

WELCOME TO HISTORIC DECATUR!

On behalf of Historic Decatur, “Welcome to the neighborhood!” You have picked a great community in which to visit or to live and we want you to know that we, too, are here for you!

Just a FEW of the many things to do and experience within a few blocks of historic housing are:

If you are at the **Old State Bank** (Bank and Church Streets) there are FIVE museums within one block of you! These are:

The **Old State Bank**, Alabama’s oldest bank building with a significant Civil War history. The herb garden and Southern heirloom garden and the many picnic tables are great places to relax, chat and enjoy a snack or cool drink! We give free tours and our Director is a retired judge who is a life-long Decatur resident who can direct you to almost anything in the city. (Free)

The **Carnegie Visual Arts Center** (Oak and Church Streets), great exhibits of regional and national art. (Free)

The **Morgan County Archives, MC Historical Society and MC Genealogical Society** (Bank and Vine Streets), great Civil War, Scottsboro Boys Trial and other special exhibits as well as being an outstanding research facility (Free)

The **Union Depot** (1905) (Railroad and Vine Streets), won the 2015-16 Alabama state award for historic preservation of a building. Houses a portion of the **Decatur Police Department** (great for your security!) and a railroad museum which is under construction (Free)

The **Blue-Gray Museum** (three doors south of the **Old State Bank** on Bank Street), believed to be the nation’s largest and finest private Civil War collection. An amazing display of weapons and much more (Small admission charge). In addition are:

The **Tennessee Valley Pecan Company** (across the street from the **Blue and Gray Museum** on Bank Street), founded in 1942, the many types of pecans are fantastic and make great souvenir gifts. In the basement is an illegal 1920s informal “speakeasy” which can be viewed from the first floor. Ask to see!

Decatur Downtown: Decatur has TWO downtowns! One is on Bank Street and the other is less than 10 blocks south centered on Second Avenue near the **Morgan County Courthouse** and the other primary government buildings. To get to the “Albany” downtown (named for Albany, NY), simply travel south to the end of Bank Street, turn left at the curve onto Lee Street and follow Lee Street two blocks to Second Avenue where you will take a right. The two distinct downtowns are part of an unusual story evolving at the end of the Civil War in which the nearly totally destroyed town of Decatur was rebuilt by Southerners (Old Decatur) and a group of Northern industrialists built an entirely new industry based city of New Decatur (renamed Albany in 1916). Come to the **Old State Bank** for the details! These two downtowns contain over 20 restaurants, cafes and bakeries featuring many types of cuisine, numerous shops of all types, spas and salons, professional offices, banks and other services.

The **Cook Museum** (scheduled for completion late 2017) will be a nationally recognized natural science museum predicted to bring about 300,000 visitors into the downtown area annually. (Lee Street and Fourth Avenue across from Decatur City Hall).

Government Buildings: Virtually all governmental services are available at the Morgan County Courthouse, Decatur City Hall and/or the Lynne Federal Building and Post Office. These buildings are adjacent to each other on or near Lee Street and 2nd-4th Avenues. The city’s library, health department and board of education are also found in this area. Very convenient!

Entertainment/exercise/ arts and spiritual activities for you in the historic districts: Across the street from the **Old State Bank** is the **Daikin Amphitheater** which hosts many outdoor performances and events, festivals and marches and running races. Bike racks are available for you at the Old State Bank as well as throughout the downtown. The **Princess Theater** on Second Avenue features a wide variety of fine arts events, music, films, etc. and has done so as the city’s fine arts performance center since 1919. The three “First” churches on

Church and Oak Streets feature lots of outside activities as well as numerous music events. The downtown and adjacent historic districts (the city has an incredible 992 homes and other buildings on the state and National Registers of Historic

Places) are great places to walk. **Rhodes Ferry Park** (Oak Street at the River) hosts **Concerts By the River** on Monday evenings at 6 pm in the late Spring through mid-summer. This year we had 12 concerts, some with very talented amateurs, some professionals. All are great fun and totally free! Check the Decatur, AL Parks and Recreation website for more information on the concerts and other fun events. Some of the fantastic **DPR parks** in the historic districts include Delano (founded in 1887), Founders (featuring the Old State Bank and Daikin Amphitheater), Rhodes Ferry (where the city was “born” and featuring a National Parks Service Cherokee Trail of Tears trailhead, Frazier (Japanese and Early American gardens), Jones and Casa Grande (in the Albany downtown) and Ingalls Harbor (tournament fishing).

For our seniors for friendships: Just across Wilson Street (Highway 20) are three senior residential facilities including two in “high rise” buildings. These are directly on the Tennessee River. **City Center Village** is an upscale apartment complex for seniors next door to the Old State Bank. **The Turner-Surles Community Center** (Vine and Sycamore Streets in Old Town—directly behind the now restored Union Depot) is also a senior center with meals, activities and games.

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