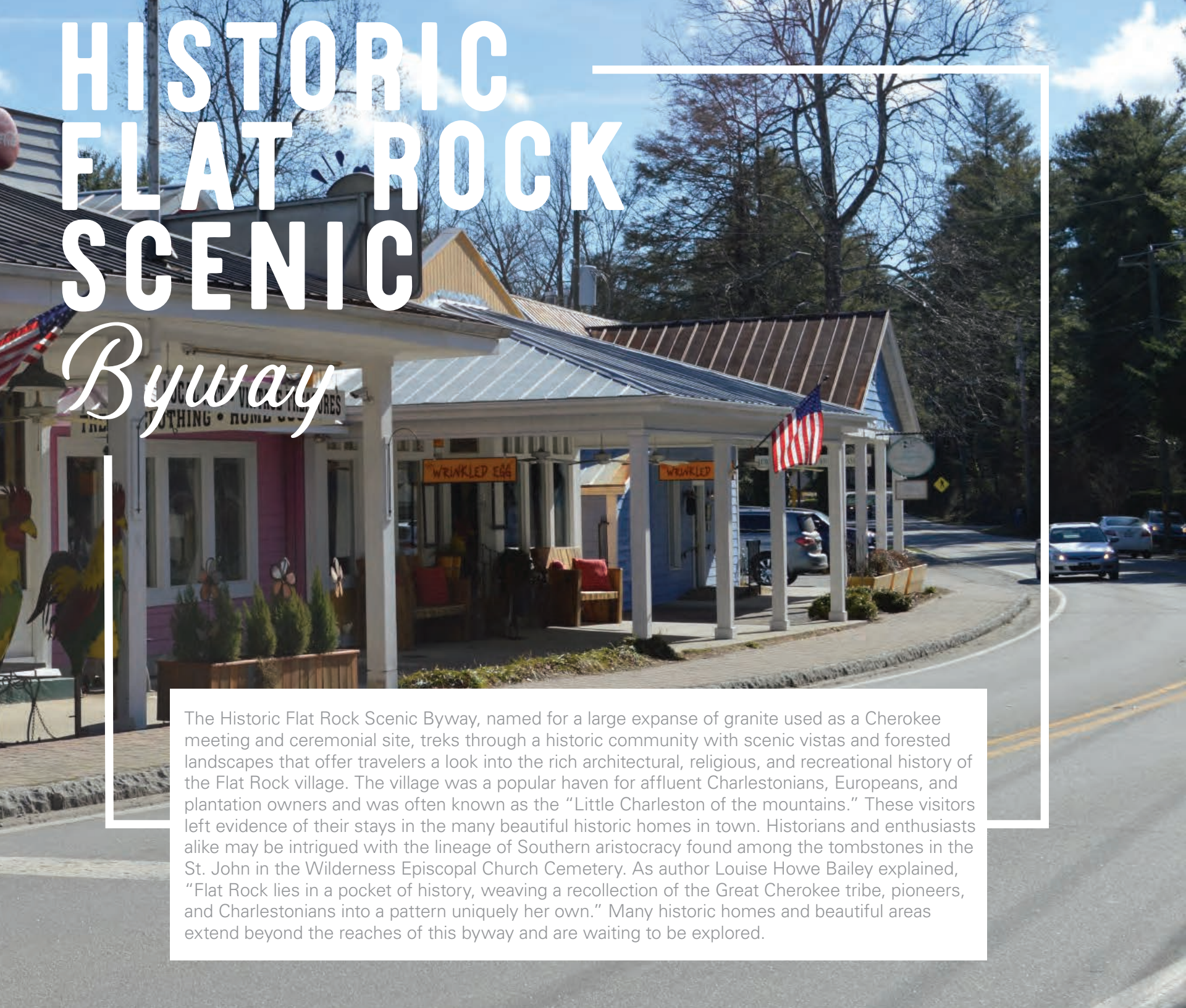
HISTORIC FLAT ROCK SCENIC *Byway*



The Historic Flat Rock Scenic Byway, named for a large expanse of granite used as a Cherokee meeting and ceremonial site, treks through a historic community with scenic vistas and forested landscapes that offer travelers a look into the rich architectural, religious, and recreational history of the Flat Rock village. The village was a popular haven for affluent Charlestonians, Europeans, and plantation owners and was often known as the "Little Charleston of the mountains." These visitors left evidence of their stays in the many beautiful historic homes in town. Historians and enthusiasts alike may be intrigued with the lineage of Southern aristocracy found among the tombstones in the St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church Cemetery. As author Louise Howe Bailey explained, "Flat Rock lies in a pocket of history, weaving a recollection of the Great Cherokee tribe, pioneers, and Charlestonians into a pattern uniquely her own." Many historic homes and beautiful areas extend beyond the reaches of this byway and are waiting to be explored.

Counties: Henderson

Byway Route: 8.5 miles

Non-Byway Route: 2.9 miles

Total Distance: 11.4 miles

Drive Time: 20 min

Getting There

The byway begins at the intersection of NC 225 (Greenville Hwy) and Pinnacle Mountain Rd (SR 1114), 1 mile north of US-25.

- Travel North 2.7 miles to Rutledge Drive (SR 1166)
- Turn left and travel 0.9 miles to Erkwood Dr (SR 1164)
- Turn Left and travel 0.9 miles to Kanuga Road (SR 1127)

OPPOSITE: Flat Rock Village

LEFT: The Flat Rock Playhouse

- Turn left onto Kanuga Rd (SR 1127) and travel 2.9 miles (This section is not part of the designated byway)
- Turn left onto Little River Road (SR 1123)
- Travel 4 miles back to NC 225 (Greenville Road) where the byway ends.

Points of Interest

St. John in the Wilderness, a Gothic revival church built in 1836, is considered the oldest Episcopal church in Western North Carolina.

"The great flat rock," once frequently used as a meeting place for pioneers and merchants, is now a meeting place for the Flat Rock Playhouse. Called the "State Theater of North Carolina," the playhouse is considered to have one of the best "summer series" productions in the country and offers year-round classes for aspiring actors, young and old. The theater operates from April through December. (11)

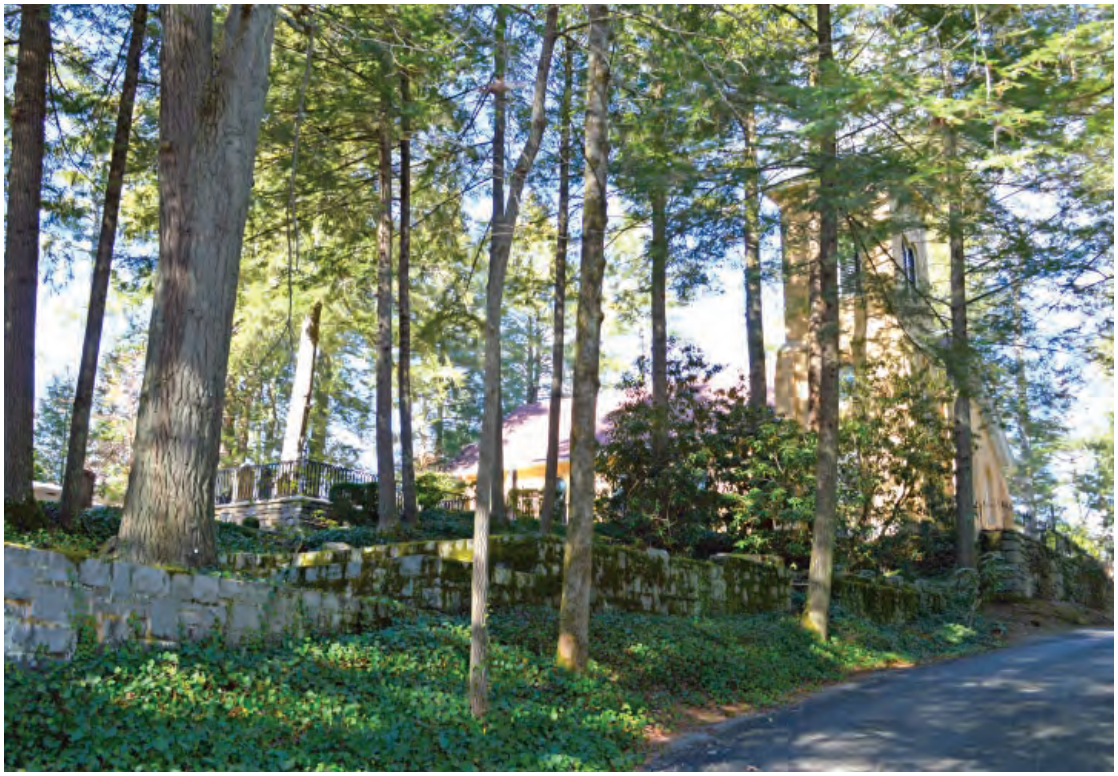
The Woodfield Inn (formerly known as the Farmer Hotel) was built in 1852. The hotel has been a popular retreat for coastal South Carolinians for more than 100 years.

Although fairly short in length, the hike up to the top of Glassy Mountain on the Glassy trail can be a bit challenging but is worth the expansive view from the 2,783 foot tall summit.

Connemara, the Carl Sandburg National Memorial Site and home to the Pulitzer Prize winning author for 22 years, was built in 1839 by Christopher G. Memminger, the first secretary of the Confederate Treasury. Sandburg, known for his 20th-century activism for the American people, published more than one third of his works while living at Connemara. Today, the historic antebellum house and the dairy goat barn (1900s) still

Start — St. John in the Wilderness — Flat Rock Playhouse — Woodfield Inn — Glassy Mountain — Connemara — End

preserve the legacy that the Sandburgs left behind and remind visitors that, as Sandburg said in 1922, "Nothing happens unless first a dream." (11)



LEFT: Fall color along the byway

ABOVE LEFT: Flat Rock Village

ABOVE RIGHT: Connemara

RIGHT: St. John in the Wilderness