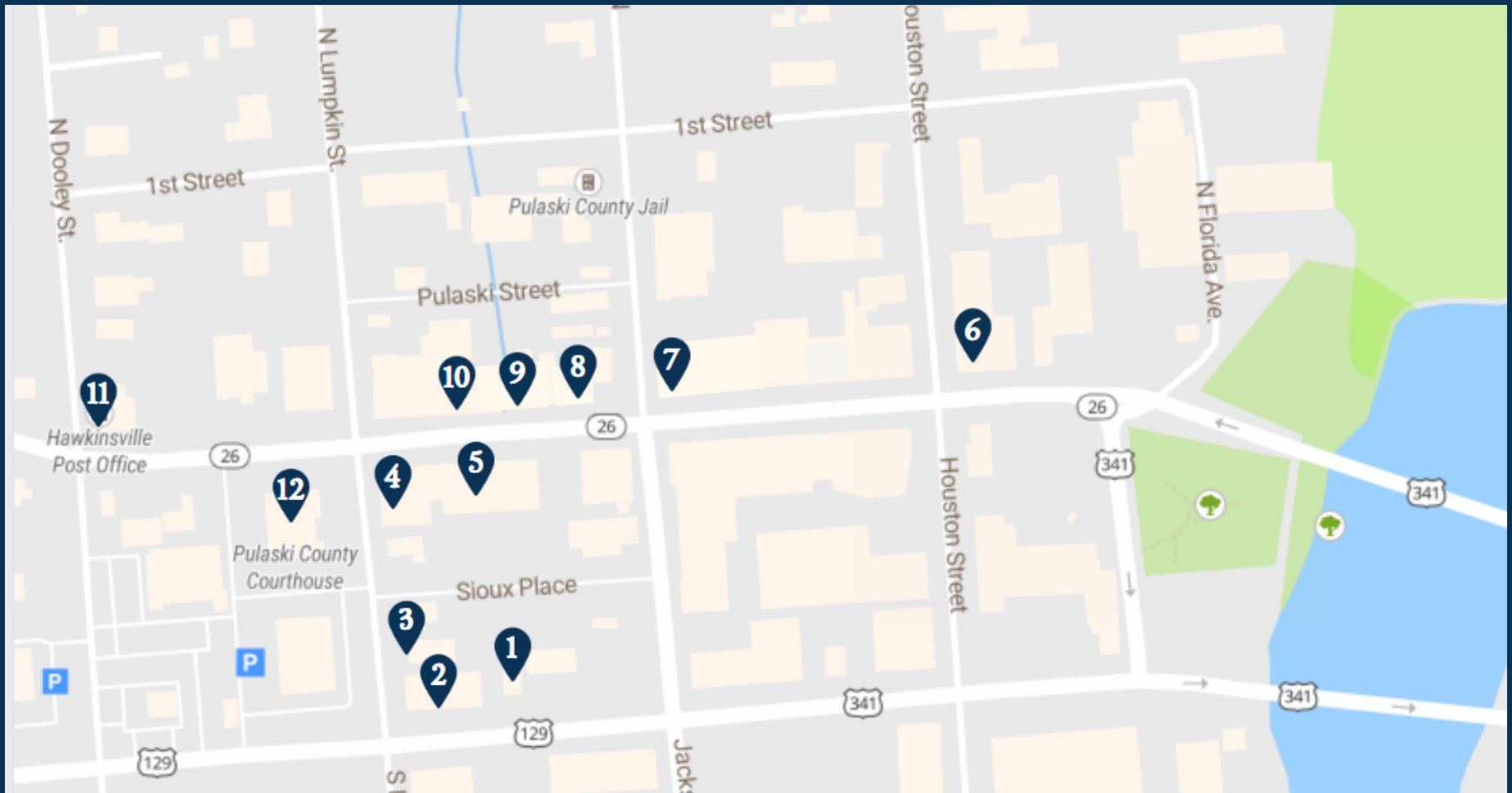




Hawkinsville

— DONWTOWN —
SELF-GUIDED HISTORIC
WALKING TOUR



1. Old Firehouse - 96 Broad Street
2. Hawkinsville Opera House - 42 S. Lumpkin Street
3. The Kinard's Building - 44 S. Lumpkin Street
4. The Huggins Building - 135 Commerce Street
5. The Clemons Agency Building - 119 Commerce Street
6. The Dortch Building - 70 Commerce Street

7. Kim's Place Building - 102 Commerce Street
8. The Hat Shoppe Building - 106 Commerce Street
9. Pulaski Banking Company - 114 Commerce Street
10. Thompson Theater - 122 Commerce Street
11. The United States Post Office
12. Pulaski County Courthouse

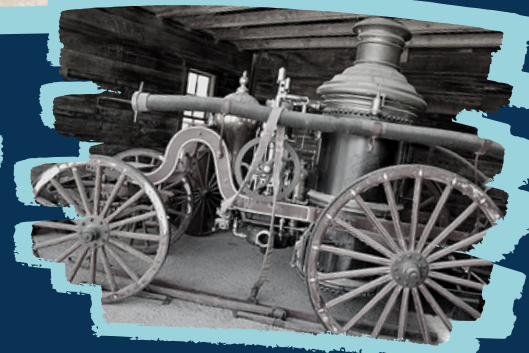


The firehouse featured a single-engine bay, with quarters above for the Fire Chief and family. The single-engine bay area housed Hawkinsville's first steam pump, Katy, named after the Fire Chief's daughter. The two-story building that stands today is a great example of an Italianate building.

STOP 1: THE OLD FIREHOUSE

📍 BROAD STREET, HAWKINSVILLE, GA

Hawkinsville's Downtown Historic Commercial District was once filled with buildings made of wood. In 1879, Hawkinsville experienced a devastating fire that nearly destroyed the entire downtown business district. In response to the fire, Hawkinsville civic leaders created the Hawkinsville Volunteer Fire Department. In 1917, the first firehouse was built for the Hawkinsville Volunteer Fire Department behind the Hawkinsville Opera House, located on Broad Street.





STOP 2: THE OPERA HOUSE

📍 42 S. LUMPKIN ST., HAWKINSVILLE, GA

Located at 42 South Lumpkin Street is the Hawkinsville Opera House. This building was designed by W.R. Gunn and built by J.L. Huggins in 1907. The front of the building served as City Hall from 1907 to 1954 and provided space for municipal offices, library, and public meetings. The rear of the building contained a 600-seat auditorium. After the new City Hall was built, the building lost much of its status as the civic cultural hub of the community.

In 1977, the dilapidated building was threatened with demolition and a group of preservation-minded citizens formed the Pulaski Historical Commission to restore the building. Once restored, the Historical Commission reopened the building for concerts, plays, and other entertainment. Entertainers such as Oliver Hardy, Chuck Levell, the Platters, and Jim Brickman graced the Hawkinsville Opera House's stage to perform. The Hawkinsville Opera House's historic building features include eclectic design elements such as cast-concrete window hoods, arched entrance, corbeled pilasters and cornice, and a rear-stepped parapet.





STOP 3: THE KINARD'S BUILDING

📍 44 S. LUMPKIN ST., HAWKINSVILLE, GA

This building, located on 44 S. Lumpkin Street, was once home to three different dry cleaners in Hawkinsville. This building was home to Slappy's Dry Cleaning & Laundry, Kinard's Dry Cleaning & Laundry, and Conner's Laundry & Dry Cleaning. In 2017, the City of Hawkinsville acquired the building, and in 2020 gifted the building to the Downtown Development Authority.

In 2021, the Downtown Development Authority started renovations on the building, and it was completed in early 2022. Renovations included new windows, lighting and electrical, plumbing, paint, walls, and a metal awning. The building stands as a testament to downtown revitalization and a catalyst for economic growth in the downtown area.



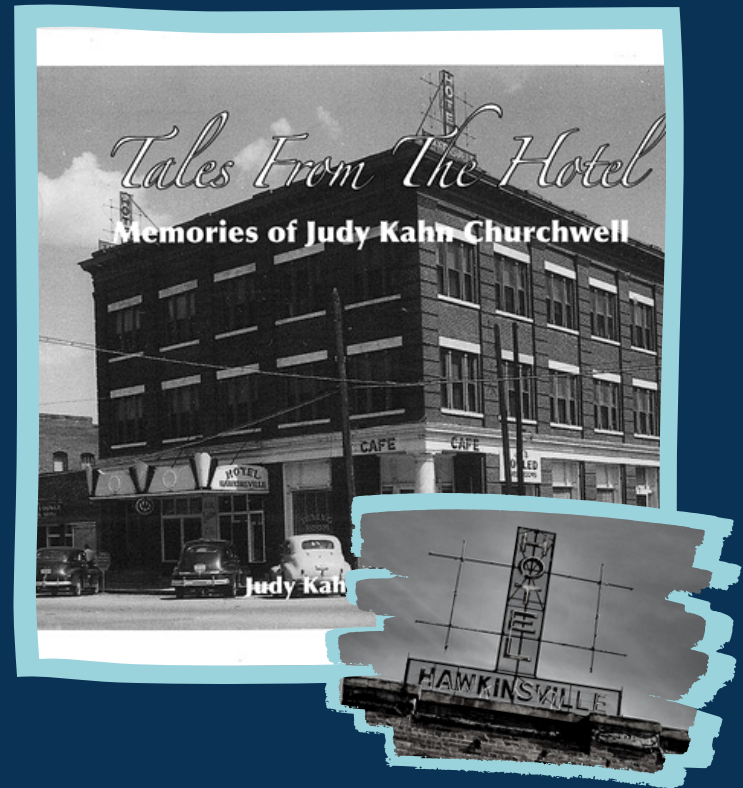


STOP 4: HOTEL HAWKINSVILLE

📍 135 COMMERCE ST., HAWKINSVILLE, GA

Located at 135 Commerce Street sits the largest commercial building in the Downtown Historic District. This large three-story renaissance revival style brick building was built in 1908 by J.L. Huggins. At that time, the building was known as the Huggins Building and was made up of a series of retail stores at ground level and office space on the second and third floors. In the early 1920s, the building was converted into the New Pulaski Hotel. The hotel featured 50 rooms, a Grey

Hound bus terminal, and a Western Union site. In 1946, the hotel changed hands and was renamed Hotel Hawkinsville. In the '70s and '80s, Jay Wolf owned J's Drugs and the hotel above. In 2010, Hawkinsville local, Judy Kahn Churchwell, published a book called "Tales from the Hotel," which featured stories from her time spent at Hotel Hawkinsville when her parents managed the hotel. Today, most of the building sits empty as it waits for a new owner to buy it and restore it. We can't wait to see what it becomes!





STOP 5: CLEMON'S AGENCY

📍 119 COMMERCE ST., HAWKINSVILLE, GA

Located at 119 Commerce Street sits the Clemons Agency. The building was built in 1909 as a rectangular two-story brick building with stone sills and lintels. The building had turned engaged columns between windows with dentil molding and a glass block storefront. The 2,880 square foot building was once the location of Batt's Drug Store, McKenzie's Beauty Salon, and Taylor Home Health and Equipment. The building's second story also served as a community dance hall for many years.





The second floor served as a meeting place for the Anderson Lodge No. 24 of the International Order of Odd Fellows in the 1880s and 1890s. The second floor served as a Masonic Hall in the 1900s and 1910s. In the 1960s and 1970s, the building served as a Coca-Cola bottling building. In the 1980s and 1990s, the building was an auto parts store called Pulaski Auto Parts. From 1998 to 2016, the building was home to Wildflower Weddings and More. After, it was an antique store called the Antique Mall. In 2021, after sitting empty, the building was bought by a local developer to be transformed into a residential and retail space.

STOP 6: THE DORTCH BUILDING

📍 70 COMMERCE ST., HAWKINSVILLE, GA

Located at 70 Commerce Street is a light blue building that currently sits empty as it greets travelers crossing the bridge into Downtown Hawkinsville. The 5,400 square foot two-story building was built in 1880, for F.E. Dortch, a local businessman. The Dortch building was among the first masonry commercial buildings in Hawkinsville and featured a truncated hip roof. The first floor served as a grocery store for most of the 19th and 20th centuries.



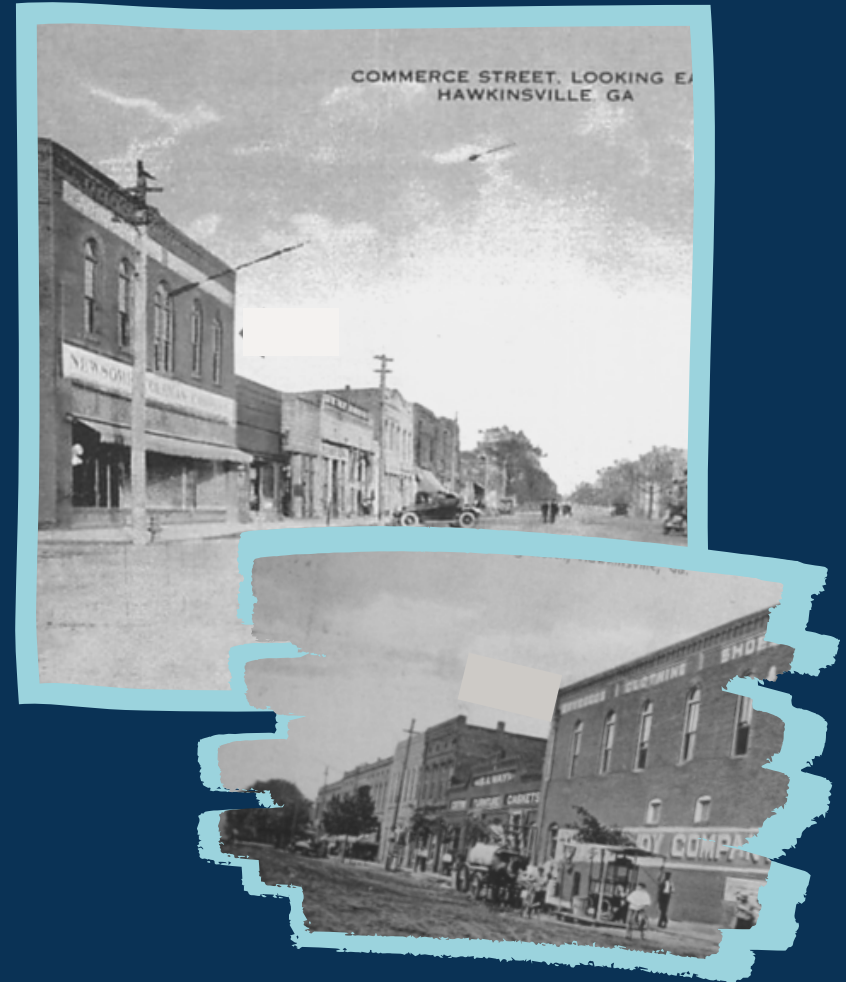


STOP 7: KIM'S PLACE

📍 102 COMMERCE ST., HAWKINSVILLE, GA

Located at 102 Commerce Street sits a two-story brick building with a recessed entrance, flanked bulkheads, and large plate glass windows. This building was built in 1895 and was first used as a general store called Union Drygoods. It has also been home to multiple department stores including The Fair Store, Young's Fashion, and Kim's Place. The Fair Store carried all types of clothing, shoes, and accessories. The Fair Store was a part of a

small department store chain in Southwest Georgia that was owned by Perlis & Sons Inc out of Cordele, Georgia. In 2021, the property was purchased by a developer for residential and retail space.





STOP 8: THE HAT SHOPPE

📍 106 COMMERCE ST., HAWKINSVILLE, GA

Located at 106 Commerce Street sits a beautiful brick building, with large glass display windows, wood glass French doors, and a decadent stone carving of a woman resting at the top of the building. This building was built in 1910 for a ladies' clothing store. In 1947, Alma Jones bought the property and opened another women's clothing store, called The Hat Shoppe. The Hat Shop was owned and operated by Mrs. Jones and her

daughter, Mug Speight, for over 50 years. The Hat Shop carried the latest women's fashion trends during that time, as well as women's athletic wear, hats, gloves, bags, and costume jewelry. From 2004 to 2007, the building was a children's clothing store called KidStuff. In 2021, the building was bought and renovated by Laney Eckles Griffin. After renovations, Mrs. Griffin opened The Reserve at 106 Commerce Street in 2021 as a place to reserve for events, classes, and workspace.



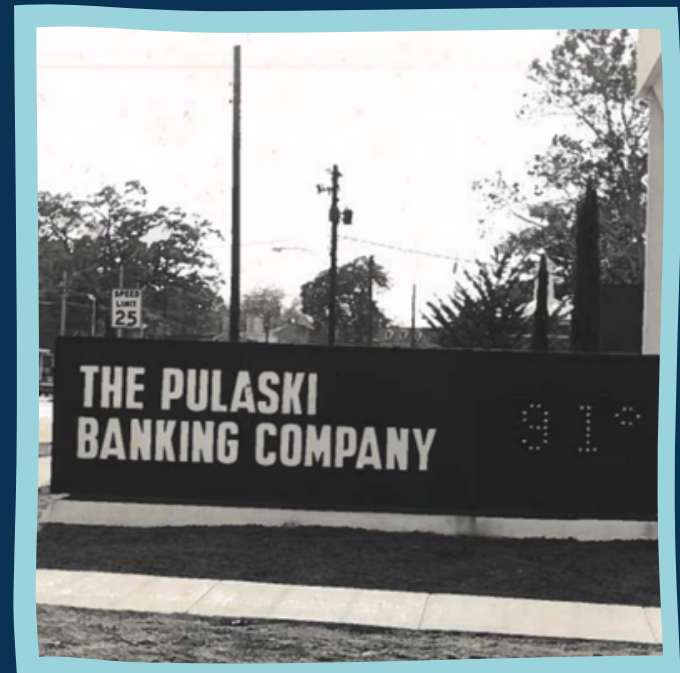


STOP 9: PULASKI BANKING COMPANY

📍 114 COMMERCE ST., HAWKINSVILLE, GA

This building is located at 114 Commerce Street and was built in 1912 as a prime example of a classical revival-style building. The building features a recessed, arched entrance framed by colossal columns. We are not sure what it was used for between 1912 and 1948, but in 1949, Pulaski Banking Company, now known as SunMark Community Bank, first opened its doors at this location. The Pulaski Banking Company was founded by R.D. Buchan, a local businessman, and

farmer, who saw a need for another bank in Hawkinsville, Georgia. The Pulaski Banking Company began to grow in 1960 with the addition of its drive-thru banking window, which was the first in the area. This made banking at the Pulaski Banking Company more convenient than other banks at the time. In 1977, the bank moved to a more modern location at 140 Commerce Street in Downtown Hawkinsville. Today, the building sits vacant but still contains some of its unique features like the bank's vault. This building has a lot of potential, and we can't wait to see a retail or restaurant space finds its home here.





STOP 10: THE THOMPSON THEATRE

📍 122 COMMERCE ST., HAWKINSVILLE, GA

This building, located at 122 Commerce Street, was built in 1925, after World War II. The building was constructed in a Art Deco style. This building was first known as the Princess Theatre, before it was destroyed by a fire on February 11, 1947.

After the fire, the building was bought by J.H. Thompson who renamed the theatre the Thompson Theatre. The Thompson Theatre was opened on August 9, 1948 and held around 800 people. J.H. Thompson own many theatres in the area and made Hawkinsville, Georgia's Thompson Theatre

his headquarters. The most famous date in the history of the Thompson Theatre came on July 17, 1957, when the venue was the host of the World Premier of the film, "God Is My Partner" in Hawkinsville, GA with owner J.H. Thompson and actress Marion Ross in attendance. The Thompson Theatre had two concessions stand areas and seating at the ground level. The second story contained a balcony that sat around 400 people and office space for J.H. Thompson and staff. The building which was altered at street level, retains its stepped relief ornamentation and fluted pilasters on the upper level. Today it is home to the Hawkinsville Dispatch News, the local Hawkinsville newspaper.





U. S. POST OFFICE, HAWKINSVILLE, GA.

STOP 11: THE US POST OFFICE

📍 148 COMMERCE ST., HAWKINSVILLE, GA

The United States Post Office, located at 148 Commerce Street, was built in 1950. It is a rectangular, one-story colonial revival-style building with a symmetrical five-bay façade pierced by arched windows and a center classical entrance. The smooth planar walls are laid in Flemish bond and a Cupola surmounts the low-slung hip roof. The Hawkinsville United States post office has been servicing the Hawkinsville community for over 70 years at this location.





STOP 12: PULASKI COUNTY COURTHOUSE

📍 141 COMMERCE ST., HAWKINSVILLE, GA

The Pulaski County Courthouse was originally located in Hartford, across the river, and was a simple wood structure. In 1836, the county seat and building were moved across the river to Hawkinsville and rebuilt on the site of the present-day courthouse located at 141 Commerce Street. In the 1860s or 1870s, to make way for the new courthouse building, the old courthouse was relocated across the street and functioned as a hotel for several years until a more modern hotel was constructed. In 1874, a new courthouse was built in

Italianate style. The courthouse is distinguished by its colossal Ionic portico, Palladian windows, and octagonal clock tower you see in Hawkinsville-Pulaski County's logo, which was added in 1885. In 1897, a two-story elevation and colonial classical revival style facade were added to the front of the brick building. In 1910, a three-story rear addition was constructed. Today, the Pulaski County Courthouse is home to the probate court, superior court, and Sheriff's Department.

