



# Architectural Treasures Tour

FITZGERALD, GEORGIA



# FITZGERALD

## *The Yank-Reb City Where America Reunited*



### ARCHITECTURAL DRIVING/WALKING TOUR

Fitzgerald is one of Georgia's most fascinating cities. It is filled with significant historical architecture which reflects its founding in 1895 by Philander H. Fitzgerald, a Union Veteran's pension lawyer from Indiana who was seeking a warm, receptive area of the country where aging Union veterans and their families could retire in comfort.

The architecture throughout the City represents 100 years of architectural development. Even more interesting, it represents the grand diversity of the settlers who came from across the country to settle here and build a community, representing a total of 38 states and two territories: 60% from the Midwest, 35% from the South, and 5% from other states. They came with names like Mosher, Ebzea, MacDonald, Anvich, Alphonso, Van Dyke, Abraham and Kuhn. These diverse heritages are strikingly represented in the built environment of this "magic city."

Unlike many other historic districts which exhibit a limited number of architectural styles in close proximity, Fitzgerald's historic residential streetscape contains a mix of styles, including Queen Anne, Victorian, Neo Classical, Craftsman, Spanish Colonial, Gothic and others. You will also see residential styles and materials that are unique to Fitzgerald. In addition, you will note such distinctions as stained glass and extensive ornamental detailing on attic vents, gables and porches.

Fitzgerald is one of Georgia's only planned cities. The City is laid out on a typical mid-western style grid, reflecting its founding. Streets are named for Yank and Reb generals (Grant Street, Lee Street, Sherman, etc.), native trees (Magnolia, Pine, etc.) and Civil War ships, the Monitor, Sultana, Merrimac, and Roanoke. Main Street and Central Avenue are both centered with beautiful plaza parks, each featuring a plaque honoring a Civil War general, native tree, or river corresponding to the nearby cross street.

**For the complete history of this fascinating city, stop by the Blue and Gray Museum.**

*NOTE: Please keep your hazard lights on throughout your drive. Stay in the left lane when possible for the best views, which may be either to your left or right.*

*Tour begins at intersection of Central and Main Street, facing south. Stop at the left corner of the Plaza Park.*



**#1. MOTHER ENTERPRISE MONUMENT.**

Originally a water fountain, this monument in the first Plaza Park in the City is dedicated to Mother Enterprise, Nettie C. Hall, an eyewitness to Fitzgerald’s founding. Editor of *The Enterprise*, one of Fitzgerald’s first newspapers, Hall was cast in the mold of the nationally famous Nelly Bly. She made her way everywhere into the man’s world of city-building. When the A&B railroad shops were built, Hall was there to inspect the operation from top to

bottom, climbing up on the machinery for a better view, and describing the experience in terms that marked her as a true lover of the Iron Horse. In three short years, she became a living legend, and her voice was the voice of the Colony City itself, fiercely proud and self-reliant!

*Proceed south on Main Street.*

**#2. GRAND THEATRE – 115 South Main Street.** This art deco-style building originally constructed in the 1920’s, burned and was rebuilt in 1933. It still retains many of the characteristics of its original style: glass brick facade on the second floor and a majestic neon sign. The interior features Tiffany style overhead lamps and side lanterns. The stage has been greatly enlarged and the backstage areas meet the most stringent requirements of major touring productions, which are brought often to Fitzgerald by the local Arts Council. The GRAND is also home to numerous local productions, including Fitzgerald’s historical musical production about its founding, “Our Friends, the Enemy.”

*Continue down Main, crossing over Pine Street.*



**#3. W.R.C. BUILDING – 215 South Main Street.**

This wooden frame building was constructed in **1900** by Union veterans and their sons and was used by the veteran’s wives as the relief hall and a place for social gatherings. The Women’s Relief Corp was an auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic. The GAR post at Fitzgerald was the largest in the South. The decorative gable decoration features the WRC emblem. Next to the WRC building is the Dorminy home.

*Continue on Main across Magnolia.*

**#4. WARE-MASHBURN HOUSE – 315 South Main Street. Ca. 1906.** This two-story Georgian plan house – presently offices of Mills-Larkey Attorneys – is distinctive for many features, among them the beautiful stained glass panels, hipped tin roof and shed porch supported by Doric columns. Many homes and buildings in Fitzgerald featured stained glass. Look for it in the gable ends, dormers, windows, and other areas in homes and businesses. **This house is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.**

**#5. BOWEN-SHEPPARD HOUSE – 327 South Main Street, Ca. 1900.** This two story Georgian home was built by the same family that built the Ware-Mashburn house next door in the early 1900's.

*Continue on Main across Jessamine.*

**#6. BROADHURST-PAULK HOUSE – 409 South Main Street. Ca. 1920.** One of Fitzgerald's most elegant homes, this two story neo-classical Georgian plan house features a monumental shed porch supported by elegant Ionic columns. Of particular interest are the transom and sidelights of the first and second floor entrances and the palladian window in the gabled dormer.

*Continue across Palm.*

**#7. MAFFETT-RITTER HOUSE – 507 South Main Street. Ca. 1900.** This unusual Georgian plan house was one of the original homes on South Main Street. It was moved on logs from an adjacent lot to its present location about 1905. The home features an unusual hipped dormer with diamond-paned casement windows.

*Cross Orange, Cypress and Lemon.*



**#8. McCLENDON-WALKER HOUSE – 801 South Main Street. Ca. 1912.** This two-story frame home is typical of early Fitzgerald architecture with its ornate trim, interesting windows with square lights, and the bay front and hipped roof. It has undergone extensive renovation in the past few years.

*At end of block, turn right onto Roanoke, then turn right onto Lee at caution light. Go three blocks.*



**#9. HARRIS HOUSE – 605 South Lee Street. Ca. 1905.**

This Queen Anne style house was originally built for the Dr. Russell family. It was converted in the 1980's to a personal care home. It is typical of Queen Anne style with its tower and turrets and its wraparound porch. This house is

also notable for its rich use and variety of exterior siding materials and interesting textures.

*Continue two blocks. Cross Jessamine.*



**#10. FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH – 326 South Lee Street. Ca. 1906.**

This distinctive church building, used by the Christian Church for more than 80 years, is now the home of Faith Baptist Church. The building demonstrates extensive use of *granitoid* and beautiful stained glass windows. *Granitoid*, seen rarely in South Georgia, is actually rock-faced hollow concrete block, a type of

material produced here in the founding years, beginning in 1905, by the *Fitzgerald Granitoid Company*. Many homes throughout the City are partially or entirely constructed of *granitoid*.

*Continue north on Lee Street.*

**#11. FITZGERALD HEBREW CONGREGATION – 302 South Lee Street. Ca. 1906.** Originally used by the Methodist Episcopal Church, this sanctuary was converted to a Hebrew synagogue when northern and southern branches of the Methodist Church united in 1939. Interesting not only historically, but because it is one of very few synagogues in South Georgia serving several other communities, in addition to Fitzgerald.



*Look diagonally across the street to your left.*

**#12. PHILLIP JAY HOUSE – 225 South Lee Street. Ca. 1905.**

One of the most unusual houses in the City, this home is also constructed of *granitoid*. This house is distinctive for the use of only three masonry Doric columns, rather than the more common four, supporting its gabled overhang. Legend has it that this house was originally constructed by a Scottish family who refused to add the traditional fourth column because a fourth was a superfluous expense. The ivy that surrounds the house is said to have come straight from the home of Scottish poet-singer, Robert Burns.

*Continue north on Lee over Pine. Go one block then turn right onto Central Avenue. Cross over Main and Grant Streets. Stop in the left lane and look across the Plaza Park to the two-story green building.*



**#13. HERALD-LEADER BUILDING – 202 East Central. Built in 1897**, the second floor of this building originally housed the Windsor Hotel. The lower floor was a wholesale grocery, and later the Fitzgerald Hardware Company. It was converted into the offices of the *Fitzgerald Herald Leader* in 1992.

Distinctions include decorative metal cornices, brackets and finials along its upper floor. The building’s renovators received the coveted award for excellent restoration from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. The *Herald Leader* is the only paper published in Fitzgerald today, but in its founding years, Fitzgerald published seven newspapers, two of which were published by the small Black population. The town also boasted a book printing shop. (Fitzgerald claims today that there are more newspapers sold here per capita than anywhere else in the South!)

*Continue on Central. Cross Sherman and Sheridan. At Thomas Street, make a left U-turn back onto East Central. Stop in the left lane.*



**#14. STANDARD SUPPLY COMPANY – 406 E. Central. Ca. 1897.** One of the city’s earliest buildings, Standard Supply Company, owned and operated by the Parrot family, is the oldest

continuously family-owned and operated business in Fitzgerald. The front facade has been altered somewhat, but original elements like the brick parapet and the archway surrounding the entry have been retained and reflect the building’s early Spanish Mission style.

*Continue west on Central. Pause in the left lane to view the brick building on your right.*

**#15. Old City Hall – 302 W. Central. Constructed in 1902**, this building was, for many years, Fitzgerald’s City Hall, and it included a three-story clock tower at the western corner. *Plans are underway now to restore the building, including the clock tower, and return it to its original purpose.*

*Continue west on Central through the stop light and across Main and Lee Streets. Stop in left lane.*

**#16. CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH. Ca. 1920.** An excellent example of a popular design using elements of the Colonial Georgian period in American architecture. Note the quoins at the corners and the key-stoned windows with many rectangular lights. This church represents the true meaning of “The City Where America Reunited.” The building housed the Methodist Episcopal Church until 1939 when the northern and southern branches of the Methodist Church consolidated and both came together to use this house of worship in harmony from that day forward.

*Between NationsBank and SouthTrust Bank, turn right toward the Depot, then turn left into the parking lot.*



**#17. DEPOT AND BLUE AND GRAY MUSEUM.** *(Stop in here to discover the full story of the founding of this remarkable town.)* Built around **1902** when the Atlanta and Birmingham Railroad came to town, unique features include the terra cotta tile roof, shed type eaves and Mission Style parapets. The passenger areas

and various offices now house City Hall. Stories abound that when the city was being built and the rails were laid, Southerners came by train to “gawk” at the Yankees! **The Blue and Gray Museum** is located in the original baggage room of the depot. The museum houses many artifacts and memorabilia important in the City’s founding, as well as numerous Civil War relics.

*Leaving the museum, turn left, and then turn right onto Central Avenue. Enjoy Plaza Parks and diverse architecture. Continue to stop light at Central and Merrimac. Make a left U-turn onto West Central. Stay in left lane. Drive three blocks to:*



**#18. DORMINY-MASSEE HOUSE/BED AND BREAKFAST – 516 West Central.** This elegant Greek Revival house was constructed in **1915** by Captain Jack Dorminy for his wife and four daughters. Captain Jack, a prominent banker, businessman and farmer whose family had lived in the area since pre-Civil War times, personally selected the trees from which came all the beautiful heart pine lumber throughout the house. The house was considered the grandest in the city and has been continuously in the family. Today descendants of the original owners operate the Inn. *Make a reservation today to enjoy*

*an overnight stay in at least one of the eight magnificent themed rooms and meet the charming family/owners.*

*Continue slowly east on Central. Immediately across Longstreet Street, stop in the left lane for:*



**#19. GLOVER HOUSE – 412 West Central Avenue. Constructed in 1900.** The walls of this intriguing Georgian plan house are constructed of *granitoid*. Especially interesting is the decorative use of shingles and wrap-around porch with its imposing Victorian turret. (The Fitzgerald Granitoid Company also produced the vitrified brick used on the streets in the downtown historic district.)

*Continue very slowly on Central. At Jackson Street, stop in left lane and observe house on the left across the Plaza Park.*



**#20. 401 West Central Avenue. THIS IS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF FITZGERALD'S UNUSUAL "T-HOUSES."** The influence of Fitzgerald's "Yankee" origins is present in the prevalence of these houses – so-called a "T-House" because the juxtaposition of the porch and the central portion of the house form the shape of a "T." Rarely seen in the South, this house

type came to Fitzgerald through the large numbers of mid-Westerners who settled here in the late 19th and early 20th century. The City's founder, P. H. Fitzgerald, was from Indiana where the T-shaped house was common. Southerners enlarged the plan and gave it a front porch and more definitive T shape. These houses are found throughout the city – some very simple, others embellished with Victorian gingerbread, elaborate columns, and other Southern-style ornamentation.



**#21. HAGEMAN HOUSE – Lincoln Avenue.** Built c. 1896, this structure, one of the oldest in the city, was the home of an early pioneer from Indiana, Adrian Hageman, and his wife Fannie Protsman Hageman. It is constructed of virgin pine lumber taken from the lot Hageman drew

from the Colony City Company. The logs were sent to the Tifton sawmill for planing, and the house was built on the very location where they had grown. A daughter, Adelia, and her husband, Charlie Newcomer, later lived in the home. In the 1970's Adrian's grandson, Charlie Newcomer, Jr., renovated it as it is today.



Please visit the inviting downtown district. Stroll along the original brick streets of Main and Pine and stop in some of the shops to enjoy original pressed tin ceilings and other historical features. Of particular interest are the five story building (Garbutt-Donovan Building), corner of Pine and Grant, and Jay, Sherrell, Smith & Braddy Law Offices, corner of Pine and Main Streets. Dock's Credit Jewelry, also on East Pine, is the oldest business in downtown Fitzgerald still operating in its original location, with one of its original owners still working there.

# **Spend 48 Hours in Fascinating Fitzgerald**

## **A Unique History**

Discover – at the Blue and Gray Museum – the heart-warming story of how Yankee and Confederate veterans created Georgia’s Yank-Reb City. See perfectly restored fire engines and equipment from the city’s earliest years to the present in the Fitzgerald Fire Engine Museum. Uncover your own ancestry at the Evergreen Cemetery or the downtown library.

## **Lovely Streets and Plaza Parks**

Admire the twelve lush, flower laden Plaza Parks that center the main streets of one of Georgia’s only planned cities.

## **Architectural Treasures**

Tour the brick streets of the historical district filled with diverse architectural styles, materials, and ornamentation unique to Southern Georgia.

## **Great Lodging Choices**

Rock on the shady veranda, then snuggle down at an elegant Bed and Breakfast Inn with eight themed rooms, or stay at one of the inviting contemporary motels.

## **Delightful Eateries**

Lunch in the historical district at Nabila’s Garden Restaurant with delicious southern foods and delectable desserts, or enjoy an old-fashioned hamburger and barbeque house favored by four generations of natives. Finish off your day with a choice of international flavors or a sumptuous country buffet.

## **Arts and Artists**

Take home art and gifts created by regional artists and fine crafters – the stars of the Colony Art Gallery.

## **Family Surprises**

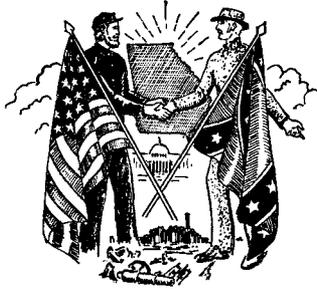
Marvel over tiny, colorful Burmese chickens, roaming shady lawns, leaving miniature nests to be discovered by children of all ages!

## **The Great Outdoors**

Try your swing at two golf courses – one an 18 hole championship course only minutes away; or hunt and fish – most of the year – in the pleasant, temperate climate.

## **Enticing Side Trips**

Make a fifteen-minute trip to Jefferson Davis State Park. Learn the story of his capture amid tall Georgia pines.



**For Information**

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