

WASHINGTON COUNTY GEORGIA

Georgia's ninth county, first in the nation to be named for George Washington, was created in 1784 for granting land to soldiers for Revolutionary War services.

The courthouse square is located on the old stage coach road from Louisville to Milledgeville, both former state capitals.

Sandersville grew around the courthouse on the site of the intersection of Indian trails. An Indian trading post at the crossing later became the location of Mr. Saunders' general store and stage coach stop. He gave land for a town which was laid out in 1796. Chartered and named Sandersville in 1812, the town became the seat of government in the county. Although growth was slow, farming gave the town a solid economic foundation which blossomed in the late nineteenth century. The advent of short railroad lines connecting to the Central of Georgia in Tennesse, plus agricultural prosperity produced a vigorous economy and a building boom.

Around 1900 the county reached its maximum population, and Sandersville expressed this confidence in building and remodeling its homes and businesses. Around this rich architectural heritage, the town continues to prosper.



WASHINGTON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Welcome to this self-guided driving tour designed by the Washington County Historical Society in cooperation with the Chamber of Commerce. The sites are numbered, but may be studied in any sequence. There are many other places of historic interest in the county. Personnel at the Museum, the Chamber of Commerce, or the Library can help you with suggestions, directions and maps.

The Society was incorporated in 1976 to make the public aware of its vanishing heritage. Its projects include home tours, participation in Vanishing Georgia, transformation of the County Jail into the Washington County Museum, publication of two historical art portfolios and genealogically valuable surveys, restoration of the City Cemetery and achieving National Register listings.

Washington County Historical Society
P.O. Box 692
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8-99-10M

Historic Guide for Sandersville



On the Court House Grounds

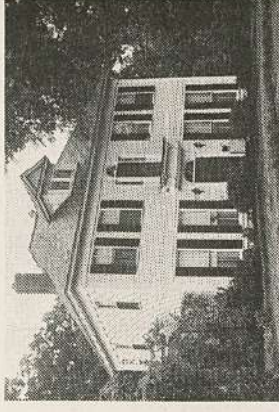
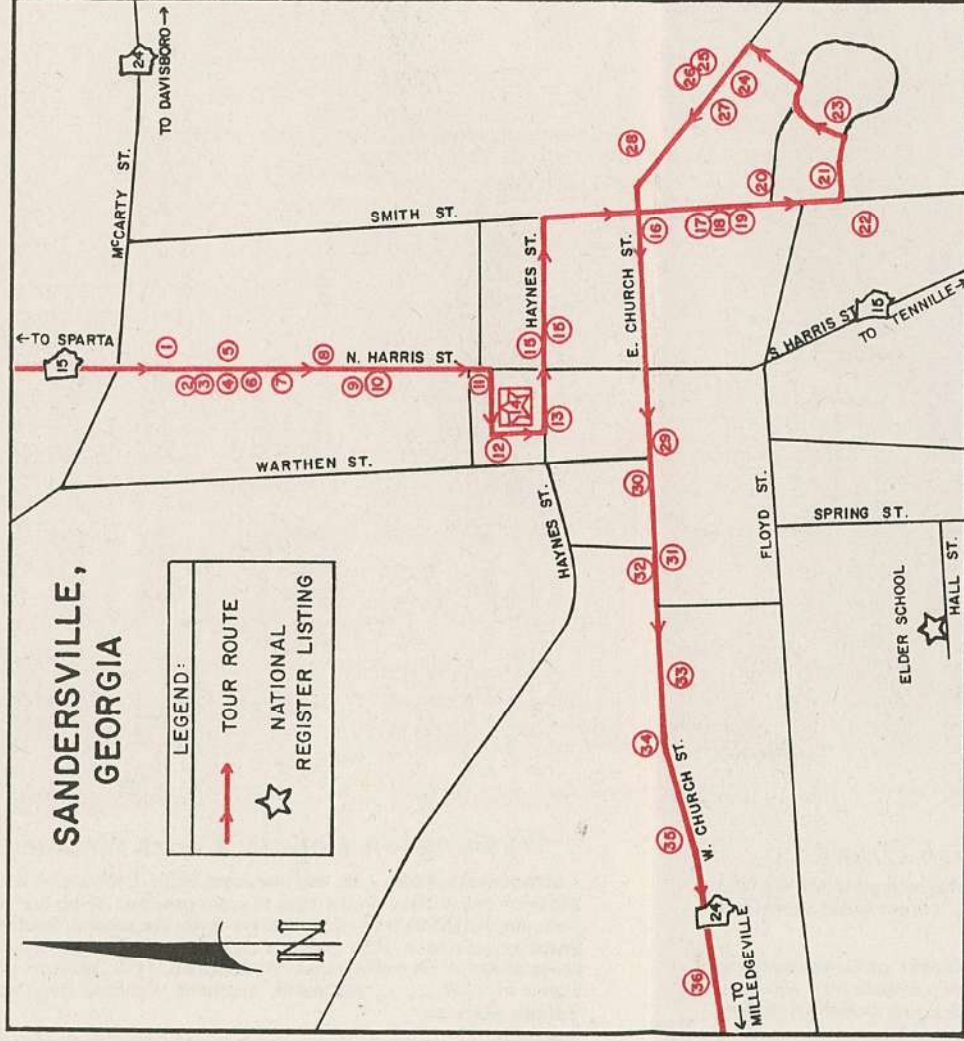
The monument honors Jared Irwin of Washington County who served 2 terms as Governor of Georgia. It bears bullet scars from Sherman's march.

Octagonal gazebo housing the Chamber of Commerce was originally the bandstand for the "Florence Symphony," a musical ensemble named for the daughter of Louis Cohen, a leading entrepreneur.

Washington County Court House

In the square, 1868. J. W. Renfro, contractor. Central part was 3rd brick courthouse on the site, the two previous being lost to fires: one in 1855 destroyed most of the town; the second, General Sherman burned in 1864 on his March through Georgia. Clock tower added in renovation by L. F. Goodrich, 1899. West annex added in 1939, H. L. McCaskill, architect. National Register. Visitors welcome.

Courthouse sketch by Middle Georgia artist Sterling Everett, a Washington County native.



Holt-Sullivan House

239 N. Harris St. c1916. A flamboyant Beaux-Arts house built for banker Lewis Holt. A round two-story porch with a reverse-round balcony capitates the main rooms have pressed tin ceilings. Extension in 1986. Private residence.

1 Louise Irwin House

235 N. Harris St. c1878. Originally a four room cottage enlarged in two remodelings into a four-square Georgian aspect. Long the home of Louise Irwin, designer of the Georgia State Plates. Private residence

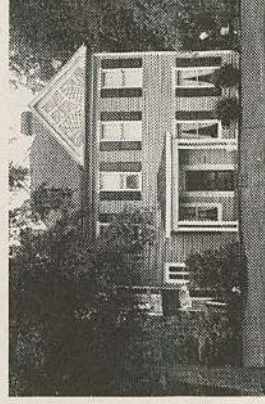


1 Brown House Museum

258 N. Harris St. Greek Revival. Built c 1852; soon purchased by W. G. Brown, whose family owned it until 1989. Remodeled, 1905. Best known as W. T. Sherman's headquarters Nov. 26, 1864. Opened as a house museum in 1999 after restoration. Double front doors with sidelights, parlor ceiling moldings and grained doors are original. Headquarters of Historical Society. Visitors welcome.

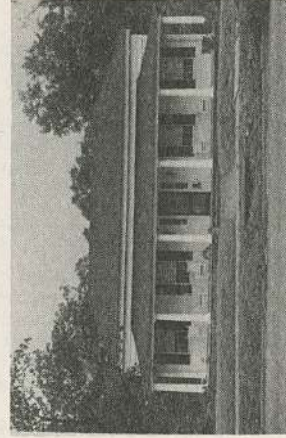
Newman-Brooker House 2

259 N. Harris St. c 1895. This Victorian home was built for Mr. Jim, a son of Major Mark Newman. "Mr. Jim" and his brother had a large general merchandise store on the square. The asymmetrical gable has nice saw work details. Original wraparound porch removed in 1946. Under renovation. Private residence.



3 Newman-Bell House

249 N. Harris St. 1895. Victorian. Built by Isadore Newman, younger son of Major Newman, whose supportive relationship to his parents included a bell wired into his home for emergencies. A windmill and water tank provided running water for both. After fire damage about 1903, the house was rebuilt with classical details. Private residence.

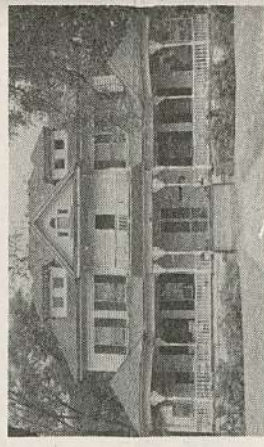


4 Mark Newman House

245 N. Harris St. 1855. Charming, unorthodox clapboard cottage with Greek Revival air and fluted Doric columns. On two levels: a foyer and two large rooms, stepdown to four original rooms. Built for Major Newman, Confederate veteran, merchant and county ordinary for about 25 years. Private residence.

The Paris House

219 N. Harris St., best known as the home of the "Selling Street" author, Rachel Paris. Built for her by Henry and Pauline Hermann Paris in 1900 who were Harris was waggishly given the "Silk Stockings" name. The house, designed by Choate, is spirited as a Victorian. Private residence.



11 Holt-Baugh House

On the corner, 106 Malone St. Neo-Classical Renaissance. Entire structure open: exhibit rooms, genealogical research room, etc. by request. Visitors welcome.

12 Washington County Jail

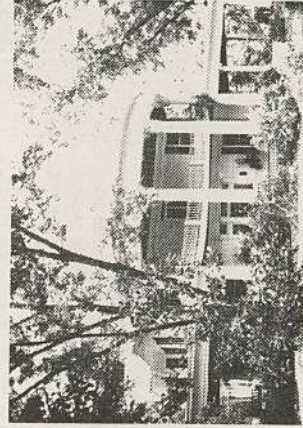
129 Jones St. 1891. Victorian. Built to house sheriff's county jail in use until 1975. The facade features arches. Entire structure open: exhibit rooms, genealogical research room, etc. by request. Visitors welcome.

13 Transylvania Club Building

131 W. Haynes St. c 1856. Greek Revival. Handmade brick building, law office of Richard Lee Warthen. One of two antebellum buildings in town. The Club still occupies historic building. Commerce is located in the 1972 rear addition. Charles

← 5 Holt-Slade House

44 N. Harris St. c 1896. Neo-Classical. Design of Charles E. Choate, architect of regional importance whose legacy of structures in Washington County is probably his largest remaining today. Beautiful entry details typical of Choate. Original porch had Ionic columns. Owner Lake B. Holt was banker and businessman. So was Joe Slade, former mayor and owner. Private residence.



← 5 Arts house
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← 14 Washington County Court House - see Cover.

← 15 100 Block East Haynes St.

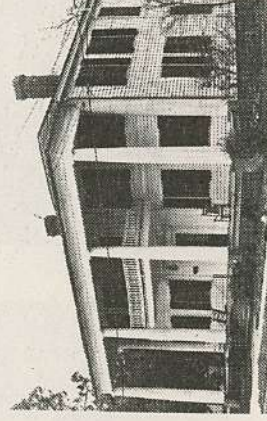
Commercial structures on both sides of this block preserve design features typical of the turn of the century when Sandersville was highly prosperous. Wrought iron balcony and a line of sculpted brick arches are on the left. On the right are terra cotta motifs and a marble cornice and brackets that crown deep sculpting at the roof.

← 16 Christian Church

Corner, Smith & Church Streets, 1907. Barber and Kluttz, architects. Gothic revival brick, second building for a congregation organized in 1857. This structure with corner entry features fine, imported stained glass windows. Visitors welcome.

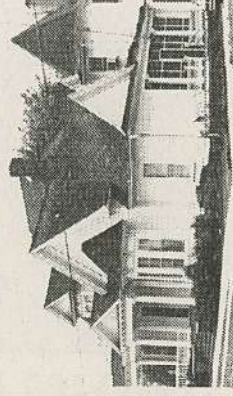
← 17 Smith-Adams House

210 S. Smith St. early 1840's. Greek Revival, two-story clapboard. Monumental Ionic columns on broad porch, added in 1891 renovation. Several outbuildings remain including barn and dovecote. Original owner, William Smith, gave name to the street, and built community's first brick store and a girl's school. His children were citizens of note and lived in adjoining homes. Private residence.



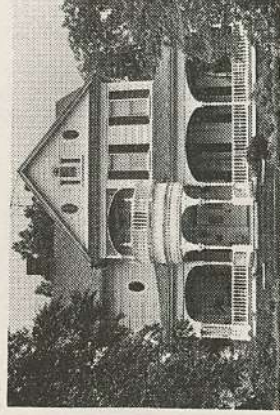
← 18 Judge B. D. Evans Home

214 South Smith Street, 1886. Victorian. Originally a one-story cottage, remodeled 1902 with decorative woodwork manufactured at Lang's Variety Works, local enterprise of importance. Judge Evans, who built beside his parents, was lawyer, legislator, Middle Georgia Solicitor, Georgia Supreme Court Justice and Mayor. Grandson of William Smith. Private residence.



← 9 Cohen-Tarbutton House

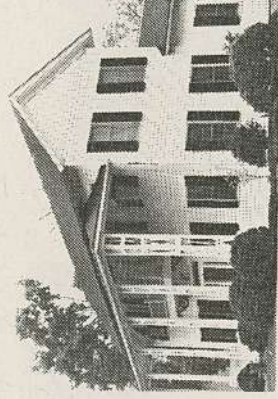
2228 N. Harris St. c 1904. Attributed to Choate. Elliptical porch, Ionic columns, balustrade, and fine interior are typical Choate. Owners include Thomas W. Hardwick, J. S. Representative and Senator, Georgia Governor; also former mayors, Louis Cohen and Benjamin J. Tarbutton. The latter was president of the Central of Georgia Railroad. Private residence.



← 9 Ark Stock-
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← 19 Evans "Homeplace"

216 S. Smith St. c 1847. Vernacular ante-bellum. Remodeled 1866. Col. Beverly D. Evans added wide piazza with delicate columns. Balcony is original to the house. Evans was eminent lawyer, farmer, Board of Education member and leading Baptist. Sallie, his wife, was a Ladies Volunteer Aid Society member and a charter member of Women's Christian Temperance Union. Private residence.



← 10 Brantley-West House

17 N. Harris St. 1850's. Original plantation-plain home built for physician Solomon Brantley. Remodeled about 1895 into a commodious Victorian structure. The change, believed the work of Choate, included the porch with balustrade, gazebo corners and pediment with Palladian windows. Private residence.

← 11 Chamber of Commerce

1898 building is signed by C. E. Choate, architect, window details achieved with rusticated and ashlar marble or L. B. and L. H. H. Holt.

← 12 Genealogical Museum

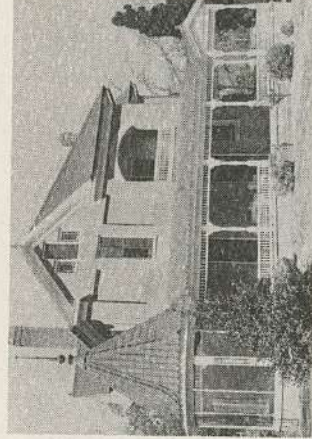
Choate family, the brick and stone "home" fronts two-story windows and stained glass. Inviting porch added later. Open on Tues. & Thurs. afternoons and

← 20 Saint Williams Catholic Parish

S. Smith St., 1885. Gothic Revival, clapboard. In 1876, when the newly built church was destroyed by a wind-storm, this building was erected, using many salvaged materials. The only remaining wooden church in town. Its excellent proportions feature a soaring steeple outside and pine pews inside. Visitors welcome.

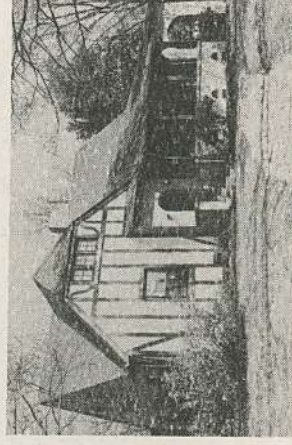
← 21 Mathis-Jackson House

305 S. Smith St. 1933. English Tudor. Built for grandson of Dr. Aylesbury Mathis, doctor and donor of site for the Catholic Church. Granite walls, fifteen inches thick are complimented by massive hand-carved front door. One of the finest examples of work of H. L. McCaskill, local architect. Private residence.



← 22 Shelnutt House

308 S. Smith St. 1900. Victorian, two-story brick. First brick residence in county; contractor, M. W. Schwall. Possibly a Choate design. Exterior stuccoed in brick pattern. Still in the family of C. D. Shelnutt, original owner, a leading citizen. Private residence.



23 *First Baptist Church*

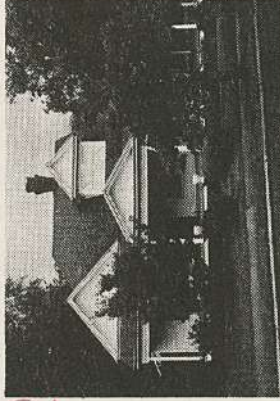
316 Mathis Circle, 1962. Third building of congregation constituted in 1859 with eight members who first shared a building in old cemetery. The Baptists built their first church in 1873 on Church Street. Visitors welcome.

24 *Duggan-Sheppard Home*

224 E.Church St. c1900. Victorian. Features wrap-around porch, graceful posts, decorative saw work and bannisters. Such lacy front porches give a homogenous quality to the street, further enhanced by the large shade trees. Private residence.

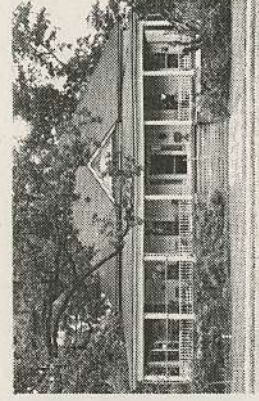
25 *Dr. S. B. Mills House*

225 E.Church St. 1902. Neo-Classical. E. J. Fuller, architect; M. W. Schwall, contractor. A trace of Victoriana remains in the gazebo corner; columns and oval gable windows show classic simplicity. Behind the house are servants' quarters, out-buildings, and an old-fashioned scuppernong arbor. Private residence.



30 *Sandersville United Methodist Church*

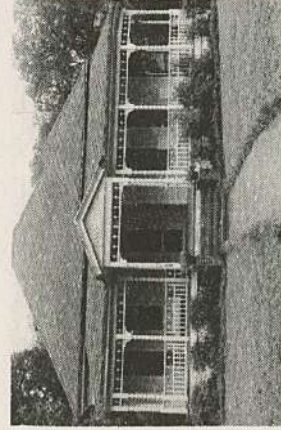
202 W. Church St. 1937. Third church on this site, replacing the 1901 building struck by lightning and burned. Right tower survived and was incorporated into this design. Congregation dates from 1806. The site of the first church, shared with other denominations until about 1859, is now part of the City Cemetery. Visitors welcome.



31

31 *Roberts-Porter House*

215 W.Church St. 1878. Vernacular. Frame construction over ground level basement. High first floor and basement, unusual for middle Georgia, possibly for the medical office of Dr. J. B. Roberts, for whom it was built. Originally two verandahs. Broad entry stairs, side-lights surround front door. Private residence.



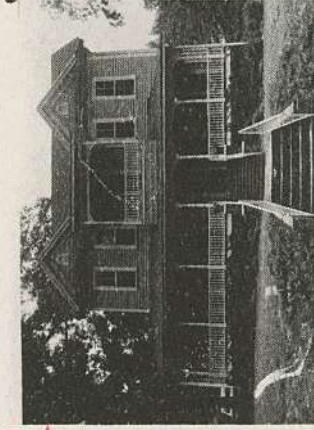
26

26 *Brookins House*

221 E.Church St. c 1900. Victorian. Unusual pressed tin barge board encircles the wrap-around porch and ties in with the shell over the portico. Porch posts and balusters are also out of the ordinary. Several outlying dependencies remain in backyard. Private residence.

27 *Phillips-Albea Home*

220 E.Church St. 1898. Victorian. Two-story clapboard, remodeled from single story about 1901. M. W. Schwall, contractor. Fish scale shingles are featured on twin gables and small second floor porch. First floor porch has dainty saw-work; both porches carry balusters at top and bottom. Backyard out-buildings can be seen from the side yard. Private residence.

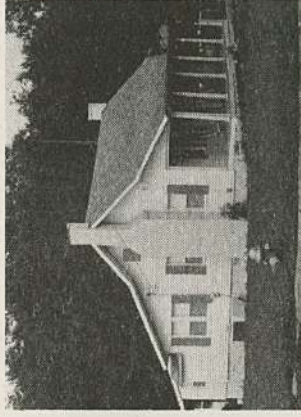


32 *Old City Cemetery*

W. Church St. from early 1800's. Attractive iron fences and interesting monuments of nineteenth and early twentieth century. Old stagecoach road marked through center. Numerous influential citizens and some Union soldiers buried here. Nominated to National Register. Visitors welcome.

33 *Springfield Baptist Church*

415 W. Church St. Organized in 1866. Served as school and church for the black community until school building erected in 1890 on Hall Street under leadership of T. J. Elder. Brick veneer over earlier clapboard building. Visitors welcome.



34

34 *Weedon-Smith House*

428 W.Church St. c1850. Vernacular Greek Revival. Remodeled 1902. Originally square columns connected with bannisters adorned the porch. Sweeping roofline typical of cottages popular early in Washington County. Private residence.

28

28 *Dr. J. H. Evans House*

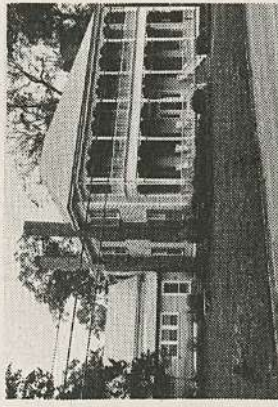
209 E. Church St. 1908. Neoclassical. Two story clapboard designed by E. J. Fuller, architect, for Dr. Evans. Grand scale with clean, simple lines. One-story porch. Outstanding corbeled chimneys. All woodwork inside and out manufactured at Lang's Variety Works. Private residence.



35

35 *Renfro-Martin House*

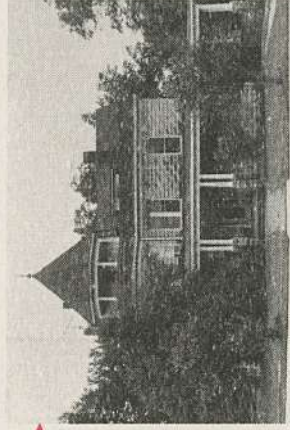
510 W. Church St. c 1855. Transitional, Greek Revival/Victorian. Delicate scroll trim enhances two-story porches. Greek Revival inside. Construction after "great fire" of 1855, which destroyed much of the town, including the buggy works and home of Nathan Renfro, member of the Georgia Assembly and state treasurer. Large barn is among several out-buildings. Now a Bed & Breakfast.



29

29 *Pringle-Harris House*

115 W.Church St. c1895. Eclectic-Victorian with Classical influence. Two story, plus. Rusticated stone facade on frame structure. Paired columns on first story porch repeated on tower. Stained glass front windows. Owner C. R. Pringle important locally and at state level. Judge J. J. Harris also owner. Private residence.



36

36 *Brown-Kinney House*

626 W. Church St. early 1800's. Plantation plain. Excellent example of Middle-Georgia farm houses of last century. Fine detail on square columns and trim around double front doors and side lights continues inside. Unusual interior chimneys. Home of Thomas E. Brown from 1860's, Civil War Captain, and one of the young men who initiated the building fund for the Methodist Church. Private residence.

