



Thanks for taking the Walking Tour of Spencer!

Spencer Walking Tour (One Mile)

(12) **Chapman House, 500 S. Carolina Avenue**
Dominating its immediate surroundings, this residence of J. R. Chapman, conductor on the Southern, is one of the most imposing Queen Anne residences in Spencer. Erected between 1910 and 1913, this two-and-one-half story, brick dwelling was run as a boarding house in its early years.

(13) **Cruse House, 510 5th Street**
Built between 1930 and 1935. One-story frame cottage with hipped roof and two front-facing gables; small peaked central dormer.

Turn right on Spencer Ave

(14) **Rowe House, 408 S. Spencer Ave.**
Built by 1913. One-story, single-pile frame cottage with two front-facing gables. Full façade porch with central pediment over entry, supported by replacement metal posts; one original turned posts

Turn right on 4th Street.

(15) **Dr. Sigman House, 600 4th Street**
Built by 1910. Two-story, double-pile stuccoed house with low pyramidal hipped roof, and one-story front projection engaging entry; terrace extending from west side of projection with stuccoed balustrade; enclosed porch on east side of main block.

(16) **Gosney House, 503 4th Street**
Built by 1907. Typical two-story, single-pile frame house with triple-A roof configuration and projecting central gabled pavilion. Full façade porch with square balustrade running between bungalow-form tapered wood posts set on brick piers, wrapping around east side of house.

(17) **Eagle-Burdette House, 409 4th Street**
The W. M. Eagle family moved into this early Colonial Revival house, erected for them by James Kennerly, on September 9, 1909. An engineer for the Southern, Mr. Eagle also financed the building of many other homes in Spencer. His daughter, Mrs. T. R. Burdette, wife of a Southern Railway man who served as an alderman and as mayor of Spencer from 1953 to 1977, lived here until 1988. This was one of the first homes in Spencer to exclusively employ the Colonial Revival idiom.

(18) **Fowler House, 401 S. Carolina Avenue**
This well-preserved house with Queen Anne style details was erected circa 1905 and by 1910 it was the family home of T. P. Fowler, mayor of Spencer from 1933 to 1947 and conductor for the Southern Railway.



Town of Spencer

600 S. Salisbury Avenue
Spencer, NC 28159

Phone: 704-633-2231
<http://www.ci.spencer.nc.us>



<http://www.ci.spencer.nc.us>

Tel: 704-633-2231



Spencer Walking Tour

The Spencer Shops was the largest industrial project in the South following the Civil War. As Southern Railway erected the Shops, they also laid down detailed plans for a town to be built adjacent to the enormous site. Lots were sold to employees, churches were granted free land for their congregations, a park was established as the center of the community, businesses were built, and every imaginable service was provided. Within only a few years, Spencer boomed.

We've created this walk for your touring pleasure of Spencer. There are many places we could tell you about that are not on this tour, as Spencer has so much to share.

Spencer's Historic District reflects the wealth of the railroad and is a unique example of a railroad town from the latter part of the Gilded Age. Great time and detail were put into building each house and these dwellings represent a historic era when the railroad industry was America's moneymaking powerhouse.

The single, must-visit place in Spencer is the North Carolina Transportation Museum, known for the 'Shops' and the Roundhouse. Originally constructed by the Southern Railway Company in an effort to combine its shops from Burlington, Salisbury and Charlotte, Samuel Spencer, for whom the town is named, was president of the Southern Railway Company. The shops officially closed on July 30, 1960. We recommend you spend a whole day walking through the museum.

However, for today's tour, we ask you start at Spencer's Library. Drive down 4th Street from S. Salisbury Avenue two and a half blocks and locate the library on the right side of the road. We call this Library Park. You can park in the street or pull around to the back of the building for parking. The park area was added and is used for community events and weddings.

(1) **Spencer Library, 300 4th Street**

Former 1913 School Building. Currently used as the Spencer Public Library (established in 1943 as the first branch of the Rowan County Library system), this building was erected in 1913 as an addition to Spencer's first brick school building built on the site in 1906. The original structure with its two stories, three bays and central pavilion lent inspiration to the design of the 1913 building. After a fire consumed the original building in 1925, a much larger, classically styled structure was erected flanking the 1913 building; it was razed in 1978.

As you walk out the front door, go to the sidewalk and look straight ahead.

(2) **J.K. Dorsett House, 301 4th Street**

An excellent example of Spencer's builders' ability to assimilate varied architectural styles to create attractive residences, this home was built circa 1910 for banker, J. K. Dorsett.

Walk down 4th street toward Salisbury Avenue.

(3) **Central United Methodist Church, 200 4th Street**

This is the third building occupied by Spencer's Methodist congregation, which was organized in 1897. The first was a small frame building located on the northeast corner of Fourth Street and Yadkin Avenue. In 1903 the congregation erected a Gothic-inspired brick chapel on their current site which served until 1914 when it was condemned. Reflecting a revival of classical architecture, the present structure was built in the years spanning 1917 to 1921.

Cross over Yadkin Avenue and on your left is...

(4) **Spencer's Former Town Hall, 118 4th Street**

This building was constructed in 1937 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). Formerly, two, large, round-arched openings defined the Fire Department and City Hall areas; the interior contained office space, a large courtroom where municipal court was held, two jail cells and space for the fire equipment.

Continue toward Salisbury Avenue and turn right at the corner. As you approach 5th Street, look toward your right and notice the shopping center.

(5) **Spencer Plaza**

This shopping center is the site of the former park mentioned in the introduction to this guide.

Cross over 5th Street

(6) **The Watch Repair Shop, 504 S. Salisbury Avenue**
Evolving from the need to have all railroad watches running correctly, one of the first of only five schools of watch repair in the United States opened in 1929. By the time of its closing in 1968, over 1,300 students had been trained (TSAHI). One-story brick commercial building with corbelled cornice; later glass storefront and entries with brick apron.

(7) **Krider's Café, 518 S. Salisbury Avenue**

Two-story brick commercial building with paired 4/4 sash over storefront partially infilled with wood; later diamond-paned recessed windows set over brick planter boxes; flush entry.

Turn around and now when you get to 5th Street, turn left.

(8) **Bucky's Produce, 119 5th Street**

This was once the home of Spencer's first YMCA (razed). It was later home to VunCannon's garage and Spencer's first gas pump. Also at this location was Brandt's supermarket (1932), thought to be the first supermarket in North Carolina. More recently it was a theatre and is now home to Bucky's Produce.

(9) **First Baptist Church, 215 5th Street**

Spencer's First Baptist congregation built this handsome classically-inspired sanctuary in 1926 after a fire consumed the congregation's first sanctuary. It is fashioned very much like the Stallings Memorial Baptist Church in Salisbury and like a painting in the Spencer church by J. M. Longmire following a design reportedly commissioned just before the fire from architect J. E. Greene of Birmingham, Alabama. Reverend J. N. Stallings, a missionary of the Baptist State Convention, was the first pastor called to serve the Spencer church (1898).

(10) **Sigmon-Brandt House, 500 S. Rowan Avenue**

Sited on a corner lot defined by a low stone wall, this residence is one of Spencer's best blends of bungalow styling and classical detailing. An above-ground basement level (to the rear and holding a side entry) was made possible by a sloped lot and was constructed to serve a commercial venture.

(11) **Calvary Lutheran Church, 303 5th Street**

Built in 1961. A tall, circular brick sanctuary building encircled in stained glass strips with central stained glass panel; flat-roofed canopy connects to two-story, front gable brick educational building (1950) with front gable projection.