

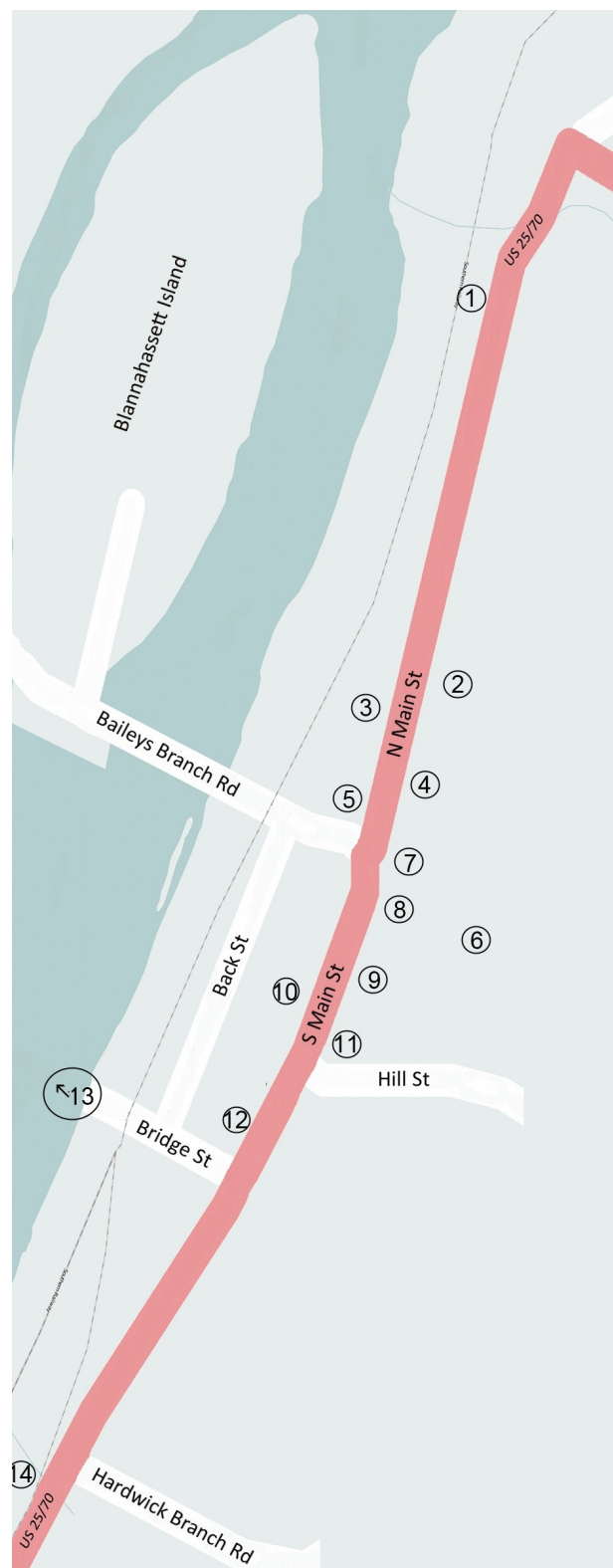
## *Madison County, NC Self-Guided Walking Tours*

# *Marshall, NC*

The historic town of Marshall, nestled between rocky cliffs and the scenic French Broad River, celebrates its colorful past while passionately embracing the present. Main Street, lined with original buildings including a century-old courthouse, is home to artists' studios, galleries, music and dance venues, and eclectic shops. A quick walk or drive over the river takes you to Blannhassett Island, where you'll find picnic areas, fishing, a stage and the recently restored Marshall High Studios.



Marshall's history has been shaped by its location along the French Broad River. Originally called Lapland, the location was chosen as Madison County's county seat and the name changed to Marshall in 1852. In its early history, it was a stop along the Drover's Road or Buncombe Turnpike. This importance as a major route continued when the railroad tracks were built along the river in the late 1800s. The U.S. highway for motor vehicle traffic ran down the Main Street in the 1900s. The buildings reflect the town's religious and cultural history from its role during the Civil War to its economic strength a century later. Many of the buildings reflect the era in the mid 1900s when downtown Marshall was a bustling street with several car dealerships, service stations, cafés, grocery stores and department stores.



## 1 Lapland Bookshop

147 N Main St.

Before the current owners redesigned the building in 2009 in its storybook fashion, it was a café and then a donut shop (the aroma carried for blocks). Most recently, it housed Cody Motor Sales—one of FIVE automobile dealerships along Main Street. This current building was never a train depot, although many think it looks like one.



## 2 Methodist Church—FBI

56 N. Main St.

This former Methodist Church is the oldest (1912) church building in town (excluding the Free Will Baptist Church at the far north end of Main Street which was moved from the Island). It survived the Great Flood of 1916—one of the few buildings on Main Street to do so. Other churches farther south are the First Baptist Church whose current building was constructed in 1959 and the Marshall Presbyterian Church which replaced the original 1900 building in 1950.



## 3 Private Business & Residence

41 N Main St.

This building is one of the oldest surviving businesses on Main Street. It was built in 1920 and used as a garage for a while. In the early 1930s until the mid 1900s, it was the State Theatre where many country stars such as Bill Stanley and The Carter Family performed. With the opening of a Drive-In Theatre, the old theater was converted to an A&P Store before it became a private residence.



## 4 Bacchus Bistro

14 N Main St.

Page and Pricey Brigman built the original Rock Café Restaurant in 1947 at the front of the 1847 Brigman House. This building served both as a restaurant and Greyhound Bus Station. When the original Rock Café was owned and operated by Page Brigman, the family raised almost everything they cooked—the original version of “farm to table.” In the old style of serving, if the people at one table didn’t eat their bread, the bread basket was moved to another table!



## 5 Zuma Coffee

7 N. Main St.

Built in 1947 as Home Electric and Furniture, the business was operated by Delmar Payne and Leonard Baker. When REA (Rural Electrification Administration) came to the area, bringing electricity, the owners doubled as electricians to wire the houses and salesmen to sell the electrical appliances. The business also sold musical instruments and records and thus, became a gathering place for musicians. The present Zuma has a free blue grass jam every Thursday night.



## 6 The J. H. White House

On the cliff above the Courthouse

Built in 1905 (and designed by Richard Sharp Smith) as a wedding gift for Annie White from her father. In 1935, she lost the house during the Depression. The structure was changed and James Penland bought it in 1937 and operated it as a tourist home. With 22 rooms, the Balsam Tourist Home (named for the trees) operated until the mid 1980s.



Some photos provided by Timages, Marshall, NC

Stories and remembrances are from Joe Penland, Jr., the local singer, songwriter, and storyteller.

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## 7 **Madison County Courthouse** *2 N. Main St.*

The Madison County Courthouse was constructed in 1907. The two story Neo-Classical Revival brick structure sits in the heart of Marshall. It cost \$30,000 to build. The cupola, a four stage polygonal structure, is one of the most impressive courthouse cupolas in North Carolina. The domical roof, bearing clocks on its alternate faces, is capped by a lantern which serves as a pedestal for a statue of Blind Justice. This courthouse was built by the famed architect, Richard Sharp Smith who served as head architect for the Biltmore House.



## 8 **SECU Bank** *13 S. Main St.*

The right side of this building (1922) was the first department store that James Penland opened in 1952. He had worked for the Tweed family in their department store across the street since 1925. After a “falling out” with the Tweeds, Penland opened this store and within a few years, he put all the department stores on Main Street out of business and moved back to the Tweed building. Listed on the National Historic Register as one building.



## 9 **Col. Lawrence Allen House** *39 S. Main St*

The front portion of this two-story frame house was built in 1849 by Col. Lawrence Allen who was the first Clerk of Court for Marshall. Allen was one of the two leaders involved in the Shelton Laurel Massacre during the Civil War—the story is retold on the Civil War Trails Marker in front of the house. The rear addition was added in 1872.



## 10 **Penland & Sons** *50 S. Main St.*

Opened as the E.R. Tweed Department Store in 1925— note the name embedded in the tile entrance—the store has been operated by the Penland family since the mid 1950s. James Nathaniel Penland was the first in the family before the business passed to Joe Penland, Sr. and his brother George. George’s widow Barbara is the current owner.



## 11 **Masonic Temple** *63 S. Main St.*

Built in 1925 as a Masonic Temple, this actually housed a small hospital on the second floor and now has artist studios. The first floor was the location of Wild’s Radio and Appliances. Wild rode his motorcycle to people’s houses and repaired the old tube radios. A pretty handy man, he installed the first solar-powered heating in Marshall in the 50s and 60s. The Masons still use the third floor.



## 12 **Madison County Arts Center** *90 S. Main St.*

This building was the Belk Broome Department Store with 2 floors and a mezzanine. If you bought something on the 2nd floor or mezzanine, you put the purchase in the dumb waiter to go to the cashier on the first floor. In the 1970s the Library moved from the small house on North Main to this location (until 2003 when the new library was built). The Madison County Arts Council moved here in May 2007. The Center has a gallery, a store and a stage area for its many concerts.



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## 13 Capitola Cotton Mill

*Across the French Broad River*

A Trestle Bridge at the end of Bridge Street across the French Broad River once led to the Capitola Manufacturing Company Cotton Mill which was built in 1903. It operated until 1925 and provided jobs for many of the people in the town. It is said that when it opened, the population of the town doubled. The area behind the Mill was known as "Cotton Mill Hill" where houses for workers were on mill-owned land. Other businesses operated in the building including The Marshall Glove Factory.



## 14 The Depot

*282 S. Main St.*

The building is the original Southern Railroad Depot for the town and served as the depot until the 1970s when passenger service was discontinued. Many of the businesses in town flourished along the tracks because of the ease of unloading products. Mail was delivered and picked up at the depot with a pivot arm on which the mail pouch was hooked. Today, it serves as a traditional music jam every Friday night (and has since 1980 when Jerry Adams moved the jam from Adams Pharmacy).



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