

HISTORIC WALKING TOUR

- GUIDE & MAP -



207 N. Garden St. - Present Day



109 N. Congress St. - Present Day



403 Fairfield St. - Present Day



106 W. Washington St. - Present Day



214 W. Washington St. - Present Day



116 W. College St. - Present Day

- STARTING POINT
- HISTORICAL TOUR STOPS
- WALKING TOUR ROUTE
- FINAL STOP

TOTAL WALKING DISTANCE: 5.296 miles

LOCATIONS FOUND ON THE WALKING TOUR

1. Town Clock, 100 Congress Street. The General Assembly of South Carolina in 1833 authorized the Town Council of Winnsboro to “build and erect a Market house in the center of Washington Street—the said Market house shall not be of greater width than thirty feet.” The building was in use by 1837. The clock works were made in Alsace, France, and brought by wagon from Charleston by a free black artisan, Adam Blake. Another African American carpenter, John Smart, was later employed to stabilize the interior walls of the clock tower in the 1880s. The Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce presently has its offices under the clock on the second floor.

2. Thespian Hall, 10 East Washington Street. Built in 1833 and remodeled in 1873, this building formerly housed the railway passenger station downstairs and an auditorium upstairs where concerts and theatricals were presented. The offices of the News and Herald, Fairfield’s weekly newspaper founded in 1844, were in this building. A recent fire in January of 2011 nearly destroyed the entire building.

3. 117 East Washington Street. Built in the mid 1800s as Crawford’s Livery Stable, originally as a frame structure. It was recently rehabilitated as a community building and houses the Fairfield County Farmers and Artisans Market.



▲ 127 East Washington Street - Present Day
 ◀ 201 East Washington Street - circa 1970

4. 127 East Washington Street, southwest corner of East Washington and Zion Streets. Built in 1824, this is a large two-story frame house with a two-story gabled portico with square columns. The yard is enclosed by a high picket fence on a granite base.

5. James H. Carlisle Birthplace, 201 East Washington Street, southeast corner of East Washington and Zion Streets. Originally only one story, this home was built in the early 1800s by John Buchanan of Revolutionary War fame. It was willed to his niece, Mary Ann Buchanan Carlisle, in 1823. James Henry Carlisle was born here in 1825. Note historical marker on street.

6. Methodist Cemetery, 203 East Washington Street. Adjacent to the Carlisle House, the First Methodist church was built in 1809-1810. Captain John Buchanan was responsible for procuring the bricks for the church. The land was bought from Robert Means for \$25.

7. Bethel Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church, 101 North Zion Street, corner of East Washington and Zion Streets. This is the third building of the church that was organized around 1820. Note the historical marker.



8. 100 North Zion Street, northeast corner of Washington and Zion Streets. This spacious home has a two-story porch across the front and was built circa 1830. The third floor rooms contain signed and dated drawings on the walls from the Civil War period.

9. 102 North Zion Street. Built shortly before 1850 in the “Mosquito Cottage” style, this house varies somewhat by the long, wide veranda extending across the full front of the house.

10. 112 North Zion Street. This home, circa 1810, was probably built by the Yongue family and was deeded by “Widow Yongue” to her son, Alexander. It became the rectory of St. John’s Episcopal Church. During the march of Gen. W.T. Sherman’s Union Army through the town on February 21, 1865, it was the home of Dr. W.W. Lord. He was instrumental in protecting nearby homes from being burned. It served as the Methodist parsonage from 1898 to 1957.

11. 116 North Zion Street. Presently used as the Songbird Manor Bed and Breakfast Inn, it was built in 1912 by Marcus W. Doty.

12. 120 North Zion Street
 This stately two-story house made of brick and covered with stucco was built circa 1810 by Mrs. Rebecca Yongue or her husband Parson Yongue on land which was part of the original Winn property acquired from Joseph Owen when the town was laid out. Although located in the heart of town, it was built like a country plantation with a cotton gin and other buildings necessary for plantation life.



120 N. Zion St.

13. 128 North Zion Street, corner of Zion and Hudson Streets. In 1834 this lot was owned by Mrs. Rebecca Yongue who gave it to her daughter Elizabeth B. Bones. This is one of the earlier cottage-type homes built in Winnsboro. The portico is supported by fluted columns, which gives it an impressive appearance. Note the granite posts supporting the picket fence that are original to this home site and are commonly found at early home sites throughout Fairfield County.

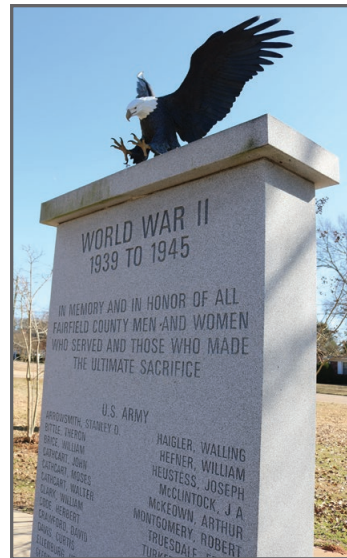


Cornwallis House, 127 N. Zion St. - circa 1981 | Present Day

14. Cornwallis House, 127 North Zion Street. This was one of the buildings used by the British during their occupation of Winnsboro, October 1780 - January 1781, and is thought to have been used by British General Lord Cornwallis as his headquarters. The original portion of the house is made of massive stone masonry walls; the wooden south wing is a later addition. This homesite was purchased in 1797 by Revolutionary Patriot Captain John Buchanan, who was commissioned Captain in the Second SC Regiment, Continental Army, on September 28, 1777. Captain Buchanan lived here until his death in April 1824.

15. Mt. Zion Memorial Park, 214 Hudson Street. Located on the campus of Old Mt. Zion Institute, this walkway is flanked by monuments honoring the men and women of Fairfield County who served in the military.

- British encampment monument.
- Marker to William Earl Belk, an Iranian hostage in 1981.
- Granite bench, Fairfield Garden Club.
- Confederate Monument: Erected in 1901 in the intersection of Congress and Washington Streets by the Ladies Memorial Association, this obelisk was moved to its present location in 1962.
- Marker erected by the DAR. This tree was planted in memory of Mt. Zion World War Veterans in 1932.
- Great War (World War I) monument.
- World War II monument (*pictured to the right*)
- Vietnam monument.



16. Hudson Monument, 251 Walnut Street. This obelisk monument was erected by the Mount Zion Society, DeKalb and Winnsboro Masonic AFM Lodges, and the pupils and friends of Jacob W. Hudson, principal of Mt. Zion Institute. Under Professor Hudson's administration, the school became famous for quality education, for preparing young men for higher institutions of learning such as South Carolina College, Harvard, and other esteemed universities and colleges.

17. Site of Mt. Zion Institute, 250 Walnut Street. This school, operated by the Mt. Zion Society, was chartered February 13, 1777, by the General Assembly for the purpose of "founding, endowing, and supporting a public school in the district of Camden." The school closed during the British occupation and reopened in 1784. A charter was obtained for a college in an Act of March 19, 1785 by the General Assembly of South Carolina. The present building was constructed in 1936 with Works Progress Administration funds and is presently being rehabilitated as a government office building. Note the historical marker.



▲ Mt. Zion Institute - circa 1940s

Mt. Zion Institute - Present Day ▶

18. Bratton House, 204 Bratton Street, corner of Bratton and Zion Streets. This house, locally known as "Wynn Dee" was built on land granted to Joseph Owen by King George III. Revolutionary General Richard Winn, for whom Winnsboro was named, acquired the property and, in 1780, gave it as a wedding gift to his daughter Christina, who married Colonel William Bratton of York County. During the mid 1800s the house was occupied by their son Confederate General John Bratton and his wife Betty Dubose. Tradition says that during February, 1865 Federal troops rode their horses through the hall and pulled down the original stairs.



19. 114 East College Street. This attractive story and a half cottage was built in 1850 by Thomas Jordan on property purchased from Mt. Zion College. He was a carriage and wagon maker and his shop stood just west of the house on the other side of the railroad.

20. 210 North Congress Street. Formerly known as Young's Cafe, this racially segregated Trailways/Greyhound Bus Station was a stop along the 1961 trip from Washington, D. C. to New Orleans by the Freedom Riders. The Freedom Rides were a series of bus trips designed by CORE (Congress of Racial Equality), and other civil rights organizations to force compliance with U.S. Supreme Court decisions banning segregation in interstate bus travel, bathrooms, and eating establishments. At the café, the riders were accosted by several white men and were then arrested by two Winnsboro police. The police afterwards released African American Hank Thomas onto a dark street. A good Samaritan found both riders and drove them to a safe station at Benedict College in Columbia.

21. US Post Office, 144 North Congress Street. This public structure was built in 1936 with President Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration program funding. A large mural on the north interior wall depicts Fairfield County's agricultural and industrial landscapes. Michigan artist Auriel Bessemer was commissioned for this work as part of FDR's New Deal Relief Program.

22. First United Methodist Church, 109 North Congress Street, corner of Congress and College Streets. Built in 1908, this is the third building to serve the congregation that was organized in 1808. Floor boards from the pulpit of the original building located in the cemetery on East Washington Street were reused in the second building and again used in the floor of the pulpit of the present building. Bishop Francis Asbury, one of the first two bishops of the Methodist Episcopal Church in America, preached standing on these boards in the pulpit of the original church on Sunday, December 9, 1810. Note the historical marker.

23. Obear-Williford House, 207 North Congress Street. This impressive structure was built around 1830 by David Campbell. It was purchased in 1856 by the Reverend Josiah Obear, rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, for use as a family home and a school. Many refugee families boarded with the Obear family during the last months of the Civil War. After General W.T. Sherman's March to the Sea brought the ending chapters of the four-year conflict to our town and area, a peace-keeping company of Union soldiers was sent to Winnsboro. Several officers and their wives were boarded with the Obears in this house. It is now used as the seat of town government offices.



24. Malvern Hill, 311 North Congress Street. This home was built by George H. McMaster in 1884. It replaced a burned home which, in 1844, was acquired by a relative of Revolutionary War Captain John Buchanan. Previously, this property was the site of the home of Revolutionary War General Richard Winn, built in 1786. Three brothers, Minor, John, and Richard Winn, came from Virginia and founded the town of Winnsboro. General Winn buried several Revolutionary War soldiers behind his house on the nearby property now used as the town cemetery.

25. Associate Reformed Presbyterian Cemetery, 220 North Vanderhorst Street. This was the site of the first church building to serve the Bethel ARP congregation organized in 1820. Note the historical marker.

26. St. John's Episcopal Cemetery, 301 North Garden Street. The original church building located on the west side of this walled cemetery was burned during General William T. Sherman's military march of 60,000 troops through Fairfield in February of 1865.

27. Fairfield High School, 403 Fairfield Street. This school was built in 1924 and opened for grades 1–9. When secondary grades were later added, the school became known as Fairfield Training School. Classes were taught with the idea of training African-American students for certain trades. It changed its name to Fairfield High School for several decades before closing in 1970 when Fairfield County schools were integrated. The alumni restored one of its classroom buildings to be used as a community center.

28. Oaklawn, Winnsboro Town Cemetery, 303 North Garden Street. A lone 1788 grave of Revolutionary Continental soldier James Mitchell stood on the top of the hill here for many years indicating the burial area for Revolutionary soldiers. General Richard Winn's brother, Minor, gave the land for the burials behind his home. On May 28, 1900, an astronomical observation station for scientific study of the total solar eclipse was set up on this hill. Winnsboro's highest hill had been chosen as an ideal spot for viewing. After this event, the field was designated as the town graveyard. On August 21, 2017, Winnsboro was also on the line of occlusion for a complete solar eclipse and several thousand people viewed it in the park located adjacent to the cemetery.

29. Fortune Springs Park, 490 Fortune Springs Drive. The Daughters of the American Revolution in 1955 erected a sign at the entrance noting that Captain John Buchanan's will designated that his slave, Fortune, would live out his life in freedom near the spring at the bottom of the hill. Tradition says that he (also called Pompey Fortune) attended the Marquis de Lafayette during his engagement with American forces in the American Revolutionary War. The property had been originally granted to the Fortune family by King George III of England.

30. St. Paul's Baptist Church, 207 North Garden Street. This African-American church was organized in 1873 and its present building was built in 1893. Note the historical marker near the church.



107 N. Vanderhorst St.



119 W. College St.

31. 201 West College Street. This quaint cottage of one and one-half floors was built by Captain John Buchanan around 1820. The lot originally belonged to Reverend Thomas McCaule, first principal of Mt. Zion College.

32. 116 West College Street. This stately two-story residence was built between 1824-1836. It served as the Presbyterian Manse until 1869.

33. 108 West College Street. This cottage was built between 1839-1860.

34. 106 West College Street. This cottage originally stood on the corner facing Congress Street in the early 1800s. Note the large stuccoed chimney.

35. 119 West College Street. This pre-Revolutionary period house was occupied by British troops during General Lord Cornwallis's stay in Winnsboro during the fall and winter of 1780-1781. It was moved from its original site on Congress Street to its present location in 1911. The distinguished Episcopal theologian, Reverend William Porcher DuBose, was born in this house. Note the historical marker on North Congress Street indicating Reverend DuBose's birth place.

36. McCreight House, 107 North Vanderhorst Street. Believed to be the first "board" or frame house in town, this home was built in the late 18th century by Colonel William McCreight, the first mayor or "intendant" of the town. McCreight was a craftsman and contractor and was responsible for building the town clock and the court house. A former slave named April worked as an apprentice in Mr. McCreight's cotton gin factory located on this property. April changed his name to William Ellison following receipt of freedom and apprenticeship granted by his owner and probable father, William Ellison. He later moved to Stateburg, SC, where he was well known for his cotton gin manufacturing shop and large cotton plantation. The book, *Black Masters: A Free Family of Color in the Old South*, is based on his life and journals. See the historical marker by the gate.

37. 214 West Washington Street, corner of Garden Street. This large raised cottage was built in the 1840s. The ground floor originally contained kitchen and service rooms.

38. Sion Presbyterian Church Cemetery, 109 South Garden Street. The original church building stood on this site.

39. Washington Street Baptist Church, 106 West Washington Street and corner of Vanderhorst Street. The building was built as First Baptist and served as that until it was purchased by Washington Street Baptist. First Baptist was organized in 1858, and the first sermon preached in this building was by Dr. James C. Furman for whom Furman University is named.

40. Sion Presbyterian Church, 116 West Washington Street. This is the second building of this congregation, organized around 1799. For a long time Sion Church was closely associated with Mt. Zion College, as the minister was also employed as the head of the college. Of interest are the unique concrete structures behind the church building. These cantilevered pedestals, called "mushrooms" by the congregation, were built by enterprising engineer James Minor Workman in the early 1930s as prototypes for a proposed line of drive-through filling stations.

41. Fairfield County Courthouse, 101 South Congress Street, corner of West Washington Street. Noted architect, Robert Mills, designed the court house in 1823. The columns and portico were added at a later date and the circular iron stairs were added in 1939. During the War Between the States, Sheriff Elijah Oliver saved the valuable records of the county by putting them into bags which were tied around the waists of his wife and daughters and concealed under their skirts and petticoats. Note the historical marker.

42. 204 West Liberty Street. Built around 1836, this home was for many years the manse of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church. This classic two and one-half story building has two large inside chimneys and the front entrance has an impressive fan-lighted door.

43. St. John's Episcopal Church, 209 Garden Street. The cornerstone was laid on November 2, 1888. It was the third building of this congregation which was organized prior to 1826. Note historical marker.



101 S. Congress St.



209 Garden St.

44. 123 West Liberty Street. Believed to have been built in the 1820s by Caleb Clarke for his son, this house is considered one of the architectural gems of Winnsboro. The front porch gable has a beautiful fanlight which is repeated above the entrance doorway set between glass-paned sidelights. For many years this house served as the manse of Sion Presbyterian Church.



123 W. Liberty St.

484 FT **45. 207 South Vanderhorst Street.** This house was built on land owned by Major John Vanderhorst of Charleston who, along with John and Richard Winn, owned most of the property where the town of Winnsborough stood in 1785. The street running in front of the house bears his name. Major Vanderhorst was a valuable member of the Mt. Zion Society and willed it one thousand pounds sterling. In 1809, Caleb Clarke bought the property and enlarged the house. It was later owned by John Jackson Neil and his family. Originally the walls of the house were made of brick covered with stucco.

311 FT **46. 233 South Vanderhorst Street.** Originally constructed on a smaller scale, this spectacular home with its many ornamental features appears to have been constructed in the late 19th century but was built circa 1840. The home features early mantels, moldings, doors, and construction details commonly found in the mid 19th century. In other words, the home has been renovated, updated, added to, and changed so many times that it retains architectural characters from both periods while keeping the form of an earlier house.

.246 MI **47. Fairfield County Historical Museum, 231 South Congress Street,** formerly the Ketchin-Cathcart House. Built in the early 1830s as a late Federal style building, the 16-inch thick brick walls are laid in Flemish bond. The interior is decorated with hand-carved woodwork, mantels, and plaster cornices. The building, formerly used as the Winnsboro Female Seminary run by Catharine and George Ladd between 1848-1860, is now owned by county government and houses the collections of the Fairfield County Historical Society. Note the historical marker.



90 FT **48. 229 South Congress Street.** This home was built around 1840 by the Ravenel family of Charleston. For a while it was used as the Stuart School for Boys, and later in conjunction with the Fairfield Female Institute operated by Mrs. Catharine Ladd next door.



304 FT **49. Wolfe House, 208 South Congress Street.** Built shortly after 1830, this Antebellum home is filled with finely carved dentil moldings and paneling and was photographed for the HABS/HAER architectural records as seen on the Library of Congress website. Belle Wolfe, the mother of Bernard Baruch, was living in this house at the time of her wedding to Dr. Simon Baruch of Camden in 1867.

.154 MI **50. 119 East Moultrie Street.** This is one of Winnsboro's oldest brick buildings, built some time after the Revolution. The first owner of whom there is any record was John Winn, brother of Richard Winn. The house was originally built as a kitchen, and the main residence was to have been located in an oak grove on the corner of Congress and Moultrie Streets. The house construction was delayed, and in the 1850s the railroad was built cutting the property in half.

.114 MI **51. Fairfield Institute, 316 S. Congress Street.** This marker marks the site of Fairfield Institute. This grade school for black children was founded in 1869 during Reconstruction by the Northern Presbyterian Church. Reverend Willard Richardson was the principal. Kelly Miller, the renowned black educator and mathematician, attended Fairfield Institute from 1878-1880. He was a professor and dean at Howard University for many years. His writings on race problems were widely read and used in major universities.

307 FT **52. 405 South Congress Street.** This house is one of the houses built by Caleb Clarke in the 1850s as part of Winnsboro's first subdivision called Clarkeville.

250 FT **53. 413 South Congress Street**
Downtown Winnsboro's most elegant and imposing mansion, this classic home was built in 1853 by Robert B. Boyleston on four acres purchased from Henry H. and Robert B. Clark. Large high-ceilinged rooms and hallways and beautiful mantels and woodwork carry out this theme of elegance. The property was sold in 1905 and from 1906 to 1910, it was operated as the Colonial Inn, a high-level winter resort for Northern visitors and sportsmen who hunted in the vicinity.



410 FT **54. 501 South Congress Street.** Built in 1855 by Mansell Hall for his bride who died shortly afterward. The house was sold in 1857 to James Henry Rion, distinguished lawyer who became Colonel in the War Between the States and was known for his death-bed claim to be the son of the Lost Dauphin of France.

210 FT **55. 509 South Congress Street.** The ownership of this house can be traced to 1840 when Robert Cathcart purchased the property. It changed hands three times before Josiah Obear, an Episcopal minister, purchased the home for his family in 1870. After the Reverend and Mrs. Obear died, their daughters Kate and Emily lived there until old age. Kate authored several books and papers, and is most known for her beloved book *Through the Years in Old Winnsboro*.

.151 MI **56. 601 South Congress Street.** Known for almost four decades as the Fairfield Inn, this building was erected in 1861 by James N. Shedd as a private residence. It was constructed of brick, the outer walls being twenty-four inches thick and covered with stucco. It served as the Fairfield Country Club from the 1960s until it closed fifty years later.

Featured Site



circa 1920s

Winnsboro Town Clock Colonel William McCreight, Intendent of the town in 1837, ordered the works for the clock. They were imported to Charleston by sailboat, and hauled to Winnsboro in wagons. Varied and interesting (if not authentic) are the reports of the journey from Charleston—Adam Blake declared it took 50 wagons to do the hauling. Whether of wood or metal, the works are undoubtedly superior; the clock has run continuously for 100 years, the longest continuously running clock in the United States.

Featured Site



◀ circa 1981

Malvern Hill This home was built by George H. McMaster in 1884. It replaced a burned home which, in 1844, was acquired by a relative of Revolutionary War Captain John Buchanan. Previously, the property was the site of the home of Revolutionary War General Richard Winn, built in 1786. Three brothers, Minor, John, and Richard Winn, came from Virginia and founded the town of Winnsborough, later changed in spelling to Winnsboro. General Winn buried several Revolutionary War soldiers behind his house on the property now used as the town cemetery.

