

The Church Walk Overview

The .82 mile church walk passes several of the city's 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 Church Walk begins by traveling 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 continue south to just before Carolina Avenue. Return north towards downtown.

Turn Right on Main St. in front of the Parks and 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 under 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.

West Main and Randolph Street– Will Harper Park 1989

This land was donated by its former owner, 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. The first represents a street scene in Thomasville in the late 1920's and highlights a furniture store.

6 Randolph St.– Thomasville Store Grocery, 1939

Originally used as the Thomasville Store Grocery and later converted to a theater.

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, and is currently Thomasville Funeral Home.

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. It's now a Davidson County Courthouse.

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 (1863) and Community M.P. Church (1923) united in 1947 to become a larger community church, which its members voted to be called Memorial Methodist Church. The first service was held in the sanctuary on April 15, 1951.

106 Randolph Street– W.G. Hinkle Home, circa 1880

This home was built around 1880 by W.G. Hinkle, successful businessman and community leader.

215 Randolph Street– Hills Farm and Garden

Hill's Farm and Garden began in March, 1986 in the old HPT&D (High Point, Thomasville, and Denton) Railroad Freight Depot building.

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

Art Deco architecture is exemplified in the modest but stylistic design of the Smith Clinic. Constructed in 1939, it was for 35 years the office of local physician Dr. William Gordon Smith, Sr. and other medical professionals. Smith Clinic was restored by attorney Paul Mitchell in 1990.

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 was 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 building was bestowed to the city by the Federal Government in 1972, and now serves as 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.

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

Home of distinguished industrialist T. Austin Finch. He was recognized across the nation as one of the South's leading furniture manufacturers and one of Thomasville's most prominent citizens and civic leaders. He was President of Thomasville Chair Company, and Mayor of Thomasville in 1923.

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 from 1921-1923, then elected to Congress in 1930 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.

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– Old TFI Building

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, Southern Railway constructed a pedestrian underpass in the early 1900's to provide safe access for children residing on the north side of the tracks who attended the then Main Street School.

Civil War Trails Sign

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.

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.