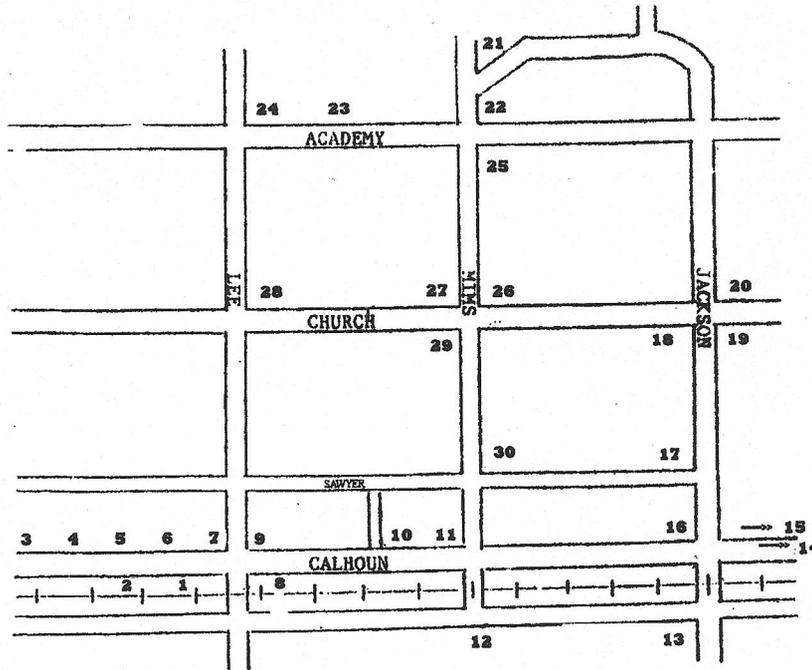


A Walking Tour of Parts of the Johnston Historic District



1. Our tour begins at the *mural*, which was painted on the end of the cotton warehouse by Ralph Waldrop in 1988. The Southern Railway depot stood on the parking lot.
  2. The brick *cotton warehouse* (c. 1903) has two interior walls with stepped parapets. Part of the building has an earth floor. The *Mobley Library* occupies part of the building.
  3. *Riley's On Main* at 406 Calhoun Street serves buffet lunch Tuesday - Friday, and Sunday.
  4. The *Edgefield County Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center* (c. 1920) was converted from store buildings in the late 1990s. The *Peach Museum* is here, as well as information and restrooms.
  5. *Tidwell Jewelers* was built about 1910 for the Bank of Western Carolina, which used this design in several other South Carolina towns.
  6. *First Citizens Bank* (c. 1912) has been restored to its original exterior appearance. The second floor served as the town auditorium and first movie theatre.
  7. *Maxwell & Halford*, with its builder and date (H. W. Crouch, 1904) on its cast-iron cornice, has been a drugstore since 1936. It still has a working soda fountain. The second floor once housed medical and dental offices.
  8. The *fountain* (1928), just east of Lee Street along the railroad, was given by a daughter of William Johnston, the railroad president for whom the town was named.
  9. The two-story building at 500 and 502 Calhoun Street (*La Nortenita* and the *Little Mexico Restaurant*, pre-1903) has a covered corner entrance and an elaborate center fanlighted door leading to the second floor. The Johnston area has a growing Hispanic population and several Hispanic-owned businesses.
  10. *Papa's Pizza* (c. 1905) was the location of Asbell's Drugstore and the medical office of Dr. T. H. Wedaman. This building, the adjoining one, and others in the block retain their original doors, display windows, rusticated pilasters, and metal cornices.
  11. The *Coin Laundry* (c. 1888, remodeled 1908) served as the bank of Johnston, and later the Post Office, with the dental office of Dr. Fred Parker upstairs. The building has a wealth of neoclassical architectural features, including a Diocletian window and a facade and parapet of terra cotta tiles.
- All of the buildings on the 500 block of the north side of Calhoun Street date from 1900 to 1910. Today they house a variety of businesses.
12. The neoclassical *Crouch-Halford house* (c. 1912) was built by Mark Toney Turner, the most prominent builder of early Johnston. The owner, H. W. Crouch, was a prominent merchant. The plantation home of Dr. Edward Mims, the town's founder, stood on this site. The Mims house was moved to the back of the block and later burned. The nucleus of the Mims house was Isaac Bush's tavern, which dated from the early nineteenth century.
  13. The *LaGrone-Derrick house* (c. 1885) has typical Victorian-style ornamentation. Recently it has been adapted to a combination of commercial and residential uses. This was one of the first houses built by M. Toney Turner.

## A Walking Tour of Parts of the Johnston Historic District

The area around Jackson and Addison Streets is a traditionally black residential section associated with Tom Cherry, an early black entrepreneur.

14. Visible eastward on Calhoun street is the *Budwell house* (c. 1890), Johnston's only example of the Second Empire style. The house was separated from its neighbor to the east about 1906. Much of the elaborate trim was removed in the early 1950s. The formal gardens extended to McQueen Street. The intersection of Calhoun and McQueen Streets is the narrowest point on the Ridge, a fertile plateau 30 miles long extending from Trenton to Batesburg. The three river systems which flow away from Johnston are the Edisto, the Saluda, and Turkey Creek.
15. The *Ouzts-Walker house* (1882) at Calhoun and Butler Streets, a formal weatherboarded residence with Tuscan columns, was built by the banker David T. Ouzts.
16. St. John's Lutheran Church (1906) is built of molded concrete block in a simple Gothic style.
17. The *Thomas Hoyt house* at 301 Jackson Street (pre-1908) is representative of the many early twentieth-century houses in Johnston. All are frame houses, and many have one or more bay windows and wraparound porches with turned posts. The style could be called Georgian Revival, and it was simpler than the Victorian styles.
18. The *Coleman-Walsh house* (c. 1880) is a one and one-half story raised cottage on a high foundation.
19. *Johnston First Baptist Church* (1911) was built by M. Toney Turner from plans by Joseph Huntley Casey of Anderson. It incorporates a variety of Palladian motifs. The pedimented portico has Ionic columns with Scamozzi capitals.
20. The *Turner-Mobley house* (c. 1880) has the large windows typical of Johnston's earliest houses. Its fanlighted door with pedimented surround and its porch floor inside the columns are unusual.
21. Just inside the gate of *Mount of Olives Cemetery* (1876) is the Edward Mims section, which has an olive tree brought from the Holy Land about 1880. The original acre of the cemetery was a bequest of Dr. Mims. Old families buried near the gate include the Mobleys and Walkers, some of whom were descendants of Dr. Mims. Nearby are the Jacobs and Austin families, early merchants, who were the parents and maternal grandparents of Joseph Earle Jacobs, Ambassador to Czechoslovakia (1949) and Poland (1955-57). The elder Joseph Jacobs, who was mayor in 1901-02, emigrated from Prussia. His wife's family, the Austins, came from Michigan. The Jacobs home is at 304 Calhoun Street (c. 1900).
22. *Johnston Presbyterian Church* (1883), with Gothic doors and windows, is the oldest church building in the Historic District.
23. *Mims Memorial Park* (1965) was established by the town on what had been the campus of the Johnston Institute. The gymnasium (1936) remains.
24. In the southwest corner of the old campus is the *Confederate Monument* (1911), moved from the railroad in 1965. The Johnston Institute classroom building stood here. Nearby is a state historical monument (2008) for Johnston Schools and Johnston Educators.
25. The *Denny house* (c. 1885) was the home of Tillman R. Denny, second mayor of Johnston, and his daughter Antoinette, teacher and musician. The dormer windows and two-story wing are recent additions.
26. The *Jacob Smith house* (c. 1905) was built by a prominent farmer and state representative on the site of the Calhoun Hotel, which was used for a time as the boys' dormitory of the Johnston Institute.
27. *Isabella's Retreat* (c. 1875) was originally the Saluda House Hotel, operated like its neighbor across the street by the Calhoun family. Later it was the girls' dormitory of the Johnston Institute. For many years the home of Mrs. Carrie Hatcher, prominent churchwoman, the house was an antique shop from the early 1960s. It has Greek Revival lines with Italian influence. The original milk house is now attached to the building.
28. Visible westward up Church Street is the Victorian-style *Cox house* (c. 1890), the home of Joe W. Cox, attorney and state representative. The home was used as a bed and breakfast until recently.
29. The *Moyer house* (c. 1872) is considered the oldest house in town. An early owner was Captain Thomas Jones. The house was expanded and remodeled by Dr. and Mrs. J. G. Halford in 1933. The back wing was moved intact from the Enoch Grigsby house (c. 1772) in Saluda County.
30. The *Johnston Municipal Building* (1952) houses the town's police and fire departments.

A visit to Johnston should include a look at five other nineteenth-century houses which represent important Victorian architectural substyles. The *Carwile-Huiet house* at 302 Calhoun Street (c. 1874) is a Greek Revival raised cottage. It housed the town's kindergarten and early primary grades for some years. The *A. J. Mobley house* at 607 Edisto Street (c. 1888) is a vernacular adaptation of the Greek Revival style. It was the home of Edwin Ruthven Mobley, Mayor of Johnston for a total of 34 years between 1919 and 1961.

Typically Victorian-style houses include the *John Payne house*, 112 Calhoun Street (c. 1883) and the *White-Mitchell house*, next to the Amoco station on Addison Street between Lee and Edisto (c. 1885). Both houses have a wealth of Victorian-style ornamentation, including decorative shingles and elaborate trim on the porches. The *Mary Eliza Walker house* (1892) at 218 Edisto Street was built by a daughter of Dr. Edward Mims. It is a fine example of the Queen Anne Revival Style, which is so highly decorated that critics call it "Queen Anne gone mad." Edisto Street was once nicknamed Vanderbilt Avenue because of the elegance of its houses.

Revised 7/08 by Owen Clark