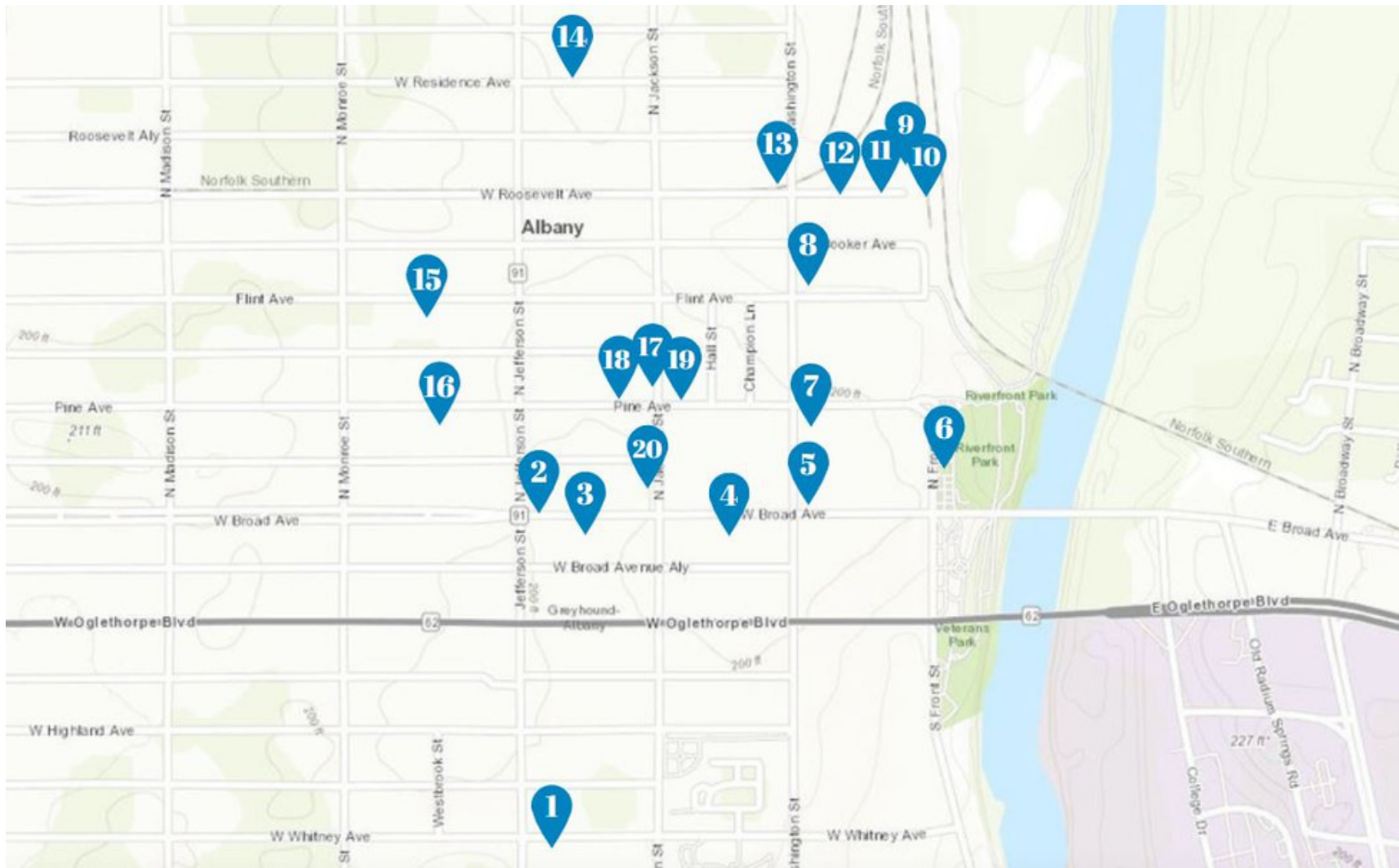




*Historic*  
**DOWNTOWN ALBANY**  
**WALKING TOUR**





- 1.MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH-326 W. WHITNEY AVE.
- 2.US POST OFFICE &COURTHOUSE-345 W. BROAD AVE.
- 3.SAMUEL FARKAS HOUSE-328 W. BROAD AVE.
- 4.ALBANY HOUSEFURNISHING COMPAY-226 W. BROAD AVE.
- 5.DAVIS EXCHANGE BANK BUILDING-100 N. WASHINGTON ST.
- 6.BRIDGE HOUSE-112 N. FRONT ST.
- 7.ROSENBERG BROTHERS DEPARTMENT STORE-126 N. WASHINGTON ST.
- 8.ST. NICHOLAS HOTEL- 304 N. WASHINGTON ST.
- 9.TIFT GROCERY COMPANY-100 W. ROOSEVELT AVE.
- 10.THE UNION DEPOT-100 W. ROOSEVELT AVE.

- 11.THE RAILWAY EXPRESS AGENCY--100 W. ROOSEVELT AVE.
- 12.THE LAST BRICK ROAD-100 W. ROOSEVELT AVE.
- 13.ALBANY DISTRICT PECAN GROWERS EXCHANGE- 211 W. ROOSEVELT AVE.
- 14.OLD ST. TERESA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH- 313 W. RESIDENCE AVE.
- 15.SMITH WE HOUSE-516 FLINT AVE.
- 16.JOHN A DAVIS HOUSE-514 PINE AVE.
- 17.CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF ALBANY -215 N. JACKSON ST.
- 18.MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM- 200 N. JACKSON ST.
19. NEW ALBANY HOTEL-249 PINE AVE.
- 20.ALBANY THEATRE-107 N. JACKSON ST.



## STOP 1: MOUNT ZION BAPTIST CHURCH

📍 326 W WHITNEY AVE, ALBANY, GA

The first stop on our tour is Mount Zion Baptist Church, which is located on the corner of West Whitney Avenue and Jefferson Street, right next to the Albany Civil Rights Museum. Mount Zion Baptist Church was organized in 1866, as Albany's first African-American Baptist congregation. In 1906, Mt. Zion Baptist Church's church building was constructed as a one-story, red-brick building designed to resemble Late Gothic Revival and Romanesque Revival detailing. This site is significant for the religious and educational role the church has played in the African-American community for over 100 years. In the 1960's, this property served as a primary meeting place for the Albany Movement, which was an important part of the national Civil Rights Movement.

The Albany Movement was a movement that engaged in activities such as voter registration, sit-ins, bus desegregation, and economic boycotts. The impact of the Albany Movement led to associated civil rights activities in many other southwest Georgia towns. On November 25th, 1961 Mount Zion Baptist Church hosted the Albany Movement's first public mass meeting. This same meeting served as the first performance of the Freedom Singers, a group of student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee teenagers who would later perform at the National March on Washington and become a trademark for the civil rights movement.

The Albany Movement continued to hold meetings at Mount Zion Baptist Church, often drawing large that would overflow in the streets. Speakers who spoke at Mount Zion Baptist include Martin Luther King, Jr., Ralph David Abernathy, John Lewis, and other renowned civil rights figures. Today, the church serves as a part of the Albany Civil Rights Museum.





**STOP 2: THE UNITED STATES POST OFFICE & COURT HOUSE**  
📍 345 W. BROAD AVENUE, ALBANY, GA

The second stop on our tour is the United States Post Office and Court House Building, now known as the Griggs Building. This building is located at 345 W. Broad Avenue. A fun fact about this historical site is that before the United States Post Office and Courthouse building was built, the land served as the circus ground from 1867 until 1876. In 1910, Gude & Company of Atlanta, under the supervising Architect, James Knox Taylor, started construction on the United States Post Office and Courthouse. This large, three-story, rectangular-shaped building was completed in 1912. The first floor of the United States Post Office and Courthouse has served as a major station for mail in Dougherty County since its completion in 1912.

This building also has served as a major historical site for women. Not only did this building see the passing of the 19th Amendment that provided women's suffrage, but it also was the place where the very first women Postmistress, Nellie Brimberry, was appointed by President Taft to run this major American Post Office location after her husband's death in January of 1910. After appointed, Mrs. Brimberry won acclaim by securing pecan growers the privilege of sealing their products in packages, so it could be dispatched in the mail. This action caused a great boom in the Albany pecan industry and brought national attention to one of the least-known products in the South during the time.

In 1923, the second floor of this building became the seat of the Federal Court and contained the Marshal's offices, district attorney's offices, and witness & jury rooms. The above ground basement was designed for a boiler room, maintenance, and storage activities. Today this building serves as a post office as well as office space for many downtown businesses.





### STOP 3: THE SAMUEL FARKAS HOME

📍 328 W. BROAD AVENUE, ALBANY, GA

Our third stop on our tour is the Samuel Farkas House. The Samuel Farkas House is currently a private residential property located at 328 W. Broad Avenue. The Farkas house was completed in the late 1880's and is the last remaining mansion of Albany's "merchant prince," of the nineteenth century, Samuel Farkas. Samuel Farkas was a Hungarian immigrant who came to this county when he was only 18 years old. It is said that he could not speak a word of English and had only fifty cents in his pocket when he arrived in Albany. The young Samuel Farkas came to Albany because his uncle had set up a successful merchandising store in the city after the Civil War. It was at his uncle's general store that Farkas worked before he began his prosperous mule business. In 1872, Samuel established a stable for trading mules. He was very successful, due to the agricultural economy of this area, and although he had some setbacks, within two decades he had created a large fortune for himself.



He married Celia Zucker, also an immigrant, and they raised six sons and two daughters in this beautiful house.





On August 18, 1919, he purchased the lot at 226 Broad Avenue and hired J.T. Murphey as the architect. In 1922, this brick building was finally completed for Mr. B.B. Ivey. If you visit this storefront, you will still see the wording “Ivey’s Place” is in the exterior entranceway tile. If you look at the large front windows, you can tell that this building was specifically built to display furniture. The first floor was once opened and used to display furniture. The second floor contained room partitions to make displays. The very top floor was used for storage. In 1949, B.B. Ivey gave the building to his Nephew, Frank F. Faulk, where Faulk became president of the company until his death in 1975. Today, this building is named the Nelson Tift building and currently holds private events.

## STOP 4: ALBANY HOUSE FURNISHING COMPANY

📍 226 W. BROAD AVENUE, ALBANY, GA

Welcome to our fourth stop on our tour, the Albany Housefurnishing Company building, now known as the Nelson Tift building. This building is located at 226 W. Broad Avenue. The building was once home to the Albany Housefurnishing Company, which was established in 1904 by J.M. McIntosh and was originally located at 218 West Broad Avenue.

In the same year of its establishment, Benjamin Bourbon Ivey came to Albany from North Carolina and worked with McIntosh as an office manager. Ivey began to buy stock in the company, and by October 1, 1910, Ivey owned at least 67 shares. More control of the company continued to shift into Ivey’s hands and eventually, McIntosh was made to surrender its charter to Ivey after the Superior Court of Dougherty County authorized it through a decree in 1921. Anxious to expand his business and provide the best merchandise in its line for Albany, Ivey began planning for a new facility.





## STOP 5: DAVIS EXCHANGE BUILDING

📍 100 N. WASHINGTON STREET, ALBANY, GA

Welcome to our fifth Stop of the tour, The Davis-Exchange Bank Building. The Davis Exchange Building is located 100 N. Washington Street in Albany, Georgia. The Davis Exchange Bank Building is a rectangular, six-story, masonry building with a flat roof designed in the commercial Georgian Revival style. The building is significant in architecture because it was the city's first skyscraper and the first of its style to be built in Albany, setting local precedents as a Georgian Revival commercial structure. Commercially, this building was significant because it was built to house the Albany Exchange Bank, one of the city's most important financial institutions.

The bank building was designed by J.E.R Carpenter of New York, who had received the American Institute of Architects Gold Medal in 1916. He was known for his designs of the Hurt building located in Atlanta and the Hermitage Hotel in Nashville.



The bank was established in the late 1890s, however, the bank burned down, and the Davis Exchange building was built to replace it. When the new bank building opened in 1921, it also housed many local business and professional firms besides the banking operations. In 1929, the bank was purchased by Citizens and Southern, and after they moved to new facilities, the bank area became a shoe store. Now, this building is for sale. I can just see a cool apartment building or hotel being put in this beautiful building with small shops at the bottom.





## STOP 6: THE BRIDGE HOUSE

📍 112 N. FRONT STREET, ALBANY, GA

Welcome to our sixth stop on our tour, The Bridge House, also known as the Albany Welcome Center, which is located at 112 N. Front Street in Downtown Albany. The Bridge House was built in 1857 by Colonel Nelson Tift. As a result of a dispute between Tift and Baker County Commissioners over the building of the first bridge over the Flint River. Before the bridge was built, travelers could only cross the Flint River by a hand-operated ferry. This became tiresome and inefficient and Colonel Tift, owner of the ferry wanted commissioners to build a bridge on this spot for the town. When the commissioners refused, Tift hired Horace King, a well-known bridge-builder, to construct the bridge so Tift could make it into a business. The bridge house was built with a tunnel running through its ground floor as a collection point for tolls on wagons and horses. He charged a toll to pay for the bridge. So where the large doors are located now, originally it was a tunnel opening. The second floor of the Bridge house was a theater and ballroom called Tift Hall.

Tift hired fresco artists from New York to paint scenes on the ceiling of the theater and over the arch on the stage. It was considered the most beautifully decorated theater in the state during the middle nineteenth century.

Because of its luxuriousness, it attracted many important actors and musicians, such as Laura Keane, the Swiss Bell Ringers, Harry McCarthy, and the Crisp Family of Shakespearean players, which included Charles F. Crisp who later became a Georgia congressman. Since the theater seats were removable the theater also could become a ballroom, and many balls and dance classes were held here during the 1850s.

This large two-story building's basic classic lines and Italian details still remain, though there have been changes and additions to the building over the years. This building also served at an auto shop before it became the Welcome Center.







**STOP 7: ROSENBERG BROTHERS DEPARTMENT STORE**  
📍 126 N. WASHINGTON STREET, ALBANY, GA

Welcome to our seventh stop on our tour, The Rosenberg Brothers Department Store, now known as the Herald Building, located at 126 N. Washington Street. The Rosenberg's Brothers Department Store was a great example of a chain store business model that became popular in the 20th century. The Rosenberg's opened their first store in Troy, Alabama in 1894. The store was established as a "one price to all" plan which deviated from the nineteenth-century merchant's practice of bargaining. Using this retail system allowed the store to flourish. In 1896 Jacob Rosenberg opened a branch in Albany after meeting his wife, who was a local Albanian.

Rosenberg's is believed to be one of the oldest commercial establishments in Albany that was continuously operated by the same family.



In 1905, Rosenberg's Albany location had outgrown its original quarters, and the family bought out a dry foods store on the corner of Washington and Pine Avenue.

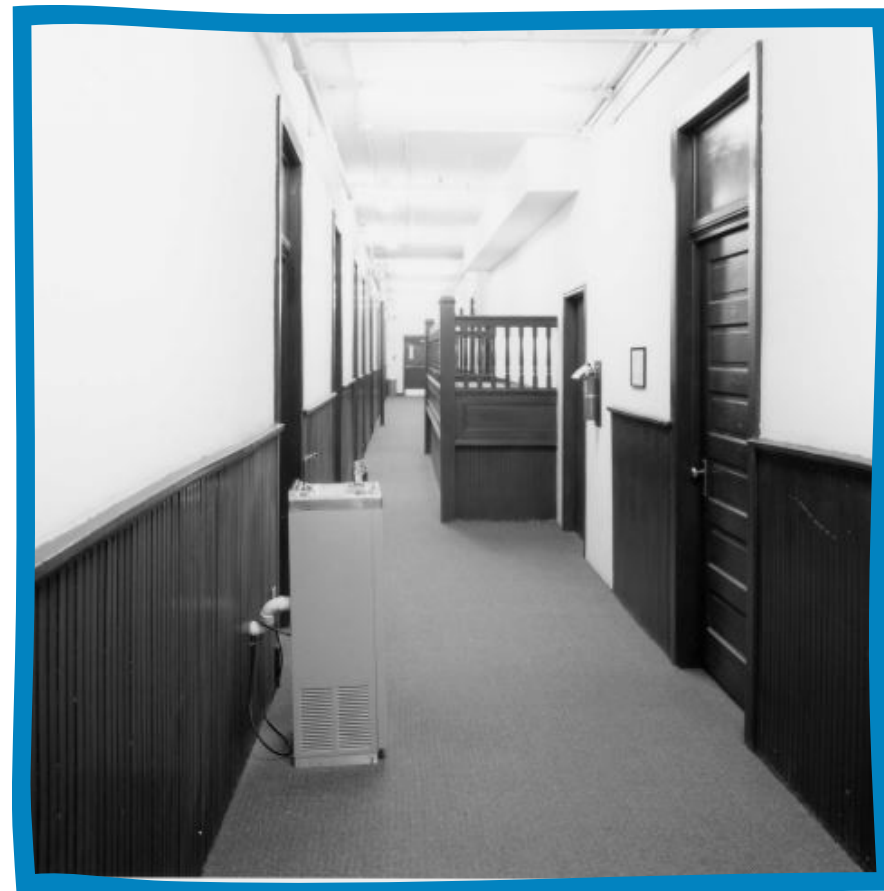
In 1923 a building next to Rosenberg's burned and shortly after, the Rosenberg's brothers purchased that property. A bigger and newer Rosenberg Brothers Department Store was built in 1923-1924 at the same location. This is the building that you see today! This building was the home of Albany's largest and most exclusive department store. Rosenberg Brothers Department Store, which led the way in modern merchandising in Albany at a time when Albany was experiencing a period of rapid growth and prosperity.



## STOP 8: ST. NICHOLAS HOTEL

📍 304 N. WASHINGTON STREET, ALBANY, GA

Welcome to our eighth stop on our tour, the old St. Nicholas Hotel. The St. Nicholas Hotel is located at 304 N. Washington St. The St. Nicholas Hotel was built in 1908 and designed by Bruce & Everett of Atlanta. The building was built close to the railroad station, which we will visit later in our tour, to serve railroad passengers and commercial business travelers. The ground floor of this three-story building was built for retail space. This retail space included stores and eating establishments to serve travelers. The first floor still contains the original stairway and hotel motifs. The second and third floor of the hotel space was the hotel that held 50 rooms total. The hotel entrance contained elaborate Corinthian-style columns and a tile floor that included the hotel's original logo. The era of the St. Nicholas Hotel came to a dramatic end at around 4 o'clock in the morning of Saturday, February 10, 1940, when Albany and the Hotel were hit by the most vicious tornado that the area had ever experienced. Those who heard the tornado and lived to tell the story said that it sounded like "the noise of a thousand trains."



After the major tornado in 1940, the hotel reopened as the Hotel Lee, presumably named for General Robert E. Lee. In 1984 the hotel was purchased for rehabilitation again, it reopened as a Transitional Center. Now, the building is for sale.



## STOP 9: TIFT GROCERY COMPANY

📍 100 W. ROOSEVELT AVENUE, ALBANY, GA

Welcome to our ninth stop on our tour, the 1857 Train Depot, which is a part of the Albany Railroad Historic District, located in Heritage Plaza, at 100 W. Roosevelt Avenue in Downtown Albany! This depot was built in 1857 by the Georgia-Florida Railroad Company as Albany's first railroad station. The 1857 Depot is a rare example of an antebellum railroad station in Georgia. Picture two depicts the passenger platform (right) and the switching year (left). The depot was sold to Southwestern Railroad in 1858, along with the tracks that ran from Americus to Albany. From 1913 to 1959, the depot was leased to the Tift Grocery Company. During these years, the Tift Grocery Company became one of the leading regional wholesalers of food. After the Tift Grocery Company closed in 1959, Central Georgia Railroad rented the warehouse to the Crosby Hodges Milling Company. On January 17, 1979, Central Georgia Railroad sold the warehouse to the Thronateeska Heritage Center. Today, this building is currently being restored.





## STOP 10: THE UNION DEPOT

📍 100 W. ROOSEVELT AVENUE, ALBANY, GA

Welcome to our tenth stop on our tour, The Union Depot Station, which is a part of the Albany Railroad Historic District and is located in Heritage Plaza, at 100 W. Roosevelt Avenue in Downtown Albany! The Union Depot was built in 1913 to serve passenger trains of the Albany and Northern, Atlantic Coast Line, Central Georgia, Georgia Northern, and Seaboard Air Line railroads. Trains traveling all around the US traveled through Albany, Georgia, including the Seminole (Chicago- Florida), the Flamingo (Cincinnati- Florida), the City of Miami (Chicago- Florida), the Dixie Flyer (Chicago- St. Louis- Florida), Dixie Limited (Chicago- Florida), and the Southland (Cincinnati-Florida). The last passenger train to operate out of Albany was the City of Miami, in 1971. The Union Depot is an unusual example of early-twentieth-century Prairie-style architecture and was composed of three sections. The center of the building consisted of two large waiting rooms, a ticket office, and restroom areas.

The large baggage room was separated from the main station on the north side by a wide covered passageway leading to the third building once used as a restaurant.

In 1974, the Thronateeska Heritage Foundation, Inc., along with the Southwest Georgia Historical Society, started revitalizing the Union Depot and other buildings that make up the Heritage Plaza area. Today, the Union Depot serves as a History Museum, and event center.





The REA carried everything from trunks to livestock and generally delivered to your door. It was open 24 hours a day and often dealt with as many as 33 trains per day. It was much like your modern-day UPS or FedEx facilities. In the 1940s, a tornado ripped through Albany and made the building collapse. Shortly after, the building was reconstructed to its original design. With the decline of the passenger train due to other forms of transportation, the Railway Express Agency became obsolete and filed for bankruptcy in 1975. Today, the REA building is owned by the Thronateeska Heritage Center.

## STOP 11: THE RAILWAY EXPRESS AGENCY

📍 100 W. ROOSEVELT AVENUE, ALBANY, GA

Welcome to our eleventh stop on our tour, The Railway Express Agency (REA). The REA building is a part of the Albany Railroad Historic District and is located in Heritage Plaza, at 100 W. Roosevelt Avenue in Downtown Albany! The REA Building was built sometime between 1910 and World War I, and is a one-story, penciled-brick building with a parapet gable roof with a Spanish Mission design. The south side of the building was designed for receiving and office space, while the rest of the building was used as storage of freight and cargo. Located on the east side of the building, were three large sliding doors for moving freight in and out. For years, the Railway Express Agency was significant, not only to the Southeastern region but for the entire United States, because it was a major means of transporting goods and parcels to other parts of the country.





## STOP 12: THE BRICK PAVEMENT

📍 100 W. ROOSEVELT AVENUE, ALBANY, GA

Welcome to our twelfth stop on our tour, The last brick streets of Albany. The Brick Streets connect the Albany Railroad Historic District and is located in Heritage Plaza, at 100 W. Roosevelt Avenue in Downtown Albany! These beautiful brick streets were laid in 1913 and are the last to survive without resurfacing in Albany. The brick paving materials are characteristic of early-twentieth-century street and highway construction. These brick streets were laid in Albany as part of a larger downtown street improvement project during the second decade of the twentieth century.







## STOP 14: OLD ST. TERESA'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

📍 313 W. RESIDENCE AVENUE, ALBANY, GA

Welcome to our fourteenth stop on our tour, St. Teresa's Catholic Church, located at 313 W. Residence Avenue. Nestled under a canopy of live oak trees, quietly sits St. Teresa's Catholic Church. The church's exterior consists of beautiful wood doors, dark handmade brick, and twelve stained glass windows. If you look closely over the entrance of the church, you can also see a cross in raised brick. If you entered this building, you would see that the church is made up of one large rectangular room with an altar at the opposite end of the church from the doors. You will also see a small choir loft over the entrance. This loft was constructed in 1902. The church was constructed in 1859-1860 on land donated by Colonel Nelson Tift, founder of Albany. Colonel Nelson Tift purchased the land on August 31, 1859, for only one dollar. Work on the church halted during the outbreak of the civil war, and although the church was unfinished, it served as a hospital for wounded soldiers during the time.



After the war, the church's interior was finally completed, and in 1882, St. Teresa's Catholic Church was finally dedicated. In 1902, the interior of the church was remodeled, and then the restoration of the church was completed in 1980.

Today, St. Teresa's Catholic Church is the oldest building in Albany and the oldest Catholic Church in Georgia that still holds services. St. Teresa's Catholic Church is currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places and in 1980, was recognized for outstanding restoration by the Georgia Trust of Historic Preservation.



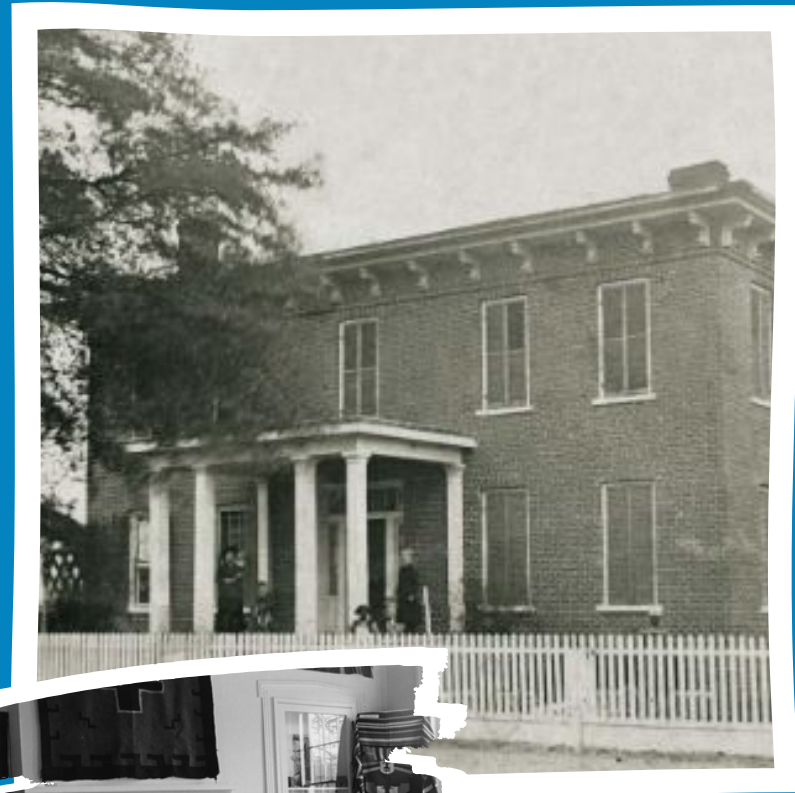




## STOP 15: W.E. SMITH HOUSE

📍 516 FLINT AVENUE, ALBANY, GA

Welcome to our fifteenth stop on our tour, the W.E. Smith House, located at 516 Flint Avenue. This two-story brick house was built in 1860 by William E. Smith for his bride, Caroline Williams Smith. Captain Smith was born in Augusta but moved to Albany at an early age. He became a lawyer and solicitor of the Southwest Circuit before the Civil War. In 1862 he was made a commanding officer of the Albany Guards. He lost a leg in the war and returned to Albany to practice law again. He served eight years in the U.S. Congress during reconstruction. From 1886 to 1887, Congressman William E. Smith served in the Georgia Legislature. This house is said to be the first brick house residence in Albany. It also was the first residence in Albany to have private waterworks, meaning water was pumped into the house from a drilled well, even the upstairs bedrooms. The house's exterior consists of common bond red brick hauled from Macon by wagon, bay windows, and two chimneys. Inside, you will find an original large mahogany staircase that was made in New York.



In 1960, a grandson of the original builder gifted the house to the Junior League of Albany to use as a museum.

Portions of the museum display included Native American relics and artifacts from the Flint River. Today, the house is a private residence.



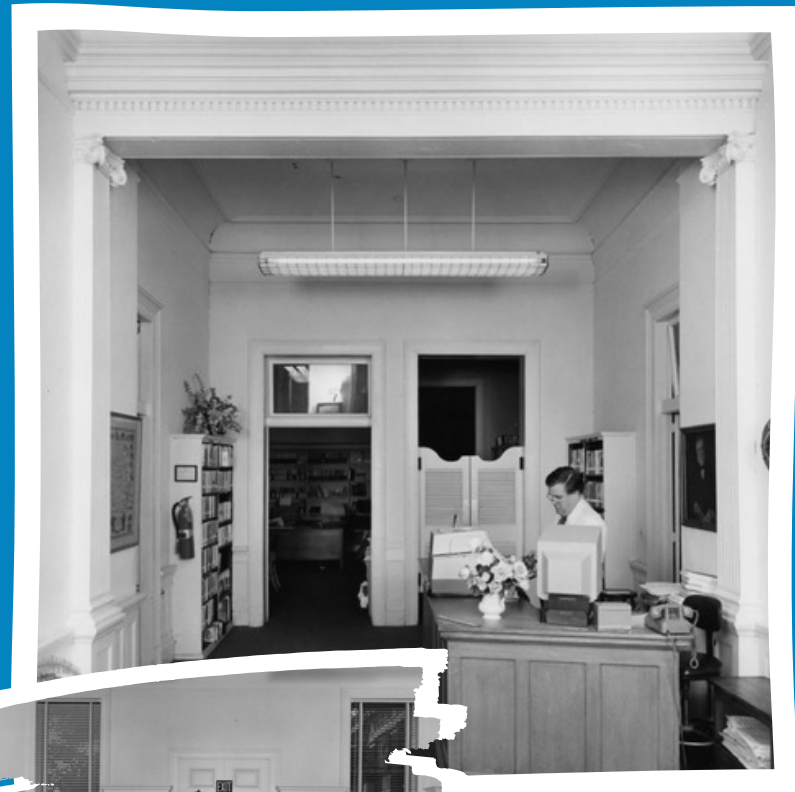




## STOP 17: CARNEGIE LIBRARY OF ALBANY

📍 215 N. JACKSON STREET, ALBANY, GA

Welcome to the seventeenth stop of our tour, the Carnegie Library which is located at 215 N. Jackson Street. The Carnegie Library of Albany was built in 1906 and is a one-story yellow brick Neo-classical style building. The interior of the building features a central reception hall, small support offices, a children's room, and the museum area that was added in 1949. Situated between the south reading room is a double fireplace that provided the building with heat. The library was named after Andrew Carnegie, who donated \$10,000 to construct this building. This beautiful building is important to history because it was one of the very earliest public library facilities in Georgia, and was the home of the very first public library in Albany. The library opened in 1906 with 1,500 volumes. After the library opened, it became an important establishment of education, sponsoring numerous programs which promoted reading and cultural activities.



The library remained the main city library until 1966 when it became the downtown business branch. Today it is home to the Albany Area Arts Council, where they hold events that support the arts.



## STOP 18: ALBANY MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM

📍 200 N. JACKSON STREET, ALBANY, GA

Welcome to our eighteenth stop on our tour, the Albany Municipal Auditorium. This beautiful building is located at 200 N. Jackson Street. The Albany Municipal Auditorium was built in 1915 and designed by A. Ten Eyck Brown, a well-known Atlanta architect. This three-story rectangular building's design was supposedly influenced by the early work of Frank Lloyd Wright's Unity Temple, located in Oak Park Illinois. The auditorium was built to provide more space for the Chautauqua Society of Albany, a society that was designed to provide an informal method of education for people who had little formal education. After the movement officially ended during World War I, the auditorium continued to be used by the Chautauqua Society for events. The foyer of the Albany Municipal Auditorium was originally painted cream and gold with marble trim around the double doors. This marble trim extended along the baseboard of the floor throughout the building.



This large oval room in the center of the building is called the auditorium. Before renovations, the auditorium space sat approximately 1,500 people, but can only seat 965 today. The auditorium is arranged by the orchestra area, the lodge, and two balconies. The large stage of the auditorium was considered one of the best in the south during the early twentieth century. Many Celebrities appeared on this stage such as Sara Bernhardt, Maud Adams, David Warrick, and Henry Ford among others. Such musical events and Broadway plays attracted audiences from all over South Georgia to this auditorium. The building was also used for local talent shows, concerts by local musicians, high school graduations, and events of Albany State College and Albany Junior College. The Albany Municipal Auditorium was abandoned for several years, but today, it has been completely restored and is gaining a reputation throughout Southwest Georgia as a center for performing arts.

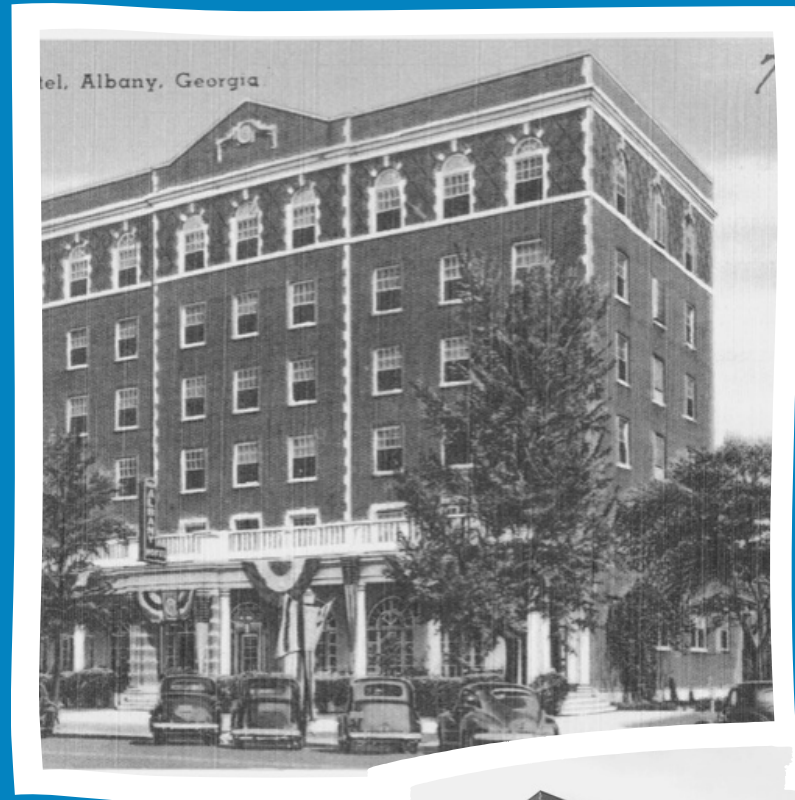




## STOP 19: NEW ALBANY HOTEL

📍 249 PINE AVENUE, ALBANY, GA

Welcome to our nineteenth stop on our tour, the New Albany Hotel. This building is located at 249 Pine Avenue. The New Albany Hotel first existed before 1886 as a wood-framed building that was built to accommodate travelers. When the owners got word that a new upscale hotel, called Hotel Gordan, was going to be built next door, they made the choice to build an equally modern and elegant facility in order to compete. The newer New Albany Hotel was built in 1925 as a six-story building designed in Georgian Revival Style by architect, Raymond C. Snow. The original building was “T” shaped, but in 1948, a three-story addition extended the leg of the T to the rear. After that, several other one-story additions were added to the building. The hotel also housed several local businesses including offices, shops, and restaurants for travelers' convenience. Although the New Albany Hotel was built to accommodate railroad travelers, in the 1920s and 1930s it became the center of Albany social life.



With the large restaurant located at the east of the building and ballrooms, Albanians flocked to the New Albany Hotel for the traditional Sunday diner or to party.



Today, the hotel has been renovated into a downtown apartment called the Flats at 249. On the first floor of the newly renovated apartments sits Bandit and the Babe, a local downtown boutique.



