival—with its prominent Tuscan engaged portico, swags, and Palladian windows—helped the building to “fit in” with other local public architecture. There was originally no communication between the main, open sanctuary and the classrooms and kitchen on the ground floor. The interior likely originally featured a balcony. The 12-sided dome (representing the Star of David) would have filled the interior with natural light.

The congregation began to identify with Conservative Judaism after World War II and moved to a new, larger, New Formalist synagogue in the late 1950s, taking the Ark and other elements with them. Other details were stripped in later renovations or to accommodate new uses. A marble tablet at the ground level documents the various subsequent occupants of the building: an Evangelical Methodist church, Pentecostal church, labor union cooperative, and storage facility. Photographer Crosby Stills renovated the building into a studio in the late 1980s (including retractable panels added to the dome) and likely installed the marble panel. The current owners recently converted the building into a private residence.

Sources
Springfield Baptist Church
Hosts: Pastor Dr. John H. Corbitt, Associate Pastor Ra’Kenya Lewers (special thanks to Alfred Willis)

This is the second church built for the Piedmont’s oldest African American organization, formed in 1867 by freedmen formerly belonging to Greenville’s First Baptist Church. The 1871 church burned while under restoration in 1972 and construction began on the present Modern building at the same site two years later. The congregation hired architect Clarence L. B. Addison, who trained at Howard University and became the first African American professor at Clemson University’s College of Architecture while this building was under construction. The bell from the original church’s tower is preserved in the current marquee.

The building boldly addresses the intersection of two major streets in downtown Greenville. Planned on a square, the design is reminiscent of Clemson’s Lee Hall (designed by then Harlan E. McClure, then dean of Clemson’s A-school). A dramatic pyramidal roof shelters the interior, which is organized along a diagonal axis. Ancillary spaces are located on the lower level and the main sanctuary and balconies seat 1,250 people. John H. Corbitt, pastor at the time of construction, designed the furniture.

Springfield was a headquarters for the upstate’s non-violent civil rights movement in the 1960s and the site of Greenville’s branch of the NAACP following its hosting of the convention of the SC Branches of NAACP in 1959 (with keynote speaker Jackie Robinson). White Greenvillians involved in the civil rights movement helped to raise money for the present church following the 1972 fire.

Sources

Springfield Baptist Church (current); the nineteenth-century church on fire in 1972. Photos courtesy of The Greenville News.
Allen Temple AME
Hosts: Reverend James Speed, Whitney Wright

The original church for the African Methodist Episcopal mission (AME, formed in the 1870s) was built in 1881 in memory of founder Bishop Richard Allen. As the congregation's growth demanded more space, Cuban-born African American architect Juan Benito Molina designed the present brick church with cast-stone details in 1927-29. This is the only identified structure by Molina, who died in a murder-suicide in 1940 after killing his lover, Marie Knight. It was the first AME church built in Greenville.

The building combines aspects of the Italianate and neo-Baroque (thanks to Molina’s training at the University of Havana). The parti is similar to the Beaux Arts Palacio Provincial de Pioneros in Santiago. The unequal height of the towers is likely a nod to American (and particularly the African American) preferences for ecclesiastical architecture.

The building rests in Greenville’s “West End” neighborhood. The annex (Dreher Educational Building) was added in 1949 by Greenville firm Cunningham and Walker. The sanctuary was renovated in 1990. A c. 1920 brick bungalow behind the building has long been used as a parsonage.

Sources
Judson Mill
Hosts: Caroline Wilson, MacRostie Historic Advisors, LLC and Belmont Sayre (special thanks to Kenneth Reiter, Belmont Sayre)

Weighing in at 819,000 square-feet, the Judson Mills were constructed in multiple phases after 1911 and became one of the largest textile mills in the world. Architects Lockwood, Greene, and Associates started with a brick mill, picker room, weave room, and 3 warehouses, with a road bisecting the site’s 36 acres. Subsequent additions were designed by J. E. Sirrine and Company and others in the 1920s, 1947, and the 1950s with outbuildings constructed until 1990.

Begun with 53,000 spindles by the northern Pawtucket Syndicate to produce fine yards and linens, the operation was renamed the Judson Mill by new owner Bennette Geer after his Furman University-professor mentor, Charles Judson, in 1913. Deering-Milliken took over the mill following Geer’s departure to serve as president of Furman University in 1933. Derring-Milliken kept the mill in production until 2015. Chapel Hill-based developer Belmont Sayre purchased the property in 2017 and plans to use historic preservation tax incentives to transform the site into a mixed-use project to the tune of $100 million. Other textile structures in Greenville have already been converted into new residential and commercial uses, often spurring the gentrification of surrounding neighborhoods.

The first textile mill in Greenville was built downtown on the Reedy River in 1876 and growth increased exponentially in the 1890s, leading the city to call itself the “Textile Capital of the World.” By 1930, 1/6th of South Carolinians worked in the industry, which largely barred African Americans from most mill work. The industry consolidated in the postwar period and had largely collapsed by the late 1990s thanks to the exportation of production to more easily exploited labor markets. Milliken remains one of the few companies still in active operation in the upstate, thanks to its early shift to specialized products and fibers.

Sources