

CANTON

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR



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THE CITY OF CANTON &
CANTON TOURISM

110 ACADEMY STREET
CANTON, GA 30114
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CHEROKEE COUNTY
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

1. SQUARE AND GAZEBO

The center of the Canton Historic District is the town square. The 1840 and 1874 County Courthouses originally stood at this location. When the 1874 Courthouse burned in 1927, the site was turned into a square.

2. 100 NORTH STREET

The white Georgia marble courthouse at 100 North Street, widely referred to as the Historic Courthouse, was built 1927-1929. The Neoclassical Revival style building was designed by A. Ten Eyck Brown and the contractor was the J.C. McCauley Company. The building was re-stored in 1997 and currently houses county government offices.

3. 150-180 NORTH STREET



North Street did not connect to Main Street until the 1960s and therefore, did not experience the commercial development of Main Street. Still, a block of brick commercial buildings did develop. E.L. Tippens ran a mule trading business in the early part of the 20th century. In 1936, he built the E.L. Tippens Building with the identifying marble plate. At one point, this building operated as a restaurant and then as the town's bus depot in the 1950s and 1960s. Another larger commercial building is 150 North Street, which was originally a stable. The Cannon Building at 154-160 North Street was the Canton Seed and Feed Store in the 1970s. Several of the other current commercial buildings replaced residences.

4. RIVERDALE CIRCLE

This village of homes once belonged to the Canton Cotton Mill, which opened in 1901 on Railroad Street. This section was called Riverdale and included the Riverdale Church and Riverdale School. The homes are hall-parlor style and the majority were built around 1900 for the mill workers. After the mill closed in the 1980s, the homes were sold to mill employees first. Riverdale Church is still active.

5. 190 WEST MAIN STREET



The brick Neoclassical Revival was built in 1928 with James Wetmore serving as acting supervising architect. The design is similar to numerous post offices built throughout the state in the 1920s. Distinguishing architectural features include windows with flat arch lintels and keystones, a deck roof with low parapet and inset dormers, and Georgia marble trim throughout.

6. 101-195 WEST MAIN STREET



This section of W. Main Street has seen numerous changes since the early 1900s. Beginning at 101 W. Main Street was originally the Bank of Cherokee and then Etowah Bank. The exterior was modified in 1960 when white brick was added. The 111 building was used as several different stores including Morgan Brothers Appliances in the 1940s and 1950s. 117 W. Main Street has been home to the R&M Hoagie Shop since 1977, before that it was the Townhouse Restaurant. This building was also a barber shop and bathing facility in the 1930s. Next door, at 125 W. Main Street, there was a mercantile and later a lunch counter. Its counterpart directly west was known as 131 W. Main Street, but was absorbed into 125 in the early 2010s. 131 W. Main was home to the Cherokee Advance newspaper in the 1920s and later a furniture store. 145 W. Main Street began as a stable in the early 1900s before becoming a car dealership and service center. After the 1955 fire, a portion of 145 was rebuilt which resulted in the building sitting further back than the rest of the block. At 151 West Main, the 1955 fire started in the Cantex Manufacturing Company, which made corduroy, when a boiler exploded killing one person. The fire destroyed the building and most of the block. Before the fire and before Cantex, Main Street Garage operated on the ground floor and the Etowah Manufacturing Company on the second and third floors. Longtime Canton residents

10. BROWN PARK

Brown Park was dedicated in 1906 by the family of former Governor Joseph Brown. The site of the park was where the Governor's home stood, the home was burned on orders given by General Sherman in October 1864. Elizabeth Street, which runs next to the park was named after Brown's wife, Elizabeth Grisham Brown. The monument located in the park was dedicated in 1923 by the United Daughters of the Confederacy to veterans of the Civil War and World War I.



9. 110 ACADEMY STREET

The brick High School Building was constructed in 1924. During the early 1900s, students from outside Canton who sought secondary education could attend by paying tuition. The L & N Railroad ran northbound and southbound trains two times daily for students. In 1956, Cherokee High School opened on Marietta Highway and this building then hosted grades fourth through eighth. After additional schools were built in 1974, the Canton High School building remained empty until the Cherokee County School System renovated the building. Canton City Hall moved into this building in August 2018.



8. 115 ACADEMY STREET

The former Grammar School building was constructed in 1914 in the Neoclassical Revival style. With enrollment growing, a high school was constructed across the street in 1924. Canton Elementary School left the building in 1974 when their new building next to Cherokee High School on Marietta Highway opened.

CITY OF CANTON

The City of Canton was chartered in December of 1833 and from there quickly grew into the social and economic center of the county. It was also designated the county seat. Canton became known as an industrial giant with cotton mills, marble finishing plants, and later a large poultry industry. Currently Canton has a bustling population of 25,000 and numerous corporations have made their home here. With parks, an historic downtown, and access to the Etowah River, Canton is truly a place where residents can live, work and play.

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.



11. 151 ELIZABETH STREET

The former First Baptist Church of Canton is a brick and marble trimmed building with elements of the Greek Revival style and was constructed in 1925 on land originally donated by Gov. Joseph E. Brown. The congregation is the oldest in Canton, dating back to 1833. The congregation vacated the building in 2003 and City Hall moved into the building in 2005 after adding an addition to its east side. After City Hall moved out in 2018, the Canton city Police Department took over the building. To the northwest of the church is the Church Parsonage building. It was built in the 1920s and is a side-gabled brick building with Colonial Revival elements. It currently houses an architectural firm.

12. 390 EAST MARIETTA STREET

This two-story home at 390 E. Marietta Street is reputedly Canton’s oldest home in downtown Canton, constructed in 1841 by William Grisham. He was one of the area’s earliest settlers and a founder of Canton. Throughout the years, the home has undergone several alterations. Notably, it was expanded and given Victorian details in 1903 and in 1957 the Victorian front porch was replaced with the present Neoclassical portico.

13. 360 EAST MARIETTA STREET

This home is an example of the Folk Victorian style. The Butterworth brothers reputedly built the home and Dr. Newton J. Coker remodeled the home in the early 20th century.

14. 260 EAST MARIETTA STREET

A circa 1880s home sits at 260 E. Marietta Street. Its front façade is dominated by a one-story front-and-wrap porch with a two-story entry. The Putnam family was an early pioneer family of Cherokee County and Odian W. Putnam who built the home was the first elected mayor of Canton in 1882. Descendants continue to own the home today.



15. 211 EAST MAIN STREET

This three-story red-brick building once held Canton’s Masonic Hall on the third floor. Commercial retail occupied the ground floor of the building from the start. In 1918, Crisler’s

Store operated here and later tenants included H.L. Buffington Shoes and in the last quarter of the twentieth century, Worley Shoes.



16. 221 EAST MAIN STREET

A stone marker near the cornice line proudly names this two-story tan colored brick building as the Municipal Building. Probably constructed in the late 1880s, it housed Canton’s municipal offices as well as its first fire and police stations. The town library was even housed temporarily in the building.



17. 341 EAST MAIN STREET

A portion of this former home was built prior to the Civil War. From 1856 to 1874 this building was owned by James R. Brown, a State Senator and brother to Governor Joseph E. Brown. Another State Senator and long term owner was H.G. Vandiviere; he and his family owned the home from 1928 to 1984. After a period of disrepair, the building was purchased in 1998 and renovated for law offices.

18. 361 EAST MAIN STREET

This home was built circa 1904 by Mrs. Roxie Archer, who moved there from Sharp Mountain after the death of her husband. She lived in the home before moving to Jasper to run the Archer Hotel. Following the move, the home was owned by the McClure sisters, Pollie, Rochelle, and Dale, who were teachers for many years. The home was later purchased and converted into a restaurant. It currently is used as a day spa and salon.



19. 190-230 EAST MAIN STREET

This side of E. Main Street has been home to many businesses over the last century. At 190 E. Main Street, Frank Coggins opened his second hardware store here in 1914 and operated there until 1923 when L. Green opened a barbershop that also functioned as a laundry facility and bathhouse. Later Georgia Power took possession of the building and stayed there until 1977. Next door at 192 E. Main Street, an alley existed until L. Green closed it in and opened the Green Rail Restau-

rant, which was at one time the most famous eatery in Cherokee County. Next door to the former Green Rail restaurant, Mid-City Pharmacy has operated since their opening in 1964. Before Mid-City Pharmacy, Beard and Son’s Groceries occupied the site. In the early 1900s the G.B. Johnston store operated at 210 and 220 E. Main, then it later became the Post Office and Kessler’s 5 & 10. Key’s Jewelry has been operating in their building since 1957, but before that both a Farmer’s Bank and a mail order monument business functioned there.



20. 191 EAST MAIN STREET

The site first contained a two-story drugstore operated by the Johnston family. That building was torn down in 1925 and a three-story brick building was erected in its place, built by the Galt family. The corner, ground floor storefront was locally known and operated as the “Lower” Drug store during the middle of the twentieth century. Worth Latham Jewelry and later Keys Jewelry rented storefront space on the Marietta Street side of the building. The upper two floors of the building were residences and are now used as professional offices.



21. 171 EAST MAIN STREET

Moving pictures began showing in this building in the early 1910s. The theater changed owners twice in the 1920s, and was renamed the Bonita and then the Haven. The theater became the Canton Theatre in the 1930s when it was sold to the Martin-Thompson Theatre Company. At this point, it underwent extensive remodeling: expanding west into the next building, modernizing, and redesigning its front façade to reflect the popular Art Moderne Style. Its grand re-opening occurred September 30th, 1940. The theater’s popularity declined by the late 1970s and for many years the building remained empty. In 1994, the theater underwent renovation and was purchased by the City of Canton in 1997.



22. 131 EAST MAIN STREET

Canton prospered in the late 1880s, and a group of investors chartered Canton’s first bank in 1892. The building originally displayed elements of the Richardsonian Romanesque Style, but it was remodeled in 1924 adding the existing Beaux Arts Style marble façade and incorporating the office space to its east. The elegance of the marble clad building calls attention to its importance to the community during Canton’s period of growth. The Bank of Canton building is the only example of Beaux-Arts Style commercial architecture in the county and now houses a law firm.



23. 130 EAST MAIN STREET



R.T. Jones established the Jones Mercantile Company shortly after he moved to Canton in 1879. The store prospered and Mr. Jones expanded the building in 1914. The store originally sold general merchandise such

as dry goods, hardware, furniture, and grocery items, and expanded to include items one would find in any modern department store in the mid-20th century. The mercantile closed in the late 1970s and the building was purchased by the City of Canton.

24. 94 NORTH STREET

The brick Colonial Revival Style church with gable front, full height portico and octagonal belfry was constructed in 1926 as a Methodist church. The church once dominated the end of North Church Street when the street was lined with residential homes. North Church Street is now a public promenade, and its residential homes have been replaced by a large parking lot and the Justice Center. The building is owned by the Cherokee County Arts Council.

