

*Look Up,
Alabama!*

Walking Tours of 4
Towns In The Heart of Dixie

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Doug Gelbert has written over 30 guidebooks on such diverse topics as public golf courses, the Civil War, movie filming locations and the best places to hike with your dog. For more information on this title visit the website *walkthetown.com*.

LOOK UP, NORTH CAROLINA!
WALKING TOURS OF 4 TOWNS IN THE HEART OF DIXIE

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The towns...

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Huntsville 17

Mobile 25

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How to use this book...

There is no better way to see Alabama than on foot. And there is no better way to appreciate what you are looking at than with a walking tour. Whether you are visiting a new town or just out to look at your own town in a new way, a walking tour is ready to explore when you are.

Each of the 15 walking tours in **Look Up, Alabama!** describes a mix of historical and architectural and ecclesiastical landmarks. A quick primer on identifying architectural styles seen on Alabama streets can be found at the back of the book on page 48.

Where are the maps?

Let's face it, in today's world of GPS, Google Maps and Mapquest trying to squeeze a detailed map onto a 7" a 10" piece of paper can be a superfluous exercise. The best way to get a map of these towns is to pick an address from the tour and plug it into your favorite mapping program. Adjust the map to whatever size best suits your needs and print it out to carry with you.

These tours are designed to be followed and enjoyed without maps. Each entry includes a street address and step-by-step directions. Note that when following a tour, street crossings are omitted. Always continue walking on your current street until a turn is indicated. Whenever possible the tours complete a circular route but sometimes retracing your steps is required. The tour starting points have been selected to be near convenient parking.

One more thing. Consider tearing out the pages from this book when you take a tour - the book is created so that each tour can be pulled out without impugning another tour. You may find it easier to tour with just a few foldable pages in your hand than holding an entire book.

And, one really last thing. Look twice before crossing the street. So get out and look up, Alabama!

Look Up,

Birmingham



A Walking Tour of Birmingham...

There was nothing organic about the founding of Birmingham. No river, no deep water port, no verdant valley. In fact, the creation of the town can be traced to a specific date - June 1, 1871, when a small group of Southern planters, investors, and railroad men organized the Elyton Land Company to buy 4,150 acres of raw land in north central Alabama. Their new town would be sited at the crossing of the Alabama & Chattanooga and South & North Alabama railroads near known deposits of iron ore, coal, and limestone. The Elyton men were not burdened by any romantic images for their proposed town; the name they chose announced their vision for the enterprise - Birmingham, after the leading industrial town in England.

Early growth was stunted right at the start by an outbreak of cholera and a national financial crisis in 1873 but the dollar signs attached to those mineral deposits insured this was going to be a town to be reckoned with. The boom hit with a vengeance in the 1880s and would continue through the Great Depression of the 1930s. In that half-century Birmingham became the industrial center of the South with steel mills and blast furnaces going full bore, railroads building in every direction and mines operating 24 hours a day. Around the country Birmingham became known as “The Magic City” or “The Pittsburgh of the South.” The population grew from 3,000 to over a quarter million residents.

The Depression doused the explosive growth in the city but the decline in American manufacturing affected Birmingham less than many Northern towns. Steel production continues around the city and the financial sector blossomed into one of the nation’s leading banking centers. The University of Alabama at Birmingham emerged as a major medical research facility and is now the area’s leading employer.

The Birmingham streetscape mirrors its economic history almost exactly. The major commercial buildings arrived so fast and furiously in the early 1900s that one intersection was billed as “The Heaviest Corner on Earth.” Then, from the 1920s until the 1960s not one significant new commercial property was developed. Our walking tour to trace this history will begin at the head of 20th Street North, Birmingham’s “main street,” in a shady plaza named for the man who, more than anyone else, believed in what the town could become when all anyone could see was “a poor, insignificant Southern village” not even worthy of Union attack in the Civil War...

1. Linn Park
20th Street between 7th Avenue
North and 8th Avenue North

The original plat for Birmingham had space marked off for three parks; this was Central Park. From the town's earliest days there was thought of wrenching the state capital away from Montgomery and this was the spot reserved for that capitol building that never materialized. In the meantime an iron fountain was installed here and then a 52-foot obelisk to honor Confederate soldiers and sailors in 1905. Sinewy paths were carved through the park to attempt and unify the haphazard evolution of the open space. The park was renamed for President Woodrow Wilson in 1918, about the same time a formal plan for the city, including the park, was announced. Not all the planned improvements came to fruition but enough materialized to transform the park into Birmingham's main public space. In 1988, it was renamed to honor someone who actually had a tangible connection to Birmingham - Charles Linn, who set up the town's first bank and landscaped its first park down 20th Street at 1st Avenue.

WALK OVER TO THE WEST SIDE OF LINN PARK, TO 20TH STREET AS IT PASSES THE SQUARE.

2. Birmingham City Hall
20th Street North between Park Place
and 8th Avenue North

This is the third City Hall for Birmingham, constructed in 1950 to complement the Jefferson County Courthouse across Linn Park. A sculpture at the south entrance was crafted to incorporate the cornerstones of the two predecessors. If you look closely you can discern contrasting bands of limestone and granite blocks to create the vertical elements of the composition.

FACING CITY HALL, TURN RIGHT AND BEGIN EXPLORING THE BUILDINGS AROUND LINN PARK BY WALKING CLOCKWISE.

3. Municipal (Boutwell) Auditorium
1930 8th Avenue North at
20th Street North

The Municipal Auditorium was constructed by the city in 1924 as a hall for conventions, balls, speeches and performances. A panel of local architects, guided by America's foremost theater architect, Thomas W. Lamb, generated an oversized red brick structure with seating for 6,000. A 1957 renovation created new space in front of the original facade with a modern stone and glass addition. The building was renamed to honor Albert Burton Boutwell, a mayor of Birmingham and lieutenant governor of Alabama.

TURN RIGHT ALONG 8TH AVENUE AND WALK ALONG THE NORTH SIDE OF LINN PARK.

4. Birmingham Museum of Art
2000 Reverend Abraham Woods, Jr.
Boulevard (8th Avenue North)

The museum was founded in 1951 with its roots in the Birmingham Art Club as far back as 1908. The collection is one of the strongest in the Southeast; the assemblage of Wedgwood is the largest outside England, for example. Local architects Warren, Knight, and Davis created the museum building in 1959.

TURN RIGHT AND WALK UP INTO THE CENTER OF LINN PARK. ON YOUR LEFT IS...

5. Jefferson County Courthouse
716 Richard Arrington, Jr Boulevard
(21st Street North)

This is the third courthouse to serve Jefferson County. The cornerstone for the monumental granite and limestone structure with over a half million square feet of space was laid in 1929. The stripped-down classical Art Deco design was drawn by Chicagoan Jack B. Smith. Get close and look up to see sculpted relief panels of allegorical figures designed by Leo Friedlander, a future president of the National Sculpture Society.

NEXT DOOR, ON THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF THE SQUARE IS...

6. Linn-Henley Research Library
northwest corner of 7th Avenue North
and Richard Arrington, Jr Boulevard
(21st Street North)

The first books were checked out in Birmingham in 1886 when John Herbert Phillips, then superintendent of the public school system, set up a library in a room next to his office. The City of Birmingham took over the lending library, then in City Hall, in 1913. When City Hall burned in 1925 the collection was destroyed. The rebirth of the public library system took place in this Neoclassical structure in 1927, executed in Indiana limestone on plans drawn by John Miller and Hugh Martin. Books streamed in from donations across the country. The Central Library served until 1984 when a new depository was constructed across 21st Street. This building was renovated as a research library and renamed for town pioneer Charles Linn and Robert Henley, whose combined trusts helped fund the restoration. An enclosed pedestrian bridge connects the library to the third floor of the new central library.

EXIT LINN PARK ON THE SOUTH SIDE AND TURN LEFT, WALKING AROUND THE LIBRARY TO 21ST STREET (RICHARD ARRINGTON, JR. BOULEVARD). ACROSS THE STREET IS THE NEW LIBRARY. TURN RIGHT.

7. Tutwiler Hotel
Richard Arrington, Jr Boulevard
(21st Street North) between 6th
and 7th avenues

Edward Magruder Tutwiler was a Virginian who was attending Virginia Military Institute during the Civil War when its teenage cadets were pressed into duty in the Battle of Newmarket on May 15, 1864. He came to Birmingham when he was 35 as a civil engineer working for the Georgia Pacific Railroad. The year was 1881. Much of the line's business came from the newly developed coal and coke industry and Tutwiler

was appointed general superintendent of mines. In 1893 he founded Tutwiler Coal, Coke and Iron Company. After 20 years he sold his interests to Birmingham Coal and Iron and invested the proceeds into two properties, the 13-story brick and limestone luxury Tutwiler Hotel and the Ridgely Apartments. The Tutwiler Hotel was demolished in 1974 and this Tutwiler Hotel is actually a 1986 reincarnation of the name onto the converted Ridgeley Apartments. If you are confused perhaps you could ask Edward Tutwiler himself - his ghost is said to haunt the building and especially favors the kitchen.

8. Redmont Hotel
2101 5th Avenue North

This is the oldest hotel building in Birmingham that is still used as a hotel. The first guests checked in on May 1, 1925 to find their own private bathroom (a rarity at the time) with chilled water and ceiling fans. The 14-story, 160-foot brick tower was designed with classical influences by Geoffrey Lloyd Preacher, an Atlanta architect. The Redmont, named for the iron-rich Red Mountain ridge south of Birmingham, endured a stint as housing for the elderly but a multi-million dollar renovation in the 1980s reduced the number of rooms from 240 to 110 and re-established the property as a hotel.

9. First Presbyterian Church
2100 4th Avenue North

This congregation began in what was then Elyton in January 1858 as the Old School Presbyterian Church. In 1872 the wooden meetinghouse was dismantled and carted to this site and became the first church building in Birmingham. The membership was small, but ambitious. In 1888 the current Victorian Gothic sanctuary was constructed to replace the smaller building. It has been remodeled here and there but retains much of its 120+-year old traditional look.

TURN RIGHT ON 4TH AVENUE AND WALK ONE BLOCK TO 20TH STREET.

10. Clark Building
northwest corner of 4th Avenue North
and 20th Street North

This crisp, century-old brick building was erected by Louis V. Clark, who was an insurance man, real estate developer and theater operator. The Clark Building housed multiple businesses until 1986 and then dodged the wrecking ball to get a thorough restoration in 1998.

**LOOMING BEHIND THE
CLARK BUILDING IS...**

11. Wells Fargo Tower
southwest corner of 5th Avenue North
and 20th Street North

This has been Birmingham's tallest building since it was completed in 1986. For twenty years the 454-foot tall grey granite structure was Alabama's tallest skyscraper but that title has been usurped by the RSA Tower in Mobile.

TURN LEFT ON 20TH STREET.

12. Blach's
northeast corner of 3rd Avenue North
and 20th Street

Julius Blach, a German immigrant, set up his first store in Birmingham in 1885 and until Blach's closed over 100 years later it remained family-owned. This was the flagship store since 1935. It began life in 1890 as the Hood-Yielding General Merchandise Store and was converted into the 100-room Bencor Hotel twenty years later. To prepare the building for the arrival of Blach's the ornamentation was stripped away and the original brickwork was stuccoed over to give a fresh "modern" look to the emporium.

13. Watts Building
northwest corner of 3rd Avenue North
and 20th Street

Thomas Watts first built on this land in 1888 when a four-story Charles Wheelock-designed French Second Empire was erected here. Watts tore that down in 1926 to make way for this 17-story Art Deco apartment/office building. The

architectural firm of William Tilman Warren; Eugene Herbert Knight; Charles Eayres Davis, who were busy in Birmingham for a half-century, designed the terra cotta-clad tower. Interestingly, Charles M. Allen and son, who had helmed the construction of the first Watts Building almost 40 years earlier, ushered this \$1 million project to completion as well.

14. Farley Building
southwest corner of 3rd Avenue
and 20th Street North

John Miller and Hugh Martin were New York architects at the turn of the 20th century who teamed up and came South to get in on Birmingham's building boom. This nine-story, 126-foot tower was their first stab at a high-rise building and its graceful proportions helped establish their reputation. James A. Lewis would join the firm in 1914 and the trio would go on to design many important buildings in Birmingham and on the campus of the University of Alabama. The Farley Building, the town's fourth skyscraper, was bankrolled by John Farley, a merchant from the tiny hamlet of Benton, south of Montgomery.

15. First National Bank Building
northeast corner of 20th Street
and 2nd Avenue North

Carl Erik Engelbrekt Sjö Dahl was a seafarer born in Finland of Swedish parents. As a boy he ran away to sea, suffering first as a stowaway and later at the hands of brutal officers who did not understand his language. During his eventful career at sea, he rose from cabin boy to captain, crossing the Atlantic 53 times. All this before he was 24 years old. He came ashore in 1838 as Charles Linn in Montgomery where he opened a mercantile store and soon added extensive croplands to his holdings. He went back to sea as a Captain in the Confederate States Navy and after the Civil War Linn was more or less retired. In 1872 he was encouraged by friends to open the first bank in the newly hatched town of Birmingham. With \$50,000 in gold Linn did just that, chartering the National Bank of Birmingham in 1872. To hold his business Carl Linn built an exuberant three-story building, by far the most ambitious structure in a town whose future was

much in doubt. Linn doubled down on his bet on Birmingham by founding the Linn Iron Works and the Birmingham Car and Foundry Company with skilled workers brought in from Cleveland and Cincinnati, Ohio. By the time Carl Linn died in 1882 the town was firmly established and shortly after his death his bank merged with City Bank of Birmingham to become the First National Bank of Birmingham. This ten-story headquarters was completed in 1903 as the city's third skyscraper. In 1939 it was named for executive Frank Nelson and currently houses the Birmingham School of Law.

16. Bromberg's Building
southeast corner of 20th Street
and 2nd Avenue North

Bromberg's lays claim to being the second oldest family-owned retailer in America, tracing its beginnings to 1832 when a young silversmith and jewel merchant left the family castle in Prussia and sailed to New York City. Frederick Bromberg found work as a silversmith and a bride, Lisette Cunigarde Dorothea Beetz, a native of the home country in Hamburg. On the advice of friends the Brombergs ventured south to Alabama, sight unseen, and opened Bromberg & Company in Mobile in 1836. The store started by peddling musical instruments, pianos and sheet music, and eventually jewelry and gifts were added. In the first few years the venture was struck by the financial Panic of 1837, a fire that burned down the store and a yellow fever epidemic. Undaunted, Frederick Bromberg persevered and today Bromberg's is Alabama's oldest business.

It was not until the third generation that Bromberg's came to Birmingham. This stylish building came along in the 1940s, designed by J. Gordon Carr, an architect with Tiffany's New York 5th Avenue flagship store on his resume. The Brombergs have stopped selling diamonds out of this location but renovated the building as the company's administrative offices. The display windows at street level are still kept up to date.

17. Birmingham Trust and Savings Building
112 20th Street North

Birmingham Trust and Savings took its first deposits in 1887 under the leadership of Henry M. Caldwell. In the Panic of 1893 when many banks in the South suspended payment, Birmingham Trust and Savings paid cash over its counters for all demands. In 1902 the bank moved into a Renaissance Revival vault at this location, designed by go-to Birmingham architect Charles W. Wheelock. In 1922 a new, larger Neoclassical home, clad in white Georgia marble, was erected to contain the bank that would grow into a regional presence with branches in nine states. After morphing into SouthTrust the bank, with 117 years of history, was acquired by Wachovia Bank in 2004.

JUST AHEAD AT THE NEXT
INTERSECTION WITH 1ST AVENUE
IS "THE HEAVIEST CORNER ON
EARTH."

18. Empire Building
northwest corner of "Heaviest Corner
on Earth"

This was the tallest building in Alabama when it was topped off in 1909. William T. Warren and William Leslie Welton, architects in the fabled New York shop of McKim, Mead and White, forged a partnership and came to Birmingham in 1907 to work on this tower, their first important commission. After going out on his own in 1910 and staying in town, Welton would become the architect for many important projects in Birmingham. A classical entrance is framed by massive pink granite Doric columns and the entire facade is faced in molded terra cotta rising to one of Birmingham's most ornate crowns. If you look all the way up you may be able to make out the row of shields at the roofline, each with a white "E," representing the developer, Empire Improvement Company.

19. Brown Marx Building
northeast corner of “Heaviest Corner
on Earth”

The wedding of the town’s leading real estate broker, Eugene L. Brown, and an investment banker, Otto Marx, produced this 16-story tower in 1906 with financing provided by the Tennessee Coal Iron and Railroad Company. It began life as a slender skyscraper but it proved to be such a money-maker from the start that the building was doubled in size by 1908, assuming a U-shaped plan that brought natural light into every office. Today most of the building’s original architectural details have been removed, most in an Art Deco streamlining makeover in the 1930s when the building was made even beefier. For many years this was the largest office building in the South, with most of its offices leased by United States Steel.

20. Woodward Building
southwest corner of “Heaviest Corner
on Earth”

Before this ten-story tower was constructed in 1902 Birmingham was a town of two- and three-story buildings. This was Birmingham’s first skyscraper, its first steel-framed structure and by far the largest office building in town. Many doubted that Birmingham’s business community could absorb such a glut of office space. But the Woodward was fully rented before the mortar of the light brown brick facade dried and it ignited a building boom of high-rise office towers. Three went up on this very intersection and their near-simultaneous construction led Birmingham wags to call this the “Heaviest Corner in the South.” That was small thinking and over the years it became the “Heaviest Corner on Earth.”

William Woodward, who provided the vision and financing for this pioneering building came from an iron-making family. His father Simpson worked in the iron business in Pittsburgh and West Virginia before hearing tales from returning Union soldiers after the Civil War of rich coal and iron deposits in Alabama. After investigating he purchased 550 acres of land on Red Mountain and soon snapped up another 2000 acres near Woodstock. This was the nucleus of the Woodward Iron Company. The second generation,

William and Joseph, fired the company’s first coke-processing blast furnace 12 miles southeast of Birmingham in 1883. In 1886 William left the presidency to Joseph; monies from his share of the company funded his office tower.

21. John Hand Building
southeast corner of “Heaviest Corner
on Earth”

The John Hand Building had a brief few minutes as the city’s tallest building with a height of 287 feet when it was constructed back in 1912. The classical design came from the busy drawing room of William Leslie Walton. The tower was constructed as a headquarters for the American Trust and Savings Bank and it spent most of its time as a bank headquarters, being renamed to honor John A. Hand, president of First National Bank, in 1970.

TURN LEFT ON 1ST AVENUE AND
WALK ONE BLOCK TO THE NEXT
INTERSECTION.

22. Steiner Building
2101 1st Avenue North
at 21st Street North

Burghard Steiner was born and educated in Bohemia, Austria before emigrating to America in 1874 at the age of 17 where he found himself clerking in a store in Uniontown. When he was twenty Steiner was able to engage his own mercantile business in Hamburg and after ten years he moved up to Birmingham where he and his brother Sigfried, two years his junior, launched the Steiner banking house. By 1890 the brothers were successful enough to construct this imposing red brick building in the brawny Richardsonian Romanesque style pioneered by Boston architect Henry Hobson Richardson. The Steiner Bank displays trademarks of the form such as broad, powerful corner entry arches, rough-faced stone, miniature colonnettes and corner tower. The Steiner Bank would last more than 100 years before closing in 1994; although the business moved from this location in 1962. This lot was the site of the wood-frame structure constructed by William Nabors that was considered to be the first house built in Birmingham.

TURN LEFT ON 21ST STREET
(RICHARD ARRINGTON, JR.
BOULEVARD).

23. Florentine Building
southeast corner of 2nd Avenue North
and 21st Street

Mississippi-born Henry Upton Sims, an influential chancery lawyer and writer, set out to construct a building for the private Florentine Club in 1925. Sims wanted a building that resembled the lavish palaces he had seen during a trip to Italy in his youth. Architect David Oliver Whilldin, who created buildings in Birmingham for almost 60 years, delivered two stories of Italian-flavored arcades supported by marble columns and awash in colorful terra cotta ornamentation. The exuberant structure was said to have been the most expensive building per square foot in Birmingham. Sims had planned for a ten-story tower but the Depression scuttled those plans and ultimately the Florentine Club was unsuccessful as well.

24. Comer Building/City Federal Building
northwest corner of 2nd Avenue North
and 21st Street

In the early go-go days of the 20th century every few years brought a new “tallest building” in Birmingham. That ended in 1913 with the topping off of the Comer Building at 27 stories and 325 feet. The Neoclassical skyscraper, designed by William Weston, was the tallest building in the Southeast and remained Alabama’s tallest until 1969; it would be Birmingham’s Sky King until 1972. By that time the tower had been re-named for City Federal and to make the new name stick neon signs were installed on the roof and vertically down the southeast corner. By any name, the structure was abandoned and a multi-million dollar renovation converted the space to condominiums.

25. Bankers Bond/Massey Building
southwest corner of 3rd Avenue North
and 21st Street North

William Leslie Walton designed one of Birmingham’s most ornate buildings in the 1920s for Bankers Bond. Walton tapped Moorish influences for his eclectic decorative flourishes which include spiral-fluted columns around the entrances and pointed elements evocative of minarets at the parapet. Bankers Bond did not survive the coming Great Depression and the building’s name reverted to its developer, Richard W. Massey. The first two county courthouses in Birmingham were constructed on this intersection.

TURN LEFT ON 3RD AVENUE TO
BEGIN EXPLORING THE MAIN
SHOPPING AND COMMERCIAL
ARTERY IN BIRMINGHAM. CROSS
OVER 20TH STREET.

26. Burger-Phillips Building
1914 3rd Avenue North

This brick and limestone and terra cotta commercial structure came online in 1924 as a showroom and warehouse for Oster Brothers Furniture. In 1933 the space was purchased by Burger-Phillips department store and given an Art Deco facelift. In the 1980s the building was at the center of a large redevelopment effort to bring offices and residences to the block.

27. S. H. Kress Five-And-Ten Cent Store
301 19th Street North

Samuel H. Kress looked on his stores as public works of art and he retained a staff of architects to achieve that end. This was one of the chain’s latest structures, designed by chief architect Edward F. Sibbert, and executed in 1937. Sibbert moved on from the exuberant Kress style of the early Art Deco period and incorporated a more streamlined Art Moderne style here for the creamy mottled terra-cotta and steel-framed structure. The store was closed in 1978, and the building was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1982.

TURN RIGHT ON THEATER STREET.

28. McWane Science Center **200 19th Street North**

Adolf Bernard Loveman was 21 when he came from Hungary to the United States in 1865 and traveled into the South. He wound up in Alabama running a dry goods store in Greensboro. It took more than 20 years but Loveman was finally ready to come to Birmingham where he teamed with Moses Joseph of Selma and Emil Loeb and the trio developed what would become the largest department store in Birmingham. By 1911, A. B. Loveman's Dry Goods Emporium was widely regarded as the most magnificent shopping palace south of the Ohio River. The Romanesque brick store was destroyed by fire in 1934 and was reborn in an Art Deco-inspired skin. It was the first large-scale store in America to be fully air-conditioned and patrons could ride Alabama's first escalator. Loveman's closed in 1980 and the building was renovated in 1998 for today's McWane Science Center.

29. Graves Building **1816-20 3rd Avenue North**

This four-story brick commercial building with terra cotta decoration was constructed by W.S. Graves in 1912 for his Graves Shale Brick Company. The design came from the busy shop of Harry Wheelock. For much of its life the century-old building did duty as a furniture shop.

30. Alabama Theatre **1817 3rd Avenue North**

This anchor of Birmingham's Theater District opened as the town's largest movie palace in 1927 with 2,200 seats. The Alabama was constructed as a jewel in Paramount Studio's chain of theaters and studio president Adolph Zukor hailed it as "The Showplace of the South." It was the first public building in Alabama to have air conditioning and boasted the state's largest screen. The facade was meant to mimic New York's Paramount Theatre in patterned brick with terra cotta ornamentation. Opening night December 26 featured the silent comedy, *The Spotlight*, with Esther Rawlson in a starring duel role. Like most of

America's grand downtown theaters the Alabama spiraled downhill into closure in the 1970s. But it was one of the lucky ones; the opulent theater was saved and restored.

31. Alabama Walk of Fame **south side of 3rd Avenue North, between** **18th Street North and 19th Street North**

Taking its cue from the iconic Hollywood Walk of Fame, the Alabama Walk of Fame honors Alabamians of note in the arts. The first induction took place in 1989. Stanleigh Malotte, the house organist in the Alabama Theatre for many years, is the only inductee to be neither born nor raised in Alabama, but was declared a "citizen of Alabama" by a special gubernatorial proclamation. From 1936 to 1955 Malcotte worked his magic on "the Mighty Wurlitzer," one of only 17 ever built and one of only three still in its original location.

32. Goldstein Building **1801-1811 3rd Avenue North**

Look up above the altered street level storefronts to see the Romanesque-flavored brickwork of this two-and-a-half story commercial building. This corner was slated to be occupied by the Alabama Theatre when it was built in 1927 but the owners refused to sell and the Alabama was reconfigured into an L-shaped structure. The most enduring tenant was Goldstein's Furs, who departed in the 1980s. The Spanish tile roof is a later affectation.

33. Lyric Theatre **1801 Third Avenue North**

This is the oldest surviving theater in Birmingham, built in 1914 as part of the chain of B.F. Keith vaudeville houses. Benjamin Franklin Keith began as the operator of a curio museum in Boston and evolved into a live performance promoter, becoming the impresario most responsible for the transformation of variety theater into vaudeville. The biggest names in show business took bows in front of the gold leaf curtain - Will Rogers, George Burns, Jack Benny, Fred Allen, Eddie Cantor, George Jessel, Sophie Tucker, Fanny Brice, Mae West among them. To keep cus-

tomers cool in the summers, air was fanned across two tons of ice carted in every day. In the 1930s the Lyric became a second-run movie house and carried on until 1958. The building, designed by C.K. Howell, is awaiting a restoration to reverse decades of neglect.

CONTINUE ONE MORE BLOCK TO
17TH STREET AND TURN RIGHT.
BEFORE YOU DO, HOWEVER,
LOOK TO YOUR LEFT. THE LONE
SKYSCRAPER IS...

34. Leer Tower
1631 2nd Avenue North

This was the lavish Thomas Jefferson Hotel when it was opened on the cusp of the Great Depression on September 7, 1929. It was the brainchild of developer Henry Cobb and was the last major work for prolific architect David O. Whilldin in Birmingham. After stops and starts and construction over-runs the final price tag for the 19-story Neoclassical tower was \$2.5 million, more than a million dollars over budget. The rich and famous signed the guestbook here for over 50 years; a special suite was reserved for Bear Bryant during fall football games at Legion Field. The hotel was shuttered in 1983 and after more than 20 years of vacancy the Leer Corporation announced a planned \$32 million renovation in 2005 but financing fell through. The structure you see on the roof was a mooring mast intended for use by "lighter than air" dirigibles similar to the hydrogen-filled *Hindenburg* that exploded and burned in Lakehurst, New Jersey in 1937.

WALK TO THE NEXT
INTERSECTION AT 4TH AVENUE.

35. Carver Theatre
1631 4th Avenue North

The Fourth Avenue corridor was the business and entertainment heart of Birmingham's African-American community and the Carver Theatre, named for scientist George Washington Carver, opened as a first-run movie theater in 1935. It picked up an extensive facelift in 1945 and behind the Art Deco marquee were 1,300

air-conditioned theater chairs. Following a recognizable arc, the Carver slipped into disrepair and disrepute until it closed in the 1980s. The City of Birmingham, however, bought the property and remodeled the building into a live-performance venue with seating for 508. The Alabama Jazz hall of Fame can be found here.

36. Colored Masonic Temple
1630 4th Avenue North

This seven-story Renaissance Revival building was raised in 1922 for the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of Alabama. Three ground floor rooms were used for the Booker T. Washington Library, the first public lending library open to African-Americans in Birmingham. Look up above the rusticated stone base on the 4th Avenue facade to see an engaged Corinthian portico crafted from limestone set against the golden bricks.

TURN RIGHT ON 4TH AVENUE.

37. Eddie Kendrick Memorial Park
southwest corner of 18th Street
and 4th Avenue North

Growing up in Birmingham, Eddie Kendricks and Paul Williams sang together in a church choir and eventually the boys formed a doo-wop group called The Cavaliers. In 1957 they left Birmingham to embark on a musical journey that took them to Detroit and a recording contract with Motown Records in 1961 as the Temptations. After starting as background singers for Mary Wells, the Temptations became Motown's most successful vocal group ever, with Kendricks usually out front. When his singing career waned Kendrick would return to Birmingham where he would die of lung cancer in 1992 at the age of 52. This small park, featuring a memorial garden, bronze sculptures of the Temptations and recorded music, was dedicated in 1999.

TURN LEFT ON 18TH STREET.
TURN RIGHT ON 5TH AVENUE.

**38. Robert S. Vance Federal Building
and US Courthouse
1800 5th Avenue North**

Behind a parade of white Georgia marble Ionic columns stands Birmingham's fifth post office. The Neoclassical building that fills most of a block was completed in 1921. The post office has always shared the space with federal courtrooms which became the primary function here after the post office moved on to a sixth downtown location. The building was named in honor of Robert S. Vance, a Birmingham jurist who was killed by a mail bomb in 1989 after a civil rights ruling.

TURN LEFT ON 19TH STREET.

**39. First United Methodist Church
518 19th Street North**

Birmingham's Methodists convened early in 1872 in a storehouse, beginning a peripatetic existence for two decades until they settled into this handsome Romanesque-styled church in 1891. The architect was George Kramer who helped popularize the Akron Plan for church buildings that featured a diagonally oriented auditorium with curved seating and a pulpit platform in one corner. The brownstone sanctuary was spruced up in 1973.

TURN RIGHT ON 6TH AVENUE.

**40. Cathedral Church of the Advent
southeast corner of 6th Avenue North
and 20th Street North**

In February of 1872, for the sum of five dollars, the Elyton Land Company deeded to the Episcopal Church one quarter of a choice downtown block. Here would be raised a wooden meeting-house suitable for 200 worshipers by 1873. The cornerstone for a more substantial sandstone church was laid in 1887 but the building, with Romanesque and Norman influences, would not be ready until 1893. In 1982 the Church of the Advent became a cathedral for the diocese and a year later the church building was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

TURN LEFT ON 20TH STREET AND
WALK UP INTO LINN PARK AND
THE TOUR STARTING POINT.

Look Up,

Huntsville



A Walking Tour of Huntsville...

This area was long known to travelers for its “big spring” which was a reliable source of fresh water. There were some half-hearted attempts at settlement but an abundance of mosquitoes and black bears sent homesteaders elsewhere. John Hunt, a Revolutionary War veteran, however, persevered in 1805. Hunt did not have the money to register his claim properly and “Hunt’s Spring” and much surrounding land were gobbled up by a Georgian planter and lawyer named LeRoy Pope for \$23 an acre. The energetic Pope laid out streets, built a house on the village’s highest hill and got his town named the County seat for Madison County that had been formed in 1808 and named for the newly sworn in fourth President of the United States, James Madison. Pope named the town Twickenham after the estate of his distant relative, the celebrated English satiric poet, Alexander Pope. The name never caught on with the newcomers who arrived to live here and the territorial legislature named the town after the squatter, John Hunt.

Huntsville grew rapidly on the back of King Cotton as the surrounding fields could yield a thousand pounds of the crop per acre. The town was peppered with the offices of those involved in the cotton trade - factors and lawyers and bankers. During harvest season Huntsville would be overrun with carts and wagons of cotton farmers bringing their crops in to be graded and auctioned off. The entire west side of Court Square at the center of town was reserved for business on “Cotton Row.”

As a frontier metropolis Huntsville hosted the Alabama constitutional convention to hammer out the details pursuant to statehood in 1819. When Alabama was accepted into the Union as the 22nd state Huntsville was designated the temporary capital. Here, Alabama’s first governor was inaugurated and its first legislature convened.

In 1855, the Memphis and Charleston Railroad was constructed through Huntsville, becoming the first railway to link the Atlantic seacoast with the lower Mississippi River. The Civil War, during which Huntsville was used as a Union base of operations after the town fell in 1863, put a crimp on progress but after the war the area became a center for cotton textile mills and a building boom took place that lasted from the 1890s until the Great Depression of the 1930s. During that time other industries and crops became prominent, most notably watercress. So much of the semi-aquatic vegetable was cultivated in the 1940s that the area was known as the “Watercress Capital of the World.”

By 1940 Huntsville was still a small town of some 13,000 people. With the coming of World War II the government built three chemical munitions plants southwest of the city, employing 20,000 personnel. When the war ended the plants were mothballed and designated for redevelopment. One attempt was by the Keller Motor Company but only 18 of their innovative automobiles were ever produced before the death of George D. Keller brought an end to production. In 1950 the United States Army brought its Ordnance Guided Missile Center to the abandoned plants under the leadership of Wernher von Braun, acknowledged as the “greatest rocket scientist of the 20th century.” The work in Huntsville laid the foundation for America’s space program and earned the city the nickname “The Rocket City.”

Today, Huntsville’s population tops 180,000 but we’ll begin our walking tour at the site more than 200 years ago when the population was just one - where John Hunt shook off the mosquitoes and shooed the bears and built a cabin...

1. Big Spring Park
Williams Avenue and Monroe Street

This is the largest limestone spring in Alabama, with a daily flow of between seven and 20 million gallons of water. Landmarks scattered around the park are gifts to the city from around the world, many from foreign nationals who studied at the Ordnance Guided Missile Center. Among them are a 1903 light beacon and a 1929 fog bell from Norway, a bench from Great Britain and a sundial from Germany. The striking red “friendship bridge” was a gift from Japanese Major General Mikio Kimata along with 60 Yoshino Cherry trees.

THE BUILDING IN THE PARK
OVERLOOKING THE LAGOON IS...

2. Huntsville Museum of Art
300 Church Street SW

The museum was established in 1970 and held its first exhibition in 1973, still without a facility of its own. The collection, divided into American and regional art and world art, moved into the Von Braun Civic Center (located on the opposite side of the lagoon) when it opened in 1975 and relocated into its own facility here in 1998. Today the 2,522-piece permanent collection forms the basis for several exhibitions each year and features the largest privately owned, permanent collection of art by American women in the country.

FROM THE CENTER OF THE PARK,
FACING THE LAGOON, TURN
RIGHT AND FOLLOW THE PATH
ACROSS CHURCH STREET INTO
CONSTITUTION HALL PARK.

3. Fearn Canal
Constitution Hall Park at Church Street

In 1821 the Indian Creek navigation Company, with Thomas Fearn at the helm, began digging a canal here and three years later Huntsville was linked to the Tennessee River. The canal was phased out after the arrival of the railroads and its remains formed the foundation for the park.

CONTINUE STRAIGHT
TO COURT SQUARE.

4. Madison County Courthouse
Court Square

The town was laid out in a grid pattern beginning in 1810 with the construction of a small brick courthouse on this site. It looked out on an assortment of frame and brick stores around the square which took about fifty years to fill up. This International-style courthouse opened in 1967, the fourth to occupy the site.

TURN RIGHT AND BEGIN
WALKING COUNTER-CLOCKWISE
AROUND COURT SQUARE.

5. First National Bank
216 Westside Square

The Bank of the State of Alabama was established by the legislature in 1823 at the then-capital of Cahawba. Branches were set up in Montgomery, Mobile and Decatur in 1832. The Huntsville branch was created in 1835 and established in this grand Greek Revival temple fronted by an Ionic portico. Scandals and a nationwide economic panic in 1837 sunk the state bank and in 1856 the First National Bank was created here. The bank would be one of the three pillars of today’s Birmingham-based Regions Bank in 1971 and banking operations would be conducted inside until 2010, making this one of the longest continually operating bank buildings in America. It served as a hospital for Union soldiers during the Civil War, and once held a rifle owned by Frank James of the notorious James Gang as collateral for bail money when he was incarcerated across the street in the Madison County Jail.

In the middle of the block, in a small brick building, was the Planters and Merchants Bank of Huntsville that took its first deposits on October 17, 1817, becoming the first bank in Alabama. Chartered under the jurisdiction of the Mississippi Territory the bank was shuttered during Alabama statehood in 1825.

TURN LEFT ON
SOUTHSIDE SQUARE.

6. Harrison Brothers Hardware
124 Southside Square

James and Daniel Harrison went into business in Huntsville in 1879 when the brothers began selling tobacco in a small shop on Jefferson Street. The Harrisons moved to this location in 1897 and over the years their stock evolved from tobacco through crockery, furniture, jewelry, appliances and finally into hardware. Draped in success, they expanded into the adjoining building in 1902. The Harrison family operated the store until 1983 but the business did not die with the last Harrison. The buildings were purchased by the nonprofit Historic Huntsville Foundation and renovated, not as a museum but as an operating store staffed by volunteers. Today Harrison Brothers is the oldest operating hardware store in Alabama.

TURN LEFT ON EASTSIDE SQUARE.

7. Schiffman Building
223 Eastside Square

This uniform block of Federal-style brick buildings was disturbed in 1895 when architect George W. Thompson of Nashville transformed the end of one of those structures into an interpretation of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture. Based on the stylings of Henry Hobson Richardson, the most influential American architect of the late 19th century, the building displays such trademarks as rough-cut stone, wide arches and corner towers.

In 1905 the building was purchased by German-born Isaac Schiffman, a cotton broker and investor. Three years earlier, in an apartment in the building, Tallulah Bankhead was born into a political family that included her grandfather John, a United States Senator, and her father William who would go on to become Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. At the age of 15, Tallulah convinced her parents to let her go to New York City where she embarked on a 50-year performing career that spanned the theater, the cinema, radio and television. She would become even more celebrated for her exploits outside the spotlight than on stage and camera.

8. Huntsville Inn
221 Eastside Square

This elegant brick structure played host on June 2, 1819 to President James Monroe and his entourage while on a three-day tour of the Alabama territory as it prepared to become a state. Centered above the entrance of the symmetrical dormered facade is a three-part Palladian window. The arched entrance with sidelights is accessed by a graceful double staircase.

9. Milligan Block
201-203 East Side Square

This commercial block from 1900 shows an abundance of Colonial Revival detailing including, from top down, a modillion block cornice, keystones over Romanesque-styled windows, pedimented doors and street level windows with fanlights.

TURN LEFT ON NORTHSIDE SQUARE AND WALK ONE BLOCK TO JEFFERSON STREET. ON THE OPPOSITE CORNER IS...

10. Henderson National Bank
118 South Jefferson Street

This Art Moderne vault was designed in 1948 by Warren, Knight and Davis of Birmingham and stands as the only example of the style in Huntsville. The exterior has survived virtually unaltered. From his base in Troy, Fox Henderson was president of a passel of banks, including the family-owned Henderson National Bank. In 1881, at the precocious age of 28, Henderson and his brother Jere purchased their first bank, Pike County, which they re-named Farmers and Merchants National Bank. Another brother, Charles, would become governor of Alabama in 1914.

CROSS THE INTERSECTION ONTO SPRING STREET AND FOLLOW IT AS IT BENDS TO THE RIGHT AND BECOMES SPRAGINS AVENUE. CONTINUE TO CLINTON STREET.

11. Hotel Russel Erskine
123 West Clinton Avenue
at Spragins Street

Albert Russel Erskine was born in Huntsville in 1871 and carved out a successful business career with the American Cotton Company and the Underwood Typewriter Company among others before joining the Studebaker Motor Company in South Bend, Indiana in 1911. By 1915 he was president, guiding the automobile maker into one of the leading players in the industry. When plans for Huntsville's first major hotel were hatched in the 1920s, Erskine invested \$10,000 in his hometown project and the finished 12-story, Neo-Georgian skyscraper was named in his honor. With Studebaker riding high the Great Depression that began in October 1929 took car sales crashing with the economy. Erskine was slow to pull back on production, however. Studebaker found itself short of cash and went into bankruptcy in March 1933. Three months later, saddled with both his company's and his own mounting debts, Russel Erskine put a bullet in his heart. The hotel now serves as apartments for the elderly.

TURN RIGHT ON
CLINTON AVENUE.

12. Terry-Hutchens Building
102 West Clinton Avenue
at Jefferson Street

This seven-story building, constructed for the Tennessee Valley Bank in 1926, was the first structure in Huntsville to utilize a steel frame with non-load bearing walls. J.M. McKee designed the 85-foot high Gothic Revival tower, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. In 2002 the golden brick building received a complete make-over into residential and commercial space.

13. Struve-Hay Building
117-123 North Jefferson Street
at Holmes Avenue

Herr Struve was an active developer around the turn of the 19th century, erecting at least four large structures, including this corner brick building from 1900. It originally boasted a cast

iron facade on the ground level and the decorative corner tower is capped by a red tile roof.

TURN RIGHT ON
HOLMES AVENUE.

14. United States Courthouse and Post Office
101 East Holmes Avenue

Funds for this federal building with post office and courthouse were provided in 1932 by the Works Progress Administration, the only Great Depression relief funds that flowed into Huntsville for construction. The stripped down classicism of the design reflects the popularity of Art Deco style popular for government buildings in the era. The three-story building of buff brick is augmented by a central limestone projection with engaged pilasters and simple Tuscan capitals. Inside the courtroom is a mural by Xavier Gonzalez, part of another Depression-era initiative to hire American artists.

15. Yarbrough Hotel
127-129 North Washington Street
at Holmes Avenue

The four-story Neo-Georgian Yarbrough Hotel opened in 1924 to service business travelers to Huntsville. Anyone looking for a banquet hall or ballroom could stay elsewhere. The building is marked by decorative brickwork and a bracketed cornice. Today it trundles on as office space.

16. Times Building
Green Street and Holmes Avenue

The *Huntsville Times*, the leading newspaper of northern Alabama for many decades, published its first editions from this corner in a tottering shack on March 23, 1910. The story goes that when it rained an employee was forced to hold an umbrella under the leaky roof to keep the presses dry. The paper moved on to better digs but was back in 1928, constructing this Renaissance Revival tower, roundly considered the finest building in Huntsville. Reuben H. Hunt, one of the most prolific architects in the country and working out of Chattanooga, drew up the plans. It was originally only supposed to have eleven floors but when plans for the 12-story Hotel Russel Erskine

were announced during construction another story was tacked onto the *Times* Building but the already installed elevator only reached the 11th floor. The *Times* departed for a more modern facility outside of downtown in 1955 where it continues to publish into its second century.

TURN RIGHT ON GREEN STREET.

17. First United Methodist Church
120 Green Street

The first Methodists in Huntsville were ministered to by circuit-riding preachers until 1832 when this land was acquired for a church that was raised in 1834. The original sanctuary was burned by mistake during the Civil War. The current Romanesque-styled structure was dedicated by 1874.

TURN RIGHT ON RANDOLPH AVENUE AND WALK DOWN A HALF-BLOCK.

18. Randolph Street Church of Christ
210 Randolph Avenue

This congregation traces its roots back to courthouse meetings in 1883, conducted by James A. Harding, evangelist and founder of Harding College and David Lipscomb College. Within a few years \$1,800 had been raised to buy this lot and 100,000 bricks were carted to the site to begin construction on this gospel-flavored church. The first gospel meeting was held in November 1889 and in 1900 members began to refer to themselves as the Church of Christ.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS BACK TO GREEN STREET AND TURN RIGHT.

19. Church Of The Nativity, Episcopal
208 Eustis Avenue at Green Street

This congregation organized in December of 1842 and with the Christmas season approaching the name "Church of the Nativity" was selected. This ground was purchased in 1845 and the first church building, crafted of local brick, was holding services in August of 1847. The parish prospered quickly and scarcely ten years later noted church architects Frank Wills and Henry Dudley of New York were retained to construct a new sanctuary. The new brick church with a soaring 151-foot spire, hailed as the finest Gothic Revival building in the South, was dedicated on Easter Eve, 1859. The cost of \$37,500 was covered solely by pew rentals to the church membership - 53 strong. The original church stood next door until it was razed in 1878; the Bibb Chapel in the complex was consecrated in 1888.

20. Weeden House Museum
300 Gates Avenue at Green Street

Henry C. Bradford, a prosperous merchant from Nashville, constructed this imposing Federal-style mansion as a showplace on the Alabama frontier in 1819. Bradford's economic fortunes turned for the worse, however, and he shortly moved on to Texas. The elegant seat found a steady succession of prominent owners, however, until 1845 when William Weeden moved his family here. Weeden died unexpectedly on a business trip to New Orleans the following year but his family would stay until 1956. Most famous among the Weedens was artist and poet Maria Howard Weeden who gained renown for her depictions of rural Southern life. The house is owned today by the City of Huntsville which operates it as a museum with many of her works on display.

TURN RIGHT ON GATES AVENUE AND WALK TWO BLOCKS TO MADISON STREET.

21. Hundley House
401 Madison Street at Gates Avenue

Oscar Richard Hundley was a long-time Huntsville attorney who was elevated to the Federal bench in 1907 by President Theodore Roosevelt. He erected several investment properties around town; this eclectic Victorian dwelling, now on the National Register of Historic Places, was constructed in 1899.

22. Constitution Village
Gates Avenue and Madison Street

This complex of early Huntsville frame buildings on their original sites remembers the town in the days from its founding in 1805 until July 5, 1819 when forty-four delegates of the constitutional convention gathered here in a vacant cabinet shop to organize Alabama as the 22nd state. Surrounding the cabinet shop are a print shop, a law office, a land surveyor's office and sheriff Stephen Neal's residence.

23. Children's History Museum
404 Madison Street at Gates Avenue

This modern museum, the South's largest hands-on children's destination, opened in 1998.

24. Humphreys-Rodgers House
109 Gates Avenue SW

David C. Humphreys constructed the three-bay core of this house in 1848. In 1866, Augustus D. Rodgers bought the house and enlarged it, retaining its symmetry. The house, boasting a grand staircase and 11-foot ceilings, was donated to the Alabama Constitution Village Foundation by Coca-Cola, Inc. and moved to its present location. Each year the house is lavishly decorated for a Victorian Christmas.

TURN RIGHT ON
FOUNTAIN CIRCLE.

25. Huntsville City Hall
308 Fountain Circle

For much of its life City Hall resided on the corner of Clinton Avenue and Washington Street, first in an 1872 building and then an 1892 stone-and-brick Victorian structure. The city government moved into these more modern digs in the 1960s.

WALK PAST CITY HALL BACK INTO
CONSTITUTION HALL PARK AND
RE-CROSS CHURCH STREET INTO
BIG SPRING PARK TO RETURN TO
THE TOUR STARTING POINT.

Look Up,

Mobile



A Walking Tour of Mobile...

In 1699 Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville, then only 19, was urged by his brother Pierre Le Moyne d'Iberville, 19 years his senior and the first great Canadian adventurer born in North America, to settle a defensive position on the eastern edge of the French holdings on the Gulf of Mexico. In 1702 Bienville selected a spot on a bluff of a river near where it was ending its 45-mile run to the sea and established the first capital of the French colony of Louisiana.

Whereas the colonization of America is rife with conflicts with the indigenous peoples Europeans were displacing, Bienville had the opposite problem - he was worried about his French soldiers fraternizing with the native women of the Mobilian tribe. In 1704 he imported 23 women from Cuba, known as "casquette girls" for the boxes they carried, to the colony. In addition to the girls the ship, the *Pelican*, also carried yellow fever. The disease would send the population of the colony from 279 to 178 and, with a series of floods, precipitate the relocation of the town downriver to its present location in 1711. In 1720 the capital of Louisiana was moved to Biloxi and Mobile settled into a role as a military and trading center. In the next 100 years the French flag and the Spanish flag and the British flag would all fly over the town until 1813 when Mobile was included in the Mississippi Territory under American jurisdiction. At the time the sleepy frontier town barely numbered 300 people.

Mobile quickly bloomed in the American economy, becoming a leading player in the cotton trade. By the time of the Civil War Mobile was the fourth busiest port in the United States. In that conflict Union forces would eventually take control of Mobile Bay in August of 1864 and the city would surrender to avoid destruction. Ironically less than two months after the war ended an explosion at a federal ammunition depot shattered the city and claimed a reported 300 lives.

Federal grants of more than \$3 million in the early 20th century to deepen the shipping channels in the harbor lay the groundwork for Mobile becoming a modern city. Shipbuilding and steel production made Mobile a vital piece of America's war efforts in World War I and World War II. In its rise as one of the Gulf Coast's main economic and cultural centers, Mobile was an enthusiastic participant in urban renewal. Yet many heritage structures still remain scattered around the city, including antebellum houses and surviving examples of Creole architecture. As a nod to baseball home run king and Mobile native son, Henry Aaron, we will seek out 44 heritage landmarks downtown in the Port City and our walking tour will begin in ground that the United States Congress decreed would be forever used as a city park back in 1824...

1. Bienville Square
Dauphin, Saint Joseph, Saint Francis,
and North Conception streets

This square had its beginnings as a public park back in 1824 when the United States Congress passed an act that transferred a large plot of land to the city of Mobile and specified that the property be forever used as a city park. A Spanish hospital once stood on part of this land. The city started buying up chunks of the block in 1834 and it took fifteen years to acquire the entire block. Walkways were laid out in the 1850s and in the 1890s a large cast iron water fountain decorated by classical acanthus leaves was added to the center of the square. The fountain was placed in honor of Dr. George A. Ketchum, a prominent physician, civic leader and president of the Bienville Water Works.

EXIT BIENVILLE SQUARE ON THE
SOUTH SIDE ONTO DAUPHIN
STREET. TURN RIGHT.

2. Spira & Pincus Building
169 Dauphin Street

Rudolph Benz emigrated to America from Germany in 1869 at the age of 22, carrying with him training in engineering. He traveled the country surveying for the Union and Pacific Railroad, fighting Indians, manufacturing furniture. Benz found a home in Mobile around 1880 and became one of the town's busiest architects. Several of the commercial buildings on Dauphin Street came from the pen of Benz, including this classically-inspired stone building from 1899. Look up to see the elaborately designed overhanging cornice.

3. Scheuermann Building
203 Dauphin Street

Look up above the modern-day street level storefront to see the handiwork of Rudolph Benz that includes an ornate keystone on the central arched window, carved stone ornamentation and a profusion of small polished granite columnettes. The Victorian commercial building, as you can see at the parapet, is a survivor from 1893.

4. Sangrouber Van-Antwerp Building
225 Dauphin Street

Garet Van Antwerp was born in the Dutch stronghold of the Hudson River Valley in New York in 1833. After apprenticing and clerking in a drug store in New York City, Antwerp came to Mobile in 1858 and three years later, despite his northern upbringing, was enlisted in the 21st Alabama Infantry. After the war he was a partner in the pharmacy business on the southwest corner of Joachim and Dauphin streets. In 1884 Van Antwerp's Drugs and Seeds opened its doors and came to this location in 1899; it once had been the home of Swiss immigrant Edward Sangrouber. W.H. Hammond designed the three-story building with its unique fenestration; pilasters rising to capitals separate the upper story windows. Van Antwerp moved into the town's first skyscraper in 1908. The balcony is a 1990s addition.

TURN RIGHT ON JOACHIM STREET
AND WALK TO THE END OF THE
BLOCK AT ST. FRANCIS STREET.

**5. St. Francis Street United
Methodist Church**
15 North Joachim Street

This red brick Romanesque church was constructed in 1896 on plans drawn by the architectural firm of Watkins and Johnson.

TURN AND RETRACE YOUR STEPS
TO DAUPHIN STREET. CROSS
DAUPHIN AND CONTINUE ONTO
SOUTH JOACHIM STREET. WALK
A HALF BLOCK DOWN. ON YOUR
RIGHT IS...

6. Saenger Theater
6 South Joachim Street

Armed with degrees in pharmacology from Johns Hopkins University, brothers Abe and Julian Saenger moved to Shreveport, Louisiana in 1890. Inside their drug store and soda fountain was a "kinetograph" peep show machine that was operated by the insertion of coins followed

by the turning of a handle to display a moving picture. In 1911 the brothers made the leap into the amusement field and crafted their first Saenger Theatre. They moved to New Orleans in 1917 and built one of the most powerful theater empires in motion pictures with movie houses across the South.

Architect Emile Weil was dispatched from New Orleans to design the chain's Mobile theater. After \$500,000 his continental European-flavored movie palace and vaudeville hall opened on January 19, 1927 to raves as "the most beautiful playhouse in all of Dixie." "Alabama's Greatest Showplace" thrived until 1970 when it suffered the fate of most downtown theaters and closed. The Saenger was one of the lucky ones; the University of South Alabama brought the venue back to life; the City of Mobile purchased the grand stage in 1999.

RETRACE YOUR STEPS AGAIN TO DAUPHIN STREET AND TURN LEFT.

7. Crown Theatre
270 Dauphin Street

The Crown Theatre opened on February 22, 1911 as the first building in Mobile constructed specifically to screen movies. Over the years its days as a downtown movie palace deteriorated to a stint as an adult theater, operating as the Midtown. In recent years the stuccoed building with its fanciful blend of Spanish Mission and Neoclassical architecture has received a welcome facelift and survives into its second century as a dance club.

TURN RIGHT ON JACKSON STREET.

8. Cavallero House
7 North Jackson Street

Behind the two-story cast-iron gallery, that was a mid-19th century addition, is an 1835 building constructed in the Federal style. The two and one-half story brick building is now on the National Register of Historic Places.

WHEN YOU SEE THE PARKING LOT ON YOUR LEFT, WALK THROUGH IT OVER TO THE CORNER OF CLAIBORNE STREET AND ST. FRANCIS STREET.

9. Scottish Rite Temple
351 St. Francis Street

This one-of-a-kind downtown building was constructed in 1922 for the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry. Prominent Mobile architect George Bigelow Rogers drew upon the influences of ancient Egyptian buildings, down to a monumental entrance flanked by a pair of sphinxes, for the temple. Rogers was on his way to a Mexican vacation in 1901 when he stopped over in Mobile. He stayed until 1945, designing some of the town's most distinctive buildings in a variety of styles.

TURN LEFT ON CLAIBORNE STREET.

10. John Dahm House
7 North Claiborne Street

This two-story, three-bay townhouse was constructed in 1873 for John Dahm and is noteworthy for its ornate ironwork; its design is attributed to Bassett Capps. The side structure is a 1929 addition.

11. Meaher-Zoghby House
5 North Claiborne Street

This brick townhouse was constructed in 1901 for Augustine Meaher. Now on the National Register of Historic Places, the building retains its original cast iron veranda and fence.

AT DAUPHIN STREET, CROSS OVER TO YOUR LEFT INTO THE OPEN SPACE THAT IS...

12. Cathedral Square
North Claiborne, Dauphin,
North Jackson, and Conti streets

In the early days of Mobile this was the town Catholic cemetery, the Campo Santo. Most of the burials were moved to the new Church Street Graveyard in 1819 as Mobile's city boundary expanded. After that businesses moved in and this became a commercial block like the surrounding neighbors. The buildings were demolished in 1979 to create a public park in the image of the neighboring Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The brick sidewalks mirror the walls and nave of the cathedral while a semicircular colonnade featuring fountains mirrors the apse.

WALK OVER TO THE CATHEDRAL
ON THE WESTERN SIDE OF THE
SQUARE ON CLAIBORNE STREET.

13. Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
2 South Claiborne Street

Mobile's Cathedral Parish was the first on the Gulf Coast, established on July 20, 1703 by Jean-Baptiste de la Croix de Chevrières de Saint-Vallier, Bishop of Quebec. Mobile was elevated to a diocese in 1829 and Michael Portier was named its first bishop. Bishop Portier's first "cathedral" was a small wooden structure located in the Old Spanish Burying Ground, site of the present cathedral. Portier soon set out to construct a cathedral worthy of the new status of the parish. The plans for a Roman basilica-styled building were drawn by Claude Beroujon, a former seminarian turned architect. The cornerstone was laid in 1835 but it took 15 years for Bishop Portier to realize his dream; he consecrated the cathedral on December 8, 1850. The classical portico, with eight massive columns of the Roman Doric order, was added in the 1870s and the two towers were completed in 1884. The building has survived fire and renovation through the decades and in 1962, Pope John XXIII elevated the cathedral to a minor basilica, a title bestowed, only by the pope, on churches of historical and spiritual importance.

TURN LEFT AND WALK
OVER TO CONTI STREET.

14. Bishop Portier House
307 Conti Street

This is one of Mobile's best surviving examples of a Creole cottage, constructed in the early 1830s. Michael Portier, Mobile's first Roman Catholic bishop, used the one and one-half story structure as his home from 1834 until his death in 1859. Claude Beroujon, who designed Portier's cathedral across the way, added the classical flavor to the house. The residence is still owned by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Mobile although it has been more than a century since bishops resided here.

TURN RIGHT ON CONTI STREET.

15. Martin Horst House
407 Conti Street

Martin Horst came to America with his family from Germany in 1838 when he was eight years old. The family settled in Mobile where Horst was a prosperous commission merchant, eventually becoming mayor of the town in 1871. This post-Civil War house has been little changed since Horst moved in and stands as a splendid example of Italianate architecture with its tall, slender windows, bracketed eaves and fine cast-iron veranda. Mayor Horst died in 1878 and the house remained in the family until 1923.

TURN RIGHT ON
HAMILTON STREET.

16. Metzger House
7 North Hamilton Street

The one-story Italianate-influenced brick structure was built by the Metzger family in 1875. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places on January 5, 1984, due to its architectural significance.

TURN LEFT ON
ST. FRANCIS STREET.

17. Bettie Hunter House
504 St. Francis Street

This two-story Italianate house was built in 1878 and fit seamlessly into the 19th century Mobile streetscape. It is atypical, however, in that it was constructed for a young woman barely a decade removed from slavery. Bettie Hunter grew wealthy while still in her twenties operating a successful hack and carriage business with her brother, Henry. She died unfortunately at the age of 27, only one year after the house was finished.

TURN LEFT ON LAWRENCE STREET.

18. Washington Firehouse No. 5
7 North Lawrence Street

This building was constructed in 1851 as a synagogue and wound up serving the privately run Washington Fire Company. The two-story brick Greek Revival structure cost \$5,500. It boasts a cantilevered second floor supported by Doric columns with Doric pilasters above. After its days as an engine house were extinguished the building did duty as a furniture warehouse and, most recently, a law firm.

CONTINUE TO GOVERNMENT STREET. TURN RIGHT.

19. Barton Academy
504 Government Street

In 1826 Willoughby Barton introduced an act into the Alabama State Legislature that led to this monumental Greek Revival building thirteen years later that was the first public school in Alabama. Architects James H. Dakin, Charles B. Dakin, and James Gallier created the three-story building that was constructed of brick that has been stuccoed and scored to look like more expensive ashlar block. With the exception of the Civil War, a school operated here until the 1960s. The low-pitched roof is topped by a landmark domed cupola, ringed by 28 Ionic columns.

TURN AND WALK IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION ON GOVERNMENT STREET, HEADING TOWARDS THE BAY.

20. Spanish Plaza
Government Street between Hamilton and Franklin streets

Spanish Plaza is a downtown park that honors the Spanish occupation of the city between 1780 and 1813. It features the “Arches of Friendship,” a fountain presented to Mobile by its sister city of Málaga, Spain. March 21 was designated “Malaga Day” in Mobile and “Mobile Day” in Malaga.

21. William H. Ketchum House
400 Government Street

William H. Ketchum was a prosperous cotton planter and merchant who constructed this Italian villa, one of the town’s grandest mansions, in 1860. The three-story house featured a full basement, double parlors that stretched sixty feet in length and a ballroom. The interior was generously appointed with carved marble and plasterwork. It was said that the final furnishings for the house arrived on the last boat into the town before the outbreak of the Civil War. After federal troops won the city in the Battle of Mobile Bay in 1864 Union General E.R.S. Canby used the house as his headquarters, staying as a “guest” of Mrs. Ketchum while here husband served as a major in the Confederate Army. William Ketchum died in the 1890s and the house remained in the family until 1906 when it was sold to the Catholic Diocese; a century on the landmark house with splendid ironwork looks much as it did when the Ketchums lived here.

22. Mobile Carnival Museum
355 Government Street

There was mention in Pierre Le Moyne d’Iberville’s diary of an observance of the Catholic festival in Mobile of Mardi Gras as far back as 1699. America’s celebration of “Fat Tuesday” traces its beginnings to an impromptu parade staged on New Year’s Eve 1831 by cotton broker Michael Krafft and his friends who carried rakes and rang cowbells as they marched through

Mobile. The “Cowbellions de Rakin Society” was staging an annual themed parade with masks and costumes by 1840. Their traditions would migrate to New Orleans in the coming decade.

The museum home was once that of Henry Bernstein, who made his money selling shoes and boots - enough footwear to hire architect James L. Hutchisson to build this \$15,000 house in 1872. John Curtis Bush, a cotton factor and future mayor of Mobile, bought the house in 1891. Before the Mobile Carnival Museum moved in during 2005 it was the home of the Mobile City Museum.

23. *Mobile Register* Building
304 Government Street

The *Mobile Press-Register* is Alabama’s second most-read newspaper and the state’s oldest, being a direct descendent of the *Mobile Gazette* that put out its first issue in 1813. In 1944, the paper moved into this building that began life displaying Fords and Lincolns for the L.G. Adams Motor Car Co. The paper stayed for the rest of the century, finally departing for a modern facility on Water Street in 2002. In the years since the geometrically fluted brick building did some government duty but awaits the revelation of its next chapter.

24. Government Street Presbyterian Church
300 Government Street

This was one of the early projects of architects James Gallier, James Dakin and Charles Dakin who partnered briefly in New Orleans in the 1830s. The meetinghouse, now a National Historic Landmark, stands as one of the oldest and least-altered Greek Revival church buildings in the United States. One unintended alteration was the loss of an octagonal steeple that was toppled in a hurricane in 1852. The Government Street Presbyterian Church organized in 1831 and operated from a small frame structure until this brick church, wrapped in white stucco, was completed in 1837. Gallier, an Irish-born architect who came to America in his thirties, would go on to design several important New Orleans buildings, including City Hall. He perished in a storm aboard a steamship off the coast of Cape Hatteras in 1866.

25. LaClede Hotel
150-160 Government Street

This Mobile landmark was originally a pair of Federal-style buildings erected in 1855; one was a family residence and the other a fruit and liquor business. In 1871 the two were joined into a hotel with the help of an overhanging cast iron gallery as a unifying architectural element. The LaClede became a hub of social life in Mobile and continued to greet guests until 1963. The building, that includes a third block added in 1940, was the recipient of a meticulous restoration in the 1980s.

26. Office of Dr. Henry S. LeVert
153 Government Street

This Italianate brick building was a doctor’s office for almost 100 years, beginning with physician Henry S. LeVert in 1858. LeVert was the son of French physician Claudeus LeVert, who came to Virginia as fleet surgeon under General Rochambeau during the climactic days of the Revolutionary War. Henry LeVert’s wife, Octavia Celeste Valentine Walton, also had ties to the American Revolution - her grandfather George Walton was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. From their home in Mobile Mrs. LeVert became one of mid-19th century’s most celebrated socialites. Her roster of friends spanned the most famous political and cultural names of the day and she published books about here world travels. The LeVert’s lavish home has been destroyed but the office building was preserved by the Mobile County Commission in 1971.

TURN AND WALK BACK TO THE
CORNER WHERE CONCEPTION
STREET ENDS. OPPOSITE
CONCEPTION STREET, WALK
THROUGH THE CONCRETE PLAZA
TO CHURCH STREET. TURN LEFT.

27. Christ Church Cathedral
115 South Conception Street

Christ Church was founded in 1822 as the first protestant church in Alabama with all denominations using the frame building that stood on this present site. The various denominations left for their own meetinghouses leaving the Episcopalians, the first in Alabama, to worship here. The cornerstone for this Greek Revival temple, constructed of brick and covered with stucco, was laid in 1838 and consecrated in 1842. A major hurricane in 1906 collapsed the original steeple through the roof and it was never rebuilt with the reconstruction. The modern building looming over the church complex is the Mobile County Government Plaza. The complex also contains two antebellum houses that function as church offices.

CONTINUE ON CHURCH STREET
TO ROYAL STREET. TURN RIGHT.

28. Fort Conde
150 South Royal Street

This is a 1976 reconstruction, at 4/5 scale, of an original 1720s French fort at this location. The fort had been built to defend against British or Spanish attack on the strategic location of Mobile and its Bay as a port to the Gulf of Mexico, on the easternmost part of the French Louisiana colony. The fort was shaped in the form of a four-pointed star with guard towers raised at the points. It operated under English rule and Spanish rule before it became an American possession. No longer a strategic necessity by that time, the United States Congress authorized the sale and removal of Fort Charlotte, as it was known by U.S. troops, in 1820. By late 1823, most of the above-ground traces of Mobile's fort were gone, leaving only underground structures.

TURN RIGHT ON
THEATER STREET.

29. Condé-Charlotte Museum
(Kirkbride) House
104 Theater Street

This house was built on the remains of the town's first courthouse and jail, constructed back in 1822. Jonathan Kirkbride, a New Jersey native, bought the property in 1849 and erected a classical two-and-a-half story home fronted by a two-tiered gallery with a Doric order below and a Corinthian order above. The home remained in the Kirkbride family until 1905; since 1957, the house has been owned, preserved, and operated by The National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Alabama. Theater Street, which today exists far from any stage, takes its name for the first theater in town that was erected here in 1824 by N.M. Ludlow.

WALK BACK TO ROYAL STREET
AND TURN LEFT, WALKING BACK
PAST THE FORT. CONTINUE ON
ROYAL STREET ACROSS CHURCH
STREET.

30. Old City Hall
111 South Royal Street

The genesis of this building in 1854 was as the Southern Market where folks could buy and sell vegetables, meat and fish. As construction was progressing the existing city hall, sited at Jackson and Conti streets, went up in flames. When the Italianate building designed by Thomas Simmons James opened in 1858 it contained the marketplace, space for the local militia to assemble and offices for the municipal government. Alterations through the years have resulted in a complex of four rectangular sections linked by three arcaded passageways. You could still buy a basket of vegetables here as late as 1942; since 1997 the building has housed the Museum of Mobile. Mobile's City Council continues to convene in this building a few times a year in order to carry on the tradition of having met in this location continuously since its opening in 1858.

31. Raphael Semmes Statue
Government Street at Royal Street

Maryland-born Raphael Semmes joined the United States Navy at the age of 17 in 1826. He helmed a brig in the Mexican-American War, after which he took an extended leave to practice law in Mobile. When Alabama seceded from the Union in January 1861, Semmes resigned from the United States Navy and sought an appointment in the Confederate States Navy. He would become the most famed commerce raider in the Confederacy, claiming 69 prizes, most as commander of the *CSS Alabama*. After 22 months of harassing Union shipping the *Alabama* was sunk off the coast of France by the Union sloop-of-war, *USS Kearsage*. Wounded, Semmes survived the battle and was rescued, along with 41 of his crewmen, by the English yacht, *Deerhound*. After recuperating in England he made his way back to the Confederacy, where he was promoted to rear admiral in the months before the Civil War ended. Semmes eventually returned to a law office in Mobile, where a grateful citizenry gave him a house in 1871. He remained in the Government Street residence until his death in 1877. The bronze statue in his honor was unveiled on June 27, 1900.

CONTINUE TO THE
INTERSECTION WITH DAUPHIN
STREET WHERE THERE ARE THREE
LANDMARKS...

32. Van Antwerp Building
103 Dauphin Street

This was the first concrete skyscraper constructed in Alabama when it rose in 1908. George Bigelow Rogers designed the highly decorative Beaux Arts tower on a commission from Garet Van Antwerp and his sons who had operated an apothecary on this corner since 1884. The drug store, including the town's most popular soda fountain, occupied the first floor of the 120-foot high structure and the upper floors became Mobile's most prestigious office address. The Van Antwerp family drug store stayed open into the 1960s as the building's fortunes declined. After 100 years the historic high-rise has lost

some architectural decoration and in recent years all but the ground floor has been vacant.

33. Pincus Building
1 South Royal Street

Versatile Victorian architect Rudolph Benz turned to the eclectic Queen Anne style for this picturesque corner commercial building in 1891. Look up to see decorative elements across the facade and a centered cast iron balcony on both the Dauphin Street and Royal Street elevations. Each elevation also sports a turret with a pyramidal roof; a rounded corner tower with spire was removed in the 1940s.

34. Burke Building
1 North Royal Street

Cast iron, when affordable, is better suited to the moist semi-tropical climate of the Gulf Coast than wood. The first iron balconies began appearing in Mobile in the 1840s. This decorative two-story gallery was an addition to an 1875 building. The two-story brick building also boasts ornate cast iron window moldings.

TURN RIGHT ON
DAUPHIN STREET.

35. Chighizola-Thompson Building
7 Dauphin Street

Jean Baptiste Chighizola, a native of Genoa, Italy, constructed this two-story Italianate brick commercial building in 1875. It still retains its elaborate window treatment on the upper floor with molded window hoods. At the roofline is a broken pediment.

36. Daniels, Elgin & Co. Building
2 South Water Street at Dauphin Street

Cast Iron was an extremely popular architectural material during the second half of the 19th century and was particularly suited to the needs of a commercial building. It had been used in New York City as early as the 1840s, when the famed inventor, James Bogardus, experimented with the material and advanced the use of iron for structural supporting systems.

The Architectural Iron Works of Daniel D. Badger greatly popularized the use of cast iron for facades and gained a worldwide reputation, shipping prefabricated iron parts to many foreign ports, including Nova Scotia and Cuba. This is a superb example of a Badger Iron Works facade from 1860, modeled on the waterfront palazzos of 15th and 16th century Venice. It is the only cast iron facade in Mobile.

TURN LEFT ON WATER STREET.

37. The Battle House RSA Tower
11 North Water Street at St. Francis Street

Construction began on this tower in 2003; four years and five hurricanes later it topped out as the tallest building in Mobile by more than 300 feet. At 745 feet tall, it is the tallest building on the Gulf Coast outside Houston. The building is named for the neighboring Battle House Hotel, which was restored and renovated as part of the tower complex.

TURN LEFT ON
ST. FRANCIS STREET.

38. First National Bank Building
68 St. Francis Street

The First National Bank took its first deposits on October 18, 1865 down the block at the corner of Royal and St. Francis streets. The move to this Neoclassical vault, designed by local architects Watkins, Hutchisson and Garvin, took place in 1905. Dominated by a large central pediment and Ionic portico, the building was crafted of brick, stone, and terra cotta.

39. Battle House Hotel
26 North Royal Street at St. Francis Street

A guest house has stood on this site for the better part of 200 years. James Battle and two half-nephews constructed a four-story brick hotel here in 1852 that replaced a previous wooden structure that had burned. It was the town's leading hotel with such notables as Henry Clay and Jefferson Davis and Millard Fillmore signing the guest register. Stephen A. Douglas was guest in the hotel in 1860 on the night he was defeated

by Abraham Lincoln in the presidential election. The Battle House burned as well, in 1905.

A new grander steel frame building faced in brick and marble rose in its place, executed on plans drawn by New York architect Frank M. Andrews. The classically designed Battle House quickly regained its prominence; the first meeting of the Mobile Rotary Club was held here and President Woodrow Wilson was a guest in 1913 when he declared before World War I that the United States would never again wage a war of aggression. By the 1960s the Battle House was declining rapidly in a decaying downtown Mobile. It closed its doors in 1974 and by 1980 the seven-story hotel was the only building on its block. In 2001 Retirement Systems of Alabama acquired the property and revitalized the hotel as part of its project to construct Alabama's tallest office building here.

40. RSA-BankTrust Building
107 St. Francis Street at Royal Street

This 34-story International Style tower was constructed for the First National Bank in 1965. To make way for this skyscraper two historic buildings were scraped off the ground - the bank's 1913 headquarters and a century-old United States Custom House. This was the tallest building in Mobile for 40 years and the tallest in Alabama for twenty.

41. Merchants National Bank Building
56 St. Joseph Street at St. Francis Street

This 23-story skyscraper became the city's tallest building when it was completed in 1929 and held the title until 1965. The Chicago architectural firm of Graham, Anderson, Probst & White gave the 236-foot building an Art Deco look with setbacks on the upper floors and lower floors stripped of decoration. The tower is crowned with a distinctive copper-plated pyramidal roof structure.

TURN LEFT ON ST. JOSEPH STREET.

42. Franklin Fire Engine Company #3
6 St. Joseph Street

The Franklin Fire Company's roots extend back to 1831 and the company moved into this stuccoed, Italianate-flavored building in 1852. Franklin was folded into the consolidated city fire department in 1889 but the old station sill trundles on.

TURN LEFT ON DAUPHIN STREET.

43. Kress Building
115-117 Dauphin Street

Samuel H. Kress took as much pride in the artistic appearance of his five-and-dime stores as he did in the profits they churned out in the early 1900s. An avid art collector, he considered his stores to be pieces of public art and kept a bevy of architects on staff. This building was designed by Seymour Burrell in 1914. While most retailers sought a corner location Kress often favored an L-shaped design with mid-block entrances on two streets. That was the case here although the building is now cruciform and has fronts on Royal, Dauphin, St. Emanuel and Conti streets. Although the lower floors have been modernized you can look up to see the decorative terra cotta tiles and Kress masthead familiar to early 20th century American shoppers.

TURN AND WALK BACK TO
BIENVILLE SQUARE. ACROSS THE
STREET FROM THE CORNER IS...

44. McCrory Building
125-127 Dauphin Street

When John Graham McCrorey opened his first store in Scottsdale, Pennsylvania in 1882 he legally changed his name, dropping the "e" to save money on signage. Despite that slavish devotion to the bottom line, McCrory's first foray into retailing went bankrupt. McCrory would bounce back, and at its pinnacle his chain would operate 1,300 five-and-dime stores under the McCrory name and others. This two-story brick store came on line in 1924 and absorbed an Art Decoish facade with geometric designs carried around the corner.

YOU HAVE NOW RETURNED TO
THE TOUR STARTING POINT IN
BIENVILLE SQUARE.

Look Up,

Montgomery



A Walking Tour of Montgomery...

Most town founders who settled America had grand dreams for the ventures they were starting; most would be unrealized. Andrew Dexter was no different. In 1816, after he purchased a chunk of Mississippi Territorial land on the south bank of the Alabama River and started laying out building plots he gave his new town the name of New Philadelphia, echoing the nation's first capital city. So sure was Dexter that his town would one day be the seat of a new state government that he reserved a plot of land up on top of Goat Hill for a capitol building. Dexter's wasn't even the only town in the area. Right next door was a settlement of Georgians led by General John Scott called East Alabama.

The two fledgling towns bickered as they grew and finally on December 3, 1819, eleven days before Alabama became a state, the two towns merged and called themselves Montgomery. Mind you, the town didn't simply take its name for Montgomery County, which had been formed three years earlier and named in honor of Major Lemuel Purnell Montgomery, who was fighting with Andrew Jackson in the wars with the Creek Indians and was killed in 1814 at the battle of Horseshoe Bend. No, the town of Montgomery would claim as its namesake General Richard Montgomery, Irish born and raised and killed 1275 miles away while attacking the British fortress in Quebec, Canada in the early days of the American Revolution.

Andrew Dexter's dream did in fact come true in 1846 when the Alabama state capital was shifted from Tuscaloosa to Montgomery and a beautiful Greek Revival capitol building was erected on Goat Hill. Fifteen years later Dexter's Goat Hill would become the capital of a country when the Confederate States of America was formed here and Montgomery was its first capital city. Andrew Dexter would not be around to see any of this, however. The size of his dreams always outstripped his ability to execute them. A native Rhode Islander, he started a bank whose great success turned out to be fraudulent sending him to Canada to escape debtor's prison. When he purchased the land that would become Montgomery he didn't have the cash and had to borrow the money. His time in the town he founded was aswirl in debts and lawsuits and Dexter would eventually be arrested for debt in Mobile and die in prison there in 1837 at the age of 58.

His town followed a more prosperous trajectory. Montgomery was not like some state capitals where the business of the town is government. The railroad showed up early and Montgomery became a busy shipping point for cotton and livestock and dairy products. A large lumber mill was established in 1890 and the city's industrial base quickly widened with garment factories and fertilizer plants and wholesale food concerns.

Only six state capitals are bigger, land area-speaking, than Montgomery and to get our explorations under way we will start at the Alabama River's edge...

1. Union Station
300 Water Street

The Montgomery & West Point railroad sent the first trains chugging into Montgomery in the early 1840s. Two small two-story frame buildings handled the town's train passengers until 1898 when the Louisville and Nashville Railroad built this grand Romanesque-flavored brick and limestone station. Montgomery architect Benjamin Bosworth Smith provided the plans for the picturesque block-long terminal. "Union" Station also served passenger trains of Atlantic Coast Line, Western Railway of Alabama, Seaboard Air Line, Central of Georgia, and Gulf, Mobile and Ohio Railroad. The station had six tracks under a 600-foot shed. Train service to Montgomery ended in 1979; there was a brief Amtrak revival but Union Station was not used. Union Station still stands however, including the train shed, and houses businesses and the visitor center.

FACING UNION STATION TURN RIGHT AND WALK OVER TO THE TUNNEL AT THE END OF THE BUILDING. WALK THROUGH THE TUNNEL TO THE EDGE OF THE ALABAMA RIVER.

2. Riverfront Park
Alabama River

Riverfront Park was developed in the 1970s with such attractions as the Riverwalk Amphitheater and the *Harriot II*, a paddlewheeler that plies the Alabama River.

WHEN YOU ARE THROUGH EXPLORING RIVERFRONT PARK WALK BACK OUT THROUGH THE TUNNEL AND WALK STRAIGHT ON COMMERCE STREET.

3. Hobbie Building
260 Commerce Street

Henry Martin Hobbie constructed this expansive four-story red brick building in 1903 for his wholesale grocery. The structure borrows from several popular architectural styles, especially the fanciful broad arched entrance and arched fourth story windows. Look up over the entrance to see the decorative "H" in the keystone and recessed lamp stanchions. Henry Jr. took over the grocery business and also established the Hobbie Elevator Company, Hobbie Motor Company and Montgomery Buick company when he wasn't tending to his duties as president of the Fourth National Bank of Montgomery. Behind the Hobbie Building, overlooking the Alabama River, are elevators from the Hobbie Elevator Company which have been adapted for use as a police station.

4. 210 Commerce Street

Look up to see some of Montgomery's finest brickwork. The commercial building was restored in 1982.

5. Steiner-Lobman Building
172 Commerce Street at Tallapoosa Street

Nathan Lobman and Louis Steiner went into business together in 1871 peddling goods to small merchants in Pine Apple. In 1891 the partners moved up to Montgomery and set up shop in this highly decorative pink and white corner store. In 1896, in addition to the company's wholesale business, the firm began the manufacturing of the Polly brand of work clothes. Look up to see statues on the roof line and a water cistern. The casket-shaped cistern has spawned legends through the years that someone is buried up there. Steiner-Lobman Dry Goods Company was a fixture here until 1969 when the company was sold to an investment group and closed several years later.

6. Hank Williams Museum
118 Commerce Street

In 1937 Lillie Williams moved her family to Montgomery and opened a boarding house. That year her 14-year old son Hiram King Williams formed a band called the Drifting Cowboys, won a talent show at the Empire Theater and landed a spot on a local radio station, WSFA. Montgomery would be the home base for Hank Williams until he died at the age of 29 on the first day of 1953. In that time Williams would record 35 Top 10 singles and 11 that topped the Country & Western charts. The museum, which owns the 1952 baby blue Cadillac in which the country legend died among its extensive collection, opened in 1999.

7. Greystone Hotel
100 Commerce Street

When the Greystone Hotel opened in 1928 it was the height of elegance for travelers to Montgomery, advertising 150 rooms with baths, circulating ice water, fans and bed lamps. The ten-story building was crafted in a Beaux Arts style. The Greystone went the way of many of its grand downtown hotel cousins and closed. The neon sign came down off the roof and the building did duty as a bank before re-emerging as a Hampton Inn guest house.

8. First National Bank of Montgomery
Dexter Avenue at Commerce Street

This was Montgomery's first skyscraper when it was completed in 1907 although its reign as the town's tallest building lasted a few scant years. The tower was originally constructed in the classic Chicago style that fashioned high-rise buildings in the image of a classical Greek column with a definitive base (the oversized ground floors), a shaft (the unadorned center stories) and a capital (the ornate cornice). Here most of that decoration was stripped away in a 1978 renovation. The bank's terra cotta lion heads that stared down on the city from the cornice for 70 years were saved, however, and are now displayed in a small plaza on the the north side of the building.

BEAR LEFT IN THE SQUARE AND WALK CLOCKWISE AROUND.

9. Central Bank Building
Dexter and Court Street

In the middle of the 19th century building facades crafted from cast iron enjoyed a run of popularity in big cities for commercial structures. A cheaper and easier alternative to stone and masonry, the metal fronts could be cast in highly decorative designs. This was the first "Iron Front" building in Alabama, designed by Philadelphia architect Stephen Decatur Button for William Knox, president of Central Bank of Alabama in 1856. The iron was cast in a Renaissance Revival style to emulate the Venetian palaces of the 16th century. Central Bank, which generously supported the Confederacy, was bankrupt at the end of the Civil War. The building, which once sported a two-story gallery, was restored for the Arts Council of Alabama in 1985.

The iconic four-faced street clock out front was installed here in 1930 by Klein & Son Jewelers who had purchased the building in 1923. Leo Klein, a Hungarian immigrant, sold his first jewels in Montgomery in 1893 in a modest 300 square-foot store. Klein & Son moved to the suburbs in 1977 and returned the clock in 2009.

In 1886, Montgomery became the first city in the Western Hemisphere to convert an entire street railway system running past here to electricity. The Capital City Street Railway Co. operated for 50 years before the final trolley car was retired in an appreciative ceremony, leaving public transportation to buses.

10. Winter Building
2 Dexter Street at Court Square

The core of this building was constructed in 1841 by Georgia native John Gano Winter to take deposits for his St. Mary's Bank. On April 11, 1861, Leroy Pope Walker, the Confederate Secretary of War, sent a telegram from the Southern Telegraph Company offices on the second floor to Confederate artillery forces outside Charleston, South Carolina. The telegram authorized Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard to fire on Fort Sumter, launching the War Between the States.

WALK OVER TO THE FOUNTAIN AT THE CENTER OF THE SQUARE.

11. Court Square Fountain

Court, Dexter and Commerce streets

This spring was where Montgomery got its drinking water in the early days; in the 1850s a basin was dug here as a small reservoir to use in case of fire. By 1884 the condition of the basin had deteriorated to the point that it drew the attention of the local scribes, one of whom wrote, "There is everywhere in the city an expression of regret at the action of a majority of the City Council on Monday night in voting down a resolution to appropriate a reasonable sum of money with which to improve and render somewhat attractive the artesian basin. Our City Fathers have shown themselves in the main to be progressive and public-spirited. They have made many needed improvements, but nothing deserves more consideration at their hands than the basin. It is open and free to all and essentially belongs to the public. Montgomery is the Capital of a great state and is no longer a crossroads town. No city of its size and importance in this country is so unadorned; so free from artistic embellishments." Before the month was out money for improvements was approved and eventually more than \$7,000 would be spent for the double-tiered fountain with Classical reliefs and ornamentation topped by *Hebe*, goddess of youth and cup-bearer to the gods. The fountain was found in Atlanta, a work by famed American sculptor Frederick MacMonnies (a half-century later doubt was cast that it actually was a MacMonnies creation) that had been commissioned privately and rejected. It was installed here in 1885 and restored 100 years later.

EXIT COURT SQUARE DOWN MONTGOMERY STREET.

12. Bell Building

207 Montgomery Street at Lee Street

Newton Joseph Bell was a planter and the largest landowner in Lowndes County. In 1881, when he was 33, Bell left the farm and moved into Montgomery where he became one of the town's biggest civic boosters and most success-

ful business leaders. In 1906 he set out to build a new sky king downtown and engaged local architects Frederick Ausfeld and Fernando M. Blount to design his skyscraper. The classically flavored 160-foot tower was completed \$500,000 later in 1910, just as Newton Bell passed away.

13. The Davis Theatre

251 Montgomery Street

The first movie lovers grasping their quarters lined up outside this Colonial Revival theater on January 25, 1930 when it opened as the Paramount Theater. Through the years the Paramount also hosted vaudeville performances, live game shows and weddings. Among the high-lights of its nearly half-century run as a movie palace took place on November 1964 when the Paramount hosted the Hollywood premier of the bio-pic of Hank Williams, *Your Cheatin' Heart*, with George Hamilton in the lead. The Paramount closed in 1976 with a final screening of *Gone With The Wind*, thirty-six years after the epic had its Alabama premier here. Unlike many of America's grand downtown movie theaters the 1,575-seat Paramount was lucky. The venue was purchased by Troy State University and restored to continue life as a stage for live performances, named for benefactor Tine W. Davis of the family who owned the Winn-Dixie grocery chain.

14. Rosa Parks Museum

252 Montgomery Street

The modern Civil Rights movement was born on a December day in 1955 at a bus stop located here when Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat to a boarding white man. The bus went no further until Parks was hauled off and arrested. On December 5 she was found guilty of disorderly conduct and fined and a boycott of city buses began that day. The boycott would last 382 days until the United States Supreme Court ordered the integration of public transportation. Opened in 2000, the Rosa Parks Museum, maintained by Troy University, celebrates the life and legacy of civil rights activist Rosa Parks.

15. Jefferson Davis Hotel
344 Montgomery Street at Catoma Street

The ten-story Jefferson Davis Hotel was built in 1927 in a Neoclassical style on plans drawn by Austrian-born architect Frederick Ausfield. In the 1940s it became part of the Dinkler Hotel chain. Louis Jacob Dinkler was born in Nashville in 1861 and worked as a baker before opening his first hotel in Macon, Georgia at the age of 50. His son Carling joined the business and aggressively promoted the acquisition of additional properties - by the end of the 1920s Carling Dinkler owned or managed 22 hotels throughout the Southeast. Most, like the Jefferson Davis, retained their traditional names. Inside the hotel, from the 1930s, was the WSFA radio station where Hank Williams performed and, even though the guest rooms were segregated, Ralph David Abernathy and Martin Luther King, Jr., broadcast Sunday morning sermons. On the National Register of Historic Places, the ten-story Neoclassical brick building is currently used as apartments for the elderly.

TURN LEFT ON CATOMA STREET.

16. Catoma Street Church of Christ
100 Catoma Street

Although they were few in number, Montgomery Jews organized in 1846 mostly to minister to the sick and bury the dead. In 1852 the Kahl Congregation was organized and this property was acquired six years later. This substantial brick building, named House of Light, was designed in a Romanesque style by Philadelphia architect John Stewart and was holding services by 1862. By 1901, the Jewish population of Montgomery had significantly increased and the decision was made to build a new synagogue elsewhere. The building was bought by the Church of Christ, a congregation formed in 1881, for \$7,500.

TURN LEFT ON CHURCH STREET.

17. Clock Tower
Curry Commons Plaza-Troy University
Church Street

Troy University began life in 1887 as a “normal school” where new teachers were trained. The school has since evolved into a state university, located in four sites across Alabama: Troy, Montgomery, Phenix City and Dothan. The Montgomery campus caters to working adult students. This \$two million brick clock tower anchors this pedestrian concourse and green space; it boasts a gas-fed “torch of knowledge” that symbolizes the university.

18. United States Post Office and
Courthouse--Montgomery
Church Street between Catoma Street
and Lee Street

This monumental five-story limestone building on a granite base was raised in 1929 to alleviate overcrowding of federal offices scattered throughout the town. Local architect Frank Lockwood, Sr. designed the building in a restrained Renaissance Revival style to fit the trapezoidal plot of land. The symmetrical principal facade faces Church Street and is dominated by two pediments at each end that are supported by four engaged Doric columns. A frieze with incised triglyphs and a dentil (rectangular block) course is found beneath the pediments. The Lee Street elevation features a colonnade of eight Doric columns, while the Court Street elevation contains three-story pilasters. Entrances have bronze doors with pediments decorated with eagles and floral scrolls. In 1992, the building was renamed for Frank M. Johnson, Jr., the district judge who ruled that segregated seating on Montgomery’s buses was unlawful.

TURN RIGHT ON LEE STREET AND
BEAR LEFT ON ADAMS STREET.

19. Montgomery Carnegie Library
South Perry Street at Adams Street

After selling his steel company for \$400 million and becoming the world's richest man, Scottish-born industrialist Andrew Carnegie set out to give away all his money. One of his pet projects was public libraries. He funded over 2,500 of them around the world, including 14 in Alabama. None of the communities had previously enjoyed an existing public library. The first, and by far the largest, grant in the state came to Montgomery, which used its \$50,000 to construct this Beaux Arts lending library in 1904.

20. St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church
219 Adams Avenue

St. Peter's was the first Catholic church in Montgomery, established in 1834. Land here was donated by Edward Hanrick and a small frame church was dedicated on April 25, 1834. With the naming of Montgomery as the state capital and the growth of the town a new facility became desirable by 1850 and new pastor Anthony Dominic Pellicer worked tirelessly to raise needed funds. He went to Mexico City but returned empty-handed when bandits robbed his stagecoach. Undaunted he was soon off to Cuba and this Spanish-style church, unique to the Montgomery streetscape and perhaps a legacy of Pellicer's fundraising adventures, was dedicated on September 10, 1853.

21. Governor Thomas G. Jones House
323 Adams Street

Built in 1855, this was a four-room cottage before Thomas Goode Jones was elected governor in 1890 and converted it into a Victorian executive mansion. Jones was born in Macon, Georgia in 1844 and left the Virginia Military Institute in 1862 to serve in the Confederate Army under Stonewall Jackson. He saw extensive action in the war and was wounded four times. At Appomattox, Major Jones carried one of the flags of truce. After he died in 1914 the house remained in the family and was occasionally used as a federal courtroom.

TURN LEFT ON HULL STREET
AND WALK ONE BLOCK TO
WASHINGTON AVENUE. ON
YOUR LEFT IS...

22. Dowe House
334 Washington Avenue at Hull Street

This Greek Revival mansion, recently restored, anchors the Dowe Historic District that includes the house behind it on Hull Street and the Victorian house next door at #320.

FACING DOWE HOUSE, TURN LEFT
ON WASHINGTON AVENUE AND
CROSS HULL STREET, WALKING
EAST, AWAY FROM COURT SQUARE.

23. Civil Rights Memorial Center
400 Washington Avenue

Located in an open plaza and accessible 24 hours a day, the memorial remembers 40 people who died between 1954 and 1968 in the struggle for equal rights. The circular black granite table containing the names was designed by Maya Lin, the architect of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. The memorial, based on the healing effect of water, was dedicated in 1989.

**24. Alabama Department of Archives
and History**
624 Washington Avenue

The Alabama Department of Archives and History was started in 1901 to tell the story of the people of Alabama. It was first such state department to preserve historical records and artifacts in the United States. The archives operated out of a newly constructed south wing of the Capitol in its early days as founder and director Thomas McAdory Owen agitated for a building of its own. He was not successful before he died but his widow and next director, Marie Bankhead Owen, was able to secure New Deal funding during the Great Depression for this grand Neoclassical building in 1940.

25. First White House of the Confederacy
644 Washington Avenue

This was a Federal-style house built by lawyer William Sayre between 1832 and 1835 over on the corner of Bibb and Lee streets. In the 1850s Colonel Edmond Harrison gave the two-story frame house an Italianate makeover in the popular style of the day with a bracketed cornice and front porch. When the new Confederate States of America organized in early 1861 its constitutional convention selected Jefferson Davis as provisional president and authorized \$5,000 a year for the leasing, funding and staffing of an executive mansion. This is the house Davis and his wife Varina Anne Howell moved into. When war with the Union started on April 21 plans were made to move the Confederate capital to Richmond and the government was gone on May 20, 1861. The contents of the house were sold off, others moved in and that was that.

A generation later the Alabama Division of the United Daughters of the Confederacy formed in 1897 and it was realized that this house was “the first White House of the Confederacy.” Blessed with more dreams than money, the preservation of the house was undertaken but it took more than 20 years and several brushes with demolition to bring the house to this site, reassemble and restore the building and present it to the people of Alabama on June 3, 1921, the 113th anniversary of the birth of Jefferson Davis.

WALK ACROSS THE STREET AND ONTO THE GROUNDS OF THE ALABAMA STATE CAPITOL. WORK YOUR WAY TO THE LEFT, AROUND TO THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING.

26. State Capitol Building
head of Dexter Avenue

The first State Capitol in Montgomery was built in 1847 but, even though it was constructed of stuccoed brick, it burned almost two years to the day from its completion. A new capitol building was raised on the foundations of the original and mostly followed its Greek Revival form created by Philadelphia architect Stephen Decatur Button. The 1851 three-story core of the build-

ing features bays defined by Doric pilasters and a monumental portico utilizing the Composite order. The central dome was a deviation from the original, with architect Barachias Holt providing a simpler composition on a ring of Corinthian columns. Later additions enlarged the building in 1885, 1906 and 1911 and all was completely renovated in 1992. The Capitol is surrounded by parklike grounds peppered with monuments to Alabama history and inside a three-story spiral stairway and murals depicting more Alabama history highlight the rotunda. Look on the west portico for a bronze star that marks the spot where Jefferson Davis took the oath of office as President of the Confederate States of America on February 18, 1861.

LEAVE THE CAPITOL AND WALK DOWN DEXTER STREET. THIS MAIN THOROUGHFARE WAS ORIGINALLY MARKET STREET AND RE-NAMED FOR THE FOUNDER OF MONTGOMERY, ANDREW DEXTER.

27. Dexter Avenue King Memorial
Baptist Church
454 Dexter Avenue

This congregation formed as the Second Colored Baptist Church in 1877 in a slave trader’s pen. Two years later this property was acquired for \$270 and a small wood-frame meetinghouse was raised. The current red brick church was constructed between 1883 and 1889. In 1954 Martin Luther King, Jr., with a newly minted Bachelor of Divinity degree from Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania, became pastor here at the age of 25. From his office in the church he directed the Montgomery Bus Boycott in 1955. In 1978 the church name, that had been changed when Montgomery renamed Market Street in honor of town founder Andrew Dexter, added the name of Dr. King, who received his doctorate during his six-year stint as the church’s twentieth pastor. It was his only full-time pastorate. The church building was completely restored in 2003.

28. Alabama Judicial Building
300 Dexter Avenue

Home of Alabama Supreme Court, Courts of Criminal Appeals and Civil Appeals, State Law Library, Administrative Office of Courts, this block-filling Neoclassical structure came on board in the 1990s with a price tag of \$35 million. It is the first facility in the United States to house all of these entities under one roof. The building, that incorporates a 47-foot grade change, was designed jointly by Barganier, Davis, Sims Architects Associated of Montgomery and Gresham, Smith, and Partners of Birmingham. The building is faced with Indiana limestone and its ten entrance columns, with handcarved replicas of the Ionic order design found on the Roman Coliseum, are crafted of solid limestone. There are 700 doors in the building with six keys for each door.

29. Dexter Avenue United Methodist Church
301 Dexter Avenue

This congregation formed in 1888 in the Dotzheim Grocery and Saloon and convened there until the cornerstone for this brick Romanesque-style church was laid in 1892. The first services were held in 1896. The building boasts exquisite stone trim and terra cotta detailing.

30. RSA Tower
201 Monroe Street

The RSA (Retirement Systems of Alabama) Tower, at 375 feet and 23 stories, is, by open lengths, the tallest building in Montgomery. It came on line in 1997 with 613,660 square feet of rentable office space.

31. Alabama Power Company
200 Dexter Avenue

The core of this handsome brick and stone building was constructed in 1855. The Montgomery Advertiser, a newspaper that began life in 1829 as The Planter's Gazette, moved here in 1902 and built an addition in 1908. Current tenant Alabama Power orchestrated a Colonial Revival facelift before moving in.

32. Kress Building
39 Dexter Avenue

Samuel H. Kress was an avid art collector who wanted his five-and-dime stores to stand as public works of art on in the more than 200 towns in which he operated. This dedication to architectural quality has kept many Kress stores from an appointment with the wrecking ball and prime candidates for adaptive re-use. The Montgomery Kress building is awaiting its turn. This is actually the second Kress building in Montgomery, constructed in 1929 after its predecessor had been destroyed in a fire. That building dated to 1898 and was actually the third in the chain that started in Memphis two years earlier. Like many Kress stores, this one had two entrances; this one on Monroe Street featured a more Art Deco look while the entrance on Dexter Street was more classically inspired with a pair of fluted Doric columns in its center.

TAKE A FEW STEPS BACK TO PERRY STREET AND TURN LEFT.

33. Montgomery Theatre
39 North Perry Street at Monroe Street

This was the Montgomery Theatre when it opened in October of 1860. One of its earliest stand-out performers was John Wilkes Booth who arrived in Montgomery two weeks before Abraham Lincoln was elected President and he stayed for six weeks with his touring company, playing the lead to great acclaim in such productions as "Romeo and Juliet" and "The Apostate." The stage was active until 1907, hosting the biggest box office draws of the day. Legend maintains that Dan Emmett, the composer for the Bryant Minstrels first inscribed the score for the seminal tune "Dixie" on a backstage wall with a piece of charcoal while performing here. Beginning in 1920 the Italianate brick building was the long-time home to Webber's Department Store; look up to see decorative window hoods emblematic of the style and cornice brackets crafted of bricks.

34. City Hall Auditorium
North Perry Street between Madison
Avenue and Monroe Street

This has been the historic site of the city hall in Montgomery. An early structure evolved into a block-filling Victorian building that contained a city market at the street level and municipal offices and an auditorium above. The building was gutted by a fire on the first day of spring 1932. Funds were hard to come by at the height of the Great Depression and a replacement would not be finished until 1937, executed on Neoclassical plans drawn by local architect Frank Lockwood.

ACROSS THE STREET IS...

35. Hank Williams Statue
Lister Hill Park; North Perry Street
across from City Auditorium

The Municipal Auditorium was the site of Hank Williams' funeral on January 4, 1953. Family members first viewed the body at his mother's boarding house at 217 McDonough Street and the casket was then brought four blocks to the Municipal Auditorium. Some 2,750 mourners crowded inside for the service while another 20,000 maintained a vigil outside in the cold weather. Many of country music's headliners, including the reunited Drifting Cowboys, sang at the funeral. In 1991, Hank Williams, Jr., commissioned Texas sculptors Doug and Sandra McDonald to create a life-sized statue of his father in the park facing the auditorium.

36. St. John's Episcopal Church
113 Madison Avenue at Perry Street

Montgomery's first Episcopalians, though small in number, were an energetic lot, building the town's first brick church in 1837 and purchasing all 48 pews. By 1855 the core of this building was constructed on plans drawn by Frank Wills and Henry Dudley, prominent church architects from England who emigrated to New York. A few years later the church was the site of the secession convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the Confederate States; Confederacy President Jefferson Davis attended services here in the company of his wife, an Episcopalian. In

1869 the original church at the other end of the block was torn down and the bricks used to build the present chancel and sanctuary.

TURN LEFT ON MADISON AVENUE
THAT BECOMES BIBB STREET AS IT
BENDS LEFT.

37. Murphy House
22 Bibb Street

John H. Murphy was a Virginia cotton merchant who moved his family into this Greek Revival mansion fronted by a grand Corinthian portico in 1851. John Murphy died in 1859 and the coming Civil War visited hard times on the family who were forced to rent rooms in their former home. In April of 1865 the Murphy House became the headquarters of the Union Provost Marshal. With the Murphys and Federal troops gone, nothing is known of the mansion's fate until 1902 when The Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks purchased it for use as a lodge. In 1970, the Montgomery Water Works and Sanitary Sewer Board acquired the property and renovated the space for offices while restoring the grandeur to Murphy House.

TURN RIGHT ON COOSA STREET.

38. Schloss & Kahn Warehouse
129 Coosa Street

This building, handsomely restored, was the warehouse for the institutional grocers Schloss & Kahn beginning in 1895. The grocers were early practitioners of branding, pushing their line of Sunday Dinner canned fruits, vegetables and meats ahead of their store. The brick building is a blend of Italianate design (the arched windows and entrances capped with window hoods and Colonial Revival (rectangular windows with stone keystones and a modillion block cornice.

39. Schloss and Kahn Building
152 Coosa Street at Jefferson Street
and Tallapoosa Street

Born in Brooklyn and raised in Macon, Georgia, Algernon Blair, the son of an architect, took his first contracting job in 1897 at the age of 24. His first commission in Montgomery came in 1902 and he would go on to be the town's leading builder until his death fifty years later. This classically-flavored, flat iron brick warehouse for Schloss and Kahn Grocery Company was one of his earliest projects, completed in 1905.

ACROSS TALLAPOOSA STREET IS...

40. Riverwalk (Biscuits) Stadium
200 Coosa Street

The Western Rail Road Company of Alabama was created in 1854 after the road between Montgomery and West Point, Georgia was finally completed and the directors eyed an extension to Selma. In 1898 the line, now the Western Railway of Alabama, constructed this low-slung brick building to house its offices. In an imaginative blend of historic preservation and adaptive re-use, the City transformed the Western Railway property into a new baseball stadium in 2004.

TURN LEFT ON
TALLAPOOSA STREET.

41. Winter Loeb Building
105 Tallapoosa Street

Jacques Loeb was born in France and came to Montgomery in 1872 at the age of 17 where he entered into the grocery and dry goods business. He was president of the Winter Loeb Grocery Company when this brick warehouse was constructed by Algernon Blair in the first years of the 20th century, a position he retained until his death in 1912.

CONTINUE ON TALLAPOOSA
STREET A FEW MORE STEPS TO
COMMERCE STREET AND TURN
RIGHT TO RETURN TO THE TOUR
STARTING POINT AT UNION
STATION.

IDENTIFYING AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE

Recognizing Early American Architecture (1600-1840):

POST-MEDIEVAL ENGLISH COLONIAL (1600-1700)

- * steeply pitched, side-gabled roof
- * small casement windows with many small panes (restored often)
- * massive chimney
- * vertical board (batten) door
- * little or no eave overhang, no cornice detailing
- * one room deep

DUTCH COLONIAL (1625-1840)

- * side-gambrel roof
- * usually one story
- * batten door, most divided into upper and lower halves
- * little or no eave overhang

FRENCH COLONIAL (1700-1830)

- * steeply pitched roof, either hipped (four-sided) or side-gabled (two-sided)
- * one story
- * tall, narrow door and window openings
- * doors and windows typically divided vertically into pairs
- * walls of stucco (over half-timbered frame)

SPANISH COLONIAL (1660-1850)

- * low-pitched or flat roof
- * normally one story
- * few small windows
- * multiple external doors
- * walls very thick in stucco over adobe brick or rubble stone
- * long, narrow porches opening to courtyards

GEORGIAN (1700-1780)

- * windows with double-hung sashes, typically nine or twelve small panes per sash; windows are never in adjacent pairs
- * paneled door, normally with decorative crown (most often pedimented but at times broken-pedimented) and supported by decorative pilasters
- * row of small rectangular panes beneath door crown
- * cornice usually emphasized with tooth-like dentils or other decorative molding
- * windows typically five-ranked and symmetrically balanced with center door; less commonly three-ranked or seven-ranked

ADAMESQUE (FEDERAL) (1780-1820)

- * windows with double-hung sashes, typically six small panes per sash; windows are never in adjacent pairs
- * semi-circular or elliptical fanlight over paneled door, typically accompanied by sidelights, elaborated crown and surround, and/or extended as small entry porch
- * cornice usually emphasized with tooth-like dentils or other decorative molding
- * windows typically five-ranked and symmetrically balanced with center door; less commonly three-ranked or seven-ranked
- * while similar to Georgian, features are often “lighter”

GREEK REVIVAL (1825-1860)

- * gabled or hipped roof of low pitch
- * entry porch or full-width porch supported by square or round, prominent columns
 - *Doric*: plain capitals
 - *Ionic*: capitals with scroll-like spirals
 - *Corinthian*: capitals shaped like inverted bells decorated with leaves
- * narrow line of transom and sidelights around door, usually incorporated into elaborate door surround
- * cornice lines emphasized with wide, divided band of trim

Recognizing Victorian Architecture (1840-1910)

- * roof ornaments
- * bay (protruding) windows
- * three-part Palladian (rounded in middle) windows
- * gingerbread porch trim

GOTHIC REVIVAL STYLE (1835-1875)

- * high-pitched center gables
- * pointed arch windows and doors
- * pendants and finials extending from roof

ITALIANATE STYLE (1840-1885)

- * brackets under roof cornices
- * cupolas on the roof
- * narrow, square porch posts with chamfered corners
- * tall, slender windows

SECOND EMPIRE STYLE (1855-1885)

- * mansard roof, concave or convex, with dormer windows on steep lower slope
- * molded cornices bound lower roof slope above and below
- * eaves normally with decorative brackets below

STICK STYLE (1860-1890)

- * stick-like bracketing on porches, often diagonal or curving
- * stick-like grid on wall surfaces
- * Jerkin-Head (cut-off triangular) roofs and dormers
- * pent (or shed) roofs on dormers, porches and bays
- * decorative trusses in gables; often steeply pitched gables
- * wooden wall cladding (boards or shingles)

QUEEN ANNE (EASTLAKE) STYLE (1880-1910)

- * asymmetrical facade
- * patterned shingles
- * turned porch posts and trim
- * corner towers and turrets
- * wraparound porch
- * steeply pitched, irregular roofline

SHINGLE STYLE (1880-1900)

- * shingled walls without interruption at corners
- * multi-level eaves above asymmetrical facade
- * extensive porches
- * walls and roofs covered with continuous wood shingles

RICHARDSONIAN ROMANESQUE (1880-1900)

- * based on the innovative designs of Boston architect Henry Hobson Richardson
- * round topped arches over windows, porch supports or entrance
- * most have towers, usually round with conical roofs
- * always masonry walls, usually with rough-faced, squared stonework
- * facade usually asymmetrical

Recognizing 20th century Architecture:

COLONIAL REVIVAL (1885 AND BEYOND)

- * accentuated front door with fanlights and sidelights
- * symmetrical facade around centered entrance
- * windows with double-hung sashes
- * large dormers
- * round, smooth porch columns, often clustered

NEOCLASSICAL (1895-1950)

- * facade dominated by full-length porch supported by classical columns, typically Ionic or Corinthian
- * facade shows symmetrically balanced windows and center door
- * revivals may have curved porticos, two-story entrances, paired or tripled windows and/or bays not seen on originals
- * often very large

TUDOR (1890 -1940)

- * massive chimneys, commonly crowned by decorative chimney pots
- * facade dominated by one or more prominent cross gables, usually steeply perched
- * decorative half-timbering often present
- * steeply pitched roof, usually side-gabled
- * tall, narrow windows, commonly in multiple groups with multi-pane glazing
- * walls of brick, stone, wood, stucco or in combination

FRENCH CHATEAUESQUE (1890-1930)

- * busy roof line with many vertical elements (spires, pinnacles, turrets, gables, shaped chimneys)
- * steeply pitched hipped roof
- * multiple dormers, usually wall dormers extending through cornice line
- * walls of masonry, usually stone

BEAUX ARTS (1890-1930)

- * wall surfaces with decorative garlands, floral patterns or shields
- * masonry walls, usually of light-colored stone
- * facade with corner quoins and columns, often paired with Ionic or Corinthian capitals
- * first story typically rusticated (stonework) with exaggerated joints
- * facade symmetrical

SPANISH MISSION STYLE (1890-1930)

- * shaped Mission dormer or roof parapet
- * porch roofs supported by large square piers, commonly arched above
- * commonly with red tile roof covering
- * widely overhanging eaves, usually open
- * wall surface usually smooth stucco

PUEBLO REVIVAL (1910-PRESENT)

- * flat roof with parapeted wall above
- * stucco wall surface, usually earth-toned
- * projecting wooden roof beams (vigas)
- * wall and roof parapet with irregular, rounded edges
- * unpainted wood porch columns - maybe just tree trunks
- * tile or brick floors

PRAIRIE STYLE (1900-1920)

- * low-pitched roof with widely overhanging eaves
- * two stories with one-story porches or wings
- * massive square porch supports
- * detail emphasizing horizontal lines
- * hipped roofs are more common than end or side gables
- * one of few indigenous American styles developed by Chicago architects Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright and built only during first two decades of century

CRAFTSMAN (1905-1930)

- * low-pitched gabled roof with wide, unenclosed eave overhang
- * roof rafters usually exposed
- * porches supported by square columns
- * decorative braces or false beams under gables
- * columns frequently continue to ground level without a break at porch level
- * generally one or one-and-a-half stories

ART DECO (1920-1940)

- * zigzags and other geometric and stylized motifs
- * towers and other vertical projections
- * smooth stucco wall surface
- * decorative motifs: geometric floral; chevron with lozenge; reeding and fluting, often around doors and windows; sunrise pattern

ART MODERNE (1920-1940)

- * streamline, curved corners
- * smooth stucco wall surface
- * asymmetrical facade
- * flat roof, usually with ledge at roof line
- * horizontal grooves, lines, balustrades
- * windows can turn corners and can be roundly shaped
- * glass-block windows or sections of the wall

INTERNATIONAL (1925-PRESENT)

- * no decorative detailing at doors or windows
- * smooth, unornamental wall surface
- * asymmetrical facade
- * flat roof, usually without ledge at roof line
- * windows usually metal casements set flush with outer walls