

**Stop 1:**

**Old Courthouse ~ 139 East Main St.**

On this site stood the county jail from the town's founding in 1820 to the construction of this building in the late 1930s. The current structure, dedicated in 1940 and was designed by local architect, J. Carroll Johnson and constructed by T.E. Moore and J.R. Holcombe.



**Stop 2:**

**Walker and Morgan ~ 135 East Main St.**

The March 28, 1916 fire, the most destructive since the Civil War, burned most of the buildings on Main Street between Church St. and what is now South Lake Dr. Before the fire, this was the site of Godfrey Harmon's home and business. Harmon was the publisher of the Lexington Dispatch and owner of a general store. After the fire, Harmon's son Rice built the structure which stands before you, a former drugstore.

**Stop 3:**

**Cribb's Sandwich and Sweet Shop  
108 South Church St.**

This building, constructed circa early 1900's currently houses Cribb's Sandwich and Sweet Shop. It was formerly a funeral home, demonstrating how older structures can be adapted for reuse. Before the current structure was built, a cotton warehouse stood on this site.

**Stop 4:**

**Palmetto Collegiate Institute  
104 Hendrix St.**

Now owned by the Town of Lexington and used as a wedding venue, this wonderfully renovated structure served as a school from 1881 to 1911. In 1906, tuition for the school ranged from \$1.10 per month for first grade to \$2.90 per month for ninth grade. After the institute closed, the building was then used as a private residence by the Roof family.

**Stop 5:**

**Carpet One ~ 102 West Main St.**

Now home to Carpet One, this site was previously a furniture store and undertaking business, owned by Scott Hendrix. The building across West Main St. is the Caughman building, one of the few buildings to survive the 1916 fire most likely due to its high walls and brick construction.

**Stop 6:**

**St. Stephens Lutheran Church  
119 North Church St.**

You are currently standing in front of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. Although the current structure was completed in 1958, the church itself is the oldest church in the town of Lexington dating to 1830.

**Stop 7:**

**Bank of Western Carolina Building  
126 East Main St.**

This structure, unique in the town due to its Mission Revival architecture, was constructed circa 1912 by the Bank of Western Carolina and was one of the few buildings in the commercial district to survive the great 1916 fire, although it did suffer roof damage.

**Stop 8:**

**Nicholson Davis Frawley Law Office  
140 East Main St.**

This site, now home to a law firm, was the former location of the second, third, fourth and fifth county courthouses. The original courthouse location before Lexington was founded in 1820 was in a town called Granby, located on the Congaree River just south of modern day Cayce.

**Stop 9:**

**Simmons Harth Gantt House  
102 Gantt St.**

You are now standing in front of the Simmons Harth Gantt House, built around 1830 by Dr. Thomas Simmons. It is one of the town's oldest residences and, architecturally, it is a later Federal style structure. Although Lexington grew slowly at first, doctors and merchants were soon moving to the town. Dr. Simmons, originally from the lowcountry, was one of those to have moved into the town.

**Stop 10:**

**Home National Bank Building  
200 East Main St.**

This structure is the historic Home National Bank building, erected in 1912. Between 1940 and 1960, the Lexington Depository was located here. The town's post office was also located here until the 1960s when it was moved farther north.

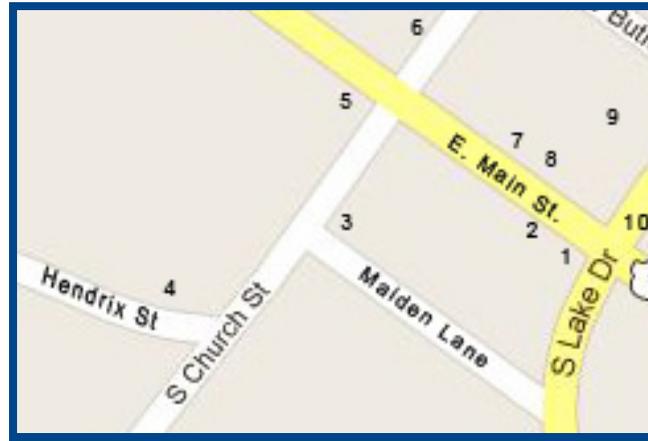
# History of Lexington

The historic town of Lexington, South Carolina is a direct descendent of the old Royal township of Saxe Gotha. This township was one of eleven established in 1735 by the Colonial government of King George II to encourage settlement of backcountry South Carolina and serve as a protective buffer between powerful Indian tribes to the west and the older settled plantations of the low country. The name Saxe Gotha was in honor of the marriage of the British Prince of Wales to Princess Augusta of the German State of Saxe Gotha.

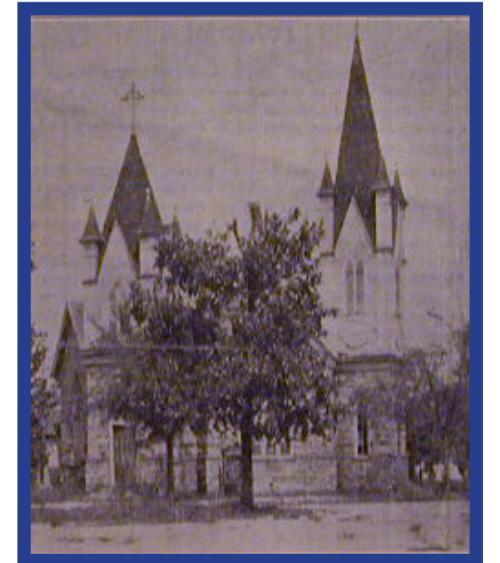
In 1785 Lexington County was established, changing the name from Saxe Gotha to Lexington in honor of the Massachusetts Revolutionary War battle. The county's first courthouse was built at Granby, located just south of present day Cayce.

By 1861, when it was incorporated as a town, Lexington boasted a diverse population of lawyers, physicians, tradespeople, artisans and farmers. There were then two churches, several schools, a carriage factory, a saw and gristmill, a tannery, livestock yard, tin and blacksmiths, and a weekly newspaper. The major crops of the surrounding countryside were mainly cotton, corn sweet potatoes and lumber. Lexington was not a marketing center for these staples, but did serve as a retail market for manufactured goods purchased wholesale by merchants in nearby Columbia.

The Town of Lexington has continued to be the political center of Lexington County, one of the fastest growing areas of the nation. With new major highways passing nearby, the town continues to experience phenomenal growth. The people of Lexington are proud of their past and look forward to a promising future.



## Historic Downtown Lexington Cell Phone Walking Tour



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