

**17. Kress Building Block:** The storefronts along this block were constructed between 1908 and 1914. The building on the left hand corner was Churchwell Dry Goods Store and the L shaped building in the middle is the Kress building.



**18. Waycross Journal Herald:** The Waycross Journal Herald was founded in 1875, and has been run by three generations of the Jack Williams family since 1914. It is published six days a week and features local, regional, state, national, and international news.



**19. Williams Park:** This Park is the former site of the Waycross Journal Herald, a bank, and an assortment of other businesses. It is dedicated in memory of the founder of the newspaper, Jack Williams, Sr.



**20. Victorian Storefronts:** These storefronts were built between 1889 and 1892. The building has been restored and is now called the Lott-Hitch building. From 1900-1986 this was home to Kellam's pharmacy.



**21. Doughboy Park:** Doughboy Park gets its name from the WWI infantry soldier which was placed there in 1935. There are veteran's memorials to honor the soldiers of Waycross who fought in all of the other wars from WWI through Vietnam. The gazebo was added to the park in 1986 to mark the spot of the old water standpipe, which stood on this spot. It was 120 foot high, had a 28,100 gallon capacity and was constructed in 1893. It's prominence in downtown promoted the phrase meet me at the standpipe.



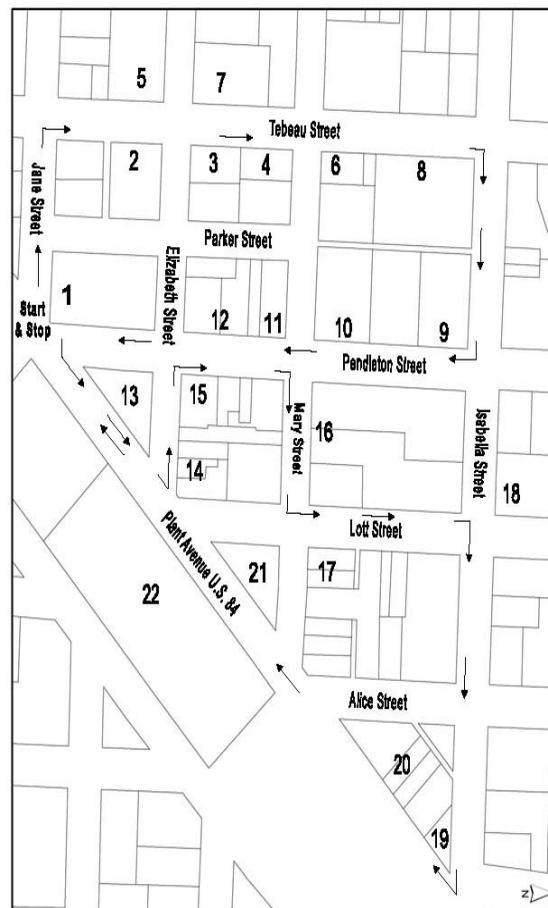
**22. Train Passenger Terminal & Railway Express Agency:** These buildings were built in the early 1900s prior to WWI. They were built to replace the previous wooden passenger depot, which was destroyed by fire in a train derailment. This was an active depot until passenger service was discontinued in 1971. The depot was under partial renovation in 1999 to house the Visitor's center, Chamber of Commerce, and Downtown Waycross Development Authority. The finishing renovations were completed in 2002, which opened a two-story wing of the building to new office space.



## GET INVOLVED!

MainStreet is a non-profit organization that works with the Downtown business owners and our community to revitalize the Historic District of Waycross. Through the application of the four point process of Organization, Promotion, Design, and Economic Restructuring. The downtown Waycross Historic District has seen positive growth and redevelopment since becoming a Georgia Main Street City in 1980. Our goal is to grow as an organization and bring a vibrant downtown to our city. If you are interested in getting involved with MainStreet please contact us. Meetings are held every second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 P.M. in the Commission Chambers at City Hall. Please come join us and be a part of the exciting things going on in Downtown Waycross!

## Map of Trail



### Waycross MainStreet

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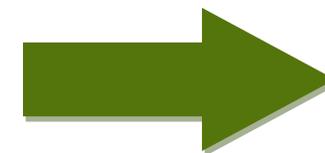
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Opportunity in every direction.



## Historic Downtown Waycross Walking Tour



**1. Phoenix Hotel:** The hotel was built in 1882 in order to accommodate rail travelers. At that time it was called the Grand Central Hotel and was originally two stories. The third story was added after the La Grande Hotel down the street burned in 1914. The Phoenix Hotel had a large dining area on the second floor and a center courtyard. In May of 2003 a new project was finalized for the entire renovation of the Phoenix Hotel Building. The top two floors now house the corporate offices of the Jones Company, one of Waycross' largest employers, while the ground floor is home to several shops. The entire renovation cost \$7.4 million to complete.



**2. Bunn Building:** This five story building was constructed in 1912, and is the earliest known example of a "fire proof" reinforced concrete construction in the area. It originally housed a moving picture cinema, a drug store, National Five and Dime Store, and other businesses.



### **3. The Lyric Theatre and Yarbrough Building:**

This Theater was constructed as a Film Theater in 1923. Several world premieres of movies filmed in the Okefenokee Swamp were held here over the years. Note the carving above the three arched windows near the top of the building. The bas-relief represents Tragedy and Comedy in the classic sense, when comedy denoted a kind of irony rather than happiness we think of today. The Yarbrough building connected to the Lyric was originally used by the Theater for upstairs offices. These are still intact today and are rented out to local businesses in the area.



### **4. Former St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church:**

The original church was built in 1888 on the southern half of the block where the Lyric Theater is located. This church was destroyed by a hurricane in 1896 and a smaller church was built to replace it on the corner where the Lyric Theater stands today. In 1920 the church was forced to sell half of the block due to back taxes and this made it necessary for the church to move to their current location in the year 1920.



### **5. Old Waycross Post Office:**

This building was constructed in two phases. The original section of the building was designed and constructed in 1911-1913. In 1935 funds were allocated for the enlargement of the building to house the United States District Court. A second story and side wings were added to the original building and the renovation was completed in 1936. This Post Office served Waycross in this location until 1976 when a new federal complex was completed to the north of Downtown.



### **6. Old Elks Club Building:**

This building was constructed in 1907 and served as BPOE until 1962 when the lodge moved to its new home on Plant Ave. The building existed for many years as the Carter House Restaurant. In recent history it has served as the home for other fine eating establishments.



### **7. The Ware Hotel:**

Constructed in 1928, this building was the last major hotel built in the downtown area to serve the needs of the railroad travelers. The seven story structure featured 110 rooms and 110 baths with fans, radio, and circulating ice water in each room. The Elizabeth Street Diner on the ground floor served guests and the public. Later, the building served as senior citizen housing. W.H. Gross Construction Company converted the old hotel into residential apartment units in 2010.



### **8. Sun Trust Building:**

This building features a unique tile mural on its wall facing Tebeau Street depicting the agricultural heritage of our local economy. The scenes include growing crops, raising livestock and harvesting timber.



### **9. Old YMCA/ City Hall:**

City Hall was constructed from 1907 to 1911 at a cost of \$60,000 as a YMCA. The architect was Henry John Klutho. In 1916, the City of Waycross purchased the building for \$25,000 to use as City Hall. In 1985 substantial renovations were undertaken.



### **10. Grace Episcopal Church:**

The first building for Grace Episcopal Church was built on this site in 1884; but at the turn of the century, the congregation had outgrown it. The current building was constructed in 1905 and reflects a Spanish and Mission style architecture.



### **11. Ritz Theater:**

This theater was originally constructed in the 1890s as a live theater and today the building houses Waycross Area Community Theater, a local theater group. The building is said to be home of a downtown ghost. Members of the WACT claim to have seen a large gentleman wearing an early 1900s high collar suit, with distinctly parted hair and sideburns, standing in the balcony. On certain occasions footsteps are said to be heard walking across the stage.



### **12. Hotel Building Block:**

This block of building was built in the 1890s and belonged to a large hotel complex comprised of the Strickland Hotel, Central Hotel, May House and the Exchange Hotel. It was partially used as a funeral parlor prior to 1922. In 1928 the building was renovated. Ellison's Pharmacy was located on the first corner and was a very popular hangout spot in the 1940s and 50s. It was also home to the first Walker Hood Furniture Store.



**13. Phoenix Park:** Also known as Confederate Park, Phoenix Park is home to the central monument which honors the Confederacy's Dead Soldiers. This monument can be found throughout the South, with the soldier always facing North toward the enemy. The cannon dates back to 1854 and was used by the Confederates against General Sherman in the Battle of Doctortown in the Civil War.



### **14. Southern Hotel Building:**

This block once contained the Southern Hotel building, built in 1892-1897 including the bank. A fire in the 1930s destroyed most of the block. The commercial bank was built in 1942. All of the original marble walls are still intact and the inside of the building contains Indian head sculptures on the walls. The building now contains a portion of Lott's Furniture.



### **15. Folks Building:**

This building is the only original corner section of the Southern Hotel building to survive the 1930's fire.



### **16. Old Central High School:**

This block was the site for the first public high school in the area which was completed in 1885. It was soon replaced by a three story brick building that was surrounded by a ten foot high wooden fence. Known as Central High School, it served the needs of Waycross until the late 1940's when the school was moved out of the downtown area. In 1949 the Old Central High School was torn down and the block of commercial buildings which you see now was constructed.

