



Simply...Six Mile, S.C.



Youth



Recreation

Simply Six Mile Past Meets Future





“Simply Six Mile”

Background

Founded in 1910, the Town of Six Mile, South Carolina, is eight miles north of Clemson University. Greenville, SC, the Greenville-Spartanburg Airport, and Anderson, SC, are less than an hour away.

We proudly boast the top-rated schools of Six Mile Elementary, Edwards Middle, and D.W. Daniel High, in addition to one of the finest recreation facilities and programs in the area.



“Simply Six Mile” History

The Cherokee Trading Path once passed through Six Mile, roughly approximating the current route of Main Street. Markers dedicated May 1, 2018 reference the history of the Cherokee Trading Path.

Six Mile derived its name from its location along the path which was six miles east of the Cherokee town of Keowee and later the trading post at Fort Prince George (near present-day Mile Creek Park).

Legend depicts the ride of Issaqueena, the Indian maiden who made her ride from Keowee during the French and Indian war to warn her lover of a pending Cherokee attack. During her ride, she is said to have given numerical names to the creeks and rivers she passed on her path to present day Ninety Six, South Carolina.



In the late 1700s and early 1800s, a mixture of Scots-Irish, Dutch-German, and English pioneers settled in the Six Mile area. They came to the area to work and farm their own land. They were not wealthy aristocrats and did not own slaves. Their characteristics of hard work, ingenuity, and shared efforts for the community good became traits forever common to the area.

The town depicts a history of residents pulling together to accomplish needed goals. In times past, examples include residents pulling together to rebuild the downtown after a devastating tornado in the 1920s and contributing personal funds and loans for a water system and fire department in the 1960s and 1970s.



Education was important to the people of the area – hence, the Six Mile Baptist Academy in the early 1900s. Religion was also important to area residents, and thus came churches in the 1800s to include Six Mile Baptist Church, downtown. The main part of the current church building was constructed solely by local residents' donations of money, labor, and materials (whatever they could afford). Upon completion, all those who assisted were given photos of the new church building as thanks for their assistance.

This “can do” and “visionary” spirit were common to the area, as reflected in Doctor David E. Peek’s hospital and nursing school (which influenced Greenville General Hospital/Nursing School), his plan to build a hospital on top of Six Mile Mountain (which would have been accomplished if not for his untimely death), his



dairy, a downtown building supply business, downtown bank in 1919, and the beginning of a prominent county funeral home where coffins were once sold in the back of a local downtown merchant store – all in the first few decades of the 20th century.

Town residents “rolled up their sleeves” in 2014, gutting a historic downtown bank building to bring about the return of banking to Downtown Six Mile.



A final characteristic common to the people of the Six Mile area that cannot be overlooked is that of “generosity”. This is seen not only in donations of time, material, labor, as mentioned previously, or personal loans, but in simplest terms by a downtown merchant Charlie Roper, who during tough economic times during the early 20th century likely gave away more candy to poor farm children than he sold.

Six Mile prides itself in that three of four Pickens County, South Carolina Medal of Honor Recipients are from the Six Mile area – a factor again attributable to the unique character traits of those in the Six Mile area – this one being “courage”.



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Recent Town Achievements

- The Town of Six Mile was awarded in 2015 an Achievement Award by the Municipal Association of South Carolina for a town in its population size range based on its unique bank project which returned banking to Downtown Six Mile.
- Farmer’s Market downtown (Six Mile Farmer’s Depot) (TV promo with Kimberly Kelley appearance in inaugural year).



- Area Wide Community Watch Program (initial meetings drew 150 area residents in a town of 675 people and 350 homes).
- Recent success of the annual downtown Halloween Festival beginning in 2015.
- For over four decades one of the largest and most successful downtown Christmas parades in Pickens County.
- Issaqueena Festival – one of the largest downtown festivals in the area.
- July 4th Festival at Ponderosa Park



“Simply Six Mile”

What other town in the tri-county area of Upcountry South Carolina has a downtown setting overlooking the magnificent Blue Ridge Escarpment?

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