



A Walk Through Downtown

# HUNTSVILLE

*Then and Now*



by Fred B. Simpson

**A WALK THROUGH DOWNTOWN**

# **HUNTSVILLE**

**THEN AND NOW**

By **FRED B. SIMPSON**

*Fred B. Simpson*

*Layout and Editing by Gay Cushing Campbell*

First edition published 2002  
Revised edition published 2003  
All rights reserved.  
ISBN 0-9675765-1-2  
Copyright © 2002 Triangle Publishing Company  
105 Northside Square  
Suite D  
Huntsville Alabama 35801

## **Credits**

### **Photographs (historic)**

Huntsville-Madison County Public Library-Raneé Pruitt

### **Photographs (present)**

Fred B. Simpson

### **Photographic Consulting**

Huntsville Antique Automobile Club

### **Layout and Editing**

Gay Cushing Campbell

### **Cover Design and Illustrations**

William Jason Hodges

Printing by Boaz Printing Company  
Boaz, Alabama



## ***About The Author***

Fred Bryan Simpson was born in Alabama. He served in the Air Force during the Korean Conflict in the Office of Special Investigations. He financed his college education at Samford University by working as a Birmingham Police Officer. While at Vanderbilt Law School in Nashville, Tennessee, Fred paid his expenses working as a private investigator. District Attorney of Huntsville-Madison County during the decade of the seventies. He is now in private practice, specializing in murder cases.

Fred is the author of *The Sins of Madison County*, and is working on a book about capital murder cases in Madison County. He lives in Huntsville with his wife, Peggy. They have three children, Bryan, Cindy Howard, Derek and five grandchildren. Fred enjoys his family, the law, painting portraits and historical research.

## How to use this book

The photographs in this book are presented as a tour guide of Huntsville's downtown area. The tour travels no more than two blocks from the courthouse.

To provide a framework for this presentation the downtown area was divided into seven groups of approximately 50 photographs each. A map is provided at the beginning of each group showing the position of each view taken by the camera in that group. The page number of each photograph in the book is provided on the maps.

Landmarks are shown to help guide the reader around town. Directions are given at the bottom of the page when a change in direction is necessary.

The photographs are presented in the form of a tour through the downtown area. Follow the numbers on the map and the views will reveal themselves one after the other, street by street throughout the downtown.

Captions provide the directions the camera was pointed whether north, south, east or west. Streets of Huntsville are laid out in a northwest direction but for simplification only the directions of north, south, east and west are presented. Only on corner views are two directions, such as northwest, shown.

A photograph taken at the turn of the 21st century will appear on the bottom of the page under the historical view. Find the lower photograph that depicts the part of the downtown you are interested in, and the top photograph will show the way Huntsville looked in the past. You will be able to better identify the older photographs, as you look at the photographs on the bottom of the page.

# A Walk Through Downtown Huntsville Then and Now

is a pictorial history utilizing photographs from long ago and recreated, down to the exact weather events and locations, with a look at the same location today. Fred Simpson's passion for analysis brings attention to the details that are often overlooked or forgotten. This composite look at the photographic history of downtown should challenge future photographic historians to try and recreate this again in the years to come!



ISBN 0-9675765-3-9



93799>



9 780967 576534