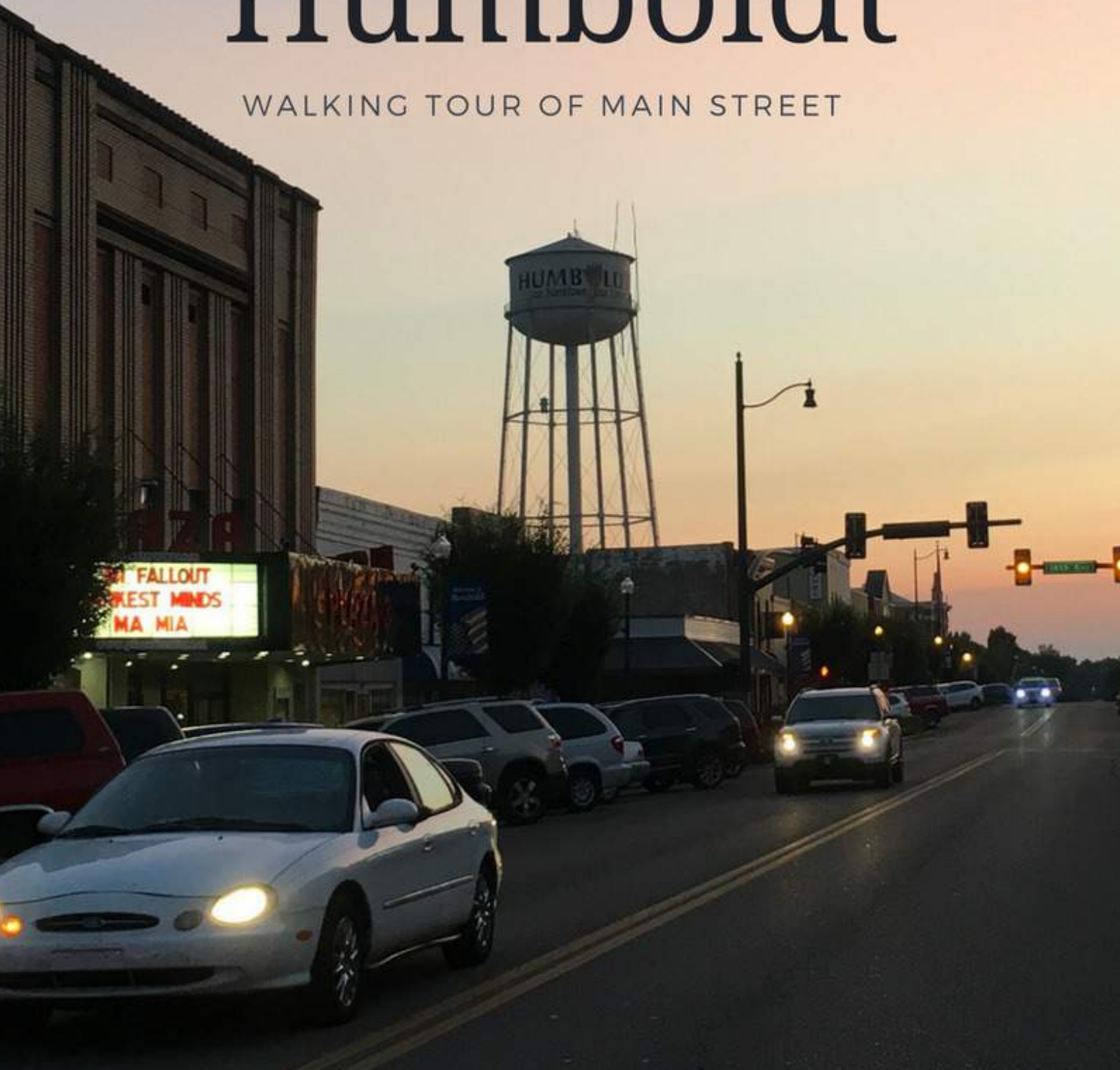


Historic Downtown Humboldt

WALKING TOUR OF MAIN STREET





Historic Downtown Humboldt

To start this tour of Downtown Humboldt, begin your journey at the Mayor's Office on the North Side of Main Street.

1201 Main Street

This two story brick building was constructed circa 1866 by Col. George W. Day. This building housed the town's court rooms in the 1860's and 1870's. It was the home to one of Humboldt's longtime dry goods merchants, the Baum Family. The utility company also had an office in this building at one point. It was remodeled in 1987, to be used as the insurance office of Hale & Herndon. In 2016, the Humboldt Mayor's Office moved into this building.

1209 Main Street

This two-story building is of brick and stone construction, built circa 1900. It was home to the Bank of Humboldt and also the home to Dr. J.F. Parsons. The bank was located in the west storeroom and the drugstore of Dr. Parsons was in the east storeroom. This building has housed many businesses, including H.D. Jones Jewelry, a furniture store, mens clothing and a paint store. Upstairs were doctor's offices and currently the Humboldt Masonic Lodge.

1209A - 1211 Main Street

This one story brick building was built in the mid to late 1890's. The west storeroom originally housed the Dry Goods and Millinery store of J.C. Penn, later a pool room between 1915 and 1925. The East section has been the home to many different stores over the years including a Jewelry store, a restaurant, attorneys' office and barber shop. This building once had a large covered porch, large glass windows and 12-foot entrance doors.

1213 - 1215 Main Street

This building was built in the mid 1880's, featuring beautiful cast iron moldings on the exterior. Originally, it was home to Hamilton & Scales Drug Store, with a grocery store in the east portion. The 2nd floor was once used as a dentist office in the 1880's and 90's. The town's court rooms were located here before moving across the street in 1912. This building has housed a photo gallery, a hardware store, café, attorney office and department store.

1301 Main Street

This building was built in the mid 1880's to replace an earlier wooden structure that burned in 1881. It was originally the home of a Dry Goods store and had a large Victorian covered porch and a bead board interior ceiling. By 1900, this building was home to a jewelry & queens wear store and had the tin ceiling added. Circa 1910, this became the Watkins Drug Store and remained a drug store through the 2010's. Taylor Drugs and McClaren's Pharmacy were here for many years.

1303 Main Street

This brick building was built in the mid 1880's and matched the style of the buildings on the east and west side. It had large floor to ceiling windows in the front with tall double doors. It has been a variety of businesses over the years, including a Drug Store, Jewelry Store, dry goods store and frame shop. In 1910, this building was home to the Humboldt Bakery. There was a large brick style oven in the back and a walk-in freezer in back.

1305 Main Street

This building was built to match the two buildings to the west in the mid 1880's. It originally housed a dry goods store. In the 1890's it was purchased by Thomas P. Bethshares to house his new dry goods and grocery store. Mr. Bethshares would later leave the dry goods behind and become solely a grocery store. This store's famous saying was "Wants 1000 Dozen Eggs". It was also the home to Rosenbloom's Store. It underwent a restoration in 2017.

1307 - 1309 Main Street

This two story brick building was built in two parts. The east side was built first as a one-story building in the mid 1880's, with a second story being added around 1905. The west side was built as a two story building around 1890 to house a furniture store. The east side was the Blue Front Grocery for many years and was owned by H.P. James. This building has been home to McElroy's 5 & 10, Bill Jones Western Auto, Ben Franklin's 10 cent Store and others

1313 Main Street

This large two-story building was built in the late 1880's by O.C. Sharp to house his Dry Goods store with an Opera House upstairs. Circa 1910 the front was changed to the yellow bricks you see today. Mr. Sharp remained in the Dry Goods & Clothing business until his death in the 1920's. The Thweatt Brothers would continue this business, with the Black & White Store and Shainburgs following. In 2013 it underwent a restoration to become the Opera House Event Hall.



1313 Main Street

1315 Main Street

The building that stood on this site was built for a Dry Goods and Clothing store in the 1880's. This one story building replaced an earlier wood frame structure which burned in 1881. By 1905 this was the home of Charles M. Williams Grocery Company. The store closed around the time of the Great Depression. For many years this was the home of Jack's Men's Shop. In 2015, the old building was torn down to make way for the Opera House Courtyard.

1317 Main Street

This building was built between 1887 and 1891 with the first floor housing a grocery store and the upstairs used as office space. In the early 1900's it would become a dry goods and clothing store, then back to a grocery store. Around 1915 the McFarland Clothing Store occupied this building and the one to the east. After the closing of that store in the 1920's, it was converted and remodeled into the new Peoples Bank.

1319 Main Street

This building was built in the late 1890's and was home to McFarland Dry Goods. It remained as a clothing store through the 1920's. The original store front was changed sometime before 1930 with a large triple window being added on the 2nd story. In the mid 1900's it became the home of Western Auto, owned by Bill Jones and then Jess Pritchard. It was the Humboldt Flower Shop from the 1970's – 1990's and was operated by F.L. Pettyjohn.

1321 Main Street

This two-story building was built in the mid 1880's and housed only 3 businesses as of 2018. It was built by J.J.R. Adams. Adams and a brother who came to Humboldt after the Civil War to open a Grocery and Hardware Store. Adams', along with a son, would continue to operate the store until the 1920's. The second store was the City Drug Company and City Gift Company is the third business in this location. In the early 1900's a Printing Company was on the 2nd floor.

1323 Main Street

This two story brick building was constructed in the late 1890's by the Marks Brothers from Jackson. They built this building to house their Dry Goods, Clothing, and Millinery Store. Shortly after 1900 the Strasberg Brothers bought the store and operated their clothing store in this location for over 50 years, later the store was purchased by Thomas Shepard. The store finally closed in the early 2000's. It was later remodeled for the law office of Jim Ryal.



1405 Main Street

1401 Main Street

This two-story building is one of the oldest structures in downtown Humboldt. It was built shortly after the Civil War. One of the first occupants was the Grocery firm of Waddill & Stobaugh. It survived the 1881 fire that destroyed most of downtown and was home to E.M. Hamilton and Rogers Jewelry. The basement once housed a Restaurant & Bar in the 1870's and a shoe store in the mid 1900's. This building was restored in 2012 by the Gamble family.

1403 Main Street

This two-story brick building is a twin of the building to the west. It was built shortly after the Civil War and has housed many different businesses throughout its history. In the late 1880's and 1890's it housed a saloon with a barber shop in the back. In the early 1900's there was a Grocery Store and pool room on the first floor. Around 1950, it was home to Hale & Albright's Men's Shop. Also, throughout the 1930's – 60's, there was a pool room upstairs.

1405 Main Street

This building was built shortly after the Civil War and was referred to as Shaw's Hall by the 1880's. There have been grocery stores, a meat market, a saloon, restaurants and 5&10 store that have claimed this building as their home. The upstairs has housed court rooms in the 1880's and 90's, the Odd Fellows Hall and the offices of Drs. George & Ben Penn. The original brick front had arched windows which were replaced in 1960. It was renovated in 2018 by the Causey family.

1409 – 1411 Main Street

These two one story buildings were built circa 1900 and have housed many businesses over the years. In the early 1900's both buildings were Grocery Stores. Later a fresh fruit market was opened in the store on the west. A restaurant was in the building on the east for several years. The store fronts were changed sometime in the 1930's. Kimbrough Dunlap Insurance and Dowsley Insurance Companies have occupied these buildings for many years.

1413 Main Street

This building was built in the 1880's as a one story structure that was the Livery Stable of N.A. Senter - later by Duffy & Gates. The Ferrell Family had a furniture and undertaking business here. By 1915, a 2nd floor was added and it was used as a Garage. Circa 1920, it was Hunt Brothers Furniture, which would later become Peoples Furniture in 1941. J&J Drug Store was in this building in the mid 1900's. The current brick front was added in 1926.

1417 - 1419 Main Street

These two buildings were built between 1905-1910. The store on the west was built to house a Buggy and Harness Shop. The building on the right was used as a dry goods and clothing store. Circa 1914, W.H. Stratton opened the Electric Theatre on the east side. In the 1920's there was a bakery shop here. In the mid 1900's P&S Pharmacy was also in this location. This building is home to Harold Gunn's Law Office in 2018.



Mini Park (Central/Main)

1424 Main Street

This sanctuary was erected in 1895 for the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. F.H. Ford, the minister at the time, worked daily to chisel the bricks that outline the windows. The three-story educational building was built in 1929. A steeple once stood on the tower, but was knocked down after being struck by lightning in the 1930's. In the 2000's the church relocated and it became the Abbey Auction House.

1414 Main Street

This one-story building was built circa 1900. It was first used as a laundry and dry cleaners. In 1905 a bakery was operating at this location. J.A. McAlister, Sr. operated his radio repair store - Humboldt Electric Shop - in this building from 1921-1953. Christmas & Wever opened a store at this location. Mr. John Wever sold his interest to Mr. Charlie Christmas and opened a store on south 14th Avenue. Its current owner is James Senter's law practice.

1412 Main Street

Part of this building dates to the 1890's and began its history as a Tin and Stove Shop. It originally had a dirt floor and was used as a tin shop until about 1913. A produce shop was in this location in 1915, and it was noted that one wall was iron clad. In the 1920's and 1930's a battery repair shop operated here.

1408 Main Street

This beautiful Art Deco building was built in 1941. "Life Begins for Andy Hardy" was the opening night movie on October 16, 1941. The manager was Wayne Harrington with Elizabeth Cox and Spicer Taylor as its first employees. Originally it had one large auditorium to show movies but was later divided into three rooms. Beginning in 1996, the theater began to experience many modern upgrades.

1404 - 1406 Main Street

This building was built circa 1900 and originally had large glass windows and doors across the front. A variety of businesses have operated in this location over the years. In the early 1900's there was a harness repair shop, grocery store, plumber and a carriage shop located in this building. George D. Dodson had his automobile dealership here before moving to Main and Central in the 1920's. Firestone Tires and Dominoes Pizza have also called this home.

1402 Main Street

This one story brick building was built circa 1900 and originally had a tall Victorian style covered porch on the front. It was the home of Hamilton Grocery Company for many years in the early 1900's. Simmons Shoe Store operated in this location for a short time. It was later occupied by Riley Clark's Friendly Shoes for several years in the 1950's & 1960's. Robinson Office Products was also in the building in the 1980's & early 1990's.

1400 Main Street

This one story building was built in the 1890's and housed a printing office. By 1900, it was divided into three offices with a barber using the Main Street entrance. The other two sections housed a cobbler and doctor's office with entrances on 14th Avenue. In circa 1905 the whole building was converted into a grocery store. It also has housed a men's store, shoe repair store and fabric shop.

1322 Main Street

This building was originally a two-story structure built of brick and hollow concrete blocks and was built to house the Milton I. Baum Dry Goods store. Baum sold a variety of items including shoes, clothes, watches and hats. The Farmers Exchange Bank was located in the east portion of this building in the early 1900's. P.N. Hirsch & Co. had their dry goods store in this building. It would later burn and the second floor was removed.

1318 Main Street

This two story building was built in the 1920's and replaced the last remaining wood frame structure on Main Street. The small one-story clapboard siding store was used as a barber shop and business office before being razed. The new building has been home to the Senter Brothers Insurance Company as well as other insurance agencies and real estate companies. The original features include wood windows and a terracotta tile roof on the front exterior.

1316 Main Street

This two-story building was built between 1887 and 1891 and was used as a millinery store during the 1890's. It was later used for office space. The 2nd floor was originally accessed from a staircase that had its own door to the sidewalk. The Rooks family operated the Courier-Chronicle newspaper from this location from the 1910's to the mid 1960's. Booth Printing Company and Robinson Office Products have also called this building home.

1314 Main Street

This building, like the three one-story buildings to its west, was built in the mid 1880's. It has housed a variety of businesses over the years including a Dry Goods store, a Harness Shop, a Pool Room, barber shop and more. The Humboldt Post Office was located in the northwest corner of this building in the late 1880's. It has been the home to Brasfield's Jewelry for many years.

1312 Main Street

This building like the ones to the east and west were built in the mid 1880's. It replaced an earlier wooden structure that burned in 1881. Originally a drug store operated here until about 1900. A jewelry store, newspaper office, barber, and a racket store operated here between 1900 and 1915. A restaurant was in this location during the 1920's and 1930's. Stuarts Clothing Store and the Jack Ray Insurance Agency have also operated here.



1316 Main Street

1310 Main Street

This building was built in the mid 1880's. It is one of a set of four one story brick buildings that were built along the south side of Main Street after the 1881 fire. Originally it was the home of a harness shop. By 1900 a small printing company was operating here. Next the building saw a variety of businesses including a grocery store, a clothing store, a millinery store and a radio repair store.

1308 Main Street

This building was one of the first to be rebuilt after the 1881 fire that destroyed most of downtown. It was erected in the mid 1880's to house the Office of the County Clerk and Post Office. The Post Office remained in this building until about 1910 when it was relocated down the street. In 1910, it housed a Gentlemen's Furnishings store. It has also been the home of a barber shop in the 1910's and 1920's.

1306 Main Street

This building was built between 1891 and 1897 and has housed a variety of stores in its history. The exterior has only had minor changes made over the years such as a new door and windows. Some of the businesses that have claimed this as their home include a Racket Store, a Pool Room and Dry Goods store. One of the most interesting uses this building had was in 1905 - there was a Carriage Repository (buggy storage) on the 1st floor and a photo studio on the 2nd floor.



1200 Main Street

1304 Main Street

This two story brick building was built between 1891 and 1897. It has been home to a variety of businesses over the years. Originally it was the office of the West Tennessee Leader newspaper and printing company. Beginning in the early 1900's it was home to Moore Dry Goods. In 1915, it was a Racket Store, which sold a variety of items at discount prices and later was Hayes Brothers Paint Store. In the 2000's it was the Pritchard Realty office.

1302 Main Street

This building was built in the 1970's to replace an earlier structure that was destroyed by fire. The building that burned once housed a furniture store, the Post Office, a 5&10 store with lodge and meeting rooms upstairs. The current building originally had a modern two story glass front and was home to Jess Pritchard's Western Auto store. When the Western Auto store closed, the building was remodeled and converted into law offices in 1990.

1200 Main Street

This Neoclassical building was erected in 1912 for Humboldt's City Hall. Originally it housed the Mayor's office and Humboldt Business Men's Club (later Chamber of Commerce) on the first floor with the courtroom on the second floor. The city jail and Police Department were added to the basement. It served as City Hall until 1981 and was restored in the 1990's to house the Chamber, Strawberry Festival Historical Museum, and the West TN Regional Art Center.

1116 Main Street

This building is home to the Humboldt Fire Department and was built in the early 1950's. This two story building is of brick and block construction. It features two large bays for fire trucks, emergency vehicles and equipment. For many years it was Humboldt's only fire department building. There is office space for the fire chief and other employees. The upstairs of the building is used as sleeping quarters for the firemen.

Credits

All historical data courtesy John
Blankenship and
The Humboldt Historical Society.
www.humboldthistorical.weebly.com/

Photo credit:
Humboldt Chamber of Commerce.
www.humboldttnchamber.org