

Charleston Station, 1920

Originally a private home, it was purchased by the Clampitt family in 1986 for use as an antique shop.

Cross Main Street and head back toward Everett Street

Smoky Mountain Community Theatre, 1950

Originally the GEM Theatre, the name stood for the initials of its builder, Gomer E. Martin.

Swain County Genealogical Society, 1949

Known as the Community Building, this structure was built after WWII and throughout the years was used to house community functions, the town office, and the Marianna Black Library.

We hope you have enjoyed your stroll through our lovely downtown and have a great time here in



Other Areas of Historical Interest:

Bryson City Cemetery:

(go straight up the hill on Arlington Avenue at the Shell station in the middle of town)

Although the author never said, many scholars believe that the statue described in Thomas Wolfe's "Look Homeward Angel" is the marker of Fanny Everett Clancy, located in the Bryson City Cemetery. Others believe Wolfe's "angel" was a composite of two statues, the one in Bryson City and another in Hendersonville, NC. Both were imported from Carrara, Italy and sold at the Asheville tombstone shop owned by Thomas Wolfe's father in the early 1900s. The Hendersonville angel has the smile and the foot of the angel described in the novel, while the Bryson City angel holds the lily that Wolfe described.

While at the Bryson City cemetery, also look for the large boulder marking the grave of Horace Kephart (1862-1931). The plaque reads "Scholar, Author, Outdoorsman." He loved his neighbors and pictured them in "Our Southern Highlanders." His vision helped to create The Great Smoky Mountains National Park." Kephart also penned "Camping and Woodcraft" based on a series of articles he wrote for Field and Stream.

For more information, please stop by the visitor center at 2 Everett Street.



Downtown Historic Buildings Walking Tour

Swain County Chamber of Commerce
greatsmokies.com

Your walk through downtown Bryson City begins at the corner of Everett & Main Street, continues up toward the Presbyterian Church, looping down the other side of Everett, onto Mitchell Street, back to Everett, onto Main, and ending back at Everett.

Swain County Visitor Center & Heritage Museum, 1908

This is the third courthouse constructed on this site and was completed in 1908 for a total cost of \$30,000.00.

The Everett Hotel & Bistro, 1908

Former site of the Bryson City Bank which was founded in June 1904.

Calby's Antiques & Friends of the Marianna Black Library Used Bookstore, 1905

Originally Bennett's Drug Store which was founded in 1905. Three generations of Bennett family pharmacists practiced here.

The Waldroup Building, early 1900's

Renowned author Horace Kephart used this location for both lodging and office space during his time in Bryson City.

Awenasa Realty, 1905

Originally Sisk Drug in the early 1900's.

Gallery Zella, 1915

Housed the second bank of Bryson City; the bank was one of the early victims of the Great Depression, closing in 1929.

Great Smoky Mountains Railroad Depot, 1885

The oldest building on the tour. The railroad first reached Bryson City in 1884 and the last regular Southern Railway passenger train ran July 15, 1949.

Continue walking up Everett Street and cross over at the Presbyterian Church

Bryson City Presbyterian Church, 1890

First dedicated in June 1891, remained untouched until 1961.

Tickled Pink, 1920

Originally the R.G. Coffey Hardware Company with the upstairs housing the Bryson City Masonic Lodge.

The Station Mall, 1915

Originally the Slayden—Fakes building, this was one of the earliest grocery and dry goods distributors in the region.

Take a right onto Mitchell Street and visit the Swain County Heritage Wall located at the Administration Building. Almost finished, this wall tells the chronological history of Swain County from its Cherokee history and early settlement to today.

The Charles Heath Gallery, 1890

From law offices to a government liquor dispensary, this building has housed all sorts through the years.

Smith's Dry Goods, 1910

Operated as a dry goods continuously since 1910 with the Smith family purchasing it in 1976.

The Cottage Craftsman, 1905

From lumber office to funeral home to bus station, this building has seen a lot of use.

Turn right onto Main Street

Old Clampitt Hardware, 1911

Oldest continually operated business in Bryson City, began as T.I. Hughes General Merchandise.