



## Historic Simpsonville 5/11K Walk Y2920©2023

The UpState PathFinders Volksmarch Club of Greenville, SC., and only South Carolina member of AVA: America’s Walking Club. We welcome you to our Historic Simpsonville 5/10k Year-Round Event (YRE) and we thank you for taking interest in one of our walks. This event is rated 1B and the start/finish is in the parking lot across from the Fire Station at 403 E Curtis St.

### Walk Registration

Registration takes place online using that AVA Online Start Box, on my.ava.org. You must have an account. Follow the instructions provided to create a user account and sign the AVA waiver (one time).

1. **For AVA Book Participants: Register as credit.** The bank deducts \$4 (\$2 for AVA when directions downloaded and \$2 for the local club when you complete the Finish Tab).
2. **No IVV/AVA record books: Register as NC (No Credit).** The bank deducts \$2 for AVA directions when downloaded; the club does not receive any fee regardless if the NC participants chooses to use or not use the Finish Tab. The POC does not provide event directions or accept alternate payment methods.

### Walk Completion and Walk Credit for AVA Book Participants

Once you have physically completed the walk, please login to your Online Start Box account, click on the “My Start Box” tab, and then click on “Go to Finish Table” button for the event you have completed. Use the displayed entry form to submit the date and distance of your walk as well as select applicable AVA Special Programs to generate stamped “virtual” insert cards that you may choose to print out from the Insert Card tab.

### Walk Completion for non-AVA Book Participants

Once you have physically completed the walk you are finished. Optionally, and appreciated, you may login to your Online Start Box account, click on the “My Start Box” tab, and then click on “Go to Finish Table” and donate to the club by selecting the Finish Table and use the Optional Non-IVV Participation Fee.

Please go to page 7 for links and more details on our walks. Find us on [Meet Up Upstate Pathfinders](#) to join us on one of our bimonthly walks.

### Table of Contents

Use the following table to guide what portion of this document you may wish to print out

CONTENTS	PAGE
Introduction, Walk Registration, Walk Completion and Walk Credit, Table of Contents.	1
Simpsonville History, Driving Directions, Restrooms	2
Historic Simpsonville walk instructions.	3
Points Of Interest information.	4
Historic Simpsonville map 5K & 1 <sup>st</sup> part of 11K route.	5
Historic Simpsonville map 2d part of 11K route.	6
Special Programs for Historic Simpsonville, Listing of UpState PathFinders’ YRE’s (Year-Round Events).	7

## Simpsonville History

Incorporated on August 13, 1901, Simpsonville began many decades earlier as a crossroads hamlet where the Old Stage Road intersected a former Cherokee trail, later named the Georgia Road. Residents of northeast Laurens County became Simpsonville's first businessmen. In 1838 the farmer Peter Simpson arrived and established a blacksmithing operation, followed shortly thereafter by the merchant Silas Gilbert, who opened a general store. In that same year the locale was assigned a post office called Plain. As Simpson's services grew in popularity, the crossroads became known as Simpsonville. However, in 1853 the Greenville and Columbia Railroad was completed several miles east of Simpsonville and siphoned off wagon trade and brought growth in the village to a standstill through Reconstruction.

After the war members of the local African American population left the churches of former slaveowners and organized Cedar Grove Baptist Church in 1870, the first church within the modern city limits. Completion of the Greenville and Laurens Railroad near Simpsonville in the mid-1880s brought further change. A high school was built, and a merchant, Sidney J. Wilson, surveyed land for a town and began selling lots. In 1886 the Plain post office officially became Simpsonville. Soon the town became a cotton-processing hub, claiming three gins and a cottonseed oil mill by 1900. That same year the Simpsonville population reached four hundred. In 1907 town representatives solicited the brothers John and Edward Woodside to build the Simpsonville Cotton Mill, which remained the town's largest employer until after World War II.

Schools enjoyed a great deal of attention. In 1911 the Simpsonville Music College was established, and in 1915 the high school issued the first state diplomas in Greenville County. Also, between 1921 and 1940, the Simpsonville High School girls' basketball team, the "Whirlwind," amassed 303 wins and four state championships.

During the Depression of the 1930s, the Farmer's Bank of Simpsonville was one of the few banks in Greenville County that did not fail, but Simpsonville remained a stagnant agricultural center until 1953, when the Greenville Water Works extended its system through the towns of Mauldin, Simpsonville, and Fountain Inn. The towns served by this new water line, dubbed the "Golden Strip" by a local reporter, became attractive locations for industrial development in the early 1960s. A simultaneous demand for new housing and the widening of U.S. Highway 276 in 1956 laid the foundation for

further expansion. In the 1980s Simpsonville began attracting residential overflow from the Greenville-Spartanburg metropolitan area. Industry accelerated on Simpsonville's periphery along Interstate 385, and houses were purchased by employees in the larger urban areas as well as by local workers. Between 1970 and 1990 Simpsonville's population grew 254 percent. An additional increase of more than 13 percent from 1990 to 1992 made Simpsonville the fastest-growing city in the state. As Simpsonville responded to the effects of suburban sprawl, city officials worked to combine efforts to encourage growth while preserving the ambient appeal of the small-town core.

## Historic Simpsonville Directions

### Start Point

Burdette Central. 35 SE Curtis St., Simpsonville, SC 29681. Start/Finish begins in front of the Tap Room on the back side.

### Driving Directions

From N/S I-385:

1. Take the I-385.
2. Take EXIT 29, Simpsonville/W. Georgia Ave.
3. From the south Right to Simpsonville; from the North Left to Simpsonville go 1 mile.
4. Turn left onto Curtis St. Pass 2 signal lights onto E. Curtis St.
5. Turn right immediately at the end of Burdette Central (a tan brick building) at 110 E. Curtis (a BBQ Restaurant).
6. Park in the large parking lot ahead or left open lot

### Restrooms

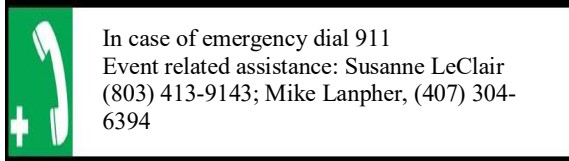
Public Restrooms available in the Burdette Central door entrance (8am to 10pm most days). Vaughan's Warehouse opens at: Su-M noon, T-Sa 11am. Main and Trade St. Activity and Senior Center, M-F 8am – 4:30pm, 310 W. Curtis. No restrooms on the 2d part of the 11K.

# Simpsonville 5/11K Instructions

12-20-23



**POI: Point of Interest on Page 4**



These walk directions and maps may only be used in conjunction with a signed American Volkssport Association athletic waiver. All other uses are prohibited.

1. **From the Tap Room entrance, face Sidewall Pizza, walk to and left on the sidewalk paralleling the lot. Turn left following the sidewalk to Curtis St.**
2. **Left** at Curtis St. (Smoqed Restaurant on corner.)
3. **Left** at SE Main St. **POI: 1 and 10**
4. **Left** on Trade St. just past Papas & Beer Restaurant.
5. **Cross & Right** on Hedge St. to sidewalk.
6. **Cross & Right** at W. Fernwood Rd. Walk very carefully on left side to 1<sup>st</sup> left.
7. **Left** on Banbury Circle continuing straight around.
8. **Right** at T to Fernwood Rd.
9. **Left** on Fernwood Rd. to traffic light.
10. **Cross** SE Main St. then **right** crossing Richardson St. Ext. **Left** on Richardson St. Ext.
11. **Right** at sidewalk leading to Veteran's Monument and Veteran's Memorial Park.
12. **Left** at end of path on Crisp St.
13. **Right** on Ped/Bike path. **POI: 2**
14. **Right** after crossing W. Trade St. **POI: 3** Restroom opening hours at Vaughan's: Su-M 12, T-Sa 11.
15. **Left** at sidewalk. Pass Ice Cream Station. **POI: 4**
16. **Left** at W. Curtis St. **POI: 5 & 6** at Clock Tower. Pass the Temple Baptist Church. Cross South St.
17. Pass Cotton Mill Place. **POI: 7**  
*Activity and Senior Center restrooms: M-F 8am – 4:30pm*
18. **Left** at Green St.
19. **Cross & left** at Woodside Cir. onto sidewalk. (T intersection -no sign).
20. **Left** at South St.
21. **Cross & right on** Trade St. crossing South St. at the water tower.
22. **Left** at S. Maple St. (no sign) crossing to sidewalk.
23. **Right** at W. Curtis St.

24. **Left** at North Main St. (before the tracks) on crosswalk. Shops on the left. **POI: 8**
25. **Right** at W. College St.
26. **Right** after crossing NE Main St. **POI: 9**
27. **Left** at E. Curtis St. Gotta see "The Front Porch".
28. **Cross & Left** on sidewalk at Hedge St. (1<sup>st</sup> left at light).
29. **CAREFULLY** cross College St. Emmanuel's Salon. **Left** to alley and **right** passing Emmanuel's and a church playground.
30. **Curve right** on sidewalk to Labyrinth sign.
31. **Left** to Labyrinth; Walk thru the Labyrinth starting at the blue icon; watch the path carefully.
32. **Exit Labyrinth** and follow sidewalk back to parking lot.
33. **Left** thru parking lot to Jonesville Rd.
34. **Right** on Jonesville Rd.
35. **Cross** College St. onto Church St.
36. **Left** on Curtis St. crossing Church then **right** at crosswalk crossing Curtis.  
*11K Walkers continue w/step #38*
37. **5K Right on Curtis to Start / Finish at Burdette Bldg.**
38. **Left** on Curtis.
39. **Continue** along E. Curtis Rd to Poinsettia Dr.
40. **Right** at Poinsettia Dr. (no sign) at Poinsettia Development & cross to middle path between both Poinsettia Drives.
41. **Continue** along the middle path to Carolvine Rd. one block before stop sign.
42. **Left** on Carolvine Rd. (**no-sidewalks, walk facing traffic**). Use caution.
43. **Right** at Aster Dr.
44. **Left** on Hillpine Dr. next left and curves right then starts uphill crossing a bridge.
45. **Left** on North Almond at stop sign. Changes to South Almond.
46. Pass Hillpine, Robinwood, Oglewood.
47. **Right** at Rainwood Dr. at stop sign.
48. **Left** at Philwood Dr. 1<sup>st</sup> left.
49. **Right** at Gatewood Ave.
50. **Right** at North Almond Dr.
51. **Left** at Hillpine Dr.
52. **Left** at Poinsettia Dr. next after bridge.
53. **Left** at Poinsettia Dr Extension, next left.
54. At Fernwood Rd. **cross to** paved path in the middle and follow back to E. Curtis Rd.
55. **Left** at E. Curtis Rd. Continue along E. Curtis Rd. to finish at Burdette Bldg.

*Thank you for your interest in our walk. Please contact us at [leclairgs@aol.com](mailto:leclairgs@aol.com) and tell us about our walk. Go to page 7 for links to our other great UpState events.*

## **Points Of Interest**

**1:** 101 East Curtis Street – across Curtis. The oldest brick building in Simpsonville was built by Sidney J. Wilson in 1886. He called it Wilson's Store — and there he carried a line of dry goods and groceries, feed, and seed. Three pharmacists used the building from 1913 to 1969, and over the course of time the upstairs was used as a hat & watch shop, doctor's office, dentist's office, telephone company's first office, a law office, and apartments. An addition was made in 1924, and a restaurant currently occupies that space. There you will find a soda fountain back-bar which was (as story has it) shipped from Atlanta shortly before the city was burned in 1864 by Union Major General William T. Sherman. Event Décor and More & Rest

**2:** 302 South Main Street - The Garden House Bed & Breakfast started out as a one-story house in 1905, the home of the Simpsonville Mill's first president, Edward F. Woodside. After many renovations and additions, it became the three-story building (with five bedrooms and as many bathrooms) seen today.

**3.** Warehouse at Vaughn's -Great place to stop for lunch or an adult-beverage after the walk! A new community venue featuring outdoor/indoor dining, a container courtyard and live music! Businesses include Trade Street Market, Bourbon Street Burgers, The Tap House, Southern Freight and more!

**4.** 125 South Main Street - Ice Cream Station was the old train depot building was built in 1960 by SAL Railroads. The present building replaced an old Victorian wooden train station. The Simpsonville Chamber of Commerce was located here from 1980 to 1998. It has been renovated and is now an ice cream shop.

**5:** Between North Main and Northeast Main Streets. The Clock Tower was built in 1986 by Waldrop Construction Services, owned by current Mayor, Dennis Waldrop. A group of downtown business leaders and property owners commissioned it to improve the downtown and stimulate business. It was funded by Ralph Hendricks' donation. The tower was engineered with a rigid steel inner structure to withstand 200 mile per hour winds. It has become an iconic part of Simpsonville.

**6.** 102 South Main Street - Howard's Pharmacy is the oldest existing drug store in Simpsonville. It has been in business since 1934, and the first-floor dates to 1912.

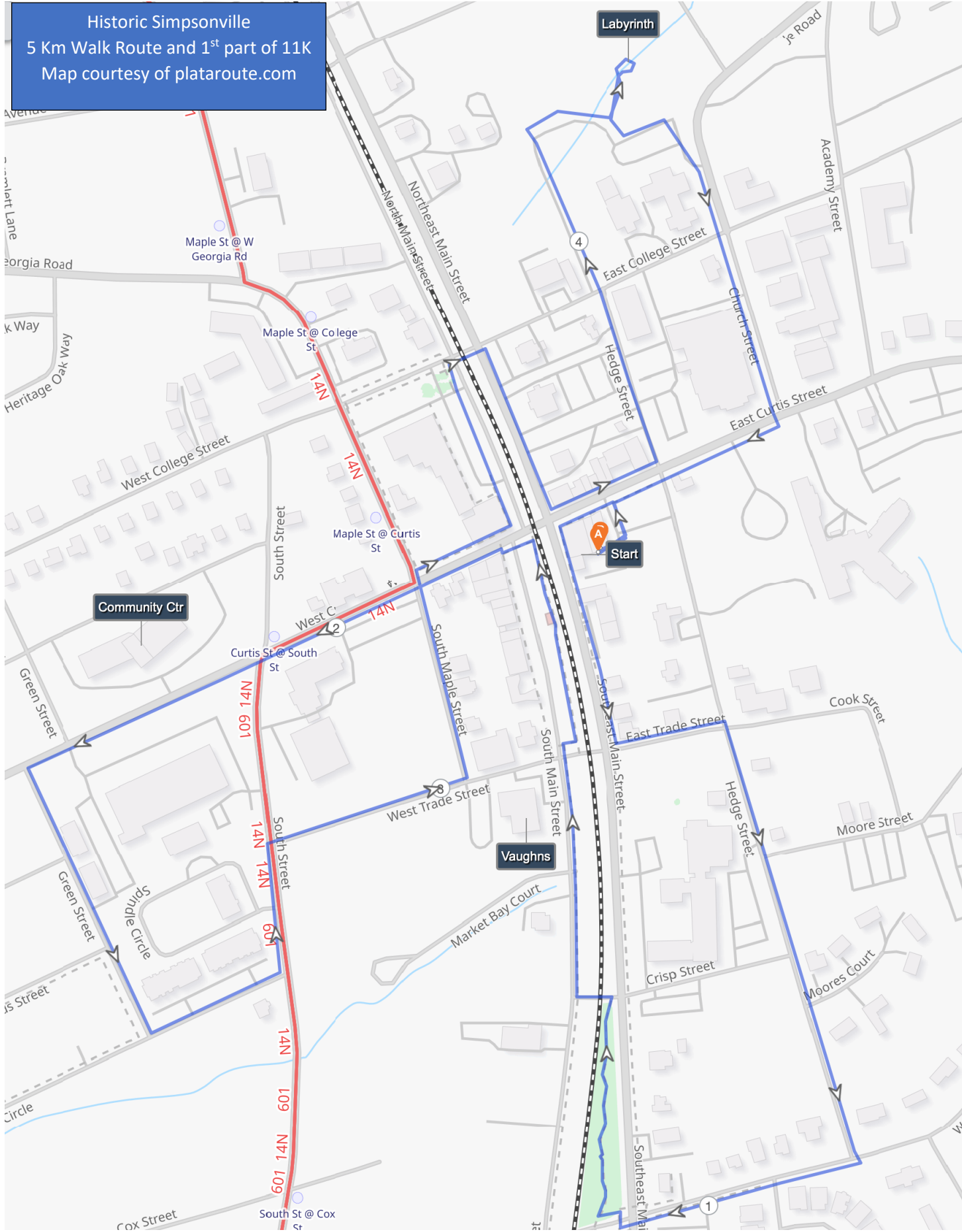
**7.** 300 South Street - Built in 1907 at the corner of West Curtis and South Streets, the Simpsonville Cotton Mill soon became part of the Woodside Cotton Mill Company. It brought much residential and commercial growth to Simpsonville, employing 622 people early in 1988. In 1989 the mill closed. It was named 14th most significant building in Greenville County history by the county Historic Preservations Commission. It was converted into commercial space and loft condominiums and today it is called Cotton Mill Place. The Simpsonville Cotton Mill Water Tower was built in 1908.

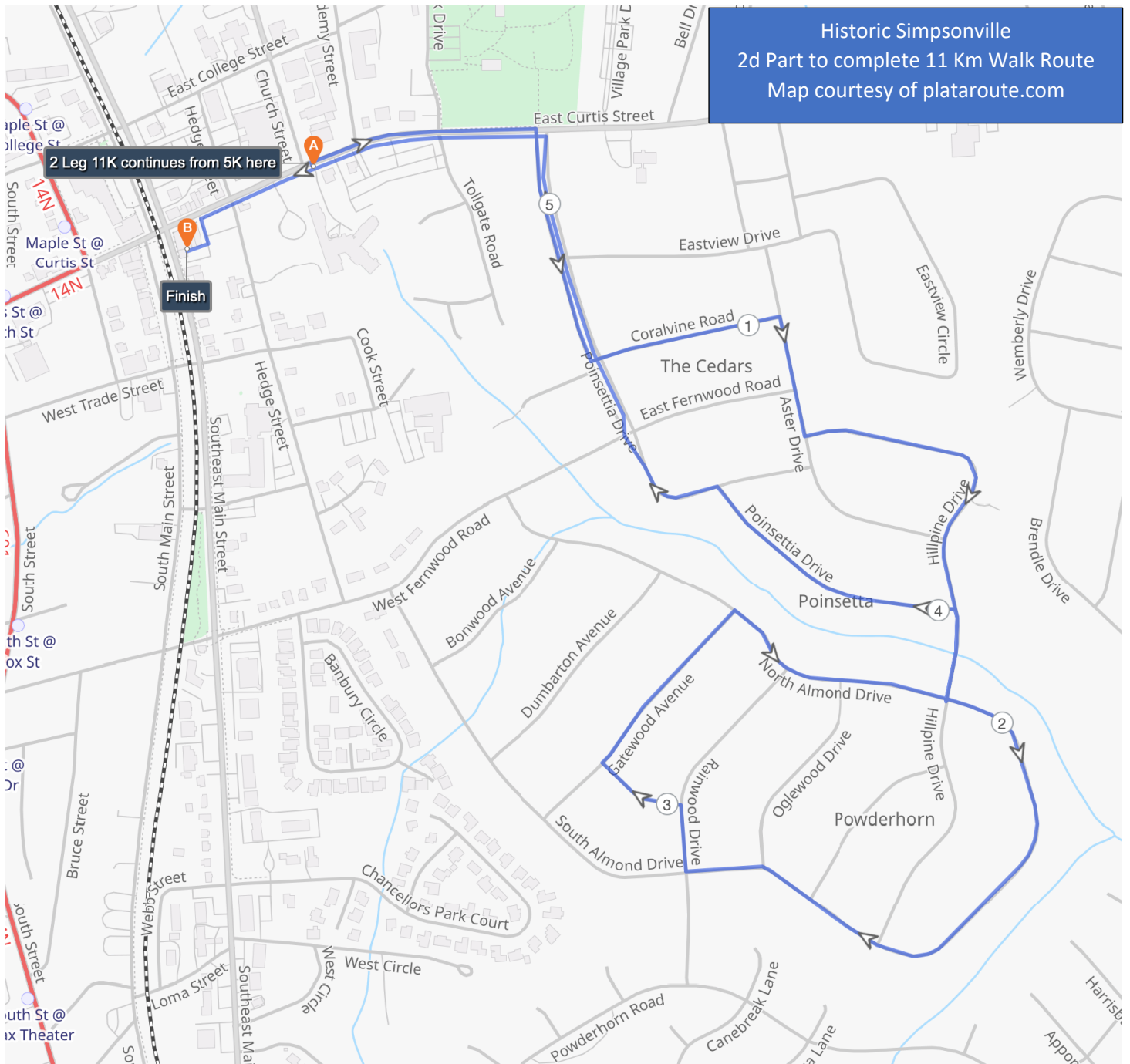
**8:** Corner of North Main and West College Streets This statue is in honor of Dr. Lawrence Lafayette Richardson. Richardson was a physician for 64 years, Mayor of Simpsonville for 38 years, and Chairman of the Simpsonville School Board for 20 years. He was responsible for bringing natural gas into the city and led efforts to develop the city park.

**9.** Mural On the side of the Curtis Street building is a low-relief mural titled “Balancing Act,” commissioned by Provident Community Bank. It represents tradition and change in Simpsonville. The train and heels stand for hard work and progress, and Simpsonville's history as a 19th century center of transportation. The bell is associated with the textile industry, the anvil with the blacksmith, the geometric forms of basketry with the Cherokee tradition, and the pointed arch with Simpsonville's faith. All are carefully balanced as Simpsonville moves forward into the 21st century

**10.** Burdette Central, SE corner of SE Main and Curtis. Begun in 1899, Burdette Hardware was a family business. The store was both a retail and a community gathering place that welcomed everyone in good times and bad. At certain points it housed a shirt factory as well as a hardware store, and B.W. Burdette, the founder, paid close attention to the business, his family and the community. Kids and grandkids and great-grandkids ran through this place and helped make it work, thousands of Simpsonville residents did business or chewed the fat here, African-Americans were treated here with more grace and respect than was usual back in those days, and the Burdette's took the time to listen to, care for, and demonstrate respect for all of their neighbors. As one of the most important businesses of its time, the building today holds landmark status.

Historic Simpsonville  
5 Km Walk Route and 1<sup>st</sup> part of 11K  
Map courtesy of plataroute.com





## Simpsonville 2023 Special Programs and UpState PathFinders Year Round Events

<b>Special Program</b>	<b>Location</b>
Town Halls/City Halls	118 NE. Main St.
Step to the Beat	Musically Gifted Studios past Sidewall Pizza
Walking With America's Veterans	Veteran's Memorial Park/Monument, Corner of Richardson St and Main St.
A-MAZE-ing Labyrinths	Behind Holy Cross Church
Walking the USA A – Z	S – Simpsonville

Historic Greenville - 5/10K YRE <a href="https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=Y2062">https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=Y2062</a>	Historic Anderson - 5/10K YRE (OSB) <a href="https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=Y2919">https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=Y2919</a>
Greenville City Parks - 5/10k YRE <a href="https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=Y0232">https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=Y0232</a>	Clemson Botanical Garden - 5/10K YRE (OSB) <a href="https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=Y2067">https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=Y2067</a>
Greenville-Alta Vista - 5/10K YRE <a href="https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=Y2529">https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=Y2529</a>	Historic Greer - 6/10K YRE (OSB) <a href="https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=Y2530">https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=Y2530</a>
Greenville's Conestee Nature Preserve - 5/10K YRE (OSB) <a href="https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=Y2342">https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=Y2342</a>	Historic Simpsonville - 5/10K YRE OSB <a href="https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=Y2920">https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=Y2920</a>
Greenville's Furman University - 5/10k YRE <a href="https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=Y0688">https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=Y0688</a>	Greenville/Travelers Rest Swamp Rabbit Trail 5K-50K YRE (OSB) <a href="https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=2531">https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=2531</a>
Travelers Rest - 5/10K YRE <a href="https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=Y0578">https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=Y0578</a>	AMERICA'S WALKING CLUB has 2000 permanent walks annually. There are over 1100 online to walk for very reasonable fees, \$2 or \$4 (with record books).
<i>Thank you for your interest in our walk. For more information about other UpState PathFinders walks, select an event above.                      For walks in other parts of SC or the USA, go to <a href="https://my.ava.org/find-an-event.php">https://my.ava.org/find-an-event.php</a></i>	