

A Walking Tour of Huntsville, Alabama





*Present Madison County Courthouse
as seen from Big Spring Park*

Welcome to Huntsville

*I*t is with great pleasure that I welcome you to historic Huntsville, Alabama. Looking at this guidebook or touring downtown will show you how Huntsville is blessed with rich reminders of our past. Perhaps more exciting is the role that the preservation of that past is playing in the Huntsville of today and of the future. Historic preservation has come to be recognized as an important part of our way of doing things, and we invite visitors to share in our achievements and to enjoy our historic sites.

*W*e like company. Let us know if we can do anything to make your stay in Huntsville and Madison County a more pleasant one.

Sincerely,

*Mike Gillespie, Chairman
Madison County Commission*

A very special word of thanks to historian Dr. Frances Roberts, architect Harvie Jones, and Linda Bayer, City of Huntsville Planning Commission, for their assistance in the original compilation and constant up-dating of this brochure.



Madison County Courthouse

A Brief Look at Huntsville's Past

John Hunt, a westward moving pioneer from East Tennessee, became the founder of Huntsville when he moved his family to a log home near the Big Spring in 1805. Many squatter settlers soon joined this family and by 1808, when Madison County was formed, the population of this settlement had grown to over 300.

When the federal government began to sell the land in Madison County at auction in August of 1809, LeRoy Pope purchased the 160 acres surrounding the Big Spring with the view of developing a site to be designated as the county seat. During June of 1810 he had sixty acres around the spring platted as a town to be named Twickenham in honor of the English home of the poet, Alexander Pope. On July 5, 1810, when Huntsville was designated as the county seat, its official name became Twickenham. This designation was never popular, and within a year the name was changed back to Huntsville in honor of its first settler.

Huntsville's growth was very rapid during the period from 1810 to 1819. Because most of the public lands in the northern part of the Alabama Territory were offered for sale at the Huntsville Land Office, people from all of the eastern states flocked here to purchase lands in the Tennessee Valley.

By 1818, a two-story brick courthouse had been completed on the public square and stores and craft shops were numerous. The community also had a weekly paper, a bank, a library, a Masonic Lodge, a school, and a number of cultural organizations, including a Thespian Society and a Haydn Society.

Because of its political leadership and its attractive accommodations, Huntsville was chosen as the temporary capital of Alabama as it moved from territorial status to statehood during the summer and autumn of 1819. Here Alabama's first Constitution was drafted, its first governor inaugurated, and its first legislature convened.

Throughout the antebellum period, Huntsville continued to furnish political leadership to the state and nation. It also remained a commercial, social, and cultural center in the heart of a rich agricultural hinterland. River transportation, stagecoach lines, and the Memphis and Charleston Railroad all contributed to the town's prominence in the Tennessee Valley.

Shortly after the Civil War began, Huntsville was occupied by Federal troops in order to control troop movement on the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. From 1862 until the end of the war in 1865 numerous homes were requisitioned for use as Union officers' quarters and troops were stationed in schools and churches. However, only a few structures were destroyed, and those by accidental fires.

The defeat of the Confederacy left many people in Huntsville economically destitute and recovery became a slow and tedious process for the next twenty years.



*Photographs of Cotton Row fall 1895 (top)
and Big Spring Park (bottom)*

Eventually, the town's business leaders encouraged northern and western capitalists to join them in textile and real estate projects which would improve the economic base of the area. Tourism was encouraged through the development of Monte Sano Mountain as a vacation and health resort. The development of nurseries and fruit orchards also added new dimensions to agricultural pursuits.

The World War I period and the decade which followed were prosperous years for the people of Huntsville and Madison County. By 1930 the city could point with pride to its downtown expansion, which added three tall structures to its skyline. But the years of the Great Depression from 1930 to 1940 caused a major decline in its industries and commercial enterprises.

The World War II effort brought new life to Huntsville when two major arsenals were located just to the south of the city. After the war, these areas were combined to become Redstone Arsenal, the site of much activity in the areas of research and development of missile and space vehicles that are vital to the nation's defense and space efforts.

Within the last twenty years, diversification of industry and agriculture has resulted in a rapidly expanding economic base which has made possible increased medical, educational, religious, cultural, and recreational opportunities for Huntsville's citizens.

Although the city limits have been expanded from their original sixty acres to 114 square miles, the area around the courthouse square still remains the center of county and city governmental affairs. Just to the east of John Hunt's Big Spring, a small area of old Huntsville remains virtually untouched, with its future insured by the creation of two historical districts, Twickenham and Old Town. Both of these districts, as well as other structures in the area, have been included in the National Register of Historic Places. Almost every building in this part of the city has played a significant part in the history of Huntsville. Here is found a living museum of architecture, spanning eighteen decades of American building styles, to be observed, studied, and enjoyed.



Madison County Courthouse 1914-1964

Notes

Most of the buildings, churches, and houses listed in this brochure are in either the Twickenham or Old Town Historic District. Both districts are on the National Register of Historic Places, the official list of places considered worthy of preservation for their significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. The Twickenham District contains the majority of antebellum homes found in Madison County and is one of the largest concentrations of antebellum homes in the South. When built, many were part of working plantations located outside the city limits. As the population grew, the land between the plantations was sold and housing became more dense. Old Town houses are mostly post-Civil War Victorian, originally built fairly close together and displaying many decorative touches.

The structures listed in this brochure were chosen by any combination of the following criteria: age, condition, attractiveness, historical significance, architectural significance. It is regrettable that, because of limited space, all structures in the districts could not be included.

The entire tour is approximately four miles in length. It may be shortened in length to three miles by continuing straight on Randolph Avenue from 56 to 67, thereby omitting most of the Old Town District.

The Heritage Room at the Huntsville Public Library provided the sources of information for this brochure.

Huntsville Heritage Tours, a private company, can provide guided tours with more detailed information. Special showings and catered meals in private homes may be arranged. For more information, contact them at 724 Adams Street, Huntsville, Alabama 35801, telephone (205) 534-7783.

George Steele

Much of the beauty of the architecture of antebellum Huntsville is due to George Steele. Steele was born in Virginia in 1798. Largely self-educated, he visited major cities and purchased volumes on Greek and Roman architecture. He became, in fact, an architect, one of the few in the country since the first school of architecture did not open until after his death. Steele moved to Huntsville in 1818 and began his career. The excellence of his buildings and the diversity of his designs are both restful and refreshing and lend to the softening quality of past tradition and the beauty and grace of the Old South to our lives.

The Walking Tour



1 Madison County Courthouse—1967 The block on which the current Madison County Courthouse stands was designated as the Public Square for the county seat in 1810. The first courthouse, built in 1811, proved too small for the rapidly growing community and was replaced in 1840 by a white classical temple design of George Steele's similar to the First Alabama Bank. The third courthouse was

erected in 1914 and served until 1964, when it was replaced by the present structure, completed in 1967. The lobby contains a beautiful three-story mural depicting the history of Huntsville and Madison County.

2 First Alabama Bank—West Side Square—1840 This Greek Revival building, which housed a branch of the state bank, was designed and built by George Steele and completed in 1840 at a cost of \$76,000. The foundations and front walls were quarried locally and are of native limestone. The columns, bases, and capitals were brought from Baltimore by way of the Tennessee River. The fifteen foot center doors are original, the side doors and second story windows were added about 1900. For many years, the bank's cashier was required by law to reside inside the bank. He and his family were housed in an apartment on the second floor. A semi-detached structure at the rear served as living quarters for servants. In the basement of the building were detention cells for slaves impounded for their masters' debts. This is the oldest building in the state in continuous use as a bank, open for business every legal banking day since 1865. Its elegance and fine proportions make it one of the nation's outstanding Greek Revival structures.



3 Harrison Brothers Hardware—124 South Side Square—1897 Harrison Brothers is Huntsville's oldest commercial establishment still in operation. Opened in 1897 as a tobacco wholesale operation, the original Harrison brothers, James, Daniel, and Robert, added crockery, furniture, and hardware by 1913. Robert's sons Daniel and John assumed ownership in the mid-fifties

and carried on the family tradition, successfully resisting any urge to change or to adopt the latest fashions in retailing. The Historic Huntsville Foundation purchased the building, fixtures, and inventory from Daniel and John's heirs and continues to operate the store as much as possible as it always has, offering items Huntsvillians have traditionally expected to find as well as local crafts and gifts. The store is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



4 *Constitution Hall Village—Franklin at Gates* It really takes you back...all the way back to 1819, to the early days of Alabama's history when the first state constitution was drafted and printed right where Constitution Hall Village is located today. Each year, Constitution Hall Village allows thousands of visitors and school children to experience life as it was in 1819 Alabama, recreating history through demonstrations of wood-working, spinning, printing, soapmaking, and other activities performed by guides in authentic period costumes. Constitution Hall Village is one of the few "living history" museums in existence today, and it's an experience you won't find anywhere else in Alabama. The village gift shop features items made by Alabama craftsmen and baskets made by the domestic skills staff. Admission fee. Group rates available. Open Mon-Sat at 9 am, last tour begins at 2:30 pm. Closed January and major holidays.





5 Schiffman Building—231 East Side Square—circa 1845 This building is one of Huntsville's few existing antebellum commercial structures. It has remained in the Schiffman family since 1905. The facade was significantly altered in 1895 and is in the Romanesque Revival Style. The actress Tallulah Bankhead was born in a second floor apartment in 1902.



6 Episcopal Church of the Nativity—212 Eustis—1859 This congregation was organized in December 1843, choosing the name Nativity as fitting to the season. Fifty-three members contributed \$37,000, almost all in cash, for the construction of the building. The first services were held here Easter of 1859. It has been called one of the finest examples of Gothic Revival architecture in the

South. Architects Wills and Dudley from New York City were internationally prominent in the "Ecclesiological movement." The brick sanctuary is essentially in its original condition and the beautiful fence is pre-Civil War. During the War, this was the only church in Huntsville not seized by the occupying Federal forces. The story is told that the church was to be used as a stable, but the soldiers saw the inscription above the door, "Reverence My Sanctuary," and withdrew.

7 Weeden—300 Gates—1819 The Weeden House is a superb example of Federal architecture. Notable exterior architectural features include the roof cornice, the frieze below the front roof eave, and the modillions, all based on the Corinthian order, the entry with its semicircular, leaded glass fanlight and slender, reeded colonettes, and the Flemish bond-laid brick on the two street sides of the house. Inside, the architecturally perfect cantilevered circular staircase winds to the second floor and the interior woodwork is the most elaborate in Madison County. Delicate reeding and fluting are extensively used and impress the visitor with the careful detailing throughout the house. The house was built by Henry C. Bradford, part owner of a mercantile business on the South Side Square. It served as the home of many prominent Huntsvillians, including John McKinley, who went on to become an associate justice of the United States Supreme Court. From 1845 to 1956, the Weeden family owned the home and its most notable resident was Maria Howard Weeden. Born there in 1846, Miss Weeden received very little formal art training. The Civil War reduced the family to poverty and she began painting cards and favors for parties in order to have some kind of income. She then began to paint watercolor portraits of the old ex-slaves, depicting their character in her paintings and their sense of humor and philosophy of life in accompanying poems written in their dialect. These touching works continue to evoke poignant understanding of a lost way of life. She became nationally known for these works and her books were published by Doubleday, McClure and Company. Her health failed,

however, and she died in 1905. The house was acquired by the Twickenham Historic Preservation District Association in 1973 and sold to the Huntsville Housing Authority in 1976 in order to secure grants for its restoration. In 1981, it was leased by the Twickenham Historic Preservation District Association and opened as a house museum. It is the only house in the Twickenham District which is open to the public. Hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Closed January, February, and major holidays. Admission fee. Group rates available.



8 Mastin—310 Williams—circa 1823 This home was built for Captain and Mrs. Francis Mastin. Captain Mastin served as an aide to General Andrew Jackson during the Creek Indian War. Mrs. Mastin's father was chief surgeon in Count Rochambeau's fleet which came from Lyons, France, to help the colonies in the Revolutionary War. The Italianate features were added in 1850. The cast iron fence is in a fleur-de-lis pattern. The attached two-story building was used as quarters for the Mastin's four sons.



9 Bibb—300 Williams—1836 Thomas Bibb, the second governor of Alabama, purchased this lot and a Federal style house that was on it from John Reed in 1821. He had this Greek Revival house constructed of bricks made on the site. The house was completed in 1836. The remains of the Federal house can still be seen in the basement. The house has changed hands a few times, but in 1927 returned to descendants of the original owners so that, to date, nine generations of the Bibb family have lived there. The kitchen has been connected to the house but no other basic changes have been made to the floor plan.



10 *Fletcher-Lowe—210 Williams—1901-1902* The expensive stone facing and other components of this Chateausque Revival house were shaped in New York, numbered, shipped to Huntsville, and assembled. The interior was decorated by a French fresco artist. Servants quarters in the back were part of an antebellum complex torn down to make way for the new structure.



11 *The Public Inn—205 Williams Avenue—circa 1819* Opened as a “public house” in October of 1819, The Public Inn accommodated “travelers and a few boarders in the best manner and on the most reasonable terms” at its location on the northeast corner of Madison Street and Williams Avenue. It later became a dwelling. In 1926 the land was sold for the site of a filling station and the house was moved to its present location. It was recently restored and looks much as it did in 1819, with Federal style windows, doors, steps, and clapboard.

12 *Van Valkenburgh—501 Franklin—1902* One of the most interesting features of this Classical Revival home is the stained glass window on the Williams Street side depicting the scene from Homer’s *Iliad* of Ulysses saying goodbye to his wife Penelope.



13 *Donovan—506 Franklin—1887* This Second Empire style home, with its Mansard roof and tower, is graced with an abundance of rare cast iron cresting.

14 *Erskine—515 Franklin—1819* This home was built in the tradition of the Federal half-house. Later rooms could have been added to the north side for symmetry and space. The Greek Revival porches were added later. The brick walkway is original and the shutters on the windows functional. This was the home of Dr. Alexander Erskine, partner of his next-door neighbor Dr. Thomas Fearn and a prominent physician in his own right, who helped to found Alabama's first Masonic Lodge. His wife was the daughter of the only Revolutionary War soldier to be buried in Maple Hill Cemetery.



15 *Thomas Fearn—517 Franklin—1820* Dr. Thomas Fearn was a native of Virginia who came to Huntsville in 1814 as a surgeon in charge of the military hospital by appointment of General Andrew Jackson. He was one of the most outstanding physicians in the South. He became one of the town's leading and most influential citizens, involved in farming, politics, banking, and public works, and served as one of the first trustees of the University of Alabama when it was being developed in 1821. He is perhaps best

known for developing quinine to detect the difference between malaria and typhoid fever and for developing, with his brother George, Huntsville's first public water system. Dr. Fearn wanted slavery abolished and was opposed to secession but agreed to represent Huntsville at the Confederate Congress. While Huntsville was occupied by Union troops, General O. M. Mitchel became angry about Confederate guerilla attacks on his supply and communication lines. He had Fearn and eleven other prominent citizens jailed in the courthouse and demanded that they sign a statement abhorring partisan warfare and accepting the responsibility for stopping it. All refused and were eventually released. Dr. Fearn caught a cold during his internment which developed into pneumonia and caused his death in January of 1863. This house was built by Fearn in 1820 as a Federal half-house. In 1849, he contracted with architect George Steele to add the two southern bays, doubling the size of the house at a cost of \$2,000. Steele adapted the Greek Revival styling in favor at that time, easily discerned in the porch, to the existing Federal residence. The brick walks, much of the landscaping, fireplaces, mantels, 15" baseboards, floors, and sliding doors are original. The home remained in Dr. Fearn's family until 1964.



16 *Mastin—516 Franklin—circa 1819* This is a rare surviving example of a frame antebellum home, with its original exterior siding and chimneys. The rear half of the house is original. The front half was added before 1861.

17 *Albert Erskine—527 Franklin—1818* This two-story livable brick Federal home has unusual original blue glass panes. The porch and the south half were added at a later date. Well-preserved are the servants' quarters in the rear.



18 *McDonnell—531 Franklin—circa 1909* Local architect Edgar Love built this bungalow, reminiscent of the Cotswold cottages in England.

19 *Morgan—Neal—558 Franklin—1825* In 1857, an Italianate facade and tower were added to this 1825 Federal house. General John Hunt Morgan was born here (see marker). George Neal, son of Madison County's first sheriff, Stephen Neal, purchased the house in 1850 and brought a landscape artist from England to plan the garden and the shrubbery. The home remained in the Neal family until 1949.

19



20 *Hollowell—601 Franklin—1835* Built by William Hollowell, this antebellum raised cottage has a classical portico. The basement is the same size as the first floor and housed the original kitchen and dining room.

20



21 *Grove—Bassett—600 Franklin—1818* This Federal home, with many of its outbuildings intact, was built in 1818. Dr. John Y. Bassett purchased it in 1832. The present owner is the fifth generation direct descendant to occupy the house, with furnishings and ancestral portraits over 150 years old. Dr. Bassett helped organize the Madison County Medical Society and contributed greatly to public health by reforming and regularizing the medical practice in Alabama.



22 *Arthur M. Henderson—614 Franklin—circa 1824* Begun in 1824, this Federal house was stuccoed in 1888. It was purchased by Judge Robert Brickell in 1870 and remained in his family for over sixty years. Brickell served as chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court in the late 1800's.

23 *Benjamin S. Pope—621 Franklin—circa 1829* This two-story brick Federal home was built for merchant Samuel Hazard. It was later owned by Dr. & Mrs. David Moore. Their daughter Harriet's wedding reception was held here in 1854 and was one of the most elaborate social events in local history. In the center of a table of sweets was a five foot replica of the monument to Sir Walter Scott in Edinburgh, made entirely of candy. Prominent South Carolinian Robert Barnwell Rhett was a guest at the reception. His wife later died, as did Harriet's husband, and they were married after the Civil War. The home remained in the Rhett family from 1851 to 1928.



24 *John Van Valkenburgh—205 Lowe—1885* This unique Victorian house was designed for Captain John Van Valkenburgh and remained in his family until 1973, when it was purchased by Peoples (now South Trust) Bank. The bank offered the house to any organization that would move it and keep it intact. The Madison County Federation of Women's Clubs purchased this lot and had the house moved here. It was the site of many community meetings and social events until 1987, when it once again became a private residence.

25 *Paul Cottage—710 Adams—circa 1855* Notable as a rare example of a once common type, this is a one-story frame cottage. The porch is a Victorian addition.

26 *Smith Academy—706 Adams—circa 1853* Built as a private school by Dr. Carlos Smith, this structure was later converted to a residence.

27 *Smith—704 Adams—circa 1853* Often called an antebellum split-level, this was the residence of Dr. Carlos Smith, who conducted the private school Smith Academy next door. In 1874, Dr. Smith became the fifth president of the University of Alabama. Due to his forceful public relations program, the university's enrollment increased 240% and the faculty was strengthened.

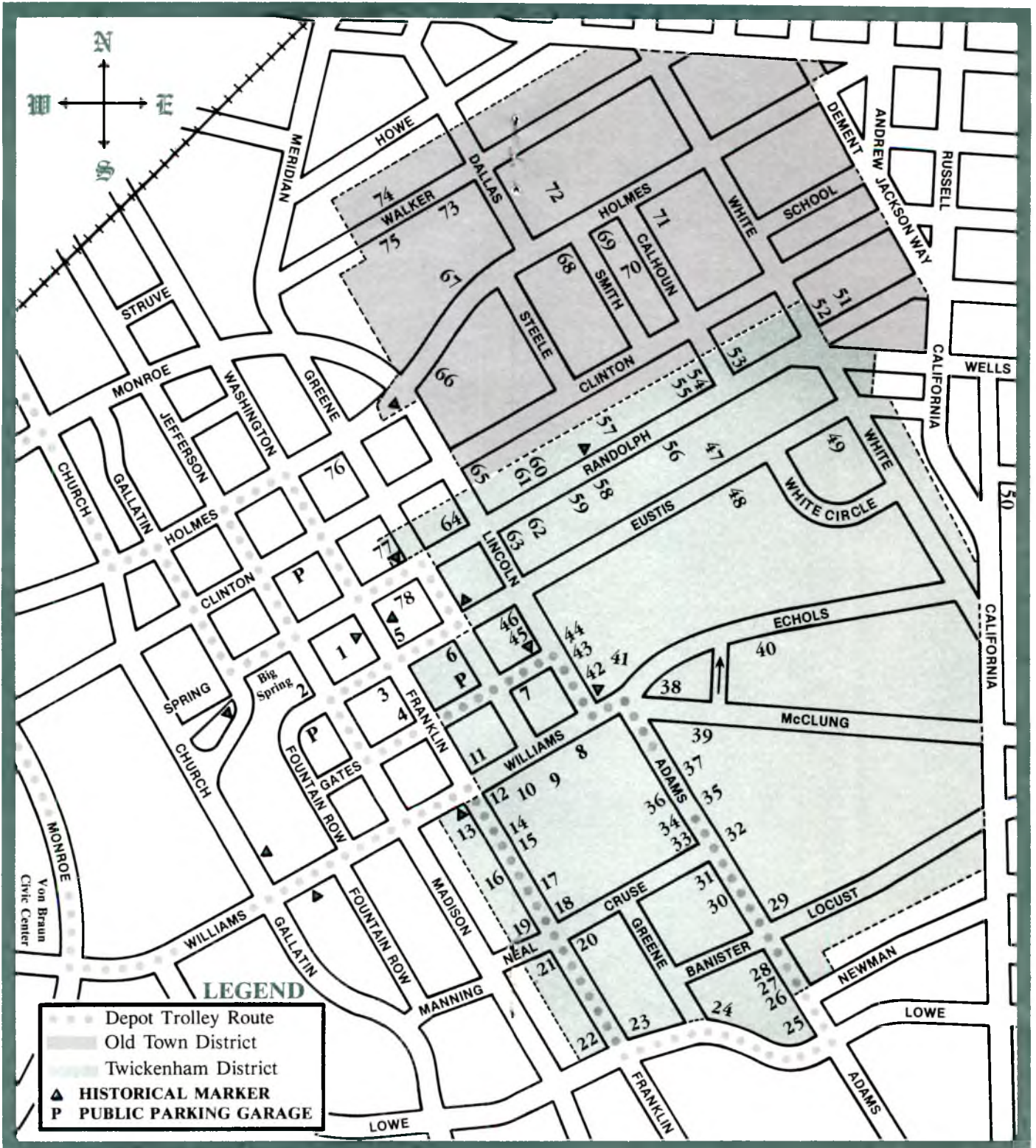


28 *Banister—702 Adams—1858* This two-story Italianate frame house served as an Episcopal rectory from 1860 to 1908. Wooden lace trim around the front and side porches, a later addition typical of Victorian styling, incorporate church symbols.



29 *Watkins—619 Adams—circa 1875* This two-story Italianate frame house is the home of former United States Senator John Sparkman.

A Walking Tour of Huntsville, Alabama



30 *John D. Weeden—604 Adams—circa 1871* This two-story frame house was built by John D. Weeden, brother of Maria Howard Weeden. It was rebuilt following a fire in 1913 and its style altered to Classical Revival. After passing through several hands, it was purchased in 1922 by Dr. E. V. Caldwell, a prominent Huntsville physician, and remained in possession of his family until 1981. A subsequent addition doubled the size of the house.

31 *Cruse—600 Adams—1825* The facade of this two-story brick Federal house was altered in the 1920's. The covered porch and square columns have been added and the home has been stuccoed. This was the birthplace of Mary Ann Cruse, author of children's books who donated the proceeds from their sale for the purchase of stained glass windows in the Episcopal Church of the Nativity.

32 *Moore-Rbett—603 Adams—circa 1826* A small brick house built in 1826 was fronted with this three story Italianate Revival structure in 1860. The interior stairways to the second floor and the spiral stair to the third floor were built by a black carpenter from Charlottesville, Virginia, over a period of three years. Much of the interior woodwork is walnut and was put together with wooden pegs. The plaster cornice in the double drawing rooms and the elaborate plaster ceiling moldings were the work of another black craftsman from South Carolina. The columned portico was added in 1920. The home was the site of Huntsville's most unusual ball in 1892. Samuel H. Moore's Jersey cow, Signal's Lily Flagg, had been named the world's champion butterfat producer, and Moore gave a ball honoring her. The house was painted butter yellow just for the event. Fifteen hundred guests were invited to enjoy the fifty foot square dancing platform and the Italian band from Nashville. Lily Flagg stood on a platform on the patio.



33 *Yeatman—528 Adams—1825* George Steele designed both the first part of this house, the south three bays erected in 1825 in Federal style, and the porch and two northern bays added in 1853-55. In the addition, the first story windows are taller and have paneling beneath. The parlors in this section have Italianate mantels. The porch is of the Italianate style and serves to minimize the window variation in the two sides by visually separating them. The home was the birthplace of John Greenway, a leading military figure who served under Theodore Roosevelt in the Spanish-American War and as a brigadier general in World War I.



34 *George Harris—526 Adams—circa 1888* The Eastlake influence can be seen in the wooden lace trim of this interesting two-story frame house.

35 *McDowell—517 Adams—1848* According to local legend, cotton merchant William McDowell went to Europe for two years, leaving the plans for this home with his overseer. He returned to find that the overseer had misread the plans and that the home faced the rear of McClung Hill instead of Adams Street—the front entrance is actually a recessed side porch (columns added in 1925). It features three crystal chandeliers from Venice and marble mantels from Italy. It was chosen as headquarters for General O.M. Mitchel when his Union forces occupied Huntsville in 1862. In 1864, it was once more used as Union headquarters, by General John A. Logan, although he resided next door in the Moore-Rhett home. In 1925, the house was purchased and restored by Henry B. Chase, president of Chase Nursery. It is again undergoing a thorough renovation with a large addition on the southern end.

36 *Powell—518 Adams—1835* The original house, a two-story brick Federal, was built in 1835. It was enlarged, remodeled, and redecorated by John Fackler, a cotton merchant from New Orleans, prior to the Civil War, and was the scene of many balls, masquerades, and cotillions.

37 *Lane—511 Adams—1835* The porch of this small brick raised cottage was built in the 1960's. It was the home of George W. Lane, a Union sympathizer who flew the U.S. flag over this house during the Civil War. He was made a Federal judge by President Lincoln.

38 *Walker—413 McClung—circa 1834* The original part of this Greek Revival home consisted of the present reception hall with twin parlors beyond, an identical second floor, and a basement. The east wing, consisting of a dining room and east room, was added as one story in the 1850's. There have been many additions and renovations to the house, but most of the original features have been preserved. The site of the old city reservoir can still be seen on the front lawn, now converted into a sunken garden. Perhaps the most noteworthy resident of the house was Leroy Pope Walker, who purchased the house in 1870. Walker was appointed the first secretary of war of the Confederacy by Jefferson Davis in February of 1861. It was Walker who issued the order to fire upon Fort Sumter. In 1875, he served as president of the Second Constitutional Convention, the same post that his father, John Williams Walker, had held in the First Constitutional Convention of 1818.



39 *McClung—416 McClung—circa 1838* This beautiful home, with its galleries on the east and north sides, evokes the style of the Gulf Coast. The double doors are framed with glass sides and fan lights etched in the grape design. Frescoes in an oval pattern of leaves and fern around unusual bronze chandeliers in the living and dining rooms were done by a talented slave. Ornately carved Italian marble mantels in three downstairs rooms are from the John Jacob Astor house. The grounds were terraced in three levels descending to Adams Street and featured statues of all the continents. Now only the statues of Europe and Asia remain. The house was built by the controversial Colonel James W. McClung, a legislator, speaker of the house, state senator, and one-time candidate for governor. McClung became involved in a controversy with Mr. Andrew Wills, editor of the Huntsville Democrat. McClung challenged Wills to a duel on the courthouse square. Wills was killed, but McClung was not indicted or convicted and cared for Wills' family thereafter.



40 *Dickson—414 Echols—circa 1833* This two-story Federal house was built on Lincoln Street. It began as a "quarter house", a typical three room Federal townhouse. Sometime in the Greek Revival period, two large rooms were added on each floor, creating a "half house" of four large rooms with a center entry and stair hall. In 1982 it was dismantled piece by piece and reconstructed on this site. The wide Greek Revival rooms were reduced to approximately the width of the Federal period rooms so that the house could fit on this narrower lot. The current owner added the small Federal portico in 1983.

41 *Pope—403 Echols—1814* The oldest documented mansion in the state of Alabama, this was built for Leroy Pope, known as the Father of Huntsville because of his active involvement in the early political, economic, and cultural development of the town. Pope chose his site on the highest hill overlooking the growing community. The materials for its construction were brought from Tennessee on flatboats to Ditto's Landing and transported to the site by wagons. Here in May of 1814 Pope hosted a public dinner on the lawn for General Andrew Jackson and his company, who were passing through on their return from the Battle of Horseshoe Bend. Architect George Steele is credited with the crowning glory to the structure—the majestic portico. The mix of Federal ornament on the Classical Revival portico blends so well with the house that it has been acclaimed as one of the handsomest in the South. The house remains in the hands of the Patton descendants and is leased to the University of Alabama in Huntsville as the residence of its president.



42 *Helion Lodge No. 1—409 Lincoln—1917* This building houses the oldest Masonic order in Alabama. Many prominent Huntsvillians have been members, including John Hunt, who was a Master Mason, and Thomas Fearn, who was a Senior Warden. The first building was built in 1824. This second building was designed by Edgar Love and built in 1917. It was an attachment to the old building, which later fell in and was razed.

43 *Winston-Orgain—401 Lincoln—1815* Built by Peter Perkins, this is one of Huntsville's earliest structures. Perkins was appointed to the Mississippi Territorial Legislature in 1809 as one of the commissioners who chose Huntsville as the county seat of Madison County. The original Federal style house consisted of an office and two rooms, one over the other, connected by a small corner interior stairway. A short while later two rooms and a central hall were added, also in the Federal style. The front porch was added in the Victorian era.

44 *Cox—311 Lincoln—circa 1825* Though modernized several times, this house still retains its dignified proportions. The architect George Steele designed it for Joshua Cox. The three northern bays were probably built first, with the two southern bays, a one-story bedroom, and the Greek Revival pilasters across the front added between 1835 and 1861. The traditional Federal facade was made Italianate after the Civil War, and the porch, false roof gable, modillions along the eaves, and stucco were all added in this century. It is often called the Spite House because of the legend that Cox had it built to an unusual height, with 14' ceilings on the first floor and 16' ceilings on the second floor, to block the view of his enemy Leroy Pope who lived above on Echols Hill.



45 *First Presbyterian Church—312 Lincoln—1860* Officially organized in 1818, before Alabama was a state, this is Huntsville's oldest Presbyterian church and the mother church of this denomination for the state. This Gothic Revival building was dedicated in May of 1860. The church bell soon fell, cracked, and was made into war material. The original spire was blown off during a storm in 1878. The stained glass windows were replaced in 1926.



46 Halsey—308 Eustis—1899 Built by the Halsey family, this home is essentially in its original form, with its original solid cherry staircase, shutters, light fixtures, and stained glass window. The Halsey family was active in the pre-Civil War development of the carriage industry and have been in the wholesale grocery business since 1879.

47 Clay—513 Eustis—1830 J. Withers Clay, editor of the *Huntsville Democrat*, was perhaps the most noteworthy resident of this two-story Federal home. During the Civil War, Clay made so many editorial comments against the Union that General O. M. Mitchel, commander of the occupying forces, had him arrested and banished from town.

48 Mayhew—512 Eustis—1843 The vertical lines and intricate ornamentation of the porch and eaves on this house are characteristic of the Gothic Revival style. The double front door is hand-carved walnut. The home was built by Sidney J. Mayhew, a contractor and lumberman who used only the finest materials in its construction. Mr. Mayhew was the first superintendent of the city schools, serving in that capacity for nearly twenty years. An interesting Civil War story is told about his home. Miss Sue Chadick, while visiting there, concealed Union officer Samuel Fordyce in the cellar so that he could evade capture. After the war, he returned to Huntsville and married her. Captain Fordyce later helped form the Rison Bank.



49 White—312 White Street—1836 George Cox erected the original portion of this house, a basement and three rooms directly above it. In 1844 it was purchased by Thomas W. White and enlarged to accommodate his family which eventually consisted of twelve children. The three original rooms became two parlors and a dining room separated by folding doors, allowing a large floor space for square dancing. Federal officers occupied the lower story for a time during the Civil War. In 1894 the small front porch was moved to the back and the Victorian porch added. The separate brick building contained servants' quarters, a kitchen, dairy, and smokehouse. The current owner is a direct descendant of White, a planter and onetime mayor of Huntsville. A Cedar of Lebanon planted by Mr. White still stands in the front yard.

50 *Maple Hill Cemetery—California Street—1818* This is one of the oldest cemeteries in Alabama. It is the final resting place of five Alabama governors and many prominent and influential residents, including Leroy Pope Walker, George Steele, Howard Weeden, and Russel Erskine. A brochure for locating the more interesting gravesites is available at the cemetery office. Maple Hill is particularly beautiful in the fall, when its hundreds of maple trees are brilliantly colored, and in the spring, when its hundreds of dogwood trees are in bloom.

51 *Mason—709 Randolph—1919* Built by James Mason, a prominent furniture dealer, this house was designed by an unidentified Prairie School architect. It was copied from a plan published in a magazine in 1907 and advertised as "a fireproof house for \$5,000."



52 *Darwin—705 Randolph—1888* This elaborate Second Empire/Italianate structure was built by S.S. Darwin, who sold it in 1897 to S. H. Lowery and H. D. Westmoreland. They converted it to an infirmary for patients who had to be quarantined during periods of serious illness.

53 *Cabaniss—603 Randolph—1832* Designed by George Steele, the main portion of this house is three-bay Federal. However, it displays what is believed to be Steele's first use of Greek Revival elements in the porch with its square-paneled columns, double door, and rectangular toplight. Septimus Cabaniss, whose portrait hangs inside, purchased this home for his bride in 1843 and it has remained in the family since. In fact, much of the original Cabaniss furniture stands where it has always stood. Federal troops camped in the yard during the Civil War and burned the white paling fence, but Mrs. Cabaniss still insisted on keeping the front gate locked as an act of defiance. Their daughter, Miss Fannie S. Cabaniss, served



the county as Register in Chancery for 42 years. Currently residing in the house is the fourth generation descendant of the original owners.

54 *Steele—519 Randolph—1824* This was the first house that architect George Steele built for himself and his family, in the Federal style. Greek Revival details are incorporated in the porch, front doors, and roof. It is believed that some of the brick used in the house came over from England as ballast for a ship. Steele lived in this townhouse before building his country home, Oak Place, on Maysville Road.



55 *George Hunt—515 Randolph—1885* Of the Eastlake style that flourished from 1870 to 1910, this house was built for George Hunt, grandson of Huntsville founder John Hunt. The sawn-wood gingerbread detailing reflected the abilities, tools, and imagination of the builder.



56 *J. N. Mazza—502 Randolph—circa 1894* This late Victorian brick cottage with Gothic Revival overtones was built by John Mazza, a native of Italy. It has multiple roofs of slate and a verandah heavy with gingerbread. The house had been divided into three apartments until its purchase in 1987. It has been returned to single family use.

57 *Figures—423 Randolph—circa 1845* Built by George Steele, probably as rental property, the original structure consisted of three rooms and a side hallway which comprise the three western bays of the present structure. The two eastern bays were added by Steele about 1853. The house remained in the Figures family from 1850 to 1919. In 1925 it was stuccoed and converted to apartments, with much bungalow detailing added. The exterior was restored to its present form in 1978. A large two-story bungalow porch was removed and replaced with this Greek Revival one built on the foundations of the antebellum porch.



58 *Atwood—420 Randolph—1820* This house was built by William Feeney. The present portico was added in 1922. Between 1958 and 1961 the house served as the location of Randolph School. It again became a private residence in 1969.



59 *Feeney—414 Randolph—circa 1832* The facade of this three-bay Federal house remains much as it was built by George Steele. This was a simple two room house, with one room downstairs, one room upstairs, and no porch, yet handsomely proportioned. The chimney on the east side is false, constructed to visually balance the one on the west side. The house was enlarged and stuccoed in the 1920's.



60 *President's Home—413 Randolph—1851* Another house designed by George Steele, this one is a three-bay Federal with Greek Revival pilasters at the corners supporting a plain frieze. The porch is not original. The house was purchased by Amos Jones, president of the Huntsville Female College, in 1886. A lattice-covered runway connected the house to the school, which burned in 1895.

61 *Purdom—409 Randolph—circa 1830* This George Steele Federal house originally consisted of four rooms, making up the three western bays. In the early 1850's, two one-story rooms were added to each side of the original back parlor. The fourth bay was added in the 1860's.

62 *McDaniel—410 Randolph—circa 1870* Built by Dr. Hiram A. McDaniel, a dentist, this house was later owned by Dr. James Ridley, for whom the Episcopal Church of the Nativity's Ridley Hall was named. In 1910 it was purchased by E. M. Strong, whose family lived there until 1973. Originally Italiante, the home burned in 1926 and was restored with many architectural changes.

63 *Central Presbyterian Church—406 Randolph—1901* As early as 1807, the Cumberland Presbytery sent a missionary to minister to the settlers at Hunt's Spring. This building was built on the foundations of the old Cumberland Presbyterian Church, which had become inadequate for the needs of the congregation and was demolished in 1899. It is in the Romanesque Revival style.



64 *Chadwick—307 Randolph—1837* An excellent example of restoration for commercial use, the owners found that renovation of this Federal period structure cost only three-fourths that of new construction.

65 *Temple B'nai Sholom—103 Lincoln—1899* This Romanesque Revival style synagogue was probably designed by the same architect who designed the Central Presbyterian Church.

66 *Cole—408 Holmes—1887 and Humes-Irvine—410 Holmes—1897* Often called The Twin Sisters, these houses are charming examples of Eastlake architecture, with polygonal side towers, projecting bay windows, and extensive wood decoration.

67 *Windham—Woody—413 Holmes—circa 1831* This is one of the oldest and most attractive of Huntsville's small antebellum homes. Most woodwork and doors show the Greek Revival influence. Much of the original furniture remains in the house. The roof was changed greatly in the late 1800's.

68 *Stewart—508 Holmes—1904* This Queen Anne Revival house displays a combination of features from different periods—Grecian columns, gables, verandahs, and turned-wood ornamentation.



69 *Rand—514 Holmes—1902* Although there was an earlier house on this site in the 1870's, Edgar Rand had it totally remodeled or rebuilt in 1902. The architect was Herbert Cowell, who used Colonial Revival details.

70 *Lloyd—111 Calhoun—circa 1857* This is the oldest remaining frame house in Old Town, Greek Revival in style but retaining many Federal characteristics. The Victorian-era porch was added later using the columns from the original smaller porch.



71 *Dill—118 Calhoun—circa 1855* Called Roselawn, this house was built by prominent attorney Isaiah Dill. It is a symmetrical five-bay Greek Revival brick house with Federal influence remaining. The exterior is basically unchanged from the original except for additions in the rear.

72 *Shepherd—505 Holmes—1828* This is the smallest known Federal period house in Huntsville, with its two original rooms, and is still owned by the descendants of the Shepard family. It was built for Levin Wilson Shepard, whose son Charles Shepard established a boys' private school after the Civil War where he taught for fifty years, his motto being "Spare the rod and spoil the child."

73 *Tumminello—136 & 138 Walker—1929* These two houses are the only pair of opposite Spanish Colonial Revival style houses in Huntsville.



74 *Pleasants—127 Walker—1929* A fine example of the Second Empire style, this is a richly ornamented towered Italianate structure with a pressed metal Mansard roof and iron cresting on the roof and porch.

75 *Betts—124 Walker—1890* This frame Queen Anne style Victorian house was constructed by James Hutchens for Tancred and Maude Betts just after their marriage. Judge Betts was a prominent attorney and served in a number of elected positions. He was a trustee of Alabama Polytechnic Institute (later Auburn University). Walker Street was developed after the Civil War and was one of the most desirable areas of Huntsville during the late 1800's.

76 *Times Building—228 Holmes—1926-28* The second of three skyscrapers erected in Huntsville in the building boom of the early 1900's, this building has a beautifully subtle design. Its unbroken piers terminate in an elegant Art Deco-inspired terra cotta cornice.



77 *First United Methodist Church—219 Randolph—1876* The first church building on this location was accidentally burned in 1864 by Union troops who were using the basement as a stable. This brick sanctuary was built in 1867 in the Romanesque Revival style. The spire and stucco were added in the 1890's.



78 *Randolph Church of Christ—210 Randolph—1887* Built as the Christian Church, this early Gothic Revival building is typical of a style that became popular in rural areas. Many used board and batten, but the native and traditional brick was substituted in this instance.



Present Huntsville Depot Museum

Addendum

Please visit our other museums while you are in Huntsville.

Burritt Museum and Park—Burritt Drive—536-2882
Located atop Monte Sano Mountain, Burritt Museum and Park offers a breathtaking panoramic view of Huntsville and the Tennessee Valley. The unique museum mansion was built in the shape of a Maltese cross and insulated with 2200 bales of wheat straw. Exhibitions relate to local and area history. On the grounds are authentic 1800's log structures from Madison County.

Huntsville Depot Museum — 320 Church Street —
539-1860 The Huntsville Depot Museum complex includes Alabama's oldest surviving railroad depot. Built in 1860, it was a major transportation and communications center for all North Alabama. See the stirring multi-media theater presentation. Lifelike robots work in the circa-1912 ticket-telegraph office. Union and Confederate soldiers are responsible for graffiti which has been preserved on the interior walls. Touring on the Depot's 1920s replica trolley will give you an overview of other downtown attractions and the Twickenham district. Tours originate from the Depot every 30 minutes. See center map for route.

Huntsville Museum of Art—700 Monroe Street—
535-4350 North Alabama's leading center for enjoyment of the visual arts, The Huntsville Museum of Art presents a lively schedule of exhibitions both traditional and modern. Picasso prints, Eliot Porter photographs, historic and contemporary quilts, special solo shows by regional artists, and American folk arts and crafts have been featured in recent years. Art films, lectures, workshops, guided tours and classes are also offered. Hours are convenient and admission is free.

Space & Rocket Center—Highway 20 West—837-3400
Earth's largest space museum and Alabama's most popular tourist attraction. Here you can see the hardware of space—actual capsules like Wally Schirra's Mercury spacecraft and the Apollo XVI that carried astronauts Young, Duke, and Mattingly to the moon. Simulators—the Lunar Odyssey, Zero-G, and the Shuttle Spaceliner—allow you to experience the sensations of space travel. Rocket Park features a 354-foot Saturn V rocket and the Pathfinder Space Shuttle. The seven-story SpaceDome Theater uses the world's largest projector to fill its titled dome with images that surround you. An optional tour of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center provides you with a rare opportunity to see today's astronauts and their vehicles being readied for future flights. Enjoy lunch in the full service cafeteria or fast food in the Lunch Pad.



Early Cotton Row

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***Tourist Information
Centers***

U.S. Space & Rocket Center
*Tranquility Base
Huntsville, Alabama
205-837-3400*

Airport Information Booth
*Huntsville International Airport
Huntsville, Alabama
205-772-9470
Open Monday through Friday
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Welcome Station
*Huntsville Depot Museum
320 Church Street
Huntsville, Alabama
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A Walking Tour

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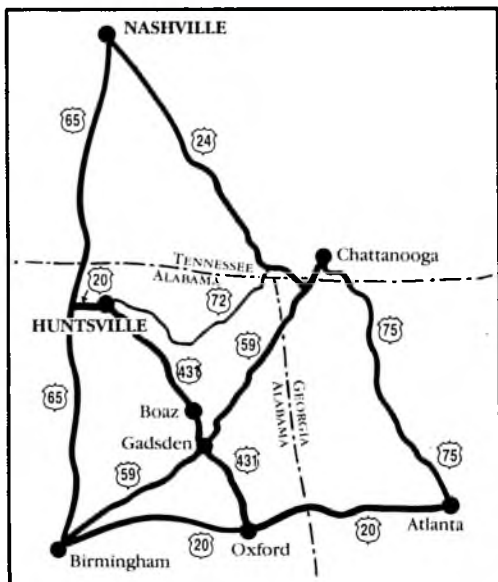
**Madison County
Tourism Board**

Madison County Courthouse

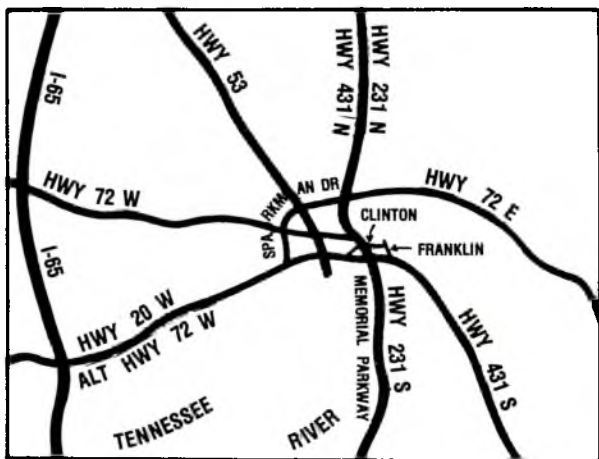
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Interstate Map



Area Map



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