

FLOWERY BRANCH, GA

A Bit of History

Soon after the Atlanta & Richmond Railroad (Norfolk-Southern Railway System) laid its tracks between Charlotte and Atlanta (1873), this town (where “Cotton was King”) established itself as the City of Flowery Branch (1874). Main Street, the central core of Flowery Branch, is steeped in history today with “turn of the century” buildings including a Historic Train Depot. The Depot was recently rehabilitated through Federal Highway Administration Transportation Enhancement Activity (TEA) funding through the Georgia Department of Transportation.

Main Street Flowery Branch was listed on the National and State Registers for Historic Places as a Commercial Historic District in 1985. In January, 2000, the City passed a Historic Preservation Ordinance to protect its historical assets and in January, 2001, a Historic District Ordinance was passed which named two Historic Districts. They are the Cotton Historic District and the Railroad Historic District. Flowery Branch was designated by Gov. Roy Barnes and the Department of Community Affairs as a “Better HomeTown Community” in 1999. This program offers technical assistance in the revitalization of cities with populations of 1,000 to 5,000.

The City has just completed a Streetscape Project on Main Street Commercial Historic District which included burying of cables, sidewalks, streetlights, benches and trash receptacles. Transportation Enhancement Funding was provided by the Federal Highway Administration through the Georgia Department of Transportation and the City of Flowery Branch.



The Flowery Branch Depot—Watercolor by Mary Brennan.



The Carlisle Building



5-2008, 11-2008



Main Street Flowery Branch, GA



**Main Street in Flowery Branch, 1899,
was a bustling place of commerce.**



Old Bank of Flowery Branch – 1896

Watercolor by Linda Griffiths.

A Self-Guided Walking Tour of The Cotton Historic District



Flowery Branch, Georgia

Compiled by:

Flowery Branch Better Hometown
Flowery Branch Historic Preservation
Commission

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Additional Information is Welcome

A WALKING GUIDE THROUGH FLOWERY BRANCH'S COTTON HISTORIC DISTRICT



Federal Highway Administration Transportation Enhancement Funding through GDOT and City of FB. Now serves as community center and local history museum.

1. **5536 Railroad Ave.** • 1890. New South cottage/folk Victorian ornamentation. Out-building at rear of property may have been used as a doctor's office. Later was the Jack & Grace Wayne home. (Jerry Crow Realty)
2. **5526 Railroad Ave.** • 1900. Central hallway cottage style. Was home of Fletcher N. Carlisle, who served as postmaster at Fl. Br. from 1926 to 1955. (Carlisle House)
3. **5324 Railroad Ave.** • 1900. Central hallway cottage style. (Georgia Pine Floors)
4. **5316 Railroad Ave.** • 1900. Central hallway cottage.
5. **Site of The Porter House** (boarding). Home of the original "Porter House Steak" (legend has it.)
6. **Flowery Branch Depot** • 1901. Railroad Ave. at Main St. rehabilitated in 2001; with

7. **The Carlisle Building** • Built as a hotel, then a mercantile store, later occupied by Georgia Shoe Co. Razed in early 1990s. (Current site of Flowery Branch Depot)
8. ***5509-5511 Main Street** • 1915. Multi-retail. Between 1912 and 1924. J.C. Orr ran a drug store in the 5509 unit until 1924.
9. **5515 Main St.** • 1955. Jail and Fire Station. (City Hall)
10. **5519 Main St.** • 1954. Single retail/modern. Served as Fl. Br. post office until c. 1975. (Police department)
11. **5603 Main St.** • 1915. Queen Anne Cottage, converted to restaurant c. 1980. Formerly the Alice Williams home. (Major McGills Fish House Restaurant.)
12. **5607 Main St.** • 1950. Single retail/modern. Was originally a grocery store.
13. **5609 Main St.** • 1890. Modified I-house/colonial revival elements (1950). Gable-end chimneys and full length front porch were removed in 1950. Early residents were the Judge Hunt Family, who lived here from 1900-1923. In the 1950's the Knight family resided here and it was called the Knight house.
14. **5707 Main St.** • 1900. Gabled Wing Cottage
15. **5710 Gainesville St.** • 1946. Ranch. Home of Clifford C. Mooney who founded, along with his son Eugene, the Mooney Manufacturing Company in 1932.
16. **5702 Main St.** • 1936. Company founders Clifford C. and son Eugene Mooney began making customized furniture as a hobby

based in their home in Flowery Branch. By 1936, the business expanded into its first building at 5702 Main Street, and grew over time to cover an entire block. During the late 1930s and early 40s, the company expanded and produced special wooden containers for the U.S. Army during W.W. II. Mooney Manufacturing remained in operation until 2000.

17. **Yacht club building** • 5510 Church St. - 1890. Georgian Cottage/Folk Victorian elements. The Green Family lived here and it was called the Green House. (Flowery Branch Yacht Club).
18. ***5518 Main St.** • 1906. Retail and office. C. B. Milikin and H. P. Roberts were the original owners of this building used as a general store in 1912. In 1914, the two leased the first floor to JB Hurt and co. By 1924, the building sat vacant. During the mid 20th century the building was occupied by Frank Green's grocery store and later by C. and C. Grocery.
19. ***5516 Main St.** • 1910. Single retail. Post office in 1912, professional office in 1924. (Morning Star Treatment Center)
20. ***5512-5514 Main St.** • 1910. Multi retail. Two unit building was a general store and grocery in 1912. By 1924, the building had been converted into a garage. In the late 1940's and early 50s, the building was used as a movie theater. (City of F.B. Admin. Bldg. & Plng. Off.)
21. ***5510 Main St.** • 1890. Was a grocery store in 1912, per Sanborn map. Retail and office. (Common Grounds Coffee Shop)
22. ***5508 Main St.** • 1890, was a dry goods store in 1912, per Sanborn map. (Carpe Diem Hair Studio)
23. ***5506 Main St.,** • 1896. Single retail/Italianate. The bank was est. in 1896 by Bank President A. Milikin. Bank building sold in 1925 to Lena Wayne where a soda fountain was installed. (Integrated Controls & Information)

24. ***5504 Main Street** • 1890. 2 story retail and office. Stripped Classical style. Furniture store in late 1970's. (Sample Pleasures Antiques)
25. **5320 Railroad Ave.** aka City Hall (ruins) • 1890. Single Retail. City hall was located in this building in 1924. At that time, a store that contained the P.O. stood on the corner lot that is now vacant (store building burned in 1939).
26. ***5318 Railroad Ave.** • 1890. Single retail/stripped classical style. Members of the Stidham family manufactured household furniture in 1890. A document found during restoration of the Fl. Br. Railroad Depot was dated 1891 and printed on stationery that reads "B.F. Stidham and Brother, Kitchen Safes." Later became Chattahoochee Furniture and later Country Craft Furniture. Factory & warehouse razed in 2008. Office remains.
27. **5214 Railroad Ave.** • 1910. Central Hallway cottage. Three generations of the Reed family. Two generations of Mayors, (aka Reed House.)
28. **5202 Railroad Ave.** • 1930. Saddlebag.
29. **5208 Railroad Ave.** • 1890. Central Hallway Cottage. Building originally poultry feed mill, warehouse and distribution center for egg company. (Hamilton Cabinet and Shutters Mfg.)
30. **Railroad Car** • East side Railroad Ave at Main St. The Norfolk-Southern Railway donated the caboose to Fl. Br. c. 1970.
31. **1901—2000 Original Site** of the Flowery Branch Depot.

* Listed on the National Register of Historic Places