

STROLL THROUGH

HISTORY

Whether you begin and end at Belk Tonawanda Park or somewhere else along the greenway, you will enjoy a scenic walk or run winding through Historic Downtown Monroe. Banners and markers along the sidewalks guide visitors on this one and a half mile loop.

Discover the rich history of our Downtown as you follow along this map which identifies and briefly details significant sites. You'll also pass

merchants to explore and restaurants to dine in. Whether you are seeking solitude and serenity or a friendly place to meet up with friends, the Historic Downtown Monroe Greenway has something for everyone.



For more about Historic Downtown Monroe, North Carolina, go to historicdowntownmonroe.org.

The Monroe Parks and Recreation Department is committed to providing the best possible recreational facilities and programs for the citizens and visitors to the City of Monroe. Learn more about what the Monroe Parks and Recreation has to offer at MonroeNC.org.



Take a leisurely stroll
along the Historic
Downtown Monroe
Greenway



Historic Downtown Monroe Greenway and Significant Sites Along the Way

- 1 US Post Office Building (1913) 407 N Main St.** This building was the main post office until 1986 and is an example of Neo-Classical federal architecture. Designed by Oscar Wendroth, this substantial, sophisticated facility indicates Monroe's growing importance as a trading, industrial, and railroad center in 1913.
- 2 Old City Hall (1847, renovated late 1970's) 100 W Jefferson St.** The oldest public building in Union County began as the public jail. It housed the Monroe government offices from 1892-1972, and was nominated for the National Register of Historic Places in 1971.
- 3 Union County Courthouse (1886, renovated 1926 & 1986)** Thomas J. Holt combined elements from a variety of popular styles to create *the most sophisticated and impressive building in the county*. The restoration and reuse of this building is the most important preservation project undertaken in Union County and it remains the single most significant property representing the history and development of Union County and Monroe.
- 4 Monroe Hardware (1887, rebuilt 1927)** Monroe Hardware started in 1887 as the Heath Hardware Company. The store's slogan, "*We handle everything under the sun, from a pin hook to a Gatlin gun*," was painted on the front of the building. This block was rebuilt in 1927 after being completely lost to fire.

- 5 Monroe Hardware Warehouse (1924)**
101 N Hayne St. Monroe Hardware used this magnificent 3-story building as a warehouse until 1962. After the 1927 burning of nearby retail store, Monroe Hardware Warehouse expanded. There is a *ghost mark* on the second floor walls where a bridge connected the building across Morgan Street.
- 6 Stewart House (1875, rebuilt 1920's)**
100-108 N Main St. Also known as the Central Hotel, it was originally 3-stories tall with shops on the first floor and boarding on the upper levels. After fire destruction it was rebuilt with only 2 floors. As a young boy, William Henry Belk (founder of Belk's Department Stores) was paid 25 cents a day to haul these hand-molded bricks to the masons.
- 7 Monroe Bank & Trust Building (1919)**
120 N Main St. Monroe Bank & Trust Company was organized in 1903 as The Savings, Loan and Trust Company. Morgan Street entrance originally led to a farmer's room where farmers could meet with tenants to transact business.
- 8 Belk Building (1888, rebuilt 1901) 201 N Main St.**
Housed William Henry Belk's first retail store named New York Racquet. Renamed Belk Brothers in 1891 when brother Dr. John M. Belk joined the business. Belk Brothers was unusual because prices were clearly marked, no haggling, and customers could return items for a refund.
- 9 Belk-Bundy Building (1911) 200-204 N Main St.**
Constructed on two adjacent lots owned by the Belk brothers and S.B. Bundy. The Italian Renaissance Revival Style design conveys Monroe's prosperity in the early twentieth century.
- 10 English Drug Building (1876, renovated 1900 & 2000) 115 W Franklin St.** Originally erected as rental property, this building housed the English Drug Company from 1883 to the late 1920's.
- 11 People's Bank Building (1875, renovated 1900)**
313 N Main St. The first bank in Monroe, People's was organized in 1874. First national Bank acquired People's Bank in 1905 and occupied the building until 1919.

P Parking Free public parking.