

The Commerce Walk Overview

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

The Commerce Walk begins by using the crosswalk at the depot/Visitors' Center to cross to the other side of East on Main St. Turn right and travel east on Main Street. Cross Randolph/Salem Street and continue 1 block to Commerce Street.

Turn left on Commerce to Guilford turn right on Guilford to Memorial Park Drive make U-turn back to Commerce next right into Cate's Alley. Continue through Cate's Alley to Salem Street. Turn Right on Salem Street and go to the crosswalk.

Cross to the other side of Salem Street and turn right to continue on Salem Street to West Guilford Street. Turn left on West Guilford Street and continue to Trade Street. Turn Left on Trade Street and continue to the depot/ Visitors' Center.

42 West Main Street- 1918

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

38 West Main Street- 1918

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

34-36 West Main Street- 1918

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

24-32 West Main Street- 1900

A split in the brickwork at the rear of this two-story brick building, between 24-26 and 28-32 West Main Street, suggest that the two sections may have been erected at different times. The most intact section is at the east end of the row, 24 West Main Street. The second story of the façade retains its heavily corbelled cornice and three segmental-arched windows with two-over-two sash.

20 West Main Street- 1935

In 1937 the building housed Stadiem's Department Store. By the mid 1950's, the Gold Shop, women's wear, was at this location.

18 West Main Street- 1935

This one-story, brick building previously had a façade sheathed in pigmented structural glass. It was adorned with a modest Art Deco design.

12 West Main Street- 1935

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

6 West Main Street- 1902

Prominent, three-story, brick corner building constructed in 1902 and greatly altered initially around 1953 and more recently. Thomasville Drug Store occupied the first floor beginning in 1902. State Commercial Bank was the principal occupant for much of the twentieth century and was responsible for the building's major alterations.

2 East Main Street

Early twentieth-century, two-story, brick building of plain, stripped modernist design resulting from a renovation that took place in the late 1950s. A 1947 photograph shows that the building containing Mann's Drug Store was a brick, two-story edifice with a corbelled cornice, and two large façade windows with arched masonry heads.

6 East Main Street

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

8 East Main Street

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

10 East Main Street

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

16 East Main Street

Early twentieth-century, two-story, brick building with metal cornice, tile coping, and a row of ten one-over-one sash windows on the upper floor, each crowned with a fanlight transom.

24-26 East Main Street

In the late 1920s this building contained three business: S&S Variety, the Princess Theater, and the Palace Barber Shop.

32 East Main Street

Early twentieth-century, two-story, brick building with a large paneled screen covering the upper façade. The rear elevation features arched-head windows that have been filled with brick. In the late 1920s, Hedrick Auto occupied this building.

40 East Main Street– Late 1920's

This is a late 1920s one-story brick building with decorative band of soldier course bricks at cornice and a horizontal panel—set off by soldier course bricks—decorated with terra cotta elements above storefront. It was formerly C.N. Brown Jewelers.

2, 4, 6, 8 Commerce Street

This one-story brick building containing four separate stores dates to the late 1920s and is the oldest of the buildings now standing on Commerce Street.

2 Commerce Street housed a seafood market in the late 1920s. In 1937, City Radio Repair had its shop at 4 Commerce Street. By 1929, 6 Commerce Street housed the offices of Dr. L.A. Curry, an African American physician. In 1929, 8 Commerce Street contained a barbeque outlet called Buck's Place.

21 East Guilford Street– May-October

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

8 Memorial Park Drive - Hunter Family Amphitheater

Hunter Family Amphitheater at PACE (People Achieving Community Enhancement) Park is a downtown event space managed by Parks & Rec. Music events, movie nights, bike rodeos, and more are held at PACE park.

City Cemetery– Circa 1860

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

City Cemetery is believed to be one of only 2 of its kind because of its Civil War burial site. In 1865 many severely wounded Civil War Soldiers brought to Thomasville via rail either did not survive the trip or died soon afterward. 36 of these soldiers, 28 Confederate, 4 Federal and 4 Unknown, were buried together in the same grave at City Cemetery. They were carefully placed side-by-side in three rows of 12 with identifying markers. This site is open to the public.

37-41 Salem Street- Palace Theater

In the late 1920s, most of the building contained the Palace Theater. The smaller storefronts that flanked the theater entrance held Swicewood Confectioners, 37 Salem, and a Western Union office, 41 Salem.

7 West Guilford- Former Thomasville City Hall, 1938

Declared the finest example of Art Deco architecture in Davidson County, the former Thomasville City Hall stands proud with its vertical design, setbacks from the entrance bay, and façade decorated with stylized ornament in stone. Opened in 1938, the building was a WPA project built to accommodate Thomasville administrative offices, the City jail and Fire Department.