

## *Orangeburg, a Small Town with a Big History . . .*

Welcome to beautiful, historic downtown Orangeburg--truly a city in transition! Here a visitor can learn not only a bit of early American history, but also acquire an understanding of a small southern community that has gone through a myriad of changes to become "the best of the best".

Orangeburgh, as it was once known, was one of eleven townships created by the governing body of Charles Town. Lt. Governor Thomas Broughton named the settlement in honor of William IV, Prince of Orange.

The original township, which was settled along the banks of the Edisto River, was 20,000 acres in size. The head of each family was given 50 acres of land and provisions for one year before departing from Charles Town. The first groups of these German-Swiss settlers arrived in 1735 to make their homes among the few friendly Indian tribes and other settlers who had established homes many years earlier.

The center of town in these early years was know as Public Square. The Square was bounded on its four sides by today's streets of Broughton, Bull, Middleton, and Waring. The site of an early trading post, the Square continued to grow and became the center of downtown business, industry, finance, religious life, and entertainment. By the early 1800s, downtown provided its citizens with blacksmiths, lawyers, doctors, and shopkeepers.

History, though, had its impact on downtown Orangeburg's businesses and buildings. Many events of both the Revolutionary War and Civil War had destructive influences. A trip to many of the sites highlighted in this brochure allows the visitor an opportunity to witness this history first-hand.

The years following the Civil War brought positive changes. The town of Orangeburg was incorporated as a city in 1883. In 1887, a water system was built and leased to the city. A street trolley system was constructed in 1888. The trolley was mule-drawn during the day to carry passengers, but with the aid of a small steam locomotive, it was used to haul freight to various downtown businesses at night. Electricity came to the city in the 1890s, and before the end of the decade, Russell Street, the city's main street, was lit with electric lights.

Downtown has provided entertainment for the citizens of Orangeburg since the 1890s. Theatrical performances were a regular part of life then, as they are today at the historic Bluebird Theatre and Robert Stevenson Auditorium. Prior to the establishment of the Orangeburg County Fair Association in 1911, a yearly Fall Festival was held downtown. During the festival, wares of the local merchants were displayed, parades were held, and a king and queen were crowned.

Annie Oakley visited in the early 1900s. having been invited by the Smoak family, who owned a hardware store on Russell Street, Annie put on a shooting demonstration for the townspeople. President William Howard Taft brought excitement to Orangeburg in 1909 when he made a whistle stop at the corner of Russell and Boulevard.

In 1926, the land along the Edisto River in downtown Orangeburg was cleared, filled in, and the first azaleas planted. In the early 1950s, 3,500 rose bushes were planted. The bank of the river, which was such a vital part of the early settlement, became a breath-taking array of color during the springtime. In 1972 the first South Carolina Festival of Roses, now called the Orangeburg Festival of Roses, was held. Each year since, thousands flock to Orangeburg in the spring to enjoy the beauty of the flowers.

Downtown Orangeburg is, as it has always been, a city in transition. It was once the home of an early trading post. It was a place where the storeowners lived in rooms above their businesses. It is a city, where in the last few years, the old sidewalks and facades have undergone an elaborate streetscape project. In 2005 Orangeburg County was named an "All-America City".

Come to visit, and allow us to show you how proud we are of our city.

Downtown Orangeburg is alive all year long. Today, at any given time of the year, visitors will find a variety of wonderful places to shop, many historical buildings to explore, and a number of community activities in which to participate.

### ***Walking Tour . . .***

1. Fire Station: 993 Middleton St. The Fire Station was built in 1927 along with the City Hall, City Jail, and The Carolina. The first fire truck, which is still in the possession of the City, was a 1921 American LaFrance fire engine.
2. Fireman's Statue: Corner of Middleton & Fischer St. Erected in 1902 on the public square, this 15 feet bronze statue depicts a fireman carrying a small child in one arm and an oil lamp with the other. The base was used as a drinking fountain for people with water troughs for the horses and dogs. A block of ice was placed inside the base to provide cool water. In 1946 the fountain apparatus was removed, and the statue was moved to its present location.
3. City Hall & Robert Stevenson Auditorium: 979 Middleton St. Orangeburg's City Hall, City Jail, police headquarters and an auditorium, The Carolina, were built in 1927 for \$175,000 replacing the old, small, wooden City Hall. Not only did the auditorium serve as a venue for civic events and concerts, but it was also used as a theater by showing silent and "talking" movies until the early 1970s.
4. First Baptist Church: 1240 Russell St. First Baptist Church, organized in July of 1860, erected a church building in 1863. A cemetery, where some of the founding members are buried, is found behind the church.
5. Memorial Plaza: Corners of Russell, Middleton, and Church Streets. After the third courthouse was built in 1826, Courthouse Square was thought of as the center of Orangeburg. The Square, as it is referred to by the local citizens, was the site of two courthouses, Revolutionary War cannons, Civil War cannons, special American war cannons, the Confederate Monument, the Fireman Statue, and the Ladies Fountain. When the present courthouse was built two blocks away in 1929, the square was bought by the City for \$35,000 and turned into a park and renamed Memorial Plaza.
6. Confederate Monument: Center of Memorial Plaza. The monument was erected in 1893 as a memorial for the Confederate soldiers who died in the Civil War. Designed by Theo Markwalter, the 33 foot tall monument is made of Winnsboro Granite. The Confederate Monument stood in front of Courthouse Square until it was moved to the center of Memorial Plaza.
7. Old Post Office: 281 Courthouse Square. In 1911 The Dixie Library was moved from this site to allow for the construction of the Post Office. Construction began in 1912 and was occupied on July 23, 1913. This building was used as the Post Office until the 1960s, when Orangeburg needed a larger facility. After the Post Office was moved to Middleton Street, the building was used as a bank.

8. Orangeburg County Courthouse: 190 Gibson St. The first courthouse of Orangeburg was built in 1772 on the block of Bull, Broughton, and Henley Street. It was destroyed by the British during the American Revolution in 1781. A second courthouse was erected in 1782 in the same area as the first. This building lasted until about 1825 when plans for a new structure were drawn up. The third courthouse was built on Courthouse Square in 1826, but was destroyed during the Civil War by General Sherman's troops in 1865. For the next ten years a temporary courthouse was made in the rooms above Capt. J. A. Hamilton's store. The ex-president Rutherford B. Hayes spoke there. The fourth building was constructed in 1875 on the same site as the third. When more room was necessary, a fifth courthouse was built 1928. This structure, built on the old Trinity United Methodist Church lot, is the building used today for trials and hearings.

9. Old Presbyterian Church Cemetery: Corner of Doyle & Saint Paul St. The Old Presbyterian Church Cemetery is the final resting place of many of Orangeburg's citizens. Judge Thomas Worth Glover is buried here along with General David Flavel Jamison, a founder of The Citadel and the President of the South Carolina Secession Convention. A new church was built on Summers Avenue.

10. Old Holy Trinity Catholic Church: 1335 Amelia St. Holy Trinity Catholic Church was the first Catholic church in Orangeburg. The church was built in 1893 and remodeled in 1934. In 1967 the church deconsecrated when the church moved to a new, larger structure on Riverside Drive.

11. St. Paul's United Methodist Church: 1356 Amelia St. The first Methodist church in Orangeburg was built in 1836, and a second church was erected in 1860. This structure was torn down to build the third and present St. Paul's building, which was dedicated in 1898. The current building uses a cruciform plan with a large tower at the southwest corner and two smaller towers at the northwest and southeast corners.

12. Bythewood Building: 1195 Amelia St. This building was built about 1915 on the original frame of the business building of Bythewood and Ballard. It represents one of Orangeburg's oldest African-American businesses still in operation, Bythewood Funeral Home.

13. Briggman House: 1156 Amelia St. Frederick Herman William Briggman, born in Hanover, Germany, built this house around 1850. Briggman, the owner of a general store in town, was Orangeburg's first mayor, known during that time as the Intendant of the City. He was also responsible for laying out the area now known as Amelia Street. The house was known as "Briggman's Folly" and was put together using wooden pegs.

14. Louis Building: 1198 Russell St. Built in 1904, the Louis Building was the site of Cherry's Drug Store and Fischer's Rexall Pharmacy. The second and third floors were used as offices for local businessmen such as doctors and lawyers. The unique structure has a corner turret with a domed roof projecting from the second and third floors.

15. Ferse's: 1174 Russell St. This building, built in 1912 and was first shared by Edisto Bank and Ferris' Restaurant. In 1939 it became Fersner's Dime Store. After Fersner's was sold in the 1970s, the new owners changed the terra-cotta-faced building to Ferses 5 & 10.

16. Old First National Bank: 1170 Russell St. The building, which is referred to as the Old First National Bank, was built in 1920. Edisto National Bank was the first bank to occupy the brand new concrete

structure. Edisto National Bank, like all of the banks in Orangeburg, went bankrupt during the Great Depression. In January 1934, the bank reopened as First National Bank.

17. Bluebird Theatre: 1141 Russell St. In December 1996, James H. Gressette, Jr. donated the old Edisto Theater to the Orangeburg Part Time Players. The OPTP transformed this abandoned movie theater into a state of the art facility and today it is the home of the Orangeburg Part Time Players.

18. Hotel Eutaw: Corner of Centre and Russell St. Constructed between 1926 and 1927 for \$173,800, Hotel Eutaw is a seven-story steel-frame skyscraper with an L-shaped plan. It is an example of the early twentieth century method of building skyscrapers. The Hotel was financed from a stock subscription project by the local citizens and built to advertise Orangeburg's growth and development, since Orangeburg was seen as a vacation place for this time period.

19. Moseley House: 1540 Russell St. Charles Coker Wilson, a famous architect in South Carolina during this time, designed the Italian style home for Mr. and Mrs. Laurie Moseley. The lot was purchased from Mrs. Norman Bull for \$10,000. The house took two years to build and bankrupted two contractors. It was finished in 1921 with a central vacuum system, and an Italian marble entrance. The house is now used as the office for Summers & Associates Architects.

20. William W. Wannamaker House: 196 Elliott St. William W. Wannamaker, the proprietor of Orange Cotton Mills, director of two banks, and vice president of Orangeburg Railway, built this home in 1917. The front of the home features a flat-roofed porch of raked tile. The porch or portico is arcaded with ionic columns.

21. Episcopal Church of the Redeemer: 1606 Russell St. This church is noteworthy as the first Anglican church established in the parish of Orangeburg. Founded in 1749 by Rev. John Giessendanner and located near the site of the Pioneer Graveyard. The building was erected between 1854 and 1855 on Boulevard St., near the corner of Amelia, where the cemetery remains. The present sanctuary, which features Louis C. Tiffany stained glass, is on the National Register of Historic Places.

22. Judge Thomas W. Glover House: 525 Whitman St. Believed to have been built between 1833 and 1838 by Judge Thomas Worth Glover, a leading citizen of Orangeburg and a signer of the Ordinance of Secession, this stately house was used by General William T. Sherman as his headquarters during the invasion by Union soldiers in Orangeburg County. Because of its beauty Sherman left a guard at the house to make sure the structure was not harmed.

23. Trinity United Methodist Church: 185 Boulevard St. Founded in 1866, Trinity United Methodist Church was organized by recently emancipated slaves of the Orangeburg district. The present sanctuary, designed by African-American architect, William W. Wilkins, is the second to serve the members of this church. The original church was where the County Courthouse now stands. Construction on the present building began in 1927, but because of the Great Depression, was not completed until 1944. Trinity is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

24. Orangeburg County Jail: The Orangeburg County Jail, or "Pink Palace" as it is often referred to because of its color, was designed by Jonathan Lucas and built in 1860 for \$10,000. In 1865 General Sherman used

the jail for his headquarters while in Orangeburg and burned it when he left. The partially destroyed jail was rebuilt in 1867 by Lucas and later remodeled in 1921. It was used as an active jail until 1980.

25. Brick Street: South Church St. South Church Street is the only remaining brick street in the City. Built in 1910, it is a great example of how the city streets of Orangeburg used to be.

26. Salley Archives and Dixie Library: Corner of Bull & Middleton St. The Salley Archives building, named for South Carolina's first official historian, Alexander S. Salley, serves as the meeting place for the Orangeburg County Historical Society. Many documents and historic materials, which were donated by the Orangeburg community, are found here. The Dixie Library, founded by the Dixie Club of Orangeburg, was the first lending library in the City. During the Civil War it was a residence for refugees from Charleston; later it was a lawyers office. It was then occupied by the Library, sponsored by the Dixie Club. When the Dixie Club disbanded and closed the Library, the building was given to the Orangeburg County Historical Society for preservation and eventually moved to the present site, behind the Salley Archives building.

27. Pioneer Graveyard (Giessendanner Graveyard): Bull Street between North Broughton and Middleton Streets. The Pioneer Cemetery was the first burial site for the early citizens of Orangeburg who arrived about 1735. The proximity to the settlements established on the Edisto River probably made this site desirable for the location of the cemetery and the wood and clay church, first used by Swiss Zwingalists and subsequently Lutheran and Episcopal denominations. Although the church building fell into decay during the Revolution, the burial site continued to be used until the 1930s. Gravesites, marked by wooden markers and sometimes by stone, became victims of grazing cows and also were violated by individuals who removed bones to bury the bodies of others. Identification of graves became difficult because some remains were removed and transferred to other burial sites, and additional burials took place after the cemetery had been designated as a burial site for the poor. In 1963 the Orangeburg Historical Society erected a stone monument listing the names of many interred at the site whose graves were not marked. The Society now owns this property.

28. Orangeburg Cemetery: Bull Street. Several leading African-American citizens created this cemetery in April of 1889 after the need for an African-American cemetery was felt in Orangeburg. In 1994 the City of Orangeburg was given rights to the cemetery and the City of Orangeburg Parks and Recreation Department now maintains the property.

29. Edisto Memorial Gardens: Riverside Drive and Russell Street. Until 1926 the site was used as a dump. The transformation began with azaleas planted in 1937 and roses in the 1940s. An All-America Rose Selections, Inc. Public Display Garden, featuring almost 100 labeled varieties of roses. The Horne Wetlands Park features a 2,600-foot handicap accessible boardwalk located along the Edisto River, the longest black water river in the world. A working waterwheel supplies water to the ponds. Centennial Park features an amphi-theatre, fountain, and gazebo. The Gardens also include a disc golf course, spray park, and is home to the Orangeburg County Fine Arts Center.

