

SELF-GUIDED TOUR - Whether Walking OR Driving

We hope you enjoy some of the sites in or near downtown GREENVILLE, SOUTH CAROLINA.

Leaving from the Visitors Center in City Hall:

*Listed on National Register of Historic Places

Suggested Walking - #s - 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 19, 21, 22 - a,b,c,d,e,f,g,h,i,j

Suggested Driving - #s - 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 13, 15, 18, 20

(Some of these sites, as well as others, are also listed in the Greenville S.C. Visitors Guide with additional details.)

If you would like a guided tour, call Greenville History Tours for their options - 864-567-3940 - www.greenvillehistorytours.com.

ART WORKS ON MAIN AND OTHER UNIQUE THINGS TO DO - Main Street, downtown Greenville

An ongoing effort, to "enhance the personality of downtown & fill it with a sense of Greenville's history" - explore downtown & find these "treasures"

- a. The Convention & Visitors Bureau sponsored the "**Thoughts on Main**". While strolling along the sidewalk between the Westin Poinsett Hotel to McBee Street, read the "words of wisdom" from various philosophers which are etched in blocks along the sidewalk. Don't forget to watch where you are going though!
- b. "**Mice on Main**" - These sculptures were done by Zan Wells. This was a school project idea by a local high school student, Jimmy Ryan, who wanted to do something good for the community so that people would feel they are in a special place - that has character and individuality. Based on the popular children's book *Goodnight Moon*, a bronzed sculpture of the book and one mouse are mounted on the fountain in front of the Hyatt Regency hotel and the other eight mice are installed along a nine-block stretch of Main Street between the Hyatt & the Westin Poinsett hotels. Find them on your own - that's part of the appeal! Or, "hints" are distributed by the visitors center.
- c. **Joel Poinsett statue** - A former statesman and Greenville citizen who helped shape the history of the city. This bronzed statue was also done by Wells. It is mounted in the Court Street area at the site of a historic speech made by Poinsett on behalf of preserving the Union on July 4, 1851. This location is near one of his namesakes, the Westin Poinsett Hotel. On one of his travels to Mexico, he brought back some of the red plants blooming there and this plant is now known as the Poinsettia plant.
- d. **Shoeless Joe Jackson statue** - Joe Jackson began his baseball career in Greenville and went on to play for the Chicago White Sox. A local sculptor, Doug Young, molded this statue of Joe at bat in the lobby of the City Hall building and later relocated it to the West End. Supporters were able to watch the statue being created and to actually take part in the process by kneading the clay that the artist used. This life-size statue is mounted in the historic West End area at the south end of Main & Augusta streets in what has been named Shoeless Joe Jackson Plaza. Bricks from the old Comisky Park were used in the base. Also, the location of the park and grave site are under #20 listed below.

The **Shoeless Joe Jackson Museum & Baseball Library** is located just south on Augusta Street, turn right on Field Street at the Fluor Field, home of the Greenville Drive baseball team. On June 21, 2008, the small red brick home in which Shoeless Joe Jackson lived and died, opened as a museum for display of items of interest associated with Jackson's personal life and baseball career. Open Saturdays 10am-2pm and during evening home games at Fluor Field during baseball season 5:30-7:30pm. 864 235-6280. Private tours are available by appointment.

- e. **Horse-drawn Carriage Rides in downtown** - Fri & Sat 6-11pm - weather permitting - 1) leaving from the Westin Poinsett Hotel - call 864 220-3650 2) leaving from Falls Park - call 864 876-2670 3) leaving at Coffee and Main St - call 864 369-1411 (also Sun afternoons)
- f. **Vardry McBee statue** - The sculptor for this project was T.J. Dixon of San Diego. The location is at Court Square on E. Court Street. McBee was a builder considered by historians to be the "Father of Greenville." He constructed 100 buildings in Greenville County and built a textile mill along the Reedy River. He gave land to four downtown churches, all of which gave \$5,000 toward the cost of the statue.
- g. **Children's Garden** - Tucked underneath the Academy Street Bridge and alongside River Street. Roam through the "ABC Garden," where plants take you on a visual journey of the alphabet. The "Fairy Tale Forest" offers a child-sized Hansel & Gretel cottage, and the "Storybook Garden" offers a peek into the world

of Peter Rabbit and The Secret Garden. Science gardens help children explore the geology, ecology and plant and animal life of the region - actually see cotton growing.

- h. **Charles Townes statue** - Created by sculptor Zan Wells, this statue sits at Townes Square, just outside the RiverPlace complex at Camperdown Way and Main Street. Townes was a Greenville native who attended Furman University. He was attending a conference in Washington, D.C. and while sitting on a park bench in 1951 he concocted the basic idea for the laser. The statue depicts this situation when this idea came to him and he wrote it down in his notebook. Townes' work on lasers won him the largest share of the Nobel Prize in physics in 1964.
- i. **The Nathanael Greene Freedom Monument** - American Revolutionary War General under George Washington and was commander of the entire Southern army. He is credited with American victories in Cowpens and Guilford, NC. Greene is believed to have been the inspiration behind the city's name. Sculptor team was T.J. Dixon and James Nelson of San Diego.
- j. **Sterling High School Monument** - Sterling was the first black public high school in the county and is the alma mater of many prominent Greenvillians. The statue depicts two life-size students walking down school stairs. The sculptor, Maria Kirby-Smith, stated that the depiction shows that despite hard times, the faculty, staff and students triumphed.

1. **BEATTIE HOUSE***

8 Bennett Street

The Beattie house was built in the 1830's by Fountain Fox Beattie. The two wings of the Italiante Gothic-style house were added as the family grew in size. The house has been moved twice and is occupied by the Greenville Woman's Club. Open to the public by appointment - 864 233-9977. Free.

2. **BI-LO CENTER**

409 E. North Street

The Bi-Lo Center is the Upstate's premier sports and entertainment arena. This arena was named after the grocery chain after a contract was signed with them. This complex seats from 2,500 to 16,000 - www.bilocenter.com

3. **BOB JONES UNIVERSITY MUSEUM AND GALLERY**

1700 Wade Hampton Boulevard on the campus of Bob Jones University

One of the most highly-recognized collections of religious art in America, featuring 30 galleries displaying European sacred art from the XIII through the XIX centuries. Open Tues.-Sun. 2-5 p.m., except Dec. 20-25, Jan. 1, July 4, and Commencement Day in early May. Admission. Children must be 6 yrs. or older - www.bju.edu/artgallery/

4. **CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH***

10 North Church Street

The church, organized in 1820 by summer residents from the Charleston area, was the first church of any denomination formed in the village of Greenville. The original sanctuary on this site was located in the area of the circular fountain and flowerbed. The cornerstone of the present structure was laid in 1852. The church is designed in a modified Gothic style with a cruciform shape. The spire rises 130 feet. The church's cemetery is the final resting-place for some notable leaders including a former governor, Benjamin Franklin Perry, and Vardry McBee, "The Father of Greenville." In 1820, McBee gave land for this church and for the Baptist, Presbyterian and Methodist churches. His son, William Pinckney McBee, gave land for the Catholic Church.

5. **EARLE AND JAMES STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT***

Earle and James Streets (N Main Street area)

The large home at 310 West Earle Street, Whitehall, is the oldest house still standing in Greenville. It was built in 1813 as a summer home by Charlestonian Henry Middleton who had purchased the land from Elias Earle. Middleton's home in the low country was Middleton Plantation. It is an example of the Barbadian style of architecture which takes advantage of summer breezes. It is a private residence occupied by a descendant of Elias Earle. The marker in front of the house gives its history.

The home at 107 James Street is one of the oldest homes in Greenville with dates varying from 1810 - 1826. There are no records available to establish the actual date of construction.

6. **GREENVILLE CULTURAL EXCHANGE**

700 Arlington Avenue

Contains a treasure-trove of history about Greenville's black leaders – photos of the city's first black policeman, first black librarian, first black school superintendent and memorabilia of the Rev. Jesse Jackson Jr. Call for hours – 864 232-9162.

7. **GREENVILLE ZOO**

Washington Street in Cleveland Park

Enjoy the park facilities as well as see the wildlife from around the world, which is displayed in natural open-air exhibits. Open daily 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m., except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day. Admission. 864 467-3000 – www.greatergreenville.com/city_services/zoo.htm

8. **HAMPTON-PINCKNEY HISTORIC DISTRICT***

Hampton and Pinckney Streets

This area, called "old money," was owned by Vardry McBee. Many of his children built their homes here. The oldest house at 21 Pinckney was built by William Pinckney McBee, Vardry's son, in the 1830's. Most of the houses in this area date from the turn of the century and represent Victorian-style architecture. There are also some bungalow-style homes in the area.

9. **HERITAGE GREEN**

College Street

This land was owned by Vardry McBee. He gave it to the Male and Female Academies in the 1820's so there would be schools in Greenville. In 1855 the land and building were occupied by the Greenville Baptist Female College, which became the Woman's College of Furman University in the 1930's.

When the Woman's College moved to the new Furman Campus north of the city, Furman planned to sell the land. When the original deed was checked, however, Furman found that the land had to be used for cultural or educational purposes or it would revert to the McBee family. As a result of Vardry's farsightedness, we now have Heritage Green. Located at this site: the Greenville County Library, the Greenville Little Theatre, the Greenville County Art Museum, which houses the finest collection of Andrew Wyeth's watercolors in the world, The Upcountry History Museum, Atwood St, depicts the history of this area, and the Museum & Gallery that has exhibits from Bob Jones University's collection of religious art and artifacts. Future development at this site includes the Children's Museum .

10. **HUGUENOT MILL AND MILL OFFICE**

W. Broad Street

Greenville County's textile industry began in 1820; however, mills were not built in the city of Greenville until the 1870's. The Huguenot Mill was built in 1882 and advertised itself as an electric plant that made plaid cloth. Even though it was located along the Reedy River, it was a coal-fired plant. This building is a classic example of adaptive reuse. Inside this building, along with some business offices, is a pictorial display depicting the history of textiles in the area. The small separate building was the office for the mill.

11. **JOHN WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH***

Intersection of Court and Spring Streets

Built between 1899 and 1900, this two-story brick cruciform structure represents a local version of the Gothic Revival style in church architecture. It began officially in 1866, but the Reverend J. R. Rosemond, a "Slave Preacher" and himself a slave, was preaching before the War Between the States. He started not only this church but also 17 others in Greenville County and over 40 churches in the Upstate area of South Carolina.

12. **KENT MANUFACTURING BUILDING***

E. Court Street

Formerly the American Cigar Factory and later Stone Manufacturing, this building was originally built around the turn of the century to diversify Greenville's economy which at the time was mainly textiles.

13. **KILGORE-LEWIS HOUSE***

560 Academy Street

This historic house, the home of the Greenville Council of Gardens Clubs, is used for meetings, weddings and receptions. It is an example of the homes of the elite during the 1830's and was moved to this site in the 1970's. One of the original springs that provided a water supply for Greenville is located here. In the lower garden area behind the spring is a sensory garden designed for the blind. The house is open to the public Mon-Fri from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Admission. 864 232-3020.

14. MANSION HOUSE

120 S. Main Street @ W. Court Street (now the site of the Westin Poinsett Hotel)

In the early 1800's Greenville became a summer resort, used primarily by the people from the Lowcountry to escape the heat, humidity and the "miasma" which plagued the coastal swamps and was thought to cause malaria. Summer residents were important to Greenville by helping to settle it down and by bringing with them their ideas, their customs and their religion.

The Poinsett Hotel, named for famous South Carolinian Joel Roberts Poinsett who introduced the Poinsettia plant to this area from his travels in Mexico, was built in the 1920's on the site of the Mansion House and is L-shaped because it too was built around the corner of the Town Square. This hotel was THE hotel in the Upcountry for many years. People would travel miles out of their way to stay there. When guests paid their bills, they received scrubbed coins and ironed paper money as change.

After completion of a \$20 million restoration, The Westin Poinsett Greenville hotel is now located at this site and has reclaimed its position at the center of Greenville's business, social and community life.

Also, across Main Street from the hotel is the former Carpenter Bros. Drugstore, which was operated by the same family since 1883. These owners are retired now and the drugstore has now been closed. The present owners have retained some of the former charm and memorabilia.

15. MUSEUM OF CONFEDERATE HISTORY - 15 Boyce Ave

The Confederate Museum is owned and operated by the 16th S. C. Volunteers, Sons of Confederate Veterans, Camp #36, in memory of the 250,000 Confederate Soldiers killed during the War and in honor of all of the Confederate Soldiers who answered the call to duty. It features a collection of artifacts and memorabilia. Open Mon & Wed 10am-3pm., Fri. 1-9 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sun. 1 p.m.-5 p.m. Free. 864 421-9039 - www.scaevola.com/16thregiment

16. OLD TOWN SQUARE (now Court Square)

Main Street between East and West Court Streets

The original Town Square for a settlement was begun by Lemuel Alston in the late 1780's. Alston purchased 11,000+ acres of land and laid out a plan for a settlement that he called Pleasantburg. In 1786 an ordinance established a new County named Greeneville County. Historians have searched for the reason for this name for years and now feel that it was named after the Revolutionary War hero, Nathanael Greene, who was George Washington's Southern commander, since there was an extra "e" in Greenville at that time.

Greenville was on the trade routes between the mountains and the coast. If you can picture western movies when the cowboys rode into town on a Saturday night, you can picture early Greenville.

17. PEACE CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Corner of Broad and Main

The \$42,000,000 Peace Center opened in 1990 and gets its name from the Peace family who made a substantial contribution to the facility. Included in this complex are the Peace Concert Hall which seats 2,111, the Dorothy Gunter Theater with seats 402 and the amphitheater along the Reedy River, which seats 1,500.

Support facilities for both the theatres were part of the historic industrial complex. The Gunter Theatre is the smaller theatre and backs up to a 1920's building; the Peace Center Concert Hall leads into the Huguenot Mill. Between the two theatres is the old coach factory building, built mid-1800's, that made wagons and carriages. Their entire inventory was shipped out for use during the Civil War. It now houses a restaurant and a cabaret theatre in what was the blacksmith shop of the coach factory. On site also is an open pavilion, which was the paint shop of the coach factory. It later became the manufacturing home of Duke's Mayonnaise - www.peacecenter.org

18. PETTIGRU HISTORIC DISTRICT*

Washington, Williams, Pettigru, Broadus Streets

This land was owned by James Pettigru Boyce, a professor at Furman University's Baptist Seminary. He was the son of the second wealthiest cotton planter in South Carolina. Lots began to be sold in this area around the turn of the century, and the area became known as "new Money" because industrialists coming into Greenville built their homes here.

Located at 104 Broadus Street, on the corner of Williams and Washington streets, is a Victorian style home from the late 1890's. This home was built by Lewis W. Parker as his second home. It is representative of the home of early twentieth century industrial leaders of Greenville. Parker gained considerable fame for his expertise in re-organizing

cotton mills and, eventually, owned the Lewis W. Parker Cotton Mill Company. This building is now the home of the Poinsett Club.

19. FALLS PARK ON THE REEDY AND FALLS COTTAGE

S. Main & Augusta St-Upper & Lower Falls of the Reedy River –Located behind Falls Cottage-864-467-4355

This property is owned by the City of Greenville and is called the “Cradle of Greenville” since this is the area where Greenville was first settled. In 1758, Richard Pearis, a trader from Virginia, came into Cherokee Nation land to trade with the Indians. In 1768 Pearis and his family moved to this area that was known as the Great Plains of South Carolina. Today this area is the Falls Park on the Reedy in what is now downtown Greenville. Some historians believe this name came about due to the growth of the reeds along the banks of the river. Along the river Pearis built a trading post, a saw mill and, near the falls, a gristmill. Other than the Indians, Pearis became the first land owner through his son George whose mother was Pearis’s Cherokee sidewife. Soon after the British accepted this transfer of land, Richard Pearis became a Tory. During the American Revolution the Patriots destroyed his property.

The power generated by the waterfalls continued to encourage the building of factories and mills. In the park area, there are markers depicting some of the history that developed in this area.

Here, too, was the Arboretum of Furman University. Old steps can be seen leading into the park from the former Furman campus which is now County Square and the S.C. Governor’s School for the Arts and Humanities, a nine-month residential school dedicated to arts education for high school juniors.

The City of Greenville has completed a \$12.5 million overhaul of the park which makes it the lifeblood of the city. The Liberty Bridge spans the waterfall and is a one-of-a-kind bridge, designed by Miguel Rosales. It is a curved suspension bridge which allows pedestrians to enjoy a spectacular view of the falls and gardens. It is 355 feet long, has a horizontal curve of 214 feet, and a three percent incline from east to west. The 90 foot towers angle downstream and weigh 26 tons each. There are also public gardens, amphitheaters, a café, walking promenade that includes some artists’ studios and scenic trails. At the entrance to the park, there is a new sculpture - Falls, Lake, Falls - which was done by artist Bryan Hunt. The sculpture depicts a waterfall, frozen in time and space. It captures a moment as water cascades from an imagined source into an imagined ledge before rippling further to the base.

20. “SHOELESS” JOE JACKSON MEMORIAL PARK AND GRAVE SITE

Located in Historic West Greenville’s Brandon Mill - Bryant Street off Pendleton Street

Historic West Greenville was incorporated as a township in 1925 and became the central core for the great textile industrial boom of the early 1900s. The industrial cotton mills were chiefly responsible for the South’s recovery from the Civil War. Collectively, the mills brought the American working class together in what evolved into a baseball era. Mill workers by the thousands once swarmed out of drudgery, when the whistles blew on Saturday afternoons, to their village ballparks to enjoy the thrill of America’s favorite past time – BASEBALL. Textile baseball produced the baseball legend – “Shoeless” Joe Jackson. A park was built in his honor at the original site where he played ball. His grave is located at Woodlawn Memorial Park, Wade Hampton Blvd. Fans leave mementos such as baseballs, photos and personal messages.

21. SPRINGWOOD CEMETERY & CONFEDERATE MONUMENT

Between Church Street and Main Street

Springwood Cemetery began as a family burial ground for the Waddy Thompson family. Waddy’s mother-in-law lived with him and had beautiful formal gardens behind the house. She so loved her gardens that she wished to be buried there. When the family moved from the site, this became a public cemetery. Also, mounted at this site is the Confederate Monument, honoring veterans who served during the Civil War.

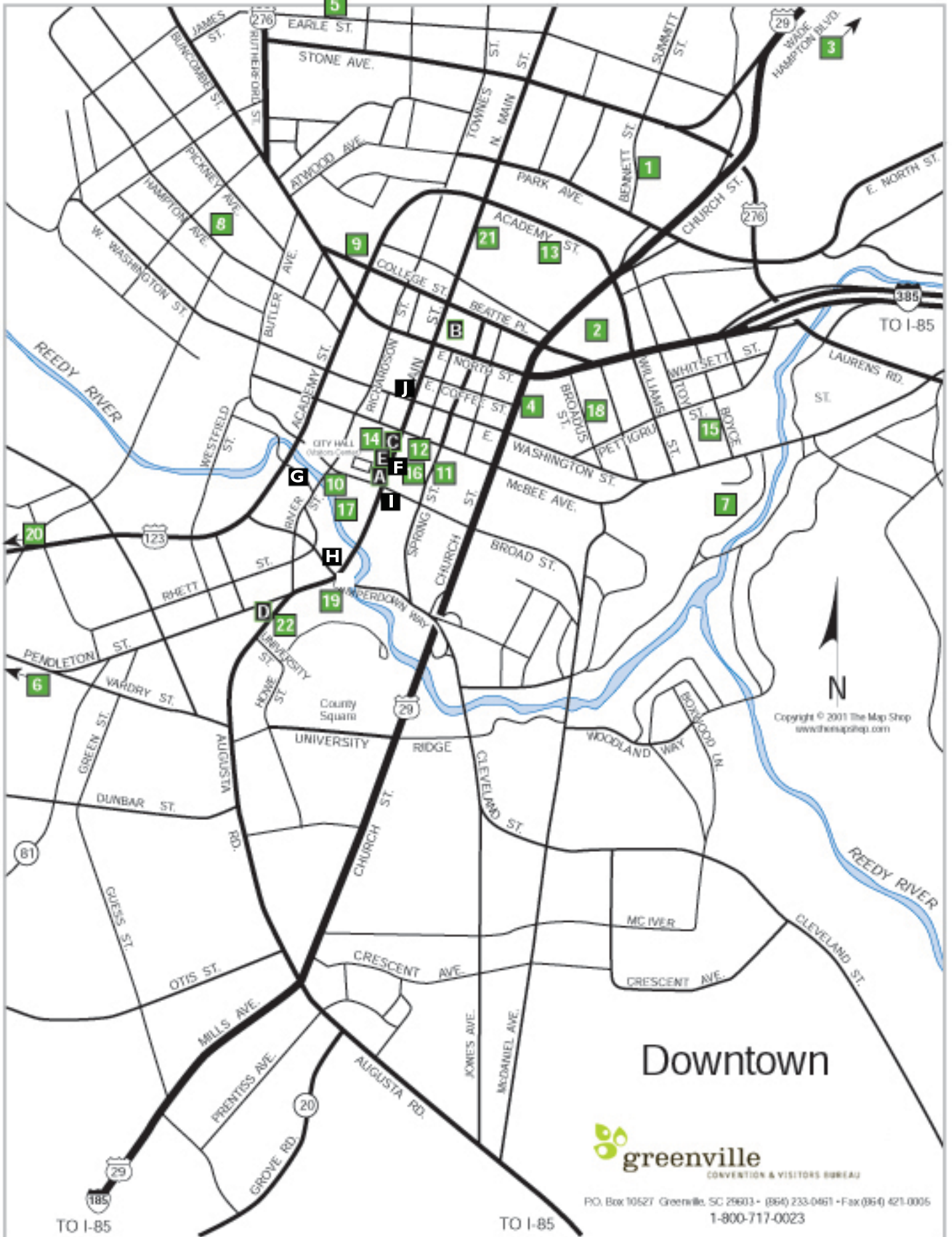
Just past this monument at the intersection of Main and Academy Streets is the **War Museum, 430 N. Main Street**, in the American Legion building. Displays include actual war artifacts from the following eras: The Revolutionary War, The American Civil War, The Spanish/ American War, WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, The Persian Gulf. Open to the public – Sat 10am – 5pm, Sun 1-5pm. Private tours can be scheduled. Free. 864 271-2000

22. WEST END HISTORIC AREA, THE WESTEND MARKET*

South Main Street at Augusta Street

In the 1890’s this area was called Greenville’s second downtown. This district was full of life and was a place where the people of the city could get their daily necessities. In 1994 the City of Greenville meticulously renovated the Alliance Cotton Warehouse into The WestEnd Market, 1 Augusta Street, which contains shops and restaurants.

Note: The Greater Greenville Convention & Visitors Bureau, 864-233-0461/1-800-717-0023, from information obtained through different sources, compiled the information contained in this tour. This organization cannot & does not guarantee the accuracy of all the facts therein. Hence, no responsibility for it can be, or is, assumed.



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Downtown



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