A Tourist’s Eye-View of Huntsville, Local Postcards Early 1900’s to Mid 1950’s

Historic Huntsville Foundation
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of Huntsville:
Local Postcards
Early 1900's to Mid 1950's

This humorous postcard was never used nor dated. The pre-occupied sweethearts have wet paint across their backsides, oblivious to the sign on the bench which warns of "Fresh Paint," while the printed script at top declares, "Altho' a little off colour." Printed at bottom left is "Souvenir of Huntsville, Ala."
TOP: "Washington St., Huntsville, Ala." Shown at right, around the turn of the century, are buildings on what is now East Side Square, looking north; at far left is North Side Square. BOTTOM: "Street Scene - Huntsville, Alabama." Similar view as above, during the 1940's.
TOP: "Washington Street Looking North, Huntsville, Ala." Circa 1941 view. BOTTOM: "Downtown Huntsville, Ala. This view shows part of the bustling city of Huntsville." Similar to preceding views; notice how some of the buildings have changed over the years.
TOP: "Jefferson Street, Huntsville, Ala." 1907 postmark. Looking north from Cotton Row (far left) on West Side Square; right background shows North Side Square. BOTTOM: "Street Scene, Huntsville, Ala." 1907 postmark. Looking south toward Madison St. from Cotton Row; left background shows South Side Square.
TOP: "County Court House, Huntsville, Ala." East Side Square buildings are in the background. BOTTOM: "Court House, Huntsville, Ala." 1923 postmark.
TOP: "Court House, Huntsville, Ala." 1907 postmark. The city's second courthouse, 1840-1913, was designed and built by local architect George Steele. BOTTOM: "County Court House, Huntsville, Alabama." The third courthouse was built in 1914, demolished in 1964.
TOP: "Deer in Court House Park, Huntsville, Ala." This was during the era of the second courthouse. 

TOP: "Federal Square, Huntsville, Ala." Old Post Office, built 1888-90, demolished 1954; was located on the west side of Green St. between Eustis and Randolph. BOTTOM: "S. O. Holmes, Furniture, Huntsville, Ala." 1911 postmark. With its facade covered with aluminum siding, the 1895 Van Valkenburgh building now houses Heilig-Meyers Furniture (formerly Sterchi's Furniture); NE corner of Jefferson and Clinton.
TOP: "Terry Brothers Co. Department Store, Huntsville, Ala." 1906 postmark. Formerly Dunnavant's Department Store, the 1905 building is now a renovated office complex; NE corner of Washington and Clinton. BOTTOM: "The Elks Theatre, Huntsville, Ala." 1906-1967, designed by local architect Edgar L. Love; was located about mid-block on the north side of Eustis between East Side Square and Green.
"Y.M.C.A., Huntsville, Ala." Built 1910-12, designed by Edgar L. Love; still serves as the Central Y.M.C.A. at the SE corner of Green and Randolph. "Lobby of Y.M.C.A., Huntsville, Ala." 1913 postmark.
TOP: "The Daily Times Building, Huntsville, Ala." 1952 postmark. Built 1926-28, renovation is being planned; SW corner of Green and Holmes. BOTTOM: "U.S. Post Office and Court House, Huntsville, Ala." Built during the 1930's, still serves as downtown Post Office and Federal Court building; NE corner of Holmes and Jefferson. Under the New Deal Works Progress Administration, a mural, "Tennessee Valley Authority," was painted on Belgium linen by artist Xavier Gonzalez and installed in 1937 on the second floor.

BOTTOM: "Hotel Russel Erskine, Huntsville, Ala." Built 1928-30, has been renovated for use as apartments for the handicapped and the elderly; SE corner of Clinton and Spragins.
TOP: "Huntsville Hotel, Nov. 4, 1910." Fire destroyed the 1858 building but left a later annex intact (far right). The business sign at left identifies an "Electric Pressing Parlor." BOTTOM: "Huntsville Hotel Fire, Nov. 11, 1911." This fire demolished the annex and the Opera House next door.
TOP: "State School, Huntsville, Alabama." Better known as the Huntsville Female Seminary; designed and built by George Steele in 1854-5 on Randolph, demolished in 1912. BOTTOM: "The Butler Training School, Huntsville, Ala." Built 1909, no longer standing; was located on Wells near Andrew Jackson Way.
TOP: "The Huntsville High School, Huntsville, Ala." 1912 postmark. Built 1902, demolished circa 1936-37 for new school to be built on the site; East Clinton between White and Calhoun. BOTTOM: "High School, Huntsville, Ala." Built 1927, presently being renovated for use as city schools administrative offices; SE corner of Randolph and White. Circa 1940 view.
TOP: "The East Hall, Oakwood College, Huntsville, Ala., built in 1910 ... This is the oldest building on the Oakwood College Campus." BOTTOM: "St. Mary's Catholic Church, Huntsville, Ala." The cornerstone was laid in 1861, but due to the Civil War the building was not completed until 1872; still in use as St. Mary's Church of the Visitation; 222 N. Jefferson.
TOP: "First Baptist Church, Huntsville, Ala." 1909 postmark. 1894-95 to 1963; West Clinton at Gallatin (now Clinton and Spragins).

BOTTOM: "First Methodist Church, Huntsville, Ala." 1908 postmark. Built 1867-74, still in use; NW corner Randolph and Green.
TOP: "The Episcopal Church, Huntsville, Ala." Built 1858-59, still in use; SW corner of Eustis and Green. This hand-tinted postcard depicts the church as being gray stone rather than red brick. BOTTOM: "The Church of the Nativity, Huntsville, Ala." Interior view of the above church with Christmas greenery.
TOP: "First Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, Ala." Built 1859, still in use; NW corner of Lincoln and Gates. BOTTOM: "Central Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, Ala." Built 1899, still in use; SE corner of Lincoln and Randolph.
TOP: "Randolph St., Huntsville, Ala." 1908 postmark. BOTTOM: "Scene on Franklin St., Huntsville, Ala."
TOP: "East Clinton St., Huntsville, Ala." BOTTOM: "East Holmes Street, Huntsville, Ala." 1911 postmark.
TOP: "Mr. M. B. Neece's Residence, Huntsville, Ala." 703 East Clinton, according to the 1911-12 City Directory. BOTTOM: "Sugg Home, Huntsville, Ala." East Holmes.
TOP: "The Grove, Huntsville, Ala." Built 1815, demolished mid-1920's. The Grove plantation house was located approximately at the site of the present Mental Health Center on Gallatin between Williams and Lowe. BOTTOM: "The Weeden Homestead, Huntsville, Alabama." Home of poet and artist Maria Howard Weeden. 1906 postmark. Built 1819, restored for use as a house museum; SE corner of Gates and Green.
TOP: "Maj. Echols Home, Huntsville, Ala." 1911 postmark. Built circa 1814 by LeRoy Pope, now serves as the president's home for the University of Ala. in Huntsville; 403 Echols Ave.

BOTTOM: "The Bierne Home, Erected 1837, Huntsville, Ala." 1908 postmark. The Bibb-Newman-Hutchens Home has been owned for many years by descendants of its builder, Gov. Thomas Bibb; 300 Williams Ave.
TOP: "Residence of Mr. & Mrs. Milton K. Cummings, Huntsville, Alabama." Built circa 1850, now known as the Watkins-Moore-Rhett Home; 603 Adams Ave. Circa 1951 view. BOTTOM: "Oaklawn Plantation ... was built around 1844 and served as a hospital during the Spanish-American War ..." Also known as the Robinson-Luther Home; 1620 Meridian St.
TOP: "Bradley Home, Huntsville, Ala." 1911 postmark. Joseph J. Bradley was the agent for Merrimack Mills. Still standing, the house is located on Broad Place, near the mill buildings on Triana Blvd. BOTTOM: "Library at Dallas Mills, Huntsville, Ala." 1910 postmark.
TOP: "Big Spring, Huntsville, Ala."  BOTTOM: "The Spring and Ford, Huntsville, Ala."
TOP: "A Close Up View of the Big Spring, Huntsville, Alabama. Capacity of Spring 24,000,000 Gallons Daily."

BOTTOM: "The Big Spring, Huntsville, Ala. Twenty-four million gallons daily."
TOP: "Big Spring Park, Huntsville, Alabama. Capacity of Spring, 24,000,000 Gallons Daily. View of the Big Spring from which Huntsville secures its water supply." 1940 postmark.

BOTTOM: "Inspiration Point, Monte Sano Mountain, Elevation 2,000 Ft., Near Huntsville, Ala." 1941 postmark.
TOP: "Public Lodge and one of the Cabins, Monte Sano State Park, Huntsville, Ala. The Public Lodge and the modern fully equipped stone cabins in Monte Sano State Park are built entirely of stone obtained from the vast quantities of this stone on Monte Sano." Circa 1937 view.

BOTTOM: "Beautiful View from Monte Sano State Park, Huntsville, Ala." Circa 1941 view.

TOP RIGHT: "El Rose Motel, U.S. 231 N. and 241 N. Inside City, Huntsville, Alabama. - 15 Air conditioned brick units, Hot water heat, Private tiled baths, Simmons equipped
throughout.... In City Limits ... on Florida Short Route, Phone 281." BOTTOM LEFT & RIGHT: "Bon-Air Motel - Electric Heat, Air-Conditioned, Tile Showers, Beautyrest Mattresses, Excellent Air-Conditioned Restaurant in connection.... U.S. Highway 231, inside City limits, Nearest to Town, North of Huntsville, Alabama, Phone: Jefferson 2-5562." These three motels were on Meridian St.
TOP: "Monte Plaza Hotel Courts, Highways 38 & 241 South in City Limits, Huntsville, Alabama. - Featuring Large Rooms, Luxuriously furnished with Simmons Metal Furniture.... Tile Baths, Carpeted Floors, Automatic Electric Heat, Room Coolers, Fluorescent Lighting, Phones. Look Inside and You'll Stay."

BOTTOM: "Hospitality House Dining Room, Adjoining Monte Plaza Motel, Huntsville, Ala." These two were on Whitesburg Dr.
TOP: "Park Valley Motel, 6 Miles South of Huntsville, Ala. U.S. 231 and Ala. 38. Away from city noises...." 1954 postmark. BOTTOM: "Clement C. Clay Bridge over the Tennessee River near Huntsville, Ala. This magnificent structure over the Tennessee River is a few miles out of Huntsville on the newly paved 'Airline Highway' to Birmingham, Ala. and all points south." 1952 postmark.
TOP: "Scene on Flint River, Huntsville, Ala."
BOTTOM:  "Union Passenger Station, Chase, Alabama." 1913 postmark.  Surprisingly, there were no postcards of the Huntsville Railway Depot in these collections.