Welcome to historic Greer, South Carolina. Part of the great Cherokee Nation, the area first became significant when the British proclaimed a boundary to settle tensions between Native Americans and the settlers attracted by good land and plentiful water. The official survey in 1767 marked the North-South Indian Boundary Line that is the Greenville-Spartanburg County Line today.

The site of Greer itself was once part of Hugh Bailey’s huge plantation. 100 years later James Manning Greer purchased a parcel of that land near the Boundary Line. Approached by the Atlanta-Richmond Airline Railroad (later the Southern) in 1868, he agreed to sell right-of-way and a few acres for a train depot.

Once the depot was built, local farmers were heard to say, “I’m going over to “Greer’s Depot.” Even the post office in the small station used the postmark “Greer’s Depot, SC.” Thus, when W. Terry Shumate bought Greer’s land and subdivided it, he set in motion the beginnings of the town. On March 25, 1876, the town was incorporated as Greers, and Hugh Bailey’s son, William, was elected mayor.

In 1913 the Piedmont and Northern Railroad laid tracks through Greer for a second railroad. The strong cotton market and two active train lines made Greer an attractive site for commerce. Textile mills, such as Victor, Franklin, Apalache, and Greer Mill, provided employment. Agricultural products, especially cotton and peaches, were grown and shipped by rail and truck.

Just as the railroads brought progress to Greer, the Greenville/Spartanburg International Airport and Interstate 85 became important to the growth of Greer in the 20th century. As textile mills closed, Greer saw a diversification of industry, a population surge, and a strong community commitment to education and quality of life.


Historical Homes in Greer Station

Three homes in the downtown area of Greer are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The R. Perry Turner House, at the corner of North Main and Arlington, is situated approximately in the center of a one acre plus lot, with the formal entrance facing North Main Street. There is a large, partially tree-canopied lawn in the front and landscaped gardens in the rear. These include a rose garden and a gazebo, as well as a vegetable garden that is hidden from view.

The house, constructed in 1937, is significant as an excellent example of the Neo-Classical style of residence; as an important residential design of William Ward, architect of Greenville, South Carolina; and for its association with R. Perry Turner, a prominent Greer businessman. In addition, the Perry Turner house is of importance as it relates to a landscape and setting with a residential neighborhood of Greer. It is particularly significant also as an extensive residential design and construction in what was known as the secondary depression of 1937. The house was begun the 3rd of February and completed the 13th day of September. It was a large structure, and according to the owner, Annie Turner Kendrick, people asked if they were building a hotel.

The Robert G. Turner House is located at the corner of North Main Street and Fairview in Greer. Just behind the lot is a white farm house known historically as the Leake House. The Turners lived in this house when it was located on the corner of North Main and Fairview. They moved the frame house to the rear of the lot in order to build the brick home that was designed by William Ward. According to Annie Turner Kendrick, sister-in-law of Robert Turner, “Mary (Robert’s wife) and Eleanor (their daughter) saw a house they liked in Greenville and inquired as to who had drawn the plans for it.”

At 101 James Street, Greenville, there is a William Ward designed home that greatly resembles the one at 305 North Main in Greer. According to the owner, the home in Greenville was built in 1935. The Turner home in Greer was completed before Christmas of 1935, according to the wife of an employee who attended a party there that season.

The Davenport House, at 100 Randall Street, was constructed in 1921. It is significant as an excellent example of an early twentieth century Tudor Revival residence; as an important residential design of Beacham and LeGrand, Greenville architects, and for its association with D.D. Davenport, Greer merchant and financier.


The depot, on Randall Street, was listed separately on the National Register prior to the nomination of the Greer Downtown Historic District.
1. Bailey Building 201 Trade Street- The T. E. Smith Store building was built around 1915 by T. E. Smith, Mayor of Greer, and named for his wife Fannie Bailey. Greer old-timers remember the later store at this site called The Leader, a department store where many families shopped.

2. Trade Street Place was once Peebles & Kimbrell Department Store, a family store with main floor merchandise and a downstairs bargain basement.

3. The Starlight Ballroom occupies the building that was the Graham Cash Store, built in 1947 by John Graham as a general merchandise store.

4. Piedmont & Northern Railroad Depot A visit to the shops in the old Piedmont & Northern Depot reminds one of Greer's railroad days. The Spartanburg/Greenville/Anderson line of the electric interurban, built in late 1933, brought nine passenger trains a day in each direction, beginning at 6:30 a.m. and ending at 10:00 p.m. Service was discontinued in 1951. Just over the tracks was the Southern Depot, no longer standing.

5. Greater Greer Chamber of Commerce 111 Trade Street- Erected circa 1915 by R. L. Marchant, the building housing the Chamber was once a furniture store owned by Samuel Hutchings. In 1931 the Commission of Public Works purchased the building, offering business on the first floor and the “House of Charm” upstairs to showcase the latest appliances. A home economist provided the cooking and sewing classes. After the Commission left in 1960, the buildings served as the Greer City Hall for 8 years.

6. Marchant Building 200 Trade Street- Dr. Robert L. Marchant built this building for his Greer Drug Company, a Revsell Drug Store, in 1910 at a cost of $850. Thomas Keating was the architect. The only three-story building in downtown Greer, the drug store occupied the first floor, Dr. Drummond the dentists was on the second floor, and the third floor was once used by the Bailey Masonic Lodge.

7. Bank of Greens 116 Trade Street- The first bank on this corner was called the Bank of Greers, opening in 1900. This 1920 building is an excellent example of the Neo-Classical style. After many banks failed during the Depression, the reorganized Bank of Greer occupied the building for many years.

8. Marchant Building 200 Trade Street- Dr. Robert L. Marchant built this building for his Greer Drug Company, a Revsell Drug Store, in 1910 at a cost of $850. Thomas Keating was the architect. The only three-story building in downtown Greer, the drug store occupied the first floor, Dr. Drummond the dentists was on the second floor, and the third floor was once used by the Bailey Masonic Lodge.

9. Marchant Building 200 Trade Street- Dr. Robert L. Marchant built this building for his Greer Drug Company, a Revsell Drug Store, in 1910 at a cost of $850. Thomas Keating was the architect. The only three-story building in downtown Greer, the drug store occupied the first floor, Dr. Drummond the dentists was on the second floor, and the third floor was once used by the Bailey Masonic Lodge.

10. 202, 204 Trade Street- The Greer Post Office once used the building beside the drug store. A&P Grocery occupied 204.

11. 215 Trade Street- Built between 1913 and 1915 as a hardware store, this building had alleys on each side. Still visible inside the building next door is the advertisement for “BUGGIES, FARM IMPLEMENTS, STUDEBAKER WAGONS” that is painted on the brick wall. The hand-pulled elevator in the rear of the building was used to carry large items upstairs for storage. J. B. Menidenhall and Louise James were early owners. In the 1920s, it became Sullivan-Eskew Hardware and was a fixture in downtown for many years.

12. Smith and James 222 Trade Street- Smith and James, the oldest retail store in downtown Greer, has been dressing the men of Greer since 1916.

13. Trade Street Place 224 Trade Street- Trade Street Place was once Peebles & Kinbrell Department Store, a family store with main floor merchandise and a downstairs bargain basement.

14. Bullock's Barber Shop 225 Trade Street- On this site, tombstones were once sold, and in the rear the blacksmith shoeed horses. Around 1935 the barber shop was built. The building also had showers in the rear, allowing gentlemen to have the full works—shave, haircut, and shower.

15. The Davenport Building 230 Trade Street- Malcolm Davenport once sold general merchandise in the Mutual Mercantile Company and women's wear in the Proper Ladies' Store adjoining. Upstairs over the two stores was a large public space for performances. Later Hill used the buildings to sell clothing.

16. Piedmont & Northern Railroad Depot A visit to the shops in the old Piedmont & Northern Depot reminds one of Greer's railroad days. The Spartanburg/Greenville/Anderson line of the electric interurban, built in late 1933, brought nine passenger trains a day in each direction, beginning at 6:30 a.m. and ending at 10:00 p.m. Service was discontinued in 1951. Just over the tracks was the Southern Depot, no longer standing.

17. 300-302 Trade Street- Peoples Bank occupied 300 Trade Street originally. Next door the Dixie Theatre, owned by C. W. Druce, later became known as The Rialto and showed movies until the 1950s.

18. Randall Street Randall Street was once as busy as Trade Street. On the block from Depot Street to Trade Street, now the site of the Citizens Savings & Loan Association, there was a row of businesses beginning with Wood & Wood Store and the Wood Morrory upstairs. On the corner was a hotel for travelers arriving at the two depots. Across the street the city built a building for fire, police, and city hall.

19. Davenport House- The Davenport home, designed by Beacham and Douthit and started in 1918 for Malcolm and Clara Davenport, was completed in 1922. It is an English Tudor house with 6,000 sq. ft. This private residence, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is not open to the public.

20. Davenport Memorial Library 113 Trade Street- In September 1938 the Davenport Memorial Library opened to the public. Named for Clara Davenport, the building, designed by Beacham, was erected by WPA Labor. The downstairs was used as a community meeting room and was once the USO Club during World War II.

21. First Presbyterian Church 100 Trade Street- The First Presbyterian Church, Greer's oldest church, was organized in 1840 as Mt. Tabor Presbyterian near Bailey's Crossroads in Pleasant Grove. It was literally moved to Greer in 1880 when the white frame building was rolled onto logs and pulled by mules to town. The present church was built in 1923.

22. Greer Post Office 106 S. Main Street- In October 1875 a request was made for a post office in the Chick Springs Township to be placed at the Depot West. A. P. Pollard, the first postmaster, received mail in one room of the old Southern Depot, no longer standing. In 1933, after using various rented spaces downtown, this fine building was built and used until 1964. It became Greer City Hall and in 2009 will house the Greer Heritage Museum.

East Pointsett Street

The 100 block of E. Pointsett Street was considered part of Trade Street. The first McLeskey Todd Drug Store was at 105. The next three stores were built by Cannilham with one of them housing the Greer Post Office. The Elmore Hotel used 115-117 with rooms up and a restaurant down. Across the street Drace the photographer was busy capturing the images of early Greer. Scudder's Antiques occupies Thompson's Hardware before he moved to Trade. On down the street the public enjoyed The Grand Theater (the missing building) and Ponder's Ice Cream, a company known for quality ice cream and bottled drinks.

Greer City Hall

Welcome to Greer City Hall, opened in 2008 between E. Poinsett Street and Line Street, a part of the Old Indian Boundary Line. This historic area is also home to the first City Park built in 1934 and recently revitalized. The 1930s National Guard Armory is located at the edge of the park. Also take a walk through Edgewood Cemetery, Greer's oldest public cemetery dating from 1880.

Research by Joada Hiatt, Greer Heritage Museum