

Historic Walking Tour
1 mile Walking Path
Approximately 45 – 60 minutes
Script

	Location	Script
1.		This is _____ and I would like to welcome you to Graham and to this historic tour of our downtown. The facts and information contained in this tour were compiled mainly from the Durward T. Stokes book, Auction & Action: Historical Highlights of Graham, North Carolina. Any questions, comments or suggestions about the accuracy of this information should be directed to Jennifer Talley at 336-229-4225 and would be welcomed.
2.	Sesquicentennial Park (formerly known as the Patterson Building)	Your historic tour begins at the Sesquicentennial Park located on the Northwest corner of court square. In 1898, members of the Patterson family constructed a three story building on this site. The first and second floor contained retail and office space, while the third floor, became known as "Patterson's Hall", because it was frequently used for social meetings and for professional and amateur performances. Over the years, several tenants occupied the building, including Graham Drug Company and the original Graham Soda Shop. In 1978 the building was in the process of being renovated when a critical mistake was made and a load bearing beam was removed. Overnight, a large gust of wind caused the building to pressurize and the exterior walls and floors shifted and cracked. The damage was beyond repair and the building had to be demolished shortly thereafter. It was a real tragedy to lose a building so rich with history. The site was later acquired by the City of Graham in 1998 and was recently landscaped for a park honoring the 150th anniversaries of Alamance County and the City of Graham which were celebrated on April 24, 1999. The new 2,500 square foot park features a beautiful variety of plants, an arbor, marble benches, brick walkways honoring various park donors and a 400 pound bell which sat atop the original courthouse in Graham prior to 1923.
3.	OMS Building, ca. 1898	The next 2 story building located on your left at 110 N. Main St. was built in 1898 and had a dirt or wooden floor until 1924 when the floor was finally poured with cement. In 1903, Graham Hardware occupied a part of this building and later the Little City Clothing Store was located in the left side of the building. Graham Hardware sold everything from guns and hunting supplies to building materials. Office Machines and Systems moved into the location in 1924 and are the current owners.
4.	Wrike Drug Store, ca. 1901 -114 N. Main St.	As you continue North on Main Street, you will see a three story building on the left with a wall marker designating it the Wrike Drug Store Building. This building was constructed by Dr. J. C. Simmons in 1901 where he operated his drug store, offices and a meeting hall for fraternal organizations. After Dr. Simmons retired, the Farrell-Hayes Drug Store and later the Wrike Drug Store occupied the building. Dr. Simmons also served as mayor and played a key role in having electric lights provided for the city. His daughter lit up Graham for the first time in 1902. She later married Junius K. Powell of Whiteville, NC, author of the well-known Powell Bill passed by the state legislator. Dr. Simmons' son also rose to local fame when he was promoted to Brigadier general in 1943.
5.	L. B. Holt Store Company, ca. 1889 118 N. Main St.	As you continue North, you will see a two story building to your left that is designated as the L. Banks Holt building. It was constructed in 1889 to house the Holt's mercantile business. Although the original architecture façade has been covered by metal, this building was described by locales as "the handsomest store building in the county". In 1919, Green and McClure purchased the building and are still presently operating their furniture business there.

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6.	Moon Building, ca. 1912	As you continue North, you will see a building on your left with large display windows and a recessed entrance. It is known as the Moon Building. It was built by Jonathan "Jack" Moon in 1912 who used the first floor originally as a restaurant and the second floor as living quarters. Jack Moon started the Moon Motor Company in 1918 which then sold Model-T Ford automobiles. It was later used as Moon's Fashion Shop for a number of years.
7.	Graham Drug Company, ca. 1933 142 N. Main St.	As you continue North, you will see that the corner building to your left has recently been renovated and restored to its former glory. It was originally built in 1933 by the Graham Drug Company who operated their business there for a number of years. It later was bought and used by Graham Sporting Goods. Prior to the construction of this building, "The Nuggett" opened in a canvas tent on the lot in 1908 and showed Graham's first "moving picture" here. Edward Scott and Robert Holmes enclosed the space with roofing iron in 1914 and opened "The Mexican", which also showed movies and later moved across the street to "The Alco" theater building.
8.	Historic Providence Church and Cemetery 1763	If you were to continue North on Main St., it would dead end into Historic Providence Church and Cemetery. While the church and cemetery are not on your historic tour, they do deserve mention because of their rich history and significance to the formation of Graham and Alamance County. In 1792, Providence Church opened the first school and was the birth place of Graham Institute, Graham High School, Graham Normal College and Elon University. In 1849 court for the Western district of Orange County was held here and Alamance County was born and subsequently Graham as the County seat. In 1911, a streetcar line also ran down Main Street toward Providence from the Courthouse. This transit system connected Graham with Burlington and Haw River. The cemetery also contains many markers dating back to the early 1800's and is a very interesting place to visit if you have the time.
9.	Alco Theater Building, ca. 1919 – 125 N. Main St.	As you take a right and cross Main Street, the second building you come to is a two-story building that was constructed shortly before WWI to house "The Mexican", a movie theater located on the second floor. In 1919, Allen Thompson purchased the business and changed to the name to "The Alco Theater". This theatre was well-known for showing its serial Cowboy movies throughout the 1920's and 30's. These movie series kept the public coming back week after week wanting more. It is now home to Graham Underwriters' Insurance Agency, the town's oldest insurance firm.
10.	Crawford Building, ca. 1936 123 N. Main St.	The next building to your left is called the Crawford Building. It was built by Allen Thompson in 1936 and was home to Crawford's Department Store which was a popular place for locals to shop before the Malls and big box stores existed. John Crawford, the owner, was the mayor of Graham from 1921 – 1927, and again from 1929-1931, and again from 1935 – 1943, and finally from 1949-1953.
11.	Theater and Barber Shop, ca. 1928 – 117 & 119 N. Main St.	As you continue South on Main Street, you will see a large marquee of the present day Graham Cinema. The original Graham Theater was gutted by fire in 1935 but was quickly restored to its current state. The gala reopening featured Shirley Temple in "The Little Colonel". The Theater is still in operation and there are plans to have it fully renovated within the next few years. It features a balcony and unique architectural designs. It is very popular not only locally but nationally. The manager, Tim Bob Matthews has become a celebrity of sorts with his joke line and movie reviews. Radio stations from as far away as Australia call in to the joke line each week for sound bites.
12.	McAdams Buildings, ca. 1900s 109, 111, 113 N. Main St.	The next three buildings were previously combined and owned by the McAdams family. The buildings had numerous tenants over the years including, Graham Dry Goods, Shoe Repair business and a Sporting Goods Store to name a few. However, it was most known as the home of the "Crack & Joe" store whose owners were infamous in their own right. In 1907 a prize, consisting of a silk dress, was offered for the best

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		<p>poem on the name, and this was won by Mrs. William E. Tripp, whose family managed the Vestal Hotel. She wrote:</p> <p>“Crack & Joe: In a Nutshell Vestal House, Graham Town, Dry goods store of renown. Jolly men, “Crack & Joe” Stay in there, goods to show.</p> <p>Dry goods, notions, shoes and ties, Women’s, children’s, men’s supplies. Anything you may need. “Crack & Joe” take the lead.</p> <p>Call on them, day or night, Goods and prices, both are right, You’ll remember where to go, The original, “Crack & Joe.”</p> <p>In 1926, Crack & Joe moved to a new location and E. E. McAdams opened the McAdams Department Store here. It stayed in operation for a number of years. In the next building, W. A. McAdams operated McAdams Grocery for many years before being succeeded by R. A. “Bob” Moore Grocery in 1950. For years, Bob Moore’s Grocery still cut meat to order, ran charge accounts, and made deliveries to locals until closing due to Bob Moore’s death in the summer of 2006.</p>
13.	Scott Building, ca. 1900 – 101 N. Main St.	<p>The 2-story corner building is known as the Scott Building. It was built in 1900 by W. C. Donnell and his nephews J. L., Jr. and H. W. Scott. It was used for office space and was home to Ashburn’s Men Clothing Store for a number of years. The interior of the Scott building was remodeled to form one room and was occupied by Hal’s Men’s Shop who specialized in high quality men’s clothing. For many years, men would gather in the shoe department of Hal’s and socialize not unlike they did in Floyd’s Barber Shop on the Andy Griffith Show. Prior to the construction of the current building, the property was used by Captain E. S. Parker as a pasture to graze cows.</p>
14.	Retail Shops, ca. 1903 – 8 & 10 NE Court Square	<p>As you turn left, you will see some buildings located on the inside NE corner of Court Square. In 1902, Z. T. Hadley and Dr. W. R. Goley purchased this property and subsequently constructed the current buildings. Mr. Hadley and his family operated his jewelry and watch repairing business until 1970. "Z. T. Hadley Jeweler" is still inscribed at the entrance. Ten years after opening, Hadley erected the town's first radio tower over his store.</p>

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15.	Vestal Hotel, ca. 1904 14, 20, & 22 NE Court Square	<p>The next 2-story building takes up the remainder of the block and is known as the Vestal Hotel. The lot was purchased in 1896 by W. S. Vestal who built the Vestal Building, which housed several tenants including an office for the mayor of Graham. A hotel was built on the remaining land. It opened in January 1903 and then burned to the ground in July. It was replaced by the current structure in 1904 and has since been used for a wide range of tenants. Salesmen, judges, and out-of-town lawyers used the hotel during court session until the hotel closed in 1924. In 1928, the property was divided into several parcels and auctioned off to different owners. Several tenants occupied the building thereafter. Some of those tenants included the US Post Office, an automobile service station, Isley's Grocery, Riverside Café and Rich's Café. The bottom corner of the hotel was actually removed at one time so that cars could actually pull into the building to be fueled up. The second story of the building was held up merely by the supporting beams and corner braces.</p> <p>This building made the local news when it was reported that W. S. Vestal who was a widower at the time had become romantically attracted to Mildred Tripp, the innkeeper's daughter. It was reported in the Gleaner, as with the headline:</p> <p>ELOPED: Everyone was surprised to hear that Mr. W. S. Vestal and Miss Mildred Tripp, the pretty daughter of Mr. W. C. Tripp, proprietor of the Vestal Hotel, eloped last night. There was a dance at the hotel that broke up about midnight. After that the elopers carried out their plans. The young lady made her escape by a ladder placed at her window. Her apparel was brought out the same way They drove through the country and at 7 o'clock this morning were married at Reidsville. An advance agent had procured the license and had everything in readiness upon their arrival.</p> <p>The next morning, many locals were talking about the event because the ladder could be seen leaning against the side of the building where they had made their escape.</p>
16.	Colonial Hardware building, 1957 104 E. Elm St.	<p>The next building you see facing Elm St. after you turn left is a property that has been recently renovated and contains one of the county's oldest existing hardware stores. The parking lot to the right of the building was the site of an old two-story olive green house that was built sometime between 1857 and 1860. It was the home to Alamance Sheriff James T. Hunter who was sheriff for 14 years and served from 1872 until being defeated ultimately in 1886. Hunter's son-in-law, James Thaddeus Crocker, later became the mayor of Graham and was a practicing lawyer in Graham. Crocker is buried at Lynwood Cemetery.</p>
17.	Trollinger Hotel, ca. 1850 140 E. Elm St.	<p>As you continue to walk East, the last property on your left is known as the Trollinger Hotel. The existing house was once part of the hotel built by John Trollinger in 1850. The hotel originally extended to courthouse square and was named the Orange Hotel, Union Hotel, and Brick Hotel at various times. After the Civil War, the Graham Female Seminary was housed in the building, before reverting back to a hotel. Zebulon Vance stayed in the hotel during his 1876 campaign for Governor. It is currently being used as office space.</p>

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18.	Linwood Cemetery, 1854	If you were to continue to walk down Elm Street, you would run directly into one of the oldest cemeteries in Alamance County. The cemetery was the first real estate purchase for the City. It has markers dating back to the late 1800s. Many significant figures are now buried there including the former Governor Thomas M. Holt. While the cemetery is not on this historic tour, it deserves mention because of its great walkability and rich history.
19.	Automobile Service Station Formerly Mrs. E.A. Trollinger log home ca. 1853	As you turn the corner on Marshall Street, and walk toward the intersection of Harden St, the property to your left and on the corner originally had a log home built on it in 1853. The home was demolished in post World War II and replaced with the current automobile service station that operated as Dewey Allison's Service Station until August, 1998. When the original log home was being remodeled, a large amount of gold coins were found stashed away in the walls of the home. Since then, many locales become interested when they hear of any old buildings that are being dismantled.
20.	Harden House, ca. mid-nineteenth century 109 E. Harden St.	As you turn the corner heading West on Harden St and pass the brick building to your left, you will come to a 2-story home on your left that was built in the mid nineteenth century. Peter Harden, a local merchant, constructed the home. The home was located beside Harden's mercantile store, which has since been demolished. Tradition holds that Albion Tourgee resided in the house while serving as a member of the State Constitution Conventions of 1868 and 1875. It is currently the home of Landmark Surveyors.
21.	Gleaner Building, early twentieth century - 105 E. Harden St.	The next property is a brick building on your left that is known as the Gleaner Building because it once was the home to the <u>The Alamance Gleaner</u> , a weekly newspaper, that was started in 1875 by Captain Edward Parker on the third floor of the Trollinger Hotel, then moved to the Patterson building and the Harden store before ending up at this location. The publication survived until the 1950's, after which the printing plant was sold to Thomas Boney and moved to a new location. The <u>Gleaner</u> was succeeded by the <u>The Alamance News</u> . Much of what we know about local history is taken from the historical accounts of writers of <u>The Alamance Gleaner</u> .
22.	Mont-White Theater (former), ca. 1906 200 N. Main St.	As you continue West on Harden Street and cross Main Street, you will see a three-story building on your right known as, "The Opera House". In 1906 Edwin Holt White and Thomas Montgomery, of the Mont-White Theater Company, purchased this lot and erected the current structure referred to as the "The Opera House". The first floor was used for mercantile purposes, the second floor housed the stage and orchestra seats, and the third floor contained the balcony. The theater was one of the more elaborate in the area and hosted many reputable touring companies with ticket prices ranging from 50 cents to \$1.00. When no professional performances were scheduled, the theater was opened for civic functions, fraternal meetings, and plays by amateur groups.
23.	Former Graham Post Office, ca. 1935 – 128 W. Harden St.	As you continue toward Maple Street, you will pass the old Five & Dime store and the Register of Deeds on your left. The next building is known as the Graham Post Office building. In 1934 this lot was sold to the US government for \$5,250 to locate a new post office branch. The post office was open until 1977 when it was relocated to its current location on Marshall Street. It is now home to Shamrock Pawn Shop.
24.	Graham Presbyterian Church, ca. 1857 - 200 W. Harden St.	As you turn left on Maple Street, you will see a fountain to your right on the grounds of the Graham Presbyterian Church. In 1850, the Graham Presbyterian Church was formed when a Commission of the Orange Presbytery visited the area after the formation of Graham. A brick structure was built in 1857 by the church and it has been expanded over the years. The stained glass in the church is a beautiful work of art and great example of the fine glass artisans of the time period.

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25.	Alamance County Jail	As you continue South and cross Elm Street, you will see to your right the original location of the County's first jail that was built in 1853. The facility, however, was not as secure as modern-day facilities and in fact, in 1913, all five prisoners that were in jail on various charges escaped while the jailer and his wife were attending church service. In addition, this lot was the scene of a tragedy in July, 1936, when Robert S. Campbell, who lived nearby became intoxicated and shot his wife in the arm. He then fired a fatal shot at Jailor Lawrence George Gowens, who was also a deputy sheriff, as he approached across the yard to arrest him. This event was a major sensation, not only in the county, but in the state. Mrs. Alma Heritage Gowens, who served as her husband's assistant was appointed to serve the remainder of his term. She was the first female jailor in Alamance County, and perhaps in the state to do so.
26.	McClure Office Complex Buildings 114 S. Maple St.	The office complex to your left across from the Jail is the former site of the Silver Coach, an old bus that had been converted into a favorite local eatery. It was the best place in town to get a hotdog in the 1950's.
27.	Captain James White home – 1873 213 S. Main St.	As you approach Main St., you will see the municipal building and the Arts Council located to your right. Both facilities face Main St. While this is not on our tour today, it is a visit worth making if you have the time. The yellow home trimmed in white is known as the Captain James White home. It was built in 1873 by Edwin Michael Holt, a local cotton textile owner, for his daughter, Emma Virginia Holt White and his new son-in-law, Captain James White of the Confederate Army, whom he wished to keep near home when they married. E.M. Holt also built a home beside Emma's for his oldest daughter, Frances Annie (Fannie) Holt Williamson which is where the Graham Municipal Building is now located. The Arts Council is currently located in the Captain James White home. It is one of the oldest arts councils in the state of North Carolina. Incorporated in 1952, it serves Alamance County with a variety of programs that feature local and regional artists. If you have the time to visit, makes sure you check out the Picasso's Gift Shop located inside.
28.	Captain J. N. Williamson House, ca. 1878 - 141 S. Main St.	As you turn left on Pine Street and then again turn left on Main Street heading North, you will see the Captain J. N. Williamson House to your left. E. M. Holt built this house in 1878 and is referred to as "Elmhurst", for his daughter, Mary Elizabeth, and her husband, James N. Williamson. Williamson was a commanding officer in the Confederate Infantry and the founder of Ossipee Textile Mill. In 1993, Nationsbank purchased the property and renovated the house to its current state due in large part to the relentless urging of a local resident named, Sarah Rhyne, a strong advocate for historic preservation.
29.	Isley Knitting Mills, ca. 1906 - S. Main St. and E. Pine St.	On your right, you will see a two-story building known as the Isley Building. In 1906 Color "Cola" Russell, a local tinsmith and plumber, purchased this property and made improvements to the existing structure, which was then rented to a variety of businesses including the Isley Knitting Mills. Cola Russell was also well known in local history as the first depositor to the National Bank of Alamance.

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30.	W. J. Nicks Store, ca. 1851 – 102 S. Main St.	As you continue North, on your right you will see the site of the W. J. Nicks Store, one of the most important structures in Graham’s history. This building was originally constructed in 1851 for Thomas McLean and Robert Hanner for the McLean and Hanner Trading Company and was the largest commercial structure in Graham at this time. The building had three stories and a full basement and some of the bricks used in its construction were handmade on site. The building entrances were intentionally built elevated above street level so that the livestock that frequented the square would not find their way in. In 1892, W. J. Nicks purchased the building from James Bason and lived on the second floor. After purchasing the building Nicks added the two-story addition on the south side of the building. Sing Lee once rented this addition for use as the town's first and only Chinese laundry. This is one of the few pre-Civil War commercial buildings still remaining in the state. It is worth noting that Hurricane Hazel destroyed the third floor of the building in 1954 but the third floor was finally rebuilt by a local contractor in 2000.
31.	Holt-Scott General Store, ca. 1850-1860 - 38 SW Court Square & 105 S. Main St.	As you continue toward Court Square, you will come a building known as the Holt-Scott General Store on your left. There is a plaque commemorating this property. Edwin M. Holt constructed this building for his son Alfred and it was operated as a general store. It is the oldest standing building in Graham and was one of Graham's first business establishments. Over the years this building has housed several different tenants, including the Town's first bank, a branch of the Bank of Lexington.
32.	National Bank of Alamance, ca. 1906 – 36 SW Court Square	As you turn left on Court Square, you will see a two story building on your left, known as the National Bank of Alamance Building. The Bank of Alamance, which was organized on June 1, 1899, constructed this building after outgrowing a smaller structure on the site. In 1907, the bank's name became the National Bank of Alamance and in 1968 it merged with First Union National Bank. The former bank is one of the few that did not close during the Great Depression. It was well-known that Charlie Scott, the bank President would “seal the deal” with a handshake and that is how loans were made back then.
33.	Alamance County Annex Building Offices	As you turn the corner onto West Elm St., you will pass several one story buildings on your left. Continue down West Elm St. until you come to the first 2-story building on the corner which is the present day County Annex building. It was built after WWII. The lot previously housed the Graham one-room jail, and later a residence was built on the property for the Chief of Police and Fire. The original Graham jail was flimsy even in its time and it was actually reported that a prisoner cut his way through its wooden wall to freedom with a Barlow knife.
34.	John D. Xanthos statue, 2003	The bronze statue that stands in front of the Annex building and it was placed here in 2003 to honor the late John D. Xanthos, a local attorney who had dedicated his life to serving the public in the pursuit of justice. It was donated by friends and local attorneys who knew him. The simple words, “The People’s Advocate” is inscribed on the monument.
35.	Old Graham Fire Department, ca. 1911- 1912, 135 W. Elm St.	As you cross Elm St. and turn East, the third store from on your left is known as the Graham Fire Department Building. In 1911 the Town of Graham purchased this lot from L. Banks Holt for \$500.00 to build a "Firemen's Building". The structure cost \$1,997.50 and was constructed by Sam T. Johnston. Over the years, the Town Hall, the Police Department, and the Alamance County Arts Council were located in the building. The most recent occupant is the Graham Historical Museum. Interestingly, a small lock-up or jail was located in the rear of the building. Major renovations were undertaken in 2000 that restored some of the original building features such as the bay doors for the fire equipment. Access to the museum can be obtained by contacting the Historic Society President, Jerry Peterman at 336-226-4794.
36.	Christo Cola Bottling Works, ca. 1915 - 131 W. Elm St.	The next building on your left is known as the Christo Cola building. It was originally constructed in 1915 to house Graham's first soft drink manufacturing plant, the Christo Cola Bottling Works. The plant was in business only a short time before the Chero Cola Bottling Company

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		opened. The eastern wall of the building was exposed when an adjoining building was demolished. That wall has since been used as a surface for a mural depicting the original Alamance County Courthouse, W. J. Nicks Store, a grist mill, and some early dwellings until it was recently painted over in 2005.
37.	Chero Cola Bottling company, ca. 1916 103 w. elm s.	After you proceed past the parking lot, you will see a one-story brick building on your left. In 1916, Dr. Oliver Paris constructed this building to house the Chero Cola Bottling Company. At its opening, the company could produce “400 dozen bottles of the beverage ever day”. After a number of years in operation, the business was liquidated. Later the premises were occupied by John H. Loy, proprietor of the Carolina Beverage Company, bottlers of several brands of carbonated drinks, although Chero Cola was not one of them. During WWII, the Carolina Beverage Company went out of business. The building was then rented for a garage by Percy H. Amick for his Tire and Battery Hospital. After he retired in 1973, the building was vacant for several years before new owners converted it into the present day law office.
38.	Paris Building, ca. 1912 – 23 NW Court Square	The next building on your left is known as the Paris Building. Dr. O. J. Paris erected this 3-story building in 1912 after purchasing the lot in 1851. Although Dr. Paris never had an office in the building, Dr. Will Long, Sr. and his son, Herbert, who were dentists, had a practice on the second floor. The building, considered one of the finest commercial structures in Graham at the time of its construction, housed such tenants as Citizen's Bank, the Alamance Independent Phone Company and the U.S. Postal Service. The building has recently undergone complete restoration and it is known that many molars were found in the walls and flooring during the renovation process.
39.	Confederate Soldier Monument, ca. 1914 Court Square	<p>In the middle of Court Square stands a Confederate Soldier Monument that was put there by the town in the spring of 1914. It was erected to honor the Alamance County men who served in the Confederate Army. This memorial was placed on the north side of the courthouse where the town scales had stood for many years. Before the monument was raised, a box was buried in the mound. While there is no known record of the items placed in the box, one item is known. Captain James A. Turrentine, commander of Camp Ruffin of the Confederate Veterans, placed a miniature Confederate flag in the hands of his grandson, Durward T. Stokes, who dropped it into the box before it was sealed. Durward later rose to fame in Graham because of his strong dedication to preserving the history of Graham and by authoring the book, <u>Auction & Action: Historical Highlights of Graham, NC</u>. This book can be purchased at the City Hall or Library.</p> <p>The monument faces North to comply with an unwritten requirement of all memorials to the Lost Cause.</p> <p>The inscription on the north reads, To commemorate with grateful love, the patriotism, valor and devotion to duty of the brave soldiers of Alamance County, this monument is erected through the efforts of the Graham Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.</p> <p>The south side is inscribed, On Fame’s eternal camping ground, Their silent tents are spread, And glory guards with solemn round,</p>

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		<p>The bivouac of the dead. 1861 CSA 1865</p> <p>The inscription on the east side of the pedestal reads, “Faithful unto death, they are crowned with immortal glory,”</p> <p>and the one on the west side, “Conquered they can never be, whose souls and whose spirits are free.”</p> <p>On May 21, 1914, the monument was unveiled in the presence of 3,000 spectators. Today, the memorial still stands as a vivid symbol of American history and is remembered each 10th of May, which is Confederate Memorial Day, when the Daughters of the Confederacy place flowers at the base of the pedestal.</p>
40.	Alamance County Courthouse, ca. 1923 Court Square	<p>Located in the center of Court Square, the current courthouse was built in 1923. Originally, when Alamance County was formed, its county court met in the New Providence Christian Church until 1851, when the first court house was built on court square. This building is still being used to hold court today and contains offices for the Clerk of Superior Court. The walls of the courtroom also contain many portraits of some of North Carolina’s greatest legal minds throughout history.</p>
41.	Brief Historical Facts about Graham	<p>In closing, there are a few more facts I would encourage you to learn more about. For instance, did you know that Colonel James S. Cook, Jr. a native of Graham and a 1937 graduate of Elon University was responsible for designing the national flag under President Dwight D. Eisenhower’s administration? After the design was chosen by the president, Cook assisted in raising the banner on the White House flagpole. These performances earned Cook a citation from the president for the colonel’s “work related to the designing and adoption” of the national flag. Elon and Graham should be exceptionally proud that one their own played such an intimate part in the design of the flag that flies over the nation today. Colonel Cook occupied one of the houses that once existed on the South Main St. location of the Graham Savings Bank now SunTrust Bank.</p> <p>Another interesting fact is that there was gold here. Yes, Gold! Gold mining today is usually associated primarily with the famous mines in the western states discovered in 1848 but surprisingly enough, prior to that time, Georgia and North Carolina were the two leading states in production of the precious metal. As a result, the federal mints were established in both states and the one in Charlotte, North Carolina is now known as the Mint Museum. The infamous Gold Mine lot was located South of McAden St. between Main and Marshall Streets and consisted of 2 ½ acres of property near Graham Savings Bank now SunTrust. The mine was later filled in and houses were built over it. How would you like to know that your house was built on a gold mine?</p>

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		<p>Lastly, did you know that Graham actually made national headlines back in the late 1800s? It's true. Graham played a key role in American History with the Kirk-Holden War. The highly charged social unrest here after the Civil War led to the lynching of Graham Town Commissioner Wyatt Outlaw and Senator John W. Stephens in 1870. These events led to Governor William W. Holden declaring martial law, suspending the writ of habeas corpus, and the organization of a new militia led by Colonel George W. Kirk of Tennessee that was sent in to Alamance and Caswell County to restore order. Around one hundred very prominent citizens were arrested and held without right to trial. These unprecedented actions by the Governor led to his ultimate impeachment and a significant change in the political landscape with the 1870 election being carried overwhelmingly by the Conservative Democrats, resulting in the Republicans losing control of the North Carolina state Legislature. While the Kirk-Holden War was not a military war in the traditional sense and even though no battle was actually fought, it certainly was a political one and it significantly impacted American history and the end of Radical Reconstruction.</p> <p>I hope that this brief tour of historical downtown Graham makes you feel more connected to your community and makes American history and Graham's role in it a little more real and personal to you. This concludes your tour; however, I encourage you to visit the local historical museum for more information on local history.</p>

Biographical references can be obtained by contacting Jennifer Talley at 336-229-4225.