

# City of Graham Downtown Historic Sites

## 1. Sesquicentennial Park (former Patterson Building)

In 1898, L. L., George W., and John S. Patterson constructed a three story building on this site. The first and second floor contained retail and office space, while the third floor, known as "Patterson's Hall," was frequently used for civic and social meetings and for professional and amateur performances. Over the years several tenants used the building, including Graham Drug Company and the Graham Soda Shop. The site has found new life as a park recognizing the 150th anniversaries of Alamance County and the City of Graham. The park also features the original bell that was used in the original courthouse.



## 2. Wrike Drug Store, ca. 1901 – 114 N. Main St.

Dr. J. C. Simmons constructed this building that had space for his drug store, offices and a meeting hall for fraternal organizations. After Dr. Simmons retired, Farrell-Hayes Drug Store and Wrike Drug Store occupied the building. Dr. Simmons, who also served as mayor, played a key role in having electric lights provided for the municipality.



## 3. L. B. Holt Store Company, ca. 1889 – 118 N. Main St.

L. Banks Holt had this building constructed in 1889 to house his mercantile business. Although the front of the building has been altered it was described as "the handsomest store building in the county." In 1919 the firm of Green and McClure purchased the building and is still located there today.

## 4. Graham Sporting Goods (former), ca. 1933 – 142 N. Main St.

The Graham Drug Company constructed the present building in 1933 which was later used by Graham Sporting Goods. In 1908, "The Nuggett" opened in a canvas tent on the lot and showed Graham's first "moving picture." Edward Scott and Robert Holmes enclosed the space with roofing iron in 1914 and opened "The Mexican," which also showed movies and later moved across the street to "The Alco" theater building.



## 5. Alco Theater Building, ca. 1919 – 125 N. Main St.

This building was constructed shortly before WWI to house "The Mexican," a movie theater located on the second floor. In 1919, Allen Thompson purchased the business and changed the name to "The Alco Theater." It is now home to Graham Underwriters' Insurance Agency, the town's oldest insurance firm.

## 6. Theater and Barber Shop, ca. 1928 – 117 & 119 N. Main St.

The Graham Theater was gutted by fire in 1935 but was quickly restored to its current state. The gala reopening featured Shirley Temple in "The Little Colonel." The Theater is still in operation and regularly screens new releases.

## 7. Scott Building, ca. 1900 – 101 N. Main St.

W. C. Donnell and his nephews J. L., Jr. and H. W. Scott built the current building, which was used for office space and housed a clothing store for several years. Prior to the construction of the current building, the property was used by Captain E. S. Parker to graze cows.



## 8. Retail Shops, ca. 1903 – 8 & 10 NE Court Square

In 1902, Z. T. Hadley and Dr. W. R. Goley purchased this property and subsequently constructed the current buildings. Hadley operated his jewelry and watch repairing business. "Z. T. Hadley Jeweler" is still inscribed at the entrance. Ten years after opening Hadley erected the town's first radio tower over his store.



## 9. Vestal Hotel, ca. 1904 – 14, 20, & 22 NE Court Square

In 1896 W. S. Vestal purchased this lot and built the Vestal Building, which housed several tenants including an office for the mayor of Graham. A hotel was built on the remaining land. It opened in January 1903 and then burned to the ground in July. It was replaced by the current structure in 1904 and has since been used for a wide range of tenants. Salesmen, judges, and out-of-town lawyers used the hotel during court session until the hotel closed in 1928.



## 10. Trollinger Hotel, ca. 1850 – 140 E. Elm St.

The existing house was once part of the hotel built by John Trollinger. The hotel originally extended to courthouse square and was named the Orange Hotel, Union Hotel, and Brick Hotel at various times. After the Civil War, the Graham Female Seminary was housed in the building, before reverting back to a hotel. Zebulon Vance stayed in the hotel during his 1876 campaign for Governor.



## 11. Harden House, ca. mid-nineteenth century – 109 E. Harden St.

Peter Harden, a local merchant, constructed this two-story house. The home was located at the corner of N. Main Street and W. Harden Street beside Harden's mercantile store, which has been removed. Tradition holds that Albion Tourgee resided in the house while serving as a member of the State Constitution Conventions of 1868 and 1875.



## 12. Gleaner Building, early twentieth century – 105 E. Harden St.

This brick building once housed The Alamance Gleaner. The Gleaner, a weekly newspaper, was started in 1875 by Captain Edward Parker on the third floor of the Trollinger Hotel, then moved to the Patterson building and the Harden store before ending up at this location. The publication survived until the 1950's, after which the printing plant was sold to Thomas Boney and moved to a new location. The Gleaner was succeeded by the The Alamance News.

## 13. Mont-White Theater (former), ca. 1906 – 200 N. Main St.

In 1906, Edwin Holt White and Thomas Montgomery, of the Mont-White Theater Company, purchased this lot and erected the current structure referred to as the "The Opera House." The first floor was used for mercantile purposes, the second floor housed the stage and orchestra seats, and the third floor contained the balcony. The theater was one of the more elaborate in the area and hosted many reputable touring companies with ticket prices ranging from 50¢ to \$1.00. When no professional performances were scheduled, the theater was opened for civic functions, fraternal meetings, and plays by amateur groups.



## 14. Former Graham Post Office, ca. 1935 – 128 W. Harden St.

## 15. Graham Presbyterian Church, ca. 1857 – 200 W. Harden St.

In 1850, the Graham Presbyterian Church was formed when a Commission of the Orange Presbytery visited the area after the formation of Graham. A brick structure was built in 1857 by the church and has been expanded over the years.

## 16. Captain J. N. Williamson House, ca. 1878 – 141 S. Main St.

E. M. Holt built this house, referred to as "Elmhurst," for his daughter, Mary Elizabeth, and her husband, James N. Williamson. Williamson was a commanding officer in the Confederate Infantry and the founder of Ossipee Textile Mill. In 1993, Nationsbank purchased the property and renovated the house to its current state.



## 17. Isley Knitting Mills, ca. 1906 – S. Main St. and E. Pine St.

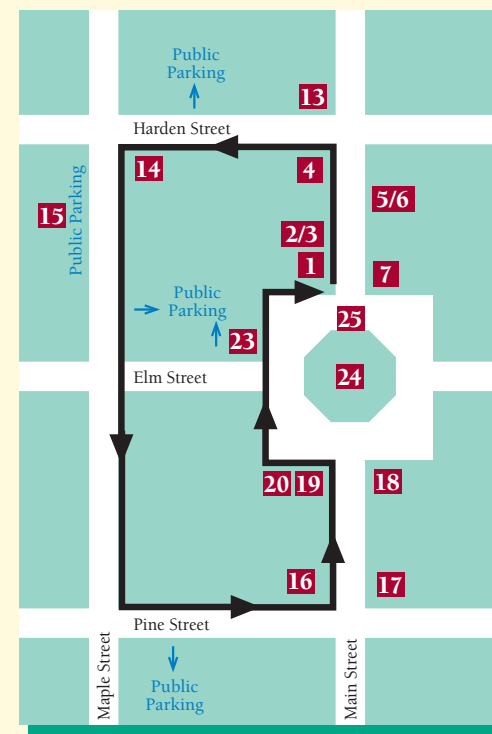
In 1906 Color Russell, a local tinsmith, purchased this property and made improvements to an existing structure, which was then rented for a variety businesses.

## 18. W. J. Nicks Store, ca. 1851 – 102 S. Main St.

In 1851, this building was originally constructed for Thomas McLean and Robert Hanner for the McLean and Hanner Trading Company and was the largest commercial structure in Graham at this time. The building had three stories and a full basement and some of the bricks used in its construction were made by slave labor on site. In 1892, W. J. Nicks purchased the building from James Bason and lived on the second floor. After purchasing the building, Nicks added the two-story addition on the south side of the building. Sing Lee once rented this addition for use as the town's first and only Chinese laundry. This is one of the few pre-Civil War commercial buildings still remaining in the state. It is worth noting that Hurricane Hazel destroyed the third floor of the building in 1954 and efforts to rebuild it were started in 2000.

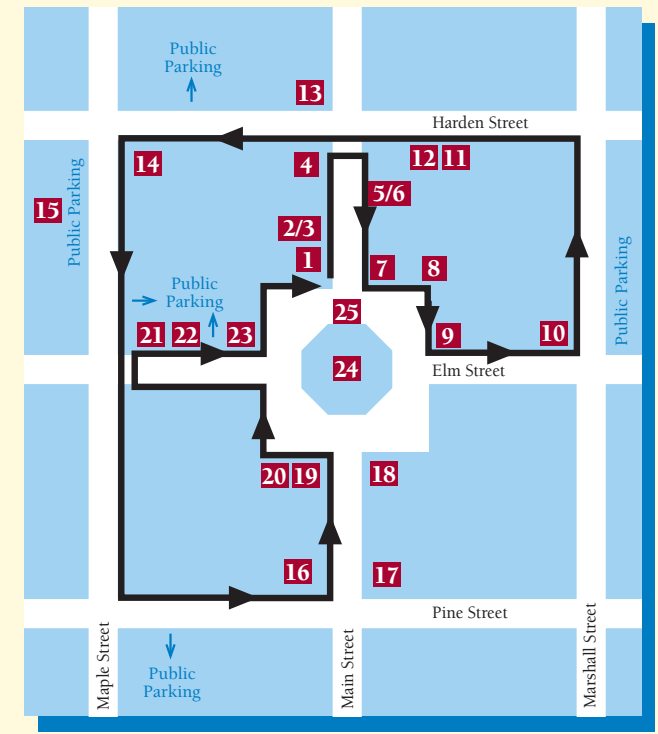


# Graham Walks



## FITNESS TRAIL 1/2 Mile

- Begin at the east entrance to Sesquicentennial Park
- Walk north to Harden Street
- Turn left onto Harden Street
- Turn left onto Maple Street
- Go through intersection at Maple and Elm Streets
- Turn left onto Pine Street
- Turn left onto Main Street
- Go through intersection at Main and Elm Streets
- Finish at the Sesquicentennial Park



## HISTORIC TRAIL 1 Mile

- Begin at the east entrance to Sesquicentennial Park
- Walk north toward Harden Street
- At intersection of Main and Harden Streets, cross over Main Street and walk south toward the Courthouse
- Turn left at Elm Street
- Turn left onto Marshall Street
- Turn left onto Harden Street
- Turn left onto Maple Street
- Turn left onto Pine Street
- Turn left onto Main Street
- Turn left onto Elm Street
- At intersection of Elm and Maple Streets, cross over Elm Street and walk east
- Finish at the Sesquicentennial Park



## 19. Holt-Scott General Store, ca. 1850-1860 – 38 SW Court Square & 105 S. Main St.

Edwin M. Holt constructed this building for his son Alfred and operated it as a general store. The general store was one of Graham's first business establishments and the building is one of the oldest remaining commercial structures. Over the years, this building has housed several different tenants, including the Town's first bank, a branch of the Bank of Lexington, North Carolina

## 20. National Bank of Alamance, ca. 1906 – 36 SW Court Square

The Bank of Alamance, which was organized on June 1, 1899, constructed this building after outgrowing a smaller structure on the site. In 1907, the bank's name became the National Bank of Alamance and in 1968 it merged with First Union National Bank. The former bank is one of the few that did not close during the Great Depression.



## 21. Old Graham Fire Department, ca. 1911-1912 – 135 W. Elm St.

In 1911, the Town of Graham purchased this lot from L. Banks Holt for \$500.00 to build a "Firemen's Building." The structure cost \$1,997.50 and was constructed by Sam T. Johnston. Over the years, the Town Hall, the Police Department, and the Alamance County Arts Council were located in the building. The most recent occupant is the City of Graham Museum. Interestingly, a small lock-up or jail was located in the rear of the building. Major renovations were undertaken in 2000 that restored some of the original building features such as the bay doors for the fire equipment.



## 22. Christo Cola Bottling Works, ca. 1915 – 131 W. Elm St.

This building was originally constructed to house Graham's first soft drink manufacturing plant, the Christo Cola Bottling Works. The plant was in business only a short time before the Chero Cola Bottling Company opened. The eastern wall of the building was exposed when an adjoining building was demolished. That wall has since been used as a surface for a mural depicting the original Alamance County Courthouse, W. J. Nicks Store, a grist mill, and some early dwellings.



## 23. Paris Building, ca. 1912 – 23 NW Court Square

Dr. O. J. Paris erected this building shortly after purchasing the lot on which the structure stands. Although Dr. Paris never had an office in the building, Dr. Will Long, Sr. and his son, Herbert, who were dentists, had a practice on the second floor. The building, considered one of the finest commercial structures in Graham at the time of its construction, housed such tenants as Citizen's Bank, the Alamance Independent Phone Company, and the U.S. Postal Service.

## 24. Alamance County Courthouse, 1924 – Center of Court Square

A brick courthouse and jail were constructed on this site when Graham became the county seat in 1851. In 1891 a public scale was installed in front to weigh wagons and their content for commercial purposes. In 1923, the old courthouse was razed and the present structure was constructed at a cost of \$253,952.



## 25 Confederate Memorial, ca. 1914

In 1914, the 29-foot high stone monument was raised to honor Confederate war soldiers of Alamance County, by the Graham Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. It also marked the southern end of a trolley line that ran from Burlington and Haw River.



# Graham Walks!

Welcome to Graham Walks, a locally-funded program encouraging you to put on your walking shoes to improve your health while learning more about downtown Graham's many historic sites. The health benefits of walking or being active for 30 minutes or more on most days of the week include weight loss or maintenance, improved mood, increased self-esteem and motivation, lowered risk of heart disease and diabetes, blood pressure control, and more healthy bones, muscles and joints!

Inside you'll find two walking maps and interesting details about the buildings you'll see along the way. A walking log is provided to help you keep track of your progress.

## Safety Tips

- Supervise young children.
- Cross streets at a corner, use crosswalks (whenever possible).
- Obey the traffic signals.
- During hot weather, walk in the morning or evening hours.
- If exposed to the sun, apply at least # 15 sunscreen. Wear sunglasses and a hat with a visor to shade your eyes and face.
- Walking shoes need to have good shock absorption and cushioning. Make sure that there is a thumbnail's width between the end of the longest toe and the end of the shoe. Buy shoes at the end of the day when the foot is the largest.
- Sixty percent of a shoe's shock absorption is lost after 250-500 miles of use, so people who walk up to ten miles per week should consider replacing their shoes every nine to 12 months.
- Dress in layers. The inner layer should be material that takes perspiration away from the skin (polypropylene, thermax); the middle layer (not necessary for legs) should be for insulation and absorbing moisture (cotton); the outer layer should protect against wind and moisture (nylon).
- As always... consult your physician before starting any type of exercise program.

# City of Graham Recreation & Parks Walking Facilities

### Bill Cooke Park

1010 Townbranch Road, Graham

### South Graham Park

1600 Rogers Road, Graham

### Graham Middle School Complex

401 Goley Street, Graham

### Oakley Street Park

409 Oakley Street, Graham

### Indoor Facility: Graham Recreation Center

311 College Street, Graham

- Gymnasium
- Weight Room with Treadmills

For more information on any of these sites, call **570-6718** or visit [www.cityofgraham.com](http://www.cityofgraham.com).



Week of _____	Steps	Miles
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday		
TOTAL		

Week of _____	Steps	Miles
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Tuesday		
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Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday		
TOTAL		

Week of _____	Steps	Miles
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday		
TOTAL		

# Graham Walks: Walking Log

Week of _____	Steps	Miles
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday		
TOTAL		

Week of _____	Steps	Miles
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday		
TOTAL		

Week of _____	Steps	Miles
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday		
TOTAL		



The Graham Walks  
Downtown Walking Maps  
are sponsored by:



## The Walker's Ten Commandments ...Plus One

1. You Shall Stop and Stretch  
Start off walking slowly for 5-10 minutes, THEN stretch.
2. You Shall Know Your Limits  
Keep your workout to 20 minutes a day for at least 2 weeks when starting, then increase.
3. You Shall Travel Empty-Handed  
No hand weights.
4. You Shall Drink Your Fill  
Drink water before and after your workout to prevent dehydration.
5. You Shall Know Walking Isn't Wimpy  
Walking at a pace of 4 mph will get you in the target heart zone.
6. You Shall Keep Head High  
The underside of your chin should be parallel to the ground.
7. Your Stomach Shall Be Pulled In  
Do what you would do if someone ordered you to suck in your gut.
8. Your Arms Shall Swing in Moderation  
Swing arms in natural opposition to your feet.
9. You Shall Find Your Natural Stride  
Stride long enough to be comfortable without falling over.
10. You Shall Step Lightly  
You shouldn't be able to hear your feet as you walk.
11. You Shall Not Jaywalk  
Obey all of the rules of the road for a safe walk.