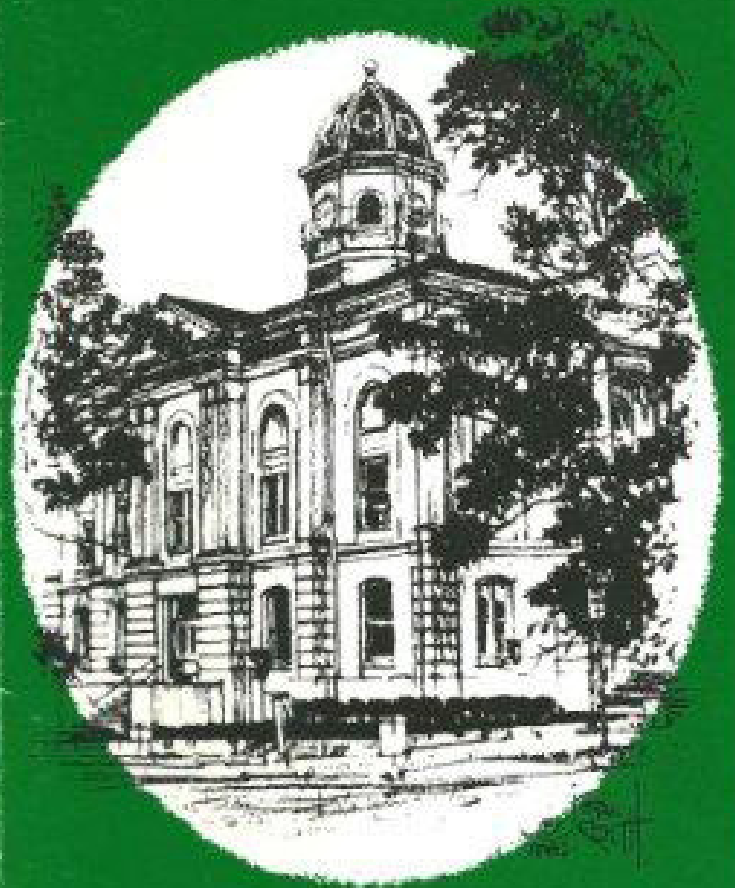


HISTORIC DISTRICT

YAZOO CITY, MISSISSIPPI



Walking Tour

Welcome to Yazoo City,
Mississippi

HISTORIC DISTRICT WALKING TOUR

Architectural details
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Photographs by
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Speeches by Stan Rault



HISTORIC DISTRICT
WALKING TOUR
YAZOO CITY, MISSISSIPPI



County Convention and Visitors Bureau
P. O. Box 186, Yazoo City, MS 39194
1-800-381-0662 • (662) 744-1815 • Fax (662) 744-1814

Y

AZOO CITY is somewhat distinctive among Mississippi towns in that it is a planned community. Unlike many other places in the State that grew up around the happenstance barn, gin, or store, Yazoo City's location was carefully selected by some of the most successful speculators of the Jacksonian era.

It was first chosen in 1826 by the wily half-French Indian chief, Greenwood Leflore, who received the acreage on which Yazoo City was built as a part of the Treaty of Doak's Stand.

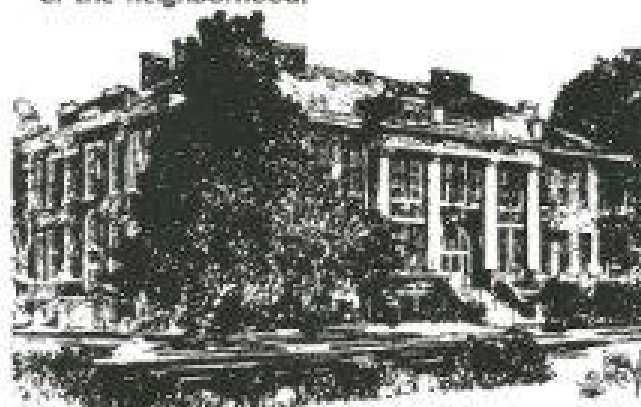
Leflore, in turn, sold it within a few months for \$10 an acre to a group of developers from Clinton who laid out the town on a precise grid plan, called it Manchester, named the streets after presidents and after themselves, and successfully auctioned off the lots between 1830 and 1834.

By January 1839, the citizens had developed a sense of place that made the name Manchester inappropriate. Already the town had become the largest community in the county with a population of about one thousand, and had the potential of becoming the marketing center of several counties.

The name that most clearly described these facts was chosen as the legal title of the town. The town was inextricably tied to the river Yazoo, and it was developing into the center of activity of the county Yazoo. It took the name that described this focus: **YAZOO CITY.**

It is a pleasure to share the Yazoo Historical District with you. As you make your tour, please remember that the residences are private, not open to public visits except by special arrangements with

the owners or at events scheduled by the community. It is requested that all homes be viewed from the sidewalk next to the street, and that care be taken not to intrude upon the privacy and the quiet residential integrity of the neighborhood.



Courtesy Yazoo Insurance Agency

TRIANGLE CULTURAL CENTER

This building, Yazoo's Main Street School from the time it was built in early 1904, was purchased in 1977 by the library association through the civic and monetary efforts of citizens and businesses of Yazoo. The Main Street front is notable for its monumental portico of gigantic modified ionic columns. Its several museums, its theatre, its displays, its history make it an educational and cultural center for local citizens and for tourists.

ARCHITECTURAL TERMS PERIODS

Antebellum — approximately 1835-1865

Victorian — approximately 1860-1895

Turn of the Century — 1895-1920

ANTEBELLUM STYLES

Greek Revival Classical in the style of a Greek temple
"M" House Refers to room attachment, two rooms wide with a hall between, one room deep

ANTEBELLUM AND VICTORIAN STYLES

Italianate Usually two or three-story asymmetrical with a tower, tall arched windows, low pitched roof
Gothic Steeply pitched roof, usually with cross gables and decorative trim patterned after gothic churches

VICTORIAN STYLES

Shingle Style Usually of wood shingles with steep roof line and wide porches
Second Empire Usually has a mansard roof and dormers
Eastlake Folk style with spindles and cutout trim

VICTORIAN AND TURN OF THE CENTURY

Queen Anne Usually asymmetrical with one-story porch
Eclectic Mixed stylistic elements, showing more than one style
(Continued on next page)

ARCHITECTURAL TERMS (Continued)

TURN OF THE CENTURY STYLES

Colonial Revival	Similar to houses built during the pre-Revolutionary War Period
Prairie	Four Square Style - large substantial looking, usually with piers and square pillars
Tudor Revival	Dark exposed timbers with stucco, usually brick
Neoclassical	Using elements from Classical Greek Architecture such as columns and pediments
Craftsman	A more severe style, square with plain features, characteristic of the Arts and Crafts Era
Airplane Bungalow	A house laid out in the shape of an airplane, body flanked by wings

ROOF LINE DESCRIPTIONS

Hipped	Roof with four sloping sides
Mansard	Hipped roof with steep slope at the bottom
Gabled	Pointed roof, triangular ends
Gambrel	Roof slopes steeply at bottom, less steeply at top
Dormers	Small roofed units interrupting the roof line usually with windows
Turrets, Towers	Tall structures with separate roof, can be square, round, or multi-sided
Cupola	Structure that looks like part of a tower set on the roof
Pediment	Area over columns or a bow window or door, often triangular

COLUMN TYPES AND PARTS

Capitals	Tops of columns
Tuscan	Plainest, most common type of column
Doric	Square, round or fluted column, plain capital
Ionic	Column with curved design on capitals
Corinthian	Usually fluted, with most elaborate capitals
Chamfered Posts	Corners are shaved off square posts

HISTORIC CITY BUILDINGS

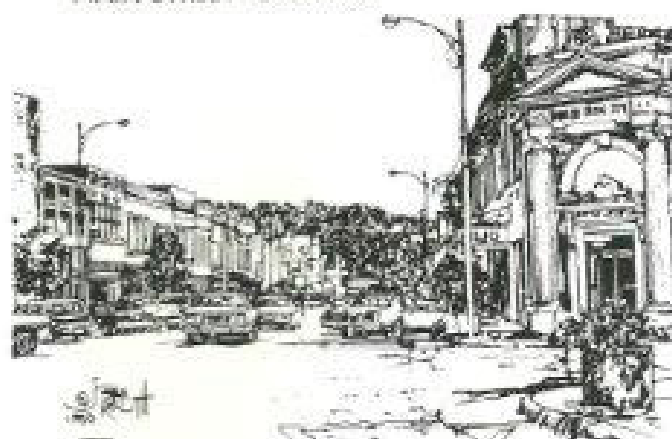
These churches, buildings, and homes are located within a few blocks of downtown Yazoo City.

- ★ Yazoo County Courthouse
- A Mount Vernon M. B. Church
- B Confederate Monument
- C Triangle Cultural Center
- D Trinity Episcopal Church
- E B. S. Ricks Memorial Library
- F St. Francis Catholic Church / Head Start
- G First Presbyterian Church
- H First United Methodist Church
- J St. Mary's Catholic Church
- K Elks Club
- L City Hall
- M Bethel A.M.E. Church
- N Oakes African-American Cultural Center

USE THIS GUIDE AS A WALKING OR RIDING TOUR

- For walking, one could park close to the Courthouse, walk up Broadway and back down Madison.
- A driving tour could include all the sites shown above and other interesting places in the city and county.

MAIN STREET—CIRCA 1904

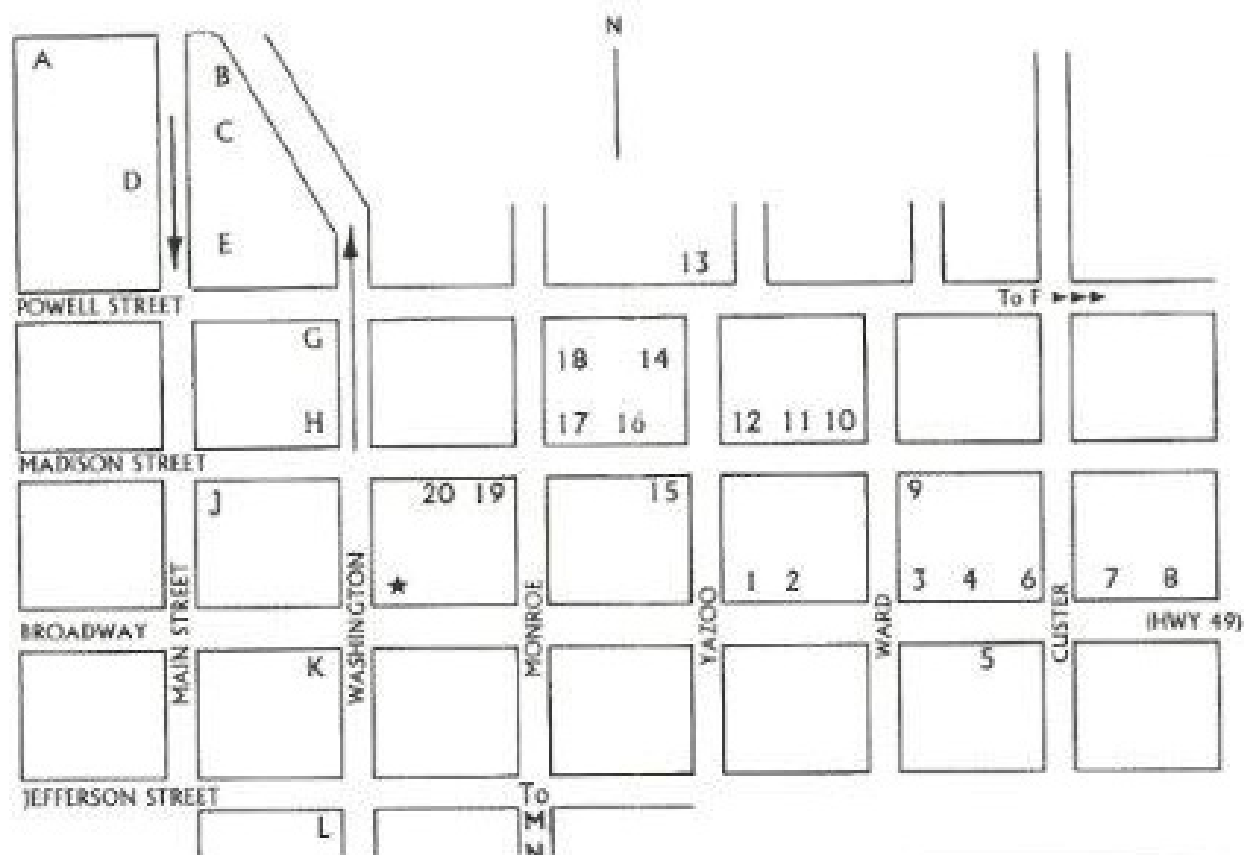


THE HISTORIC BUSINESS DISTRICT of Yazoo City has been a section fated with natural disasters.

Prior to the 20th century levee construction throughout the Yazoo River Basin, the District was frequently inundated by severe spring floods. These flood waters are the reasons for the Delta's rich soil composition, but they were also a constant menace to the community's storekeepers and entrepreneurs. The levee proved a welcomed solution to this problem and the city has experienced no major floodings since 1927.

However, the disaster that took the greatest toll on Yazoo City was the fire of 1904. Two-thirds of the city, including most of the Business District, was burned to the ground. Approximately 324 buildings were destroyed. Fortunately, a part of the historic residential section was spared. The immediate rebuilding of the business district created a uniformity of architectural style which has merited the entire downtown section a listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

In the residential district, the proliferation of large Queen Anne and Colonial Revival residences after the 1904 fire attests to the economic prosperity of Yazoo City at the turn of the 20th century. The population of the town increased significantly in the early part of the 20th century. The architectural idiom in the residential section is thus most commonly expressed in the one and two-story Queen Anne houses with extended gable fronts, augmented by a pleasant mixture of earlier Greek Revival and more informal ca. 1920 bungalows and cottages.



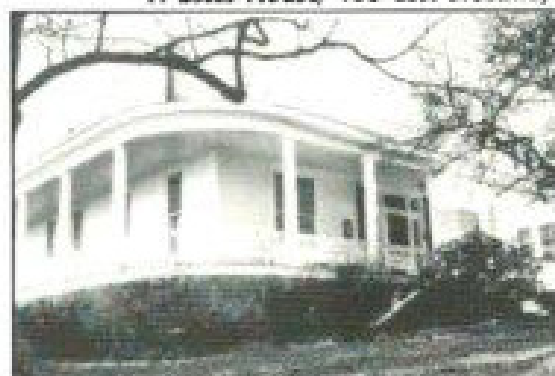
A GOOD PLACE TO BEGIN the walking tour is at the **Courthouse** (★) at 201 East Broadway, pictured on the front of this brochure. The three-story, hip roof, stuccoed brick structure was completed in 1872 at a cost of \$45,000. The building replaced an 1849 Greek Revival structure, designed by William Nichols (architect of the Mississippi Governor's Mansion), that was burned in 1864 by Union soldiers.

An octagonal cupola housing the town clock is a noticeable feature of this Beaux Arts Classicism building. Half of the \$1,200 needed to construct the tower and purchase the clock was contributed by private citizens. The original weights used for the weekly winding of the clock are still in place.

In 1952 the courthouse was completely renovated and restored to 1872 grandeur, while adding a few modern conveniences such as adequate electrical outlets and central heat and air.

The Estes House (No. 1, 405 East Broadway) is a modified Queen Anne with wraparound porch. Built around 1905 and purchased by the Estes family in 1922, the house has perfectly plain Doric columns and a glass transom over the front door. A granite nameplate inscribed "Estes" is embedded in the front sidewalk designating the Estes home.

1. Estes House, 405 East Broadway



2. Lightcap-Holmes House, 419 East Broadway



The next house on the tour is an imposing yellow brick, two-story mansion, the **Lightcap-Holmes House** (Fulgham—No. 2, 419 East Broadway). This structure was built around 1910 in a sophisticated classical revival idiom incorporating fine triple windows at both stories, an imposing Tuscan Doric porch with recently-restored balustrade and vase-topped corner posts. The Palladian-arched doorway retains the elegant etched-glass monogram of Harrison Lightcap, the builder.

3. Berry-Brister House, 505 East Broadway

Built in the 1890's, the **Berry-Brister House** (Gilder—No. 3, 505 East Broad-



way) originally had fine late Victorian turned columns and fretwork trellises. A 1904 photograph shows the house prior to a 1920 alteration complete with a sparkling paint scheme picking out the elaborate turnwork. A two-story chamfered bay and conical-roofed corner turret make of the front elevation a dramatic ensemble.

On up Broadway is **The Hollies** (Story—No. 4, 521 East Broadway), an elegant cottage with French doors at the porch elevation replacing its original windows. The arrangement of the front, with a pediment over the three central bays of an inset porch and square and staged columns with graceful brackets, achieves a certain quiet monumentality.

4. The Hollies, 521 East Broadway



5. The Parker House

528 East Broadway

Across the street on the right is the castle-like **Parker House** (Sills—No. 5, 528 East Broad-

way) an imposing Queen Anne-classical revival home with two stories and a three-story turret at the northwest corner. Details of this house include leaded glass doors and an imposing staircase with intricate spindles, accented by a stained glass window at the landing.

The Lear House (Morrisette—No. 6, 537 East Broadway) is a fine Queen Anne revival masonry-walled dwelling. This house probably dates from around 1885, and most of the important exterior and interior detail has been carefully preserved. The high-pitched roof retains its original painted, stamped-tin surface.

6. Lear House, 537 East Broadway



7. **Dreschler House**, 617 East Broadway



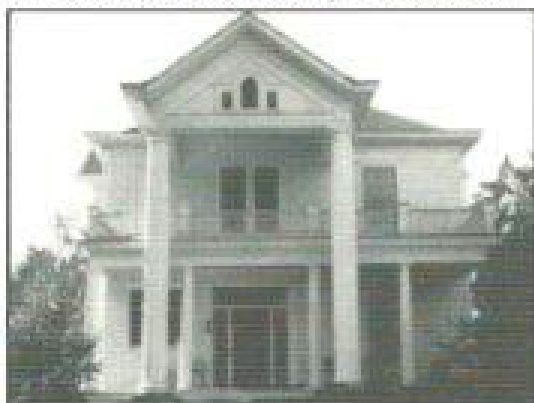
The **Dreschler House** (Barrett—No. 7, 617 East Broadway) is a one-and-a-half story Queen Anne frame cottage built around 1880 on one of the lots platted for the city of Manchester in 1830. Features of the house include a slate roof, wrap-around porch, double parlors, and heart-pine flooring. The three large windows on the porch raise into the attic creating floor-to-ceiling doorways for ventilation.

8. **Griffin House**, 627 East Broadway



BUILT IN 1890 by Dr. P. J. McCormick for his daughter, Helen Griffin, the **Griffin House** (Norquist—No. 8, 627 East Broadway) was originally three stories with two additional wings off the back. This late Victorian structure featured an ornate staircase built in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and shipped by barge to Yazoo City. The woodwork of the parlor, library, and entrance hall are walnut, cherry, and oak respectively and still bear scars of the two fires which badly damaged the structure at the turn of the century. One wing and the third floor were beyond repair. Remodeled again in 1973, the facade was changed to a more classical style, and the kitchen wing was removed from the rear of the home.

9. **Birdsall-Hendrix House**, 504 East Madison



MOVING ON TO EAST MADISON, we find a handsome classical revival structure, the **Birdsall-Hendrix House** (Perry—No. 9, 427 East Madison), probably built around 1915. The two modified, fluted Doric columns support a pediment over the two-story central gallery while a one-story colonnade provides a wider gallery at the first level. A fine leaded and beveled glass door serves as the principal entrance.

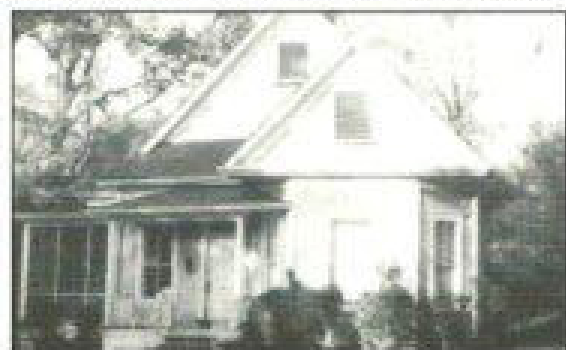
10. **John Sharp Williams Townhouse**
427 East Madison



Diagonally across the street is the **John Sharp Williams Townhouse** (Holmes—No. 10, 427 East Madison). Said to have been originally a two-story structure, this house was remodeled in the 1930-40 period. It retains an interesting original entrance door from the 1880 period.

11. **The Cottage**
419 East Madison

Next door, **The Cottage** (No. 11—419 East Madison) is a modest Queen Anne structure which is exemplary for its chamfered corners and its extended gable. An understory, which is an unusual structural device in Yazoo County, is part of the fabric used in the building construction.



12. The Bowman House, 407 East Madison

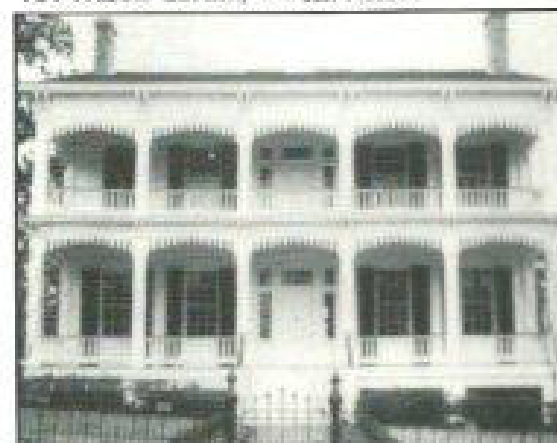


The **Pugh-Blundell House** (Waller—No. 13, 333 East Powell), directly at the end of Yazoo Street, is a fine raised cottage in the Greek Revival style, probably erected shortly after the property was acquired on June 7, 1849. Square columns with an applied lattice mold ornamentation support the inset porch roof with a full basement at the ground level, masked somewhat by a partial fill terrace at the front lawn. Monumental two-panel, Greek Revival doors open directly into double parlors across the front that retain their original mantel piece.

The **Dent House** (Holmes—No. 14, 217 North Yazoo) is a good example of the small, vernacular Greek Revival cottage which probably formed much of the building fabric of early Yazoo City. This house, built on property purchased in 1859, retains its original two-panel cypress entrance door with transom. Several interior two-panel doors and a mantel piece dating from the original construction also remain intact.

The **Wilson-Gilruth House** (Seward—No. 15, 326 East Madison) is the largest surviving house from the pre-Civil War period in Yazoo City.

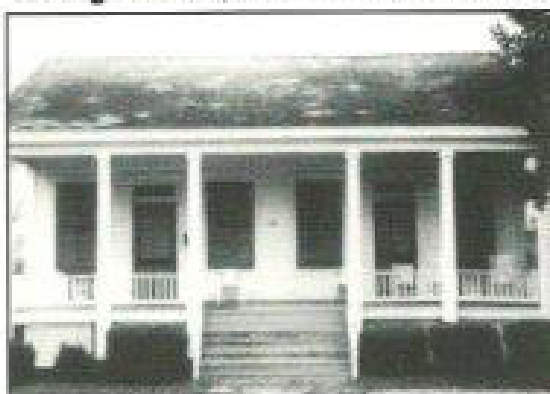
15. Wilson-Gilruth, 326 East Madison



On the corner is the **Bowman House** (Holmes — No. 12, 407 East Madison). This Greek revival house was built in 1852. The two rooms across the front and the porch blinds are part of the original house. Square-section, box columns support the roof of the inset porch, the roof having been raised in pitch to mask a later two-story addition to the rear of the house.

- Across the street from the Townhouse is the Swayze House, 420 East Madison, an attractive classical revival/Queen Anne dwelling. The porch engages a charming corner pavilion with a conical, turret roof.
- Down the hill is the Darrington House, 404 East Madison, a traditional house of interesting composite design by Architect Raymond Birchett of Jackson in the 1940's. The lush green foliage that surrounds the house enhances the comfortable balance of the design, and demonstrates the fertility for plant growth in this humid region.

13. Pugh-Blundell, 333 East Powell (at end of Yazoo)



14. Dent House, 217 North Yazoo



It was probably built soon after the site was purchased in 1846. The front of the house comprises two levels of porches with rectangular section columns and turned balustrades.

The original Greek Revival character is somewhat masked by decorative woodwork screens inserted between the columns, probably about 1881. However, many of the architectural details from the 1846 construction remain intact. There is persistent supposition that this house was pre-cut and shipped from Cincinnati, Ohio. In the 1990s, a screened porch addition earned a "most sympathetic addition" award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

16. Wilson-Tyler-Eggleston House, 317 E. Madison



The **Wilson-Tyler-Eggleston House** (No. 16, 317 East Madison) was, according to tradition, built originally as a one-story brick cottage in early 1844. It is possible that elements of the fabric pre-date this period. The second story and the two-story porch with staged box columns and brackets were added around 1860. The interior retains many original details, and a rear wing containing a dining room, pantry, and kitchen with a side gallery is still in use.

17. The Dalton House, 214 North Monroe



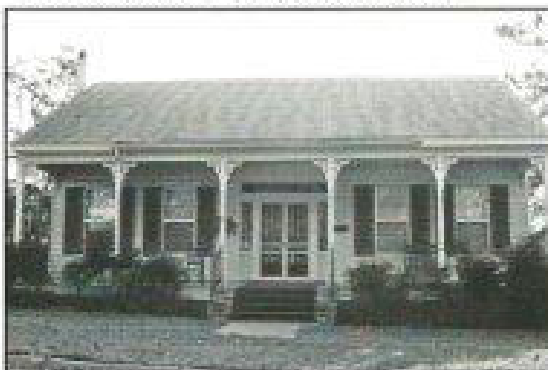
The **Dalton House** (Bridgforth—No. 17, 214 North Monroe) is possibly the oldest remaining house in Yazoo City, although much altered in its present form. This house is recorded as having been sold with the property in 1837. The windows and siding of the present structure are replacements of around 1900, but two original windows with blinds remain, relocated to the attic gables. The in-set porch probably had rectangular section box columns, at some time replaced by the present turned-Victorian colonnettes.

18. Bardwell, 228 North Monroe

The **Bardwell House** (No. 18, 228 North Monroe) was originally built as a Greek Revival cottage prior to 1853. The second floor, with certain Victorian features, was added after the turn of the century. A more recent renovation by former owners removed the Victorian features where possible.



19. Cadenhead House, 228 East Madison



At the corner of Madison and Monroe is the **Cadenhouse House** (Palmer—No. 19, 228 East Madison), ca. 1850. The front entrance is characterized by a low pediment with dental molding original to the structure although the French doors are modern replacements. It follows the antebellum farm dwelling style with later additions including the turned Victorian columns.

20. The Stigler House, 219 East Madison



Next door, the **Stigler House** (Thompson—No. 20, 219 East Madison) is a two-story townhouse in the Second Empire style of around 1880. The semi-detached kitchen, still intact, sits in a well-tended herb and flower garden.

This is the end of the Yazoo City **Historic District Walking Tour**. Please drive around and see some of the other historic buildings listed at the front of this brochure and designated on the map.