Downtown Thomasville

Thomasville is known for its bustling downtown commercial district. "On the bricks" you'll find shops, restaurants, and service providers. The downtown area developed with the founding of the city in the early 1830s and centered southeast of the Thomas County Courthouse at the intersection of Jackson Street and Broad Street. Most early businesses in town were related to agriculture, the county's biggest industry. By the Civil War, doctors, lawyers, architects, and a dentist as well as general stores, pharmacies, and more, drew people to the downtown area. The railroad depot was built in 1861 just a few blocks from downtown.

A Changing Downtown

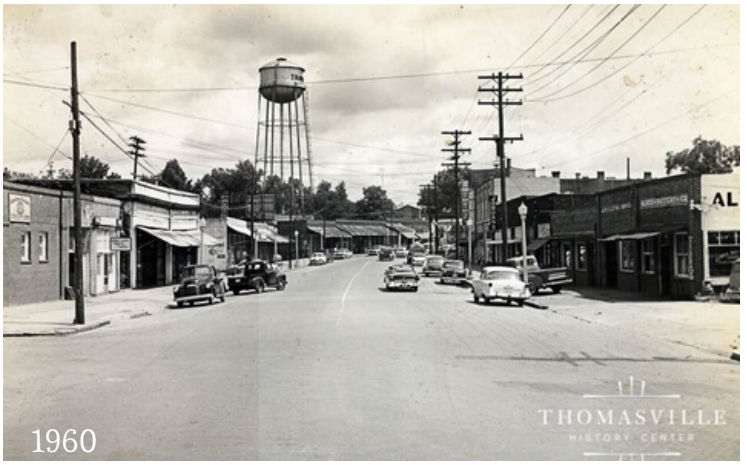
Early downtown buildings were built out of heart-pine so fire was a frequent threat and concern. In 1866, the town council established a fire district that forbade heart-pine construction in the business section. During Thomasville's Resort Era, new buildings were built out of brick in eclectic styles. Cast iron columns were manufactured by the Thomasville Iron Works (1870-1940s) and you can still see them today. The owners of the Iron Works, the Thompsons, developed much of the West Jackson Street area which became the African-American business district, known as "The Bottom." Thomasville's downtown streets were paved with bricks in 1907.

In the 1900s, architectural fashions changed and buildings made of stucco and stone with terra cotta details becoming popular. From 1945 through the mid-1960s, modern glass and steel facades, or false fronts, were added to the historic buildings and the bricks were paved over with asphalt. Thomasville's preservation movement kickstarted campaigns to restore the downtown to its Victorian beauty and most have been restored over the last thirty years.

1879

1907

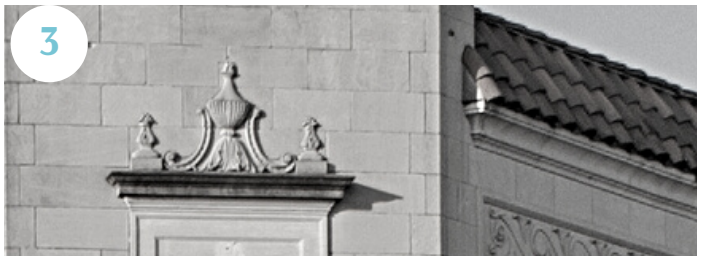
1935

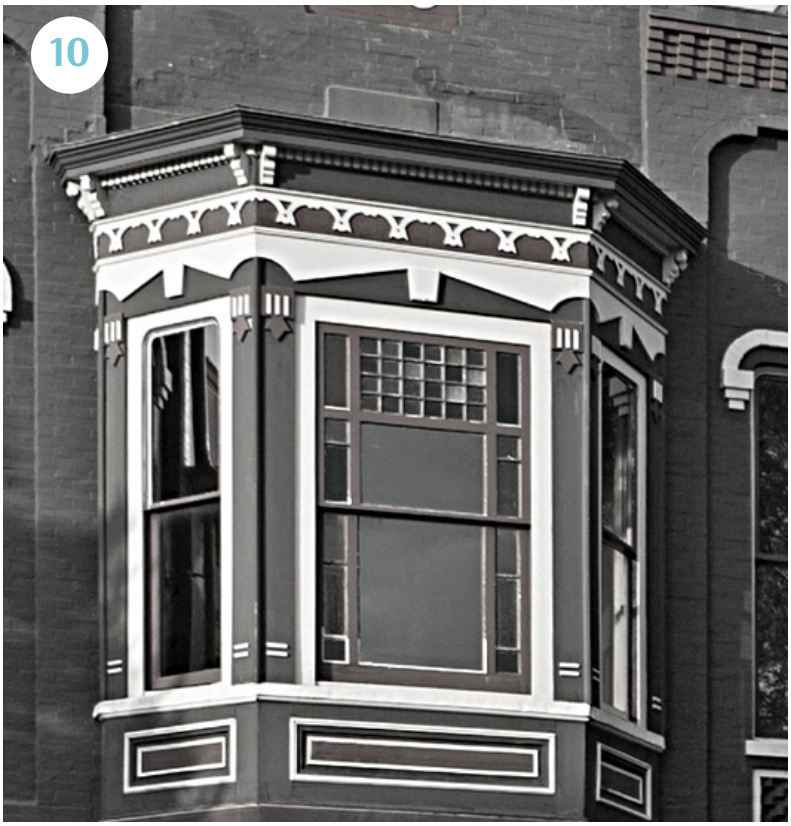


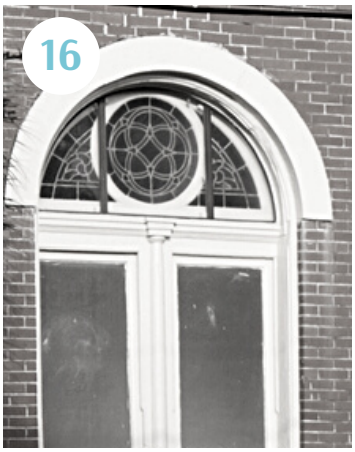
1960

Scavenger Hunt

Use these architectural details and clues to help you locate the historic structures in Thomasville's Downtown District. Clues are located Between Monroe Street and Remington Avenue and Crawford Street and the train crossing on West Jackson Street.







Riddle me this...

Give the address of the building or the current name.

1. Pull up a chair and make yourself *at home* in 1882.

2. My crown shines with multi-colored jewels in the spring sunshine. It's my *gift* to Thomasville.

3. There's *sew* much to see and do downtown. My windows to the world look out over the hustle and bustle.

Photographs by Van Jones Martin

Scavenger Hunt Answers

1. Municipal Building, 144 E. Jackson Street
2. 202 S. Broad Street
3. Steyerman's, 102 S. Broad Street
4. Jerger Jewelers, 130 S. Broad Street
5. 1915 Post Office, 135 N. Broad Street
6. Water Tower, W. Jackson Street
7. 101 S. Broad Street
8. 218 W. Jackson Street
9. Hardy-Bryan House, 312 N. Broad Street
10. 103 S. Broad Street
11. Thomas County Courthouse, 225 N. Broad Street
12. 110 S. Broad Street
13. Trice House, 330 N. Broad Street
14. Jackson Street Depot, 420 W. Jackson Street
15. First United Methodist Church, 425 N. Broad Street
16. B'Nai Israel Synagogue, 220 S. Crawford Street

Riddle Me This Answers:

1. At Home in Thomasville (112 S. Broad)
2. The Gift Shop (103 S. Broad)
3. Jimmy's Sew & Vac (202 S. Broad)