

Architectural Styles and Forms in Downtown Valdosta

Victorian Era (1860-1910)

The decades from 1860-1910 are called the Victorian Era in American architecture. During these years, industrialization allowed mass production of economical and more complex architectural details. This permitted buildings to be built with elaborate detailing which is a primary characteristic of the Victorian Era. Common building materials for this era were masonry and wood, and windows were typically multi sash.

Eclectic Era (1880-1950)

The Eclectic Era had alternating emphasis on designs that mimicked classical architecture and modern designs that shunned historic styles. Neo-Classicism reflected the popular trend reaching for classical forms of architecture while the Craftsman Bungalow, "an American Classic" was an eclectic mix of almost undefinable styles.

Modernistic Era (1920-1945)

Hailed as the beginning of a authentically new period in architecture, the Modernistic era spanned the Art Deco and Art Moderne styles that shunned past styles. New construction techniques and building materials allowed these dramatic new forms of architecture - the Art Deco with its bold vertical emphasis, neon, formica black glass and marble, and the Art Moderne with its horizontal lines, or streamline, glass block, chrome and stainless steel. These styles were spread through Depression-era America by the Works Progress Administration. Older buildings were made "new" by the addition of storefronts that, due to technological advances, could be glued or hung over old facades.

This brochure was produced by the
Valdosta Main Street Program and
the Central Valdosta Development Authority

Historic Walking Tour of Downtown Valdosta



1. Federal Building / City Hall



216 E. Central Ave.

This 24,000 square foot Italian Renaissance building was originally built in 1908-1910 as a United States Post Office and Federal building. The Valdosta Mayor and Council purchased the building in 1968 and renovations were made to the

building in 1982 and in 1987. Winner of a 1989 Georgia Trust Award for Outstanding Rehabilitation.

2. Dosta Theatre



122 N. Ashley St.

Construction on the Dosta Theatre began in 1940 and the theatre opened in 1941. The building was built on the site where two former stores, Lazarus Brothers Department Store and Rice's Café, had burned in 1939. The Art Moderne style building is reflective of the sobering depression, stripped of most ornamentation and including an

obsession with smooth wall surfaces and other stylized and geometric motifs. Presently serves as a home for Theatre Guild Valdosta.

3. 1900 Commercial Buildings



112 N. Ashley St.

These buildings exhibit many features of a commercial building built during the Victorian era. The Valdosta Daily Times was housed on the second floor of this building in 1904. The ground floor was the site of a grocery store, restaurant, and a saloon. The building was later used as a movie theater.

4. European House Hotel



100 N. Ashley St.

The building was built circa 1884 by the Sloat brothers, who were manufacturers of Sloats Vegetable Bitters. Later the building was used as the European House Hotel. The building was rehabilitated in the 1980s.

13. First United Methodist Church



220 N. Patterson St.

The present church building was completed in 1905 after the previous one burned in 1904. The present church was built using the same walls of the burned structure with the exception of the south wall, which was torn down in order to increase the size of the building. First United Methodist Church is considered the mother Methodist Church in Valdosta. Built in the late Victorian era, this Romanesque Revival style building exhibits dynamic verticality in its tall slender towers with spires and buttresses.

14. Converse-Dalton-Ferrell House



305 N. Patterson St.

This Neoclassical style home was built in 1902 by Thomas Briggs Converse, Sr. The O.D. Dalton family and Mrs. Dalton's sister, Miss Vallie Ferrell, purchased the house in 1925. The Valdosta Junior Service League purchased the home

from the Dalton heirs in 1982 to serve as their headquarters. The house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on April 28, 1983.

15. First Presbyterian Church



313 N. Patterson St.

The First Presbyterian Church is the third church building utilized by the congregation and was constructed in 1905. The church is neoclassical in outward appearance and shows the influence of classical Greek and Roman cultures. The building

was placed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1987.



For additional information, please contact the Valdosta Main Street Office at 259-3577

9. C.C. Varnedoe's



134 N. Patterson St.

Varnedoe's was originally a one-story building built around 1880, with two additional stories being added at a late date. The building was once used as a buggy, wagon, and harness equipment business. The corner building is classified as High

Victorian Italianate with extensive Queen Anne detailing.

10. Carnegie Library (Lowndes County Historical Society And Museum)



305 W. Central Ave.

The Carnegie Library was constructed in 1913 and was named as such because of the philanthropic contributions of Andrew Carnegie. It was the first public building designed by local architect Lloyd B. Greer and was constructed for \$40,000. The

building became the Lowndes County Historical Society and Museum in 1977 and was placed on the National Register of Historic Places on January 12, 1984.

11. First Baptist Church



220 W. Central Ave.

Built in 1899, the building exemplifies Victorian eclecticism and reflects Queen Anne and Romanesque styles. The inside features elaborate wood truss ceilings, paneling, and pews and exquisite stained glass windows.

12. The Peoples Building



200 N. Patterson St.

The main entrance of the Peoples Building faces Patterson Street today, but originally the main entrance was on Central Avenue. The building was constructed circa 1885 by Judge Richard Augustus Peoples. This building exhibits many features of a commercial building during the Victorian era.

5. Daniel Ashley Hotel



109 E. Hill Ave.

This International style building was opened as a hotel in 1926 under the ownership of J.Y. Blitch and D.C. Ashley. The Daniel Ashley was once the finest hotel in this area and state. The hotel was forced to close in 1973 due to the development of new motels along the city's outskirts. Fifty-six years after the

hotel opened it was converted into housing for the elderly and renamed The Ashley House.

6. The Converse Building



122 N. Patterson St.

This building was designed by S.F. Fulgham and built in 1900 for two brothers, T.B. and A. Converse. Brownstone, bricks, and marble are among the materials used to construct the building.

7. McKey Building



101 E. Central Ave.

The McKey Building is a Renaissance Revival style building and was built by T.S. McKey, Mrs. W.H. McKey and her four children. The building was built from funds derived from the sale of fruit from orange groves.

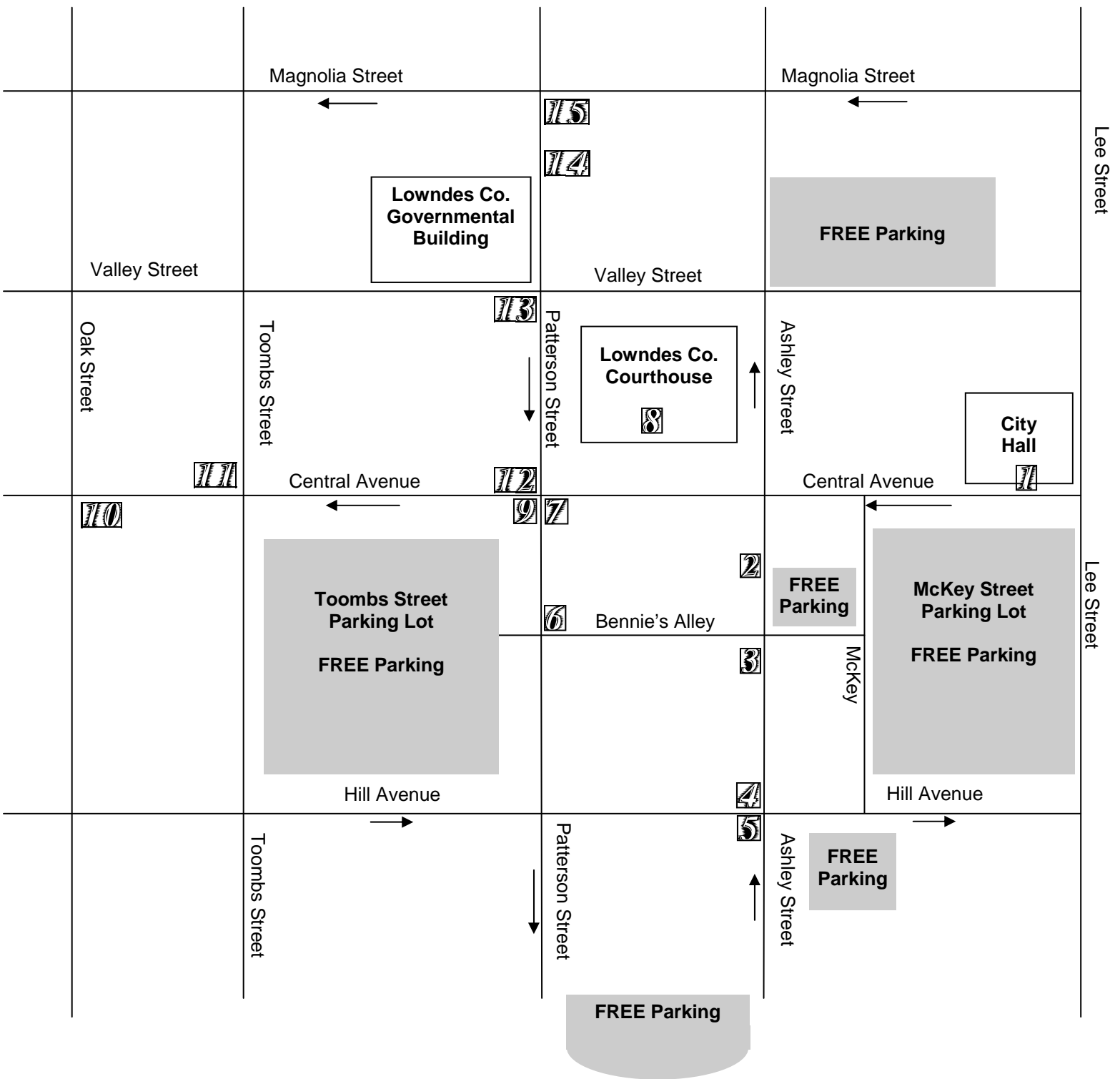
8. Lowndes County Courthouse



E. Central Ave.

The Lowndes County Courthouse was constructed in 1904-05 for \$60,000 and is an example of the Classical Revival style. The location for the courthouse was designated in 1859 and is the 3rd courthouse to be

constructed on the square. There are 3 historic monuments on the Courthouse square. The Confederate monument was erected in memory of Confederate soldiers in 1911 by the United Daughters of the Confederacy Chapter 447. The second monument is a granite obelisk erected in 1949 by J.O. Varnedoe, Camp No. 14, the United States War Veterans, and their friends in memory of the Spanish American War Veterans. The "eternal flame" was dedicated on November 11, 1969, by the American Legion to the memory of all war veterans.



- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Federal Building | 9. C.C. Varnedoes |
| 2. Dosta Theatre | 10. Carnegie Library/Lowndes Co. Historical Society & Museum |
| 3. 1900 Commercial Buildings | 11. First Baptist Church |
| 4. European House Hotel | 12. The Peoples Building |
| 5. Daniel Ashley Hotel | 13. First United Methodist Church |
| 6. The Converse Building | 14. Converse-Dalton-Fermell House |
| 7. The McKey Building | 15. First Presbyterian Church |
| 8. The Lowndes County Courthouse | |