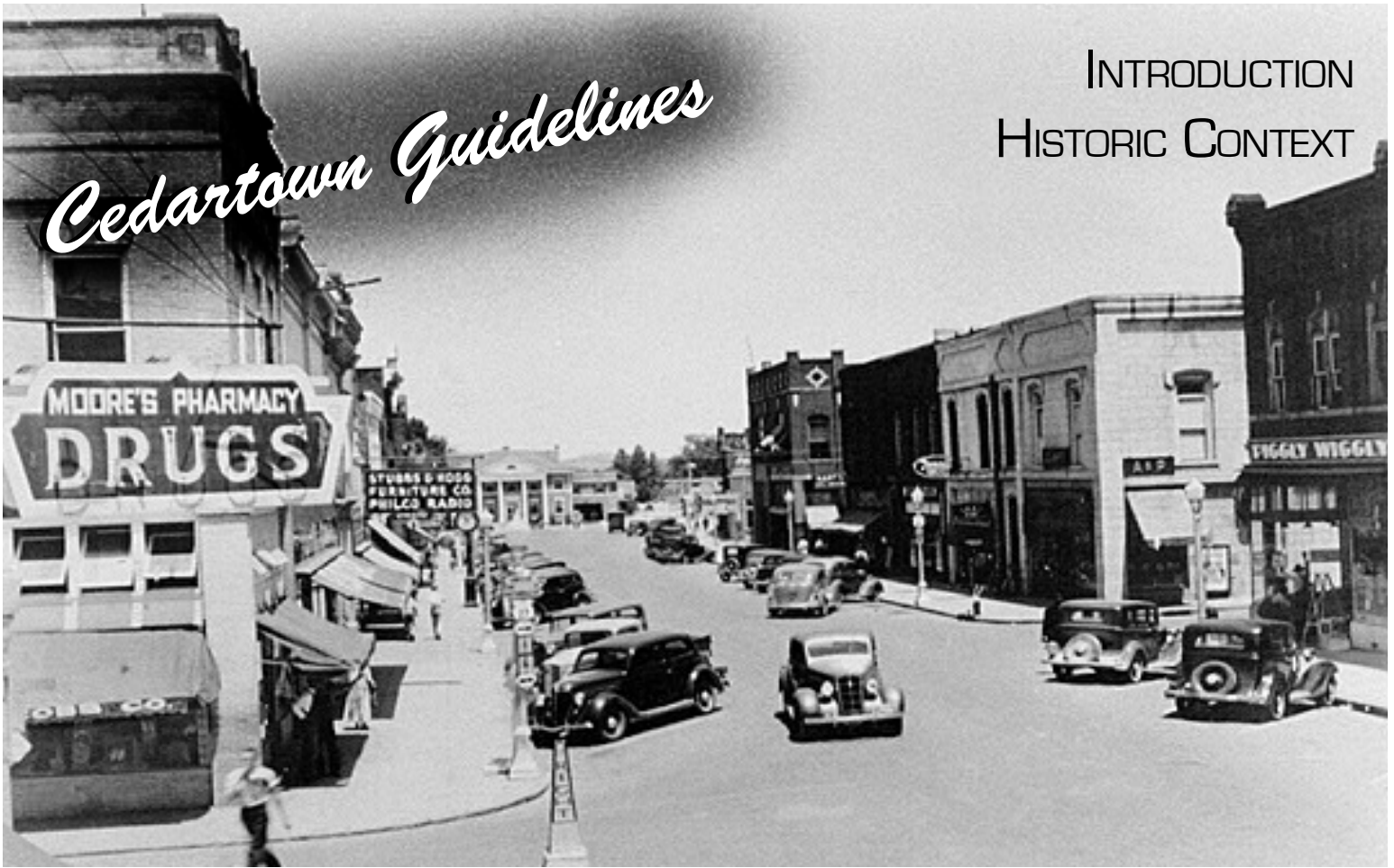


# *Cedartown Guidelines*

## INTRODUCTION HISTORIC CONTEXT



## DEVELOPMENTAL HISTORY

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In the early 1800s the area of Cedartown transitioned from a Cherokee settlement to trading post to a post town then known as Cedar Town. White settlement became further entrenched in 1838 with the forced removal of the Cherokees from Georgia.

A prosperous village by the 1850s with a well regarded female college, Cedar Town became incorporated and assigned the seat of government for a new county, Polk, created from Paulding and Floyd Counties.

The following decade brought the Civil War and Cedar Town suffered heavy losses. The courthouse and sixty-five other buildings were burned. The city lost its charter while the community drifted. The courthouse was reconstructed in 1867 and the town entered the 1870s with new articles of incorporation and new prospects.



The later part of the nineteenth century brought increased industry to Cedar Town. Cherokee Iron Works began operations in 1877. The railroad arrived in 1879 and the Cedartown Cotton Manufacturing Company in 1895.

Commerce grew during this time as well, reflected in many of the buildings along Main Street. Brick buildings were constructed on the northern portion of that avenue following a major fire in the late 1870s. South Main Street saw a multitude of construction in the 1890s extending the commercial area from the original town square.

Residential growth shadowed these commercial endeavors. The Cherokee Land and Improvement Company was chartered in 1887 with the purpose of encouraging residential development. The company laid off their land in lots and greatly expanded the town's plan. A new charter in 1890 incorporated the town as the "City of Cedartown."

Cedartown continued to see growth in the early twentieth century. The arrival of the boll weevil triggered a massive decline in cotton production in Polk County. Industry, however, continued to grow drawing labor from the displaced farming community. Most of the manufacturing growth came in the textile sector, including mills owned by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company.

Population expanded greatly from 1920 to 1930. Despite the onset of the Great Depression, Cedartown continued to witness population growth through the 1930s and 1940s albeit at a much less dramatic rate.

Housing matched the increase in population through the twentieth century. Construction slowed to a trickle during World War II only to ramp up again afterward. This post-war housing is now reaching and surpassing the age of 50 years, the watermark at which properties begin to be considered historically significant.

Downtown, on the other hand, stabilized during the twenties and thirties. Changes included the addition of buildings associated with emerging business types such as gas stations and the West Theater as well as changes to facades to "modernize" them. More recently demolition rather than construction has effected change in downtown. This trend has changed with the city's participation in the Main Street program and a trend toward historic preservation.

