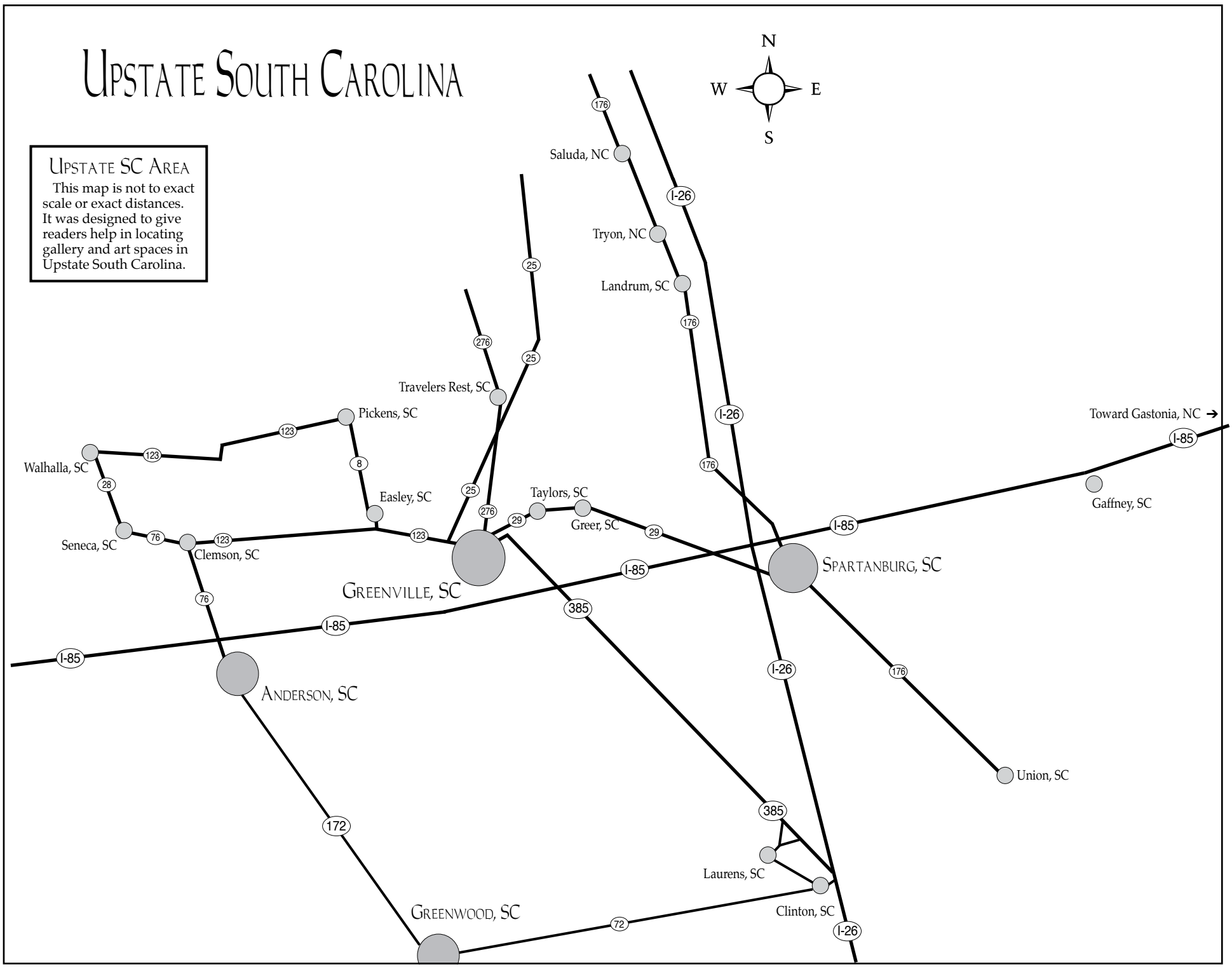

Lake and Mountain Quilt Guild Offers *The Symphony of Quilts* in Seneca, SC - Sept. 16-17, 2016

Sponsored by the Lake and Mountain Quilt Guild, *The Symphony of Quilts*, held at the Shaver Rec Center in Seneca, SC, will provide travelers and locals the opportunity to peruse this rich heritage at the event and in the surrounding area. The event will feature 22 different categories of quilts, vendors selling a wide variety of consignment and craft items, and a silent auction, Sept. 16-17, 2016.

Quilts are so much more than just blankets. They tell the story of people, families, and communities. They are works of art that keep us warm without and within. The Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail (UHQT) serves to memorialize these multi-rooted traditions of crafting, commemorating, and communicating between generations. The UHQT has engaged this beautiful area of South Carolina with a creative and communal way to display works of art based on this rich tradition.

The UHQT's interactive map, found at (www.uhqt.org) will help you trace a trail through the upstate that will lead you to many of the area's quilt blocks. Whether displayed on the side of a local business, on a home, or on the side of an antique barn, you will be delighted by seeking out and finding a wealth of treasures along your way. In addition to the interactive map, the website provides suggested itineraries that will lead you to places of note such as the Oconee Heritage Center, Patriots Hall, the Oconee Heritage General Store, the Blue Ridge Arts Center, and Ballenger House, to name just a few of the many stops hosting quilt displays along the way.

While in the upstate, travelers can also venture over to Clemson to see several displays. The Clemson Area Transit bus station features the 180th quilt added to the trail, "Cathedral Window", made by an administrative assistant for CATbus, Holly Brown. Take the CATbus over to the South Carolina Botanical Garden, where you can find Elizabeth Thackery's beautiful "Oconee Bell" quilt located inside the historical Hunt Cabin, built in Seneca around 1825. The Arts Center in Clemson, which is also home to the Clemson Area African American Museum, has a large display on their shared building's facade of Anna Mae Willis's "African Village." The CATbus also services routes to Seneca and Pendleton, so it could be used as a means of exploration if riding in the car has become mundane.

On the historic Pendleton town square, you can visit the Mercantile, a local staple for gifts and sundries, and you can view "Carolina Dogwoods" by Susan Earl Congdon. If you take just a few steps to the right of the building, you can look up and see the work of Pendleton quilter Christine Tedesco adorning the tower of Hunter's Store Warehouse: "Town of Pendleton." There is also work by Pendleton-area students on the old gymnasium, "The Dog House," which is just past the Mercantile on East Queen Street. This is just a small sampling of what you can find along your way.

The trail is designed not only to allow the enjoyment of the quilts but also to showcase all that the upstate has to offer. The images you will see on the UHQT are as beautiful and diverse as the stories behind them. They range in style: floral, geometric, pictorial, traditional, crazy, abstract, modern. They tell the stories not only of those who designed them and created them originally but also of those who have cared deeply enough to carry these stories on and add them to the trail to share with others. The trail can

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EXPRESSIONISM

CATO

"Laundry Day Italian Style" 6" x 12" Mixed Media on Canvas

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