

Pacolet, South Carolina
Close to Everything...Far from Ordinary

Pacolet sits astride the river of the same name where a "white stallion statue" guards the bridge overpass. The community is located in the central eastern side of Spartanburg County at the point where Cherokee and Union counties meet. On SC 150, Pacolet is 15 minutes from downtown Spartanburg, 45 minutes from Greenville, 1 hour from Charlotte and 1 1/2 hours from Asheville, North Carolina.

The population of the Town of Pacolet is 2,690. Pacolet is a miracle. The definition of a miracle is a "wonderful thing." The people of Pacolet have persevered losing their major industry twice. The textile industry and its operatives survived and thrived after a disastrous flood of 1903 and once again their endurance would be tested in the early 1980's when the mill closed. With only the footprints of the once great industry remaining Pacolet is rebuilding. The community is rebuilding upon a wonderful thing its greatest resource a proud people who cherish their children and honor their heritage.

In 1994, a grassroots effort emerged to improve their quality of life. Five goals were established and accomplished and in 1997 a new Pacolet was born. The town was divided into single member districts to provide equal representation on town council. The once textile mill office became the new town hall. The town hall was fully restored and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Areas of revitalization were explored. The mayor traveled in 2003 with 18 other South Carolinians to County Mayo, Ireland to study their success in rural revitalization. The group discovered a celebration of natural resources and cultural heritage along a sacred path which provided a unique opportunity for heritage tourism.

Following the study trip to Ireland, Pacolet hosted a "Charrette" in 2004 resulting in the second largest community master plan to be developed in the State of South Carolina, second only to Hilton Head. The process provided for valuable input from all the people including the entire make up of the community. The spirit of Pacolet was revealed. A covenant was made to protect and preserve its people, its natural resources and its cultural heritage. A mural representing the covenant was painted in a prominent place in the community.

Pacolet sits on one of the largest granite deposits in the southeast, its rolling hills and river views offer a scenic and stunning landscape. These natural settings afford wonderful outdoor opportunities. Along with Pacolet's great natural resources, there is a rich cultural and historic heritage. The area was once sacred hunting and fishing territory for the Cherokee and Catawba nations. There are 13 archival sites listed on the National Register located along the Pacolet River. A heritage celebration is held each fall bringing thousands of people into the area. What would become the Town of Pacolet was also a hotbed of activity during the American Revolution. Thicketty Fort built during the French and Indian War and used as a British Backcountry fort is located just outside the town. Another location down river from the town is Grindal Shoals where General Daniel Morgan camped before advancing 24 miles to fight the Battle of Cowpens. The battles at Kings Mountain and Cowpens turned the tide of the revolution. A 1790 Greek revival style plantation home fully restored with 800 acres of working farmland is a spectacular site to visit.

After the American Revolution the area expanded. The first textile mill was built in 1882 and Pacolet became a thriving town and a showplace for other manufacturing companies. Remaining is a unique mill village with outdoor amphitheatre, parks, stone work and over 250 arts and craft style homes. The interior of Pacolet Mills Baptist Church is the finest example of arts and crafts style interior in the state. The landscape design architect was Earle Draper. National Register listings include: Historic District, Town Hall, Cloth Room and Pacolet Mills Colored School/Marysville Community School.

The Pacolet Community was recognized for the following awards at the State Capitol on April 16, 2008: "SC Pilgrimage of Place" -Clemson University, "SC Blueprint Community"-American Institute of Architects and "SC Rural Leadership Award" - Governor and SC Commerce Department. Pacolet is rebuilding. Come explore this "wonderful thing" a place called Pacolet.