Historical Society

Christmas Tour

of Private and Historic Homes

December 2nd & 3rd

Day Tour  Night Tour

Photo Courtesy of www.betweenmapsontheporch.net
Historical Society Christmas Tour of Historic and Private Homes

Jewelry Trunk Show
Saturday, December 3, 1:00-5:00 pm
115 S Main St, Madison, Georgia | 706.342.3311 | BBandGHome.com
Welcome to the 2016 Holiday Tour of Homes! Madison residents began opening their historic homes to visitors in 1950 when Miss Kittle Newton, owner of Boxwood and president of the Flora Garden Club, organized the first home tour. In the spirit of Southern Hospitality, Madison and Morgan County are opening a selection of their privately-owned historical homes for this year’s tour. Catch the holiday spirit as you visit these rare homes, our museums, and our downtown churches. It’s the perfect beginning to the Holiday Season.

Designated by Budget Travel as one of the “World’s Top 16 Most Pictoresque Villages,” Madison has long been famous for its historic homes and gardens. Madison’s Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974. It was later enlarged to include approximately 5,200 acres and more than 300 buildings and sites. The district is at its most spectacular when dressed up for the holidays.

Step into a winter wonderland as you enjoy the Day Tour and the Evening Candlelight Tour of Homes. Each tour features seven homes not normally open to the public. Most of the sites are located within the historic district, which boasts the largest collection of 19th century architecture in Georgia, and all are beautifully decorated for the season.

The year’s tour is sponsored by the Morgan County Historical Society and its many friends. Your tour participation helps maintain the character and structure of our house museum, Heritage House, circa 1841. For this we are deeply grateful. Stroll through our beloved hometown; browse in our distinctive retail shops; dine in our unique restaurants; and bask in the warmth of our hospitality. We are so very happy you are with us today, and we hope you will visit again and again.

The Morgan County Historical Society wishes you a blessed and happy Holiday!

Bruce Gilbert, President

CONTENTS

ALPHABETICAL TOUR MAP ..................................7-8

DAY TOUR MAP ........................................20-22

NIGHT TOUR MAP .....................................23-24

Just seven miles from downtown Madison is this beautiful 7,81 acres with 3 car garage. Priced @ $249,000.

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Although the core of Heritage Hall apparently dates from the earliest days of Madison, the grand Greek Revival mansion we know today emerged in the 1830s after it was acquired by Dr. Elijah Evans Jones, one of Madison’s earliest physicians. The front entrance appears to have been based on illustrations from popular builders’ manuals of the period. An interesting feature of the facade is that the columns on either end are square while the four Doric columns in the center are round.

Although Heritage Hall now stands as a landmark of South Main Street, it originally faced Central Avenue. Around 1909, the new owner Steve Turnell moved the structure about 60 yards to the north and rotated it to make way for the new Methodist Church building.

In 1923, Turnell began operating the house as the Travelers Inn, but it closed ten years later after a fire. Mrs. W. Fletcher Manley, Sr. purchased the house in 1946 and returned it to grace and elegance. The heavy interior woodwork is exquisite as are the period furnishings. Among the treasures that visitors may see are original window panes etched with the names of early residents.

Mrs. Manley’s heir donated Heritage Hall to the Morgan County Historical Society in 1977, and the Society operates it as a house museum.
1. Bonar Hall, circa 1832
2. Thurleston, circa 1818
3. Hull House, circa 1899
4. Holly House, circa 1840
5. Saffold House, circa 1816
6. Kimsey House, circa 1900
7. Streleki Cottage, circa 1900
8. Madison-Morgan Cultural Center
10. Rose Cottage/Rogers House
11. Richter Cottage (Landmarks)
In contrast to many grand antebellum homes that have been much enlarged and changed over the years, Bonar Hall is a special architectural gem because it has undergone so little modification since the young couple John B. and Eliza Fannin Walker combined their inherited and earned wealth to erect this magnificent showcase in 1839–1840. Reproductions of their portraits hang over the parlor fireplace, and the original of Eliza (attributed to Thomas Sully) is on display in the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center Museum.

Constructed in the four-over-four Georgian style of brick manufactured by the plantation’s slaves, the structure has 26×26-foot main rooms, 13-foot ceilings, and 18-inch thick walls. The house is strategically flanked by an orangery (greenhouse), a teahouse, a kitchen, and matching brick “necessaries.” A Victorian carriage, a smoke house, and three very old cabins are further back.

John Walker owned considerable cotton farmland in Texas as well as in Morgan County. The Lone Star connection led to his offering his home for the convalescence of about 20 wounded Confederate soldiers, mostly from the famous Texas Rangers brigade, after the Battle of Chickamauga.

According to an oft-told story, Bonar Hall’s extensive gardens began around 1850 when Eliza took advantage of her husband’s absence while he was inspecting his western holdings. She replaced cotton planted near the house with roses and shrubs. Upon his return, a battle of wills ensued between Eliza’s desire for a garden of ornamentals and John’s intentions to plant every square inch in cash crops. She prevailed, and a formal English boxwood garden, still intact, was planted. Regardless of whether the legend is accurate or embellished, Bonar Hall’s gardens merit considerable mention in the Garden History of Georgia, 1733–1903, which declared, “The grounds show careful planning and a classical sense of balance.”

The main change that twenty-first century visitors will notice is that Bonar Hall sports a two-story Victorian-style veranda rather than its original Georgian-style portico. That modification was made by the Broughton family who owned Bonar Hall from 1880 to 1912. In 1920, William T. and Josie Newton Bacon, distant cousins of Eliza Fannin Walker, acquired the property. It was at this time that the house was given the moniker Bonar Hall in honor of a Virginia ancestor of Mrs. Bacon, whose portrait overlooks the sitting room. On the occasion of a lawn party in 1896 the Madisonian newspaper declared, “The Broughton home is one of the most cultured and refined in the state.”

The interior of Bonar Hall is marked by massive doors with silver doorknobs and Victorian-era stenciled ceilings in the double parlor. It is furnished almost entirely with ante-bellum pieces including a late 18th century sideboard from England and a grand table on which General William T. Sherman dined in Burke County, Georgia, during his “March to the Sea.”

In 1994 current owner Alex Newton inherited Bonar Hall from his aunt Therese Newton who had lived in the house since her parents bought it in 1920. Thus, Bonar Hall has been in the extended family for about 144 of its 184 year existence. Newton and his wife Betsy Wagenhauser have restored the house and continue to refine the landscape.
Clarence and Kathy Whiteside purchased Thurleston in January of 1982, and thus began the adventure of owning and loving the wonderful old house on thirty-five acres.

Thurleston, originally a Piedmont Plain farmhouse, was built circa 1818 by John Walker, on land in the county situated between Indian Creek and Little River. It was disassembled and moved by mule and log in 1841 by the sons of Walker to be reconstructed on its present site, for use as a townhouse for Rev. John E. Dawson, their deceased sister's husband and children.

Dr. E.P.B. Carmichael owned Thurleston for a while and ran a school for seventeen select boys in the house.

Dr. Elijah E. Jones, the next owner, is believed to have added the large front rooms and Georgian facade in 1848. The front features square pilasters rather than columns.

In 1863, Rev. David Edward Butler became the owner, and his daughters, the missus Bessie and Daisy Butler, inherited the house and lived there until their deaths. It is said that it was they who named the house "Thurleston" after the supposed ancestral family home in Scotland, Thirlestane Castle.

Virginia Walton Butler Nicholson, niece, (also granddaughter of Joshua Hill) inherited the property and contents of the home. Upon her death, all passed to her husband, Dr. J.H. Nicholson, and then to his heirs, who sold to the Whitesides.

The original Piedmont section can be seen from the sides of the exterior of the back of the house.

Under the guidance of architect Norman D. Askins of Atlanta, the Whitesides carefully restored the main body of the house, as well as making additions to the rear and adding a basement. A later addition in 2007 expanded Kathy’s art studio and added an office and a breakfast room.

This wonderful old home features heart pine floors, high ceilings, beautiful woodwork, and is said to have some of the finest mantles in Georgia. The collection of antiques, art and furnishings are seen throughout the house.

Kathy, a Lifetime Master Gardener, has spent most of the thirty plus years living there creating and maintaining a collection of garden rooms, working around the bones of the old gardens. Clarence enhanced their property building rock walls, French drains, a fire pit and a 200-foot waterfall. It is a haven for all sorts of wildlife.

The Whitesides consider themselves to be stewards of this historic house, soon to be two hundred years old!
The land was originally part of the Ponder farm. Paul Ponder was a local cotton broker who kept an office in town and a farm with a house at the corner of Walker Circle and Dixie Highway. When his widow passed away in 1988, her son, Graham Ponder, divided the farm into seven lots. Dennis Mason, a cabinet maker, purchased one of the lots and built this house in 1989. He built the house in a vernacular style, incorporating design elements typical of architecture found in Madison and throughout middle Georgia.

Step inside and feel right at home in this 4 bedroom, 4.5 bath Craftsman Style, Southern Living Plan Home, designed by Stephen Fuller. From the Hardie-Shake and Brick Exterior to the three full finished levels, you will appreciate the custom features. The home sits on a professionally landscaped yard on 4.2 private acres in Madison’s beautiful Saye Creek Neighborhood. This is a unique, open floor plan with charm, character and lots of natural light. This is small town living at its finest in Historic Madison!

- Wraparound porch and in-ground, heated, gunite, salt water pool with Pebble Tec finish and waterfall feature
- Custom chef’s kitchen, granite, Thermador Bosch appliances
- Master with spa bath and office/library on main
- Features 9-foot plus ceilings, hardwood floors, solid maple doors throughout, gas fireplace
- All this set on private cul-de-sac with babbling creek and hardwood trees for a private oasis

Tour during our Open House or schedule a private showing of this custom built home.

CALL GREG & RENEE TURNER
706-343-1553
A 19th-century example of a larger four-over-four Georgian Piedmont Plain house, Holly Hall was built in the mid-1840s by tailor Lucas F. Cook and his school teacher wife, Sarah, who came from Massachusetts. Locals sometimes call this home the “Kindergarten House” because in 1856 Sarah began operating “A School for young people of both sexes,” which is regarded as one of the first kindergartens in Georgia, if not in the nation. Sarah outlived her husband and children and donated money to help establish a town library. She also donated the town clock. As occurred often in the 1880s, an ornate Victorian-style porch was added to the house, but in the latter 20th Century it was removed (and relocated to 579 Foster St.). Thus, Holly Hall today appears much as it did in the antebellum era, except, of course, that the grand magnolia tree in front might then have been but a sapling. Holly Hall has interesting connections with other historic homes in Madison. In 1904 Charles and Mary Sanders acquired the house as a wedding gift from his mother Celestia Broughton Sanders, who lived in the grand 1850s home across Academy Street. Their daughter Evelyn, who had been widowed, married Nathan Hunter (many years her senior) and resided for many years in the Queen Anne Hunter House facing the corner of South Main and Hunter Street. Robert and Carole Mason purchased and renovated the house in the early 1970s and named it for the many holly trees on the property. Additional renovations in 2010 added family living space that overlooks the back yard and two interesting structures. The well house roof is adorned with late 19th Century gingerbread wood trim. The simple gabled building adjacent to the well house also dates back to the 19th Century and was originally an outdoor kitchen. Over the years it has been used for servant quarters and as a blacksmith shop.

Christmas at the Cottages on Mergendollar

Step back in time to homes dating to the early 1800s, tastefully decorated and just waiting for you to soak in the Christmas spirit. From the bridal cottage to the plantation house, all the homes will be open for the tour — even the main home will be open. We look forward to seeing everyone.

Located just minutes from downtown Madison right off of Highway 83 in beautiful Good Hope, Ga.
Detour on the way in or out of Madison, right off of Highway 83.
Call (404) 886-7485 for more information.

December 2nd & 3rd from 11-4 p.m.
The Saffold house was built in 1816 and is celebrating its 200th Birthday this year. The house is a Federal or Piedmont Plain style home. The original owners of the home were Judge Adam Goudelock Saffold and his wife Anne Porter Saffold. Adam was a judge in the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit Court during the early 1800’s. Judge Adam & Mrs. Saffold raised 2 children in the home, William Oliver Saffold and Anne Goudelock Saffold. Their son, Judge Adam Goudelock Saffold, a grandson of Judge Adam, was also a judge in the Ocmulgee Judicial Circuit Court.

During the Civil War, David Saunders Johnston, built the steam powered gunboat the CSS Chattahoochee for the Confederate Navy at the Confederate Navy yard in Saffold, Georgia near Columbus. The book “Navy Gray” has a chapter about the construction and the explosion that destroyed the ship. The hull of the ship is currently on display at the Confederate Naval Museum in Columbus, Georgia.

After the Civil War both David & Anne moved back to Madison and lived in this house, her childhood home, with her now widowed mother.

There are many original features of the home including 8 unique mantels, with one very nice example of a Federal-style Prussian blue mantel. Other features include heart pine flooring, faux painted doors, hand forged hinges and original door hardware. Wavy leaded glass windows are throughout the home. The brick in the chimneys are hand-formed brick made from red Georgia clay and held together with Georgia clay mortar. In the front foyer is an original stairway with heart pine railing and hand carved balusters. The walls are a mixture of hand planed wide-width boards, plaster and bead board. The home is furnished with antiques from the mid 1800’s, including a rope bed in one of the bedrooms. A Saffold family “fainting couch” and a quilt from the mid 1800’s are on display upstairs. There are pictures of the portraits of Judge Adam & Anne Saffold in the front living room. Also on display are transcriptions of civil war letters from various family members.

Recent additions to the home, including the new red barn, flow with the historic theme. The house is currently owned by Anthony & Lisa Longo.
Kimsey House

Circa 1900 | 668 N. Main Street

The house was built in 1917 by J. Hulme Morgan for his daughter, Mae Morgan Atkinson, then the young bride of Butler Markham Atkinson. Morgan also built the house directly behind on Billups Avenue for his second daughter, Carrie Morgan Orr. The sisters raised their children in these two homes.

Butler Atkinson, Jr. became a famous journalist, author and screenwriter. He may best be known for writing the scripts for “The Beverly Hillbillies” television series.

Presently, the house is occupied by Frannie Kimsey and her four children, who are related to the Atkinsons. Of special interest is a collection of handed-down family pieces.

Frannie Kimsey is an interior decorator whose work has been featured in Southern Living magazine. The interior designs done in her home were featured in Lake Oconee Living Magazine.
The Baker-Malone Strelecki house was built, circa 1890, and is in the then popular Folk Front Gable style consistent with post-antebellum Victorian era cottages. The cottage is nestled between two other historic homes, on what is now known as Pine Street. For years many people called it Baker Street, after the original owner, Reverend Baker. Reverend Baker’s daughter was married to J. Hill Foster, a well-known name in Madison history books. Karen and Greg Strelecki, two artists from Atlanta, found the peaceful community they were looking for in Madison. They have loved becoming a part of the small town lifestyle and restoring their Folk Victorian home. “Greg and I hope you enjoy seeing the creative touches we have added to the evolution of the appearance of our little home sweet home.”

The Romanesque Revival building that houses the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center was constructed in 1895 as one of the first graded public schools in the South. It functioned as a public school until 1957. Since 1976, the red brick building has been home to the Cultural Center, a thriving arts organization and a venue for the performing and visual arts. It is also a history museum rich with local and regional history exhibits as well as a restored 1893 classroom. The original brick facade is joined in the middle by an octagonal bell tower which houses the authentic school bell. Of special interest is the apse-shaped wooded auditorium which offers acoustical excellence for performances, such as those by The Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Visitors should also note the restored cotton gin located in the Center which is from this area.
The museum is housed in the turn of the century Horace Moore House, which was donated by the Rev. Alfred Murray and relocated to a vacant lot, near Calvary Baptist Church, that the Board of Directors purchased from Bruce Gilbert. The Moore house originally stood in the Plainview-Springfield community, a small African-American community southeast of Madison.

John Wesley Moore was born in January 1862, one year before President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared slavery ended in Georgia and the other states still in rebellion. In 1881 Moore married Dora Gordon and they had four children. In this period when few black citizens owed property, Moore acquired five acres in 1890 and a 40 more nine years later. The larger plot was deeded to Moore by the white farmer for "Five (5) dollars and the service he has given me."

Local historians estimate that the original three-room, gable and wing house with detached kitchen was constructed by Moore between 1895 and 1904. After A.J. Moore died in 1908, his widow continued to live in the home until 1932. Now filled with historical exhibits and artifacts, the relocated house not only tells a story, but also the history of how the African-American community has struggled yet endured for more than 200 years.

The Morgan County African American Museum, established in the early 1990s under the leadership of current Madison mayor Fred Perriman and Martin L. Bass, envisions "a community that is increasingly responsive, engaged and resilient because it understands its history and takes responsibility for building its future."

Circa 1895 | 150 Academy Street

Rose Cottage

Adeline Rose, an African-American woman born in 1864 just two months before Union Troops reached Madison, built this house in 1891. It remained her residence until her death in 1959 at the age of 94. The widow Rose earned her living and supported her two children by washing and ironing for white families and businesses including the Hardy House hotel, which stood on West Jefferson Street where Town Park is now.

The vernacular cottage with Victorian trim represents a style typical for established working class families of all races around the turn of the Twentieth Century.

Rose Cottage was moved from its old neighborhood to its current site and restored in 1996 to represent the resilience of African-American life during the height of the Jim Crow era, which coincided with Adeline Rose's residency. The structure, owned by Morgan County, was restored by the City of Madison, and is managed by the Morgan County Historical Society.

Circa 1891 | 179 East Jefferson Street

African-American Museum

Circa 1895 | 150 Academy Street

Rogers House

Construction on the Ruben Rogers house began on one of the city's original lots in 1809, the year that Madison was incorporated. It was originally built as a simple two-over-two Piedmont Plain house, typical of prosperous, but not wealthy, owners. The two-room shed roof addition on back dates to 1820.

In 1873, during the same era that many of Madison's plain antebellum houses acquired their Victorian flourishes, Martin L. Richter, son of Charles Richter of Richter Cottage, added the front porch with its dainty wood scrollwork and spindles.

John H. Hunter purchased the house in 1886, and it stayed in his family for over ninety years. The house had evolved to commercial use as a dentist's office by the 1980s when a cooperative effort among Morgan County, the City of Madison, and the Morgan County Historical Society resulted in the 1992 purchase and restoration of the structure as a house museum managed by the Historical Society.

The interior is carefully interpreted with antique furniture and other artifacts, so that visitors can step back into the mid-19th century.
Richter Cottage
Circa 1830's | 490 W. Washington Street

This simple cottage offers a glimpse into the way typical white tradesmen and their families lived in the years before the Civil War. Its restoration provides an instructive contrast to the larger, even grand, homes occupied by Madison's white middle class and elite.

Charles W. Richter (1807-1884) and his wife and small daughter moved to Madison in the 1830's from the island of St. Croix in the West Indies. Richter, son of a political exile from Germany, was a silversmith and watchmaker whose family continued to grow after he settled here.

It is believed that the cottage was originally a one-room structure used as an office or workspace by a local tannery. Architectural details such as beaded weatherboarding indicate the structure was built prior to 1835.

Over the years, many Madison families claimed the cottage for their home, but by the 1970s, the dwelling had been abandoned. In 1979, Dr. Josephine Hart Brandon, educator and preservationist, along with her 7th grade students, inspired the community to rescue the cottage from collapse.

Today, the Richter Cottage is owned by the city of Madison in cooperation with the Morgan County Landmarks Society. During this Tour of Homes, Landmarks will have on display in the Cottage over four dozen antique and modern quilts from this county, free admission for Tour ticket holders. See details on page 2.
A. Barrow Academy, circa 1840
B. The Martin House, circa 2003
C. La Flora, circa 1895
D. La Petite Mansion, circa 1885
E. Knight, Jarvis, Senft, circa 1848
F. School Masters Cottage with Friendly Ghost, circa 1908
G. Strelecki Cottage, circa 1900
H. Madison Baptist Church
I. Madison Methodist Church
J. Madison Presbyterian Church
K. Calvary Baptist Church
L. Church of the Advent
Barrow Academy, as it is known today, is one of the most unusual homes in Madison because it is architecturally a New Orleans Style home, not often seen in Middle Georgia. The house was built about 1840 and was designed with a sunken basement to provide shade during the hot summer months. The home has six working fireplaces and four porches. Although the home has been completely restored, it retains much of the original woodwork, windows, and floors. The small house behind the main house was a detached kitchen that also served as slave quarters for the cook. Today the cottage has been transformed into a guest house and office but retains the original footprint.

In the 1850s, this home also served as a school which was known as Barrow’s Academy. It was a school for boys, run by C.B. Barrow who came from England to America in the mid-1600s. The location of this house was perfect for the school. The Academy was right in town and the railroad servicing Madison ran right next to the house and brought many students and their families to town. Besides teaching and administering the school, Mr. Barrow was also editor of the local newspaper, the Georgia Weekly Visitor.

The current owner, Bob Bradley, added fences and gardens and carefully maintains this historic property.
Although the home looks like it has been nestled on the block for over a century, in reality, it is a new home with all modern amenities. The house is a simple Queen Anne style with the asymmetrical form seen on other Madison homes from the mid-to-late 19th century. The steep pitch of the roof, the protruding front gable with shingles of distinctly varied wall texture, and the bold, straight, chamfered porch columns resemble other homes in the neighborhood of in a simpler form. In the late 1800’s there was a small, single-story, clapboard house with a front porch on this corner lot. It was pictured on the Sanborn Fire Insurance map of 1921. It may have been a slave house, but was likely a tenant house. The Baldwin family, owners for several generations of the nearby Joshua Hill home, recalled that the clapboard house was occupied by their cook.

The Martin home has four main rooms on both the first and second floors and porches on the front and the back. A double door with glass lights welcomes you into the front hall. The front-to-back hallway was designed for air flow in 19th century homes and allows for a wonderful flow for entertaining in the 21st century.

All of the bedrooms are upstairs and the public rooms are downstairs. The house features claw-foot tubs, extensive crown moldings and 8-foot doors. In the past, this architectural design allowed middle class Americans to build an efficient home, often with little more than mail-order materials.

In 2012, the Martins updated the home to suit the needs of their family of five. A carriage house/garage with a guest suite was added behind the home. The third floor was renovated to add a bedroom, bathroom and a playroom for the children.

The current owners, Melissa and Brian Martin, enjoy the historic feel of the home while appreciating the modern conveniences. The family recently added an outdoor fireplace on the back porch, allowing them to enjoy the historic district’s beauty throughout the year.
Although built in 1895 during the Victorian era, La Flora is more reflective of the influences and details of the late Queen Anne and early Colonial Revival periods. Dr. A.K. Bell, presumably a relative of Francis Scott Key, built La Flora on Old Post Road, the original stagecoach route between New Orleans and Charleston. Unique to La Flora are the shipboard-lapped siding, the parquet ceilings and the decorative millwork, all of which were milled at the Madison Variety Works at the turn of the century.

The current owners, Jack and Nancy Miles, have renovated La Flora twice in 23 years. Renovations include the kitchen, a downstairs guest bedroom, sunroom and living area. A second story renovation includes the addition of a wing which incorporates closets, a master bath and a laundry room.

The Miles have decorated La Flora with turn of the century lighting fixtures, document wallpapers and antique furnishings which showcase the Miles’ unique collections. Nancy’s collection of children’s ABC dishware reflects the technologies, values and styles of the Victorian era. It includes 19th century English Staffordshire and American tin, china and glass plates. Jack has been collecting American World War I and II lead soldiers since the 1960s. These soldiers were manufactured by 100 American companies during the first half of the 20th century.

Also of interest is the collection of bottles and advertising memorabilia for the Dr. Miles Medical Company, known today as Miles Laboratories, Inc. La Flora’s guest bath displays Dr. Miles almanacs as well as bottles for Heart Cure, Blood Purifier and Restorative Nervine, anti-pan pills and little liver pills.

Directly behind La Flora is the Rachel Anna Cottage, built circa 1890. Originally a tenant house located downtown, this cottage was moved to its current location in 1988 and restored under the direction of historic architect Lane Greene.

La Flora trivia: Madison’s first ladies’ garden club was organized in La Flora’s parlor. It was the second such club to be organized in the state. The first was founded in Athens in 1891.

La Flora
Circa 1895 | 601 Old Post Road

Brady Inn Bed & Breakfast

Custom Bedding
Beautiful Antiques
Delicious Breakfast
Wedding Gardens

250 N. Second Street – Madison Georgia 30650
706-342-4400 ww.bradyinn.com
La Petite Mansion

Circa 1885 | 654 E. Walton Street

This charming cottage was one of five tenant houses that stood on what was known as "Colored Circle," so named because the residents were African-Americans who worked for families in the neighborhood. Although slaves never lived in these houses, they were built in the traditional style of duplex slave quarters with two front doors. This cottage was built around 1885 by the Hunter family who also built the elaborately decorated Second Empire Style house just around the corner on South Main Street.

Over the years the five tenant houses fell into disrepair and were to be torn down. Mrs. Evelyn Hunter restored one, two were torn down, and Graham Ponder purchased and restored the other two for resale.

La Petite Mansion was remodeled in 2007, and again in 2015. The grounds are being replenished by the current owner, an expert gardener.
D r. Gazaway B. Knight built this house circa 1848. During the Civil War Dr. Knight was commander of the Patula Guards, a brigade which was organized in Madison. Dr. Knight was married to the daughter of Senator Joshua Hill, United States Senator from Madison, ironically, Senator Hill opposed secession.

This redesigned Craftsman Style Cottage was originally a 2-story Colonial Style home. The design was changed after a 1915 “midnight blaze” took away much of the second story. Under the current pyramidal roof is a large second floor master suite with skylights and dormer windows. The Main Street front features a wide inset wrap-around verandah with plenty of room for a swing and rockers. French doors open from the parlor to this verandah. A verandah on the back of the house too means you can always enjoy leisure, Southern Style, in the shade on one of the verandahs. Original features are still visible throughout the house. Eleven owners have called this house home.

The current owners, Bob and Judy Senft, have made numerous modifications since 1993, adding an out building and extending the gardens, as well as interior improvements. Recently the Senfts moved which allowed Hal and Leslie Jones the incredible opportunity to live in the amazing house. They hope their love for the home shines through in every room.
The School Master’s Cottage is a Georgian style, four-square, central hall plan with a steeply pitched pyramidal roof. This cottage represents a modest architectural form popular throughout the region after the Civil War. Built circa 1908 by Miss Bessie Butler as rental property, the house was purchased in 1916 by J. H. Purks, a principal of the Madison Graded School which now houses the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center. The rear of the cottage property adjoins the school property. Over the years, several educators have lived in the house either as owners or renters. The J. H. Purks Family lived in the cottage until 1953.

Since then, it has been renovated by subsequent owners. In the early 2000s, the kitchen was updated and the second bedroom was converted into a large master bath, master closet and a hall bath. The rear porch is now a laundry room. A shed room has been added to the back of the house and serves as a second bedroom. The steeply pitched attic was opened with a central hall staircase leading to an upstairs bedroom. The garden has been terraced and extensively landscaped by the present owner.

The cottage purportedly has a friendly ghost, Professor Brown. Because of its close proximity to Madison Graded School, the cottage was occupied at one time by a Professor Brown. Subsequent residents have reported hearing a loud thud from the back of the house late at night sounding as if someone knocked books from a table. The granddaughter of a previous owner reports that Professor Brown is harmless but noisy at times. One young woman who lived in the house in recent years said, “I heard a thud from my children’s bedroom and thought that one of them had fallen out of bed. Upon hurrying to the rear bedroom, I found that the children were in their beds fast asleep. And, this happened many times.”

Is Professor Brown still reading late at night and nodding off? The present owner thinks so. “Shortly after moving in, I heard a thud late one night from the rear of the house, but found nothing amiss. The thuds happen with some frequency. I am relieved to learn of Professor Brown; however, he does keep me awake some nights!”

This simple Georgian Cottage, originally built as rental property, is richly entwined with the history of the first graded school in Madison. Its past, only recently researched, reveals the part it played in housing some of its educators over the years with one of them remaining as its resident ghost!
The Madison Baptist congregation was organized in 1834, and by 1855 it was prosperous enough to erect the present structure, which probably was not fully finished until 1858. John Byne Walker of Bonar Hall was a leading layman of the congregation, and the building’s red bricks (stamped JBW) were manufactured by slaves in the brick works on his plantation. One of the church’s 20th century dedicated stained glass windows honors Walker.

As was typical in antebellum southern Protestant churches, slaves attending services were confined to the designated gallery. Following emancipation, some freedmen who had attended Madison Baptist were among the founders of Calvary Baptist Church on Academy Street.

Although grand Greek Revival columns like those on the church’s façade are strongly associated with antebellum architecture, in fact, the ones currently gracing the church were not added until around the time of the First World War when Classical Revival was popular.

Also, the current steeple is much modified from the original. The brick work and windows under the portico are, however, original to the building.

The interior of the sanctuary has, of course, been updated and redecorated, but it is still steeped in history.

The Baker-Malone Strelecki house was built, circa 1890, and is in the then popular Folk Front Gable style consistent with post antebellum Victorian era cottages. The cottage is nestled between two other historic homes, on what is now known as Pine Street. For years many people called it Baker Street, after the original owner, Reverend Baker. Reverend Baker’s daughter was married to J. Hill Foster, a well-known name in Madison history books. Karen and Greg Strelecki, two artists from Atlanta, found the peaceful community they were looking for in Madison. They have loved becoming a part of the small town lifestyle and restoring their Folk Victorian home. “Greg and I hope you enjoy seeing the creative touches we have added to the evolution of the appearance of our little home sweet home.”
Historical Society Christmas Tour of Historic and Private Homes

First United Methodist
Circa 1842 | 382 South Main Street

By the early 20th century the congregation of the First Methodist Episcopal Church, South had outgrown its Gothic building on Academy Street. (That original location is also on tour as the Episcopal Church of the Advent.) A successful building campaign led to the construction in 1914 of a fine new building unlike any of the more traditional churches in town. The Akron Plan, popularized by the First Methodist Church of that Ohio city, featured a central auditorium surrounded by rooms for Sunday school and other functions. The plan remained popular with churches of several Protestant denominations through the 1920s.

Second Presbyterian
Circa 1842 | 382 South Main Street

The Presbyterians of Madison were already well organized by the mid-1820s, and in 1842, they built the elegant structure that still stands. The walls are stucco over masonry, which gives a formal appearance to the façade. The Doric pilasters that frame the three doors present the Greek Revival style without grandiose columns. Originally, the side windows were nine-over-nine panes like the three remaining on the front, but later they were replaced with the fine Tiffany-style stained glass windows one sees today, which were donated by a member in memory of her family. As in all three of Madison’s extant antebellum church buildings, there was a balcony for slaves – in this case with an outside entrance.

Among the worshipers before the Civil War was Alexander H. Stephens, who would become Vice President of the Confederate States. During Madison’s brief occupation, the congregation’s silver communion service was taken by Union soldiers. Entreatments to the Union command resulted in the return of the treasured set, which is now on display in the museum of the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center, except when being used on special occasions by the congregation.

In the immediate post-Civil War period, the congregation was pastored by the Rev. I.S.K. Axson, father of Ellen, who lived with her parents on Porter Street. She would later become Woodrow Wilson’s wife and first lady of the nation until her tragic death from kidney disease in 1914.

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This elegant Madison example features a classical Greek cross design with the sanctuary situated under a large dome with a smaller cupola-like dome on top of that. The Main Street and Central Avenue façades of the church incorporate Roman Tuscan columns supporting ornamental pediments with broad entablatures. The Greek crosses embedded at the points of the pediments reflect the shape and purpose of the building. The interior is equally dramatic. (In order to build the church, the house now known as Heritage Hall had to be turned and moved to its present location next door.)

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The brick detailing on the front of Calvary Baptist suggests a unified tower rising all the way to the steeple with its ornate Italianate detailing. Brick arches with key- stones accent the front windows, and pilasters at the corners give the impression of substantial construction. Major restoration was undertaken in the mid-1970s.

During the Civil War, the congregation of Calvary Baptist Church, composed mostly of recently freed slaves, purchased a lot and began construction of a substantial brick building in a Gothic style quite similar to the white Methodist church located near the city cemetery. Madison’s historic cemeteries are also on tour. The small parish had several buildings over the years. Their first permanent building, a simple wooden chapel built in 1835 and demolished in the 20th century, stood near the city cemetery. Madison’s historic cemeteries are also on tour.

The Boll Weevil Strikes

T

s the late 1800s and the early 1900s were generally prosperous years for Madison and Morgan County. The cotton economy reached new heights and the town prospered. Merchants enlarged their stores and businesses, telling their stories in stories from 4-9 pm. Discussing the history of the churches open to tour during the tour.

The economy skyrocketed again in the early ’50s and 60’s but began to level off in the 70s. Still the majority of Morgan Guaranty was enjoying a higher scale of living than ever before. The result was concentrated in a few hands. Big landlords inhabited and farm labor migrated north. Schools were consolidated and desegregated and a whole new concept of life began in civil rights pushed forward.

The effects of the Boll Weevil, which was first seen in the South in the late 1890s, devastated the cotton industry and Madison along with the rest of the county changed some. The town collapsed. In the late 1940’s and 1950’s farmers began to turn to dairying as the major industry here.

The War took its inevitable toll of lives and fortunes and crippled bodies. Mrs. Sarah Cooke, who lost a son in the war, later gave the city clock in his memory. She also gave a fund for a children’s library and for years the library in Madison was known as the Sarah Cooke Library. A graceful fountain was placed on the square in downtown Madison in the late 1800’s and the early 1900’s were generally prosperous years for Madison and Morgan County. The cotton economy reached new heights and the town prospered. Merchants enlarged their stores and businesses, telling their stories in stories from 4-9 pm. Discussing the history of the churches open to tour during the tour.

In 1875, the congregation of Calvary Baptist Church, composed mostly of recently freed slaves, purchased a lot and began construction of a substantial brick building in a Gothic style quite similar to the white Methodist church (now Episcopal) just three blocks south on Academy Street. Congregations, including masons, carpenters, and general laborers performed most of the construction in their off time.

Around 1880 the work was finally done. At about the same time, the Saint Paul’s African Methodist Episcopal building (not open for tour) was taking shape in similar brick style across the railroad tracks at 811 Fifth Street. It is safe to assume that the African Methodist Episcopal building was taking shape in similar brick style across the railroad tracks at 811 Fifth Street.

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Two world wars saw hundreds of young men leave home to fight on foreign soil. The war effort collapsed. In the late 1940’s and 1950’s farmers began to turn to dairying as the major industry here.

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**Covington, Fairland Dr $374,000.**
berries & more! A must see!
trees, barn, marketable palm tree crop, blue-
entry w/Spanish moss hanging from pecan
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4 BD/3 BA raised
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Totally enchanting
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floors, frplc in grtrm & kitch.
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pastures, wooded trails, event jumps, two 12
behind gated entry.
76 acre horse farm
w/pond is oasis
76 acre horse farm
w/pool is oasis
behind gated entry.
Fenced & xcened
pastures, wooded trails, event jumps, two 12
dash barns, 4 BD/3.5 BA cstm home w/hrdwd
floors, frplc in grtrm & kitch.
12' ceilings, hrdwd
completely renovated!
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floors, granite, coffered ceilings, full fin’d bsmnt w/
kitchen, ingrd pool & barn. A must see, so many
fine upgrades!
Social Circle, Sandy Ford Rd, $749,000.

**REduced!** Free
standing approx.
9,116+ sq ft ware-
house on 1.16 Ac
in Rutledge. Zoned M1 Light Industrial, steel
clear span bldg offers tall ceilings, 1/2 bath, ofc,
security cameras, roll up doors, shipping/deliv-
ery dock, drive through & walk-in entrances. 8
storage rental units. Rutledge $299,900.

**LEAD FOR SALE**

- Kenwood Fly-In Equestrian Community,
Newborn. 4-10 ac lots avail. Community
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miles of trails, lakes, horse barn & 3800’ turf
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- Bostwick Rd, Madison- 139.9 Acres
Hunting retreat w/2 pond sites, 3 creeks, 20
permanent hunting stands. All brick lodge w/1 BD, 1 BA, sep garage is 70x60 clear span w/addl 1 kitch & half bath. $ 975,000.
- Chestnut Rd, Covington- Perfect Family
farm or develop! This property has some
breathtaking views, fenced improved
pastures, a creek, wooded areas, lots of road
frontage with county water available in
street, it is offered with up to 166 acres! A
28.5 acre parcel with brick ranch & in-
grnd pool is offered at $ 372,800., the old
homeplace with 2 BR/1 BA 1900’s cottage,
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offered at $ 697,400. Or both homes, barns
and total of 166 acres offered at $ 1,070,200.

**Social Circle, Sandy Ford Rd, $749,000.**
fine upgrades!
kitchen, ingrd pool & barn. A must see, so many
floors, granite, coffered ceilings, full fin’d bsmnt w/
back up to State
Park, 5 BD/4.5 BA
Cstm hm w/hrdwd
floors, huge kitchen, fin’d basement w/2nd kitch,
6 Car Garage Barn, fenced pasture, wooded trails,
in-grnd pool w/waterfall!
Social Circle, Grand Oaks $869,000.

**Mansfield/Soc Circle, Cooper Rd $499,900.**
heat, air & 50amp service.
ofc, porches, Lrg garage/barn workshop w/BA,
Mstr on main w/fireplace, kitch w/island, hm ofc
& wooded land.
16.9 Ac of pasture
& wooded land.

**Social Circle, Sandy Ford Rd, $749,000.**
fine upgrades!
6 Car Garage Barn, fenced pasture, wooded
flrs, granite, coffered ceilings, full fin’d bsmnt w/
fin’d basement w/2nd kitch, big mstr,
Cstm hm w/hardwd
paved streets, & 1 BR guest cottage on 1.64 acres
w/picket fence near Blue Springs Marina.

**Covington, Firetower Rd $489,000.**
Many outbuildings/barns!
In-ground pool, patio & cabana w/kitch & BA.
BD/2 BA. New paint, carpet, granite, & lighting.
1.64 acres w/remodeled 4
in Newton Co! 19
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