



Thomasville History Center & Lapham-Patterson House

Preparation Guide for Student Tours

Our history begins here. Let us start you on the journey.

Dear Teachers & Group Leaders:

Thank you for scheduling a visit to the Thomasville History Center. The 2020-2021 school year is one like no other. This guide was created just a few weeks before the History Center shutdown for the COVID-19 pandemic so some guidance will seem as if it is from a different world. We believe that most of this information is still useful as you prepare for your visit. Despite the circumstances, we hope that your visit will be a memorable and enriching experience.

Enclosed in this packet you will find:

1. **Basic Information**
2. **Conduct Guidelines**
3. **Parking & Property Information**

We will be sending you a **Pre-Visit Instructional Documents for Classroom Teachers Packet** two weeks before your scheduled visit.

We look forward to your visit and hope that the information found in this packet will prove useful!

Thank you,

The Staff of the Thomasville History Center

Thomasville History Center
725 N. Dawson St.
Thomasville, GA 31792
229-226-7664
amelia@thomascountyhistory.org

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Information for Student Visits

The Thomasville History Center is located at 725 North Dawson Street in Thomasville, Georgia. There are 7 historic buildings on our grounds which are original to the property or were moved to their present locations. Each helps the History Center to tell the story of Thomas County and its residents.

Visits may be scheduled by phone: 229-226-7664; by email: history@rose.net; or in person at the Thomasville History Center, 725 N. Dawson St. during regular business hours, Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.

All group visits must be scheduled at least 24 hours in advance with a member of the History Center. Arrangements for a tour of the History Center are subject to each site's group tour rate, must be scheduled in advance, and are dependent upon availability.

Capacity

- The History Center is accepting field trip reservations for groups of **10 or less**. To request a field trip, which includes
- Required: 1 chaperone required per student group

Fees

- We offer free admission to the Thomasville History Center for students and chaperones from Thomas, Grady, Brooks, Colquitt, Mitchell, Jefferson (FL), & Leon (FL) Counties. Admission is underwritten by a grant from the Thomasville Antiques Show Foundation, Inc.
 - Students & Chaperones from outside the above locations: the cost is \$2 per person
- Content
 - A guided tour of the c. 1870 Smith Homestead and a frame of bowling in 1896 Ewart Bowling Alley as well as a grounds scavenger hunt.
 - For now, the interior of the Flowers-Roberts House (the History Center's main museum building) remains closed to the public. Guests will have access to the restrooms upon request.

- Student Visits: are aligned with content across the social studies and literacy Georgia Standards of Excellence. Supplemental resources are available online at thomasvillehistory.org/athome.
- Each rotation will be approximately 30 minutes.

Conduct Guidelines

Please provide this information to all students, chaperones, and participants who will be accompanying your group's tour.

Guided tours are led by trained staff and/or volunteers.

All guests must wear masks during their visit. The guide may give permission for masks to be removed when the group is outdoors and able to remain socially distanced.

Please let us know where you are in your curriculum so that we can be sure to align our talking points to your students' needs and interests.

Please arrive 5 minutes prior to the time of your tour and notify us if you are running late by calling 229-226-7664. Late arrivals may result in an abbreviated visit due to staff availability.

It is helpful for our staff to know whether groups will be arriving together by bus or van, or separately.

Please confirm your group's timings (arrival and departure) at least 2 days in advance of your visit.

A member of the History Center's staff will greet your group on the front porch of the Flowers-Roberts House. From there, guests will be directed to the introductory location.

Consumption of food and beverages is not allowed inside the History Center. Picnic tables and outside gathering areas are available to those who wish to make use of them. Please inform staff in advance whether you plan to picnic on the property and trash cans will be provided.

Please go over the following expected behaviors for all members of a guided tour:

Please be aware that there are offices and other visitors in the building, so remind your students to keep the noise level at a respectful level.

All members of the tour should have their cell phones silenced to avoid disruption during the tour and speaker presentations (including chaperones and teachers.)

Pictures may be taken once the guide has completed their instruction and when groups are exploring independently.



Curiosity and engagement are encouraged for all visitors. For the safety of the artifacts and the guests, please remind all in attendance to **“look with their eyes, and not with their fingers.”** Please ask permission, or wait for instruction, before handling items.

Be sure students focus on the information to make the most of this learning experience. We try to make tours interactive at some points, so participants should be prepared for staff to ask them questions.

Chaperones should keep the group together and on-task. At no point should a chaperone leave a group unattended, or in the sole charge of a member of staff. A teacher or chaperone must accompany all students at all times. Please let the staff know if you would like to add a designated time for a bathroom break at arrival or departure.

Teachers and chaperones are responsible for the behavior management and discipline of their groups.

The History Center staff reserves the right to ask a visitor to remove themselves from a historic building or activity on the grounds of behavior or safety.



Please comply with all staff instructions or guidance. Your safety and a positive experience are our priority.

About the History Center

The Thomas County Historical Society was formed in 1952 and the Thomasville History Center was opened within the Flowers-Roberts House in 1972. Over the years, the collections have grown to include more than 500,000 artifacts and archival materials and eight historic structures. Now known as the Thomasville History Center, the organization, also operates the historic Lapham-Patterson House.

Thomasville History Center can be reached at 229-226-7664 or at history@rose.net.

Follow the History Center on social media to stay up to date on all the fun: Instagram & Facebook: @Thomasvillehistory. The Thomasville History Center is located at 725 N. Dawson Street in Thomasville and the Lapham-Patterson House is located just down the block at 626 N. Dawson Street.

Weather & Cancellation Policy

Because many of our activities and rotations require being outdoors, the History Center reserves the right to cancel and/or postpone student visits based on inclement weather if it poses a threat to the safety of our guests and staff. We will do our best to quickly reschedule any visit cancelled for this reason.

Groups will be contacted several days prior to their scheduled visit to confirm attendance, numbers, and activity rotations. Scheduled and confirmed visits may be cancelled up to 24 hours in advance. In situations with extenuating circumstances, group leaders may cancel the day of the program by calling 229-226-7664 or emailing amelia@thomascountyhistory.org.

Parking

The History Center's front entrance faces Dawson Street and is accessible through the front gate and the driveway gate. The driveway gate is narrow so caution is encouraged. Large vehicles (school buses and transport vans) are asked to park on Dawson Street facing south. Street parking is available on Dawson Street. As we are in a residential neighborhood, please use caution and consideration as you park.

Parking is also available at the Lapham-Patterson House on Dawson Street as well as in the backyard using the Webster St. driveway.

Our Campus



1. Gate & History Center Front Entrance, 725 N. Dawson St.
2. Accessible Entrance
3. Driveway- traffic must go one-way: follow the straightaway from the gate and curve right around the yard underneath the portico. Traffic exiting the lot must yield to entering traffic from Dawson St.
4. Bus/Guest Parking
5. Roberts Garage Lot- accessible parking space & staff parking. Limited availability
6. Lapham-Patterson House front entrance, 626 N. Dawson St.
7. Webster Street driveway (near the intersection with Young St.)
8. Lapham-Patterson House Accessible Parking- located behind the House

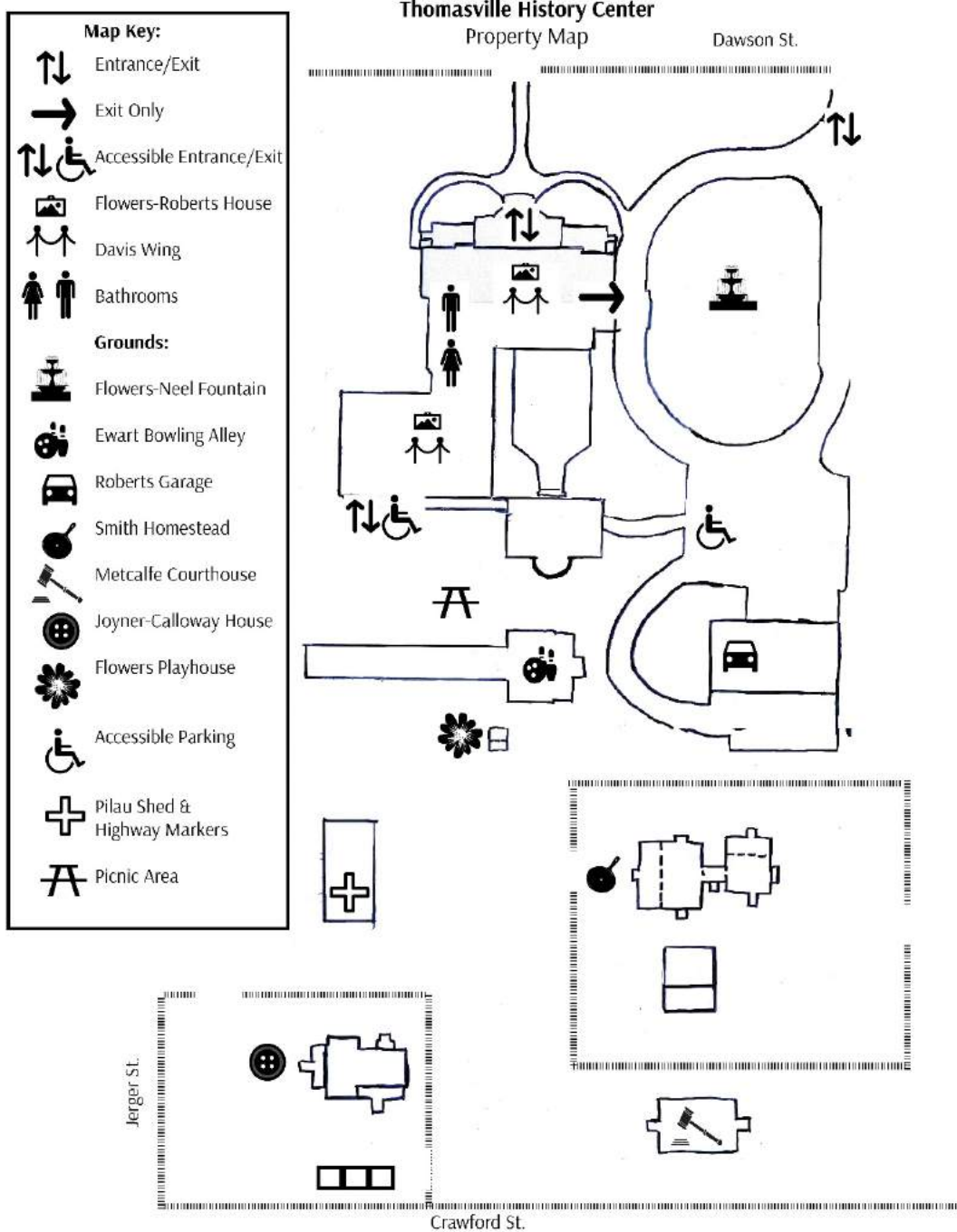
Accessibility

Accessible parking is available for small transport vans and private vehicles on Dawson Street (#3 on the map above). A ramp is located at the top of the connected walkway from the parking area to the Davis Wing (#2) of the Flowers-Roberts House.

At the Lapham-Patterson House (#6), accessible parking is available on a brick pad behind the home (#8). Please enter the backyard using the Webster St. driveway (#7) at the rear of the property. A brick sidewalk connects the parking area to the ramp. The main floor of the Flowers-

Roberts House and the Lapham-Patterson House are wheelchair accessible. Unfortunately, at this time the historic buildings are not wheelchair accessible. Please inform the staff of your accessibility needs in advance of your arrival.

Historic Structures



A BRIEF HISTORY OF THOMAS COUNTY

Our history begins here. Let us start you on the journey.

10,000 BC

Humans are believed to have first migrated to the Florida peninsula. They develop agriculture, trade networks, and societies.

900-1600 AD

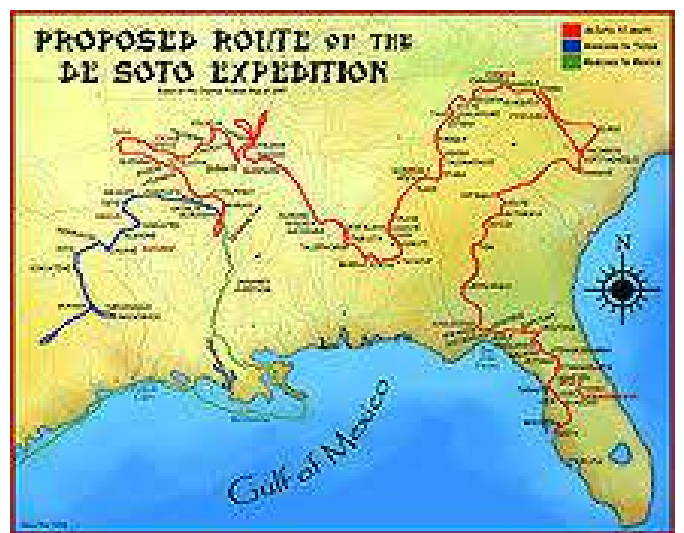
The Apalachee establish a thriving mound-based civilization in the region.

1539

A Spanish expedition led by Hernando de Soto lands at Tampa Bay seeking fortune.

1540

De Soto's forces move up the peninsula into the land of the Apalachee in north Florida and southwest Georgia. His forces camp for five months at an Apalachee village near Tallahassee.



EARLY 1700S

The Muskogee (commonly referred to as Creeks by white settlers), flee the Yamasee War and resettle on the Chattahoochee River.

1787

Commissioners from Georgia and South Carolina meet in Beaufort, South Carolina, to settle various boundary conflicts.

The agreement finally placed the future Thomas County within the State of Georgia.

1814

After the Battle of Horseshoe Bend, the Treaty of Fort Jackson forced the Muskogee (Creeks) to forfeit most of their lands in Georgia and Alabama.

1818

The United States Agency for Indian Affairs pays the Creek Nation \$120,000 for the remainder of the land they occupied in southwest Georgia, including the future Thomas County.



1820

A land lottery to distribute lots in the newly acquired territory comprising southwest Georgia was held in Georgia's antebellum capital of Milledgeville.



1826

The settlement of Thomasville is named the seat of Thomas County.

1827

The first Thomas County Courthouse is built out of logs.

1831

The City of Thomasville is granted a governing charter by the state of Georgia. The settlement of Boston is founded nine miles east of Thomasville.

1858

The Thomas County Courthouse is completed by plantation architect John Wind.



1859

The Thomasville town council enacts laws restricting enslaved and free African-Americans including a limit to three people at a gathering without a white chaperone, a five-minute limit at any establishment where liquor is sold, and a 9PM curfew without detailed written permission from a white person.

1861

The Atlantic & Gulf Railroad is completed, connecting Thomasville to Savannah.



Thomas County representatives hesitantly vote in support of secession at a convention in Milledgeville.

Local military companies form to fight in the Civil War.

- Thomasville Guards
- Ochlocknee Light Infantry
- Thomas County Volunteers
- Seventeenth Patriots, Dixie Boys
- Wiregrass Rifles

The railroad connecting Thomasville to Savannah is severed as a result of the war for a 35-mile stretch.

1865

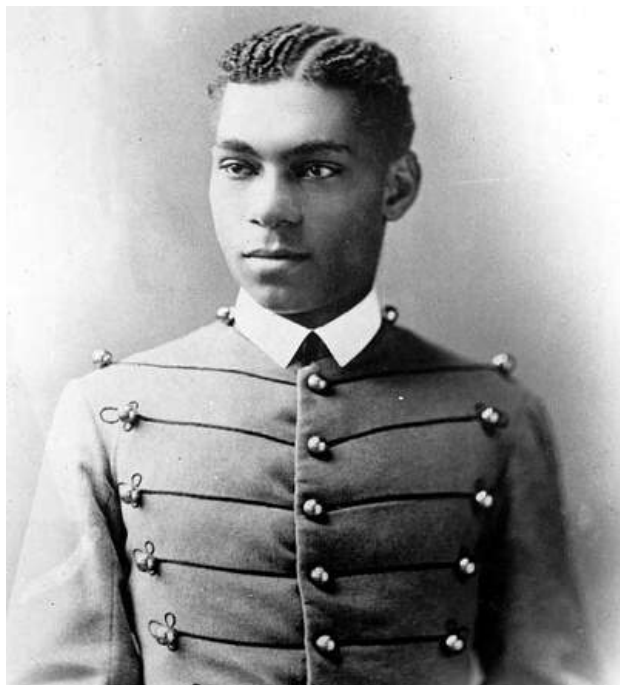
Federal troops enter Thomasville and take control of government functions.

1867

African Americans hold a mass political meeting in Thomasville, seeking a way towards healthy race relations with whites. The event included numerous leaders from the white and black communities.

1877

Henry O. Flipper (formerly enslaved) of Thomasville becomes the first African American graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point.



The Confederate Monument is purchased and installed at the intersection of Broad Street and Remington Avenue.

1864

5,000 Union prisoners of war are transported from Andersonville Prison to a make-shift prison at Thomasville for a ten-day period.

1866

Atlantic & Gulf Railroad service is restored, connecting Savannah to Thomasville.

1874

The Mitchell House, Thomasville's first luxury hotel, opens on the 100 block of North Broad Street.



The Thomas County settlement of Ochlocknee, in existence since 1830, receives a governing charter from the State of Georgia.

1879

The first telephone in Thomasville is installed, connecting the Mitchell House to H.B. Ainsworth's livery stable.

1882

Pinetree Boulevard, a perimeter road circling Thomasville, is constructed as a pleasure course for winter visitors.



The Allen Normal & Industrial School opens on Lester Street for African-American students, funded as a mission of the American Missionary Association. It operated until 1933.



1886

a second Mitchell House Hotel building is opened, replacing an earlier structure which burned.



1889

Electricity is introduced to Thomasville.

1890

Glen Arven opens as a nature park.

1893

La Cubana Cigar Factory is built on Clay Street as Thomasville experiences a minor cigar-rolling boom period.



1895

Winter resident Marcus Alonzo Hanna, the senior United States Senator from Ohio, invites Ohio Governor and presidential candidate William McKinley to his Thomasville residence on Dawson Street to discuss campaign strategy with other southern Republicans.

A year later, McKinley is elected President of the United States. He fulfills his promise to return to Thomasville as President in 1899.



1901

Clay Street School, Thomasville's first public education institution for African Americans, opens at the corner of Clay and Pine Streets.



1903

Millpond Plantation is constructed for Jephtha Wade, owner of Western Union. It is one of the first modern, twentieth-century plantations.

1906

The "Sandy Bottom" neighborhood on West Jackson Street becomes a thriving African American business district.



The Piney Woods Hotel burns.

1907

Broad Street is paved with bricks between Remington and Jefferson, Jefferson and Jackson, and Crawford and Madison Streets.



The Broad Street Theatre opens as Thomasville's first modern movie house.

1912

Aviation pioneer Robert Fowler lands the first airplane in Thomasville in a field near Clay Street while on a Los Angeles – Jacksonville flight.



1919

Flowers Baking Company is founded and a new factory is built on Madison.



The United Methodist Church purchases the old La Cubana Cigar Factory and moves the Vashti School to the Clay Street property.

1910

Land to the northwest of Thomasville is purchased by John F. Archbold of New York, son of Standard Oil executive John D. Archbold. He names it Chinquapin Plantation.



Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show performs in Thomasville in Mallette Heights. The show is billed as Bill Cody's "farewell to Thomasville." A performer died while here, spurring an investigation.

1915

The East Side School building is built in MacIntyre Park, currently home to the Thomasville Center for the Arts.



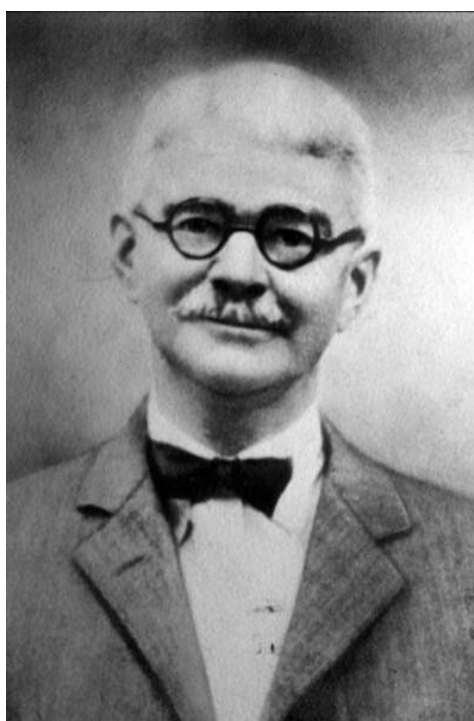
1922

The first Rose Show is held at Neel Brothers Department Store on the Mitchell House block.

WPAX Radio Station makes its first broadcast, becoming the 3rd radio station in Georgia.

1925

John D. Archbold Memorial Hospital opens, a gift of Chinquapin Plantation owner John F. Archbold in honor of his deceased father.



Thomasville High School opens a new building in MacIntyre Park for white students, fronting Glenwood Drive.

Douglass High School opens between Alexander and Forrest Street for African-American students; it was originally known as Dewey City Public School. At the same time, Normal Park Elementary School opens for grades 1-6.

1939

Thomasville Municipal Building constructed as a project of the W.P.A., replacing City Hall at the corner of Jackson and Crawford.



1941

Thomasville's Bi-Racial Committee forms as an effort to improve education and relations amongst all members of the community. ..

1942

The Thomasville Army Airbase opens, eventually becoming Thomasville Municipal Airport.



1943

Finney General Hospital opens on Pinetree Boulevard, one of sixty Army hospitals built to care for sick and injured World War II soldiers. The hospital eventually came to house German prisoners of war.



1952

The Thomas County Historical Society is formed at a public meeting at the Thomas County Courthouse.

1954

President Dwight D. Eisenhower makes the first of his six visits to Thomasville

1958

The Thomas County school system consolidates into Central High School for white students and Magnolia High School for black students.



1964

Ladybird Johnson stops by the Jackson Street depot on a whistle-stop campaign tour.

Jacqueline Kennedy stays with her friends Jock & Betty Whitney at Whitney's Greenwood Plantation following the assassination of her husband, President John F. Kennedy.



1968

Jacqueline Kennedy returns to Thomasville for another visit to Greenwood Plantation.



1971

The State of Georgia budgets \$50,000 to restore the Lapham-Patterson House and convert it into a museum, and \$150,000 to restore Thomasville's "Tockwotten" district.



1963

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People charts a chapter in Thomasville.



1965

African-American students apply for admission to white-only schools in Thomasville.

1970

The Thomas County and Thomasville school systems open for their first year of fully integrated education.

Brookwood School, Rose City Christian School in Thomasville, and Ravenwood Academy in Meigs open for their first year of private education.



1972

The Thomas County Museum of History opens at 725 N. Dawson Street.

1978

First Lady Rosalyn Carter is the Grand Marshall of the annual Rose Parade down Broad Street, accompanied by her husband, President Jimmy Carter.



1986

Earl Williams, Sr., becomes Thomasville's first elected African-American mayor.



1994

Camille Payne becomes Thomasville's first female mayor.

1996

Longtime Harper Elementary School principal Mary Grubbs carries the Olympic Torch down the Courthouse steps as it passes through Thomasville on the way to Atlanta.



2010

Following state budget cuts, the Thomas County Historical Society agrees to save Thomasville's only National Historic Landmark, the Lapham-Patterson House.



2013

The 1858 Thomas County Courthouse re-opens as its 1886 appearance is fully restored, operating as a center for county government business.