

# *Silk Stocking District*

## **ABOUT THE DISTRICT**

The Silk Stocking District is an L-shaped area of approximately 113 acres located south of the court-house square. It contains fine examples of late 19th and early 20th Century homes in Talladega. The district is on the National Register of historic Places, the office list of places

considered worthy of preservation for the significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture.

Fifteen structures in the district date prior to 1870. Some of these retain their original shape and appearance, although most have been encased by later construction. A majority of the homes in the district were built between 1885 and 1915 for merchants, lawyers, doctors, educators, industrialists and local officials and consequently were the finest in town. The wives of these wealthy citizens certainly could have afforded to wear silk stockings – thus, the name, “Silk Stocking District.” The late 19th Century structures range from simple, unadorned cottages to elaborate Queen Anne and Eastlake houses. Turrets, shingles, turned ornaments, decorative chimneys and stained glass are abundant. Although Victorian design persisted into the 20th Century, most new construction in the district reflected late 19th Century Classical and Colonia Revival influences.

The main source of information for this brochure has been the National Register of Historic Places Inventory – Nomination Form, April 13, 1978 (revised September, 1991). Structures have been listed under three categories; those constructed prior to 1870, those constructed from 1870 to 1915 and those constructed since 1915 that

contributed to the character of the districts.

Talladega's recent history began in 1813 with the Battle of Talladega, the first in a series of battles wages against the Creek Indians by General Andrew Jackson. Jackson's defeat of the Creek nation paved the way for the first permanent settlement in 1832 of what is now the City of Talladega.

The city was incorporated in 1834 and public sale of lots began. Talladega rapidly became a center of political and commercial activity and by 1850 was the trading center of a five-county area. As more families arrived, the residential center of town shifted from an area west of the Courthouse Square to one that was south of the square along an Indian trading path that crossed a section of East Street South near the Morgan-Nichols House (No. 15 in this brochure).

Education beyond that which could be provided within the family was an early concern for settlers. Separate schools for both boys and girls were begun in 1835. In 1844 the Masonic-sponsored Alabama Female Institute was opened. The Presbyterian Synod followed with a Girls' College, which was in continuous operation from the 1850s until about 1920.

The Baptists constructed a high school for boys which was subsequently acquired in 1867 by the Freedman's Bureau and the American Missionary Association to establish Talladega College. In 1858 the Alabama School for the Deaf was moved from Tuskegee to Talladega and the Alabama Female Institute was acquired to become the school's new home.

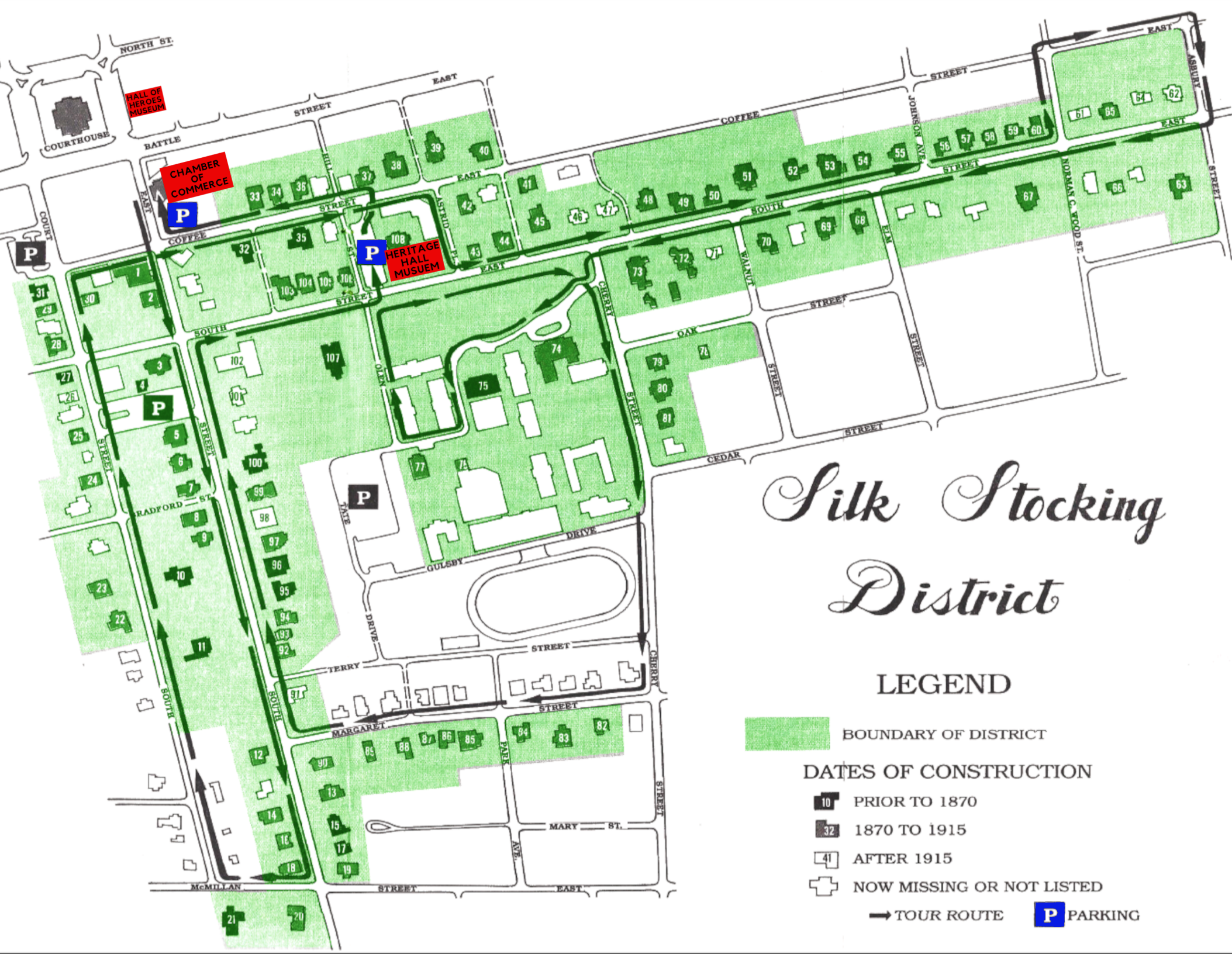
Many attorneys, politicians, educators and business men became residents of Talladega. This brochure will give you a glimpse of our historic buildings and present a plethora of architectural styles for your enjoyment.



# **Historic Talladega's**

# *Silk Stocking District*

**On the  
National Register  
of  
Historic Places**



# Silk Stocking District

## LEGEND

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- DATES OF CONSTRUCTION**
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- 32 1870 TO 1915
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- NOW MISSING OR NOT LISTED
- TOUR ROUTE
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