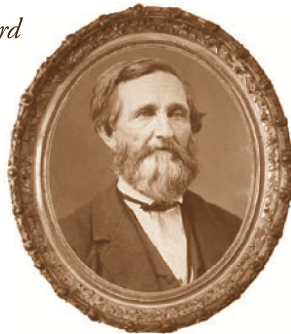


A WALKING & DRIVING TOUR OF HISTORIC *Jefferson* GEORGIA

Welcome to Jefferson, Georgia, The Birthplace of Anesthesia.

*I*t was here that Dr. Crawford W. Long performed the first painless surgery, using ether to induce an unconscious state, on March 30, 1842.



Jefferson was established in 1803 at the site of a former Indian village called Thomocoggan. The town was named in honor of President Thomas Jefferson, was selected as the county seat and incorporated in 1806. Jackson County was named for Revolutionary patriot and Georgia statesman James Jackson.

The city limits of Jefferson were originally defined as a circle, "three-fourths of a mile in every direction from the center of the public square." Most historic structures on this tour are within those original boundaries.

By the 1840s, Jefferson was a rough-and-ready town with a jumble of wood frame businesses and residences. The town had two inns to serve the stagecoach trade; Jefferson was a stop on the route from Augusta to Dahlonega, where gold was discovered in 1842.

Jefferson's primary industry, The Jefferson Mills, a cotton-to-cloth textile manufacturer, was founded in 1899 and operated solely by a local family from 1916-1990. The mill provided work for many, spurred other businesses such as a cotton gin and a cotton seed oil mill, and drove the town's economy until well into the twentieth century. Changing market forces resulted in the closure of the mill as well as many downtown businesses which had been fixtures for decades. Now these buildings are finding new uses as downtown regains its vitality once again.



Directions:



Downtown Jefferson is located 60 miles Northeast of Atlanta, Georgia. Take I-85 North to Exit 137. Turn right and travel 5 miles on U.S. Hwy 129 South (Damon Gause Bypass). Turn left onto Georgia Hwy 11 North, and travel 1.6 miles to the center of town.

Your tour will begin at the Crawford W. Long Museum which is located on the east side of the Square at 28 College Street. Look for the large white Greek Revival building on the left.

Museum Business Hours:
Tuesday thru Friday, 10am - 5pm
Saturday, 10am - 4pm

Walking Tour



1 CRAWFORD W. LONG MUSEUM - Located on the site of Dr. Long's office, the museum commemorates the first use of ether as a surgical anesthetic on March 30, 1842. The three building complex consists of a one-story commercial brick building dating from 1936, a two-story brick building constructed in 1879 by Dr. J.B. Pendergrass for his office and drugstore, and the Pendergrass General Store, a rare remaining 1840s Greek Revival style commercial building. The Store housed a continuous mercantile operation for over 100 years until its incorporation into the Museum complex in 1987.

As you exit the museum, turn left and walk to the corner of College and Sycamore Streets, then turn left.

2 PENDERGRASS HOUSE - Next door to the Pendergrass Store is the Pendergrass House, built by Dr. J.B. Pendergrass for his family in the late 1800s and Jefferson's best example of high style Victorian Queen Anne architecture. The "gingerbread" in the gables and porch is marked by generous spindle work, differing shingle patterns and sawn brackets.

3 SMITH OFFICE - Across Sycamore Street is a narrow two-story brick building constructed as an office in 1888 by Dr. Walt Smith, the town's first dentist. The office has since been rehabilitated for residential use. To the left of the office is a block home that Dr. Smith built later. The blocks were locally manufactured by E. Scott Ethridge. (see 22 & 23)

Return to the corner of Sycamore and College Streets.

4 DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

- Ahead is Jefferson's Downtown Historic District, originally built around a more extensive public square which contained the first county courthouse and later a large landscaped oval. In 1962, the oval was reduced to a median. The two monuments honor Dr. Crawford W. Long and the soldiers of the Confederate States of America.

Most of the brick buildings in the central business district were constructed c. 1900, replacing wooden structures. The balconies, brick corbelling and arched windows reflect the Italianate

style. Note the multitude of chimneys; most commercial buildings of this era burned coal for heat.

Follow the sidewalk in front of the public square stores, cross Washington Street, and begin walking up the hill on the west side of Washington Street. In the first block extending from the public square, brick buildings with extensive corbelling continue. A few brick structures date back to 1890.



5 JACKSON COUNTY COURTHOUSE (FORMER) - The historic Jackson County Courthouse is located one block up the hill on Washington Street. Built in 1879 for \$11,000, it was designed by Athens architect W.W. Thomas in the Italianate style and with a Greek Cross floor plan. The Neo-Classical clock tower, as well as a classically styled front, was added in 1908. In 1980, the Jackson County Courthouse was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. A new courthouse was built on the outskirts of Jefferson in 2004.

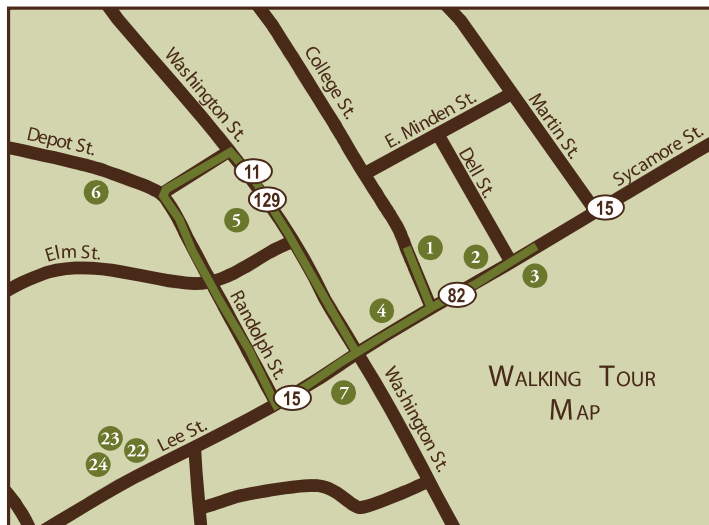
Walking Tour *(continued)*

- 6 GAINESVILLE-MIDLAND RAILROAD DEPOT** - Past the courthouse turn left onto North Avenue and cross Randolph Street for a view of the old Depot for the Gainesville-Midland Railroad, built c. 1906 when the rail line was extended from Jefferson to Fowler Junction, two miles west of Athens, to connect with Seaboard Air Line. Passenger and freight service to Jefferson from Gainesville began in 1883. The now vacant lots and parking area were once densely populated by cotton warehouses, lumberyards and feed stores, and served by multiple rail spurs—including one to the depot—which have since been removed. The Depot building is now privately owned. CSX now owns the rail line.

Walk downhill along Randolph Street until you reach Lee Street. The small public park rests on the site of one of Jefferson's most popular 1950's restaurants, Marlow's Cafe. Turn left at the park, cross Randolph Street, and continue along the sidewalk back toward the public square.

Walking Tour Option: Turn right at the park and continue west along the sidewalk to view 22, 23, 24.

- 7 LEE STREET BUILDINGS** - The buildings across Lee Street, including The Jackson Herald Building and Regions Bank, have long been part of Jefferson's retail district. The brick bank building pre-dates 1900, and once housed as many as eight separate businesses. The lots occupied by The Jackson Herald and down to the corner of Athens Highway have been home to a movie theatre, an auto garage, a hotel, and Jefferson's first City Hall.



Driving Tour

The Driving Tour begins on Washington Street, just north of the Courthouse, moving north—away from the public square and toward I-85.

- 8 WASHINGTON-LAWRENCEVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT** North on Washington Street begins the Washington-Lawrenceville Historic District. On your left at Mahaffey Street is the Twitty-Bruce house, built in 1860, an outstanding example of Greek Revival architecture with its fluted Doric columns and flush panel siding under the porch.

- 9 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH** - The sanctuary building of the First Baptist Church, built in 1921, features massive twin Tuscan columns and dentil molding. The Martin Institute (1888-1942) was located at the rear of what is now the church's parking lot at the corner of Washington Street and Institute Street. The first Baptist church in Jefferson was built on Martin Street in 1887 and was remodeled into a private home in 1921.

- 10 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** - The Presbyterian Church is the oldest church building in Jefferson. Built c. 1858 in the Temple front Greek Revival style, it once featured a steeple lost to a storm in 1943. The Presbyterians and the Baptists shared the building until 1887. Note the flush siding in the recessed porch and the classic triangular pediment supported by fluted Doric columns.

Turn left onto Lawrenceville Street.

On Lawrenceville Street are homes built by some of Jefferson's early prominent citizens: lawyers, bankers, merchants and educators. The homes on the north side of the street were constructed first, mostly Victorian in style, while the south side of the street is occupied by Craftsman style homes built after 1915. Note the treescape—these pecan groves and others found throughout town were planted c. 1912.



- 11 DUCK-RANDOLPH HOUSE** - Built c. 1916, this home is the 3rd on the left and a fine example of Craftsman style bungalow.

This brochure has been financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, through the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior or the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, nor does the mention of trade names, commercial products or consultants constitute endorsement or recommendation by these agencies. This program received Federal financial assistance for identification and protection of historic properties. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, gender or disability in its federally-assisted program. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office for Equal Opportunity, National Park Service, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240.



- 12 BRYAN HOUSE** - Further down the street, the 7th house on the left is a shingled bungalow home built in 1916 by Morris and Mildred Bryan, then owners of the Jefferson Mills, who began a legacy as benefactors of the town.



- 13 WILLS HOUSE** - The Wills home, c. 1906, was constructed by "Croft" Wills for his brother. Mr. Wills built many of Jefferson's fine homes of this era. The house is 3rd on the right.



- 14 MITCHELL-TURNER-GOODWIN HOUSE** - Opposite the Bryan home, and the 5th house on the right, is the

completely restored Mitchell-Turner-Goodwin House. This home was originally quite small; the front two-story section was added c. 1860 giving the house a Gothic Revival style. The porch was also two stories. Crawford W. Long lived here with his sister and brother-in-law, Sarah and Giles Mitchell, while studying with Dr. George R. Grant in 1839. This home was a plantation home, and fronted several thousand acres which extended north and west.

- 15 PARADISE CEMETERY** - At the bottom of the hill on the left is Paradise Cemetery, which once adjoined the Paradise A.M.E. Church, home to Jefferson's first black congregation. Some graves date back to 1854, seven years before the start of the Civil War. Paradise Cemetery is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is an important part of the city's black heritage.

Cross the railway tracks and turn right onto Hoschton Street. Continue through the four-way stop at Old Pendergrass Road. Past this stop is the Jefferson Elementary School on the left and the rear of Jefferson High School on the right. Turn right onto Holders Siding Road, cross the railway tracks, and turn right onto U.S. 129.

- 16 GAINESVILLE-MIDLAND PARK** - Immediately on the right, a roadside park honors Jefferson's railroad heritage by the display of Gainesville-Midland steam engine No. 116. GM operated steam engines until 1959.

- 17 JEFFERSON HIGH SCHOOL** - On the right, JHS was built in 1946 after the Martin Institute was destroyed by arson in 1942. The original building in the center of the current complex echoes the Neoclassical Revival pediment and columns that formed the two-story front of the old Martin Institute.

Travel through the traffic light at the intersection of Old Pendergrass Road and U.S. 129. Turn left at the top of the hill onto Institute Street.



- 18 COOLEY HOUSE** - Ahead, where Institute Street ends at its intersection with Martin Street, is a red brick home which is the only remaining building of The Martin Institute. It was built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1939 as the school's vocational education building.

Driving Tour *(continued)*



19 FIRST UNITED METHODIST

CHURCH - This church at the corner of Martin Street and Cooley Avenue was built in 1925 with fieldstone which members gathered from local farms. Reminiscent of English parish churches, the sanctuary is an eclectic building with English, Italian, and Craftsman influences. The church was originally located at the top of Woodbine Cemetery, and the wood frame building moved to this site. That structure burned in 1925; the fire also destroyed the original Curry Creek bridge (21).

Along Cooley Avenue, the churchyard contains the grave of William Duncan Martin, a county businessman whose bequest to Jackson County Academy in 1854 made it one of the country's first privately endowed public schools.

Turn right onto Storey Street.



20 NIBLACK-EVANS HOUSE - Behind the Methodist Church is the clapboard Niblack-Evans House. Built in 1866, it features Italianate window crowns, and a two-story wrap-around porch. The carriage house, an original outbuilding, has been completely restored. This house was a plantation home, and fronted several thousand acres which extended north and east.

At the bottom of the hill turn left onto Kissam Street.

21 CURRY CREEK BRIDGE - To the right is the Curry Creek Bridge built in 1925 to replace a wooden covered bridge. It incorporated the latest engineering technology in its solid concrete arch design. Note the aesthetic quality of its railings, arches and support brackets. Originally lit with cast iron street lamps, it became known as the "White Bridge." The Curry Creek Bridge is one of the few remaining solid arch concrete bridges in Georgia.

Backtrack to Storey Street, turn left, then turn right onto Sycamore Street. Passing through downtown, Sycamore changes names to Lee Street. Just past the second light you may wish to park briefly in the First Christian Church parking lot on the right. From here you can view the Ethridge-Daniel House, the church and the Bell-Gurley House.



22 23 ETHRIDGE-DANIEL HOUSE, 1910, and the FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 1912, were both constructed by E. Scott Ethridge. Several decorative concrete block structures in town and in the county can be traced to Mr. Ethridge. His concrete plant was located behind his home and here he experimented with this new building material. The concrete plant still exists, and is visible from the sidewalk or parking lot.

24 BELL-GURLEY HOUSE - Jefferson's oldest existing "down-town" home, the Bell-Gurley house, is located near one of the original springs that prompted Jefferson's founding at this site. The front two-story portion was built in 1836, a fine example of I-house construction. The front columns were added later, salvaged when the Methodist Church was dismantled and relocated from its site in Woodbine Cemetery.

Continue driving west on Lee Street, passing the Ford Motor Company and the U.S. Post Office on the right. Turn right onto Cobb Street, just on the far side of the old Mill building. For parking, turn left onto McKensie Avenue.

25 JEFFERSON MILLS - Founded in 1899, the mill produced corduroy for many years. The Mill was sold to TexFi in 1990, closed in 1995, and has since been renovated for retail use. Jefferson Mills was a benefactor of the town for many years, providing not only jobs, but funding to build many of the facilities used by the schools and the public today.

26 SOUTHWORTH PLANT - Always striving to be innovative, Jefferson Mills erected the Southworth Plant with the first externally suspended roof structure in the state in 1967. This allowed maximum use of floor space inside, as no pillars were required.

Continue on McKensie Avenue, turn left onto Epps Street, then right onto Lee Street. At the second street, turn left onto Oak Avenue.

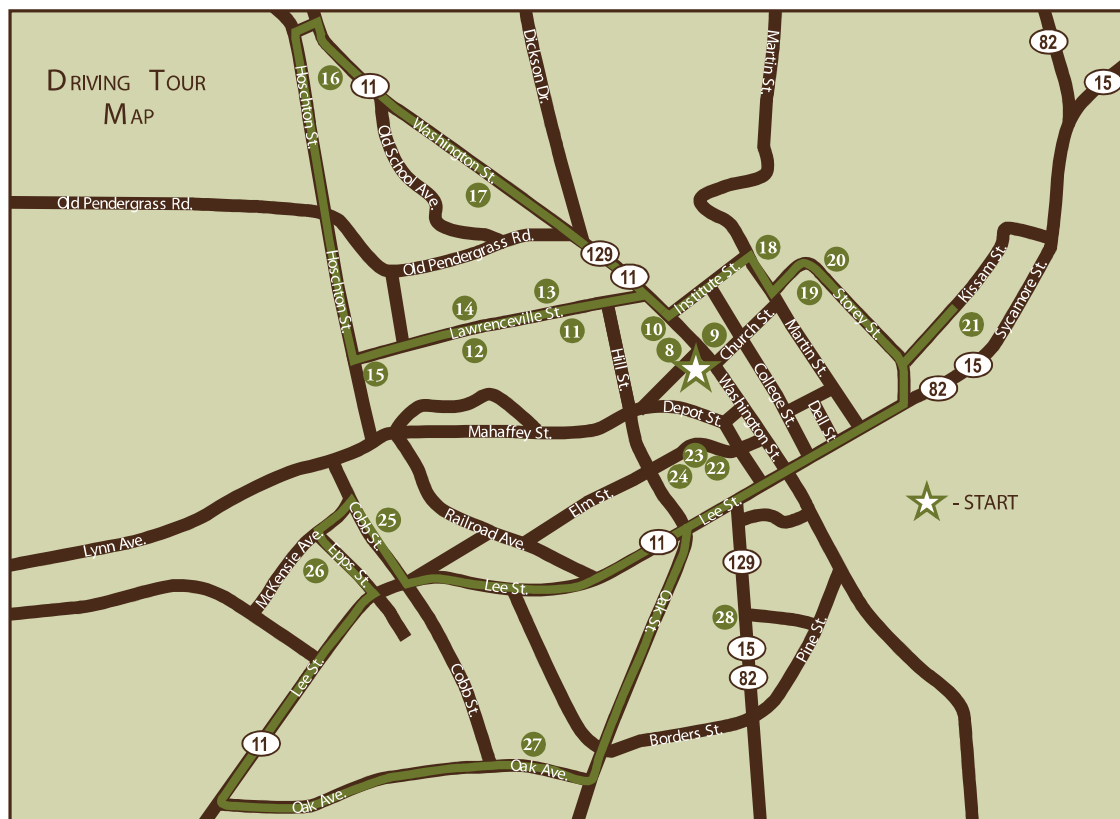
27 OAK AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT - The historic district on Oak Avenue consists of the cluster of homes at the intersection of Oak Avenue and Cobb Street. The neighborhood was built c. 1900, and contains many of Jefferson's vernacular type residences. The district also includes remnants of the city's agrarian past, including pecan groves and farmland.

Continue on Oak Avenue until it ends at Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. Turn left onto MLK, crossing the rail line, then right onto Borders Street. At the end of Borders Street, turn left onto U.S. 129 (Athens Highway). Woodbine Cemetery is approximately one block on the left.

28 WOODBINE CEMETERY - If you wish to take a stroll through Woodbine Cemetery, park on the grassy area directly opposite City Hall. A Local Historic Landmark, Woodbine Cemetery has graves dating to 1817. The first location of the Jefferson Methodist Church is marked. Note the spoke-wheel pattern of gravesites at the top of the hill. This original layout was abandoned as more space was required.

*Thank you for visiting
Historic Jefferson!*

Additional visitor resources and information is available inside the lobby of the Crawford W. Long Museum, at 28 College Street.



(706) 367-5307
www.crawfordlong.org

MAIN STREET *Jefferson*

(706) 367-5714
www.mainstreetjefferson.com

