

TOURING TALLAHASSEE SITES

1. Visitor Information Center
2. New Capitol
3. Historic Capitol
4. Vietnam Memorial
5. Old City Waterworks
6. Korean Memorial
7. Union Bank
8. Leon County Courthouse
9. Tin Front Store
10. Exchange Bank Building
11. Lively's Corner
12. Adams Street Commons
13. Masonic Hall
14. Gallie's Alley
15. Langston's Fish Market
16. Gallie's Hall
17. City Hall
18. Olympic Courtyard
19. Supreme Court
20. Museum of Florida History

DOWNTOWN

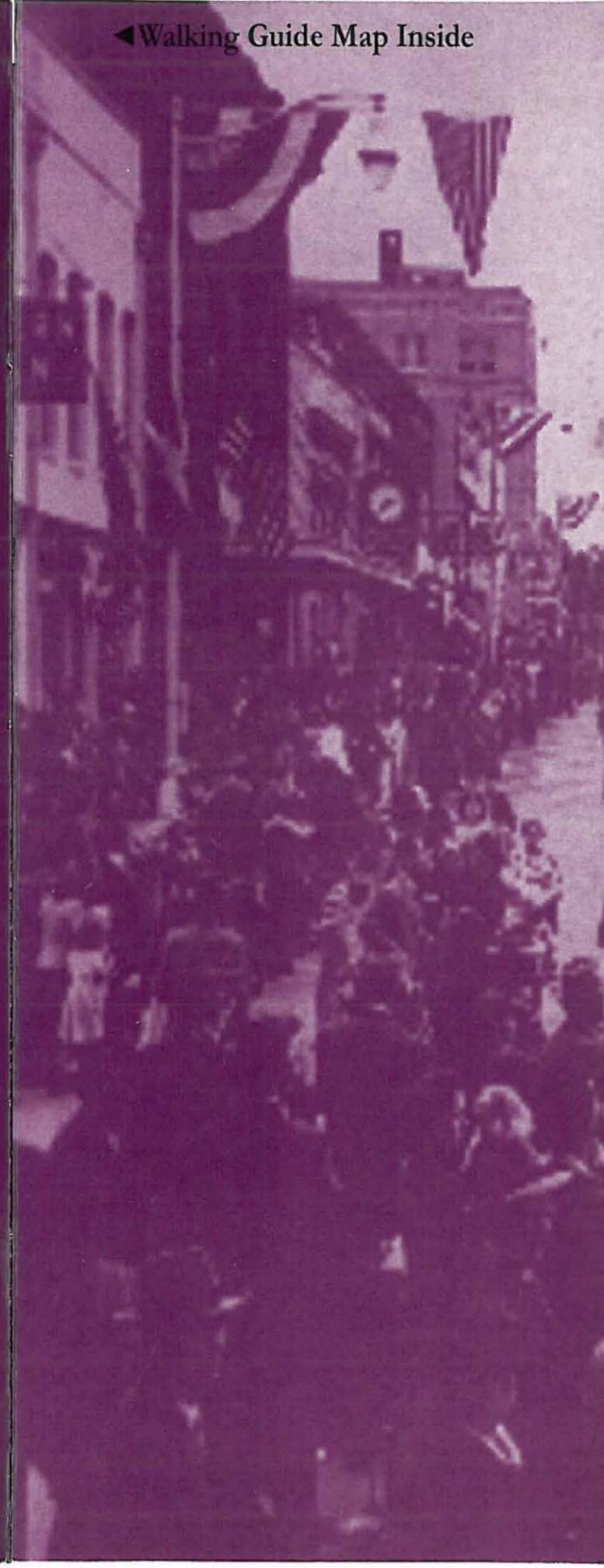
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|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 21. The Columns | 40. Genevieve Randolph Park |
| 22. Leon County Public Library | 41. Walker-Martin House |
| 23. St. James C.M.E. Church | 42. Lively House |
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| 31. Ponce de Leon Park | 50. 117-119 East Park Avenue |
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PARK AVENUE

51. **Brokaw-McDougall House**
52. Chesley House
53. Bowen House
54. Markham House
55. Shine House
56. Governor Bloxham House
57. Randall-Lewis House
58. Gibson Bungalow I & II
59. Mizell-McMullen House
60. Towle House
61. Rutgers House
62. West-Quarterman House
63. Bradford-Cobb House
64. Bradford-Wells House
65. Cotten House
66. Murrow House
67. Leon High School

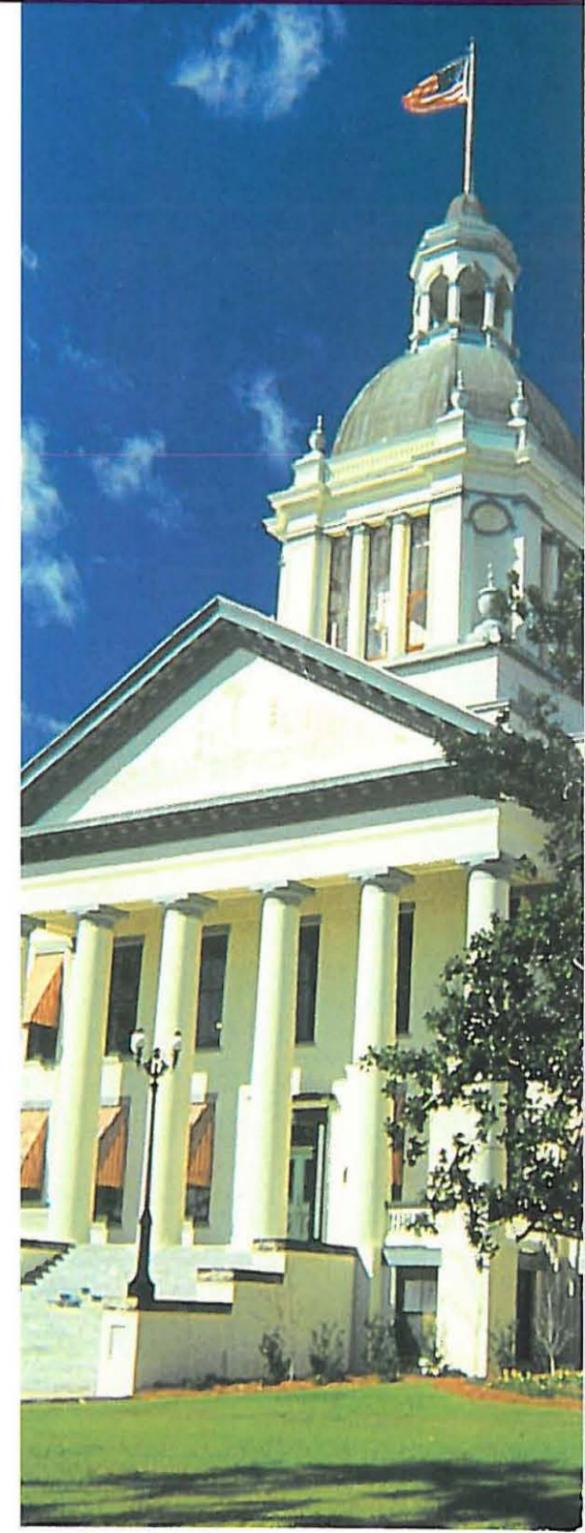
CALHOUN STREET

◀ Walking Guide Map Inside



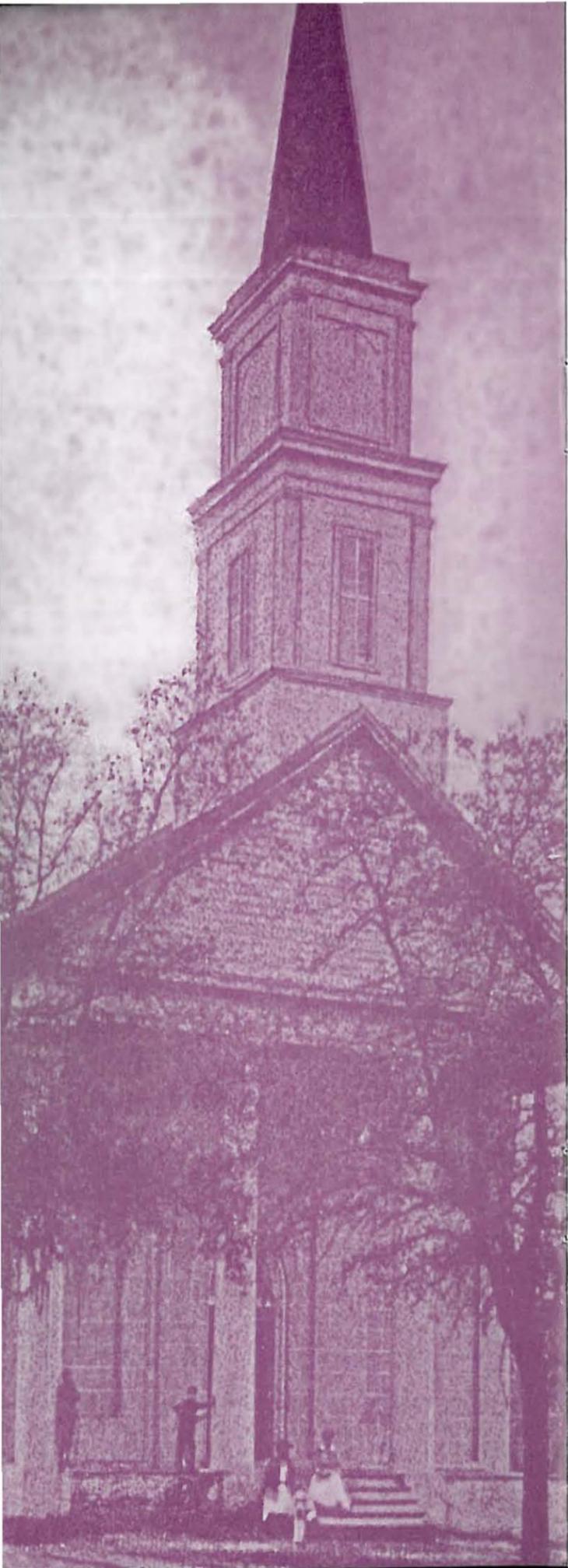
A WALKING GUIDE TO HISTORIC DOWNTOWN

Touring Tallahassee



Historic photographs are courtesy of the Florida Department of State Archives.

BOLD = OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



➤ **65. COTTEN HOUSE (BUILT 1904)**

400 North Meridian Street

This house was constructed for Margaret W. Cotten, daughter of one of Leon County's wealthiest antebellum planters. Later owners dramatically altered the house when converting it into apartments. This impressive vernacular building with two-story, wrap-around porch was beautifully restored in 1986 to its historic appearance.

(Cross Meridian Street heading northeast to next site.)

➤ **66. MURROW HOUSE (BUILT 1912)**

413 North Meridian Street

State geologist Dr. Elias Sellards and state auditor William S. Murrow were early owners of the house. Restored in 1988, the lattice-covered porches (now enclosed with glass) are notable features of this Colonial Revival style building with Craftsman influence.

(Cross Miccosukee Road heading south. Next site is located on the northeast corner of Tennessee and Meridian streets.)

➤ **67. LEON HIGH SCHOOL (BUILT 1936-37)**

550 East Tennessee Street

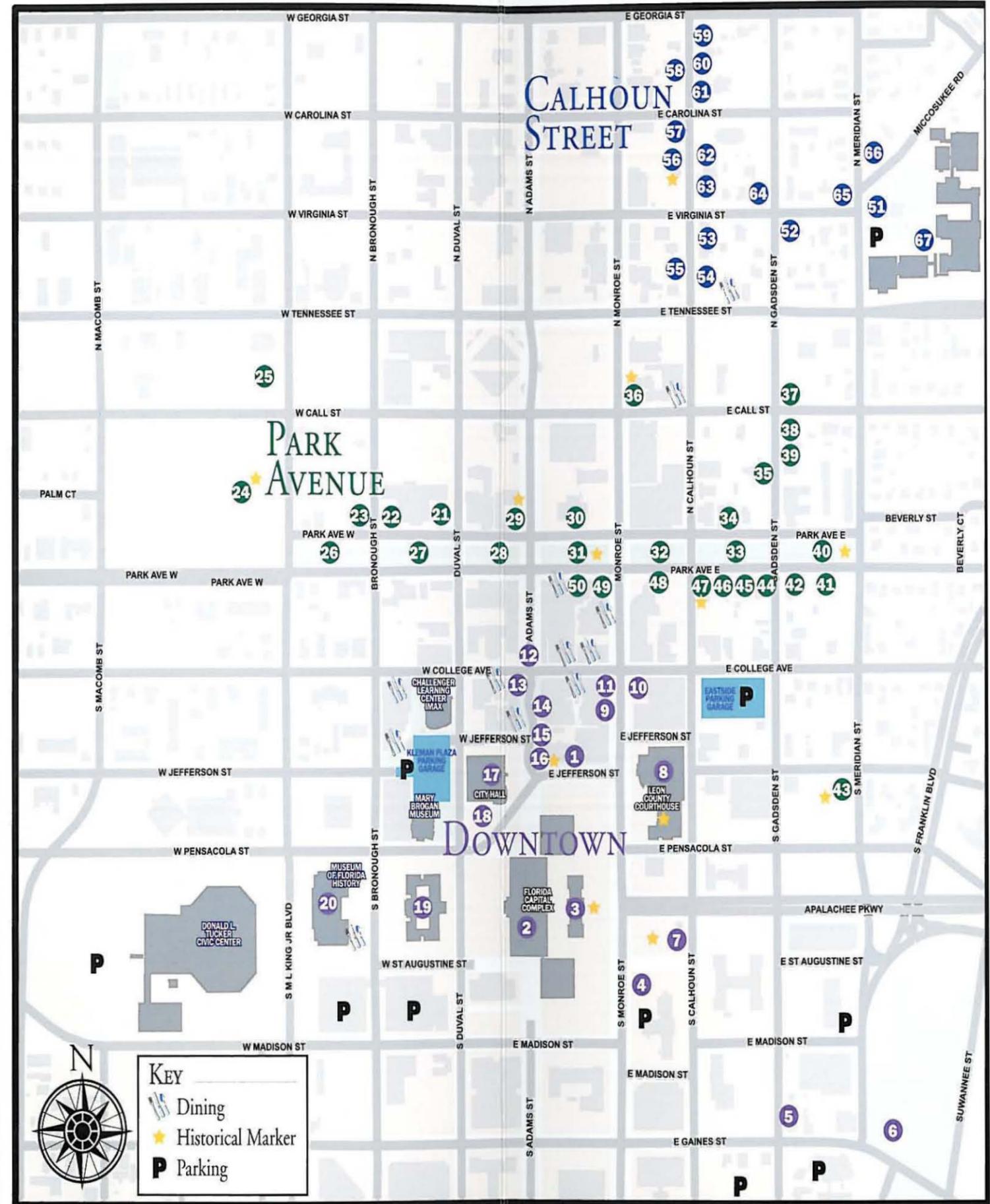


Criticized at the time for being too large, too far out of town and too expensive, Leon High School was constructed using Federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) funds. Designed by noted school architect, M. Leo Elliot of Tampa, it cost nearly \$500,000 during the Depression. It blends Italian Renaissance with Mediterranean Revival elements, including red barrel tile roofs, symmetrical composition and elaborate detailing. Leon High School was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1993.



We hope you have enjoyed your tour through a small portion of historic Tallahassee. For more information on local sites, contact the Tallahassee Area Convention and Visitors Bureau at (850) 606-2305 or (800) 628-2866. Please come back!

Note: Because of Tallahassee's many one-way streets, we do not recommend driving this tour.



➤60. TOWLE HOUSE (BUILT 1847)

517 N. Calhoun Street

Originally one story, this house was owned by Richard Towle, Tallahassee mayor and state comptroller. Wealthy planter Richard Whitaker expanded it to its present configuration in 1856-57. The house features Classical Revival elements including a symmetrical façade, two-story columned portico and entrance details. A Gothic influence appears in the decorative trim. Restored in 1976 by the Democratic Executive Committee and more recently in 2003, the house continues to be used as private offices.

(Continue south one door down.)

➤61. RUTGERS HOUSE (BUILT C.1848)

507 North Calhoun Street

Henry Rutgers was a prominent local banker who served as territorial treasurer and Tallahassee City Council member. In 1954, the Tallahassee Garden Club bought and restored the Rutgers house for use as its headquarters. Like the Randall-Lewis House, the building was constructed by George Proctor and shows a Georgian influence in its massing and window details.

(Continue south across Carolina Street to next site.)

➤62. WEST-QUARTERMAN HOUSE (BUILT 1927)

411 North Calhoun Street

The West-Quarterman house was built by Foster Gilmore, one of Tallahassee's leading contractors. It is a fine example of the Bungalow style, with its low pitched gable roof and overhanging eaves, exposed rafters and beams, and porches. The West-Quarterman House is finished in cedar shingles.

(Continue south to next site.)

➤63. BRADFORD-COBB HOUSE (BUILT 1878)

403 North Calhoun Street

Independently wealthy "Nannie" Bradford had this house built, reportedly overseeing every detail of its construction. From 1921 to 1974, the house was owned by Elizabeth Cobb, the educator for whom Cobb Middle School was later named. One of Tallahassee's few examples of Gothic Revival style, this building is made distinctive by its irregular, playful massing, ornate detailing and strong vertical orientation.

(Turn left and head east to next site.)

➤64. BRADFORD-WELLS HOUSE (BUILT 1900)

324 East Virginia Street

Many Tallahasseeans lived in sturdy vernacular houses such as the Bradford-Wells House, constructed for Mrs. Ida Brooks Bradford and her four children.

(Cross Gadsden Street and continue east one block.)



*Put on your walking shoes--
step back in time and see
Tallahassee's historic treasures:
Antebellum homes, picturesque
churches and Spanish-moss laden live oak
trees mingling in harmony with centers of
state politics, new office complexes and
specialty stores.*

Tallahassee owes its birth to politics but its early prosperity to agriculture, particularly the cotton plantations of rural Leon County. Its character is molded by its rolling hills, lush green trees and grid street system mandated in 1924 when Tallahassee was named capital of the new territory of Florida.

Downtown Tallahassee's architecture reflects generations of Southern building traditions, and as you stroll through the historic districts, listen to the stories the buildings tell – of life in territorial times, of the emancipation of slaves, and of Florida governors deciding new directions for the state. This map guides you through Tallahassee's history, providing truths and tidbits on three areas: Downtown, the Park Avenue National Register District and the Calhoun Street National Register Historic District.



Please remember that many of the buildings described are private property and are not open to the public. The owners will appreciate your courtesies.

A map of the sites is located on the inside back cover, and those that are open to the public are noted in bold print.

Note: Because of Tallahassee's many one-way streets, we do not recommend driving this tour.

DOWNTOWN TALLAHASSEE

(Tour Length: 1½ miles; Approximate Time: 2 Hrs.)



Taken in 1929 this aerial view of Downtown Tallahassee pictures the State Capitol building (at left), prior to the construction of the New Capitol.

Downtown Tallahassee was laid out with a vision. William DuVal, governor of the Florida Territory, planned this one-quarter square mile city as a grid of streets interspersed with public squares. The central square was the site of the Capitol, and four other squares provided open green space. A 200-foot dirt clearing surrounded the city to protect it from Native American attack. Stores and offices lined Monroe Street from Park Avenue to Pensacola Street. On Adams Street was Rascal Yard, the city market.

After a devastating fire in 1843, the city required that new buildings along Monroe Street be constructed of brick. Rebuilding was quick, and Downtown was transformed. Despite the numerous fires and economic recessions of the following decades, this area remained the city's commercial and civic center. After a period of decline, Downtown is now being revitalized. Stroll through the streets, and enjoy the fine architecture, restaurants and specialty shops of historic Tallahassee.

➤ **1. START YOUR TOUR** with a visit to the Tallahassee Visitor Information Center at 106 E. Jefferson Street, across the street from the Capitol.

(Cross Jefferson Street heading south.)

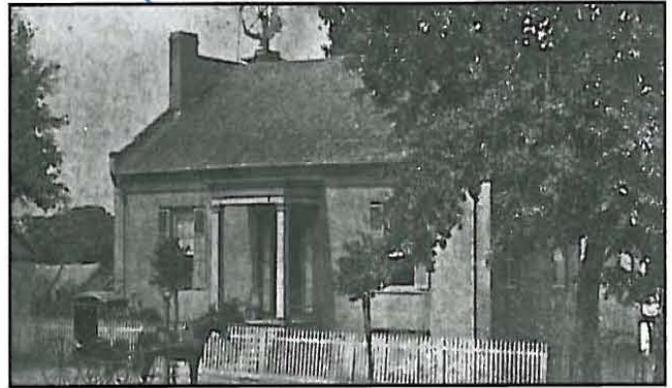
➤ **2. NEW CAPITOL (DEDICATED 1978)**

Open Mon-Fri 8-5

New York architect Edward Durrell Stone designed this contemporary landmark. The 307-foot tall New Capitol is an example of the "New Classicisms" movement of the mid-20th century. Enjoy a commanding view of the green vistas of Tallahassee from the 22nd floor observation room. During Legislative Session, watch the House and Senate in

➤ 57. RANDALL-LEWIS HOUSE (BUILT 1843-44)

424 N. Calhoun Street



No, it is not a historic satellite dish behind the Randall-Lewis House. It is a windmill used to generate running water that is shown on this 1870s image.

Many prominent citizens have lived here including Thomas Randall, a renowned territorial period judge; and George Lewis, banker and civic leader. Free black builder George Proctor constructed this landmark, which was restored in 1976. The low, horizontal massing of the house and its tripartite windows represent a Georgian influence, even though the Georgian style was long out of fashion by the 1840s. Interesting features include the stuccoed exterior, scored to look like stone. Legend says this was the first house in Tallahassee to have indoor plumbing.

(Continue north to next site.)

➤ 58. GIBSON BUNGALOW I AND II (BUILT 1925-26)

512 and 518 N. Calhoun Street

These two bungalows were built for developer Ralph H. Gibson with lumber from his mill. In the 1920s, Gibson also developed the Country Club Estates neighborhood, located just southeast of downtown. The area is now referred to as the Myers Park Residential Historic District, Tallahassee's first locally designated residential historic district.

(Cross Calhoun Street to next site, which is located on the southeast corner of Georgia and Calhoun streets.)

➤ 59. MIZELL-McMULLEN HOUSE (BUILT 1907)

525 N. Calhoun Street

Probably built as rental property, this house was bought by businessman C.L. Mizell, and then owned by the McMullen family. The house was subdivided into apartments in the 1940's, but was beautifully restored in 1984.

(Head south along Calhoun to next site.)

➤ 54. MARKHAM HOUSE (BUILT 1908)

317 N. Calhoun Street

The Markham House reflects the Colonial Revival style that was popular around the turn of the century. Note the simple details of this building compared to the Bowen House to the north.

(Cross Calhoun Street for next four sites.)

➤ 55. SHINE HOUSE (BUILT 1906)

318 N. Calhoun Street

Also of the Colonial Revival style, the Shine House was built for local dentist R.A. Shine, Jr., grandson of the builder of the 1845 Old Capitol.

(Head north to next site crossing Virginia Street.)

➤ 56. GOVERNOR BLOXHAM HOUSE (BUILT 1844)

410 N. Calhoun Street



Historic photographs of the Federal style Bloxham House, such as this one from the turn of the century, assisted with the restoration of the building.

Constructed in 1844 by builder Captain R.A. Shine, the Governor Bloxham House is significant as Tallahassee's only remaining residential example of Federal architecture. Notice the delicate ornamentation and vertical emphasis of the building. Governor William Bloxham purchased the house to use as his town residence during his two terms as governor (1881-1885 and 1897-1901). Between terms, he leased the mansion to Governor Edward A. Perry because there was no official governor's mansion at the time. Bloxham was a strong leader, especially in the areas of finance and education. He was instrumental in the 1885 founding of Florida Normal and Agricultural College for Colored Students – now Florida A&M University.

(Continue north to next site.)

action from viewing galleries on the fifth floor. (Self-guided brochures available at both the Tallahassee Visitor Center and the Florida Welcome Center inside the New Capitol building.)

(Take the east exit and cross the courtyard to access the Historic Capitol.)

➤ 3. HISTORIC CAPITOL OF FLORIDA (BUILT 1845, REMODELED 1902)

S. Monroe Street at Apalachee Parkway

Open Mon-Fri 9-4:30; Sat 10-4:30; Sun noon-4:30; closed Thanksgiving and Christmas days



After being threatened with demolition, the Old Capitol was restored to its 1902 appearance.

Tallahassee's most dominant historic symbol, the Historic Capitol, is a monument to the rich history of Florida. Designed by architect Cary Butt of Mobile, AL, this simple, yet elegant, 1845 Greek Revival building served the state's needs until 1902 when Frank Pierce Milburn of Columbia, SC, designed the expanded Capitol adding the majestic dome, more monumental porticoes, the north and south wings, and steam heating throughout. When the Old Capitol was threatened with demolition in the 1970s, Floridians battled to preserve the historic landmark. Finally, in 1978 the legislature voted to restore the building to its 1902 configuration. Today, tour the restored legislative chambers, the office of the governor, the Florida Supreme Court and exhibits on Florida's political history. (Self-guided map is available at information desk.)

(Exit onto the front lawn of the Historic Capitol and cross Monroe Street at the crosswalk to get to the next site. Look for the large American flag.)

➤4. FLORIDA'S VIETNAM ERA VETERANS' MEMORIAL (DEDICATED 1985)

Monroe Street south of Apalachee Parkway

This black marble memorial is inscribed with the names of Florida's 1,942 known casualties, as well as the 83 that are still listed as Missing in Action from the Vietnam Conflict.

(Continue south on Monroe Street to Gaines Street and turn left.)

➤5. OLD CITY WATERWORKS (BUILT 1909)

Northeast corner of Gaines and Gadsden streets

This site is a rare surviving example of masonry vernacular industrial/public utility architecture that housed the capital city's first public water supply system and equipment of the "modern" industrial era. In the early years of Tallahassee's existence, water was supplied by springs; however, by the late 1800s, a municipal water supply was needed for health reasons and firefighting purposes. Tallahassee's first public water supply system was established on this site in 1890. The current building was built in 1904 and expanded in the 1920s and 1930s. The plant closed in 1950 in favor of more modern facilities elsewhere.

(Continue east on Gaines Street to next site.)

➤6. FLORIDA KOREAN WAR VETERANS' MEMORIAL (DEDICATED 1999)

Cascades Park, northwest corner of Gaines and Suwannee streets

The large sculpture of a broken circle found at the center of the memorial plaza is meant to represent the "Circle of Life." The portion that is broken out of the top of the sculpture is embedded in the ground and bears the names of those killed in action. Other elements include a map marking the locations of major battles and a three-dimensional timeline chronicling the war's major events.

(Return to Gaines Street and head west to Calhoun Street. Follow Calhoun Street north to next site.)

➤7. UNION BANK (BUILT 1841)

Southwest corner Apalachee Parkway and Calhoun Street

Open Tues-Fri 10-1; Sat-Sun 1-4

➤51. BROKAW-McDOUGALL (BUILT 1856)

329 North Meridian Street

Open Mon-Fri 9-5

With its symmetrical façade, columned front porch and elegant entrance, the Brokaw-McDougall House is one of the outstanding landmarks in the district. The decorative brackets and cupola crowning the roof reveal an Italianate influence. The formal gardens, featuring 150-year-old live oaks and some of the community's oldest camellias, were laid out at the time the house was built. Perez Brokaw came to Tallahassee from New Jersey in 1840 and prospered in the livery stable business. His daughter, Phoebe, married Alexander McDougall. The public may tour this gracious old residence free of charge during the work week.

(Cross Meridian Street heading west along Virginia Street.)

➤52. CHESLEY HOUSE (BUILT 1895)

401 E. Virginia Street

Yale-educated engineer Edwin Chesley designed this 1895 house. According to local tradition, the corner entrance was designed so that the house could have either a Virginia Street or Gadsden Street address, whichever was more impressive. Virginia Street won.

(Continue west one block.)

➤53. BOWEN HOUSE (BUILT 1841)

325 N. Calhoun Street



In the 1940s, the City proposed widening Calhoun Street, cutting down the live oak trees and demolishing the historic houses. Calhoun Street resident Miss Claire Bowen and others fought to preserve this distinctive slice of Tallahassee history.

Designed by Architect T. Bryant of Boston, MA, the Bowen House is the oldest remaining building in the Calhoun Street District. Classical Revival features include the symmetrical façade and Doric-columned gallery. The Bowen family purchased the house in 1885, and in the 1940s, former resident, Miss Claire Bowen, led the successful campaign to save the gracious Calhoun Street oak trees from removal for a road-widening project.

(Head south along Calhoun Street to next site.)

CALHOUN ST HISTORIC DISTRICT

(Tour Length: ¾ mile; Approximate Time: 1 Hr.)



The Italianate-inspired Brokaw-McDougall House was on the fringe of town when first constructed.

Once known as “Gold Dust Street,” a name which reflects the standing of its many wealthy residents, the Calhoun Street District boasts one of Tallahassee’s oldest remaining concentration of historic houses. Antebellum residences mingle with quaint cottages and bungalows built in the early 1900s.

The Calhoun Street District was laid out in 1827 as the northernmost addition to the city, and by the 1840s, had become the home of attorneys, bankers, planters and leaders in local and state government. Following the abolishment of slavery, the Southern economy collapsed, but a revived local economy led the Calhoun Street District into a second boom between 1879 and 1912. New, often smaller homes were built in Tallahassee’s version of the latest styles. It was during this period that Calhoun Street earned its nickname, “Gold Dust Street.”

The third period of major change in the district took place during the 1940s. Tallahassee faced a major housing shortage after World War II, and some homes were divided into apartments. Calhoun Street declined, and Tallahasseeans began efforts to revitalize the area. The district was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. Today, most of the building have been rehabilitated and converted into offices.



One of the few remaining examples of Federal commercial architecture in Florida, the Union Bank features blue stucco walls, scored to imitate stone.

The Union Bank was one of the state’s earliest banking institutions, serving area planters. After the Civil War, it became the Freedman’s Saving Bank for freed slaves. Threatened with demolition in 1971, it was relocated from Adams Street to its present location. Currently, the structure is a satellite museum of the Carrie Meek-James N. Eaton, Sr. Southeastern Regional Black Archives Center and Museum, Florida A&M University.

(Exit to Apalachee Parkway. Cross at the crosswalk and head north along Monroe Street.)

➤8. LEON COUNTY COURTHOUSE (DEDICATED 1989)

300 South Monroe Street

Open Mon-Fri 8-5

The curved entranceway of the Leon County Courthouse architecturally and symbolically complements the Old Capitol and City Hall. It is situated on Washington Square, one of the five public squares designated in the original plan of Tallahassee.

(Continue north to next site, located on the west side of Monroe Street across from the Suntrust Bank building.)

➤9. TIN FRONT STORE (BUILT 1890)

214 South Monroe Street

The 10.5’ wide building with second story bay window was constructed in an alley between two existing buildings. With its tin and glass front, it was described when built as “the most artistic little parlor store in Florida.” Over the years, it has housed millinery (hats), jewelry and clothing stores, as well as professional offices.

(Continue north to the corner of Monroe and College.)

➤ **10. EXCHANGED BANK BUILDING**
(BUILT 1927)

201 South Monroe Street

Elaborate terra cotta and cast stone trim with Neo-Egyptian and Greek designs make this 1927 “skyscraper” a treasure. It was originally occupied by the Exchanged Bank which failed during the Depression. The Bank president committed suicide so his insurance would pay the bank’s stockholders.

(Cross Monroe Street, head west on College Avenue.)

➤ **11. LIVELY’S CORNER (BUILT 1875)**

200 South Monroe Street

A druggist by profession, Matthew Lively constructed this showplace. Perhaps its most popular tenant was the Leon Bar, which operated from 1892 until 1904 when the city council passed an ordinance prohibiting the sale of alcohol in the city.

(Continue west on College Avenue to Adams Street.)

➤ **12. ADAMS STREET COMMONS**
(COMPLETED 1978)

Adams between Call and Jefferson streets

The small scale and Southern charm of these buildings reflect Tallahassee’s rich history. Today, restaurants, offices and shops line Adams Street, which was landscaped and serpented in the 1970s.

(Turn left onto Adams Street heading south. Sites are located on both sides of Adams Street.)

➤ **13. MASONIC HALL (BUILT 1926)**

202 South Adams Street

Originally built to house the Masons and the independent order of Odd Fellows, the Masonic Hall is a fine Neo-Classical building. It now houses the Governor’s Club, a private club of which the governor is an honorary member.

➤ **14. GALLIE’S ALLEY**

A series of alleys run behind downtown’s buildings providing access to rear entrances.

➤ **15. LANGSTON’S FISH MARKET**
(BUILT 1890-95)

217 South Adams Street

For much of this century, this Renaissance Revival building served as a meat and seafood market. It is now an office.

➤ **48. DAVID S. WALKER LIBRARY**
(BUILT 1903)

209 E. Park Avenue

Open Mon-Fri 9-5

The Walker Library was a subscription library, charging patrons 25 cents per month for the privilege of borrowing books. David S. Walker, governor of Florida during Reconstruction, was instrumental in its founding. The interior still retains its historic woodwork and balcony. Now it is home to Springtime Tallahassee, Inc., a private group that organizes the city’s major spring festival.

(Next site is just south of Park Avenue facing Monroe Street.)

➤ **49. DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS**

102-106 S. Monroe Street



Downtown Tallahassee had brick streets into the 1950s.

New brick commercial buildings rose from the ashes of the original structures, which were devastated by the fire of 1843. At the turn of the century, these buildings were remodeled to their present appearance. (The northernmost building was remodeled in 1992.) Over the years, they have housed clothing, drug, grocery and jewelry stores, as well as offices for dentists, doctors, lawyers and real estate agents.

(Return to Park Avenue heading west.)

➤ **50. 117-119 EAST PARK AVENUE (BUILT 1893)**

Contractor A. Josh Fish built this Renaissance Revival-style structure. The building has been occupied by cigar manufacturers, jewelers, milliners, office workers and shoemakers.



To link up with the Calhoun Street Historic District tour, walk north along Monroe Street, crossing at Call Street. Head east along Call Street to Meridian Street. Walk north along Meridian Street, crossing Tennessee Street, and begin the Calhoun Street Historic District tour at the Brokaw-McDougall House.

➤46. WOOD HOUSE (BUILT 1904)

311 E. Park Avenue

The Henry O. Wood family of Ohio built this home in 1904 as their winter residence. Wood was a lumber merchant, which accounts for the fine detailing found within the house. The first Presbyterian Church acquired the building in 1924 and used it as a parsonage. It was later converted to offices.

➤47. KNOTT HOUSE MUSEUM (BUILT 1843, REMODELED 1928)

301 E. Park Avenue

Guided tours are available on the hour: Wed-Fri 1-3 and Sat 10-3



Known as “The House that Rhymes,” the Knott House is open to the public as a museum interpreting Tallahassee life in the 1920s and 1930s.

George Proctor may also have constructed the historic Knott House. After the Civil War, Union General Edward McCook and his troops occupied the house. McCook read the Emancipation Proclamation from its front steps on May 20, 1865, freeing the slaves of north Florida. To this day, May 20th is still celebrated as Emancipation Day. Decades later, in 1928, William Valentine Knott acquired the house. He had an active political career, serving as state treasurer, comptroller and auditor, as well as running unsuccessfully for governor. His wife, Luella, was an accomplished musician, poet and leader in the Temperance movement. The Knotts added the Colonial Revival portico and side privacy porch. Luella lovingly decorated the interior with her favorite Victorian furnishings, and wrote and tied poems to many pieces of furniture earning the home the nickname, “The House that Rhymes.”

(Continue west, crossing Calhoun Street.)

➤16. GALLIE’S HALL (BUILT 1873-74)

225 South Adams Street



For many years, Gallie’s Opera House was the cultural and social center for the community.

Built by grocer Alexander Gallie, Gallie’s Hall was distinguished by its two-story iron gallery. Performances included church benefit concerts, minstrel shows and lectures. As one resident noted, there was “...no place to go but the Church and Gallie’s theater...” The building was rehabilitated as offices in 1980-1981, serving as a catalyst for the revitalization of downtown.

(Cross Adams Street at crosswalk heading west along Jefferson Street.)

➤17. TALLAHASSEE CITY HALL (BUILT 1982-83)

300 South Adams Street

Open Mon-Fri 8-5

City Hall is architecturally distinctive, providing a transition between the white buildings of state government and the historic, low scale brick buildings downtown. The city showcases rotating art exhibits on the second floor.

➤18. OLYMPIC COURTYARD (DEDICATED 1993)

City Hall, south courtyard

Dedicated in 1993, the Olympic Courtyard honors the British Olympic Team, which selected Tallahassee as its official training site preceding the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta, GA.

(Exit via south stairway, cross Pensacola and Duval, and head south on Duval.)

➤19. SUPREME COURT BUILDING (BUILT 1947-48)

500 South Duval Street
Open Mon-Fri 8-5



Florida's Supreme Court Building was dedicated in December 1948.

This elegant Neo-Classical building with Doric columns was designed by James Gamble Rogers II of Yonge and Hart of Pensacola. Significant interior features include the classical rotunda and the seal of the Supreme Court. Art exhibits are featured on the second floor. Guided and self-guided tours, as well as scheduled educational programs are available.

(Return to Pensacola Street, head west to Bronough and cross arriving at next site.)

➤20. MUSEUM OF FLORIDA HISTORY (BUILT 1976)

500 South Bronough Street

Open Mon-Fri 9-4:30; Sat 10-4:30; Sun and state holidays
noon-4:30; closed Thanksgiving and Christmas days

Travel into Florida's past at the Museum of Florida History. Housed in the R.A. Gray Building, the Museum brings history to life through fascinating exhibits that explore Florida's people and events from prehistoric to modern times. Also on the grounds are Florida's World War II Memorial and "American Royalty" sculptures depicting the evolution of Native Americans in Florida. Named for the former Secretary of State R.A. "Cap'n Bob" Gray, the building also houses the State Archives and State Library; the Office of the Secretary of State; the divisions of Cultural Resources, Historical Resources and Elections; and the Florida Master Site File.



To link up with the Park Avenue Historic District tour, walk east on Pensacola to Duval and turn left heading north. Follow Duval Street to the north side of Park Avenue. On the northwest corner is "The Columns" building, the first stop on the Park Avenue tour.

his retirement in 1926. He was a noted African-American leader, educator and businessman, and he built his home in what would become one of Tallahassee's black middle class neighborhoods. Today, the house is owned by the John G. Riley Center/Museum of African American History and Culture.

(Return to Park Avenue. Next four sites are located on Park Avenue between Gadsden and Calhoun streets.)

➤44. CHITTENDEN HOUSE (BUILT 1849)

323 East Park Avenue



Before its remodeling in 1904, the Colonial revival Chittenden House was a one-story building.

Local contractor Captain R.A. Shine, who helped construct the 1845 Capitol, used materials from the 1829 Capitol in building this house. Acquiring the building in 1894, Simon D. Chittenden spent 10 years remodeling it, adding the second story and Colonial Revival detailing. Later it served as a hospital during World War I and a boarding house for state legislators. It was Mrs. Chittenden who petitioned to have the street renamed from McCarthy Street to Park Avenue in the early 1900s. Currently, the structure houses the Inn at Park Avenue, operated by the Chittenden family.

➤45. MURPHY HOUSE (BUILT 1838)

317 East Park Avenue

One of the oldest buildings on Park Avenue, the Murphy House may have been constructed by George Proctor, a free black builder. In the 1850s, Arvah Hopkins purchased the house, adding the west wing and Gothic Revival detailing. Later, local physician George Betton kept his office in the basement. Federal troops occupied the house during Reconstruction. The Murphy family has owned the house since 1928.

➤41. WALKER-MARTIN HOUSE
(BUILT C. 1896)

413 East Park Avenue

With its turret and decorative shingles, the Walker-Martin House reflects a Queen Anne influence. The house was built for Mrs. Newell E. Walker, whose husband, Mr. S. May Walker, operated a popular local clothing store.

(Head west one door down.)

➤42. LIVELY HOUSE (BUILT 1913)

403 East Park Avenue

Mr. Lively was a prominent civic leader who operated the Middle Florida Ice Company and was instrumental in founding Lively Technical School. Tradition has it that early classes were taught in the basement of this Colonial Revival home.

At this point you may take a side trip to the home of John G. Riley, an African-American, born into slavery who became a respected educator and civic leader. Follow Gadsden Street two blocks south to Jefferson Street and turn left. Follow Jefferson Street one block east. The John G. Riley House is located on the south side of Jefferson Street.

➤43. JOHN G. RILEY HOUSE
(BUILT C. 1895)

419 East Jefferson Street

Open Mon-Fri 10-4 and by appointment; House tours are available for a fee of \$2/Adults and \$1/Children



Pictured here with students in front of Lincoln School, John Gilmore Riley lived in a two-story vernacular Victorian house.

According to tradition, Riley was born in slave quarters behind the Knott House on Park Avenue in 1857. In 1881 he was hired to teach at the Lincoln Academy (later Lincoln Graded and High School) in Tallahassee. A little more than a decade later, he became principal, a position he held until

PARK AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT

(Tour Length: 1 ½ miles; Approximate Time: 2 hrs.)



The historic Lewis Park, shown here in 1909, was one of the first established along Park Avenue.

Historic homes and churches, civic buildings, moss-laden live oak trees and colorful plantings line seven beautiful linear parks creating the spine of the Park Avenue Historic District. Park Avenue marked the northern boundary of the original city, and began as a 200-foot-wide open dirt space cleared in the 1820s to help protect the city from Native American attack. Some of Tallahassee's oldest homes, dating back to territorial times, were built along the eastern parks. Churches and government buildings clustered along the western parks.

In the late 1800s, the community began to landscape the dirt clearing turning it into a series of parks. Its name was changed from McCarty Street to Park Avenue at the turn of the century in order to provide a more impressive return address for residents' wedding invitations!

Park Avenue, a pleasing blend of old and new, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. Stroll through the parks and enjoy Tallahassee's history and natural beauty.



The gracious Columns is one of Florida's finest remaining examples of Greek Revival architecture.

➤21. THE COLUMNS (BUILT C. 1830)

100 North Duval Street

Mon-Fri 8-5

This impressive structure with a two-story pedimented entrance portico was built by William "Money" Williams. Despite his wealth, Banker Williams did not bake a nickel into every brick as rumored. Threatened with demolition in 1971, it was relocated to its present location across Park Avenue and was restored as a lasting symbol of Tallahassee's rich heritage. The structure currently houses the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce.

(Walk west along Park Avenue.)

➤22. LEROY C. COLLINS LEON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY (DEDICATED 1991)

200 West Park Avenue

Mon-Thurs 10-9; Fri 10-6; Sat 10-5; Sun 1-6

The Leon County Public Library building was named in honor of former Governor LeRoy C. Collins, a leader in Civil Rights efforts in Florida. The Library contains a display that highlights the career of this fine statesman.

(Continue west crossing Bronough Street. Cross with caution as there is no designated crosswalk.)

➤23. ST. JAMES C.M.E. CHURCH (BUILT 1899)

106 North Bronough Street

Under the auspices of the white Methodist Episcopal Church, African-American brethren formed St. James Colored (later Christian) Methodist Episcopal Church in 1868. Constructed in 1899, this building was extensively remodeled in 1948, and today houses offices. Pointed lancet windows reflect the building's Gothic Revival influence.

(Continue west crossing MLK Boulevard. Cross with caution as there is no designated crosswalk.)

➤24. OLD CITY CEMETERY (ESTABLISHED 1829)

Martin Luther King Boulevard at Park Avenue

Open Sunrise to Sunset

Established by Florida's territorial legislator, Old City Cemetery was originally outside the city limits. Those buried here include governors, slaves, yellow fever epidemic victims, and Civil War casualties. A reflection of its time, Old City Cemetery was segregated. African-Americans, including Union casualties from the Battle of Natural Bridge, were interred in the western half; white burials were in the eastern half. Cemetery self-guided walking tour brochure is available inside.



Members of the Munroe family stand in front of their home around 1910.

Built for Maria Therese Meginniss Monroe, the original style of the house was dramatically altered in the 1930s when it was converted into apartments. Today, the building is owned by the LeMoyné Center for the Visual Arts. In the late 1990s, the Munroe House underwent sensitive historic preservation rehabilitation restoring its original Queen Ann and Colonial Revival architectural detailing.

(Continue south one door down.)

➤39. MEGINNISS-MUNROE HOUSE (BUILT 1854)

125 North Gadsden Street, current location of LeMoyné Center for the Visual Arts

Open Tues-Sat 10-5; Sun 2-5; closed Mon

Constructed by a prominent merchant as a wedding present for his bride, the house served as a hospital for wounded soldiers after the Civil War Battle of Olustee near Lake City. In 1903 it was rolled on logs from its original lot to the north so that the Munroe house could be built. Early in this century, Miss Jessie Meginniss, active in local real estate and development, made this family house her home. Today, the building houses the LeMoyné art galleries and administrative offices, and the Helen Lind Sculpture Garden, which is located at the rear of the building.

(Return to Park Avenue, heading west to next site.)

➤40. GENEVIEVE RANDOLPH PARK (ESTABLISHED 1890s)

This park honors the woman who led the Tallahassee Improvement Authority to establish and plant the Park Avenue Chain of Parks. On the eastern end of the park, the Peace Rose Garden, dedicated in April of 1995, commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Peace Rose and the end of World War II.

(Cross Park Avenue heading south to reach next site. Take caution when crossing as there is no designated crosswalk.)

of Tallahassee Historic Preservation Grant, the Lewis House was sensitively rehabilitated and converted into offices. A replica of the original 1800s carriage house, constructed in 1995 and used as meeting space, is located on the grounds and is visible from Gadsden Street.

(Head north along Gadsden Street to next site.)

➤ 35. PERKINS HOUSE (BUILT 1903-04)

118 North Gadsden Street

With its Palladian window, roof balustrade and strong Colonial Revival influence, the Perkins House is one of the city's most architecturally distinctive buildings. Both the porte-cochere and veranda are later changes to the building that reflect the Prairie style. George Betton Perkins was an attorney active in real estate development.

(Continue north to Call Street, then turn left heading west to next site.)

➤ 36. ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL (BUILT 1880)

211 North Monroe Street

Built in 1880 after a fire destroyed the first structure, St. John's contains a 12-bell carillon, one of the few in the country still rung by hand. Twenty original windows, designed in the Gothic style, adorn the recently restored church. (Self-guided walking tour available at church parish office.)

(Return to Call Street and head east to next site, located on the northeast corner of Call and Gadsden streets.)

➤ 37. THE WHITEHOUSE (BUILT 1880)

203 North Gadsden Street

William R. Wilson of Wilson's Department Store of Tallahassee built this home. The building was converted into apartments in the 1940s and named the Whitehouse. Heavy brackets at the roofline are an original Italianate feature, and distinctive stained-glass adorns the entry doors. Today, the Whitehouse is used as office space, and the original 1800s carriage house underwent sensitive restoration in the 1990s to be used as commercial space.

(Head south on Gadsden Street crossing Call Street.)

➤ 38. MUNROE HOUSE (BUILT 1903-04)

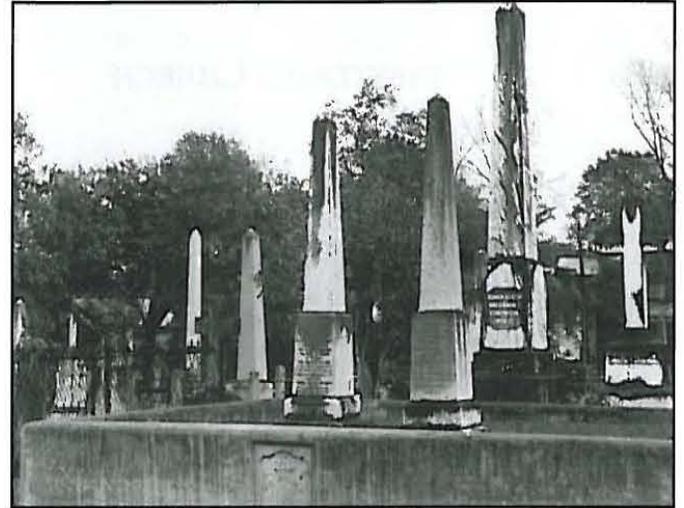
133 North Gadsden Street, current location of LeMoyné Center for the Visual Arts Gift and Art Supply Store

Open Tues-Sat 10-5; Sun 1-5; closed Mon

(The next site is located across Call Street. NOTE: St. John's Episcopal Cemetery is private property and is not open to the public.)

➤ 25. ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CEMETERY (ESTABLISHED 1840)

Call Street and Martin Luther King Boulevard



St. John's Episcopal Church Cemetery houses the Murat graves.

St. John's Episcopal Church bought this land to be the final resting place for members of its congregation, with original plots selling for \$150. Governor William D. Bloxham and David S. Walker are interred here, as are Prince and Princess Murat. Known for his lavish entertaining at his area plantation, Achille Murat was the Prince of Naples and a nephew of Napoleon Bonaparte. His wife, Catherine Dangerfield Willis, was a great-grandniece of George Washington.

(Return to Park Avenue and walk east along the path through the following three parks. Please use caution when crossing where there are no designated crosswalks.)

➤ 26. CHEROKEE PARK (ESTABLISHED 1890s)

Named for the variety of roses found in the central planting bed, this park is one of seven along Park Avenue and one of five planted by the Tallahassee Improvement Association at the turn of the century.

➤ 27. E. PECK GREENE PARK (ESTABLISHED 1890s)

The gracious live oak trees, for which Tallahassee is famous, adorn many of the Park Avenue parks. This park was named for E. Peck Greene, a long-time leader in city beautification. The gazebo was donated to the community in 1989 by the Deeb Family.

➤ 28. McCARTY PARK (ESTABLISHED 1890s)

December through February, enjoy the profusion of flowering camellias. The park includes a special memorial dedicated to Red Barber, a beloved Tallahassee resident best known as broadcaster for the Brooklyn Dodgers and National Public Radio commentator.

(The next site is located on the northwest corner of Park Avenue and Adams Street.)

➤ 29. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (BUILT 1835-38)

102 North Adams Street



First Presbyterian Church (background) is Tallahassee's oldest house of worship.

Construction of this Greek Revival landmark was financed by congregation members who purchased pews. Typical of the period, African-American slaves were allowed membership, but sat in the north gallery apart from the rest of the congregation. Tradition has it that, at times during the Seminole Wars of the 1830s-40s, early settlers barricaded themselves in this historic church for protection. Others say that during the Civil War, the congregation offered the steeple bell to the Confederacy to make cannon balls, but their offer was declined.

(Continue east along Park Avenue.)

➤ 30. OLD U.S. COURTHOUSE (BUILT 1936)

110 West Park Avenue

Open Mon-Fri 9-4; closed on federal holidays

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) built this courthouse during the Depression to house the U.S. Post Office and Courthouse. This monumental structure demonstrates a strong Neo-Classical influence with its columns and cupola. Today, the structure houses the United States Bankruptcy Court, North District of Florida.

(Next site is located directly across the street.)

➤ 31. PONCE DE LEON PARK (ESTABLISHED 1880s)

Park Avenue's first park, Ponce de Leon Park, was established in the 1880s by the owners of The Leon, an elaborate Victorian hotel once located where the U.S. Courthouse now stands. Today, stroll through the canopy of live oak trees, or relax and enjoy solitude by the fountain.

(Continue east crossing Monroe Street.)

➤ 32. BLOXHAM PARK (ESTABLISHED 1890s)

The downtown Chain of Parks continues east of Monroe Street with a fifth outdoor space, named for Tallahasseean William D. Bloxham. He served two terms as Florida governor in the late-19th century. See his home on the Calhoun Street Historic District tour.

(Continue east crossing Calhoun Street.)

➤ 33. LEWIS PARK (ESTABLISHED 1885)

William Cheever Lewis, son of B.C. Lewis, planned and paid for the development of Lewis Park in 1885 – the second of the Chain of Parks to be developed. It set the standard for improvements to other public spaces along the avenue.

(Across the street to the north is the family home.)

➤ 34. B.C. LEWIS HOUSE (BUILT C. 1845-50)

316 East Park Avenue



Shown here in 1922, the historic Lewis House had landscaped gardens with a pergola.

Early owner B.C. Lewis was a pharmacist, who founded what became Lewis State Bank, one of the longest operating financial institutions in the state. With assistance from a City