Canton, GA 30169

11. Grisham Galt House - 130 Academy Street

The Galt House was constructed in 1841 by William Grisham. He was one of the area's earliest settlers and a founder of Canton. Throughout the years, the home has undergone several alterations. Notably, it was expanded and given Victorian design with new development, and we hope that this tour will show visitors that it can be done. Canton has always been committed to preserving our heritage and maintaining our unique character. We hope this tour will inspire others to do the same. Canton has much to offer in terms of history and culture, and we want to make sure that our visitors can experience it all.

History of the City of Canton

The City of Canton has a rich heritage. Located in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Canton was founded in the late 1830s and quickly became a bustling center for commerce and industry. The city's location at the junction of the Oconee and Tallulah Rivers made it an ideal location for trade and transportation. Canton was also an important center for the textile industry, with many mills and factories dotting the cityscape.

Many members of the Cherokee Nation moved west, but the majority stayed until removed by Federal Troops sent into the area during the summer of 1838. The remaining Cherokees were gathered and held in forts until the removal of all Indians within its boundaries, and, following the removal, the federal troops had accomplished their mission. Today nothing stands to identify its timber structure, but Fort Buffington, which stood six miles east of Canton.

Canton, GA 30169

Cherokee County Historical Society

The Cherokee County Historical Society is a nonprofit corporation founded in 1975. Dedicated to history preservation and education, CCHS has over 500 members and offers field trips, behind-the-scenes tours, educational programs, and research material to its members and guests. Some of our most popular events include Kenthucky Derby Day, the annual picnic, and the Cherokee Rememberexhibits featuring many rarely seen images and artifacts of early Cherokee County.

CCHS's main goal for this tour is to create awareness of the area's historic resources and show that both new and old buildings can coexist and compliment each other. While downtown Canton has grown with the times and changed considerably during the past 100 years, many historic buildings remain and contribute to a truly unique downtown experience. Since Cherokee County is experiencing such rapid growth, the Historical Society is attempting to find ways to integrate our historic buildings with new development, and we hope that this tour will show visitors that it can be done. Canton has already lost many historic structures, but the ones that remain give the city its unique character and offer visitors a glimpse of the Canton of old.

CCHS’s office and archives are located in the Historic Courthouse on Academy Street, widely referred to as the Historic Courthouse, and was the site of the park was where the Cherokee Courthouse in 1833 and again changed in 1834 to Canton, some say because a group of citizens had dreams of making the town into an important silk center. The site was acquired by a full government of Canton by settlers gaining West. Georgia had made a treaty with the Federal Governor in 1802 to relinquish its Western Territory for the removal of all Indians within its boundaries, and, although other tribes had been removed, little was ever done about the Cherokees. Following the discovery of gold near Dahlonega, Georgia, new settlers flocked to the area, and the Cherokee Courthouse was incorporated into Government in 1841 by William Grisham. He was one of the area's earliest settlers and a founder of Canton. Throughout the years, the home has undergone several alterations. Notably, it was expanded and given Victorian design, and we hope that this tour will show visitors that it can be done. Canton has always been committed to preserving its heritage and maintaining its unique character. We hope this tour will inspire others to do the same. Canton has much to offer in terms of history and culture, and we want to make sure that our visitors can experience it all.

Canton, GA 30169

Cherokee County Historical Society

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www.rockbarn.org
This is an example of the Folk Victorian style. Constructed in the last quarter of the 19th century, this two-story I-house has a full width one-story porch combined with a two-story entrance porch. The Butterworth brothers reputedly built the home and Dr. Newton J. Coker remodeled the home in the early 20th century. Coker's Hospital was established directly across the street from this house, and it has been reported that the upstairs rooms of the rear addition to the Butterworth-Coker house were used for boarding nurses working at the hospital. Coker's hospital was later demolished and there is a parking lot at the site now.

13. Putnam House, 220 E. Marietta Street
Located at 209 East Marietta Street, sits a circa 1880 Folk Victorian home. One of the most prominent features is the porch that wraps around the house. The Putnam family is an early pioneer family of Cherokee County and Odian Putnam was the first elected mayor of Canton in 1882.

14. Old Ford Building, 151 E. Marietta Street
Roscoe Spears and Griffin Roberts operated a Ford dealer- ship from this one story red brick commercial building during the 1920s. After a long time serving the commu- nity of Canton as a repair shop, the building is currently used as office space.

15. Buffington Building, 211 E. Main Street
This three-story red-brick building once held Canton's Masonic Hall on the third floor. Commercial retail occu- pied the ground floor of the building from the start. In 1918, Chester Steadman occupied the site and later tenants included H.L. Buffington and the Health Center at the back of the building. The Buffington Building is an example of the early 20th century, with its storefronts and large windows. It is currently used as office space.

22. Canton Drug Store, 101 E. Main Street
The Canton Drug Store opened in 1900 with Dr. W.W. Fincher as owner. The building has long served as a social hub for the downtown, at one point even serving as the bus station in the early half of the twentieth century. The Fincher family still retains ownership to this day.

24. Riverview Cemetery
Riverview Cemetery rests on the highest point in the downtown area of Canton and has been a prominent part of the city since its establishment. The cemetery is located on the eastern edge of town, overlooking the South Fork River and providing a peaceful setting for visitors.

23. Methodist Church, Arts Council
At 94 North Street, the Methodist Church has served as a cultural center for the community since its establishment in 1884. It has been designated as a historical site and is a notable example of early 20th-century architecture.

25. East Main Street Businesses
- 190-230 E. Main Street
This side of East Main Street has been home to many businesses over the last century. At 190 East Main Street, Frank Coggin opened his second hardware store here in 1914 and operated there until 1923 when L. Green opened a barbershop that also functioned as a laundry facility and bathhouse. Later Georgia Power took possession of the building and stayed there until 1977. Next door to 192 East Main Street, an alley existed until L. Green closed it in and opened the Green Rail Restaurant, which was arguably the most famous eatery in Cherokee County. Next door to the former Green Rail restaurant, Mid-City Pharmacy has operated since their opening in 1964.

19. Galt Building, 191 E. Main Street
The site first contained a two-story drugstore operated by the Johnston family. That building was torn down in 1925 and a three-story brick building was erected in its place, built by the Galt family. The corner, ground floor storefront was locally known and operated as the “Lowe’s Drug Store.” It was located during the middle of the twentieth century and is currently Maxine’s Beauty Salon. Worth Latham Jewelry and later Key’s Jewelry rented storefront space on the Marietta Street side of the building. The upper two floors of the building were residences and are now used as professional offices.

20. Canton Theatre, 171 E. Main Street
Canton prospered in the late 1880s, and a group of inves- tors chartered Canton’s first bank in 1892. The building originally displayed elements of the Richardsonian Romanesque Style, but it was remodeled in 1924 adding the existing Beaux Arts Style marble facade and incorporating the structure’s former facade into its east wing. The elegance of the marble clad building calls attention to its importance on the property. During Canton’s period of growth, the Bank of Canton was the only ex- ample of a Beaux Arts Style commercial architecture in the county. The Gilliam and Connelly law firm recently renovated the building for their ex- panded operations.