

BALL GROUND HISTORIC DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR



Ball Ground Depot, Depot Street, 1960s. Demolished

The City of Ball Ground was established in 1882. The existence of the city is almost entirely due to the L&N Railroad line, which crosses through Gilmer Ferry Road. The growing community has reached almost 2,000 residents and is experiencing a bustling revitalization of its downtown area. Cherokee County Historical Society's main goal for this tour is to create awareness of the area's historic resources and show that both new and old buildings can coexist and compliment each other.

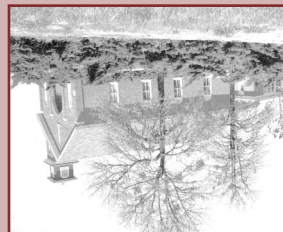
CHEROKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & HISTORY MUSEUM

The Cherokee County Historical Society is a non-profit corporation founded in 1975. Dedicated to historic preservation and education, CCHS has over 500 members and offers field trips, educational programs and research material to its members and guests. Our office is located at 100 North Street, 3rd floor, Canton, GA 30114. Our museum is on the first floor and is open Wednesday-Friday, 10-5 and Saturday, 10-3. We also maintain a special events rental facility, known locally as the Rock Barn, on Marietta Highway. For more information about the society or to join, please visit our website at www.rockbarn.org or call 770.345.3288.



1. 445 OLD CANTON ROAD

The Ball Ground Baptist Church dates back to at least 1883. The current building replaced the previous one in 1916 when it was destroyed by a tornado. A remodeling in the late 1960s gave the church a steeple and a porch with columns. A prominent cemetery accompanies the church and can be seen on the right side.



2. 506 OLD CANTON ROAD

The Ball Ground City Cemetery's earliest known burial is Albert G. Kennedy (1804-1865). There are also many records of Confederate veterans buried in the cemetery.

3. 480 OLD CANTON ROAD

The oldest part of Ball Ground Elementary was constructed in 1947 and includes several classrooms and the gym, which is located behind the main building. The school itself dates back to the late 1920s but most of the original construction burned in a 1968 fire. The burned portion was replaced in 1971. Pictured is the school before the fire.

4. 95 CHURCH STREET

The Ball Ground City Gym was built as a community project for the Ball Ground School in 1948-49. The City of Ball Ground purchased the gym when the school closed in 2012 and made extensive repairs to the roof, upgraded the electrical system and refinished the floors.

5. 99 CHURCH STREET

This is the former Ball Ground Methodist Church. The earliest known mention of the church is in a 1874 deed allocating one acre of land for a log cabin structure to be used as a Methodist church, which was replaced with a new building in 1896. The current building was constructed in 1916 after the former structure was destroyed by a tornado.

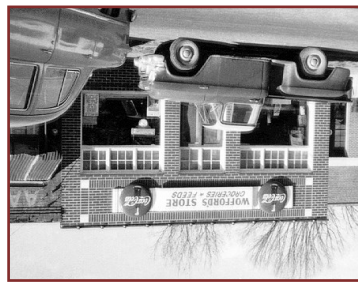
6. 240 GILMER FERRY

This building is the former Ford dealership that was present in Ball Ground from the early 20th century up until 1963. The original building burned down in 1947 and was replaced by this structure in 1949.



7. 250 GILMER FERRY

This is a one-story commercial style brick building with original storefront windows. It was built in 1947 as Watkins Grocery Store and renamed Wofford's Store in the 1950s. Many types of businesses have occupied the location through the years, including an appliance store, a dress shop, a dry-goods store, and several restaurants.



8. 260 & 270 GILMER FERRY

This commercial brick building dates to 1918. A 1960s remodeling turned it into a two-tenant building with side-by-side front entries and large storefront windows. A grocery store operated here in the 1930s and was followed by an auto parts store operated by the owner's son. Since then, the building has been home to an insurance agency, a dress shop, a beauty shop, a jewelry store, a printing company, an international distribution company, and a restaurant.

9. 280 GILMER FERRY

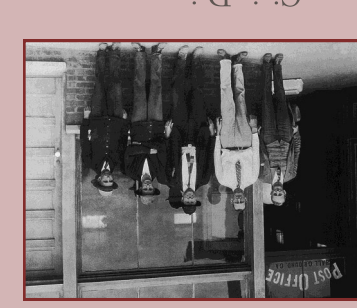
This building was constructed in 1949 and originally operated as McKinney's Grocery store. Dorothy Byrd (Dot) operated a restaurant here beginning in 1970 and added a brick addition on the eastern side of the building in 1979.



10. BALL GROUND BURGER BUS

The Burger Bus and its accompanying building came to Ball Ground in late 2015. The building is new construction, but the bus itself was part of the Atlanta Transit Company's fleet in the 1940s, bus number 1387.

11. 290 GILMER FERRY



This two-story brick building was constructed in 1923. The Post Office once operated here on the lowest floor until it moved to a location further up Gilmer Ferry in the late 1940s. It was also used as a government sewing plant during World War II. The second floor was the long time meeting of the Masons until they moved to a new location on Civic Drive.

12. 310 GILMER FERRY

This building was constructed in 1911 as a general merchandise store by A.W. Roberts. The Roberts Family had been running the business since 1882 and continued to do so for nearly 70 years. A large one-story warehouse sits behind the store. Cotton bales were originally stored in the warehouse and sold to the Canton Cotton Mills. This small building appears to have been constructed prior to 1923. It was listed in a very early photo as Bud Holcomb Barber Shop, and continued to exist as a barber shop well into the 1950s.



13. 326 GILMER FERRY



THE CITY OF BALL GROUND

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14. 330 GILMER FERRY

Hi Byers built this auto garage with filing station in the mid-1940s. Diversified Manufacturing Company made metal parts out of the building in the 1970s. Ball Ground resident Oscar Robertson obtained the building in the 1980s.

15. 340 GILMER FERRY

The Consumers Monument Company constructed this building as their office in the 1920s. A geriatric center used the building after the office closed in 1973. The style of this building was heavily altered in 2016 with a second floor addition under the ownership of Martin's General Store.



16. 360 GILMER FERRY



This house was constructed in 1908. Fred Boling was born in this house; he saw heavy action in World War II, returned to Ball Ground and

worked for Georgia Marble, and later served as Ball Ground's mayor.

17. 365 GILMER FERRY

Consumers Monument Company constructed this one story building in 1927. The gable front roof is composed of quarry tile. The structure contains large, multi-pane pivot type windows. The company built this structure to replace their first building that burned in 1927.



25. 235 GILMER FERRY

This two-story brick commercial building can be faintly seen in many historic photographs of Ball Ground. The upper story originally displayed five windows that were bricked and painted over in the 1960s. The Hardin family reputedly constructed the building. During its earliest years, the building served as a hardware store and as the site of McKinney's store. Since then, it has been an appliance store, blanket factory, furniture store, and variety shop. Haithcock supply and Well-drilling has occupied the building since 1973.



26. 215 GILMER FERRY

This building dates to the 1930s having replaced an earlier wood-framed home. The Cook family owned and operated the Ball Ground-Nelson Telephone Company and used the building for their call center for several decades. The telephone company's main office moved to Nelson around 1952. It was in 1952 that the company switched to dial, which was celebrated by a public ceremony. After the telephone company moved out, several families used the building for their residence.

27. 205 GILMER FERRY

This building dates to the 1930s. Prior to its construction, Walt Hardin ran a general merchandise store at this site. The Cagle family ran a restaurant in the front of the building and lived in the back. The family rented rooms on the ground floor for school teachers employed at the Ball Ground School, located



down the street. The building also served as a stop for the Trailways Bus.

18. 345 & 335 GILMER FERRY

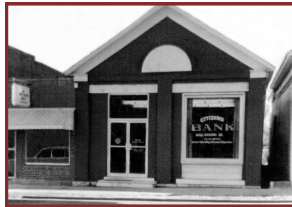
Hi Byers had his first auto garage here until he moved across the street in the mid-1940s. After Byers moved, Oscar Robertson purchased the building, his first property downtown. This building is best known as the Rock Shop. The adjacent, attached building to the left has a stone moniker that reads "Robertson Building, 1959." Robertson used this building initially for an auto parts store.

19. 325 GILMER FERRY

Although the modern looking finished stone façade makes the next building appear as one, the structure historically was two buildings. The first building from the east was a one story brick commercial building that dates to the mid-1940s. Charles Malone used it as an insurance office. The next building long served as several banks, including Bank of Ball Ground and Citizen's Bank.

20. 301 GILMER FERRY

Ball Ground City Hall sat at this location from the early 1900s until 2006. The building was used for area municipal activities: city hall, courthouse, jail, and storage for the town's fire hose cart. In 2006, City Hall moved several blocks down Valley Street.



21. 295 GILMER FERRY

This building is very similar to 275 Gilmer Ferry, which sits directly to the west. It is an early 1930s one-story detached brick building. Jack Lovelady constructed the building soon after the 1929 fire that consumed the prior building at this site as well as the adjacent hotel.



Hasco Sewing Company later manufactured diapers in the building.

22. 275 GILMER FERRY

This building was constructed in the 1920s and is located at the southwest corner of Gilmer Ferry Road and Mound Street. Dr. McClure used part of it for his doctor's office. The Hubbard family ran a store out of the eastern half for over 50 years. The western half was a theatre in the late 1920s and early 1930s, complete with a sloping floor.

23. 265 GILMER FERRY ROAD

Roy Roberts built this one-story building with flat stone and glass front façade around 1966, and it became Ball Ground's post office. The post office remained there until late 2001 when it moved to Valley Street.



24. 245 & 255 GILMER FERRY

This building was built during the early 1900s. The building originally had a flat roof which it shared with the adjacent building, but a gable-front metal roof now contains them both. Ball Ground's Coca-Cola bottling plant was located at 255, which opened in 1903. Trucks would drive through an entrance around the eastern window's current location to pick up bottles for distribution. Coca-Cola left Ball Ground in 1933. The building was used as Ball Ground's post office during the 1950s and 1960s before it moved next door.

