



**The Southeast Region
One of Ten in the USA
Presents the Historic Simpsonville
5/11K Walk Y2920©2026**

Jeanne Stokes, Regional Director

The Southeast Region Director sponsors 7 walks in America’s Walking Club (AWC). We thank you for taking interest in our Historic Simpsonville South Carolina 5/11k Year-Round Event (YRE). This event showcases this town’s downtown walking along the RR tracks, old train station area, 1880s buildings and converted Cotton Mill. Then we walk past the Baptist and Methodist churches to the Labyrinth before touring the new City Park. The 11k continues through a well-maintained development.

Walk Registration

You have downloaded this file, so Welcome. You must have an account and registration takes place online using that AVA Online Start Box on my.ava.org. Follow the instructions provided to create a user account, sign the AVA waiver (one time), and fund your account. You have access to over 1000 walks in the USA.

1. **For AVA Book Participants: Register as credit.** Your account deducts \$4 (\$2 for AWC when directions downloaded and another \$2 when you complete the Finish Tab.
2. **No IVV/AVA record books: Register as NC (No Credit).** Your account deducts \$2 for AWC for directions when downloaded.
3. **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.

Questions: mlanpher@me.com/407.304.6394

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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 I-385, and houses were purchased by

AWC Special Programs	Location
Walking With the Wild Things	Find as you Walk
Step to the Beat	Park Amphitheater & Musically Gifted Studios before 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

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. 104E Curtis St., Simpsonville, SC.
Start/Finish begins in front of the 1884 Tap Room on the back side.

Driving Directions

From Atlanta on I-85N Exit onto East I-385 to Columbia:

1. Take EXIT 29, Simpsonville/W. Georgia Rd.
2. Left to Simpsonville, go 1 mile.
3. Turn left at stop sign onto Curtis St. Pass 2 signal lights onto E. Curtis St.
4. Turn right immediately at the end of Burdette Central (a tan brick building) at 110 E. Curtis.
5. Park in the large parking lot ahead or open lot

From Columbia on I-26N Exit onto I-385W to Greenville:

1. Take EXIT 29, Simpsonville/W. Georgia Rd.
2. Right to Simpsonville, go 1 mile.
3. Turn left at stop sign onto Curtis St. Pass 2 signal lights onto E. Curtis St.
4. Turn right immediately at the end of Burdette Central (a tan brick building) at 110 E. Curtis.
5. Park in the large parking lot ahead or open lot

Restrooms

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

Nearby Year-Round Events

Mauldin Conestee Nature Preserve - 5/10K YRE (OSB) https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=Y2342
Historic Simpsonville - 5/10K YRE OSB https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=Y2920
Greenville/Travelers Rest Swamp Rabbit Trail 5K-26K YRE (OSB) https://my.ava.org/event-view.php?y=2531
AMERICA'S WALKING CLUB has 2000 permanent walks annually with over 1100 online to walk for very reasonable fees, \$2 or \$4 (with record books).
Join America's Walking Club – www.ava.org

Simpsonville 5/11K Instructions

01-12-2025



POI: Point of Interest on Page 4



In case of emergency dial 911
Event related assistance: Mike Lanpher,
(407) 304-6394

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 covered area facing Sidewall Pizza, **Left** to the end of the building.
2. **Left** at the end of the building to Curtis, no sign
3. **Right** on Curtis for two blocks.
4. **Left** on Academy carefully crossing Curtis. Pass the art center.
5. **Right** on Park Drive and right again, curving right on Park past the open area on the right.
6. Continue past the police office and City Hall to crosswalk at the end of City Hall.
7. **Left** crossing Park Drive.
8. **Right** at first T at play area and follow walkway around the play area. Keep left with the soccer field on the right.
9. **Right** at next sidewalk with the soccer field on your right. Continue following the walkway as it circles the back part of the park and as you approach the dog park, you curve left to the bridge.
10. **Left** crossing the bridge following the path and keep curving to the right towards the restroom passing that over another bridge to Park Drive.
11. **Left** on Park Drive walking on the left side.
12. **Cross & Right** on Jonesville Road to the parking lot of Holy Cross Episcopal.
13. Follow the right edges of the parking lot towards the sidewalk in the rear, and then take the **Right** to the labyrinth.
14. Walk the labyrinth and return to the sidewalk.
15. **Right** on the sidewalk and curve left going up the alley to E. College Rd.
16. **Right** on E. College Rd. to SE. Main Street.
17. **Left** crossing College Rd.
18. **Right** crossing SE Main Street.
19. **Left** after the railroad tracks and Main St. on sidewalk with Wiley Taco on the right.
20. **Cross and Right** on W. Curtis St.
21. **Left** on Maple Street with the Baptist Church on the right.
22. **Left** on Trade Street, next left.

23. **Left** on S. Main St. along the shops back to Curtis Street.
 24. **Right** before Curtis St. to the clock tower.
 25. **Right** along the pathway with a hedge on your left, passing the ice cream store. **Ok to stop 🍦 !!**
 26. **Right** then **Left** crossing Trade St. continuing on S. Main St. along the bike path. Vaughn's is on your right; restroom is available when open.
 27. **Left** at Crisp Street, first left, to the walkway in Veterans Park.
 28. **Right** on the walkway along the benches to the Veterans memorial ahead.
 29. **Left** to SE Main Street.
 30. **Right** crossing Richardson Street.
 31. **Left** crossing SE Main St. to the sidewalk and continue past Barberry Court.
 32. **Left** on Hedge Street crossing Richardson; go straight to Crisp Street. Cross at crosswalk.
 33. **Left** on Trade St crossing Hedge St– **walk facing traffic**
 34. **Right** crossing Trade Street onto SE. Main St.
 35. 5K walkers return to the start building at Sidewall Pizza and 1884 Taproom.
11K walkers continue to Curtis at light.
11K Walkers continue w/step #36
 36. **Right** on Curtis. Pass City Hall on left side.
 37. **Continue** along E. Curtis Rd to Poinsettia Dr.
 38. **Right** at Poinsettia Dr. (no sign) at Poinsettia neighborhood & cross to middle path between both Poinsettia Drives.
 39. **Continue** along the middle path to Carolvine Rd. one block before stop sign.
 40. **Left** on Carolvine Rd. (**no-sidewalks, walk facing traffic**). **Use caution.**
 41. **Right** at Aster Dr.
 42. **Right** on Hillpine Dr., next left, and curves right then starts uphill crossing a bridge.
 43. **Left** on North Almond at stop sign. Changes to South Almond.
 44. Pass Hillpine, Robinwood, Oglewood.
 45. **Right** at Rainwood Dr. at stop sign.
 46. **Left** at Philwood Dr. 1st left.
 47. **Right** at Gatewood Ave.
 48. **Right** at North Almond Dr.
 49. **Left** at Hillpine Dr.
 50. **Left** at Poinsettia Dr. next after bridge.
 51. **Left** at Poinsettia Dr Extension, next left.
 52. At Fernwood Rd. **cross to** paved path in the middle and follow back to E. Curtis Rd.
 53. **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 mlanpher@me.com and tell us about our walk or to find out information on Mauldin's Conestee Nature Preserve and Greenville 50K Swamp Rabbit Trail walks.*

Historic Simpsonville
5 Km Walk Route and 1st part of 11K



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 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 then 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.