

(50) The last house on this tour, the Booth house, was originally 2 rooms up and 2 rooms down. Thomas and Robert Booth, prominent merchants in Watkinsville, lived here as well as Frank Booth, ordinary. Frank's son, Walter, lived upstairs. Mildred Johnson, a member of the first Girl Scout troop, resides here and owns it.

This brochure was written by Daphne Susanna Swint in 1993 as a requirement for the Girl Scout Gold Award.

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A WALKING TOUR OF MAIN STREET WATKINSVILLE



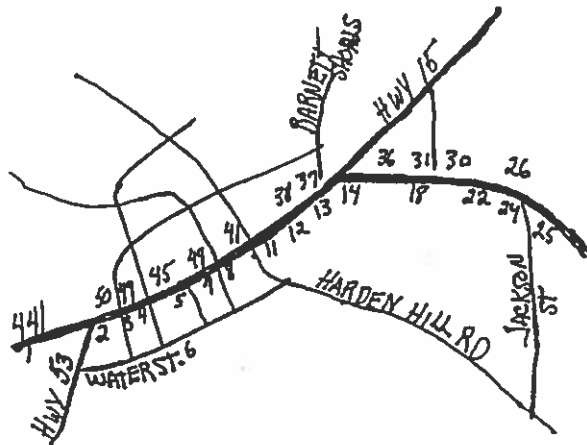
THE EAGLE TAVERN
(1840's - 1960's)



GIRL SCOUTS

The artwork was originally done by Denise Rice, Sandra Knecht & Diane Teague for MAIN STREET REVISITED, a Girl Scout book on Watkinsville.

The Watkinsville area, site of several plantations, was originally called the Big Springs Community. In 1801, Watkinsville was established as the county seat of Clarke County. In 1871, the county seat was moved to Athens. Dissatisfied area citizens demanded a county of their own and Oconee County was established in 1875. Robert Watkins, an attorney from Augusta, is thought by most to be the namesake.



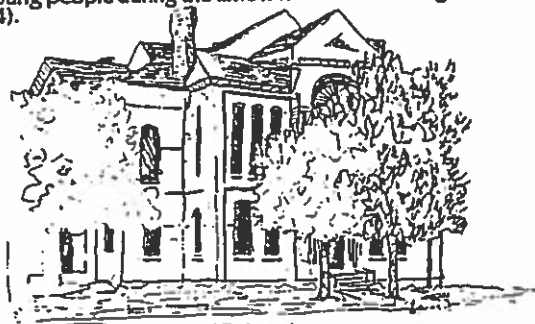
This walking tour of Watkinsville begins at the north end of town and continues down Main Street to Jackson Street.

(1) Bethel Baptist Church, founded 1867, is one of the older churches in Oconee County. It is one of several active black churches in the area. It was organized under the leadership of Dr. C.H.S. Lyons, Sr. on land purchased from Edmond Thresher. The current building was erected 1973 just south of the original church building. Its 1993 pastor, Rev. E.J. Hardy, has been the pastor since May 1951.

(2) On the hill next to Oconee State Bank was once the Walton Booth/Causey House. It was built c. 1829. Around 1987 it was moved to Clarke County.

(3) The Marzee Durham Williams home, called "the little yellow house" was on the adjoining lot. It was rented by several families over the years. The area where Oconee State Bank now stands was the location of a well known Oconee store. T & R Booth's store was here in the early 1800's. In 1905 Jack Poulcott purchased & operated the store. The last owner was T.Z. Veale, a former Mayor of Watkinsville. This store and the Williams home were torn down in 1969 when Oconee State Bank was built.

(4) The next building is known as the Farmers' Supply Company Building. J. Tom Dickens and Ganaway Malcolm, were the owners of a store and bank which closed in 1909. At the Southern end of the building the word "Bank" can still be read on the door step. The building had many occupants after that: a barber shop, several restaurants, and a beauty parlor. Booth's Sodas and Sundries was here 1959-1977. "Mr. Jim" always had a warm welcome and a current joke. Courthouse employees frequented this soda fountain. Dr. W.H. Hodges had a drug store and office in the middle section. The 2nd floor has been retail and residence space. It was a favorite spot of Watkinsville's young people during the time it was a roller skating rink (1908-14).



1887 Courthouse

5) Next is the Oconee County Courthouse. The very first courthouse was constructed of logs in 1801. Oconee's second courthouse was built at this location in 1826. Fire destroyed the building and many nearby businesses in 1887. The next courthouse overlooked an oval park with a well and gas lanterns at both ends. The dirt road circled the park. In 1938 this courthouse also burned. The courthouse standing today was built in 1939 under the Public Works Administration of Franklin Roosevelt.

(6) Water Street, which runs behind the courthouse, was called Monkey Avenue because Jennie Camp who lived on this street had a pet monkey named Carlo. It is the location of the old Oconee County jail. Built 1905, it had an indoor gallows with a lever and a rope. A cyprus water tank was built on top by Courtney Elder. It provided water to the jail, courthouse, Elder, Ashford, & Murray houses. Later rooms were added for the jail keeper. It was a jail for over 80 years and it's used today for county offices.

(7) The strip of brick stores, which is next, was built by A.W. Ashford in 1919. On the corner nearest the courthouse was the Oconee County Bank, operated by the Ashfords until 1927. Oconee State Bank was here 1959-1969. Athens Federal Savings and Loan had a branch here 1977-1982. The other store fronts in the building have had many different retailers. The south end was originally the Warmie Edge store and Post Office. Elizabeth Ann's Florist inc. has been in this building since 1981.

(8) Across School Street was a small, one-room wooden store built c. 1900. Diamond Veale, a grocer, was the first proprietor. Hubert Hodges ran a grocery here during the 30's. In 1945, Spec Downs purchased the store and replaced it with the block building you see today. Mr. Downs was here until 1963. Today it is Classic Color Photography.

(9) Next is the Courtney Elder house, a small cottage with Eastlake detailing in the cross gables. Courtney purchased it from A.W. Ashford in the late 1880's. All of his children were born here. Mr. Elder operated a buggy shop and blacksmithing business and hooked up the first running water in town. The Elder family is still in the water business.



10) In 1900, Miss Ida Murray built her new white house, featuring a primary pyramidal roof, irregular massing, a chamfered two-story bay under a projecting front gable, and a wrap-around front porch, next to the family home place (now a parking lot). She did much of the work herself. She hauled brick in a wheelbarrow from the R.R. She was a milliner in Athens and lived here until her death in 1952 at age 92. Her ghost may still inhabit the house. The iron fence which used to be around the house came from the 1887 courthouse.

Harden Hill Road, originally known as Stage Coach Road, was the main road going south. It was named for Dr. Harden whose home was nearby. South Main Street was known as Broad Street Extension.

11) The Ashford Memorial Methodist Church was constructed in 1893 by the Ashford and Booth families in memory of Mrs. Louisa Booth Ashford. The church is a Victorian Gothic clapboard frame structure featuring a gable roof with an entrance porch with an entrance way and a tower along one side. A basement and the Warmie Edge Annex were added later. It was

the Watkinsville United Methodist Church's 4th site. After a new church was built in 1982, an independent Methodist group purchased this building.



(12) The property on which the church and Ashford house now stands once belonged to Asa Jackson, Clarke County Ordinary (probate judge), 1851-89. His home was destroyed by fire. The A.W. Ashford house is a Queen Anne (Victorian) design featuring irregular, medieval-inspired massing with cross gables, dormers, towers and turrets, & Neoclassical detailing including Tuscan columns, pediments, and modillioned cornices. It was built by Nathaniel Richardson in 1893. There is a matching gazebo in the front yard which was used by Mr. Richardson as a shelter while he worked on the house and church.

(13) The next home is probably one of Watkinsville's older homes. After the Civil War it was the home of these county judges: George C. Thomas, R.M. Jackson and A.H. Morton. At the turn of the century it had a one-story porch across the front with vines growing on it. In the 1930's R.E. Fain purchased the house, moved it further from the street and remodeled it. He named it "Tillicum".

(14) The next two buildings on this side of the street are 20th century cottages. The first was formerly a tea room called The Green Gate.

It has been estimated that there were about 5 houses in the South Main Street area before the building boom of the 1880's. As the town grew, men involved in town affairs built homes within walking distance of downtown. When the R.R. came through in 1888, the number of homes rapidly increased.

(15) The next house, a Bungalow or Craftsman style, is one and one half stories high with a gable roof paralleling the street. A shed roof over the front porch is supported by square-sectioned, tapered columns on masonry piers. An open gable dormer also fronts the house. It has paired front windows with long, narrow panes in the upper sash. The house was built in the early 1920's for Robert Nicholson, county attorney, state representative and school superintendent.

(16) The next house is a one-story brick ranch house built in the 1960's for his daughter, Jean.

(17) Jacob Butler built the next house on property belonging to his wife, Maude Whitehead. It is an example of a Victorian home built in the second half of the 19th century, and has a broad jerkinhead roof. Their eldest son, Monroe Author Butler, Mayor of Watkinsville, 1940-1952, was born here, January 9, 1897. A granite marker has been erected in his honor next to the Eagle Tavern. It is now the Stovall/Berry home. Florine Stovall was a member of Watkinsville's first Girl Scout troop.

(18) The Haygood House was built c. 1827. Green Berry Haygood bought the home in 1839. Green and Martha Haygood's 6 children were born here; 2 of the children died in infancy and are buried in the yard. The 2 best known children were Atticus, who became a Methodist bishop and the founder of Emory University, and Laura, who was a missionary in Shanghai, China, 1884-1900. She revitalized old mission schools, established new ones, founded the McTyeire School and Home for Women and administered the Methodist missions in the area. The house was a two-story, hip-roofed, clapboard frame structure with exterior end chimneys which dates from the Greek Revival Era. Originally this was a

traditional plantation plain style home. In the 1920's, the paired and tripled windows and stick brackets under the eaves were added. The Methodist Church bought this house in 1878 and used it as their parsonage for the next 100 years. It is now an antique business and residence for Dr. and Mrs. Anthony Gergely.

(19) The next house, a one-story brick ranch house, is one of the first FHA houses in town. It was built in the 1960's and is owned by Harvey Downs.

(20) A plantation plain style house is next. It has interior end chimneys, and a one-story late 19th century front porch. It was the James Hutcheson home.

(21) Next door is one of 6 similar area homes built at the turn of the century. It is a one-story clapboard frame structure with half-round louvered windows and parallel gabled end sections. The gables are oriented toward the street and off set so that one gable is projected and one recessed. They are connected by a central ridged section. This one has a Neoclassical front porch. It was built for Aicy and Katie Daniel Whitehead.

(22) Dr. Ward, a well-known artist & M.D. in the area, owns this plantation plain style house, which was built for Zillah Hutcheson and was purchased in 1905 by Mrs. Anna Whitehead. It has exterior end chimneys, and a late 19th century two-story porch. Dr. Ward made the additions on the back.

(23) The next house is a small board and batten cottage with an addition to the front. It is a lesser example of the Victorian Gothic style. This was the home of Katie Downs, Oconee's first Girl Scout leader. Walter Booth built this house. Dr. Ward, who made additions to the back, uses this as his studio.

(24) Another of the 6 similar turn of the century homes is next. The front porch is turned Victorian stickwork. This home was built by Weldon "Darling" Dooley who collected mail brought in by the train. He took it to the post office in a horse drawn wagon.

(25) The next home was built by A.W. Ashford. It is a one-story, t-shaped Victorian Gothic cottage. The present owners enclosed the front porch which was on the 441 side of the house. The side facing Jackson Street became the front. It is 3 bays wide, and features a tall, steep gable over the front door, and a pair of chimneys rising through the main roof on either side of the gable. Small painted windows infilled with louvers are placed in the front and side gables.

Since there is no side walk, please look at the houses across Main Street as you walk back to the street light.

(26) The 1st home on the east side has a turned Victorian stickwork front porch and triangular louvered openings in the peaks of the gables. This is 1 of 6 similar homes. It was Diamond Veale's home, a farmer, undertaker and merchant.

(27) The next house is two-stories with a simple gable roof. It features a central dormer with a pointed, louvered opening. It was built c. 1895 for John Calvin Johnson, son-in-law of Asa M. Jackson, and Oconee County Ordinary 1898-1905.

(28) This is a lesser example of the Bungalow or craftsman style. This house's structure is mainly the way it was when first built by Walter and Vera Veale Booth as their home. It is being remodeled.

(29) The home next door is irregularly massed under a high hip-roof and has a chamfered bay under a projecting front gable. A wrap-around porch has been removed from the front. It was the Toon Powell Veale homeplace.

(30) This house, a tall, narrow house in the plantation plain style, was built for Dr. Starr Smith. It was the childhood home of Jeanette Smith, one of Watkinsville's first Girl Scouts. She stayed in scouting, worked in the national office, and co-authored a scout manual.

(31) Jim Biggers built this house for his daughter Carolyn Harden. Her son, Amrey, a Watkinsville mayor, grew up here.

(32) The next house was built in the 1880's for Dr. David Richardson. This is a lesser example of the Victorian Gothic style. It was sold to Charles A. Duggan, tax collector, and still belongs to the Duggan family.

(33) This house is another of the 6 similar homes built c. 1900. It has a Neoclassical front porch. This was the residence of Depot Agent Johnson and his wife Gladys, a Girl Scout leader in the 1930's.

(34) The garage apartment at the rear of the lot was the Dot Elder and Frankie Moore Elder home.

(35) The last house is also one of 6 similar houses from the turn of the century. It has triangular pointed, rectangular openings in the louvered gable windows and a turned Victorian stickwork front porch.

(36) The home that used to be on the lot behind the Golden Pantry was the last of the 6 similar homes. This house was built for James Jackson, a son of Asa M. Jackson. The last owner was Geneva Fitzpatrick Anderson.

(37) The next point of interest is the Town Center or Bedford Langford's general store. Many evenings after business hours Mr. Bed could be found sitting in the store with his neighbors. Spec Downs was here 1937-1945. Though it has had several additions through the years, the basic building remains the same.

(38) Bed Langford's house is next. It was once surrounded by a picket fence and beautiful flowers. At the turn of the century Mr. Langford's cotton field filled the rest of this block. In the 1930's or 40's R.E. Fain remodeled the house and divided it into apartments.

(39) Mr. & Mrs. Herman O'Dillon built the house next door. He was clerk of court (1936-45), and she was clerk of the court (1947-1979).

(40) On the corner of Whitehall Road and Main Street was a house constructed with wooden pegs. Many families have lived here. Sometime during the 60's Southern Bell bought the property and C.H. Thomas moved the house to his peach orchard. The present brick building was built in the late 1980's.



Watkinsville Christian Church c. 1900

(41) The Watkinsville Christian Church was built c. 1861 by William Murray's slaves for the Methodists. During the Civil War, it was used by Yankee soldiers. Court was held here after the 1887 courthouse fire. In 1897, A.W. Ashford deeded it to the Christian Church for \$500. In recent years the building was bricked over. In the basement that was added, the original chestnut sills are visible. The bell in front of the church is the original bell.

(42) The area between the church and the next brick building was the location of two houses built in the 1800's. The 1st one was the Durham family home. Woodson Harris replaced it with a gas station in 1967. The 2nd house was the W.H. Hodges family home.

(43) It is uncertain when the brick building which is next was built. The first inhabitant was probably the McRee-Hutcheson Mortuary & Hardware (c. 1915). Diamond Veale, T. Zuber Veale and several other businesses have been located here.

(44) Next is the Ashford Store Building. A.W. Ashford opened for business in 1898. The store had a porch across the front and a red roof. Later, W.B. Rice Petroleum Co. remodeled it and put in gas pumps which were operated by several different people between the 1920's and 40's. The second floor had several occupants: Watkinsville's first telephone exchange, the Mason's, the American Legion, a doctor, a dentist, the Roberta Harris Wells Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Mary Overby Library. Watkinsville's first Girl Scout troop, which was organized in 1914, met in the library. Around 1909, a brick addition was made on the south side of the building. It opened as Billups & White's Drug Store. Elizabeth Ann's and the Oconee Enterprise newspaper have also used this space. It is now Otis' Barber Shop.

(45) The exact date when the Eagle Tavern was built is unknown. Most commentaries say it was built c. 1789 as Fort Edward. It was a tavern in 1801. Around 1820 it had 4 rooms. The tavern had 16 rooms in the 1840's, with a two-story veranda, 3 different floor levels and 3 staircases (pictured on the cover). Many judges, lawyers, and public officials met here for business. Travelers coming through on the stage coach stayed here. It has been a place for parties, lovers, births and marriages. Its floors knew the feet of George Walton, signer of the Declaration of Independence, Alexander H. Stephens, Robert Toombs, General Edward Harden, John Milledge, and Sidney Lanier. One famous local romance that got its start here was that of Marie Antoinette Claudine Rose Gauvain (1804-1829) who met Dr. Robert Raymond Harden at a ball held in the Eagle Tavern. They married in 1819. Marie's aunt, Countess De Vue De Villars, was maid of honor to Empress Josephine, wife of Napoleon Bonaparte. The Empress took an interest in Marie because they were both born in Martinique. Dr. Harden practiced medicine in Watkinsville from 1821-1843. They're buried in an iron-fenced family plot in the Watkinsville Cemetery. In 1956, a descendant of Swep Billups, the 1870's proprietor, gave it to the Georgia Historical Commission to be restored. In the 1970's, the county opened it as a Welcome Center.

Third Street used to be called Mulberry Street because of the lovely mulberry trees that lined the street.

(46) The next house was built c. 1836. It functioned as the 'Village Inn', and 'Planter's Hotel'. Dr. W.H. Hodges added the porch and remodeled it to its present state. Although Dr. Hodges had an office directly across the street, he sometimes performed operations at home. Mrs. Hodges scrubbed the house clean and Dr. Hodges operated on the kitchen table with people holding lights. Margaret Johnson is the present owner.

(47) On the next lot is the Sally Winn home, built around 1910. Miss Sally also had a store in her home selling ribbons and notions. It is owned by Wilda Lord, wife of former Mayor Gilbert Lord.

(48) The next building was Dr. D.M. White's office, but it was torn down in 1972. The present building has housed the Oconee Enterprise, Jimmy Christopher's accounting office, Grayson Realty, Woodmen of the World Insurance Co. and many other businesses.

(49) Dr. David M. White's house is next. It was probably built in the early 1800's. In 1890, he added a second story. The Whites boarded school children from the county during the week. Dr. W.M. White, and then his son, Edward, also lived here. Edward's son, William, restored it to its original beauty. The Oconee Arrow newspaper now occupies this house.