

A vintage black and white photograph of a street scene in downtown Toccoa, Georgia. A dark vintage car with a convertible top is parked on the street in the foreground. The background features a large, multi-story brick building with a prominent cornice and a covered walkway supported by columns. A barber pole is visible in a window on the right. The image is overlaid with a dark blue graphic containing text.

— x x x —

HISTORIC DOWNTOWN TOCCOA

A TOUR
OF THE HISTORIC BUILDINGS
IN DOWNTOWN TOCCOA

— x x x —

***Take a guided tour through
Toccoa's historic downtown
and discover fifty
Historic Plaques honoring
downtown's rich history.***



Map of Downtown in Center Fold



Main Street Toccoa's *Historic Downtown* walking tour provides fun and interesting information about Toccoa's historic buildings in the downtown area.

The mile-and-a-half route is paved and mostly flat. The walking portion of the tour begins at the Currahee Military Museum (160 N. Alexander St.), circles through downtown, and ends at the Historic Ritz Theatre.

The final plaque location is a short drive from downtown to Lake Toccoa.

***Have questions or need help?
Call 706.282.3232***

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IS LOCATED IN
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Revitalizing Downtown Toccoa



With the advent of the 1960s, large shopping malls began to compete with local brick-and-mortar businesses. Many downtowns, once thriving and full of activity, fell into economic decline. As an answer to the depressed conditions in downtowns, Toccoa erected concrete canopies in its historic downtown district, closing off the area to vehicular traffic and effectively creating a covered pedestrian mall. In less than ten years, it was evident that, instead of enhancing businesses and creating a positive downtown image, these canopies actually accelerated the downtown's decline.

In an effort to revitalize Downtown Toccoa, community leaders organized Main Street Toccoa in 1990. A year later, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs recommended that the canopies be removed and that the street be opened once again to vehicular traffic. However, Toccoa did not have political support at this time for so vast a project.

During the next 15 years, Main Street Toccoa implemented many changes and improvements to the downtown mall, doing its best to bring economic vitality back to the stagnated downtown district. However, businesses continued to flounder, and many storefronts, once vibrant and full of life, were empty and in disrepair.

Over time, with growing grassroots support, approval was given to start the canopy removal project. The city secured funding of \$1.4 million from several state and federal agencies to begin removal of the canopies. The City of Toccoa also provided additional funds to complete the canopy removal and street opening project.

Demolition began in February 2007, and the response was overwhelmingly positive. Interest in the historic downtown area began to grow as more businesses realized the potential of a revitalized downtown district. Today, Downtown Toccoa looks not entirely unlike how it looked 50 or even 100 years ago. The street is once again welcoming to both pedestrian and vehicular traffic, and the establishment of a Historic Preservation Commission has contributed to an historically accurate, yet vibrant, Downtown Toccoa.

BEFORE



AFTER



1. TRAIN DEPOT

Originally, tracks were built to incorporate Toccoa as a stop along the Atlanta Richmond Air-Line Railway. The existing Train Depot was built in 1915 as Toccoa grew, to allow for a proper facility along the Southern Railroad. Prior to its renovation, it was uniquely sheathed with heart pine weatherboard siding. Most famously, the Train Depot has served



as a “whistle stop” for two presidents, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who stopped in 1936 while on the way to Warm Springs, and George H. W. Bush in 1992. Presently, the Depot serves several functions: As an Amtrak station for the Amtrak (formerly Southern) Crescent, as home to the Toccoa-Stephens County Chamber of Commerce and the Toccoa Welcome Center, and also as a museum intended to educate attendees about various aspects of Toccoa, such as famous Toccoa citizens, or the nearby Camp Toccoa, made famous by HBO’s miniseries, *Band of Brothers*.

2. THE FAMOUS FLAMES



Bobby Byrd met James Brown when they were young men. Brown came to live with Byrd’s family, who offered him a room in their home and a promise of a job. Brown joined Byrd’s group, which sang both gospel (as the Gospel Starlighters) and rhythm & blues (as the Avons). They performed around Georgia and South Carolina as the Flames (amended to the Famous Flames) in 1954 and 1955. The other original members of the group were guitarist Nafloyd Scott, bassist Roy Nebraska

“Baby Roy” Scott, and singers Sylvester Keels, Fred Pulliam, and Doyle Oglesby Jr. The latter two were replaced by Nashpendle “Nash” Knox and Johnny Terry in 1955. In late 1955, the Famous Flames cut a demo of “Please Please Please” at the Macon, Georgia, radio station, WIBB. “Please Please Please” was a sizable hit, reaching number 5 on Billboard’s R&B chart. They were inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2012. From commercials to modern rock and hip-hop music, the sound of the Flames and James Brown are still among the most “sampled” records in pop. And it all started here.

3. ROTHELL BUILDING

Constructed in the late 19th century, the Rothell Building has held many businesses over the years. In 1897, Mr. Barton C. Rothell, with his son, Lewis, started a business, B.C. Rothell and Son, which served as a livery stable that rented horses, buggies, hacks, and surries. As the horse and buggy eventually made way to the technological might of the motor vehicle, the livery stable gave way to Rothell's Feed Store, which operated under Purina Feed Company. Later on, the store became Rothell's Garden Shop and Florist, and later served many businesses, such as an antique shop and even a mini-mall. The store eventually became Captain Billy's Fish House from 1996 to 1999, when the restaurant closed. Currently, the building is owned as a radio station by Tugart Properties, functioning under the direction of Georgia-Carolina Radiocasting, owners of WNEG, found on AM 630 and FM 93.1. Rhythm Academy Dance Company is also housed in this building.

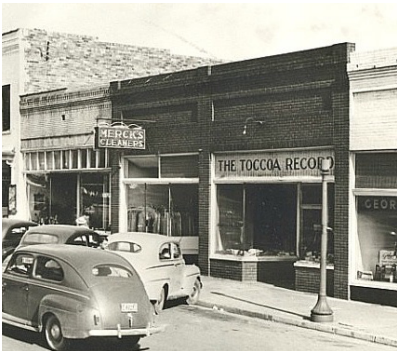


4. GEORGIA POWER



This building originally housed Georgia Power, which was located here the longest, but it was also home to Western Auto Store, a hardware store, a variety store, a Tae Kwon Do studio, and Whiten's Shoe Store. Currently, it houses Details Salon 73. After the Bluebird Cab Company next door was torn down, this building became the western-most commercial structure on Doyle Street. The building was designed in the classical revival-style, with a pair of central doorways flanked by large plate glass windows. The building itself has been owned by the Terrell family for many years, and looks much as it did when the building was built in 1936.

5. THE TOCCOA RECORD



The oldest business in Toccoa, The Toccoa Record was started in 1873. Originally founded as The Northeast Georgia Herald by two men, Mr. Mills and Mr. McJunkin, The Record was renamed The Toccoa Herald a year later in 1874. It was not until the mid-1890s, when the Southern Publishing Company purchased The Toccoa Herald that it garnered the name it holds to this day.

In 1906, The Toccoa Record began operating out of 67 West Doyle Street, the location in which it continues to operate. The Toccoa Record was one of the first newspapers in Georgia to use Goss press units. By the 1970s, it became the first weekly newspaper in the state of Georgia to incorporate the use of offset printing. By the 1980s, The Toccoa Record was the first newspaper in the state to convert to an all computerized newsroom. Ever the innovator, The Toccoa Record was also the first business in downtown Toccoa to renovate its façade following the removal of the concrete canopies that once made downtown an outdoor mall.

6. BURTON BUILDING



Earliest records for this building show that the property was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Joe Burton, residents of Toccoa, from Mr. W.R. Doyle and Mr. S. S. Carter in 1918. The earliest retail location was constructed in 1930 and served as one of the City of Toccoa's first barber shops, noted by the iconic red-and-white barber pole. On August 5, 1960, the location was bought by Mr. Ray Trogdon. From this time forward, the Burton Building served as home to multiple businesses, including a grocery store, a restaurant, and a flower shop, with the flower shop being the longest tenured business in this location.

On October 1, 1973, the Burton Building was sold to The Toccoa Record, who used this location primarily for computer storage and data handling, including payroll and amortization services for The Toccoa Record and other local businesses.

7. STAR THEATER



Constructed between 1913 and 1917, the bidding process for this historic “moving picture theater” began in 1919. Construction concluded around 1925 and the Star Theater, operated by Affiliated Theaters, opened its doors soon thereafter as a vernacular Art Deco-style movie theater with seating for 150 people. The building was noted for its elaborate pressed-tin ceilings and molded glass chandeliers. The building was the smaller of the two theaters in Toccoa, operating in competition with the Ritz located right down the street. Later,

it housed a dry cleaner and barber shop. Most recently, it has been renovated by Mr. Chris Irvin and features a large, Empire window over the stage, rich hardwood floors, and the original ticket booth.

8. H.O. TROUP’S CAMERA SHOP & WOODRUFF BUILDING



Constructed around 1920, this building served as a focal point of business for Mr. H.O. Troup, owner of Troup’s Studio. This building itself is known for its large rectangular transom windows composed of multiple 4x4 inch leaded glass, and also a unique herringbone masonry design in the upper façade. Modified in the late 1950s, the façade now contains enameled steel panels. This building, originally a camera shop, is now owned by Willie Woodruff, an attorney-at-law.

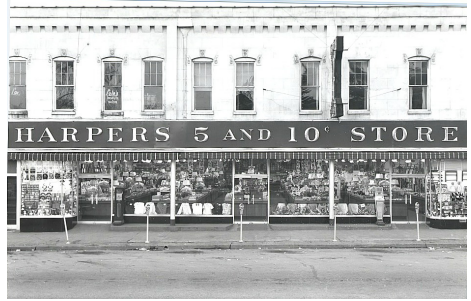
9. CITIZENS BANK



Originally constructed between 1950 and 1951 by the Yow family for The Citizens Bank of Toccoa, operation later expanded to include both a law firm and the Boilermaker’s and Blacksmith Political Action Committee. Ownership transferred at times from the 1950s to 1990s, and the bank later made way for a men’s retail store, a vacuum store, and other businesses. The basement of the building has also been used for various purposes, including a video store and a saddle shop. Currently, the building is owned by Mr. Jon C. West and holds an appraisal and accounting office.

10. HARPER'S 5 & 10 CENT STORE

Constructed around 1910, Harper's Store served as the primary five and dime store in the Toccoa vicinity for over 50 years. For generations, residents have frequented the building and, to this day, continue to tell stories of the candy counter, pressed tin ceiling, rows of clothing, and other fond memories. In 2013, the storefront was renovated to invoke the old time feel of the original Harper's



Row. Consequently, repair work done to this building sparked a renewed interest in the history and investment efforts of downtown. Currently, this building is occupied by the Probation Office and Stephens County Development Authority and provides new uses for an historic property, encouraging growth and expansion.

11. HARPER'S 5 & 10 CENT TOY STORE EXTENSION

Built in 1925, this building served as the first location of Franklin Discount Company Loans. Franklin Discount Company began in 1941 as a loan investment company by Mr. Ben F. Cheek, Jr., and Mr. J.B. McMurray. Harper's 5 and 10 Cent Store was originally located on Doyle Street, and served this location for more than 30 years. This building was an extension of that store, and served as the location for its toy department. While there is no joined access any longer, this structure was included in the façade renovation for Harper's Row. When the concrete canopies came down much of the original details were



revealed upon reconstruction, such as the original side entrance to the second story, and the bulkheads and storefront windows. Today, the location for Harper's 5 and 10 Cent Store stands as a testament to stores all across small-town America when times were simpler.

12. SHERWIN-WILLIAMS



In May of 1963, the Toccoa Sherwin-Williams opened, serving as a downtown staple for the last 53 years. However, this building did not begin this way. Constructed in 1953, the Sherwin-Williams building has housed several businesses, including two furniture stores, the Gibson-Wilson Furniture store and, for a very short time in the beginning of the 1960s, Stinespring Furniture. Next door, Sewell Furniture opened in October of 1962 and stayed in that location for 31 years, effectively creating a nexus of furniture stores around the block over several years. Established in 1886, Sherwin-Williams opened its doors to the rapidly increasing American painting and coating market. This building is owned by Mr. Janney Sanders, a local attorney.

13. ALLGOOD AUTO SUPPLY



This building was constructed in 1946 as a result of the post-World War II boom. Engineered in the international-style common after soldiers returned home, this building was originally Allgood's Auto Supply Store. Mr. Larry L. Allgood, Jr., better known as "Bull", began his business December 9, 1951 and remained in business for over 50 years.

Upstairs housed a CPA, dentist, and grocery store. This building was notable in Toccoa history for serving as a fallout shelter during the Cold War, as three-fourths of the basement is underground. Current property owners are Patrick and Marilyn Hall.

14. CARTER WHOLESALE

This building was built in 1919, and originally housed Carter Wholesale. Carter Wholesale provided groceries and building supplies to country stores all over Northeast Georgia. Carter Wholesale was located in the building until 1964. In 1966, Fred Watson bought the building and founded Watson Tire, which has been located here since that time.



15. GREYHOUND BUS STATION

One of the last Greyhound bus stations of its kind, the Toccoa station was unique in that its upstairs served as a hotel to provide overnight passengers with a place to stay without having to venture outside of the terminal. When facing the building, the bus station has two entrances, one set of double doors



on the left and one set on the right. During times of segregation, these entrances served as separate waiting rooms for “white” and “colored” passengers. The doors on the right of the building opened into the “colored” waiting room, while the doors on the left of the building opened into the “white” waiting room. The terminal also contained different boarding areas for passengers until the eventual repeal of segregation and the necessary abolishment of laws relegating black and white Americans to the status of “separate, but equal.”

The bus station still has its original oak countertop preserved, which once served as a ticket counter. Additionally, the bathrooms retain their original black-and-white tile from their days in use for the Greyhound bus station. After serving as a bus terminal, the building has been used for multiple businesses, including most recently as a restaurant. It is now owned by Mr. Alden Parker, a local entrepreneur.

16. ARMY SURPLUS STORE



Constructed in 1906, this building stands as an example of the vernacular style of architecture commonly seen in the early 20th century. Originally serving as an army surplus store, this building eventually made way for a bowling alley, a furniture store, a taxi company, and a pillow manufacturing business. Mr. Mike Van Minos purchased the building for State Farm Insurance and continues to use the building

for this purpose, now operating as Van Minos Insurance Agency, specializing locally in auto, home, and commercial insurance.

17. SMITH'S DRUGS

Built circa 1911, the space occupied by Smith's Drug Store has been used in past years as a furniture store, a music store, a brick warehouse, and an office building for the Toccoa Banking Company. In 1933, the building was purchased by J.B. McMurry to be used as a general "junk" and miscellaneous wares store. In 1956, Mr. McMurry sold the building to Fred L. Hayes, who also owned the department store next door. By 1961, the building was owned by Mr. Charles W. Smith, who opened Smith's Drugs with his wife, Mary, for over 20 years. In 1986, the business became Stewart's Downtown Discount Drugs, though later moved next door.



In 1990, Carolyn Henson purchased the original property and used it as a retail sporting goods store, which also offered services in embroidery and screen printing services. Currently, Threads Sports has continued the business under management from Carolyn's son, Chris Henson and has expanded to include Thread's Boutique as an addition to the same building.

18. HAYES' DEPARTMENT STORE

Built around 1911 as the Fred L. Hayes Department Store, this building has been known as a quality shopping location for decades. Mr. Fred L. Hayes and his wife Betty created a high quality store for Northeast Georgia that became a local institution. In 1987, after many successful years of business, the Hayes Department Store was renovated and Stewart's Downtown Discount Drugs moved in from next door. Stewart's Drugs, first established in 1961 by Charles W. Smith, was originally



known as Smith's Discount Drugs. In 1979, Mr. Frank Stewart joined the company and purchased it a year later, naming it Stewart's Downtown Discount Drugs. Mr. Stewart might best be known for adding downtown's first one-hour film processing lab to his business. Unfortunately, after moving into the Hayes building, the lab caused an electrical short, burning most of the interior. The dedicated staff continued to work from the back porch of the building and, having since recovered, opened their doors again as Stewart's Downtown Discount Drugs.

19. BANK OF TOCCOA



This building might best be known for serving as a centerpiece in historical Toccoa photographs emphasizing small town business and citizen involvement. Home to a variety of drug stores, including Toccoa, Sorrells, and Smith-Maddox, as well as several clothing stores, a hair salon, and a jewelry store, this building might best be known as the original home of the Bank of Toccoa, now known as First Citizens Bank. The design of this building exhibits unique arts and crafts-style

masonry and stands out as one of the more unique historic downtown commercial buildings, displaying windows defined by a series of soldier courses with sandstone corner accents. The building is now owned by Rick and Letha Phillips and is home to a travel agency, Ionosphere, and upper story residential living.

20. ANDREWS/HAMBY MEN'S STORE

The building housing the Andrews-Hamby Men's Store was constructed around 1916 when the City of Toccoa began its expansion of its central downtown district. Opened in the late 1940s, Mr. Andrews and Mr. Hamby smartly located their store between Green's Department Store and Economy Drugs, allowing them to draw business in from other successful downtown locations. Typical of men's stores of the time, the Andrews-Hamby Men's Store sold finely crafted menswear, personal items, and various other necessities designed to appeal to the refined gentleman. This building is now owned by Mr. Chris Irvin.



21. GREEN'S BARGAIN ANNEX

Serving as an accessory to Green's already successful department store, the Bargain Annex was added on to the store around 1950 and was designed to sell cheap and discounted goods. Green's Department Store was located on downtown Doyle Street right next to the Globe Department Store. Mr. Green had an eye for business and promotion and frequently decorated his storefront with large signs advertising giveaways and deals in an attempt to bring in new customers. The building which housed Green's Bargain Annex was constructed around 1907 and makes use of a beautiful, classic overlaid brick pattern. After its use as the Bargain Annex, this building was home to Lovett's Jewelry, which was owned by Mr. Homer Smith. In 2004, the building was purchased by Mr. Harold "Buddy" Lawson and his wife, Diane, where Mrs. Diane Lawson operated Dream Giver's Art Gallery. Faithfully restored by the Lawsons, the building is now owned by Delorne Enterprises, LLC and was most recently occupied by Master's Touch Artworks.



22. NICKEL BACK SHOE STORE



Known as the Nickel Back Shoe Store for over 20 years, it was first owned by the Collins family from southern Toccoa. After Nickel Back closed, the building became home to two other businesses in the 1990s, Flower & Candy Basket, and Falling Water Bakery and Café. The building was purchased in 2002 by Mr. Jimmy Harris and Mrs. Cheri Harris, who opened Harris Communi-

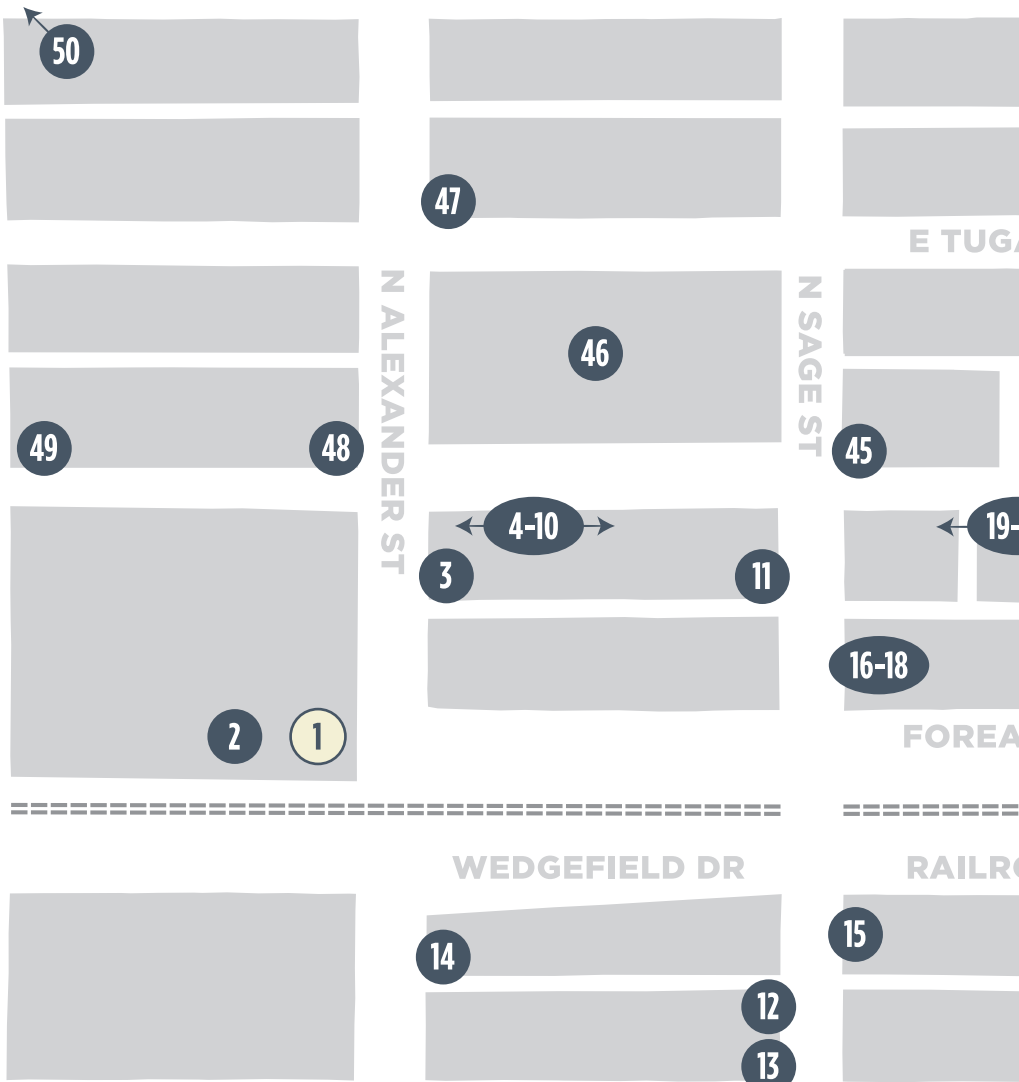
cations. Later, his daughter, Rebekah Harris Gailer, opened Spa and Salon Anastasia. A historic staple of downtown Toccoa, the building has been worked upon diligently by the Harris family. Various efforts to restore historical integrity include the gold lettering Nickel Back marquee above the door and the gold grates on the façade. Additionally, the structure retains its original wooden floors and bricks produced in the City of Toccoa's brickyard.

23. BLUMENTHAL'S DEPARTMENT STORE



In the early to mid-twentieth century, society was dominated less by massive, overarching department stores and more by locally owned and operated downtown storefronts. One such example is Blumenthal's Department Store. Mr. Blumenthal, one of the first Jewish merchants located in the city, owned and operated a Blumenthal's in just about every town in and around North Georgia. He sold mostly clothing items and shoes, but his department stores held a little bit

of everything. The location housing Blumenthal's Department Store was constructed in 1905 and, as Blumenthal's, provided for much of Toccoa's residents' needs. As society gave way to larger chains, Mr. Blumenthal began to close down his Northeast Georgia locations. After Blumenthal's closed, the storefront was owned by Mr. John Mullinax, owner and operator of Gem Jewelry, also located on Doyle Street, though it remained vacant for a time. Later, the storefront housed many businesses, including Sonshine Bibles, Books, & Gifts, a local Christian business. Today, this location houses All Things Currahee, a unique shop carrying local and regional handcrafted merchandise from artists and entrepreneurs in Stephens County and surrounding regions. This building is now owned by Mr. Rick and Mrs. Letha Philips.

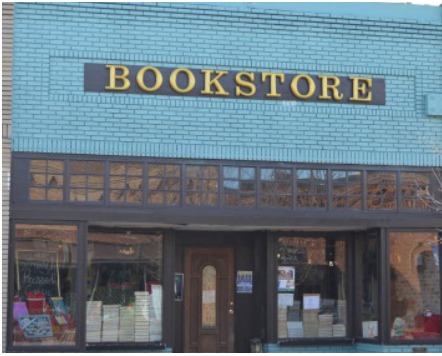


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24. GROOH'S DEPARTMENT STORE



Built around 1920, the architectural style of this building is considered to be above average in design due to construction and materials. Perhaps best known in the early 1940s as Grooh's Department Store, this building stands as a pinnacle of the Classical-style of architecture known throughout the early twentieth century. Historically, the building and walls flanking and joining it on either side are indicative of past small town initiatives where buildings

were constructed in pairs, sponsored by local developers or bankers. After Grooh's closed, in 1950 John and Hazel Mullinax opened the Gem Jewelry Company of Toccoa. The business and building were both later sold by Mr. John Mullinax to his son, Johnny, who changed the name to Mullinax Jewelers. The building survived a fire in the early 1990s. Most recently, the building served as the home of [ash-ling] Booksellers, a recognized Toccoa business which has helped restore the façade and interior. The original windows for the building are still preserved and faintly show the Grooh's Department Store lettering.

25. MCCURRY'S MEN'S SHOP

A classic sight in historic downtown Toccoa, McCurry's Men's Shop was founded by Mr. Carl McCurry as a retail location designed to provide casual, formal, and professional wear to men of all ages. The building which houses McCurry's Men's Shop was originally constructed around the year 1900, making it one of the oldest buildings in Downtown Toccoa. Mr. Carl McCurry opened this location in 1929 and treated his customers as if they were his own family members. The stories say that he went above and beyond to serve his clients, even allowing customers to pay with store credit. Mr. McCurry would help Acree Davis at the funeral home at times if someone was to be



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buried without a suit and tie. Carl McCurry's Men's Shop is a callback to times when dressing up was the norm and not the exception, and when caring for one's customers included treating them like family. Currently, the building housing McCurry's Men's Shop is now owned by Phyllis Skelton and is home to her business, Phyllis' Hairworks, a successful downtown women's hair salon, as well as Gail's Infinity Hair Salon, and The Chattel Shop.

26. MARTHA PARK DRESS SHOP



Originally located next to one of the first Gem Jewelry Company downtown storefronts, the Martha Park Dress Shop later made its move to this location currently housing the Department of Driver Services (DDS). This Doyle Street location was originally constructed in 1900 and may best be known for its vast, open windows.

This Martha Park Dress Shop downtown location is also unique in that its storefront was partially made up of a corrugated, blue-and-white patterned tile not usually seen in a typical downtown landscape dominated almost entirely by brick facades. Throughout the latter half of the 20th Century, this dress shop catered to only the finest in women's fashion, including signature styles of high neck button-up blouses, slim cardigans and pants, and, of course, dresses with drop waists and contrasting white cuffs and collars. The building is now owned by Arom Solutions, Incorporated.

27. THE REBEL CAFÉ

The building housing The Rebel Café was built in 1900. Before Barbara and Maurice “Shready” Hallford opened The Rebel in 1961, the building was home to a grocery store, a general store, and Devoe Paints. The Hallford's owned and operated The Rebel for 36 years. At The Rebel, they created a family atmosphere where there were no secrets because, as the stories go, everyone shouted everything. Everything ordered in The Rebel was homemade. “Shready” and company used fresh, local meat from Colonial, then Sheriffs. Eventually, they moved from a diner-style restaurant to short-order cooking in the early 1970s. Famous dishes from The Rebel included The Shready Burger and apple pie and ice cream. Interesting architectural features of the building include the leaded glass and transom windows. Currently, The Rebel Café is serving American-Asian fusion cuisine under the ownership and operation of local resident, Alden Parker.



28. RED APPLE GROCERY / SEARS



These buildings originally housed Red Apple Grocery and Sears. Over the years, the buildings have been combined into one to allow for more space. Cato's was housed here in the 1980s and 1990s and Majorie Bowen opened Milady's, a ladies boutique, in the late 1990s. This store was located here until 2005 when Stephanie Ayers opened an English Import Antiques business. In 2008, the building was

once again divided in two by Bob and Carla Wehner to house Toccoa's Fireplace and Olie's Ice Cream. Karly Herring turned the two separate spaces into one again when she purchased the building in 2013 to expand her women's clothing boutique—Feral.

29. BARRON & LAWRENCE 5 & 10 CENT STORE

The Barron & Lawrence 5 & 10 Cent Store served as one of Toccoa's many "five-and-dime" stores throughout the city's downtown history. The building in which it was housed was constructed around 1906. When Barron and Lawrence took over the location, they implemented the trending financial structure of selling all of their products for either 5 or 10 cents exactly, a concept made famous by F.W. Woolworth in 1878. The Barron and Lawrence 5 and 10 Cent Store sold various discounted household and personal products. A successful five-and-dime store during its time, after the increase in prices to both customers and owner, the Barron and Lawrence 5 and 10 Cent Store moved out of its location downtown.



During WWII, this location was home to Winn Dixie. Following its tenure as the Barron & Lawrence 5 & 10 Cent Store, it was home to Jordan's Shoe Store. In the 1990's, the location was home to Powell's Jewelry, a locally-owned jewelry store. The building is owned by Mr. Jack P. Green, a registered CPA.

30. TABOR MOTOR COMPANY



Marvin Tabor, Sr. and his partner, Dick Barron, opened Tabor Motor Company in the 1930's. The Tabor Motor Company began on Tugalo Street selling Chevy automobiles. The business lay dormant during World War II, as there were no automobiles being sold. After the war was over, Marvin Tabor, Sr. built the current building and moved the

business to Pond Street. They sold Buick and GMC trucks, later expanding to selling Pontiac and Cadillac vehicles. Mr. Burrell took over the Chevy dealership when the Tabor Motor Company moved. Ed Holcombe was the dealer of Tabor Motor Company from 1959-1986. Stan Roberts operated the dealership from 1986-2006, selling Buick, GMC, Pontiac, and Cadillac vehicles. In 2006, the business was renamed Hayes of Toccoa, though, in 2016, it once again reverted to its original name of Tabor Motor Company.

31. SMITH FURNITURE

R. L. Smith started a TV and Appliance center at the corner of Doyle and Pond Street. He purchased Carl McCurry's business before purchasing the building where Troup's Hallmark Gold Crown Store is now located. Smith Furniture opened in this location in January 1972 and was located here for 21 years. Before Mr. Smith purchased the building, it was a garage. Mr. Smith was very active in downtown and served as president of the merchants association. Smith Furniture is now the oldest store of its kind in the city. Bob Troup bought the building in 1993 to expand his business. The pent roof and gabled dormers make this building unique in downtown.



32. TROUP'S STUDIO



Constructed prior to 1932, Troup's Studio is one of Toccoa's oldest downtown businesses to carry the same name it did when it was constructed. Founded during the Great Depression by H.O. and Addie Lee Troup under the name Troup's Photo Service Inc., the business was located in an upstairs studio in a different building on Doyle Street. With successful

entrepreneurial business practices, Mr. Troup turned his studio into a nation-wide photo-finishing operation taking in, processing, and sending out between 400 to 700 rolls of film. The business was relocated here in 1945, diversifying the business and increasing the prominence of Troup's.

After the passing of H.O., Robert Troup continued the family business with his wife, Betty. In 1994, Troup's expanded further and renovated the adjacent building to accommodate gift line growth. Housing a complete professional lab with state-of-the-art digital printing, Troup's has developed into a third-generation family business, Patti Troup Joiner and Harry Joiner, specializing in newborn, children, family, senior, and wedding portraiture. In addition to the studio, they have a Hallmark Gold Crown Store.

33. MCBATH HOME



A beautiful example of quaint early 1900s architecture, Dr. W.L. McBeth and his wife, Ella, bought this home in 1922 from Mrs. A. J. Hogsed when he moved from Avalon to Toccoa to continue to expand his medicine practice. Dr. and Mrs. McBeth, along with their family, lived upstairs while he practiced medicine in the basement. After Dr. McBeth died in

1925, his wife stayed in the home until she passed away in 1948. The house was left to their daughter, Ruth, who turned it into a boarding house for teachers until her death in 1987. Purchased and renovated in 2007 by Dr. Kay Royal, the home once again became a doctor's office, Family Eye Care of Toccoa.

34. JOHNSON & FIELDS



The property was constructed around 1918, where it served as a private residence for almost 50 years. The home retains most of its original architecture, but has had some renovation done on the exterior. The home might be best known as carrying the last of the popular craftsman-style residential architecture popular from 1901-1918 in the City

of Toccoa. In 1972, Amidec, Inc. bought the historic property from Mrs. A.O. Teasley, and proceeded to convert the home to an office space for Mr. Julius M. Johnson and his accounting firm. The firm, originally founded in 1964, was the first certified public accountings firm in Toccoa. The firm has changed names since and is now operated by Mr. Johnson's son, Sam and partner, Mrs. Lee Ellen Fields, yet has continued to operate out of this beautiful historic home for over 40 years.

35. HARPER HOME



Now a modern office setting, the building served as a home for the Harper family sisters in 1937. The Harper family is perhaps best known in Toccoa for their 5 and 10 Cent Store based in downtown for over 30 years. The Harper family home also served as a bed & breakfast for approximately 15 years, known for serving delicious food on Sundays. A prime example of the California Arts & Crafts style of architecture,

also known as the American Craftsman-style bungalow (popular from 1910-1925), the Harper Home was an attempt to steer away from Victorian-style architecture and focus on raw materials, simplicity in design, and visibility of handcraft. Unique to the home is its use of locally handcrafted wood, glass, and stone. Currently, the fold-in style doors from the bed & breakfast are still intact, as well as the original crystal doorknobs. The Harper Home has also served as an office for attorney Dan Pressley.

36. HUDGINS FURNITURE

Also constructed following Toccoa's post-World War II boom, Hudgins Furniture was built around 1946 by Jewell Hudgins. This building housed Hudgins Furniture for 63 years of Toccoa's history. Originally a two-story building with 10,000 sq. feet, the third story was added in 1957, making the building 15,000 sq. feet. Later, a side building was added in 1985 bringing the total sq. footage up to 20,000. It was one of the first buildings in town to have an elevator.



The business was started when Mr. Jewell Hudgins bought out Gower Furniture, when the business was located farther down Doyle Street across from the Courthouse. The building was sold in 2003 by Mr. J.B. and Mrs. Elaine Hudgins to 1st Franklin Financial Corporation where it now houses its marketing, branch operations, and human resources departments.

37. ADDY BUILDING

Constructed around 1950, the property upon which the Addy Building is located has been in the Addy family estate since 1938. The building survived the urban renewal project in Toccoa around the 1970s that demolished twenty-two structures along Tugalo and Foreacre Streets. Recognized as one of four gas service stations at



the intersection where pump service was still available, the Addy Building, in tandem with the block of buildings nearby, once housed Liberty TV Cable, Ideal Cleaners, Stewarts Banker, Georgia Pool Company, an ice cream parlor, and even a funeral home. Today, the building is home to CK Morgan & Company, a retail store.

38. STANDARD OIL SERVICE STATION

This gas station was brought to Toccoa by an independent owner, who also built the structure. Unlike most stations, which mimic the “house with canopy” style intended to establish trust and the coziness of home (demonstrated by the building that currently houses CK Morgan & Company), this particular station was influenced by the straight and clean lines of early Art Deco architecture. After closing down as a gas station, this building sat vacant before operating as an alternator repair shop until Mr. Steve and Mrs. Kelly Shirley began restorative work.



Working with the Historic Preservation Commission, they repainted the awnings in alignment with historic characteristic of the canopy, repaired the bay doors with faux doors, and restored the plate glass windows. In 2012, their daughter, Mrs. Megan McAvoy, established a blossoming full service florist boutique, Downtown Flowers.

39. TOCCOA BAKERY



Constructed in the late 1930s, this structure has served as a bakery and sandwich shop for much of its tenure owned by various owners, Dale and Cynthia Williams, and then later Guy and Jeanette Mougel. Constructed with central entry alcoves and a trio of transom windows in the classical revival-style, Cups & Cones was most recently based in the front of this building. The rest of the building houses office space for Raybon OBGYN. Current property owners are Dr. Brian and Joann Raybon. Several important architectural features include the beautiful medallions in the upper façade, as well as the preservation of the storefront entrances.

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40. DELUXE TIRE / WESTERN AUTO ASSOCIATE STORE

Originally built around 1940, Deluxe Tire, a franchise of the famous Western Auto, originally called this classical revival-style structure home. Owned and modified in the 1950s by the Clyde Murray family, this store later switched from selling auto parts and services to men's clothing and accessories. Scarborough's Men's Store, owned by Dean Scarborough,



served Toccoa's gentry for 17 years, until it was bought by Dr. and Mrs. Brian Raybon in 2007. It is now home to Dr. Raybon's obstetrics and gynecology practice.



41. ACREE MITCHELL GROCERY STORE

Originally built circa 1857 when Stephens County was still a part of Habersham County, The Studio is the oldest building in downtown Toccoa. The Studio was originally a free-standing building constructed in the style of the times with hand-made bricks. The staircase to the upstairs was outside the building and was moved inside as Downtown Toccoa expanded. Most popularly known as the location for the Acree Mitchell Grocery Store, the building was later used to house a Masonic Lodge and is currently an art gallery. The upstairs wood floors are made of wide plank oak and pine. The fireplace was torn down when renovations were made to the interior of the building, however

the bricks were saved and used under the upstairs windows. Beaded board ceilings have also been retained upstairs, where art lessons are taught by owner Deborah Hartely. The Studio is also home to the Currahee Artists Guild, where quarterly art shows and demonstrations occur.

42. PARKER NEWMAN DRUGSTORE & SODA SHOP



Built in 1907, this building has housed various types of businesses over the years, including several drug stores, Gilberts Drugs, and the Parker Newman Drug Store & Soda Shop. Specifically, the Parker Newman Drug Store was originally operated by Mr. Newman alone until Mr. Parker came in with him.

The soda fountain was a staple in the 1950s and served as a popular “hang-out” for middle and high school kids. After its stint as the Parker Newman Drug Store, the building housed the Georgia Credit of Toccoa and specialized in local finance and small loans. Later, it served as storage until opening as B.J.’s Restaurant, known throughout Stephens County and beyond for its wonderful breakfast.



43. POOL ROOM

The building that is the current home of {ashing} Booksellers was originally a Pool Room. Over the years, the building has been home to several women’s clothing stores, including Joyce’s Boutique for 14 years. It has also been home to several salons and barbershops, as well as Bob Hill Realty. The Vander Woude family bought the building in 2004.

44. CLIPPER BARBER SHOP

The building that Ginger & Company is located in originally housed the Clipper Barber Shop. Owned by Rhuel Hallford, the Clipper Barber Shop was open in this location for 42 years. Jessie Prather also worked with Mr. Hallford. After the barber shop closed, the building was home to a technology store, a loan office, and a clothing store before becoming Ginger & Company, a salon that is housed in the building today. The Vander Woude family bought the building in 2004.



45. BELK-GALLANT BUILDING



One of the most historic buildings in Downtown Toccoa, the Belk-Gallant Building has long been an anchor of downtown shopping and business. Located at the corner of Doyle and Sage Streets, this beautiful property has held a bank as well as a Belk department store and, currently, an antique mall. In 1937, the tenth Belk store to open in the nation opened in Downtown Toccoa in this location.

After Belk left downtown in 1995, city officials negotiated with Belk corporate office to have the building gifted to the City of Toccoa. After five years of renovation, the building was sold to Mr. James Vander Woude, who worked hard to restore the façade of the building to its former style and integrity. The careful renovation of the building allowed for reestablishment of 36,000 square feet of viable business space along two downtown Toccoa streets. Currently, it houses the Whistle Stop Antique Market, which features three floors of antiques, furniture, and collectibles, the X-Factor Grill & Cornerstone Restaurant, and a bakery, Victoria's Sweet Treats.

46. STEPHENS COUNTY COURTHOUSE

On April 18, 1907, ground was broken for the Stephens County Courthouse, and the building was completed by 1908. Architect H.L. Lewman designed the courthouse, and Falls River Construction Company from Louisville, Kentucky was the contractor. The architecture of the courthouse is Neo-classical Revival, which may contain Greek, Roman, or perhaps even Federal influences. The Stephens County Courthouse, specifically, is notable for its red brick façade and limestone accents. There are



four Ionic columns two stories high on the north and south porticos, and engaged pilasters two stories high on the east and west, as well as each corner. The roof is low-pitched and hipped, a staple of the Neo-classical style. A cupola in the center of the top of the structure houses the four-sided clock facing north, east, south, and west. Even though the Courthouse has been updated throughout the years, it still looks much the same as it did in 1908.

47. SIMMONS-BOND INN



Constructed in 1903 by Mr. Levi Prater for Mr. James Bollinger Simmons, this house serves as an excellent example of the asymmetrical Victorian-style seen in the early 1900s. Mr. Simmons himself might be best known for pioneering the furniture industry in Toccoa. Throughout time, however, this house has maintained its ionic columns and white banisters.

The house is known for its exceptional glass work, such as the front door, which is leaded cut glass, along with both parlor and foyer windows. The dining room is known for its stained glass windows, and there are four oval “spider web” leaded glass windows upstairs. Perhaps most beautifully, there is a seven-foot stained glass window that lights the grand staircase.

This house was the first in Toccoa to have running water and plumbing, and may be considered one of the most outstanding homes in the city. Presently, it serves as the Simmons-Bond Inn, a bed and breakfast, owned by Todd and Joy Cusato.

48. TOCCOA CITY HALL

Built in 1932 as a one-and-a-half story Neo-Classical Revival brick structure, this building originally served as the Toccoa Post Office before the post office moved following the end of World War II, when an economic boom began, encouraging business expansion. After a period of renovation and vacancy, the City of Toccoa moved into the old Post Office, originally offering services in police work, bill payments, municipal court, and jail. Additionally, during the Cold War, the basement of City Hall served as one of two fallout shelters in Toccoa.



49. HISTORIC RITZ THEATRE



Constructed circa 1939, the 500-seat Ritz Theatre was intended to bring a Hollywood-style professional movie theater to North Georgia. Over the course of many successful years, the Ritz Theatre served as a movie theater, community theatre, and a music hall, drawing thousands of Toccoa residents over the years.

After closing its doors in 1985, the Ritz Theatre became the Schaefer Center, serving as home to Toccoa's community theater. In 2014, the Currahee Arts Council donated the Schaefer Center to the City of Toccoa. The city has renovated both the interior and exterior to bring back the original historic Art-Deco Moderne exterior facade. Most recently, the Fox Theatre Institute in Atlanta sponsored the installation of an historically-inspired neon-lit marquee, and the Appalachian Regional Commission sponsored the installation of a state-of-the-art sound system. With several phases of renovation still planned, the newly-branded Historic Ritz Theatre at the Schaefer Center serves as a cornerstone for Toccoa events, community plays, and musical presentations.

50. CAMP TOCCOA BUILDING (SHORT DRIVE FROM DOWNTOWN)

Camp Toccoa, located at the base of Currahee Mountain, was a U.S. Army paratrooper training camp during WWII. This building was originally located at Camp Toccoa and was moved to Lake Toccoa after the war ended, where it was used by the Pines Golf Course. The building houses several artifacts from Camp Toccoa, including an original slate pool table and an original 48-star flag. The city restored the building in 2015 as part of their newly renovated Links at Lake Toccoa. It currently houses Ping's Grill and the Links Pro Shop.



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