

NEW ALBANY



3 CHRIST'S MISSION was built in 1898 by the Mission Organization of New York State of the Congregational Church. But the denomination never caught on in Decatur, and in 1901 St. Paul's Lutheran Church bought the building and made it home for 67 years. In 1951, to increase the size of the sanctuary, the church turned the building. The mover assured the anxious pastor that if he so much as rang the bell during the move, the builder would pay the preacher \$50. The bell didn't ring. In 1968, Christ's Mission bought the building.



4 THE 400 BLOCK OF JACKSON STREET. The south side of this block is the most intact set of late Victorian houses in the Albany Historic District. Many feature pebble and stucco gables.



5 THE HAMILTON HOUSE at 601 Jackson Street was built in 1912 and is a good example of the Colonial Revival style, which was particularly prominent in New Albany.



6 THE BIBB HOUSE at 629 Jackson Street, was built in the Victorian style with Queen Anne influences as evidenced by the corner turret. Note the details of the side porch. In 1895, William Bibb bought the house for \$2,500 at an auction to pay back taxes. Bibb was a grandson of Alabama's first governor. The house stayed in the Bibb family until 1965.

7 THE WILEY HOME, built in 1910 at 646 Jackson Street, is another example of Colonial Revival architecture. Note the giant order of the central portico, the boxed cornice, and wide frieze.



8 THE CHENAULT HOUSE, at 650 Jackson Street, was built in 1906 and is one of the finest examples in Albany of the late Victorian house with both Queen Anne and Colonial Revival influences. The home has a corner turret and large encircling verandas combined with classical festoons and garlands over the windows and square classical columns. Several leaded and stained glass windows and four ornately carved mantels are other features of this structure.



9 THE BRAGG HOUSE, built in 1920 at 651 Jackson Street, is another example of Colonial Revival architecture early in this century. This particular example is Georgian Revival. It has no portico.



10 THE BROWN HOUSE, at 804 Jackson Street, was built about 1905 and exemplifies the shingle-style bungalow. It has widely overhanging gables forming a porch at the front, supported by heavy piers. The natural qualities of material are emphasized (in this case, shingles) with the pronounced horizontal appearance in contrast to the Victorian preference for the vertical. Shingles required little or no maintenance and were produced in local lumberyards.



11 THE JERVIS-McWHORTER HOUSE, at 652 Sherman Street, built in 1893, is perhaps the most intact late Victorian

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structure in the neighborhood. Note the transitional phase into the Colonial Revival style. The Palladian double portico is incorporated into the typical Victorian encircling veranda. The Jervis brothers came from Wales and in the Christmas season and other holiday seasons, the families spoke Welsh.



12 THE JERVIS-DAVIS HOUSE, at 646 Sherman Street, was built in 1890. Note the style of the columns and the projecting gables.



13 THE HOFF HOUSE, at 636 Sherman Street was built in 1883. It is a late Victorian structure with Colonial revival elements. George Hoff came to Decatur

from Philadelphia in 1870 and was later president of the Morgan County National Bank. The home was remodeled in 1902 and 1930, at which time some of the Colonial Revival elements may have been added. An unusual feature of the house is the extensive use of red gum wood, once native to Alabama, for interior woodwork and wainscoting. Mrs. Atlee Hoff developed the elaborate plantation-style gardens from plants on the Wheeler Plantation and Bankhead Forest.



14 THE EYSTER HOUSE, built in 1888 by the Allen family, at 626 Sherman Street was originally a frame Victorian house. Purchased in 1917 by the Eyster family, the house was remodeled and the brick facade added in the 1930s in response to the great demand for the Colonial Revival style so much in vogue at the time.

15 THE PAYNE HOUSE, built at 651 Sherman Street in 1890, illustrates characteristics of a late Victorian house. The clapboard first story contrasts with the

decorative shingles of the second story and the pebbled stucco of the projecting gables. The encircling veranda's columns reveal the influence of the Colonial Revival style. E.C. Payne, a New Yorker, owned a lumber company and was the first mayor of Albany and served again as mayor when the town changed its name to New Decatur. He also owned the first electric car in Decatur.



16 THE ORR HOUSE, built in 1905 at 507 Eighth Ave. SE, is one of the two examples in Albany of the Dutch Colonial Revival style. The broad gambrel roof flaring at the ends and extending over projecting porches is this home's most predominant Dutch Colonial feature. Note the use of clapboard on the first story and shingles on the dormers and second story.



17 THE POER HOUSE, at 626 Gordon Drive, was built in 1910. It was heavily influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement and principles of Frank Lloyd Wright, especially the interior. The house includes a sleeping porch, considered at the time a necessity for healthful sleeping.



18 THE MAWRY HOUSE, 620 Gordon Drive, was built in 1888 and is a good example of a Victorian style home with a cozy porch.



19 THE DAVIDSON HOUSE, at 608 Gordon Drive, is a late Victorian cottage, which has remained in the same family since 1902. Many Albany residents were delivered milk by young Lawson Davidson. Lawson's cow could be seen grazing in the nine-hole golf course facing his home. The golf course is now part of Delano Park.



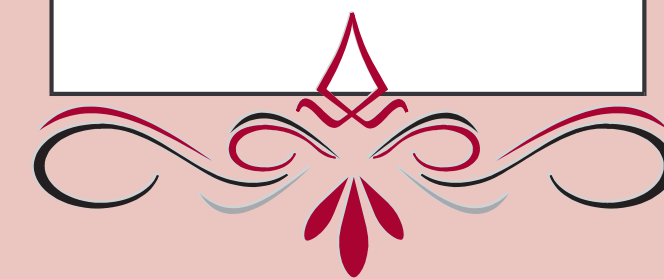
For Additional Information

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A Walking Tour of Historic Decatur, Alabama

Decatur/Morgan County
Convention & Visitors
Bureau



Decatur prides itself on having the largest concentration of Victorian era craftsman and bungalow homes in the state of Alabama, affectionately called "The Painted Ladies." Old Decatur and New Albany are the two historic districts of Decatur.



These homes date back, in some instances, to the early 1800s, while others were constructed around the turn of the 20th century. (Slight differences are expressed in architectural styles, but both districts display a host of well-kept Victorian homes.)

If you follow the maps in numerical order, each tour will take less than one hour to complete. The homes are private residences and can only be viewed from the outside. Select houses are open to the public during the annual Christmas Tour of Homes.

Old Decatur Historic District

THE NEIGHBORHOOD of Old Decatur dates from the town's settlement in 1820 when land taken by the federal government from the Cherokee Indians was sold at auction. Market and Bank Streets were primarily business streets while the oak-lined residential area was slowly developed for homes prior to the War Between the States.

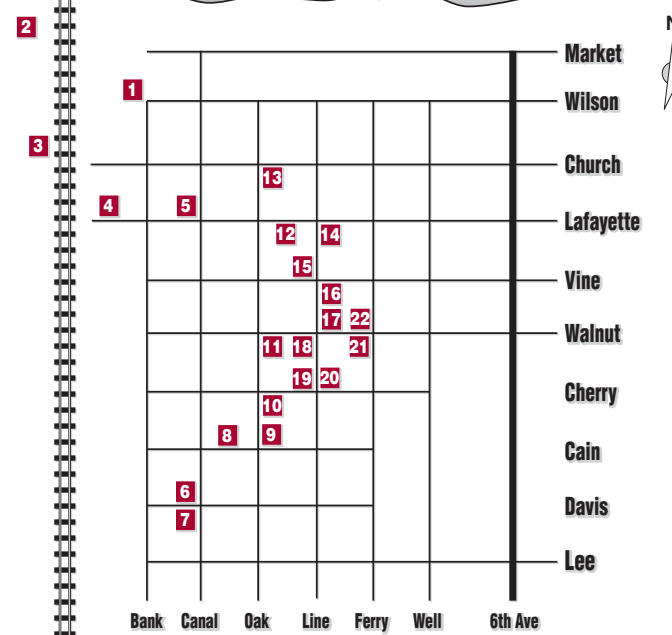
The town was frequently occupied during the war due to the significance of the Memphis & Charleston Railroad Bridge (1856) across the Tennessee River which stands today as an iron bridge. All but a handful of buildings were reduced to ashes by Union troops in 1864 while the town was evacuated. Once again, the town prospered because of its location on river, rail and highway lines and began to grow again in the 1870s.



Union troops dig fortifications along the banks of the Tennessee River with the Old State Bank building appearing in the background.

Old Decatur Historic District

Tennessee River (Wheeler Lake)



Old Decatur
The houses range in age from 1829 to the present, with most of them dating back to the late 19th century. The styles vary from the French-influenced Empire period to the Edwardian Cottage and beyond.



1 THE OLD STATE BANK was erected in 1833 to house the Tennessee Valley branch of the State Bank of Alabama. Financial conditions caused the failure of the state banking system in 1846. The unusual feature of five columns required double front doors for appearance. The City of Decatur obtained this oldest bank building in the state in 1975 from the American Legion Post 15 to restore to its original appearance. It was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 1972. It is open to the public each Monday-Friday.



2 THE McENTIRE HOUSE, located on the Tennessee River on Sycamore St. NW, is one of the oldest buildings in Decatur. It was constructed prior to 1836 by John S. Rhea. James Fennel, the first president of the Old State Bank, owned it from 1839-50. The Hinds family bought it in 1869 and operated the Park Hotel in it. The family apparently lived in a house nearby, where Grace Hinds was born. Grace later became Lady Curzon, the wife of the Viceroy of India. The McEntire family owned it for the next 102 years. The house was

used by both Union and Confederate forces as headquarters during the War Between the States. Confederate generals planned the battle of Shiloh within its' walls. Legend has it that the 102nd Ohio Regiment Band played a dirge on its' rooftop to mourn the death of President Abraham Lincoln.

THE DANCY-POLK HOUSE was built in 1829 by town pioneer Col. Frank Dancy as his home. It later became a popular spot for railroad travelers known as the Polk Hotel. During the Civil War, Union forces used the site as a headquarters. Most of the Palladian-influenced house's original wood and plaster remain. The house is now a private residence and Bed and Breakfast Inn.



THE OLD CEMETERY dates back to about 1818 when Old Decatur was called "Rhodes Ferry". It survived the destruction of Old Decatur in 1864 by Union forces.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH on the corner of Canal and Lafayette Streets was dedicated Easter Sunday, 1899. The Methodist Episcopal Church, South, as it was then known, raised a sanctuary as early as 1835 and was the earliest congregation in Decatur. A later house of worship was damaged by Union soldiers during the Civil War. The congregation was later reimbursed by the federal government for the damage.



OLD METHODIST CHURCH at 213 Canal Street, in its sixth edition, is now a private residence. Its original location was west of Bank Street off Lafayette Street. Church records indicate it was built by slaves.



THE EDWARDS HOUSE at 214 Canal Street was built in 1904 and later raised onto its present foundation. The Victorian cottage has been owned by the Edwards family for about 80 years.



8 THE HOVATER HOUSE at 111 Cain Street is over 100 years old and is a charming example of a one-story clapboard Victorian cottage.



9 DECATUR'S FIRST COURTHOUSE was built as a drugstore in 1887 for John T. Banks, a Civil War Veteran who walked home to Decatur from Okolona, Mississippi at the war's end. The building housed county offices in 1891-92 after the county seat was moved to Decatur from Somerville. A third story burned during this time. Currently being used as an office building.

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10 THE HAMIL HOUSE at 422 Oak Street was built in 1929 by J.Y. Hamil. With its steep roof, gables and tall, tapered chimney, it is typical of several English Cottage style houses built in the 1920s in the Old Decatur Area.



11 FORT NASH is the nickname given this home of rare International (Art Deco) design at 522 Oak Street. Designed in 1939 by architect Edwin Lancaster, then head of Auburn University's architecture department, as a wedding present from Mrs. Roy Nash to her daughter, the building features solid limestone walls with glass brick. The circular entrance leads to a semi-circular room, and a full basement includes a shuffleboard court and glass brick bar.



12 THE TODD HOUSE on Lafayette Street dates from the 1840s and is one of the few buildings in Decatur that survived the Civil War. Originally a two-room Georgian house, it has had several additions to the rear. The front door and side lights are original to the house. Steamboat Capt. James M. Todd bought the house in 1857.



13 THE CARNEGIE LIBRARY built in 1904, was erected with funds from the Carnegie Foundation, like dozens of others across the country. It is one of the few remaining original Carnegie Library buildings.



14 THE GIBSON HOUSE was built in 1901 at the corner of Lafayette and Line Streets by cotton broker Jonnie Knight. It remained in the Gibson family for

about 70 years. Despite years of neglect and vandalism, the now-renovated structure remains solid, thanks to the quality of its materials and workmanship.

15 THE HARRIS HOUSE at 701 Line Street shows evidence of the Edwardian influence popular when A.J. Harris, son of lawyer-congressman C.C. Harris, built this house in 1905.



16 THE MOSELEY HOUSE at 618 Line Street is the best example of the Second Empire style (which featured Mansard roofs) in Decatur, with handsome double walnut doors and floor-length windows. The house was built circa 1885 by Capt. William Moseley, the largest property owner in town.



17 THE WERT-MARTIN HOUSE at 602 Line Street has been bricked and remodeled several times since being constructed in 1886. The hitching post, placed out front for Judge Thomas Wert's horse and buggy, remains. The home and quarterblock lot were later bought by Ben F. Martin.



18 THE COLLIER HOME was erected after the town clerk, E.W. Collier, married a sister of the Leadinghams in 1885. This two-story house at 511 Line Street shows Queen Anne influences.



19 THE LEADINGHAM HOUSE with its charming ground level porch, is at 501 Line Street. Built prior to 1885 for two maiden sisters. Rebecca Leadingham operated a private school there while sister Louise was librarian at the nearby Carnegie Library.



20 SHADOWLAWN, the imposing frame house at 504 Line Street was built circa 1880 by Dr. William G. Gill, whose ancestors helped settle Jamestown, Virginia. He died attending patients during a yellow fever epidemic in 1888. The late Mr. V.I. Deese gave the house its name because of the oak trees.



21 THE WILLIAMSON HOUSE, at 517 Ferry Street was built in 1903 by stockbroker George D. Williamson who had served on the welcoming committee when President William McKinley visited Decatur in



1901. Its entrance features a handsome display of leaded glass.

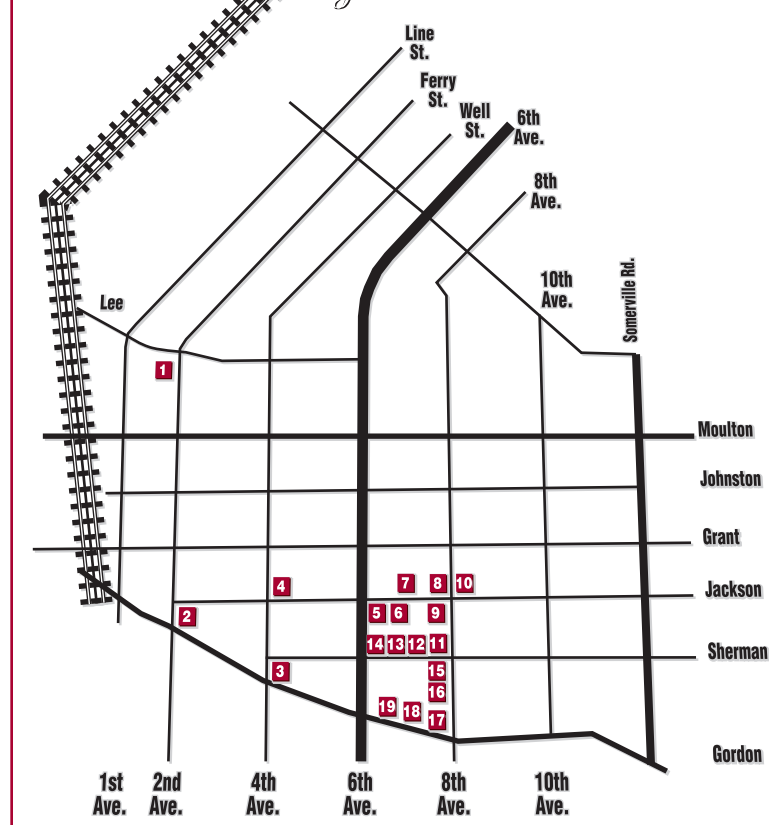


22 THE J.T. JONES HOUSE, a superb example of Queen Anne design, is at 601 Ferry Street. It was erected in 1899 by a cotton broker who also commissioned a New York artist to carve a marble mantel for the main

Albany
A town called New Decatur and later Albany was started in 1887 and was home to wealthy "Yankee" industrialists who brought industry and prosperity back to Decatur. They built large, modern homes and symbolized the town's new heritage by naming streets alternately for Union and Confederate generals. New Decatur's business street was Second Avenue. It was planned around a spacious park, now called Delano Park after Franklin Delano Roosevelt. The town changed its name to Albany after many residents' hometown, Albany, N.Y. But in 1927, the goal of many residents of both Decatur and Albany was accomplished; the towns were merged by an act of the state legislature. The area has earned a listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The Albany Historic District reflects early 20th century trends such as Colonial Revival, California Cottage, Dutch Colonial and Frank Lloyd Wright influences.

1 SECOND AVENUE. After viewing Old Decatur Historic District, cross Lee Street from Ferry Street to 2nd Avenue. It was the "Main Street" of the town of New Decatur. Developers headed by Major E.C. Gordon planned the town, and in 1887 some 500 new buildings were erected. The Cotaco Opera House on 115 Johnston Street, (between 1st & 2nd Avenues) was built in 1890 and presented some of the country's top touring vaudeville acts. In 1887, a handsome brick stable for the Casa Grande Hotel was built, and renovated in 1919 into a theatre -- The Princess Theatre. Remodeling in 1940 turned it into an Art Deco masterpiece, with the then-tallest marquee in Alabama. The theatre was again renovated in 1982 and 1983, and is a performing arts center.

New Albany Historic District



2 ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH. After St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Old Decatur burned in 1889, newer members of the parish wanted to rebuild nearer their homes and received permission to organize another parish in "New Decatur". Thus, St. John's was established in 1880 and became a parish in 1891. The church building, comprising the present nave and chancel area, was dedicated in 1893. Originally facing north, the building was physically turned around in 1948 to face west. At that time the present entrance and tower were built, and the building was stone veneered. St. John's interior is modeled after Gothic English parish churches.

