

TUSCUMBIA
ALABAMA

Take a Stroll Through History



One of Alabama's
Best Collections
of 19th Century
Architecture



Tuscumbia is less than a day's drive from anywhere in the mid-South and the lower mid-West! Birmingham is only 95 miles southeast via I-65; Memphis is approximately 125 miles to the west via U.S. Hwy 72; Nashville is 100 miles to the north via the Natchez Trace; and Atlanta is only 250 miles east. Come explore the colorful past of this National Register Historic District.

Brochure presented by
Colbert County Historical Landmarks Foundation, Inc.

Colbert County
Tourism & Convention Bureau

719 U.S. Highway 72 West

P. O. Box 740425

Tuscumbia, AL 35674

(800) 344-0783 / (256) 383-0783

E-mail: colberttourism@comcast.net

www.colbertcountytourism.org

ALABAMA

Historic Tuscumbia

Walking & Driving
Tour

One of Alabama's
Best Collections
of 19th Century
Architecture

Home Town
of Helen Keller



he city of Tuscumbia was founded about 1815 above Big Spring and near the site of a Chickasaw Indian village.

It was first named Cold Water but the name was changed to Tuscumbia in honor of the Chickasaw Chief, Tas-ka-Ambi. The Government land sale of 1820 brought many purchasers, and the town served the agricultural areas surrounding it. Planters came from Virginia and the Carolinas. Tuscumbia began to grow as a railroad and industrial center. Commercial Row, seven adjoining brick buildings on Fifth Street near the depot, housed the early commission merchants. Goods were brought by boat on the Tennessee River from New Orleans and other ports. The first railroad west of the Alleghenies began in Tuscumbia and ran to Decatur, and was an outgrowth of the early Tuscumbia Railroad which ran from the Tuscumbia Landing on the river. It became the Memphis-Charleston Railroad, the longest railroad in the world at that time.

The Historic District of downtown Tuscumbia (Colbert County Courthouse, built in 1882, and surrounding 22 homes and churches) was the first historic area in North Alabama placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1965. Many of Tuscumbia's antebellum homes, churches and business houses are preserved.

In the years of the War Between the States, many Tuscumbia men served in the Army of the Confederacy. Tuscumbia's most famous soldier was General James Deshler, for whom Deshler High School is named. Numerous skirmishes were fought in and about the town. Confederate Calvary (4th Alabama) defended the area from invasion west of Tuscumbia. Union forces occupied the town at several times, with pillaging and destruction.

After the War and Reconstruction, recovery was slow. Politics resulted in the establishment of Colbert County from the northern half of Franklin County, with Tuscumbia chosen as the county seat. The county was named for Chickasaw chief, George Colbert. New homes were built and churches re-established.

In 1880, Helen Keller was born at the Keller home, Ivy Green, in Tuscumbia. The story of her childhood in Tuscumbia is depicted in "The Miracle Worker", presented on the grounds of Ivy Green. It is a story of courage, loved around the world.

The entire Shoals area, including Tuscumbia, benefited during the "Ford Boom" in the 1920's and from the establishment of the Tennessee Valley Authority in 1933 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Recent renovation of many of Tuscumbia's historic commercial buildings has resulted in a revitalization of the downtown, bringing many visitors to enjoy its history and quaint charm.

Tuscumbia seeks to preserve its rich heritage.

Historic Tuscumbia boasts one of Alabama's largest and best preserved collections of nineteenth century architecture through which may be traced her rich and colorful past. Tuscumbia strives to protect and preserve these buildings which contribute much to the character of the National Register Historic District in which they are included. Drive along tree-lined residential streets or stroll the sidewalks of the historic commercial district... savor life as it once was and is still meant to be!



1 LOG CABIN STAGECOACH STOP AT COLDWATER

300 S. Dickson St., Tuscumbia.

The most clear-cut vestige of Tuscumbia's pioneer period, is this small hewn-log cabin, reputedly an early stagecoach stop. Built perhaps as early as 1816, it stood originally on the opposite side of Dickson St. and was conceivably part of a row of log cabins operated by Michael Dickson as a hotel. Dickson and his family are considered the first white settlers at Coldwater (Tuscumbia). The building is owned by the Colbert County Historical Landmarks Foundation, and may be toured by appointment. Telephone: (256) 383-0783.

2 TUSCUMBIA POST OFFICE AND MURAL

116 East Sixth St.

The Tuscumbia Post Office Building, constructed in the 1930s, houses an example of the Works Projects Administration (WPA) murals, painted by artist Jack McMillan, soon after it opened. It depicts the arrival of Tuscumbia's first white settlers, the Dicksons.

3 SUTHERLAND BUILDING

121 S. Main St.

In 1825 George and John Sutherland opened their store in a "new brick building on the corner of Sixth and Main" in "Mechanics Row". Techniques used in construction of this building are consistent with this date, consequently it is believed to be Sutherland's Store and probably the oldest commercial building in the state.



4 **BIG SPRING (SPRING PARK)**
S. Main St.

Michael Dickson and his kinsmen arrived by keel boat at the source of Spring Creek around 1815 (some records say 1817) and established a settlement near the site of a Chickasaw village, Occocoposa (Cold Water). From this beginning, Tuscumbia developed taking its name from a Native American Chieftain, Tash-ka-ambi (Warrior Who Kills). The arched stone bridge and the park's central pavilion were Works Projects Administration (WPA) projects of the 1930s. Historic marker.



5 **TUSCUMBIA DEPOT** (Site of the first railway west of the Allegheny Mountains)

W. Fifth Street at Water St.
Built in 1888, this brick building marks the site of the first railroad west of the Alleghenies, which was completed in 1832. It connected town with the Tennessee River at Tuscumbia Landing and utilized a horse-drawn car. Tuscumbia was connected by rail to Decatur soon after, providing transportation around the Muscle Shoals which had hampered navigation on the Tennessee River. Historic marker.

6 **MASONIC HALL**
207 W. Fifth St.

Built in 1840, this building was visibly influenced by the Greek Revival. It may have originally been used as a railroad hotel and once served as the Tuscumbia Jail prior to being purchased by the Washington Masonic Lodge.



7 **COMMERCIAL ROW**

North side of W. Fifth St. between Water St. and Main St.

Although altered, this block of seven adjoining brick buildings is significant as a surviving example of antebellum commercial architecture. Erected in the 1830's these buildings reflect the prosperity associated with Tuscumbia's railroad heyday. Captain Arthur Keller (C.S.A.), father of Helen Keller, published his newspaper, "The North Alabamian", in the corner building (Main St.) during the 1880's. Commercial Row is thought to be the oldest row of commercial buildings in the state.

8 **THE PALACE**
100 S. Main St.

This building began as a railroad hotel in the 1830s. After the Civil War, it operated as Leuddemann's Store selling fancy dry goods during the Victorian era. A pharmacy operated from the early 1900s as the Palace Drug Store with a soda fountain.



9 **MORGAN HOUSE**
107 E. Fifth St.

Dating from the 1820s, this is one of the oldest commercial buildings in Alabama, and with its steeply-pitched gabled roof, is typical of the Federal period. Stucco now covers the red brick walls which were laid in Flemish bond pattern for strength and beauty. Samuel Keaghy was a merchant here in the 1830s.



10 WILLIAM REESE JULIAN HOUSE

104 N. Dickson St.

Reportedly built at Cherokee (possibly around 1820) and moved in the 1840's to Tuscumbia Landing on the Tennessee River, then pulled by oxen to its present location, the main part of this dwelling is a diminutive version of the typical early American "I" house, two stories high and one room deep. Confederate Lt. Col. William Reese Julian commanded Julian's Battalion under Roddey at the Battle of Day's Gap. He was the first Sheriff of Colbert County.



11 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

203 N. Dickson St.

The Baptist congregation was organized in 1823.

The church building was constructed in 1892 (as the Christian Church), then (after being acquired by the Baptists) greatly enlarged and changed in a 1903

renovation, when the stained glass windows, imported from Czechoslovakia, were installed.



12 ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

300 N. Dickson St.

First occupied in 1852, St. John's Church is typical of the small wooden "Carpenter's Gothic" churches popular among American Episcopal congregations during the middle of the 19th century and is the oldest such structure still standing in Alabama. Union troops stabled their horses in this church during occupation of the town in the 1860's. Damaged in 1874 by a tornado, the building was strengthened by iron rods and later by the addition of concrete buttresses. Historic marker.



13 BELL-PROUT HOUSE

306 N. Dickson St.

Alterations in the 1900s and a recently added columned portico conceal a simple three-bay dwelling, thought to be one of Tuscumbia's oldest houses (c. 1826). Abram Bell, uncle of the noted antebellum Tennessee statesman, John Bell, was the first owner.

14 STODDARD HOUSE

108 E. Second St.

This log cabin is of the "dogtrot" style, so named because it consisted of two log rooms separated by an open passage (in this case, enclosed now), the favored spot of dogs on hot days. Originally the home of the James Stoddard family in West Colbert County, it was moved in recent years to its present location on the site of the Deshler Female Institute. James Stoddard was an early merchant and resident of Tuscumbia.

FELIX GRUNDY NORMAN HOUSE

401 N. Main St.

This L-shaped house, with twin porticoes, hipped roof at the corner and gables at each end, reflects Greek Revival influence, notably in the heavy square columns (slightly tapered), and in the three-part windows that flank each portico. It was built in the 1830s. Felix Grundy Norman was an attorney, active in affairs of the state, serving as state legislator and in the Order of Masons.

COONS (STEELE-ARMISTEAD) HOUSE





16

16 406 N. Main St.

This is Tuscumbia's best example of "raised cottage" style, and is rare to regions other than coastal Virginia and Carolina or the Gulf. The Coons family built it. It was occupied by the Steeles during the Civil War, when Jeffrey Forrest, wounded in battle just outside of Tuscumbia, was brought to the house. He was the brother of Nathan Bedford Forrest.

GOV. ROBERT BURNS LINDSAY HOUSE

17 (Birthplace of Maud Lindsay), 500 N. Main St.

Originally a frame structure, this was the home of Gov. Robert Burns Lindsay, native of Scotland (born 1842). He and his wife, Sarah M. Winston Lindsay (daughter of William Winston), reared their children in this house. Daughter Maud Lindsay (famed educator, poet and author of children's books) was born here. She opened and operated the first free kindergarten in the state of Alabama.

McREYNOLDS' HOUSE

18 509 N. Main St.

This two-story Victorian dwelling was built in the 1880s by Mary Hogun McReynolds, widow of Robert McReynolds. The McReynolds' plantation home, located east of town had been burned by Federals.

THOMPSON

HOUSE

105 North Commons, E.



18

19 A stately example of an Ann Victorian architecture is reflective of a boom to the area's economy which occurred in 1890s.

TUSCUMBIA COMMONS

North Commons, E. and

20 Main St.

The town of Tuscumbia

was laid out in 1819 for the government land sale of 1820. Tuscumbia has the distinction of having the only known town plan in America to incorporate a "Commons" that completely surrounded the town. This land was reserved for common use by the citizens. Once livestock freely grazed on the land designated as "the Commons" where today a green parkway contains the Helen Keller Library, Tennessee Valley Art Center and various recreational facilities. This strip of land, approximately 300 feet wide, is still owned by the city and remains essentially intact.



CONGRESSMAN EDWARD B. ALMON HOUSE

21 201 Almon Ave. (across the Commons)

This gabled Victorian house features stained glass windows, service stairs as well as a front staircase, and a system of bells to call servants from the various rooms of the home. It was built in 1888 by Edward B. Almon who served in the U. S. House of Representatives (1915-1933). He was partly instrumental in the creation of the Tennessee Valley Authority.



"MEMORY FARM"

(Counts House)

200 North Commons, W.

22 This house dated from the antebellum period when it originally consisted of three rooms. Additions to the house including the porch made by the Counts family, who acquired it in 1870 and owned it for generations, essentially "Victorianized" it. They gave the house its name.

"IVY GREEN"
(Birthplace of Helen Keller)

300
North Commons, W.
World re-nowned blind





23 deaf humanitarian Helen Keller remembered this as the “rose and honeysuckle home” of her childhood. She was born here in 1880. At “Ivy Green” she overcame her handicaps with the help of her teacher, Anne Sullivan. The house, built c.1820-1830 by Helen Keller’s grandparents David and Mary Fairfax Moore Keller (related to Robert E. Lee and a direct descendent of Virginia’s early colonial governor, Alexander Spotswood, who built the Governor’s Palace at Williamsburg, Va.) is a good example of a one and one-half-story, Virginia-type cottage, faithful to its Tidewater tradition. It faces the Commons. An abundance of English Ivy once covered the grounds, hence the name of the house. Hours: Mon.-Sat. 8:30a.m.-4p.m.; Sun. 1-4p.m. Telephone: (256) 383-4066 or (888) 329-2124. Admission charge, group rates available. Historic marker.



209 Almon Ave. (across the Commons)

24 George T. Nieman built the house around 1890. After a succession of owners, John W. Moss purchased it in 1906. He was an elder and trustee of Tuscumbia Church of Christ and his home was used as a meeting house for a time.

“VIOLET HALL” (Christian House)
404 North Commons, W.

25 “Violet Hall” was used as a social club during the 1850s and again after the War Between the States with Mrs. A.S. Christian, hostess. Greatly damaged in 1953 by fire, it was rebuilt as a one and one-half-story dwelling though many original features remain in the ground floor and basement.

ISAAC YOUNG (Stine) HOUSE
407 W. Second St.



26 in the 1820s by Tuscumbia housewright William Smoot for his brother-in-law, carriage-maker Isaac Young, this house is Tuscumbia’s only remaining example of the folk-form remembered by Smoot from his Maryland houses with two stories, three bays (windows across front) and a one-story side wing.



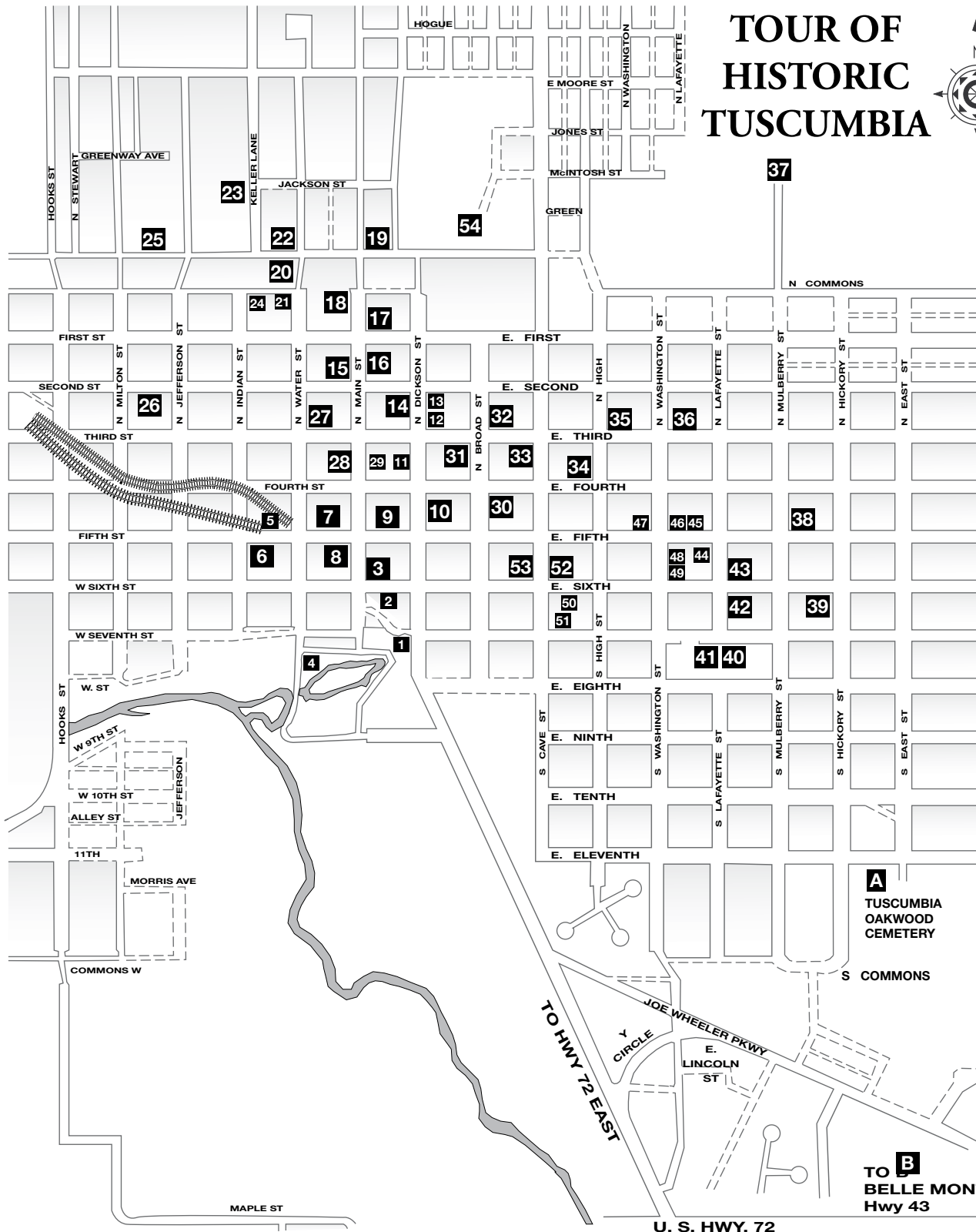
27 fronted by a long “gingerbread” porch from the Victorian era, this small brick house dates from around 1824. It was probably built by Thomas Limerick, who was the first mayor of the town. Philip G. Godley, who later lived in this house, was a merchant and served as mayor of the town when it was incorporated in 1821.

COLBERT COUNTY COURTHOUSE

201 N. Main St. (between Third St. and Fourth St.)

28 Colbert County had no permanent courthouse for several years after it split from Franklin County (to the south) in 1867. Construction of the courthouse was begun in 1881 and completed in 1882 at a cost \$14,750. William Dowling of Chattanooga was the builder, and Edward Laurent of Nashville was the architect. In 1908, a fire gutted the building. It was rebuilt using the original walls in 1909 when the dome and porticoes with Ionic columns were added. A later addition to the north and the architecturally compatible west wing added in 1974-1975 increased the size for practical purposes. A monument to the Confederate Soldier erected in 1911 stands on the

TOUR OF HISTORIC TUSCUMBIA





grounds facing Main Street. Historic marker.



204 N. Main St. (opposite courthouse)

29 Nathy House (circa 1924) is a three-bay, brick “town-house” version of the one and one-half-story Federal-period cottage. It is constructed nearly flush with the sidewalk. The Flemish Bond brickwork outlined with penciling is noteworthy as are the original louvered blinds. Dr. Abernathy acquired the house in 1855 when he added the side wing. He practiced medicine in Tusculum beginning in 1851 and was a surgeon in the Confederate service. The auxiliary wing to the rear includes the kitchen, smokehouse, and servant’s room.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 103 N. Broad St.

30 g from 1827, this is apparently Alabama’s oldest house of worship still standing in essentially original condition. It is a unique survivor in the state of “Georgian Gothic” style which preceded the true Gothic Revival of the 1840s and 1850s. The original slave gallery is still in place. Stained glass was placed in the windows in 1904. Helen Keller was baptized in this church.

HALSEY HOUSE 207 N. Broad St.

This house is believed to have



31 constructed between 1820 and 1830. Originally one chimney served all levels of the house, the kitchen and dining room being in the basement. Victorian touches were added during the time the Orlando Halsey family owned the house (1884-1929). An original (and rare, in Alabama) double-shouldered brick chimney is secured to the south side of the house with an iron S-brace tie rod.

CLAY HOUSE 300 N. Broad St.

32 Mrs. Clay boarded school pupils in this one and a half-story ge before the Civil War. It was probably built around 1824. In the 1880s and 1890s Elsie Bunch (McKnight) taught school in the house.

BAXTER HOUSE 308 E. Third St.

33 house exemplifies the early American “I”-house form, common in Tusculum and the Tennessee Valley. It may have been built around 1840. The chimneys are concealed by weatherboarding at each gable end. John Baxter commanded Baxter’s partisan Rangers stationed in Tusculum during the War Between the States.

PEARSALL HOUSE 409 E. Fourth St.

34 high basement of this dwelling probably housed the dining room and service area. Also an example of the two-story “I” house, its roots can be found in 18th century architecture of the Atlantic seaboard. The chimneys are concealed. Edward Pearsall built the house around 1825 and lived in it during the winter months so that his daughters could attend the Tusculum Female Academy. He lived the rest of the year on his plantation east of Tusculum.

SAMUEL JONES (Cooper-Rand) HOUSE





35 circa 1832 house is one of Tuscombiana's most notable Federal-period houses. It's one and a half-story form came from Virginia and Maryland, but acquired unusual formality in a tall central section, flanked by lower side wings. The main cornice is enriched by modillions (the small carved blocks beneath the eaves). It was built by Major Samuel Jones.

CHITWOOD HOUSE

601 E. Third St.

36 circa 1840 Tuscombiana "I" house – two rooms up, two down, with a hall between and a rear wing. The original window sashes of small panes have been replaced but the original large end chimneys remain.

CARROLL-JOHNSON HOUSE (Johnson's Woods)

801 North Commons, E. (private drive)

37 house centers one of the most complete 19th century domestic complexes remaining in the Tennessee Valley, including a plantation office, a smoke house, and servants' quarters. The main house was built between 1835 and 1837 by George Carroll, a native of Maryland and a member of a distinguished family which produced two signers of the Declaration of Independence. In 1869, the house came into the possession of Colonel William A. Johnson, commander under General Nathan Bedford Forrest, of the 4th Alabama Cavalry, C.S.A.

"THE MYRTLES" (Meredith House)

100 N. Mulberry St.

A portico faces each street of this corner lot. The porches follow a design once familiar in the Tuscombiana area, a double row of slender square columns carrying a triangular pediment. Scroll-sawn, urn-shaped balusters punctuate the porch railing. The house was built about 1838 for Colonel Samuel Meredith, Virginian and kinsman of Patrick Henry. Its name comes from the numerous large crepe myrtles on the grounds.

CONGRESSMAN ARCHIBALD HILL

CARMICHAEL HOUSE

808 East Sixth St.



39 Victorian-style house was completed in 1892, around a smaller one-story house constructed about 1850. Josephus Shackelford, prominent Baptist leader, writer, and editor of The North Alabamian (newspaper), prior to Captain Arthur Keller, lived here during the 1870s. In 1892, the house was purchased by Archibald Hill Carmichael (1864-1947). Carmichael was a prominent attorney. He served several terms in the state legislature and succeeded E.B. Almon in the U.S. House of Representatives.

PALMER-HOWARD HOUSE

700 E Seventh St.

This lovely Victorian house was begun in the late 1890s and finished in the early 1900s by Dr. Charley Palmer, a prominent physician. He was the son of Philip Palmer who built the house next door (to the west). It has remained in the same family since it was built.

PALMER HOUSE

608 E. Seventh St.

This tiny dwelling represents the most basic 18th-century one-room type of the Atlantic seaboard translated to early 19th century Alabama. Philip Palmer built this one-room house with steep gable roof and large brick chimney in 1826 and gradually added to it. The early outbuilding to the left rear of the main building was probably a smokehouse.

DELONY-HYDE HOUSE

700 E. Sixth St.

Built in the 1880's, this was the home of Judge Fox Delony.

42 walked home from the University of Alabama, where he was a student when it was burned by Federal troops.

DRISDALE HOUSE

701 E. Sixth St.

The Victorian architecture of this c. 1890 house features a

43 around porch and leaded glass.



44 which enclosed a basement dining room and kitchen. Mrs. W. Rhea (from East Tennessee) had the house constructed around 1825. He operated the Tuscumbia Inn (later the Challen House) and was a merchant. It is another representative of the classic early American "I" house in the Tennessee Valley.

ADAY-HUNT HOUSE

605 E. Fifth St.

This Victorian house (built by John Aday) and the identical

45 one next door were constructed around 1889.



46 B. Porterfields owned the house, this Queen Ann Victorian style house retains the original "fish scale" shingles.

SCHMIDT HOUSE

509 E. Fifth St.

This Victorian house, built around the turn-of-the-century, fea-



47 a two-story bay window and reproduction gingerbread copied from an old photograph of the house in its original state.

CURRY HOUSE

105 S. Washington St.

This diminutive frame house was built by John Curry around **48**. He was the principal builder of St. John's Episcopal Church which was constructed about the same time.

"NEW" CURRY HOUSE

107 S. Washington St.

This spacious two-story Victorian house was built in 1905 by **49** second John Curry. The ancestral Curry home built by his father, is the smaller house next door on Washington St. (see #48).



50 cabinet-maker, Benjamin Pybas (1808-1883) sometimes prior to 1870 when he deeded it to his daughter, Anna. She operated a private school for girls in the house for many years. The date of construction is believed to be around 1830.

"LOCUST HILL" (Rather-Kirk House)

209 S. Cave St. (seen from E. Sixth St.)

This house was built in 1823 by Colonel William Winter. Its



51

51 walls are thirteen inches thick forming deep reveals in the windows. Its Federal proportions have been altered with subsequent enlargement of the original structure and the extravagantly Victorian, Eastlake-style porch which now wraps the house. Colonel Florence N. Cornyn, commander of Federal Forces in the area, used Locust Hill as headquarters in 1863 and the grounds suffered greatly from their occupancy. Many locust trees surrounded the house from which its name is taken. Captain John Taylor Rather of Decatur acquired the house in 1865. His son, General John D. Rather, was later president of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad (an outgrowth of the Tuscumbia-Courtland-Decatur Railroad). His granddaughter, Mary Wallace Kirk (artist and author) wrote a history of the house including her memoirs and etchings, entitled "Locust Hill."



52

52 Chesapeake Bay region of Maryland and Virginia before the Revolution and served to modify the Tidewater-type house which had no porch. William Smoot, the housewright who erected this house, came from this part of Maryland. The porch retains its original chamfered posts with "lamb's tongue" molding. William Cooper, a noted Alabama jurist and legislator lived in the house in the 1830s. He was a friend and advisor to the Chickasaws prior to their removal to the West. They called him Oaliska, which meant "double eyes", because he wore glasses.

SENATOR HOWELL HEFLIN HOUSE

311 E. Sixth St.

This twentieth century house is the home of former U.S. Sena-



53

53 Howell Heflin (Democrat). He also served as Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court. Among his contributions to the U.S. Senate are serving on the Ethics Committee, in the Iran-Contra Hearings, and in Senate Judiciary Review and Confirmation of Supreme Court Judges.



54

54 in around 1830 by planter Clark T. Barton, its construction was finished by William Winston (brother of Isaac Winston of Belle Mont). This is the largest surviving antebellum structure in Tuscumbia. Brick walls are beautifully laid in Flemish Bond pattern with limestone lintels. A "widow's walk" observatory atop the roof afforded a panoramic view of the surrounding cotton fields, the Commons and the town beyond. William Winston's wife, Judith, was killed as the spiral staircase fell when a tornado struck the town in 1874. Deshler High School is named for a young brigadier general in the Confederate Army, James Deshler, who was killed at the Battle of Chickamauga. Historic marker.

OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST:

A TUSCUMBIA OAKWOOD CEMETERY

South Commons, E.,
at East St.

This cemetery was laid out by the surveyor, John Coffee, when he laid out the town. The first burial occurred in 1821. Veterans interred here range from the American Revolutionary War to the War in the Persian Gulf. Approximately 100 graves of unknown Confederate soldiers are marked by small "C.S.A." head-



stones in the Confederate Rest section. This peaceful cemetery shaded by centuries-old trees is the resting place for area founders and forebears to today's citizens. Historic marker. For further information contact the Colbert County Historical Landmarks Foundation, (256) 383-4401, or the Colbert County Tourism and Convention Bureau at (256) 383-0783, (800) 344-0783.

Alabama around 1818 when the rich Tennessee Valley cotton lands were opened for settlement. In 1833, Dr. Mitchell sold the house and the surrounding 1,650-acre cotton plantation to Isaac Winston (brother of William Winston, whose home was located just north of North Commons, now Deshler High School) and it remained in the family for many years. Its distinctive two-story central pavilion and flanking wings form a U-shaped courtyard. Refined woodwork, wood "graining", the original candleboard and remains of original wallpaper, period furnishings and King of Prussia marble mantels are some of the features of the interior which may be viewed during regular hours, Thurs. – Sat.: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sun: 1-5 p.m., or by appointment. Telephone: (256) 381-5052 or (256) 637-8513. It is owned by the Alabama Historical Commission. Admission charge, group rates available. Historic marker at U. S. Hwy. 43.

This tour exemplifies the architecture and history of Tuscumbia and its surrounding area and is designed for easy access. It is not all inclusive. For a more complete reference see "Historic Muscle Shoals: Buildings and Sites, Volume X of Journal of Muscle Shoals History" published in 1983 by the Tennessee Valley Historical Society (available in local libraries and book stores).

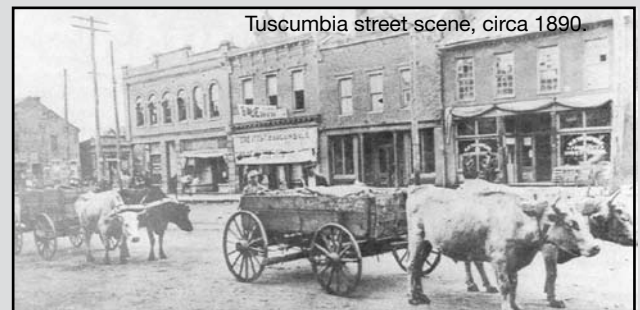


B "BELLE MONT" (Isaac Winston House)

5 miles south of Tuscumbia, west of Hwy. 43 on
County Road 52 (Cook Lane)

Belle Mont is significant as one of the Deep South's most outstanding examples of Palladian architecture. While it is not known who the designer of Belle Mont was, it is conceivable that Thomas Jefferson (who favored the style) had an influence. The house was built between 1828 and 1832 by Dr. Alexander W. Mitchell, a native of Louisa County, Virginia, who joined the rush to

Take A Stroll Through History. . .



Historic Tuscumbia Walking Tour - For six weeks each summer, enjoy a free guided walking tour through downtown historic districts. Tour begins at 10 a.m. every Saturday at Cold Water Book Store and ends at The Palace. (Tours from Memorial Weekend through July 4th Weekend.)

Walking Tour Map for up-close viewing of Alabama's oldest commercial district and nearby sites is available year round at downtown business locations or from The Colbert County Visitors Center at 719 U. S. Hwy. 72 West (next to the Alabama Music Hall of Fame).