

Walking Tour Description

As you walk through the main entrance and along brick walks in this barrier-free setting, you will see over 50 varieties of plants and trees.

Your first stop is the Memorial Wall on your left, where the bronze plaques recovered from the fire and restored by Gordon Combs are found. The plaques are inscribed with the names of Wayne County men who died in World War I and in subsequent conflicts.

Then on your right you will find the Pavilion, designed to be the site axis that radiates outward in all directions. The Pavilion replicates prominent features of the Wayne County Court House across the street. It has the same Doric-style columns with Scamozzi capitals, dentil and cornice detail and roof tiles as the Court House.

At the end of this brick walk, you see the Goldsboro Jaycees' 1974 granite Vietnam Memorial now relocated to this site.

Turn east along the walk and you will find a brick wall clad in black granite bearing the name of this memorial site and the military insignia of each branch of service.

Continuing, you find the Seymour Johnson Air Force Base sculpture. It was designed and constructed of steel by a talented Chatham County NC sculptor, Edwin White. In addition to its soaring lines, the sculpture includes plaques describing the history of Seymour Johnson, a chronological account of the rich heritage of the 4th Tactical Fighter Wing, and a tribute to those killed while serving with the 4th Fighter Wing or its predecessors.

As you leave the sculpture and continue toward the Pavilion, you walk onto a granite map of Wayne County as it appeared in 1925, the year when the Community Building was dedicated. This map is divided into the twelve townships that were so important during that era, and shows town names, railroads, rivers, and highways as they appeared then. Within each township you will find plaques listing the names of those war dead who have been identified with the township. Intensive research was done to identify and properly locate all who died in the wars. You will find the names from the Memorial Plaque Wall as well as names of those who have subsequently been identified.

As you look through the Pavilion, you find the fountain with its cascading water feature that adds energy and life to your experience. As you continue beyond the fountain you finally reach the three flags: the American flag, the North Carolina flag, and the POW-MIA flag (a reminder from all veterans lest we ever forget). These flags are illuminated and, therefore, will remain flying day and night. In the flag wall you will see another item from the original Community Building - its cornerstone bearing the date 1924.