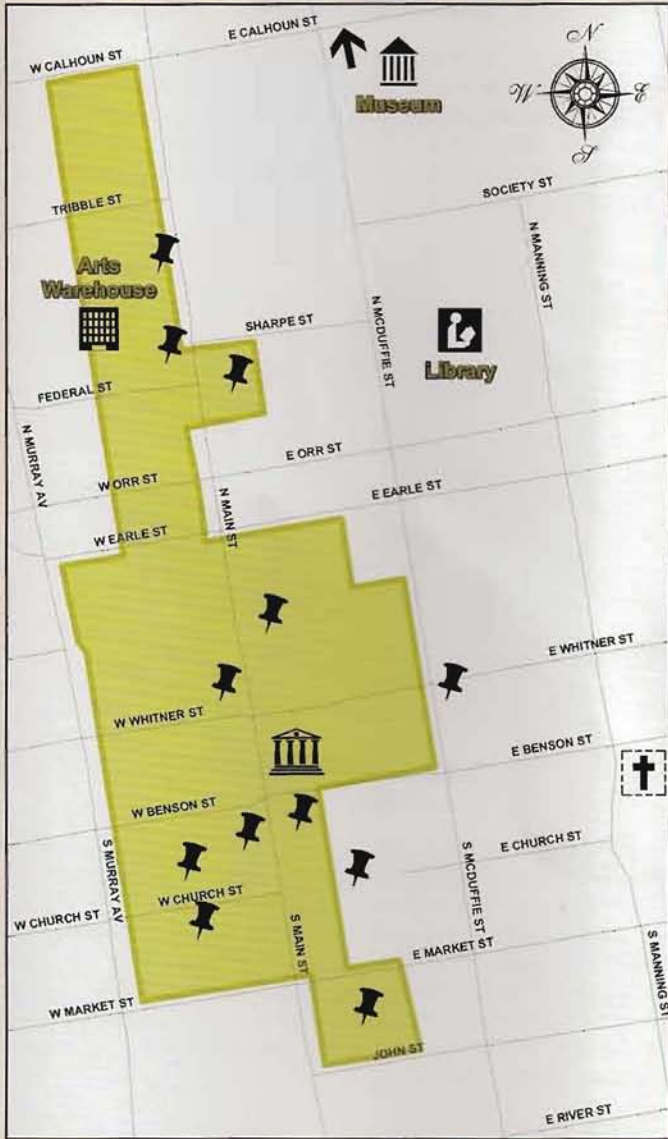


Early Success Yields City's Nickname

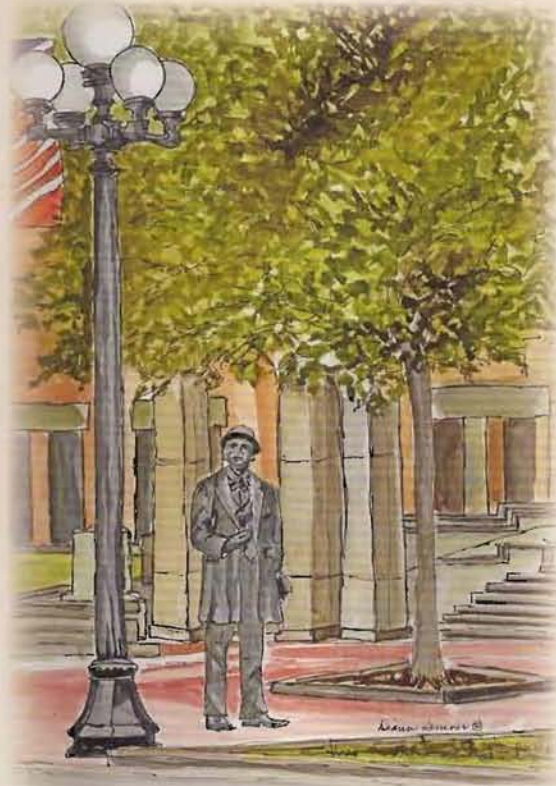
The bronze statue at the corner of Main and Whitner streets was created in 2004 by Greenville sculptor Zan Wells. It depicts William C. Whitner whose Anderson Water, Light and Power Company in 1895 proved successful in transmitting electricity some six miles from High Shoals on the Rocky River to power street lights and the old Anderson Cotton Mill in downtown Anderson. This long-line transmission of electricity heralded the industrial revolution in the South and yielded Anderson's nickname, "The Electric City."

Lily Roland Hall
Anderson Heritage, Inc.

Anderson Downtown Historic District



A Stroll Downtown



Anderson, South Carolina (A SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR)





CARNEGIE LIBRARY
405 N. MAIN

Built of brick with portico, rusticated quoins, dentil cornice, water table and 1/1 windows, the Carnegie Library was a result of the Library Association formed by the Women's Christian Temperance Union in 1900. Andrew Carnegie donated money for the library, and Col. Joseph Newton Brown provided the property. G.B. Casey was the architect, and the building was completed in 1907. It houses the permanent collection of the Anderson Arts Center. After a move to what is now the Anderson County Museum at the site of old Girls High School on Greenville St., the new copper-domed Anderson County Library now stands on McDuffie at Sharpe Street.



THE FEDERAL BUILDING
401 N. MAIN

Built in 1907-09 by the U.S. Government, this brick structure served as Anderson's post office until its move in 1938 to what now is the G. Ross Anderson Federal Courthouse on S. McDuffie St. Influenced by Federalist style, architect James Knox Taylor used arched windows, brick pilasters and red Spanish tile roof. Although the interior does retain marble floors and a circular metal staircase, it has been altered for its present use as Sullivan-King Mortuary. The former post office mail room, added in 1926, is now the chapel.



HOTEL CHIQUOLA
102 W. WHITNER AT 101 N. MAIN

Constructed in 1888 on the site of the Old Waverly House, the four story brick Romanesque style structure has been modified through the years and much of its ornamentation is now gone. It does retain decorative brickwork, paired 1/1 windows (some arched) and oriels. (The oriel at the southeast corner is three stories high.) The façade also features brick corbelling and bartizans. Called the Plaza Hotel in the late 20th Century, the structure was renovated recently to the Chiquola Club and 15 luxury condominiums.



THE SULLIVAN HARDWARE STORE
208 S. MAIN

This two story brick Victorian structure was built circa 1891. Its facade is virtually unaltered and features cast iron decorative work. Interior columns are topped with tobacco leaf capitals. Under continuous management since 1882 by the Sullivan family, the company supplied farms and textile mills for some 80 years. The building is now occupied by Sullivan's Metropolitan Grill, a nationally acclaimed gourmet restaurant.



SULLIVAN HARDWARE WAREHOUSE
W. CHURCH

This three story brick warehouse in the commercial Romanesque style was constructed in 1909, measuring 91' by 132'. Brick pilasters separate the façade of the building into arched bays. The structure also features a brick corbelled parapet. The structure was recently renovated by architect Frank Clark for professional office space.



E. CHURCH STREET



W. CHURCH STREET

BLACK PIONEERS MARKERS
CHURCH ST. off 301 S. MAIN

Monuments on East and West Church St. commemorate the African-American commerce thriving there from 1907 to 1980. Black-owned businesses included grocery, clothing and drug stores; jewelry, pawn and barber shops; meat markets, boarding houses and mortuaries, as well as doctors, dentists, lawyers, realtors and entertainers. In addition to goods and services and jobs for blacks, the entrepreneurs of Church St. provided leadership, inspiration and a sense of togetherness in a segregated South.



ANDERSON CITY HALL
401 S. MAIN

This building was constructed in 1898 at a cost of approximately \$10,000. Romanesque Revival in style, it features a corner tower with a pyramidal roof with finials and bartizans. Originally brick, it was enlarged and stuccoed during the mid 1900's. The interior has been renovated recently by the City of Anderson. The bell tower houses the old fire bell, which was used in earlier years to ring fire alarms. It also pealed the news of the end of World Wars I and II and still is tolled during the funerals of city officials.



BANK OF ANDERSON
E. BENSON AT MAIN

This structure was built circa 1882 to house the first bank organized in Anderson (incorporated circa 1873). This two story brick Italianate structure features a bracketed cornice and paired arched windows with hood moldings. Alterations have been made to both the windows and door on the first floor, and a large addition to the corner was built in the 1940's.



ANDERSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE COURTHOUSE SQUARE

The third Anderson County Courthouse, this eclectic style structure was dedicated in 1898. Features of this three story building include curvilinear gables, decorative brickwork, a central clock tower, arched windows with stone sills, a raised basement and tile roof. The courthouse underwent major renovation in 1939. At that time a tower on its left side was demolished and replaced with a wing identical to the right side. A Tennessee marble 1901 monument to Confederate dead and "The Old Reformer," a Revolutionary War cannon, stand on the Square in front of the new Anderson County Courthouse.



GENERATOR PARK E. WHITNER AT MCDUFFIE ST.

The "Big Wheel" outdoor art centering this small park is an electric generator rotor that represents an important part of Anderson history. As early as 1897 William C. Whitner began efficient transportation of high voltage electricity from its source to industry miles away, hence Anderson's nickname, "The Electric City." The park, informative plaques and rotor installation were funded uniquely in 2007 by "tba-100" one hundred anonymous donors for an unnamed project "to make Anderson a more interesting place to live, work and visit." The Generator Park is maintained by the City of Anderson.

RAILROAD CUT AND DEPOT 120-124 N MAIN

Beside the Chiquola is a railroad cut dug by slaves so citizens in horse-drawn carriages could avoid bumping over tracks crossing Main St. A passenger depot at 120-124 Main stood directly above the tracks. A stairway and elevator led to track level, and the upper floor housed company offices.



The Blue Ridge Railroad was chartered in 1842, sixteen years after John C. Calhoun first proposed building a railroad across the Blue Ridge mountains. Calhoun saw that a direct route from Charleston over the Appalachians to the Ohio Valley would funnel western trade to Charleston's docks. Plans called for a 195-mile line through the mountains from Anderson to Knoxville, TN. From Anderson, the route passed under Stump House Mountain through a 1.2-mile tunnel. By 1859, only the section between Anderson and Walhalla was operational. Substantial work had been done on the tunnels at Stump House Mountain, but the Civil War halted further progress.

JOHN C. CALHOUN HOTEL 402 N. MAIN

The eight story building is constructed of reinforced concrete and hollow tile with brick veneer. Completed in 1925 by the Anderson Community Corp, it was designed by architects James J. Baldwin and Joseph H. Casey and built by Fiske-Carter Construction, one of South Carolina's largest in the 1920's. The lobby retains coffered ceilings, plaster ornamentations, tile floor, marble and mahogany baseboards and wainscoting. An oil portrait of John C. Calhoun, one of four in existence,



hangs above the Sharpe St. entrance. An active hotel through the 1960's and film site of actor-director George Clooney's "Leatherheads" movie, the building is newly renovated as The Calhoun Historic Lofts, privately-owned condominiums.

Credits

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