



Greatest Generation Park Fountain

With Crepe Myrtles

By Ellen Tew

Self-Guided Tour of Historic Thomaston, Georgia

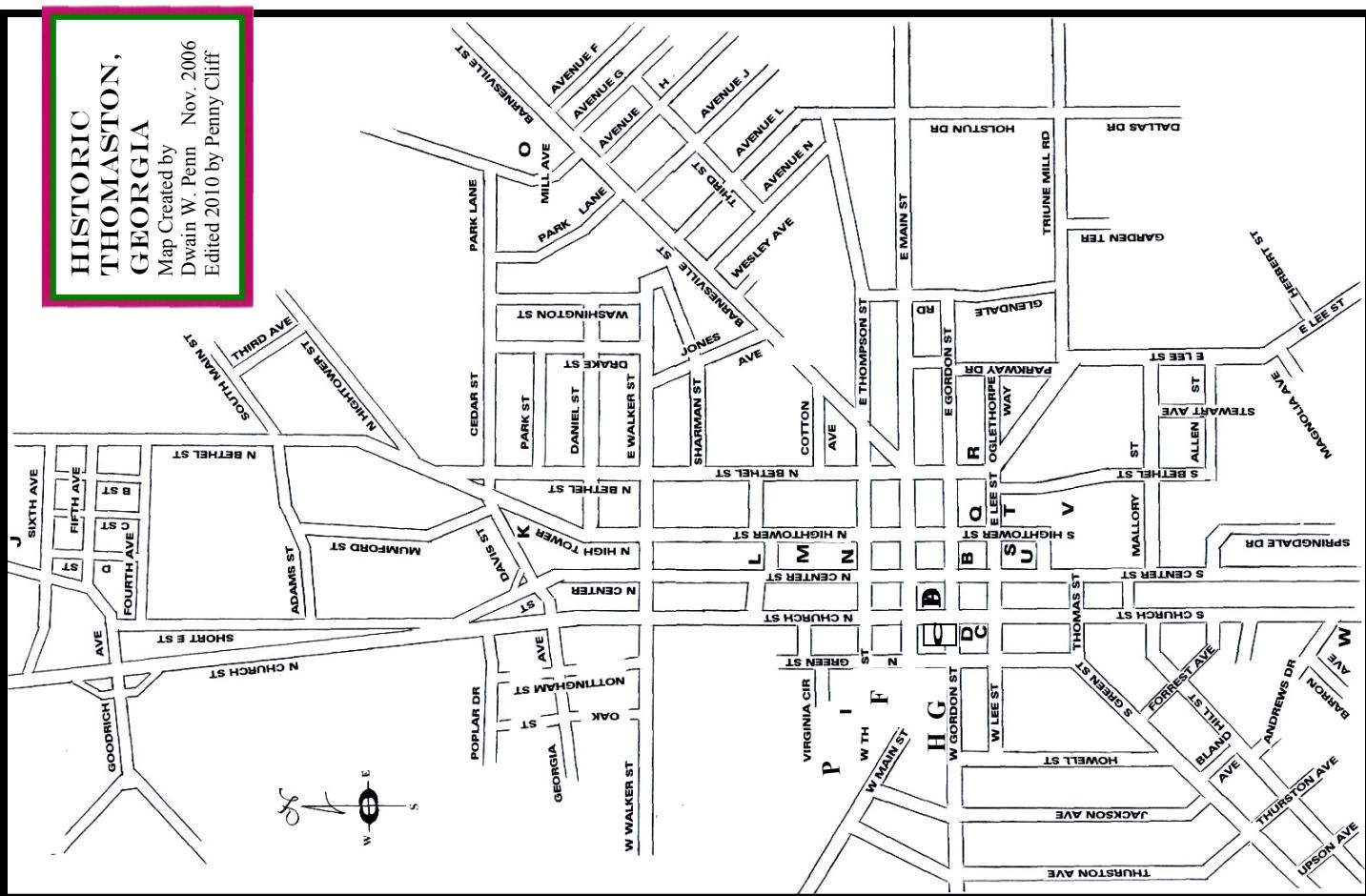
2010



Thomaston-Upson Archives
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- A—Upson County Courthouse
- B—Fincher Building
- C—First Baptist Church
- D—English's Cafe
- E—Ritz Theater
- F—Crawford House
- G—Atwater House
- H—John Gibson House
- I—Dr. W. A. Womble House
- J—Martha Mills and Silvertown
- K—St. Mary's AME Church
- L—Central of Georgia Railroad Depot
- M—Rucker-Reeves House
- N—U.S. Post Office
- O—East Thomaston
- P—Woodall House
- Q—R. E. Hightower House
- R—Weaver-Dallas House
- S—Old First Methodist Church
- T—R. E. Lee Institute
- U—Britt House
- V—Glenwood Cemetery
- W—Pettigrew-White-Stamp House

Copies provided
courtesy of Thomaston
Mayor and City Council



Self-Guided Tour of Historic Thomaston



A. Upson County Courthouse

This is the third building on this site. Built in 1908 for \$60,000, it is designed in the Neo-Classical Revival style by the Washington, D. C. architectural firm of Frank P. Milburn & Co. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



B. Fincher Building
201-203 S. Center Street

Dating from 1873 this is the oldest existing building in downtown Thomaston. The second floor was originally hotel rooms before being converted into offices in the early 20th century. Currently Traditions a gift store.



C. First Baptist Church
208 S. Church Street

Built in 1920-21 in the Georgian Revival Style. The Baptist Church was established in 1825 at Bethesda, but a building was not constructed in town until 1839.



D. English's Cafe
119 W. Gordon Street

Built in 1929 and famed for its scrambled hamburgers. The secret sauce began by the original Greek owner. Once women dared not enter this former pool hall — the domain of men.



E. Ritz Theater
112-114 S. Church Street

Built in 1927 in the Mission Style, the façade was altered in the 1930s to its present Art Deco design. A theater and café. Owned by Malcolm and Amy Neal.



F. Crawford House
318 W. Main Street

Constructed around 1912 in the Colonial Revival Style for L. A. Crawford, a local livery man and livestock dealer. Private residence.



G. Atwater House
317 W. Main Street

Constructed in 1920 by J. W. McDaniel in the Neo-classical style, it was for many years the home of the James R. Atwater family. Atwater was a banker and successful Thomaston businessman. Privately owned.



H. Gibson Home
327 W. Main Street

This home was originally built in 1883 by John Gibson, a rural mail carrier. It was greatly expanded in 1913 by the Frank-Garner-Nelson Lumber Company. Presently a spa and salon, Grand Oak Salon.



I. Dr. W. A. Womble House
310 W. Thompson Street

Constructed around the turn of the century for Dr. Worthy Anderson Womble, who later moved to San Antonio. This is an excellent example of a Queen Anne style.

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J. Mill Villages, Silvertown, Goodrich Avenue; East Thomaston, Barnesville Street

During the early to mid-twentieth century, mill villages were part of the fabric of the south. Martha Mills was initially built by Thomaston Mills and sold to B. F. Goodrich Tire and Rubber Company of Akron, Ohio in 1929. Silvertown, the mill village associated with this mill became incorporated in 1929, and was separate from the City of Thomaston until annexed in 1958.

Thomaston Cotton Mills was founded in 1899 and became the largest employer in Upson County. East Thomaston Mill Village was annexed by the City of Thomaston in 1970.

The homes in Silvertown and East Thomaston stand as a testimony to an era long-gone. The Thomaston-Upson Archives houses the Thomaston Mills Collection with its 100-year history.



K. St. Mary's AME Church
605 N. Hightower Street

Constructed in 1905 by the oldest black Methodist congregation in Thomaston which was founded in 1867.



L. Central Georgia Railroad Depot
218 N. Center Street

Built in the 1920s, this brick building replaced an earlier frame structure. The depot served both passengers and freight. Currently a restaurant, Ponderosa.



M. Rucker-Reeves House
211 N. Hightower Street

Thomaston's only remaining example of a Mansard Cottage, this house was built in 1881. Private residence.



N. U. S. Post Office
103 East Thompson Street

Built in 1933 by the federal government at a WPA project. It was designed by James A. Wetmore in the Georgian Revival Style

O. East Thomaston Mill Village

This area was a former mill village founded by Thomaston Mills in 1899. See Mill Villages (J)



P. Woodall House
324 W. Main Street

Built in 1910, this fully restored Victorian Home is now a Bed and Breakfast owned by Bill and Charlene Woodall.



Q. R. E. Hightower, Sr. Home
205 S. Hightower Street

Built around 1910 as the residence of the R.E. Hightower family. Mr. Hightower was the manager and controlling stockholder in Thomaston Mills Cotton Mills, which had been established in 1899. The house design was influenced by the Craftsman style. Private residence.



R. Weaver-Dallas Home
205 S. Bethel Street

One of the oldest homes in Thomaston. Parts of the house date from the 1820s. In 1840 T. A.D. Weaver purchased the property and constructed the house as is seen today. The design is influenced by the Classical Revival and Federal styles popular in that era. Private residence.

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S. Old First Methodist Church
120 E. Lee Street

The first First Methodist building was built by 1828 located in the Glenwood Cemetery directly south of this building. This is the second building; the structure dates from 1888-1889 in the Gothic Revival design. It is currently the home of the Cathedral of St. Michael & All Angels Charismatic Episcopal Church.



T. R. E. Lee Institute
250 East Lee Street

Chartered in 1875 as the Thomaston High School, the name was changed in 1882. The Neoclassical structure was reconstructed following a severe fire. It is now used as the city and county government complex.



U. Britt House
311 Center Street

Constructed in 1913 in the Colonial Revival style for the Britt family who were involved in Thomaston's large livestock business. Owned by Grace Primitive Baptist Church.



V. Glenwood Cemetery

Behind the government complex, this is the oldest burial ground in the City of Thomaston. Graves date from as early as 1832.



W. Pettigrew-White-Stamps House
746 Andrews Drive

The second oldest house in Thomaston, dating from around 1833 with later additions. It was originally located on N. Church Street, but was moved in 1968 to its present location by the Upson Historical Society to save it from demolition. It contains furniture and artifacts illuminating the lives of earlier generations; it is open to visitors by arrangement. Call the Archives (706) 646-2437



Thomaston-Upson Archives
301 S. Center Street
Phone: (706) 646-2437
Fax: (706) 646-3524

HISTORY OF THOMASTON

Thomaston was incorporated on June 11, 1825 and designated as the seat of Upson County. The town was named for General Jett Thomas, an Indian fighter in the War of 1812. Thomas is also credited with assisting in the construction of the state capitol at Milledgeville in 1805-7.

Thomaston was laid out with parallel streets running north and south, east and west, with the courthouse square in the center of town. The judges of the inferior court had the authority to sell lots to individuals on a one-third cash basis with two years to complete the payment. This money was used to build the first courthouse, which was completed in 1828. The second courthouse was completed in 1852, and the present courthouse was erected in 1908. In the southeast corner of the square is a cannonball mounted on a marble base, said to be the first fired at Fort Sumter, off the coast of Charleston, South Carolina. P.W. Alexander, a noted correspondent during the Civil War and a citizen of Upson County, retrieved it.

During the twentieth century, Thomaston's economy was primarily based on the manufacture of textiles and tire cord. Granted a charter in 1899, Thomaston Cotton Mills shipped textiles worldwide and served as a major source of economic stability and urban growth. B. F. Goodrich's tire cord mill at Martha Mills also contributed to the economic growth of the area.

Thomaston's mill-town era ended in 2001.

The history of Thomaston and Upson County and other information can be found at the Thomaston-Upson Archives located just off the Square on the corner of East Lee and Center Streets.