**HISTORIC BUS TOUR SCRIPT FOR GUIDES approx 1 hour**

A. Starting at the Chamber of Commerce at 305 N Madison Ave.

“Welcome to Eatonton Georgia”. Where are you all from?

Most of what I have to tell you today can be found in the Self Guided walking Tour, but I have a few extra interesting snippets to add.

My name is ………………………………… and I am giving this tour because ( I was raised here/I love Eatonton/ etc).

1.305 N Madison Ave. **THE PLAZA BUILDING**. This was the old Eatonton Elementary and High School. It was built in 1916, after the original wood building burned in 1913.

A very large community effort restored the school starting in 1998- 2008 to what you see today. I hope you saw the Putnam County Museum and the wonderful auditorium.

**TURN LEFT ON MADISON AVE & STOP ACROSS FROM PANOLA HALL.**

2. 400 N Madison Ave. **PANOLA HALL**. Also referred to as the Trippe-Hunt house. This is a Greek Revival House built in 1854 for Plantation Owner Henry Tripp. He sold it to Dr Benjamin Hunt in 1891. Hunt called the house Panola Hall. Dr Hunt was quite a famous guy. He traveled widely to Europe and Africa, and was a friend of Louis Pasteur ( what was Loius Pasteur famous for? : pasteurization of milk and vaccine for rabies). Hunt had a dairy farm and was noted for his scientific contributions to the dairy industry. He introduced Jersey Cows to Putnam County & after they were well established, instead of buying butter from the northern states, Putnam Co became a large exporter of butter & milk. (butter cost .25 c a pound & milk cost .10c a quart). (when Hunt was bitten by a feral cat he went to France & had Pasteur give him the rabies vaccine, so he healed very quickly)

This house is one of several houses known to be haunted. Story is that in the late 1800’s a young girl, named Sylvia, jumped from the balcony when she learned that her fiancé had been killed in the Civil War. People who have lived in the house have reported smelling perfume, cinnamon biscuits and hearing a kitten, as well as seeing a young girl dressed in a white dress. Also when there were shutters on the front windows, locals claim the upper right shutter would swing open IF Sylvia thought you were worth a look

3. 307 N Madison Ave. **Eatonton Presbyterian Church**. Built around 1897. This style is called Queen Anne Victorian ( does anyone know why this name?). See attachment.

**DRIVE A BIT FURTHER ALONG MADISON.**

4**. 403 N Madison Ave. RILEY –WILLIAMS HOUSE**. Built around 1904, this house is a hybrid, Arts and Crafts mixed with Classic Revival. It has the original chandeliers still in the house and wonderful original mantles. The Rileys ( Gayle Riley was a cotton factor) lived in the house until around 1920 and then it was divided up into apartments. The Williams’, who still own it bought it in the 1970’s and restored it back to a single family home. However, they got more than they bargained for! The house is reputed to be haunted. Carol Williams often heard footsteps even when the house was empty. Former residents of one of the apartments asked Carol if she ever heard footsteps. They’ve had freezing air rush by & a depression on the bed form by itself. And then when some one said “you don’t believe in ghosts do you?” The chandelier crystals all started moving as if someone was passing a hand along the crystals. Also Carol had placed the furniture in one room exactly as Mrs. Riley had it, according to Mrs Rileys daughter. Speculation is that the footsteps are from one of the renters, a lady who got up in the middle of the night to get a rather strong DRINK and died in a fire in the house. Other phenomena are attributed to Mrs Riley. Carol’s son saw an apparition of a lady dressed in white.

5.**407 N Madison Ave**. (Gayle Princes’ house). Built in 1902, this house is called the **Thomas-Clarke-Dennis-Harrison house.** The land was purchased from Leila Jenkins who owned most of the land from here to the end of Madison Ave.

6. 409 N Madison Ave.**JENKINS-WALL-HEARN HOUSE**. This was built in 1910, again on land acquired from Leila Jenkins. Now owned by the Cartmills’. They gave some interesting history of the house in If Walls Could Talk, a TV show. They had discovered the remains of an old cemetery in the garden, and when they were restoring the kitchen area, they took down a ceiling that was made of old license plates.

Note: Ms Jenkins lived to be 105 years old; she died in 2004. I remember going to her 100 th birthday party.

7.421 N Madison Ave. **WILLIAMS-COOPER-JENKINS HOUSE**. This house was originally further down Madison Ave.(see curbstones). The original parts of the house date to 1818. It was moved to the present site in 1909, and Judge Jenkins died while it was still on rollers. ( Note: people often moved houses short distances in the 1800’s; they did not have to contend with the overhead wires that we have today and there was no automobile traffic.)

After Ms Jenkins died, her nephew sold the house to a local preservationist who purchased the house to save it from developers (Glenn Eskew, who owns several houses on Madison Ave; he & his wife & two young boys lived there for a while before moving to Madison). The house recently sold to a retied couple from Washington DC. While trying to sell the house, Glenn tried to get some publicity for the house, he leased it to a film crew in 2005, who made a movie called The Yellow wallpaper. The movie can be found on Netflix and is probably the worst movie I have ever seen.

**TURN AROUND AND COME BACK DOWN THE MADISON AVE**. ( Note; not going to Crockett House)

**8.** 412 N Madison Ave. McClain House . **Walton-Carpenter-Bledsoe-McClain house.** Built in 1909 by Mr. P W Walton. 15 Doric column set on pared bases on front porch. The McClians are very active in the community and put on 2 plays a year at the Plaza ( Second Samuel)

9. 302 B N Madison Ave. **THOMAS-NISBET-TALLIAFERRO HOUSE.C 1836.( does anyone know how to pronounce TALLIAFERRO?)** Dr Reuben Nisbet and his heirs owned the house for over 60 years. In 1952 the Methodist Church purchased the house & they use it for meetings and various functions.

10. 302 N Madison Ave. **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**. Built in 1857 with ionic columns. The columns were replaced by current Corinthian columns & stained glass windows added in 1900. There were a lot of arson fires in 1979 ( all in churches) and this church was badly damaged. The stained glass windows were destroyed on the north & south side.( rose window at front is original) . The pews were saved & are still inside. In 2008, the church replaced the original wood siding with hardiboard despite a ruling from the HPC that this was inappropriate.

**11. 300 N Madison Ave. THE EZELL HOUSE**. This is wonderful Queen Anne Victorian. Built in 1887 by Evan Benjamin Ezell. He married one of the Prudden daughters & his heirs lived in the house until 1936. At that time it was bought by the Tatums (he was an undertaker) and their heirs lived in it until the 1990’s when a local lady , Alice Ashurst, bought it, renovated it & then sold it to someone for 3 months & then it was bought by Shelagh Fagan and Keith Rowell. This couple installed Bradbury & Bradbury wallpaper, many antiques, put in the boxwood garden and made many improvements ( like heat & air!). Shelagh ran it as a Bed & Breakfast from 2003-2008.

**12. 301 N Madison Ave. Davis Ashurst House**. The house was built in 1888 for Capt & Mrs C M Davis, but as a more elaborate Queen Anne Victorian with a turret. Around the turn of the century, they ( possibly influenced by the worlds fair) tried to make it more of a Colonial Revival, & added the round porches & tried to be more symmetrical; as you can see they failed! Alice Athirst renovated this house & it was a B & B for 11 years owned by Lynda & Ken Ramage until 2005. They sold the house to a young couple from Florida who did not live in it & it rapidly deteriorated. However, they did a major restoration in 2009/2010 & it is now in great shape.

**13. SLADE HALL**. 206 N Madison Ave ( Bob Holland’s House)Built around 1852 by Daniel Slade, the first merchant at Slade’s Crossing ( now Dennis Station). This is a classic Greek Revival although it is unusual to be built of brick.( in fact it is the only remaining Greek Revival built of brick in Putnam Co). The bricks were hand made at Slade’s plantation probably by slaves. 4 over 4 rooms and 40 ft long hallways. It had a ‘modern’ kitchen added to the back in the 1960’s. The owner recently purchased the land behind the house \* installed a garage, a KOI pond and lots of landscaping.

14**. The Edmonton-Champion house**. 204 N Madison Ave. The land used to belong to Slade Hall & the pierced brick fence at one time extended across the front. Champion bought the land in 1902 but didn’t build on it until 1912. His wife drew the plans on a piece of paper & the house stayed in the same family until 2012. By this time the granddaughter of Champion was living alone and the house was in much disrepair with a much overgrown garden. The owner of Slade Hall spent much money restoring the house and sold it a few years ago to the guy that owns Smiths Coastal Grill- don’t you love small towns!

15. 205 N Madison. **TURNER-DUKE-KELLY-ROSSETER HOUSE**. Current owner called it Morning Glory. Built in 1882 by William Leroy Turner for his wife, this is a plain version of a Victorian house. William Turner was the son of Joseph Addison Turner who is best known as the Plantation owner of Turnwold . JA Turner hired Joel Chandler Harris who wrote……Anyone know? The Uncle Remus stories. It was owned by 3 previous owners until the Rosseters bought it in 1995. They restored the house to its original glory and most of the interior & exterior are intact as it was in 1882. Mr Rosseter is famous locally for being the main driver in restoring the Old School to the Plaza Arts Center you see today.

16. 203 N Madison. **THOMAS-WEBSTER-GORLEY-HOUSE. C. 1877**. This house style is called Italianate Victorian. The exterior is pretty much the same as when built but the interior has been much changed.

17. 202 N Madison. **VICTORIAN HOUSE C. 1885**. ( yellow house). Glenn Eskew house. Note that he owns the grey house next door ( moved from Hancock co?) & he used to have another little house behind the yellow house.

The concrete block house behind the grey house was built by lodgers in 204 N Madison as temporary accommodation until they could build a grand house out front – which never happened!.

18. 200 N Madison**. BRONSON HOUSE. Also known as Napier-Reid-Rainey-Stubbs House & Eagle Tavern.c 1816-1822.**

**In 1816** this was the Eagle Tavern Inn.

In 1818 The Rising Star Masonic Lodge held a Christmas feast here ( Dec 28th 1818)

1820 it was owned & occupied by Thomas Napier. It was worth $3500 on the tax digest whereas other structures were valued around $500.

1830 William Wilkins ( a local famous Tavern operator) bought it & lost it in a Sheriffs sale in 1835 to wealthy planter brothers Andrew & Alexander Reid who operated it as Reid’s Hotel.

1846- Andrew Reid sole woner and bu 1848 made it into private residence. James Broadfiedl was the architect who turned it into the Greek Revival residence you see today.

1874 Reid estate sold it to Frances Asberry Leverette CSA who was the US Marshal for southern district of GA ( by Pres Cleveland). He moved to Macon where he died but had sold it to James Rainey in 1894 who rented rooms for $2 a day incl a dental office in 1901. The Bronsons ( Mr & Mrs Emerson Bronson)rented it in 1911 and then bought it in 1908. He was the depot agent for the new central GA railroad.

1931 his widow Nena Bronson converted it into a boarding house & 7 apts including her own.

Her daughter Eunice Bronson ( 1896-1985) inherited it & continued to preserve it. Her 6 children sold it to the EP Hist Soc in Dec 1985. It was in danger of being razed to place the Post Office on the site. The EP Hist Socienty raised the buying price from local contributions very quickly to save the house. In oroc rent rooms out. The front downstairs portion is sometimes open to the public.

19. **SHIELDS-LEVERETTE-BLACKWELL HOUSE**. c 1833. Once owned by the Blackwell family who still run Blackwell furniture down the street. This house needs someone to restore it back to health.

DOWNTOWN.

**Courthouse.** 100 N Jefferson Ave.Built in 1905 by a famous ‘courthouse’ architect, J.W. Golucke of Atlanta. At a cost of $30,000. Renovated in 1995 at a cost of 1.5 million. Wings added in 2005.

**Courthouse Annexe/Old Eatonton Hotel**. Original hotel ( Hotel Putnam) on this site was a beautiful Victorian hotel built in 1886, which burned. The replacement, Hotel Eatonton, built in early 20th century and opened in 1920 to public. Operated until 1970 when closed. Owned by Edward Rice who used it as Law Office. & later an apartment. Inherited by Patsy Batchelor ( his business partner) in 1988 and she did renovations in 1989, saving original windows doors etc. In 1992 she sold to Putnam County. It has been used as an annex to the courthouse for many years until last year the county admin moved out to the bypass. Now leased to the Geogia Writers Museum who will move into it in a year or so.

Downtown stores. A few of these date to around 1850, but most of what you see was built in the early 1900’s.