

# **Walking Guide**

## **Thomasville, NC**

### **Sites, Attractions & Historic Places**



*Move More Thomasville promotes improved health through exercise. This guide provides residents and visitors with information on walking tours, and other local attractions and historic sites.*

***Thomasville Parks & Recreation***  
***(336) 475-4280***

*[www.ci.thomasville.nc.us/  
rec\\_move\\_more\\_thomasville.aspx](http://www.ci.thomasville.nc.us/rec_move_more_thomasville.aspx)*

***Thomasville Tourism Commission***  
***(336) 472-4422 or 1-800-611-9907***  
***[www.thomasvilletourism.com](http://www.thomasvilletourism.com)***

**Move More Thomasville** is an exercise incentive program for the Thomasville community. Move More Thomasville is open to anyone regardless of their physical activity level. The program is self-monitored which means that you exercise at your convenience. To participate in Move More Thomasville, all you need to do is begin exercising. You may walk, run, dance, or do any activity that increases your heart rate and you consider moderate to vigorous activity. Complete a Move More Thomasville log sheet, which may be picked up and dropped off at the Thomasville Parks and Recreation office. Simply log 15 hours of physical activity a month to be eligible for the monthly prize drawing. Every month, \$100 will be awarded to an eligible participant.

**A note of caution - Before beginning any exercise program, it is important to check with your physician.**

Move More Thomasville is sponsored by Thomasville Medical Center, Thomasville Parks and Recreation, and Thomasville City Schools.

### **Important Healthcare Related Phone Numbers**

Thomasville Medical Center 472-2000

Davidson County Health Department 474-2780

Davidson County of Social Services 474-2760

Salvation Army of Davidson County 472-7800

Fairgrove Family Resource Center 472-7217

Cooperative Community Ministries 476-1842

Davidson Medical Ministries Clinic 243-7475

Poison Control Center 1-800-222-1222

Piedmont Behavioral Healthcare 1-800-939-5911

On the Cover: (Clockwise from top left)– Peacock House (1909) ; The World’s Largest Chair (1951) as pictured in the spring; The old depot (circa 1870) is one of NC’s oldest passenger railroad depots and now serves as Thomasville’s Visitors’ Center.



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For information on Move More Thomasville  
or local parks,  
contact Thomasville Parks & Recreation Department  
**(336) 475-4280**

For visitor information, accommodations,  
sightseeing, etc.,  
contact Thomasville Tourism  
**1-800-611-9907**  
**[www.thomasvilletourism.com](http://www.thomasvilletourism.com)**

Special thanks to David Yemm, Justin Trogdon, and Roger Bryant for providing many of the photos in this brochure.

## Safety Guidelines

Please enjoy your walks around Thomasville and remember to always be safe.

Below are some tips that might help.

- Consult your physician before starting any type of exercise program.
- Be aware of your health situation, traffic and all of your surroundings when you walk.
- Obey traffic signals and look both ways before crossing streets. Use the marked crosswalks where available.
- The term “handicapped-friendly route” refers to the Historic Homes Walk. It carries no legal meaning. It is simply a description indicating that there are no steps on the route and most curbs have been adapted at street crossings making it easier to walk and to navigate a stroller.
- Consider the weather conditions: hot, cold, ice, sun, rain, etc. and dress accordingly.
- Wear loose fitting clothing that is light in color. Many people wear items of clothing with reflective strips so that they can easily be seen by drivers.
- Wear comfortable shoes made for exercise.
- Some people choose to walk with someone, and/or carry a cell phone in case of emergency.
- Be sure to supervise children.
- Let someone know where you are and when you anticipate returning from your walk.



## Brief Overview of Thomasville

Thomasville was formed in the 1840's when a \$3 million state tax was passed. That money was designated to build the railroad through North Carolina. State Senator John W. Thomas saw the proposed route for the railroad and traded two horse-drawn wagon loads of bacon for 1,100 acres of land that now comprise the heart of Thomasville.



During the 1860's, Thomasville became a site of refuge and care during the Civil War. Immediately following the Civil War, records show that some local citizens were already making chairs for home use and for extra income. Reportedly, one man would strap 18 chairs to his back and walk several miles to a neighboring area to sell them.

Several chair companies emerged through the remainder of the 1800's and into the early 1900's. Undoubtedly the most famous of these began in 1904 as the Thomasville Chair Company. One of the most recognized names in furniture in the world, people know it today as Thomasville Furniture Industries. With such an industry for chairs so early on, it is easy to see why Thomasville became known as the "Chair City." Because of the nickname, Thomasville Chair Company had a 13½ foot "Big Chair" built in the middle of town in 1922. That chair was later scrapped and a 30' "World's Largest Chair" was built in its place in 1951.

## Brief Overview of Thomasville (continued)

In 1960 the fame of the “World’s Largest Chair” grew even bigger when President Lyndon B. Johnson did a whistle stop tour in Thomasville from atop the chair. Johnson was the vice presidential candidate of JFK at the time.



While industries and the times change, Thomasville has continued to grow. According to the 2000 US Census, the Chair City was the 25<sup>th</sup> largest city in North Carolina with approximately 25,000 residents. Thomasville is able to offer a small town feel but is conveniently nestled between two major interstates and within an hour and a half of three international airports. In 2008, the Thomasville area was named “The Top Micropolitan Area” in the nation for corporate projects by Site Selection Magazine.

With a slogan of “From where we sit...you can see it all,” just what do you see in the Chair City? To find out, browse through this booklet, walk the designated trails or take a virtual tour of Thomasville at:

[www.thomasvilletourism.com](http://www.thomasvilletourism.com) 1 800-611-9907



**Historic Preservation  
Commission**  
provided much of the historic  
information.  
(336) 906-5272



## The Walking Routes

### The Church Walk (Red)



The .82 mile Church Walk passes several of the city's churches and points out the sites of former churches that were used as makeshift hospitals during the Civil War. This route also passes some historic buildings in the Randolph Street Historic District. This route does have some steps as you descend to the pedestrian underpass at the railroad tracks.

### The Commerce Walk (Green)



The .6 mile Commerce Walk goes by downtown businesses and Commerce Street before turning to go through Cate's Alley. Along this route you will see the clock tower, the fountain, a variety of shops as well as large painted murals on the outside walls of some businesses.

### The Historic Homes Walk (Blue)



The .87 mile Historic Homes Walk takes you through the Salem Street Historic District. There are architectural descriptions of homes and churches in this guide. This route is the most handicapped/stroller friendly—there are no steps and most curbs have been adapted at the designated street crossings.

## Sights Common to All Three Walks

The beginning of all three Walks has five sights of interest in common: Historic Railroad Depot/Visitors' Center, Caboose, John W. Thomas Statue, Bandstand, and "World's Largest Chair."

### Railroad Depot/ Visitors' Center

One of North Carolina's oldest passenger railroad depots is the starting point for all three walks. The depot now serves as the Thomasville Visitors' Center. Built circa 1870, the depot was restored between 1975 and 1977.

When application was made to the National Register of Historical Places, archives representatives visiting the building stated that it was possibly the oldest and most authentically restored depot in the state. In 1981, the Thomasville Depot was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



The week of July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2000, the depot opened as Thomasville's Visitors' Center. Since that time, tens of thousands of visitors have come to see the depot, watched trains, received information on furniture shopping, the World's Largest Chair, Civil War sites, as well as other historic sites and various attractions in Thomasville.



## The Big Red Caboose



Children and adults love posing for pictures and playing on the old caboose as they experience the history. It is one of the more popular places for grandparents and grandchildren to pass the time during summer vacation. They play on the caboose, wave to passing trains, and step inside the old railroad depot to learn a little local history the fun way.

As cabooses were being phased out in the 1980's, the City of Thomasville decided to get one. The Norfolk Southern Corporation donated Southern Railway Caboose X703 to the city after it was retired.

The caboose was delivered to City Fuel and Ice in October of 1986. Soon afterward, it was moved down the street on special dollies to its current location next to the railroad depot.



Winter, spring, summer or fall...EXPERIENCE the history that is the old caboose and railroad depot at the Thomasville Visitors' Center.

## City Founder John W. Thomas



John Warrick Thomas (1800-1871) served as North Carolina General Assemblyman and State Senator (1842-54). During his latter term, he was a major proponent of the North Carolina Railroad Bill. He purchased land and contracted to build three sections of the line that would unite cities and towns from Goldsboro

to Charlotte. Inseparable from the history of the city, J.W. Thomas encouraged the town and faithfully contributed to its growth. The approximately 1200 pound bronze statue was commissioned for the city's 2002 sesquicentennial. A time capsule was inserted in its concrete base for the bicentennial celebration in 2052.

## Bandstand

Built as a replacement for the original Bandstand that stood about 50 feet west of the present one on the town commons from the late 1800s to the 1940s. The Thomsville Garden Clubs undertook the Bandstand Project to restore a bandstand based on people's recollections of what the original looked like.



## The Big Chair



In 1922, Thomasville had already gained a reputation as “The Chair Town” due to the fact that products of Thomasville Chair Company (now Thomasville Furniture Industries) were almost exclusively simple, sturdy, straight-back chairs. Somebody, no one knows for certain who, got the idea to erect a big chair to call attention to the town’s chief industry.

Thomasville’s first big chair was erected in September 1922 at almost the same spot occupied by the one standing today. It was made by Thomasville Chair Company and took enough lumber to build 100 ordinary chairs. The project kept 3 men working 10 hours a day for 1 week. When completed, it stood 13 feet 6 inches tall. The seat was 6 feet by 5 1/2 feet tall and covered in leather made from the hide of a Swiss steer.

After nearly 15 years of exposure to the elements, the chair was scrapped in 1936. Shortly after the first chair was taken down, another larger, more ornate chair was considered. It wasn’t until 1948, after the Chamber of Commerce was formed, that the restoration movement began in earnest. This time it was decided the chair was to be built to last forever.

Chamber Manager, Kenneth Hoyle, one day stopped James Buford Harvey and asked him if he could build a concrete chair. Harvey, who also built the life-sized concrete lion which stands today opposite the big chair, said he would try.

The Chamber enlisted several local businesses to help, including Thomasville Chair Company. Their dean of designers, Thomas W. Johnson designed the reproduction of the Duncan Phyfe armchair which stands today overlooking the Square downtown.

A steel skeleton was fashioned by Salem Steel Company of Winston-Salem. Harvey, working in the Thomasville Chair plant on Taylor Street, fabricated wire mesh to fit over the steel skeleton in proportions dictated by Johnson's plans. After that, Harvey labored for over six months coating the mesh—a spoonful at a time with a mixture of cement and granite dust to a thickness of about a half-inch. The chair was then painted to make it appear that it was built with wood and to suggest the seat had been upholstered with a striped fabric.

Meanwhile, the Chamber, City and others came along with the base. The cornerstone was laid on January 9, 1951. A time-box embedded in the cornerstone included among other things, a Bible, photos, a safety razor, a prospectus for eliminating railroad grade crossings, a city directory, brochures, civic records, and a letter from Mayor Harry B. Finch. When completed, the new Big Chair of Thomasville stood 30 feet high from the bottom of the 12-foot base to the top of the 18-foot chair. The seat was 10 1/2 feet wide.



In 1960, the Thomasville Chair gained national attention when vice-presidential hopeful Lyndon B. Johnson stopped to greet local supporters from atop the chair while on a campaign whistle stop. The Big Chair has since hosted governors, university presidents, mayors, beauty queens, and even an evangelist. It has also been listed in Ripley's Believe It or Not.

Thomasville's Brad Hoover was a starting running back for the Carolina Panthers in Super Bowl XXXVIII.



Visitors' Center attendant Jewel Dorsett made a 20' mock jersey to honor Hoover and to adorn the "Big Chair" during that time.

Whether sight-seeing by bike or on foot, most everyone takes a moment to pose for a picture at the "Big Chair!" As neighboring areas have seen huge increases in vehicular traffic, cyclists have taken to the scenic roads in and around Thomasville.

Today the "Big Chair" is still a focal point for tourists and local citizens. It reminds



everyone of the industry that helped Thomasville grow. While other communities have seen bigger chairs come and go, Thomasville still boasts the remaining

**"WORLD'S LARGEST CHAIR!"**

## The Church Walk (Red) Overview

The Church Walk begins at the Depot/Visitors' Center and travels East on Main St. to the "Big Chair."

Turn right on Salem / Randolph St. and cross the railroad tracks.

Walk south to just before Colonial Dr., use the crosswalk to get to the other side of Randolph St. and head north returning to downtown

Turn Right on Main St., in front of the Thomasville Parks & Recreation Building, traveling east.

Cross Cramer St. and School St., use the crosswalk to go to the other side of Main St. Use the pedestrian underpass to go beneath the railroad tracks.

Upon exiting the underpass, bear left and come through the parking lot that joins up with the sidewalk going past the clock tower and fountain. Cross Randolph St. heading back past the "Big Chair" to the Depot/Visitors' Center.



## **Church Walk (Red)**

### **West Main and Randolph Street– Will Harper Park 1989**

This land was donated by attorney Willys Hooper, with the understanding that the City would improve the corner site in a way to provide a memorial to Hooper's longtime friend Will Harper.

### **North wall of 6 Randolph Street– Mural, 1993**

Four murals around the Downtown area depict key aspects of life in Thomasville. This one represents a street scene in Thomasville in the late 1920's and highlights a furniture store. This mural was created by artist Phil Christman.

### **6 Randolph St.– Thomasville Store Grocery, 1939**

Originally used as the Thomasville Store Grocery and later converted to a theater. Two-story pressed brick building constructed in 1939 as indicated by the construction date incised in the masonry coping at the crown of a center brick pilaster.

### **8 Randolph St.– Late 1930's**

This two-story brick building was designed with stepped parapet and horizontal, recessed panels located above the second floor windows. The storefront is a modern replacement of the original.

### **18 Randolph Street.– James Lambeth Home, 1912**

This property originally contained the James Lambeth home place. It became the Siler Funeral Home in 1957. The Siler Funeral Home became Sechrest Funeral Home in April 1977. Sechrest Funeral Home began operating under the name Family Funeral Care and replaced the old home place structure in September 1989.

### **22 Randolph Street– Charles Lambeth Home Place**

Formerly the site of the Charles Lambeth home place, the current building was constructed in 1959 to house the Thomasville Branch of the Davidson County Public Library. The building later became the Davidson County Courthouse for district and superior court activities in Thomasville.

### **100 Randolph Street– Col. Frank S. Lambeth Home, 1908**

This home was built by Col. Frank S. Lambeth in 1908. In later years it was restored by David Hinkle and served as the family home of his son, William G. Hinkle.



### **101 Randolph Street- Memorial United Methodist Church**

Main Street M.E. Church (established in 1863) and Community M.P. Church (established in 1923) united in 1947 to become a larger community church, which its members voted to be called Memorial Methodist Church. The building was constructed during 1950-51. The first service was held in the sanctuary on April 15, 1951.



Presbyterian and Methodist Churches on Randolph Street

### **21 Randolph Street– First Presbyterian Church**

The original church structure was erected on this site in 1911 under the leadership of the pastor, Rev. W.B. Mellwane. The Sunday School Building was opened in May 1950 and the current sanctuary building was erected in 1969 to replace the original structure.



### **17 Randolph Street– Smith Clinic, 1939** *\*Local Historic Landmark, National Register of Historic Places\**

Piedmont North Carolina's version of Art Deco architecture is exemplified in the modest but stylistic design of the Smith Clinic. Art concrete pilasters contrast with red brick, a parapeted cornice and Broadway style aluminum letters display a modern but conservative design, appropriate for a small town. Designed by High Point architect Tyson Ferree, it was for 35 years the office of prominent local physician Dr. William Gordon Smith, Sr. and other medical professionals. Dr. Smith served on the board of City Memorial Hospital for 24 years. Smith Clinic was sensitively restored by owner, attorney Paul Mitchell, in 1990-91.

### **13 Randolph Street– First Baptist Church**

Seeing the need for church buildings in the village, John W. Thomas, founder of Thomasville, gave the Baptist Church this lot. The congregation initially worshiped in a frame building built in 1862. A large brick sanctuary and Sunday School building were constructed in 1913. In 1951, the Education Building was completed and in 1963 the present sanctuary and Adult Education Building were erected.

### **1 East Main Street– Post Office, 1926** *\*Local Historic Landmark\**

Thomasville mail service was provided at a variety of locations in town for 73 years before Thomasville's first Federal Building was built in 1926. The Post Office served the community in that capacity until 1963. The Classical Revival building is identified by its accentuated front entryway, roof cornice and parapeted balustrade. The building was conveyed to the city by the Federal Government in 1972. It is now home to the Parks and Recreation Department.

### **Confederate Monument**

This monument is located next to the railroad tracks where the Thomasville Rifles gathered on April 23, 1861 as they boarded a train destined for Raleigh where they would become Company B of the 4th NC Volunteer Infantry. They later became part of the 14th NC Troops. This was the first group of soldiers to leave the County. The monument was erected in October 2001 by the Thomasville Rifles SCV camp 172.

### **17 East Main Street– T. Austin Finch Home, 1921**

Home of distinguished industrialist T. Austin Finch, recognized across the nation as one of the South's leading furniture manufacturers and a prominent citizen and civic leader. He was President of Thomasville Chair Company, City Councilman from 1915-17, and Mayor of Thomasville in 1923. A beautiful example of the 1920's period style, this Italian villa stands out with its shingle roof and overhanging eaves supported by distinctive brackets. Also note the ironwork railings on the balconies, oriel window and paired Tuscan columns.

### **19 East Main Street– J. Walter Lambeth, Jr. Home, 1902**

The only native of Thomasville to serve in the U.S. Congress, J.W. Lambeth was first a state senator, then elected to Congress where he served until he retired in 1939. He attended Trinity College (now Duke University) and studied at Harvard School of Business before serving overseas in World War I. After the war he returned to manage Lambeth Furniture Company with his father and was Mayor of Thomasville from 1925-1929. This striking home stands out because of its three-part plan with two-story center block and one-story wings. The symmetrical façade displays jack arches above the windows and an elegant entryway with a crown supported by pilasters.

### **205 E. Main Street– Central Recreation Center**

At a town election in 1901, the issuance of \$10,000 in bonds to build a graded school was passed. The gymnasium is the only part of the original building that remains.

### **401 E. Main Street– Thomasville Furniture Industries**

One of the most recognized names in furniture, Thomasville Furniture began as Thomasville Chair Company in late 1904. Operations began in early 1905 and by May of that year they were producing 500 to 1,000 chairs per day. As times changed, they added breakfast room suites, then dining room and bedroom products in the 1920's. The name was changed to Thomasville Furniture Industries in 1961.

### **Railroad Pedestrian Underpass- Early 1900's**



In response to a public outcry after a 7-year-old schoolboy was killed in 1904 while walking through a grade crossing, the Southern Railway constructed a pedestrian un-

derpass in the early 1900's (sometimes referred to as "The Subway") to provide safe access for children residing on the north side of the tracks who attended the then Main Street School.

### **Civil War Trails Signs**

Thomasville was quick to join the State of North Carolina when it began its Civil War Trails Program in 2004. Thomasville has three authenticated sites with markers at the railroad Depot/Visitors' Center, City Cemetery and near the pedestrian underpass. Each notes aspects of Thomasville's contributions during the Civil War.

### **Fountain & Clock Tower- 1968, 2002**

Completed in 1968, the area was dedicated November 11, 1969 as Nona Ingram Welborn Memorial Park. Mrs. Welborn worked hard to beautify the Southern Railway right-of-way through town and oversaw the construction and completion of the fountain, plants and park area.

For Thomasville's 150th anniversary in 2002, Dolen and Hazel Bowers donated the 34' tall, 8,000 lb. clock tower.

On November 11, 2007 the park was re-dedicated after extensive renovations were made to the fountain and park area.



## The Commerce Walk (Green) Overview

The Commerce Walk begins at the crosswalk at the Depot/Visitors' Center . Cross to the other side of Main St.

Turn right and travel east on Main Street. Cross Randolph/Salem Street and continue one block to Commerce Street.

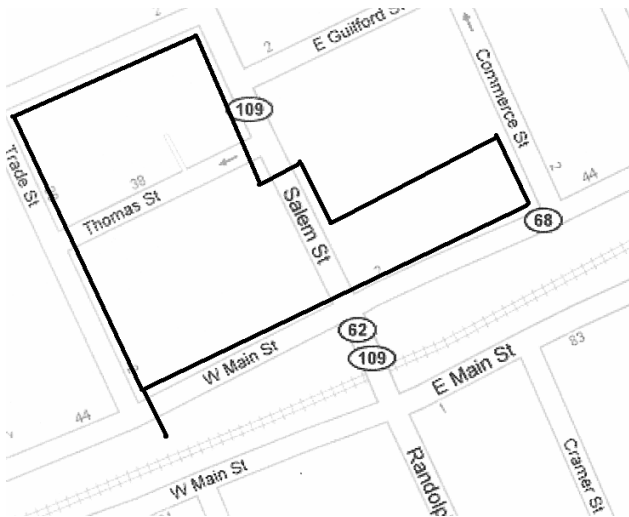
Turn left on Commerce and take the next left into Cate's Alley.

Continue through Cate's Alley to Salem Street. Turn right on Salem Street and walk north to the crosswalk.

Cross to the other side of Salem Street and turn right to continue north on Salem Street to West Guilford Street.

Turn left on West Guilford Street and continue to Trade Street.

Turn Left on Trade Street and continue to the Depot/ Visitors' Center.



### **42 West Main Street- 1918**

The upper level of the façade is composed of stretcher bond brick except for a soldier course above and below the windows and at the cornice line. Beneath the windows, a broad metal panel of vertical ridges with a metal mitered surround doubtless covers the location of the original transom. The storefront is composed of metal-framed windows and a recessed central double-leaf glass door in a metal frame.

### **38 West Main Street- 1918**

A three-part window with a central six-over-one sash flanked by two three-over-one sashes is the focal point of the second story of this brick building. Pigmented structural glass remains above and around an intact storefront composed of angled display windows flanking an off center door. The storefront may be a remodeling dating from the mid 1930's , when other buildings in the district were using pigmented structural glass.

### **34-36 West Main Street- 1918**

The second-story detailing of the two-story brick building is enhanced by the use of contrasting red and yellow brick. The cornice is corbelled and has recessed blocks of yellow brick as well as three yellow brick corbelled pendants. The second story has four oversized arched windows with yellow brick arches, projecting red brick hood molds with yellow brick keystones, yellow brick corbelled sills, and brick pilasters between the windows that have red and yellow brick caps integrated into a belt course that crosses the entire façade.

### **24-32 West Main Street- 1900**

A split in the brickwork at the rear of this two-story brick building, between 24-26 and 28-32 West Main Street, suggest that the two sections may have been erected at different times. The most intact section is at the east end of the row, 24 West Main Street. The second story of the façade retains its heavily corbelled cornice and three segmental-arched windows with two-over-two sash. Sections 30-32 West Main Street, retain the original corbelled cornice. The street-level storefronts of both 30 and 32 West Main Street are modern replacements composed of metal framed windows and doors.

### **20 West Main Street- 1935**

The upper façade of this building was covered in the mid 1970's with a three-dimensional perforated metal grill. Some of the original black structural glass can be seen along the east edge beneath the metal grill. A fabric canopy covered the glass storefront. In 1937 the building housed Stadiem's Department Store. By the mid 1950's, the Gold Shop, women's wear, was at this location.

### **18 West Main Street- 1935**

This small, one-story brick building previously had a façade sheathed in pigmented structural glass. It was adorned with a modest Art Deco design. In the 1980's the glass was removed, revealing the plain brick underneath. A new, narrow dentiled cornice was added along with a shingled storefront canopy.

### **12 West Main Street- 1935**

First quarter of the twentieth century, three-story with mezzanine, brick building that has been greatly altered on its façade. The plain building features rows of new windows on the third and fourth floors and a new street level elevation. The rear elevation, visible in the alley that runs behind the block, suggests the original appearance of the façade. Two-over-two sash pierce this elevation. The side elevations are devoid of windows. A 1947 photo shows Jones Department Store occupying the building.

### **6 West Main Street- 1902**

Prominent, three-story, brick corner building constructed in 1902 and greatly altered initially around 1953 and more recently. The building originally displayed tall one-over-one windows with arched hoods with key-stones, a corbelled cornice, and masonry urns that crowned the parapet. Flat brick arches top the replacement, one-over-one sash on the upper levels. New windows extend along the street level and replace the original storefronts; the storefronts are modern alterations. The pointed corner cap is a modern addition.

Thomasville Drug Store occupied the first floor beginning in 1902. State Commercial Bank was the principal occupant for much of the twentieth century and was responsible for the building's major alterations.

### **2 East Main Street-**

A 1947 photograph shows that the building containing Mann's Drug Store was a brick, two-story edifice with a corbelled cornice, and two large façade windows with arched masonry heads. During the remodeling, the whole building was brick veneered, incorporating a building facing Salem Street, which obscured the historic façades.

### **6 East Main Street-**

Early twentieth-century, two-story, brick building with distinctive bands of projecting brick belt courses above the five boarded-up windows on the second floor. A flat concrete coping crowns the façade. A bellcast metal awning shelters the metal-framed glass display windows and single-leaf door. The remnants of a Pepsi-Cola and Coca-Cola mural remain on the upper east wall.

### **8 East Main Street-**

Early twentieth-century, one-story, brick building with a plain façade and modern storefront composed of large metal-framed display windows and a central glass door. A flat metal awning shelters the storefront.

### **10 East Main Street-**

Early twentieth-century, two-story, brick building with stepped parapet, and one-over-one sash windows on the upper floor. A flat metal awning shelters the large glass display windows and double, metal-framed glass doors that make up the storefront.

### **16 East Main Street-**

Early twentieth-century, two-story, brick building with metal cornice, tile coping, and a row of ten one-over-one sash windows on the upper floor, each crowned with a fanlight transom. The altered storefront consists of large display windows and doors framed in metal.

### **24-26 East Main Street-**

Early twentieth-century, two-story, brick building with a series of brick belt courses near the cornice and above a band of dogtooth bricks. A flat arch composed of soldier course bricks crowns each of the nine one-over-one sash on the second level.

The storefronts have been altered with replacement display windows and doors. In the late 1920s this building contained three businesses: S&S Variety, the Princess Theater, and the Palace Barber Shop.

### 32 East Main Street-

Early twentieth-century, two-story, brick building with a large paneled screen covering the upper façade. Two businesses occupy the building, which displays large metal frame windows and doors on its street level. The rear elevation features arched-head windows that have been filled with brick. In the late 1920s, Hedrick Auto occupied this building.

### 40 East Main Street– Late 1920's

This is a late 1920s one-story brick building with decorative band of soldier course bricks at cornice and a horizontal panel—set off by soldier course bricks—decorated with terra cotta elements above storefront. Later cast and molded concrete meant to emulate stone sheathes the building's street level and is interrupted by large display windows and a single door framed in metal.



Children from Thomasville are depicted in the mural in Cate's Alley.

### 2, 4, 6, 8 Commerce Street-

This one-story brick building containing four separate stores dates to the late 1920s and is the oldest of the buildings now standing on Commerce Street. . 2 Commerce Street housed a seafood market in the late 1920s. In 1937, City Radio Repair had its shop at 4 Commerce Street. By 1929, 6 Commerce Street housed the offices of Dr. L.A. Curry, an African American physician. In 1929, 8 Commerce Street contained a barbecue outlet called Buck's Place.



## 12 Commerce Street

Circa 1950 one-story brick building with center parapet, tile coping, and large display windows on the Commerce Street façade. Hudson-Belk constructed this building as an annex to their department store that was located on Main Street.

## City Cemetery– Circa 1860

Around 1860 city founder John W. Thomas donated property for use as a cemetery which became known as Willow Branch Cemetery North and South. In 1924 the cemetery was taken over by the City and renamed City Cemetery.

City Cemetery is believed to be one of a kind because of its Civil War burial site. In 1865, many severely wounded Civil War Soldiers brought to Thomasville by rail either did not survive the trip or died soon afterward. Thomasville's City Cemetery has chained off an area where 36 of these soldiers were buried. 28 Confederate, 4 Federal and 4 Unknown were carefully placed side-by-side in three rows of 12 with identifying markers. City Cemetery is believed to be the only place in the world where Confederate and Federal Soldiers are buried together in the same grave. This site is open to the public.



### \*21 East Guilford Street– May-October

The Farmer's Market is a producer only market open to vendors certified by their County Agriculture Extension Agent and who farm in Davidson County or adjacent counties.



### 37-41 Salem Street- Palace Theater

Early twentieth-century two-story brick building with metal paneling covering the upper façade. In the late 1920s, most of the building contained the Palace Theater. The smaller storefronts that flanked the theater entrance held Swicewood Confectioners, 37 Salem, and a Western Union office, 41 Salem.

### 7 West Guilford- Former Thomasville City Hall, 1938



Declared the finest example of Art Deco architecture in Davidson County, the former Thomasville City Hall stands proud. Opened in 1938, the building was a WPA project built to accommodate Thomasville administrative offices, the city jail and Fire Department.

Mural of train, station and the Mock Hotel on the exterior of 42 W. Main St.



## The Historic Homes Walk (Blue) Overview

The Historic Homes Walk begins at the Depot/Visitors' Center and travels East on Main St. to the Big Chair.

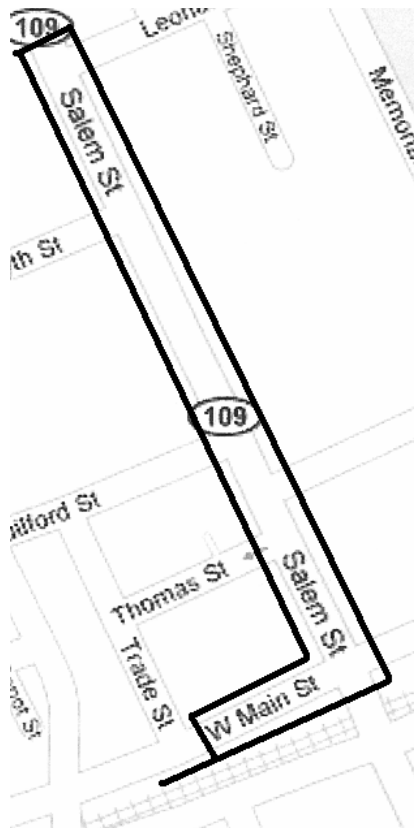
Cross Salem/Randolph Street then use the crosswalk and turn left to go north on Salem Street.

Continue on Salem to Leonard Street. Cross Leonard Street, then use the crosswalk at Leonard Street to cross to the other side of Salem Street.

Go south on Salem Street heading back downtown to Main Street.

Turn Right on Main Street, heading west.

Go one block to Trade Street and use the crosswalk to return to the Depot/Visitors' Center.



### **John Nelson Hauss Memorial Park**

On this site was the home of “The Father of Thomasville City Schools”, Mr. J.N. Hauss. The park marks the beginning of the Salem Street Historic District.

### **115 Salem Street- J.T. Strickland Home, 1887**

This Victorian home was built by Dr. Strickland for his family in 1887. In the 1950’s it became the home of J.A. Green, President of the Telephone Company and son of J.C. Green, Mayor of Thomasville in 1911 and 1919-21, and founder of J.C. Green and Sons Funeral Home.

### **117 Salem Street- J.T. Strickland Home, 1887**

This residence was also built by Dr. Strickland and has numerous special features of the Victorian Style including the unusual mansard tower, intricate wood-work on the porch and several bay windows.

### **121 Salem Street– Hoover Home, 1878**

This stately home was built by Reverend John Lewis and replaces another family home built on this site in 1861 that was destroyed by fire. This “I-House” plan, typical of the homes in the South, features a center hall, paired eave brackets and a porch with Tuscan columns. An unusual element of this house are the brick chimneys placed within the gable ends.

### **125 Salem Street- Kress Home, 1924**

This home is one of only three examples in Thomasville of the “Airplane Bungalow” Style built in the 1920’s. There are hints of the Prairie Style in the emphasis on horizontal lines, battered posts on piers surrounding the porch, and overhanging eaves. A beautiful beveled glass door complements this home that was built by L.A. Kress, a Lithuanian Jewish immigrant who came to America at the turn of the century.

### **201 Salem Street- The Crews Home, 1861**

The Dutch facade was added in 1921 but parts of the home date to 1861. Baptist Minister Hezakiah Morton and his family lived in the home for almost thirty years, then in 1899 sold the home to J.M. Morris who ran a department store with his son, Arthur. Robert William Crews purchased the home in 1920 and it remains in the family.

### **203 Salem Street- The Hite Home, 1927**

Meade B. and Margaret Cates Hite came to Thomsville from Virginia and started Star Furniture Store. This house was designed by two Greensboro architects and constructed in 1927. The Colonial Revival Style is evident in the accentuated front door with sidelights and fanlight, entry porch and double hung sashes.

### **207 Salem Street- The Morris Home, 1920**

Built by Arthur Morris, the symmetrical facade and accentuated front door represent the Colonial Revival of the original Federal Style. The delicate dentils enhance the curved front porch and cornice, while the dormer windows and side porch are a common feature of Colonial Revival homes.

### **211 Salem Street- The Peacock Home, 1909**

Built by J.W. Peacock, local physician and City Councilman 1907-1909 and 1919-21, this house is unique in its form and materials. Distinctive features include the



round turret with cone shaped roof, second level shingle siding, and decorative balustrade, bulls eye windows and arcaded front porch. The house became infamous when Dr. Peacock shot and killed Police Chief J.E. Taylor downtown during a Prohibition feud.

### **215 Salem Street- The Clark Home, 1915**

This charming example of a southern vernacular home at the corner of Salem and Leonard Streets is thought to have been built by T.T. Clark.

### **301 Salem Street- The G. T. Cochrane Home, 1920**

American Foursquare with weatherboard siding. Plain, flat modillions enhance the cornice of the hipped roof dormers, the cornice beneath the dwelling's wide overhanging eaves, and the front porch cornice.

### **300 Salem Street- The Gordon Home, 1954**

This one-story, six-bay-wide, brick house has the detailing of a minimal traditional style house; its low, elongated form is reflective of Ranch style houses. The center section has a Colonial Revival entrance and a large, three-part picture window, and slightly lower side wings, each with a pair of six-over-six sash windows.

### **210 Salem Street- The Blair Home, 1926**

Built in 1926 for Jule and Elizabeth Blair, the Colonial Revival Style house is well designed, boasting two sitting rooms downstairs and two bedrooms with fireplaces upstairs, several spacious porches, including a sleeping porch upstairs.

### **208 Salem Street- The Lyles Home, 1924**



This impressive Dutch Colonial Style home is identified by the gambrel roof and flared eaves. Built in 1924 for the George W. Lyles family, the home contains several unique interior

features include a built in pantry with glass doors and original bath fixtures.

### **206 Salem Street– The Thompson Home, 1947**

Built by Robert W. Thompson, Sr. who served on the City Council from 1977-81 and was a founding member of the Thomasville Lions Club, this post WWII home has a unique octagon and broken pediment crown above the door.

### **202 Salem Street- The Blair Home, 1917**

This two-story Greek Revival with three ranked façade and centered entrance was built by and home to Mrs. Blair, later Mrs. T.L. Conrad.

### **200 Salem Street– Cecil Property, 1910**

An interesting hipped-roof design with projecting gable on one side and bay window are complemented by the first level wrap around porch.

### **118 Salem Street– Heidelberg United Church of Christ, 1954**

This impressive structure on Salem Street was erected in 1954. Built in the late Gothic Revival style with distinctive pointed arches, tower, and buttresses, the sanctuary has outstanding features including stained glass windows depicting the life of Christ with medallions in the center of each. The “rose window” at the rear of the balcony is a 12-petal design.



### **116 Salem Street- Heidelberg Parsonage, 1957**

The parsonage for Heidelberg United Church of Christ is a Colonial Revival home which parallels the church in brick and bond pattern.

### **112 Salem Street- E.L. Webb Home, 1920**

The style of this home is typical in form to many houses of the 1920s with a porte co-chere, side porch, and a number of extraordinary elements. Notice the woodwork around clerestory windows and pattern of the roofline, and a custom designed front door surrounded by leaded glass sidelights. The home was built by E.L. Webb, owner of the Thomasville Drug Store.

### **108 Salem St.– St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 1949**

A group of Thomasville women organized the church and this beautiful Gothic structure was begun September 25, 1949. Distinctive interior features are imported stained glass windows from Germany and an altar carved of white oak.

## **Other Thomasville Area Parks and Walks**

Along with the three walking routes outlined in this brochure, Thomasville has a variety of other parks and walking routes. Call the Parks & Recreation Dept. at (336) 475-4280.

### **Doak Park– 30 West Main St.**

This park has a .33 mile paved walking path as well as 2 playgrounds, a picnic area, a ball field, and an extensive skate park.

### **Myers Park– 401 Mason Way**

The paved trail here is .14 mile. The park has a large picnic area, playground, 2 softball fields, and a basketball court.

### **Veterans Memorial Park– Stadium Drive**



Veterans Memorial Park is a tribute to the area's fallen soldiers. The park includes picnic shelters, playgrounds, a city swimming pool and much more. It is also the primary setting for one of the Southeastern United States' largest Memorial Day Celebrations.

### **King Row– 5 King Row St.**

King Row has a practice soccer field, picnic area, and playground equipment.

### **Central Recreation Center– East Main St.**

There are meeting rooms, a gymnasium, tennis courts and a playground at this facility.

### **Finch Field–7003 Ball Park Rd.**

Home to historic Finch Field and a collegiate baseball team, this area has a .37 mile walking trail, a community center, and a playground.



**Thomasville Medical Center– 207 Old Lexington Rd.**

The Medical Center has a .3 mile path around a pond adjacent to the hospital.

**Thomasville High School Track– 410 Unity Street**

The high school track (.25 mile) is open to the public.

**Tom A. Finch Community YMCA– 1010 Mendenhall**

Walking trails from parking lot include .15 paved trail and .3 mile soft trail.

**Lake Thom-A-Lex 700 Yokeley Rd.**

This large lake between Thomasville and Lexington has picnic shelters and a large playground, fishing, canoeing, kayaking and bird watching! (Photo—Ricky Spears)



**Winding Creek Golf Course– 72 Winding Creek Rd.**

This course is open to the public and in magnificent condition year round. For the price, it is perhaps the best game in the area.



**North Carolina Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial**

This wonderful park is conveniently located on I-85 in Thomasville at a rest area. More than 1600 bricks have the names of each North Carolinian killed or missing in action from the Vietnam War.



## Furniture Shopping and Area Interests

*How to Save, Where to Shop, What to See*



If you are considering a furniture shopping trip to the Thomasville-High Point area, call Thomasville Tourism first. With so many furniture stores, each carrying hundreds of brands

of furniture in millions of square feet of show room space, furniture shopping can be a daunting task. To get advice on how to save the most money and find the largest selections, call Thomasville Tourism.

Some of the places shoppers frequent are Oak-Wood Furniture (they have more than just oak furniture), Discount Quality Furniture, Bob Timberlake Gallery and of course, Thomasville Furniture.



All the furniture shopping, walking and sightseeing is bound to work up an appetite. Fortunately, Thomasville has one of the top 5 diners in North Carolina. The T'ville Diner started in the 1930's in an old dining car from Southern Railway. Get a to-go order of a meat, two vegetables, dessert and dinner rolls and walk to the bandstand to relax, eat and watch trains while the kids play on the caboose!

**Call Thomasville Tourism for Hotel Discounts!**

**1-800-611-9907 or (336) 472-4422**

**Quality Inn- (336) 472-2310**

**Microtel Inn & Suites- (336) 474-4515**

**Days Inn- (336) 472-6600**

**Country Hearth Inn- (336) 472-0700**

Date	Activ- ity	Time/ Mileage	Date	Activ- ity	Time/ Mileage



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**The Chair City**



**Thomasville Tourism**

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