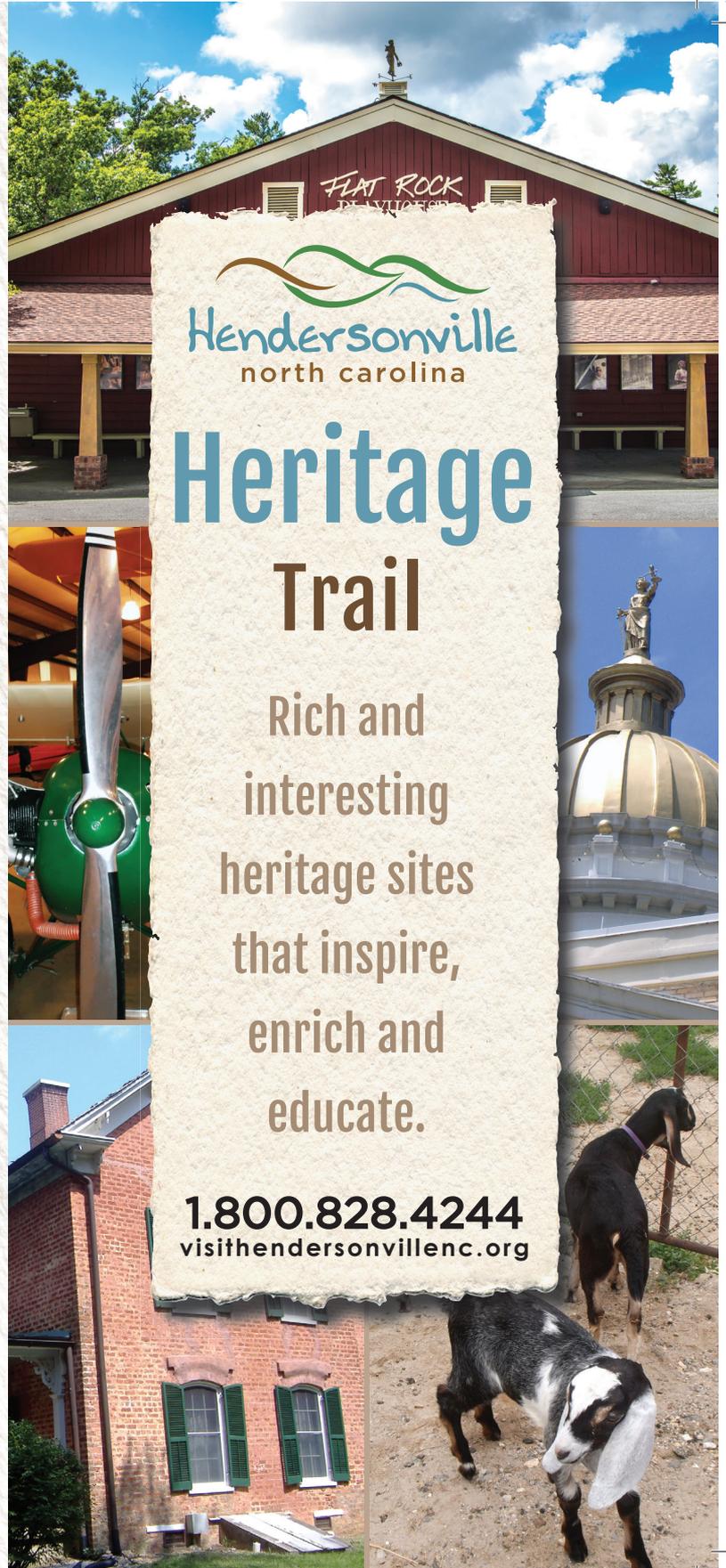




Immerse yourself in the heritage of historic Hendersonville and surrounding communities with a visit to the numerous sites that tell our story and share our many traditions through music, events and historic sites.

Although our terrain is considered a typical mountain county, our rich heritage and friendly people will inspire you to discover the rich heritage of our wonderful community.

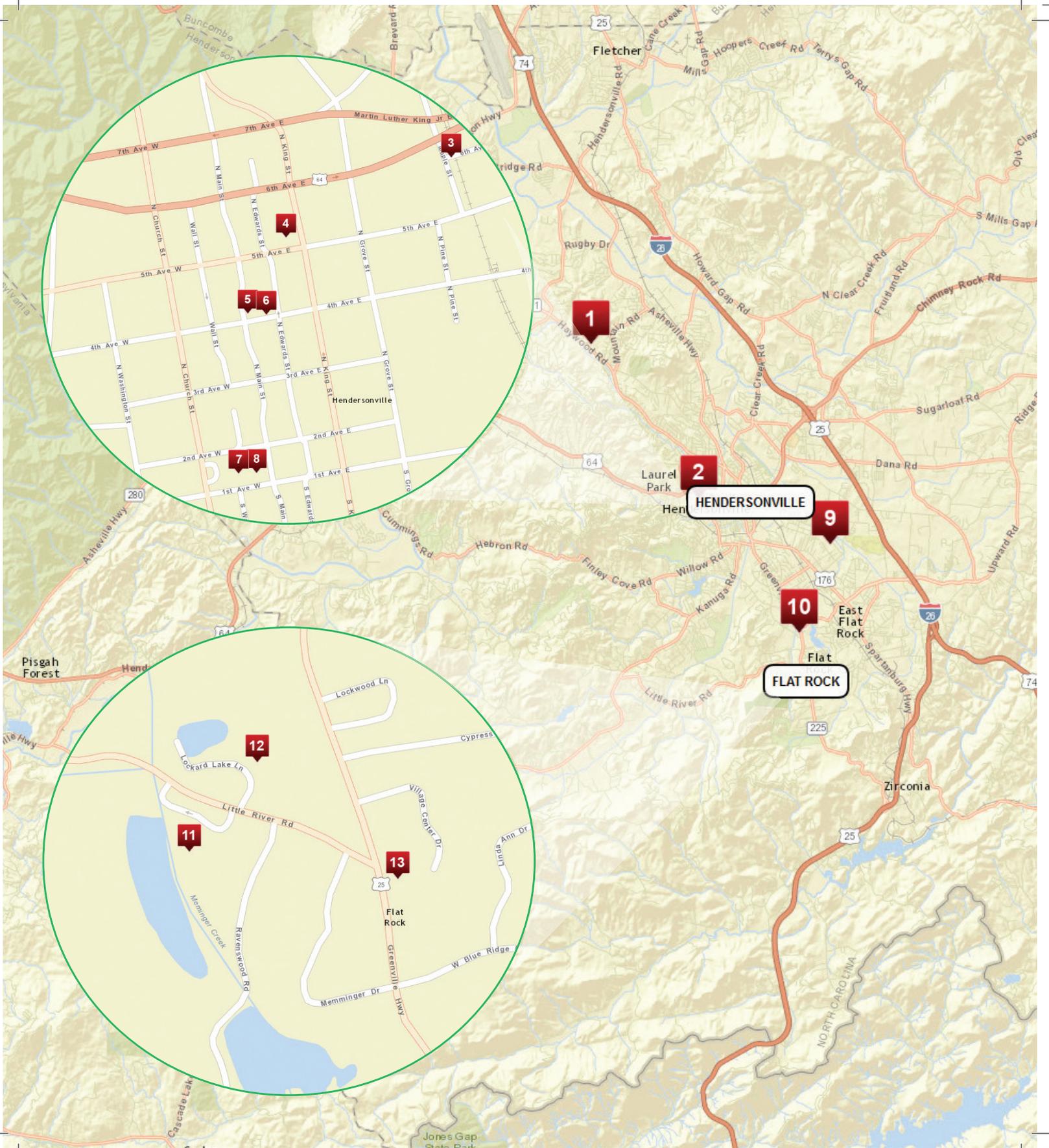



Hendersonville
north carolina

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The HISTORY of Henderson County

The county of Henderson is called a typical mountain county, because it consists of these elements: mountain ranges, isolated peaks, a rolling plateau and level valley areas. Elevations range from 1400 feet near Bat Cave at the foot of the Blue Ridge, to 5000 feet on Little Pisgah.

Hendersonville had easy access from the lowlands and quickly became a vacation destination for tourists to spend the summer months to escape the sweltering heat, for a milder, cooler climate. Historic Hendersonville has been welcoming guests for more than a century, thus creating a strong tourism based industry. This basic economy held up after World War II. Today's economy is based on tourism, manufacturing, agriculture and retirement.

Hendersonville was a hunting ground for the Cherokee before Revolutionary War soldier William Mills "discovered" the area in the late 1780's. Mills received one of the first land grants west of the Blue Ridge Mountains, which was dated 1787, and settled the land to become the thriving community it is today.



The Historic Village of Flat Rock began when affluent Charlestonians, Europeans and prominent plantation owners of the South's low country built large summer estates in the English manner. The families of South Carolina's Low Country came to Flat Rock to escape the sweltering heat and the epidemic of yellow fever and malaria. South Carolina's Low Country gentry affectionately called Flat Rock The Little Charleston of the Mountains. The entire district of Flat Rock is included in the National Register of Historic Places.

The county was named for Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court, Judge Leonard Henderson, who died in 1833, five years before the county was created. Henderson County was created out of the southern part of Buncombe County in 1838. Hendersonville received its original charter in the 1840's with a population of several hundred people.



Henderson County is located on an intermountain plateau and is almost circled by mountains. To the west, the county touches the Pisgah Ledge, and to the east and south borders the Blue Ridge and Saluda Mountains. The county is bordered on the north side by Buncombe county, to the east by Rutherford and Polk counties, to the west by Transylvania county and to the south by South Carolina.

The first source of revenue was agriculture for the people of Henderson County. The settlers grew corn, wheat, rye, potatoes and cabbage. William Mills also planted hundreds of fruit trees each year, so his fellow neighbors did the same. Henderson County now leads the State in production of apples.



- 1 **Historic Johnson Farm** - a fine example of a late 19th / early 20th century farm & tourist retreat. Buildings include a toolshed/blacksmith shop, barn, boarding house and cottage.
828-891-6585 | 3346 Haywood Road, Hendersonville, NC
www.hendersoncountypublicschoolsnc.org/johnson-farm
- 2 **Oakdale Cemetery** - 6th Avenue West (Highway 64). Established 1882, largest cemetery in Henderson County. Contains African-American and Jewish sections. Most notable as the site of Wolfe's Angel, immortalized in the novel *Look Homeward Angel* by author Thomas Wolfe (stands within the iron fence of the Johnson family plot near the historical marker on Highway 64)
- 3 **Historic Hendersonville Train Depot** - built 1879, houses a model railroad layout depicting Hendersonville, Saluda and other Western NC towns. Free admission.
650 Maple Street | 828-890-8246 | www.avmrc.com
- 4 **Hendersonville City Hall** (145 5th Avenue East) built in 1928; replaced the first Town Hall and Opera House
- 5 **State Trust Co. Building** - former bank now home to the Genealogical & Historical Society (828-693-1531 www.hcghs.com) and the Mineral & Lapidary Museum of Henderson County. Free admission.
400 North Main Street | 828-698-1977 | www.mineralmuseum.org.
Restored 1924 McClintock Chime Clock adorns the corner of this building.
- 6 **Historic Downtown Hendersonville** - popular shopping and dining destination along beautifully restored Main Street. Late 19th and early 20th century architecture. Site of many annual events.
828-233-3216 | www.downtownhendersonville.org
- 7 **Historic Henderson County Courthouse** - 1 Historic Courthouse Square; completed 1905, designed by Richard Sharp Smith, the "resident architect" of Biltmore. House. www.hendersoncountync.org
- 8 **Henderson County Heritage Museum** - inside Historic Courthouse; displays artifacts, collections and other exhibits relating the history, culture and heritage of Henderson County. Free admission.
828-694-1619 | www.hendersoncountymuseum.com
- 9 **Western North Carolina Air Museum** - the first air museum in the state of North Carolina. Restored vintage aircraft collection and historical exhibits. Free Admission.
1340 East Gilbert Street, Hendersonville | 828-698-2482
www.wncairmuseum.com
- 10 **St. John in the Wilderness Church** - English-style chapel built in 1833 as the private chapel of the Baring family. Deeded to Western North Carolina Episcopal Diocese in 1836, becoming the first church of that denomination in Western North Carolina. Historic churchyard contains graves of noted Confederates and other local historic figures.
1895 Greenville Hwy, Flat Rock | 828-693-9783
www.stjohnflatrock.episcopalwnc.org
- 11 **Connemara** (Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site) - historic home built in 1838, was final home of Pulitzer Prize-winning author, historian and poet Carl Sandburg. The farm includes 264 acres of rolling hills, forest, lakes, pastures, goat barn and historic buildings.
1800 Little River Rd., Flat Rock, NC | 828-693-4178. | www.nps.gov/carl
- 12 **Flat Rock Playhouse, The State Theater of North Carolina** - founded as a group of performers called the Vagabond Players. The Lowndes House (c. 1884), built by Richard Lowndes, a Charleston rice planter, now serves as theater offices. The house and the theater are situated on a tremendous outcrop of granite, thought to be the site of Cherokee gatherings.
FlatRockPlayhouse.org
- 13 **Old Flat Rock Post Office** - circa 1845 - the first building used as an official Post Office in Henderson County; served as a lookout post during the Civil War
2680 Greenville Hwy, Flat Rock

