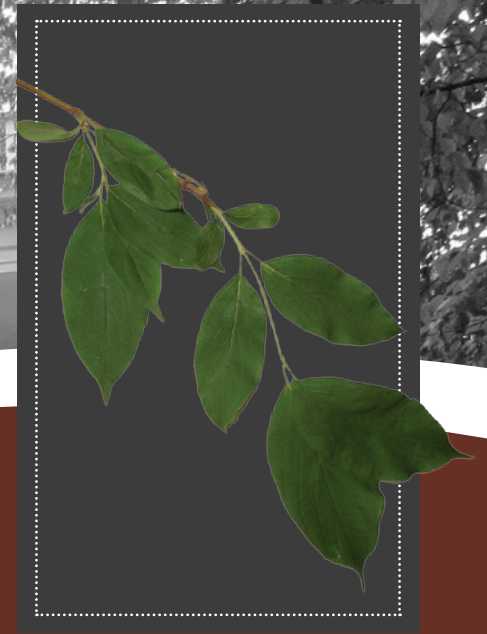


Villa Rica is a place with a rich history that goes back as far as human habitation. Cherokees, settlers, gold miners, ranchers, farmers, mill workers and business owners — over the centuries, all of these people have worked to build the community called “the rich village.”

Although the people of Villa Rica are enthusiastic about the historic riches of their town (the mines, the mills, churches, old stores and homes), the residents are really excited about the future of their own community – the resurgence of the downtown area has brought in new growth and business. Residents are walking and biking more, living a healthier lifestyle. Villa Rica is once again a place of riches.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
519 MAIN STREET



**GET HEALTHY
LIVE WELL**



Community Development
City of Villa Rica
770.459.7000

Villa Rica

HEALTH WALK

GET HEALTHY LIVE WELL

This brochure is the product of a partnership between the Community Development Department of the City of Villa Rica and Tanner Health System's Get Healthy, Live Well initiative. For reprints or to reproduce this brochure in full or in part, contact the Community Development Department at 770.459.7000.

Use this guide to exercise your mind and body. The entire historic loop of this walking tour is 2.1 miles.

1. MILL AMPHITHEATER, 106 TEMPLE STREET

This site is part of the North Villa Rica Commercial Historic District. (Added to the National Register of Historic Places on Dec. 31, 2002). The district includes several blocks of commercial buildings, some dating back to 1875.

2. CAMP CAP COMPANY

In 1933, six years before Amelia Earhart took her flight across the Atlantic, Camp Cap Company was founded. They manufactured their way out of the Great Depression, survived World War II, and are still manufacturing to this day.

3. VILLA RICA LOFTS ON TEMPLE STREET

Cotton was a huge driver in the Villa Rica economy during the early 1900s. This historic cotton warehouse, now converted into loft apartments, was built in 1912 and remained a cotton and textile warehouse until the 1990s.

4. OLD FIRST METHODIST CHURCH 206 NORTH AVENUE

The Methodist Church first held services in a log cabin in 1830, making it the first church in the city. Around 1845, a wooden church was built. In 1886, the church elected to build a new white frame building on the current church site. The old church was abandoned in 1890. Construction on the current church building was completed in July 1906.

5. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 519 MAIN STREET

Villa Rica's First Presbyterian church was organized in 1855. A white frame building was constructed on Candler Street in 1885. The building was moved to its current location in 1930 onto property donated by the family of W. B. Candler. The church structure was then bricked.

The mahogany pews, pulpit and the stained glass windows are all older than the church building. They were salvaged from Old Wesley Memorial Church in Atlanta. The windows were made from a color formula that has been lost over time, making them irreplaceable antiques.

6. SEARS KIT HOME, 525 MAIN STREET

This house was a ready-to-assemble kit sold through mail order by Sears, Roebuck and Company. Sears reported that more than 70,000 of these homes were sold in North America between 1908 and 1940. Shipped via railroad boxcar, these kits included all the materials needed to build a house. Many were assembled by the homeowners, friends, relatives and neighbors, much like a traditional barn raising. **(Cross the street into the park along the railroad track.)**

7. TEXTILE MILLS HISTORIC MARKER ACROSS FROM 209 MAIN STREET

As of January 1957, Villa Rica boasted at least 22 industries, producing caskets, hosiery, anklets, caps, lawn furniture, sports shirts, fertilizer, aluminum window frames, newspapers and job printing and feed stuff as well as several lumber mills and cotton gins.

8. CHAT AND CHOO - 130 W. MONTGOMERY STREET

Old Berry Pharmacy was the site of an explosion in 1957. Caused by a gas leak, the explosion destroyed the pharmacy and three neighboring buildings. Twelve people died and 20 were injured. In terms of injury and loss of life, the explosion remains the most catastrophic event in Carroll County history.

9. OLD BANK OF VILLA RICA HISTORIC MARKER 208 W. MONTGOMERY STREET

Known as "Carroll County's Oldest Financial Institution" — open from May 4, 1899 to June 24, 1996, this bank was also one of the oldest in the state of Georgia. Chartered with \$15,000 capital when it opened, this was one of the few banks that survived the Great Depression. From this site and other locations, the bank served the community for 97 years. **(Turn around and walk north to West View Road.)**

10. HILLCREST CEMETERY, W. BANKHEAD HIGHWAY

This is the official Villa Rica city cemetery. The graves date back to the 17th century. Some of the oldest graves at Hillcrest Cemetery belong to Cherokee Native Americans and Confederate soldiers.

11. POWELL HOUSE, 318 WESTVIEW DRIVE

Built in 1928, this was the home of Dr. B.C. Powell, Villa Rica's first doctor. He also owned the local pharmacy and ice company. He befriended Asa Candler, founder of the Coca

Cola Company and was responsible for the founding of Villa Rica's first hospital and the Villa Rica First United Methodist Church. This Greek revival mansion has a colorful history that includes a time as a traveler's rest.

12. WICK'S TAVERN, 212 WEST WILSON STREET (C. 1830)

The oldest commercial structure in Carroll County was where 1800s gold miners gathered. It was built in the Dutch-style timber framing method. In 1998, the "Friends of Wick's Tavern" raised the funds necessary to rescue this historic building from being demolished and moved it to downtown Villa Rica. Wick's Tavern is now a living history museum and the home of Forrest Escort Sons of Confederate Veterans and the Friends of Wick's Tavern.

13. FREEDOM RIDERS HISTORIC MARKER 100 S. CARROLL ROAD

The Villa Rica bus station, formerly at this site, was on the route of the Freedom Ride from Washington, D.C. to New Orleans on May 4, 1961. Freedom riders were civil rights activists who rode public buses through the southeast to test rulings outlawing racial segregation.

Historical Information provided by Villa Rica Historic Preservation Commission



Restrooms are available along this route.

While you're in Villa Rica, check out other interesting local sites that aren't on the walking tour.

MT. PROSPECT BAPTIST CHURCH, 133 THOMAS DORSEY DRIVE

Officially formed in July 1887, the first African-American-owned church building in Carroll County was erected in 1888-1890 and was dedicated in May 1892. This was where Thomas Dorsey learned about music. After leaving Villa Rica, Dorsey became a famous blues musician. After the tragic death of his wife and son, he returned to sacred music influenced by blues and became the father of a new style of music: gospel.

PINE MOUNTAIN GOLD MUSEUM AT STOCKMAR PARK, 1881 STOCKMAR ROAD

Visit Georgia's only gold museum located on the site of an actual gold strike. See gold mining exhibits in the 4,800-square-foot museum and a 20-minute documentary



OLD FIRST METHODIST CHURCH 206 NORTH AVENUE

The First Methodist Church first held services in a log cabin in 1830, making it the first church in the city. Around 1845, a wooden church was built. In 1886, the church elected to build a new white frame building on the current church site. The old church was abandoned in 1890. Construction on the current church building was completed in July 1906.

in the 50-seat theater. Pan for gold and gemstones, take a tour through the intact ruins of Pine Mountain's 1800s gold mines, see farm animals, ride a railroad train, bring a picnic and walk along the 27-acre park's three miles of trails. Visit www.pinemountaingoldmuseum.com for hours and admission.