

Historic Woodville Stage Coach District 2001

The historic district of Woodville, Alabama—the Old Stage Coach—was derived from the official name given the road that was cut through the county about 1819. It ran from Huntsville through Jackson County. This stage coach road went through Old Woodville and also the present town of Woodville.

Henry Derrick came to Alabama, down the Tennessee River to Gunter's Landing and then came to Old Woodville in 1915. He built a two-story log house for his family on the stage coach road. He kept an inn where he provided a livery and facility for the change of horses. Before coming to Woodville, Henry was a representative in the Legislature. Derrick helped to hold the first court in Jackson County. He was a man of means and a slave owner and acquired a large tract of land.

Woodville's Old Stage Coach District is composed of residences, buildings and sites between 1971 and 1931. The historic list of place are those considered worthy of preservation for their significance in American history, architecture and culture. They have been carefully researched and identified.

The source of information for these historic houses, sited, and buildings has included the research of deeds, mortgages, wills, census, and tax records. Also tours of the houses and sites were made, interviews with families and senior citizens, and the use of books of history of various families.

The information on the Historic Woodville Stage Coach District was researched, compiled, and documented by Joyce Kenamer.

Thomas-Collins House, ca. 1904



Robert J. Thomas was the youngest child of W. C. and Clara Thomas. He was raised in Thomas Cove and became a prosperous farmer and later resided in Woodville. He secured an enormous amount of land during his lifetime.

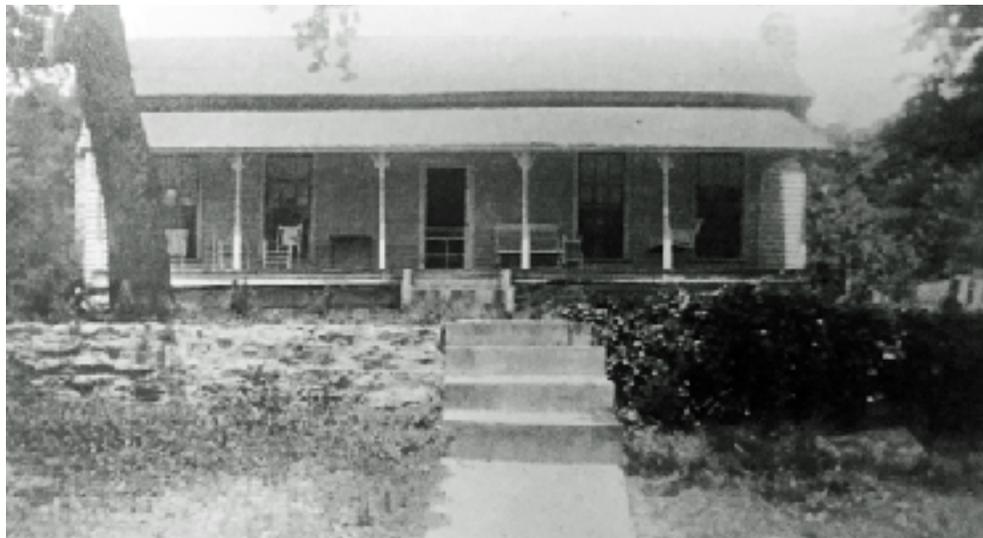
In 1871, he first married Sarah Elizabeth Fletcher. They lived on the Thomas land and had a family, but many of the children died at an early age. Robert's wife, Sarah, died in 1900. In 1903, he married the second wife, Nancy Louisa Allison. They had one daughter, Robert Louisa Thomas. Mr. Thomas died in 1918 and his widow continued living in this house until her death.

Robert Louisa married A. D. Collins; they remodeled the old home place and lived there all their married life. They had one daughter, Nancy Collins Helms. Louisa was a teacher at Woodville School. A. D. Collins built a glass station on the west side of Highway 35 in 1949.

Hodges-Proctor House Ca. 1877



The property that this house is on was known as the Old Dillard gin lot. Records show that Dr. J. N. Scott came to Woodville in the fall of 1874 and was the second Methodist minister in the First Methodist Church that was built near the old elm tree. Scott was a good carpenter and built houses for many people the two or three years he was at Woodville. Dr. Scott built a dwelling on the Old Dillard gin lot. He sold it to Dr. Dave H. Little in 1877. Dr. Little was the first Mayor of Woodville in 1880. He stayed at Woodville about five years and in 1884 passed the house and property to a relative. This house and property has changed hands many times since this date. The last two property owners were Homes Hodges and Millard Proctor. Several doctors rented or boarded at this home. Dr. McGahey came back to Woodville and died at this house in 1926. Records show that at least four doctors were residents in this house at different times and, of course, Dr. Scott built the house. Records do not show whether he actually was a resident or not. The only architectural change that has been made in this house over the years is that the dogtrot hall was closed in when the Home Hodges family lived here. He also built the rock wall that is in the front yard. The house is vacant. It is owned by Regina and Bud Worthey.



David Logan Kennamer House ca. 1887



This house was built and owned by Patrick H. Woodall from 1887 to 1919. P. H. was a depot agent and a merchant in Woodville for many years. He also operated a sawmill and sawed cedar blocks to make pencils. He and his family moved to Stevenson around 1902 and became active as a merchant and in the banking business.

In 1919 David Logan Kennamer bought this house and lived here until his death in 1942. He was raised in Kennamer Cover. He was a leading citizen in the Woodville Community and a very substantial man. David and his wife operated a lunch bar and sold groceries in the W. O. W. building a few years. He later owned and ran a filling station on the Lee Highway.

The house has been remodeled and added to many times, the basic structure is still there. It is a two-story and has cedar uprights in the walls, and cedar poles in the structure of the floor foundation. One limestone chimney still stand at this house, and one has been replaced by a brick chimney.

Mrs. David Logan was said to be a very kind, loving lady. She loved to sit around the old limestone fireplace and talk with friends and relatives. It is said she was one of the best cooks in town.

Arlene and Cartez Weaver own and live at this residence today.

Robert L. Jones House, Ca. 1898



Emmett Woodall bought land and built this home in 1898. He bought the land from H. D. Walls of Grant, Alabama, who worked at a sawmill at the Paint Rock River bridge crossing. H. D. Walls lost an arm while operating the steam circular saw. He was a great land dealer.

R. L. Jones bought the house from Emmett Woodall in 1906. R. L. Jones married Biddie Peters in 1903. They were often called "Uncle Bob" and "Miss Biddie." They had not children. He went off to Albertville for years of schooling after graduating from high school. From 1901 to 1920, he was connected in mercantile business, a clear and partnerships. From 1925 to 1950, he was a rural mail carrier on Route One, Woodville, Alabama. Mr. Bob was a Notary Public 33 years and sold insurance. Mrs. Biddle loved to cook and have gusts in to eat with them and thoroughly enjoyed finshing. They were ready to take in those who needed a place to stay; also they rented rooms out to boarders. Mr. Bob had an interest in processing peach seed that he shipped away that was used to make medicine.

Dr. Boggess' wife operated a hotel in their home, which was referred to as the Boggess Hotel. The large area upstairs had a back outside door that opened just inside to a set of stairs. Some seem to think the upstairs area was used for the doctor's office and for hotel accommodations.

There was a livery stable on the property to accommodate those passing through. Many salesmen would go from town to town to call on a merchant. Dr. Boggess remained and practiced at Woodville for years, then moved to other places he in the county. He sold the hotel to Dr. Wade Esslinger and his wife, she ran the hotel and he did his medical practice. They only stayed here for a few years. In later years, Dr. Boggess and his wife were members of the Methodist Church and that his wife was very active in the church. Later Wiley Butler, then Claude Hodges owned the house. Cindy and Jeffrey Wilson own and live there.

Pleasant Jacob “P.J.” Kennamer House ca. 1902



This home was built about 1902 by J. B. Woodall. The style of this house is basically the same as today. In early time it had a tile roof, two limestone chimneys at each end of the house and the foundation was square limestone, the outside wood on the house was clapboard. There was a big hall as one walked in and large rooms on either side. This made it convenient to accommodate two families or boarders. In 1920 P. J. Kennamer and family bought this house and moved to Woodville. P. J. was born in 1866 and was the son of David and Kitty (Hodges) Kennamer. He lived in Kennamer Cove and farmed for many years. P. J. was elected County Commissioner in 1912 in Marshall County. He was an expert sawmill man and in 1897 built a home in Kennamer Cove that still stands and is in excellent condition. The home is owned by Steve A. Kennamer.

After P. J. moved to Woodville, he farmed and worked in the mercantile business and he died in 1945. His wife Cora Ella continued living in the same house that was bought earlier. Mrs. Ella's daughter, Audrey, and her husband Hubert Hall moved in the house with Mrs. Ella and took care of her until her death. Mrs. Audrey inherited the house since she had spent 33 years taking care of her mother. Audrey and Hubert remodeled the house inside and removed the limestone chimneys, added a carport, new roof, and bricked the outside. In August 2001, Mrs. Audrey sold this house since she was not able to take care of herself. At 95, she still had excellent memory. She died February 29, 2002. Ronnie and Carl Hornbuckle of Huntsville bought this home.





Charlotte Robert House ca. 1903

Charlotte Roberts was born in 1865 and was the daughter of J. R. and Sarah Woodall. She married Jeff Roberts and they had five children. Charlotte Roberts bought a lot with a log house on it in 1892. As records show the log house had been on the property since at least 1880. Charlotte had a hardship raising her five children by herself. Census shows that in 1900 she divorced Jeff Robert. J. R. Woodall, Mrs. Charlotte's father, died in 1886 and her mother lived until 1905. Charlotte's dad left an enormous amount of property. Records show that there was money available from Charlotte's father's estate to help her build a house.

The log cabin was torn away and this two-story house was built about 1903. It had double fireplaces downstairs and two single fireplaces upstairs. They have grates on them for coal burning. Mrs. Charlotte had a certain spot in the side of her yard that was the coal pile. The upstairs apartment was rented to boarders. The architecture of the stairway and rail is a great piece of art. The rooms are large with original doors and wide trim work. The enclosed garage at the back and a few storage buildings have been added. The white columns on the porch are original. The house was originally wood on the outside before it was covered with siding. Under the floor is a fragment of the foundation of the old log house.

Mrs. Charlotte lived to be about 94 years old. Talmadge Kenamer owns this house.

Woodall-Cobb House ca. 1904



William H. Woodall was born in 1849 and married Mary Harless in 1870. They raised their family in and around the Woodville area. Mrs. Fannie Maples was their daughter along with other siblings. W. H. was in the mercantile business. He built and operated a gin and was in the timber business. He was elected Tax Collector of Jackson County in 1896. He was an Alderman for the Town of Woodall in 1880. The records show that W. H. acquired considerable property in his lifetime. W. H.'s wife Mary died in 1905.

Records indicate that W. H. built their house about 1904, but they also show he had access to this property before this date. The mantle board has an inscription "Henry-1904-Fannie" Henry and Fannie are two of W. H.'s children. In 1910 William H. Woodall married Mattie Cobb, widow of Martin Cobb Sr. He died in 1900, just before his son, Martin Jr., was born.

The two-story home with its dormers on the front and back, its chimney, the tin roof, and the long porch are architectural features that indicate it is a typical farmhouse. The home has three fireplaces. In the kitchen is a brick flue that was used for a wood stove. There is an extremely large fruit cellar. The structure of the house is basically the same except a back porch and storage building have been added and the wood siding has been replaced with vinyl.

Regina and Bud Worthey own and reside in this home.

John Wesley Maples House, ca. 1907



John Maples married Fannie Woodall in 1907. She was the daughter of W. H. Woodall. Miss Fannie received a B.S. degree in 1896. She taught in several Jackson County Schools. She was very active in the Methodist Church where she taught Sunday school, played the organ, and for many years served as recording secretary for the Quarterly Conference.

John was a railroad agent with Southern Railroad Company at Woodville for 35 years. His duties included ticket sales, western union operator and freight and express agent. Early years as a railroad agent he was required to climb the pole daily to light kerosene signal lanterns. Mr. John was a teacher in very early schools. They had no children.

It was the knowledge of the nephew that Fannie and John had the house built and got married in the same year. The structure of the house basically remains the same inside, the beaded ceilings, walls and wood floors. The only changes to the exterior are a metal roof and vinyl siding. Mr. John loved the outdoors and soon after building the house he set out maple trees in the yard. These trees are still standing today and from these beautiful trees the house became known as "Maplewood."

Gaylia and Charles Tanner own and live in the house today.

Elbert R. Campbell House, ca. 1908



Emmett Woodall bought land from the Heirs of W. P. Gwynn December 1906. He built this house in 1908 and lived in it until he sold it to Elbert Campbell in 1916. Emmett was an experienced builder and lumber was plentiful with all the sawmill men around this area. Emmett had built a house very similar to this one earlier and lived in it about eight years and sold it to R. I. Jones just around the mountain behind the Methodist Church.

Elbert Campbell started to work with J. R. Kennamer in the mercantile business in 1910. He work for six years and bought J. R.'s interest in 1916. Elbert went to the navy in 1917. J. R. bought his interest back until Elbert came back from the service. Elbert Campbell and Earl Kennamer bought the interest, building, and lot in 1919 for \$3,000.00. Later Elbert's brother joined him and he worked there until he retired. The storehouse was called Campbell Brothers.

Mrs. Virginia (Ayres) Campbell, Elbert's wife, was very active in the church, school, and community. She taught school during the early years and later she taught piano lessons. Their home was a place one could feel welcome. Mrs. Virginia took pride in helping children in the church and school, directing plays and playing the piano on special occasions.

The two-story house is a typical farmhouse with the dormers on the tin roof and a long porch and a chimney at one end. The house is wood frame and it appears that the exterior wood and windows are all original. It still has some beaded board inside, but much of it has been wallpapered. The fireplace, with a coal grate and mantle, is still erect. The kitchen has a flue that accommodated a wood cooking stove. In the kitchen is an area that appears to have served as a butter pantry, since there is a fruit cellar under the kitchen. The upstairs is spacious and more light is provided with the windows from the dormers and the side windows.

The Campbell home was a place teachers, doctors, and other chose to rent rooms. They installed an exterior door on the left side of the house. It is said that was where the doctors, patients, and bordered had provide access to their rooms and was also near the steps that led upstairs.

Larry Damrom owns this house.

Samuel Elbert Kennamer House ca. 1911



Elbert was born in 1886 to P. J. Kennamer and Eliza Elkins. He was born and reared in Kennamer's Cove and also farmed there. He married Julia Mae Butler in 1906. In 1919 they moved to Woodville and bought a home that was owned by the Woodville family. Elbert entered the mercantile business with W. H. Butler and George Butler as partners.

He and Julia were members of the Primitive Baptist Church. Elbert was the clerk of the Mud Creek Association for years. Prior to the time Elbert bought the house, there were many families that boarded there. The arrangement of the house could accommodate many separate families. Dr. J. J. McGahey lived there at one time.

The architecture of the house has Queen Anne influence, two-story with a wrap around porch. The two dormers on the roof provide a source of light and add to the architecture of the house and also give it a farmhouse look. The interior of the house has two fireplaces with marble tile inlays and beautiful mantle boards. Over the years some changes have occurred such as an addition of a carport, new roof and a new type of siding.

Teresa and Jim Douglas own and live in this house.

Walter J. Kennamer House ca. 1908



Walter was the son of S. H. and Mary Frances Kennamer. He married Nell Barclay in 1905 and had a fine family. He made his life long residence in Woodville. In 1908, Walter had a nice house built just a short distance from the lower end of the Park on County Road 8. Walter was a great leader in the community, church, and he served as the Mayor of Woodville.

Walter had a love for salesmanship; this was his life long goal. He worked in the store of J. R. Kennamer and Company, and in J. B. Woodall's store. He entered the mercantile business for himself and had a thriving business, ginning cotton and selling fertilizer. Walter became a salesman for Thomas Dry Goods Co. He retired in 1949 and enjoyed his hobby, bird and fox hunting. His principal avocation was raising fancy Orpington chickens.

The two-story house is a farmhouse style, although the builder must have modified the plans and made the porch shorter to create an alcove effect to the room on the right side. The wood on the exterior is the original put on in 1908. The shingles have been replaced recently. There are two double fireplaces with large mantles. There is a brick flue outside the kitchen that allowed for the use of a wood stove at one time. Most of the beaded board has been replaced by sheetrock, and paneling. All the floors except the kitchen and bathroom have original tongue and groove flooring on them.

Henry and George Webb own and live in this house.

Kenamer and Campbell Store House, ca. 1909



In 1903, J. R. Kenamer, Sr. bought a small business house from P. H. Woodall that stood where the present BJCC now stands. J. R. entered the mercantile business along with some of the Kenamer's and others as partners. Around 1909, J. R. Kenamer had a new mercantile building built on the same site as the old building used in 1903. Elbert Campbell joined J. R. as a partner in the mercantile business. The storehouse was known as the Kenamer and Campbell Store House. Later the Campbell brothers bought the building and stock from J. R. Kenamer and they ran it until they retired in the 1970s.

In J. R. Kenamer's memoirs, he refers to how different mercantile business was in 1903-1909. The merchants usually bought two big bills of good a year since communication was limited. He refers to there being entirely too much credit and if a merchant over bought a supply of goods, instead of storing and keeping the good for the next year he would have sales at low prices and also auctions were held. People would come from miles to get a good low price item.

After the Campbell Brothers retired from the mercantile business, Bob Johns bought the building and used it as a place to store some of his records and memorabilia. Around 1980 Bob Johns moved his records to Scottsboro and gave the building to the Town of Woodville. The building is used as a community center and a Historical Museum. It is known today as the Bob Jones Community Center.

David C. Kennamer, Sr. House, ca. 1911



“D. C.” as he was known was born in 1871 to David and Kitty Kennamer and reared in Kennamer Cove. He was an expert sawmill man and ran a mill at various places for about twelve or fifteen years, beginning in 1899. He followed farming, trading livestock, and milling as a means of livelihood. His business enterprises on the whole have been crowned with splendid success. In all civic enterprises he was considered one of the leaders.

In 1892 D.C. married Clemie Isom. She was born near Woodville. When she was small her parents moved away and there she was, an orphan at 12 years. Tom M. Cobb and his wife took her into their home and took care of her for about five years. Clemie and D.C. moved to Woodville to a new house and bought a farm joining it in 1911. They raised a great family that was very successful in life. No doubt that success was due to the training and examples he gave them.

After the death of D.C. and Clemie, their son D. C. Jr. and his wife Marie lived in the home place for a while. Leon Kennamer bought the house from D. C. Jr. around 1977 and remodeled it. The fireplaces, mantles, and staircase were restored and the general architecture is basically maintained with the exception of new doors, windows, brick, roofing, and a larger porch. Loretta and James Brothers own and reside here.

Henry D. Stephens House ca. 1911



Henry was the son of William Green and Mary Jane (Derrick) Stephens. Henry's father died at an early age and left Henry's mother with the responsibility of raising the family. His mother was a sister to Dr. Lafayette Derrick. At Dr. Derrick's death, he left his sister a lot of land and property.

In 1911 Henry built his house in the north part of town on property inherited from his mother. In 1908 his mother made a deed to Henry that if he took care of her until death all the property would be his. She died in 1908. However, other heirs challenged Dr. Derrick's will and it took until 1911 for Henry to get a clear title to build. When Henry built his house he modified the farmhouse roof to gables instead of dormers since this was a one-story house.

Henry had worked with George Bulman extensively in the timber business and this training developed the skills in him to prepare his timber for building of his home. He built the dwelling and stores for others and was also in the mercantile business.

Tom M. Cobb dug some wells and built a dwelling on the property before Henry inherited it. The dwelling had a workshop downstairs where Tom Cobb made coffins. These coffins were made of undressed lumber, trimmed with it or without; the cheaper ones were trimmed with domestic and black calico, the costlier ones were trimmed in velvet.

Monroe Hodges House, ca. 1930



Monroe and Addie lived near Mount Olivet where they farmed and reared their family. Most people knew Monroe as “Fonny” and the land he owned and farmed is still called “Fonny Bottoms.” Their son, Rayford, received his degree in medicine and rode a horse to his office in Woodville. He began his practice with Dr. J. J. McGahey.

Mr. Fonny bought a house in 1920 and moved to Woodville. The house bought in 1920 was old at that time, but the Hodges had a new one built around 1930. During this time he sold drinks and operated a soda fountain in the W.O.W. building for a while. The site of this property in 1868 contained a store house and dwelling owned by John Brown, later by J. R. Woodall. Here they did a good business, ran a hotel, fed the trainmen and passengers. Also on the site was a blacksmith shop and gristmill located about where the garden spot is today. Mr. Fonny used this old blacksmith shop as a barn after he bought the property.

Jean Evans Wilder owns and resides here today.

W. G. Jone House ca. 1915



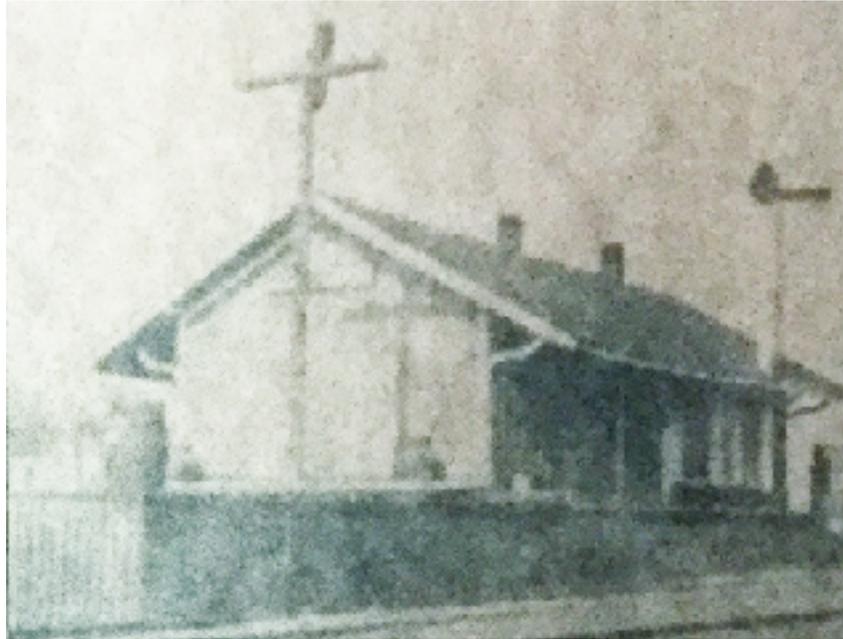
William G. Jones Sr. was the son of Joel and Demarius Jones. He was raised in Woodville and attended Woodville Grammar School and Albertville and Scottsboro High School. He taught at Woodville School after receiving his degree at Florence State College. He married Amanda Flanagan of Paint Rock; she is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Flanagan. Mrs. Amanda was a partner in the mercantile business in Woodville. Amanda and Will were active members of the Woodville Baptist Church. They were very supportive of the building process of the Church.

The property this house is on is the location Dr. Francis Dillard settled in 1836, He owned 1200 acres and about twenty-five slaves. The Dillard house was torn down and the present home was built in 1915. Robert J. Thomas owned this property before the 1900s and his son Ernest became owner of it along with the house from 1915 to 1923. The house was a dogtrot style. The dogtrot went all the way through to the back porch. It consists of only one bedroom, a side room, living room, kitchen, and dining room.

When Mr. Will and Mrs. Amanda bought the house in 1925 the changes were slow but in the early forties two bedrooms were added, the side room eliminated, the dog trot closed to become part of the living room and the back porch became part of the hall. Later a den was built on the west side of the house.

Bill Jones, the son of W.G. and Amanda, owned this house today.

Woodville Depot and Railroad Mid 1850s



In the 1850s means of travel in Woodville were destined for a change. The change would be fought in some places. That was not true in Woodville. The Memphis and Charleston railroad was surveyed for a railroad location. The place selected was approximately three-fourths of a mile from Old Woodville, the first life. The company was chartered by an act of the State Legislature, January 1850. The people of Woodville and the entire community using wise foresight took great interest in building this railroad. They contributed liberally; the survey was begun; the work completed and the second life of the town of Woodville, Alabama had begun.

Besides the convenience and boost to local income, the coming of the railroad, its tracks, its trains, its depot added greatly to the social life of Woodville. The ladies along with the men of Woodville in the mid 1850s could stroll down and watch the trains go by. There was an enjoyment to see and wave to a friend passing by or waiting on the nearby platform to meet a friend or relative.

In 1886 Lucinda Butler Phillips was hit by a train near the Woodville Depot which later caused her death. She would not make any claim for damage from the Railroad Company because she said, "I was in fault."

During the late 1950s, the Woodville Depot was closed and sold to a private Citizen who moved it to Highway 72 (Highway 35) and converted it into a grocery store. There are three small houses on Railroad Street (House #3-4-5) which were used as section houses for railroad hands that provided service for the railroad. The year these houses were built is not clear, but their existence by local citizens can be traced back to the early 1900s.

George S. Butler House ca. 1916



George Samuel Butler had extensive farming interests in Jackson and Madison Counties. He was in mercantile business in Woodville for many years in different partnerships, but George was always the principal figure. He was a man of good management and integrity, always of honest principals and willing to help his fellow man.

George and his wife, Annie, had no children of their own. His brother's wife died when their only child was very young. George and Annie took the sons and reared him as their own. Their home was filled with love and wisdom and they were beloved people in Woodville. Annie was a dear and wonderful lady.

Annie and George bought J. R. Kenamer's brick home after he died and sold this house to Velma and Verbon Bishop. Sharon Bishop Evans owns and lives in this house today. She is the daughter of Velma and Verbon.

William Sidney Kennamer ca. 1923



Sidney was the youngest son of David and Kitty Kennamer and was reared in Kennamer Cove. He worked on the farm and attended the public schools and later went to Green Academy and Tri-State Normal. He married Tempie Doss and reared five sons and four daughters.

In December 1923, Sidney bought a home in Woodville and went into the mercantile business for many years. He was a good leader and had a supportive disposition.

Article Page built this home in 1923 and lived in it a while. It is said the house was not completed inside when Sidney and Tempie moved in.

The structure of the house is basically the same. New siding and roofing has been added. the walls inside are of old beaded wood. At one time there may have been fireplaces, the mantle boards are still intact.

Holly and Michael Carney own and reside in this house.

Ernest Thomas ca. 1923



Ernest was the son of Robert J. and Sarah Fletcher Thomas. He married Eliza Hodges and they had two sons, Gordon and Clyde.

Both Ernest and Elize belonged to the Primitive Baptist Church and were very zealous in their religious affairs. Ernest served as a deacon in the Church and a trustee of Woodville School. He lived in Woodville most of his life and engaged in farming and carpentry.

Ernest built this house in 1923. It was built on land left to Ernest by his father, R. J. Thomas. The structure of the house is basically the same except the line of the room has been modified due to a fire in the ceiling. It has the original lap siding and tongue and groove flooring. There is a large open hall in the entrance with large rooms on either side and one large room upstairs.

Myra and Will Atchley own and reside in this house.

Peter F. Maples ca. 1924



Peter Maples was born in 1874 in Madison County. He was the son of George and Sarah Maples. He married Elgie Hodges in 1900. They moved to Albertville, while there Peter work as a drug store and Elgie taught school. Ellie died and was buried in Albertville. In 1921, Peter married Ethel Campbell, and she died in 1931. Peter's third wife was Bernice Kennamers, D.C. and Clemie Kennamer's daughter.

In 1924, Peter purchased land from his brother John and had this house built. Peter worked for Kennamer and Campbell Store in Woodville; he later withdrew from the firm and operated a grocery store. He retired in 1948 because of his health.

This house has been well preserved over the years in keeping with the time period. The windows and doors are original, the doors have locks with skeleton keys and French doors lead to a dining room. The walls have been textured to provide an old plaster look. The fireplace has a wooden carved mantle.

The back yard has a very interesting landscape. it has an English Courtyard setting. There are all kinds of fruit trees, vines, gardens, and three out buildings. The out buildings consist of an above ground fruit cellar, a workshop with old tools hanging on the barn wood wall, a chicken house that has a cage used to protect setting hens.

Rachel and Paul Quillen own and reside in this house.

Luther Thomason ca. 1928



Luther Thomason was the son of William and Mariah Thomason. He married Ida Write December 1933, she was the daughter of John and Mary Nancy Wright. Nancy was the daughter of Stephen D. Kennamer. Luther was employed by the railroad for many years. He was also skilled in carpentry work.

The land this home was built on was bought from Norman Kennamer. Luther with the help of others built this house. There is a double fireplace used at one time for burning coal. Some of the tongue and groove flooring and beaded walls and ceilings still exist.

Mary Elizabeth Thomason owns and reside in this house.

John R. Kennamer Sr. House built in 1929



J. R. was the son of David Kennamer and Kitty Hodges. He was born in the east room of a long cabin in Kennamer Cover at the David Kennamer place. The family physician was Dr. Lafayette Derrick. His swaddling clothes were made of wool flannel. It was the custom in those days for babies to wear yard flannel, even in the poorest families.

He was raised on a farm and taught farming techniques beginning at an early age of seven years old. He married Sarah (Sallie) Page in 1896. He tells how he was plowing May 28, 1896, when the sun was in eclipse. It was so dark chickens went to roost; some people thought the world was coming to an end. They had no source of communication to inform them as to what was happening.

He was a teacher, postmaster, merchant, writer and author of many books. He moved to Woodville in 1903 and bought an old hotel building until he was able to build a new brick home in 1929. He built on the same property he had lived since 1903. He lived here until his death in 1952. In 1913 he donated land for the Church of Christ building. J.R. and Mrs. Sallie raised a large family that became very successful in life.

Barbara and Harry Lack own and live in this brick veneer home today.

J. R. Kennamer Jr. ca.1930



Sam Prince built this house. He lived in it a very short time and then sold it to J. R. Kennamer Jr.

J. R. Kennamer Jr. married Beulah Page and they both received a B.S. degree at Florence State. They taught school in Jackson and Madison Counties. J. R. was also a principal at different schools.

The foundation of this house is made of sandstone from Sand Mountain, and the porch pillars are encased with cobblestones. It has the original wood floors. Part of the porch was taken to add a room. The house was heated with fireplaces and coal grates.

In the early 1930s, J. R. built a candy house in his yard and operated it for several years. In the late 1940s, J.R. and Beulah moved to Madison County and sold this house to Helen and Robert McCormack. Mr. James Wilbourn, Helen's father, made a dwelling out of J.R.'s candy house and lived next to Helen and Robert until he died.

Dr. Francis Dillard's daughter, Elvira Woods, lived on this property in 1880. Her mother Elizabeth died at Elvira's home. Other early former landowners were A. J. Wann and D. A. Thomas.

Helen McCormack owns and resides in this house.

The Town Well mid 1850s



The town well was dug before the Civil War. It was dug principally by Wiley Erwin and Pete Whitecotton. These two men prevented Dr. Dillard's slaves from getting water from the well. The well provided a source of water for many families. During this time there was a watering trough and hitching post that accommodated the houses when the farmers came to town. Over the years the forces of nature have taken a toll on the original trough and hitching post, which no longer exist.

Wiley Erwin was part owner of that which was built facing the railroad and the back of the building was near the town well. He had a saloon in this dwelling and Pete Whitecotton clerked for him. Old Wiley Erwin married three times. He drank so much whiskey he died without a just cause. Later Pete Whitecotton was shot and killed in Marshall County at the close of the war.

The summer of 2001, Johnny Kennamer recreated a watering trough and a cedar hitching post near the town well.

H. L. Hodges Barber Shop 1922



The building was built in 1922 by H. L. Hodges, who became known to all as “Barber Hodges.” He was the son of James and Mattie Hodges. He married Mildred Lee Page in 1911. Barber was the father of Grover Hodges of Scottsboro, Alabama and Elise Hodges Kenamer of Abilene, Texas.

In 1922 haircuts were fifteen cents and a shave was a dime. During the depression, Barber half-soled shoes in his spare time to help provide a living for his family. He also filed saws and sharpened tools.

Barber Hodges was the bigger sportsman in Woodville. He would hang a sign on this door “Gone Fishing” or “Gone Hunting” to let people know where he was. He was well known and liked by people from all over the area. Many people stopped to visit Barber whether they needed a haircut or not. They would tie their horse up to the hitching rail and let the horse drink from the watering trough in front of the barber shop while they got their haircut or just sat around chatting with Barber and his wife Millard.

Today, as people pass by the western style building they fondly remember Barber Hodges for his work and friendship. In front of the building remains the original pump in a well that was dug in the mid 1850s. Barber retired in 1966 and sold his shop. He lived until 1982, some fifty years after he built the barber shop. Over the years the building’s ownership has changed many times. In 2001 the Town of Woodville was able to purchase this building and restore it to a treasured historic landmark.

During the restoration process of the Barber Shop, Barber’s family donated many items and provided much needed information about the shop and Barber’s life. Many families in the community have also donated items to the shop. The community and Barber’s family have been an important part of preserving the historic building that will stand for many years to come.

Woodville Methodist Chapel, 1912



The Woodville United Methodist Church closes its door after 125 years of Christian worship. The final service was held at 11:00 AM, Sunday, June 9, 1996.

The original Methodist Church was built in 1871. It was the first church building in Woodville. Therefore, it was also used for meetings of other denominations until they were able to build their own. The church was also used by different organizations as a meeting place.

The original building no longer exists. The present building was constructed in 1912 on land donated by the members of the community. It is the oldest church building in Woodville. It stands today as it was originally constructed, a white frame building with very high ceilings. Over the years many improvements and changes have been made to the church, such as Sunday school classrooms, a kitchen, and a bathroom. The church was originally heated by a large pot-bellied stove, which was later replaced by gas heaters. In 1970 central heating and air conditioning was installed.

In July of 1998 the North Alabama Conference deeded the church to the Town of Woodville. The church then became known as Woodville Methodist Chapel. The Woodville Parks and Recreation Board and other members of the community have made repairs and improvements to the building since that time.

The Chapel is now being used as a meeting place for civic and community organizations. It is also rented for weddings and family gatherings.

Site of the First Methodist Church, ca. 1871



The first Methodist Church was built in 1871. It was the only church house in Woodville at that time. The building was also used for meetings of other denominations until they were able to build their own churches.

The original church no longer stands; it was in use until 1912 when a new Methodist Church was built at a different location.

The early original church was a wooden frame with double doors at the entrance. It stood near an old elm tree that still stands today on Church Street.

The Church of Christ, ca. 1913



The Church of Christ building was created in 1913 as part of the J. R. Kennamer garden that he donated to the church. Members of the Kennamer Cove Church moving to Woodville started the Church of Christ. Before the church was built, the first meeting was held in a tent and later in homes. They also met in the old Methodist Church by the old elm tree, which was a short distance northwest of the Church of Christ.

An addition was made in 1925. Through the years many modern improvements have been made to this church building and a baptistery was installed in 1968.

Behind the Church of Christ is a small grave and the marker reads, Myra Zika Kennamer. This was the daughter of Lorrin and Ruie Kennamer and the granddaughter of J. R. Sr. Kennamer. She died the same day of birth, October 28, 1920.

The Baptist Church, ca. 1931



The Missionary Baptist Church house was erected in 1931 in the north part of Woodville. Many of the early Baptists help their meetings at the Methodist Church before the Baptist dwelling was built.

Some of the men in the community cut timber from the nearby mountains to use in building the church. Mr. R. I. Jones donated the property for the church. Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Jones and others were instrumental in helping with the building process of the church.

In 1941, the church was enlarged. The Missionary Baptist Church bought land in the year 2001 and has begun construction of a new Baptist Church. It is located near the First Baptist Church in Woodville. When the construction is completed the old building will be sold.