



City of Commerce, GA

"A City on the Right Track"

Self-Guided Historic Walking Tour

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Background Information

Location: North Georgia foothills, Jackson County

The Town Then:

- Originally founded as Harmony Grove in 1808, renamed Commerce in 1904
- Industry through 1900s: agricultural activities (corn, wheat, potatoes, apples, peaches, and cotton).
- Railroad came in 1876
- Lamartine Griffin Hardman, Governor of Georgia from 1927-1931



Background Information



The Town Now:

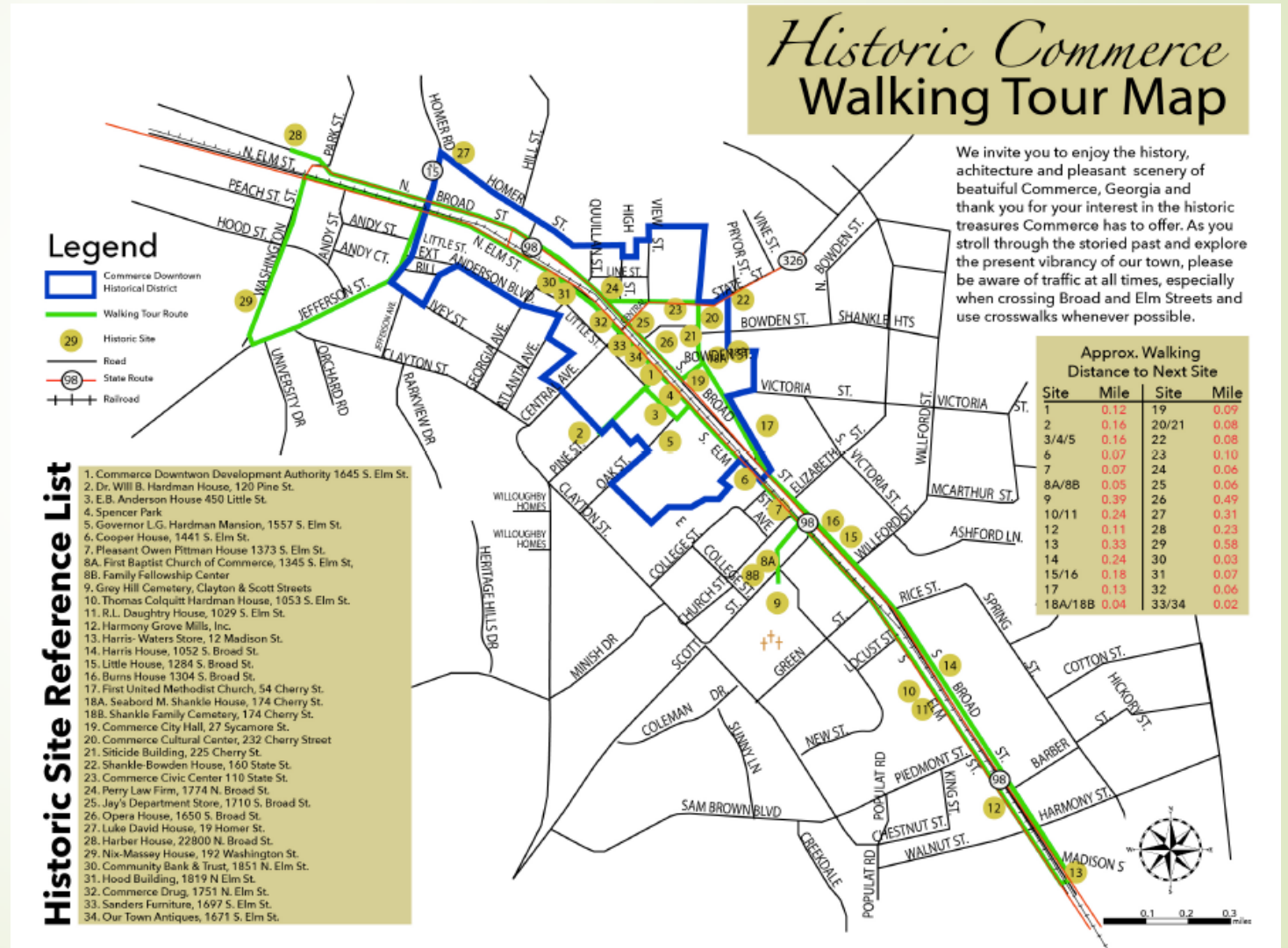
- Historic downtown: collection of 19th and 20th century commercial and residential buildings adapted for reuse
- The historic district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.
- The people of the town are excited about preserving their history and sharing it with others through a historic downtown tour.

The Project: Original Material

Original walking tour developed c. 1980s

Partial update within last 5 years (left unfinished)

- Editing
- Photos Missing
- History vs. Architecture
- Walking vs. Driving
- Level of Significance

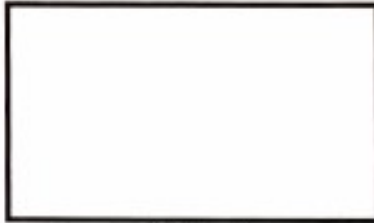


#27 - 19 Homer St. - Luke Davis House

? Built circa 1884 as the Presbyterian Church of Harmony Grove, this structure was traded in 1910 to Mr. Luke Davis for the construction of a newer and larger church. Mr. Davis who received \$1,500 for the difference, added porches and dormers to the building when he converted it into a house. This home is currently a private residence.

Traded - as in Mr. Luke got the old and built the new?

Who is Mr. Davis + why did he get the difference? The diff. of what?



Original

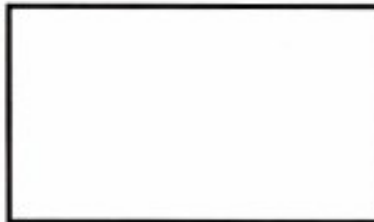


Current

#28 - 2280 N. Broad St - Harber House

? This Colonial Revival style was built circa 1900. The house was owned by Dr. John Castalaw and later by J. Harber, a local merchant. ^{was} Two Harber families owned the home for over 50 years. The Richard family purchased the home in 1990 and operated ~~the home~~ ^{the site} as a bed and breakfast for 10 years. ~~The home~~ ^{the site} is now a private residence. The home still has all the original windows. There are 12-foot ceilings ~~in the house and~~ ^{in the house} and hardwood floors throughout the interior.

the inside feature 12-foot ceilings and hardwood floors throughout.



Original



Current

Were these original? Why mention?

#29 - 192 Washington Street - Nix-Massey House

Built in 1902 by John Morgan Nix, ^{of this} is Queen Anne Victorian ~~architecture~~ ^{style home} with a wrap around porch and Gingerbread Trim. Wood for the original construction ~~of this Nix house~~ was cut from the Nix farm in Apple Valley, which was only four miles from Commerce. The Ed Massey family later ^{inherited} bought the home and members of the family lived there for over 70 years until Mrs. Lydia Nix Massey died in 1978 at age 88. Jonathan and Cindy Finck purchased the house in 2007 ^{renovating it for a year before moving into the home where they presently reside.} ^{The home is currently a private residence.} ^{She's part of both families?} ^{this info is deleted.}



Original



Current

#30 - 1851 N. Elm St - Community Bank & Trust

^{reword} Originally the Andrew Jackson Hotel, this building was constructed in 1948 by contractor Ralph Pardue. ^{The} hotel ~~originally~~ had 40 rooms, each with a private bath, a coffee room, kitchen, banquet hall and spacious lobby and cost \$250,000 to construct. On Aug 27, 1957 WJJC disc jockey, Bill Anderson, later a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, wrote his first hit "City Lights" from atop the Andrew Jackson Hotel where he rented a room.



Original



Current




The Project: A Day in Commerce

Our day in Commerce:

- Took the current walking tour
- Interacted with local residents with long-standing ties to community
- Library Genealogy Room – researched local history and prominent names

Some observations:

- Condition of Buildings
- Attitude of People
- Location of Town
- Heritage Tourism Potential



The Project: Next Steps

Long-term Plan:

- Re-structure – walking downtown tour and extended/ architecture driving tour
- Editing
- Content development – find the stories
 - Interviews with local business owners
- Pictures
- A finished product...



Thank You

- Natalie Thomas, City of Commerce CCA/Mainstreet Manager
 - Sandra Haggard, City Clerk
 - Jennifer and Katherine Sanders, Sanders Furniture
 - Susan Rice, Commerce Public Library
 - Angel Tuggle, Commerce Public Library
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