

DOWNTOWN
Newberry
FINE DINING • SPECIALTY SHOPPING



**HISTORIC
SELF-GUIDED
TOUR**

WELCOME TO NEWBERRY, SOUTH CAROLINA!

We are a community filled with wonderful people, beautiful sights and historic places. As you travel along the streets of downtown Newberry, read this guide and enjoy a glimpse of times past.

A BRIEF HISTORY

In 1785, the larger districts of the upcountry of South Carolina were divided into smaller counties. The Ninety Six District was divided into six counties including Newberry. The origin of the name has puzzled local historians for one hundred and fifty years. Whether it was named for a Revolutionary War officer who never actually lived here, for a new variety of berry, or for the English town of Newbury, the debate is ongoing. John Belton O'Neill suggested in the Annals of Newberry (1858) that the woods and fields were as "pretty as a new berry," hence the name "Newberry." Though German, English and Scots-Irish settlers had made this area their home since the 1740's and 1750's, there were no towns in the new county that could serve as a county seat. After much debate over its location, the decision was made to accept John Coate's offer of two acres for the construction of a courthouse near the center of the county. This was the beginning of Newberry Courthouse Village.

Map located in back of booklet.

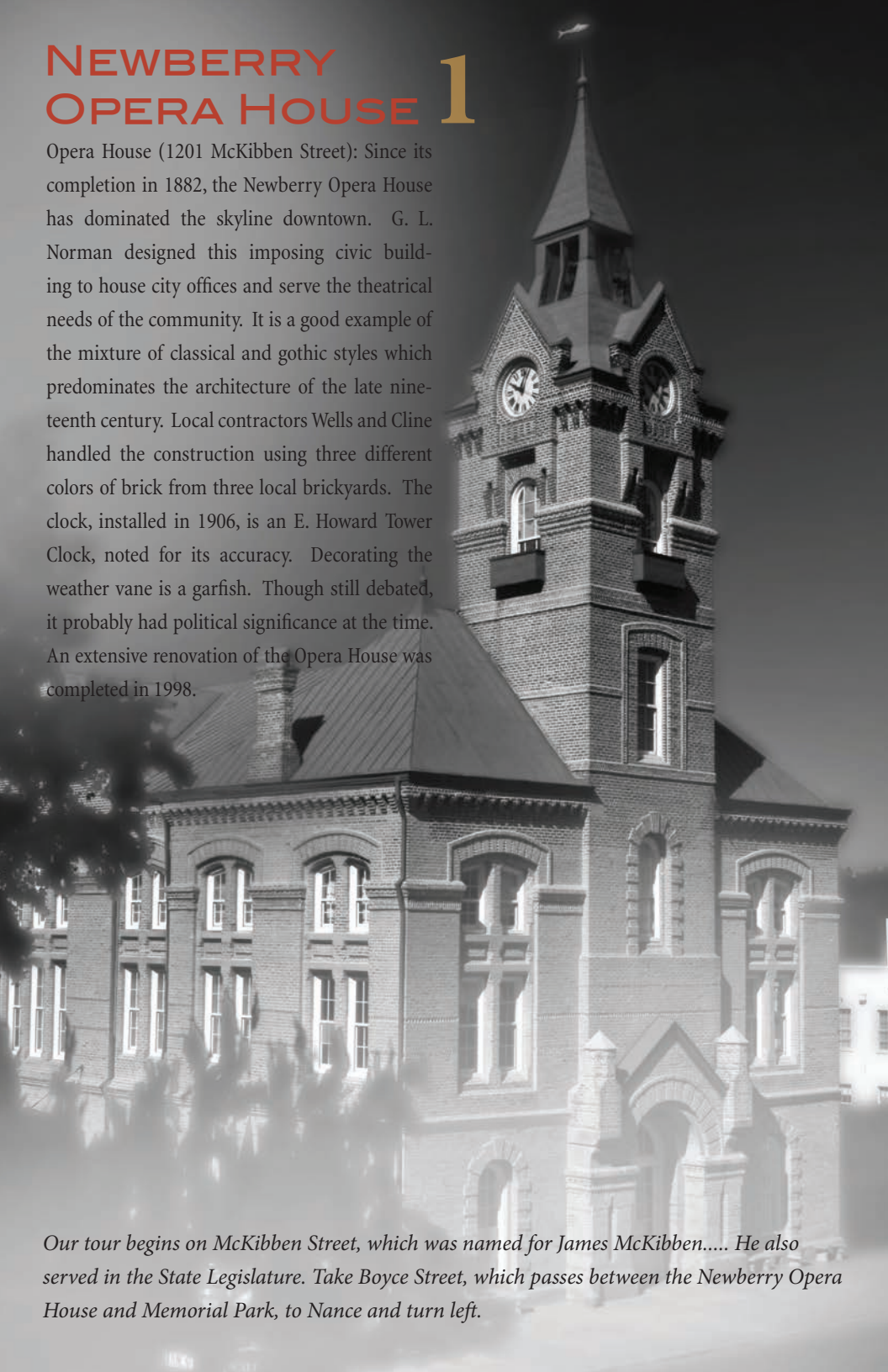
Photographs by Ted Williams.

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NEWBERRY OPERA HOUSE 1

Opera House (1201 McKibben Street): Since its completion in 1882, the Newberry Opera House has dominated the skyline downtown. G. L. Norman designed this imposing civic building to house city offices and serve the theatrical needs of the community. It is a good example of the mixture of classical and gothic styles which predominates the architecture of the late nineteenth century. Local contractors Wells and Cline handled the construction using three different colors of brick from three local brickyards. The clock, installed in 1906, is an E. Howard Tower Clock, noted for its accuracy. Decorating the weather vane is a garfish. Though still debated, it probably had political significance at the time. An extensive renovation of the Opera House was completed in 1998.



Our tour begins on McKibben Street, which was named for James McKibben..... He also served in the State Legislature. Take Boyce Street, which passes between the Newberry Opera House and Memorial Park, to Nance and turn left.



CONFEDERATE MONUMENT 2

Confederate Monument: Located behind the Old Court House, the Confederate Monument commemorates the 476 soldiers from the Newberry area who died during the Civil War. It stands on the site of the old jail, stone blocks from which were used to build the terrace. Also included in the terrace is a monument to Calvin Crozier and memorials to soldiers of the Korean and Vietnam Wars.



MEMORIAL PARK 3

Memorial Park: The western portion of the Square was originally used as a parking area for carriages and horses. A large watering trough and a cistern completed the scene. In the 1920's it was made into a park commemorating World War I. A time capsule was added in 1976. During the Opera House renovations, the World War II monument, originally in front of Newberry County Memorial Hospital, was moved to the park.

Take Nance Street to Main and turn left. In the 18th century this was called Pratt Street. It was named for Thomas Pratt, a prominent merchant.

SQUARE 4

Square: In 1785, Newberry County was established — one of six counties formed from the old Ninety-Six District. Believing strongly that the seat of government should be in the center of the new county, the founding fathers drew lines across a map to find the geographic center; however, the center was then occupied by a mill pond. Debate continued over the placement of the court house until John Coate, a local blacksmith, gave two acres of land to the county in 1789. A court house and jail were soon constructed on the land and the village of Newberry slowly grew around it. In 1793, John and Henry Coate surveyed the land around the Square and sold it in quarter acre lots laid out on a regular grid of streets.

MILEAGE MARKER 5

Mileage Marker: Located in the center of the Caldwell Street side of the Square is a granite mile marker. Distances were measured from court house to courthouse. This was the point from which the distances in Newberry County were measured. This marker was uncovered during renovations to the Square in the 1970's. A smaller marker, shaped like an obelisk is also visible next to the court house steps.



CORBELED BRICKWORK 6

Corbeled Brickwork: The skill of Newberry's brick masons can be seen in many of the storefronts in the downtown. Stores completed in the period 1870-1910 often feature elaborate patterns of corbeled brickwork (bricks which project out from the wall). The facades on the east side of Caldwell Street are particularly good examples of this and were completed in 1884.



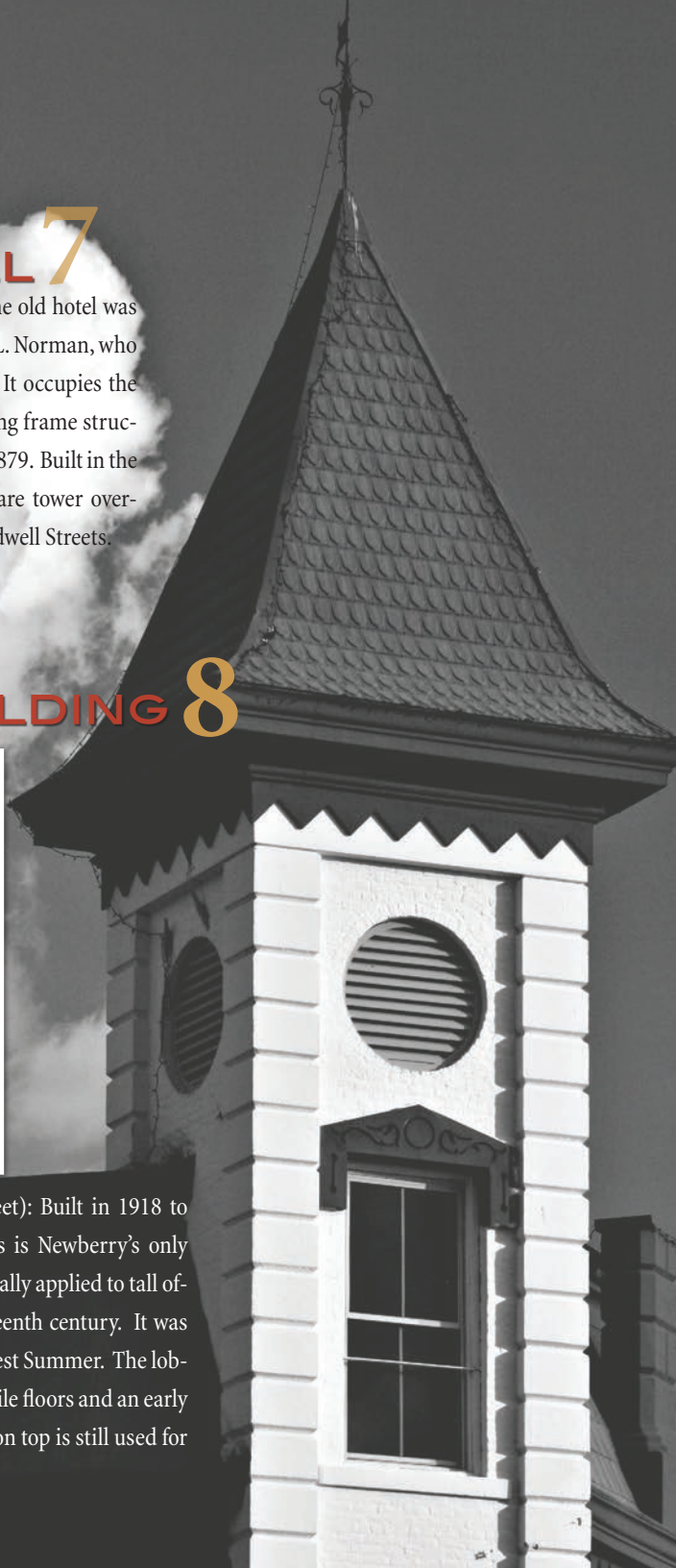
OLD HOTEL 7

Old Hotel (1200 Main Street): The old hotel was built in 1880 and designed by G. L. Norman, who later designed the Opera House. It occupies the site of the first hotel in town, a long frame structure, which burned in the Fire of 1879. Built in the Romanesque revival style, a square tower overlooks the corner of Main and Caldwell Streets.

PARR BUILDING 8

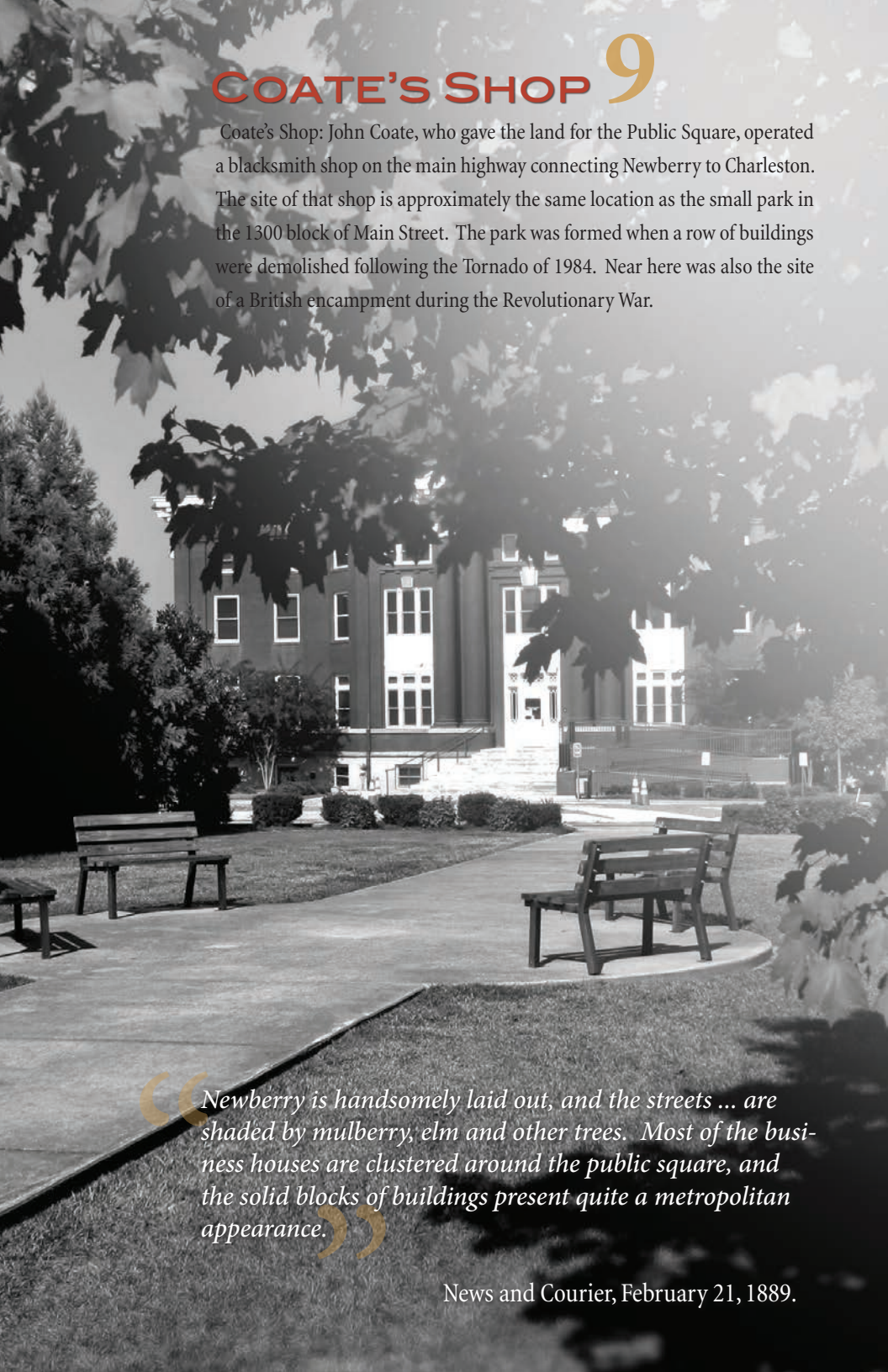


Parr Building (1301 Main Street): Built in 1918 to house the Exchange bank, this is Newberry's only skyscraper, a term which originally applied to tall office buildings of the late nineteenth century. It was designed by local architect Ernest Summer. The lobby features a marble staircase, tile floors and an early elevator. A Civil Defense siren on top is still used for emergencies.



COATE'S SHOP 9

Coate's Shop: John Coate, who gave the land for the Public Square, operated a blacksmith shop on the main highway connecting Newberry to Charleston. The site of that shop is approximately the same location as the small park in the 1300 block of Main Street. The park was formed when a row of buildings were demolished following the Tornado of 1984. Near here was also the site of a British encampment during the Revolutionary War.



“Newberry is handsomely laid out, and the streets ... are shaded by mulberry, elm and other trees. Most of the business houses are clustered around the public square, and the solid blocks of buildings present quite a metropolitan appearance.”

News and Courier, February 21, 1889.

1936 EXPLOSION 10

1936 Explosion (1403 Main Street): Originally a hardware store, this was the site of a disaster along Main Street. In 1936, an accidental dynamite explosion damaged several buildings on the block.



RITZ THEATER 11

Ritz Theater (1511 Main Street): When it opened in 1936, the Ritz was the best-equipped theater in the area. It had a seating capacity of 800 and one of the first cooling systems in Newberry. Art Deco details in the facade include pigmented glass, stylized pilasters and geometric patterns in the windows.

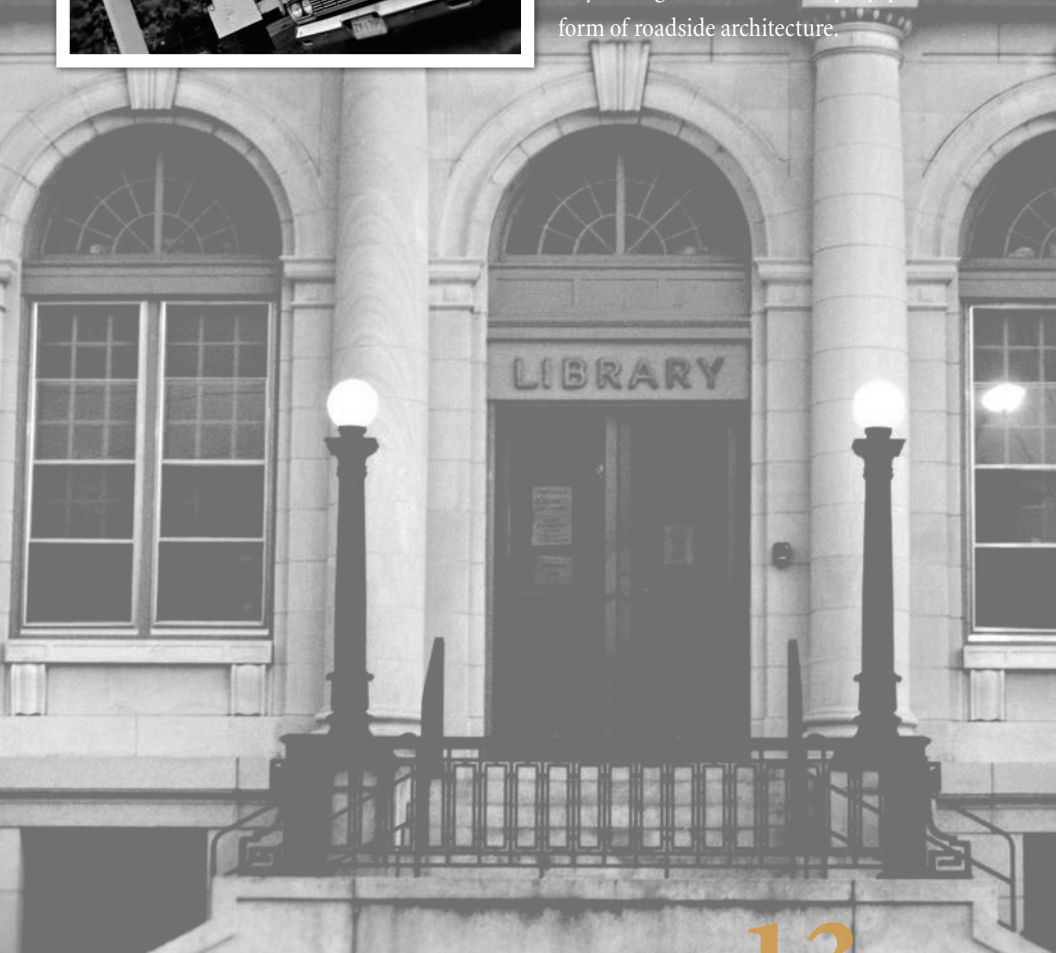
Turn right on Holman and turn right on Friend Street, which was named in honor of the Quakers. The Quaker Meeting on Bush River was established in 1765. In 1808, Quakers began to leave the area after a traveling preacher predicted a great conflict over the issue of slavery. Most of the Friends had left for Ohio and Indiana by 1822. The name "Newberry" went with them, and several towns in the Midwest were named for the Quakers' home on Bush River.

CITY FILLING STATION 12



City Filling Station (1304 Friend Street): Beginning in the 1920's, a filling station was operated on this site. Following a 1930's remodeling, the business sported the slogan "next to the Post Office and just as reliable."

With its intact collection of buildings, the City Filling Station is a uniquely preserved form of roadside architecture.



OLD POST OFFICE 13

Old Post Office (1300 Friend Street): Designed in 1911 by James Knox Taylor, this was Newberry's third post office. Another was built in 1967 on College Street. Since 1967, the classical revival building has served as the public library. The pantile roof, limestone decoration and buff-colored brick are typical of early twentieth century buildings.

TIN FACADE 14



Tin Facade (1104 Caldwell Street): Built circa 1908, the facade of this building on both Caldwell and Friend Streets features unusual tin decorations. The facades are covered with sheets of tin embossed with classical motifs. Many of the stores downtown also feature pressed tin ceilings.

FIRST POST OFFICE 15

First Post Office (1101 Caldwell Street): In 1877, Newberry's Post Office was declared the fourth busiest in the state. This designation may have prompted the Post Office to move out of the hotel building and build a facility of their own. This was the first building constructed solely for a post office and was completed circa 1880. By the 1890's, a larger building for the Post Office was constructed in the 1000 block of Caldwell Street.



NEWBERRY COUNTY LIBRARY 16

Interest in library service began in the early 1800s with a small library in the clerk of court's office. A century later the Woman's Club established the first public library with 100 donated books which have burgeoned into the diverse collection you find today. Whether you're looking for a place to check your email, a quiet place to read today's newspaper, or looking for a puzzle piece for your family history, visitors are welcome from far and near to the county's new library, which was constructed in 2008.

Turn left on Caldwell Street.



CENTRAL UNITED 17 METHODIST CHURCH

Central United Methodist Church (1000 block of Caldwell Street): Established in 1832, it is the second oldest congregation in town. Built in 1901, the Romanesque revival style church is built of brick and granite with a square tower and beautiful stained glass windows.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH 18

First Baptist Church (736 Caldwell Street): Founded in 1831, this is considered to be the oldest congregation in town. It is one of many Baptist churches in the area which were established by Bush River Baptist Church. The current building, with its imposing portico, was begun in 1908.

Turn left on Boundary Street.

BOUNDARY STREET SCHOOL 19 REDEEMER 20

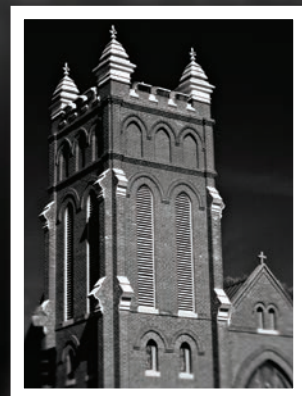


Boundary Street School (1406 Boundary Street): The first free public school in Newberry was built on this site in 1890. Although the original structure was demolished, the original school bell is preserved in a tower at the entrance.

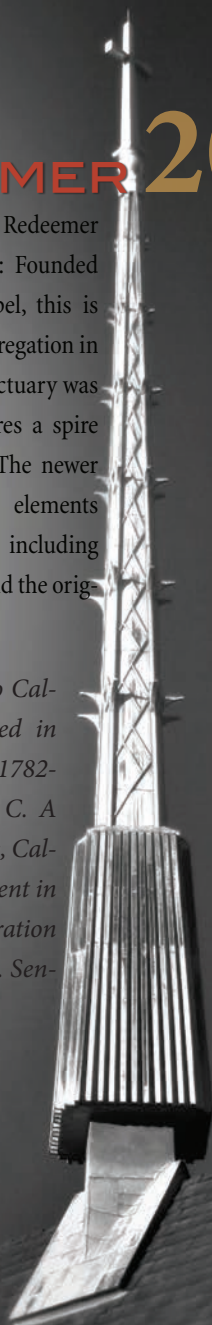
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer (1503 Boundary Street): Founded in 1853 as Luther Chapel, this is the oldest Lutheran congregation in the city. The present sanctuary was built in 1964 and features a spire soaring over 130 feet. The newer buildings incorporate elements from the earlier church including stained glass windows and the original church bell.

At the stop sign, turn left on to Calhoun Street; which was named in honor of John C. Calhoun (1782-1850) of Abbeville County, S. C. A staunch advocate of states rights, Calhoun served as U.S. Vice President in the Andrew Jackson administration and represented S.C. in the U.S. Senate for many years.

NEWBERRY A.R.P. CHURCH 21



Newberry A. R. P. Church (1701 Main Street): The Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Newberry was established in 1850 as the Thompson Street Church. The original building was destroyed in the Fire of 1907. After the fire, the congregation moved to this site and erected a new church. The gothic revival building was designed by Frank Milburn and constructed by C. C. Davis.



ST. LUKE'S EPISOPAL CHURCH 22

St. Luke's Episcopal Church (1605 Main Street): Episcopal services were held in Newberry occasionally since 1839, but a congregation was not formed until the 1850's. The beautiful gothic structure that served St. Luke's since 1855 was demolished in the Tornado of 1984. The present sanctuary was built immediately after the disaster and is based on the original design.



AVELEIGH PRESBYTERIAN 23

Aveleigh Presbyterian Church (1211 Calhoun Street): Founded in 1835 about two miles from the present structure, the congregation moved downtown in 1852. The present building was begun in 1907, when the older church was destroyed by fire. It has since been remodeled several times. Tradition has it that the name is from the home church of the Johnstone family in Ireland.

Turn left on Martin Street and turn right on Lindsay. This street was named for John Lindsay, a planter and business man who gave land for the extension of the street to Newberry College. Prior to the extension, it was called Thompson Street. Dr. Thompson gave land for the street and a lot for the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church.



JAPANESE GARDENS 24

Japanese Gardens: Begun by the Wells family in 1930 as a memorial to Cornelia Schumpert Wells, the gardens have been a favorite Newberry spot for many years. The garden features Japanese-style pavilions and ponds with lotuses and Japanese Irises.

Continue on Lindsay to Calhoun Street. Turn left on Calhoun and turn left on College Street, which was originally named Adams Street honoring a local Dr. Adams. The street was later renamed in honor of Newberry College.

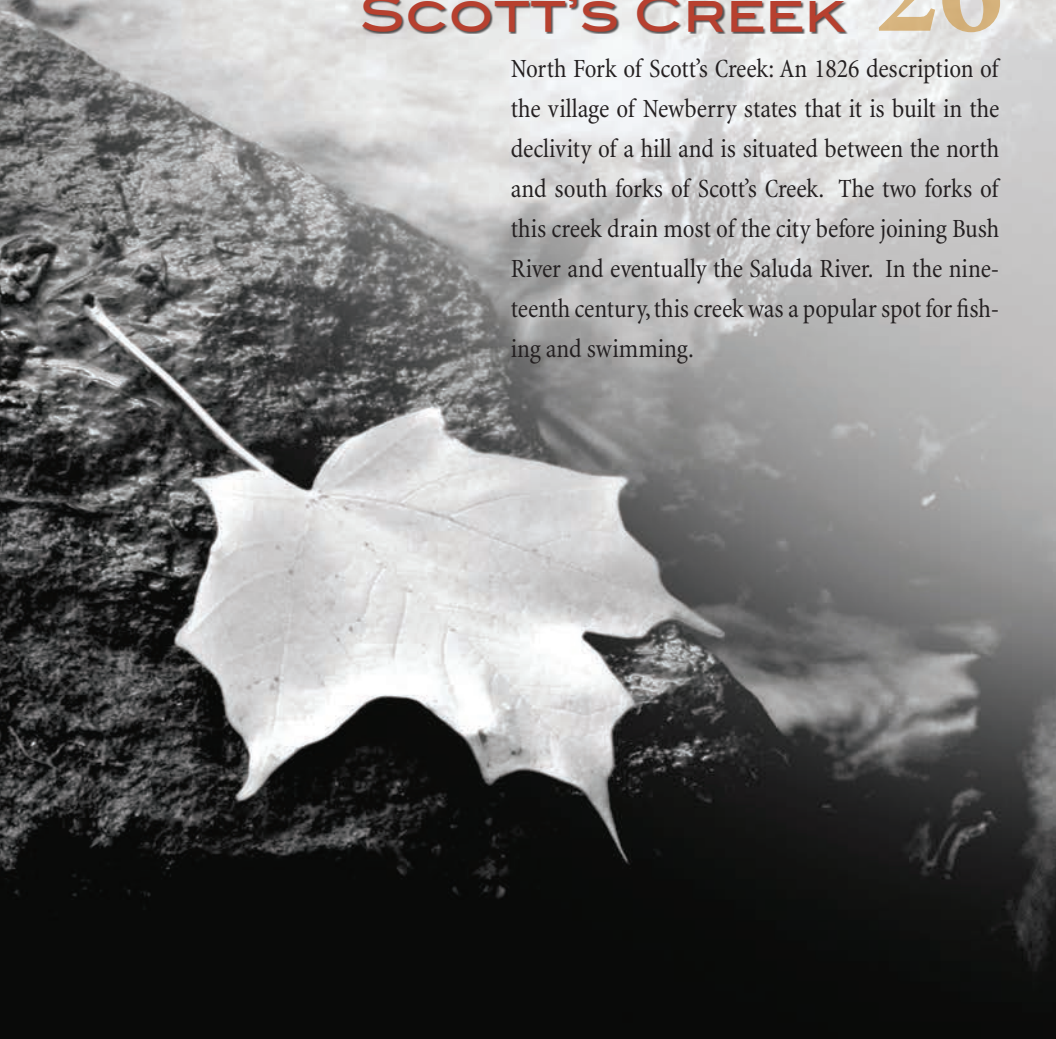


BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH 25

Bethlehem Baptist Church (1501 College Street): Founded in 1868, this is one of the oldest African-American congregations in the city. The present sanctuary was built in 1901 and features unusual obelisk and pyramid-shaped towers.

NORTH FORK OF SCOTT'S CREEK 26

North Fork of Scott's Creek: An 1826 description of the village of Newberry states that it is built in the declivity of a hill and is situated between the north and south forks of Scott's Creek. The two forks of this creek drain most of the city before joining Bush River and eventually the Saluda River. In the nineteenth century, this creek was a popular spot for fishing and swimming.





CITY HALL 27

City Hall (1330 College Street): Originally built for Newberry Federal Savings and Loan in 1968, city offices were moved here in 1993 to provide needed office space and to facilitate renovation of the Opera House.

COURT HOUSE 28

Court House: This classical revival building was designed by Frank Milburn of Columbia in 1908 at a cost of \$50,000. It is the first court house in Newberry to be built off of the Square. With an addition in 1938 and an administrative annex across the street, it is still in use today. Note the distinctive curved bricked columns, which are exemplary of public building architecture around the turn of the 20th century. Unique in the fact that the columns remain intact and unaltered by stucco or similar covering.

Turn left into the Courthouse Parking Lot and proceed to the old Mule Barn (currently The Blue Moon) fronting Lindsay Street.



OLD MULE BARN 29

Old Mule Barn (1320 Lindsay Street): Built circa 1910 as a barn for the Johnson-McCrackin Company, this building is also known as the old Shirt Factory. From the 1950's to the 1970's, it was the home of the Shaw-nee Manufacturing Company. Dilapidated and slated for demolition in 2003, the building was saved by the City's Architectural Review Board. The building was later purchased by another party, renovated and then adapted into a restaurant and sports bar. The alley next to it is one of the few alleys left in the downtown.

Using the other aisle of the parking lot, return to College Street through the Courthouse Parking Lot and then cross to Boyce Street.

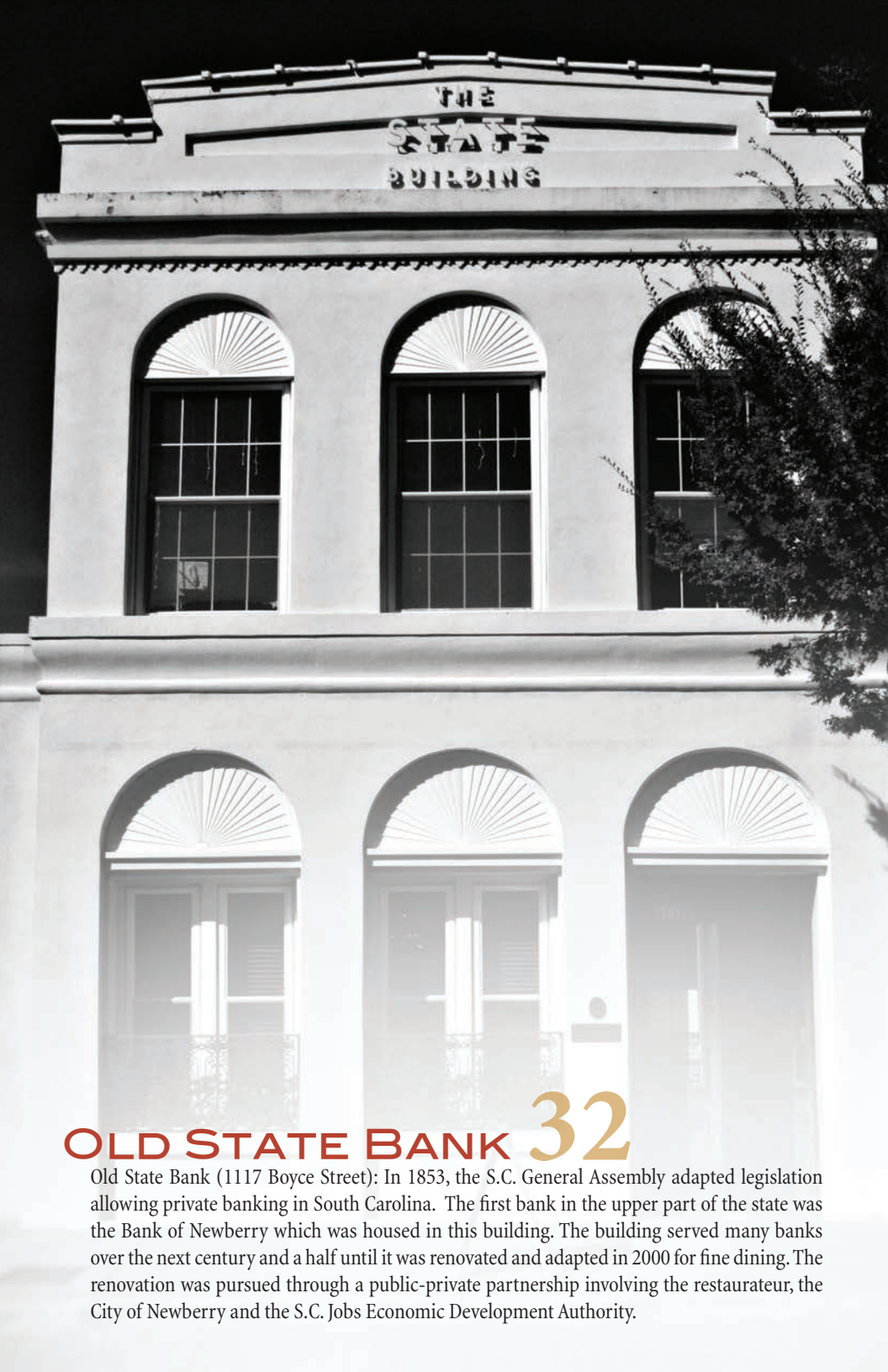
C.T. SUMMER HARDWARE 30



C.T. Summer Hardware (1207 Boyce Street): Established in 1886, this hardware store offers a nostalgic trip back to earlier times. The window displays feature many items relating to the downtown's past. Inside you will find many interesting and unexpected items including a replica of the Nobel Prize for Physics awarded to the current owner's father in 1994.

BRICK PAVING 31

Brick Paving: Originally, the streets of the downtown were unpaved. A satirical article in the Newberry Herald in 1875 suggested forming mud canals and locks from the downtown streets. Should sufficient mud be made available, it was suggested, Mudlick Lock could open the passage from the Square to the railroad tracks. By 1911, most of the streets downtown had been paved with brick. Many of the bricks used are from Augusta. The words "Peerless" and "Augusta" are stamped on many of them. Later layers of asphalt were removed from several of the streets during the renovation of change to the Opera House.



THE
STATE
BUILDING

OLD STATE BANK 32

Old State Bank (1117 Boyce Street): In 1853, the S.C. General Assembly adapted legislation allowing private banking in South Carolina. The first bank in the upper part of the state was the Bank of Newberry which was housed in this building. The building served many banks over the next century and a half until it was renovated and adapted in 2000 for fine dining. The renovation was pursued through a public-private partnership involving the restaurateur, the City of Newberry and the S.C. Jobs Economic Development Authority.



OLD COURT HOUSE 33

Old Court House: The first court house on the Square was a simple log structure which was replaced in 1801 by a larger wooden one. In 1823, an ambitious classical courthouse was designed by Robert Mills. This brick building featured a raised Tuscan portico on the front and brick vaulting on the inside. A stone jail was completed behind it in 1825. The present building, the fourth on the site was completed in 1853 and designed by Columbia architect Jacob Graves. It features a massive portico of Greek Doric columns and a steep flight of granite steps. In 1879, while repairing damage from the Fire of 1879, Osborne Wells added the colorful decoration in the tympanum of the pediment. The design represents an allegory of the Scales of Justice as seen through the eyes of the era of Reconstruction. The American Eagle (looking very vulture-like) and representing the Federal Government has uprooted a Palmetto tree (forming the fulcrum of the scales) representing South Carolina. In the branches, a dove of peace with an olive branch is unable to balance the scales which are tipped by a Gamecock representing our defiant spirit.

Turn right on McKibben Street.

OLD FIRE STATION 34

Old Fire Station (1227 McKibben Street): The Newberry Fire Department was organized in 1883 and originally housed in the Opera House. At the turn of the 20th Century, a two story brick firehouse was built on this site. It was expanded and extensively remodeled by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the Art Deco style in the 1930s. In the 1980s, the station was taken out of service and lay vacant until 2005, when it was renovated and reopened as a state-of-the-art conference and event facility. (see back cover)







Come see why Downtown Newberry is the perfect setting for your next meeting or social occasion.

Newberry Firehouse Conference Center



Planning your next meeting or social event doesn't have to feel like fighting fires...experience the ease of working with a professional and knowledgeable staff that know how to take the stress out of planning your next event.

The Newberry Firehouse Conference Center is a renovated 1890's era firehouse located at 1227 McKibben Street adjacent to the Hampton Inn Hotel and Newberry Opera House featuring:

- State of the art audio/visual equipment including projection, surround sound and presentation lighting systems
- An experienced and capable staff

- Adaptable conference, seminar and training rooms
- Well appointed Executive board room
- Multi-purpose banquet room
- Functional outdoor event spaces

For more information please call us at 803-276-1800 or email us at firehouse@cityofnewberry.com.