

# **FEBRUARY 2024**

Historic Main Street Oxford is celebrating 10 successful years! You are invited to attend our inaugural meeting and celebration on the evening of Friday, February 9, 2024 at the Oxford Performing Arts Center. More information is below.

THINK LOCAL. SHOP LOCAL. BUY LOCAL.



Register here!

# **Business Development Workshop Series**

In an effort to better equip our business community, the City of Oxford and Historic Main Street Oxford is coordinating a business workshop series at no cost. Registration is required for each. For questions, email mainstreet@oxfordal.gov. Please see the various listing of opportunities below.

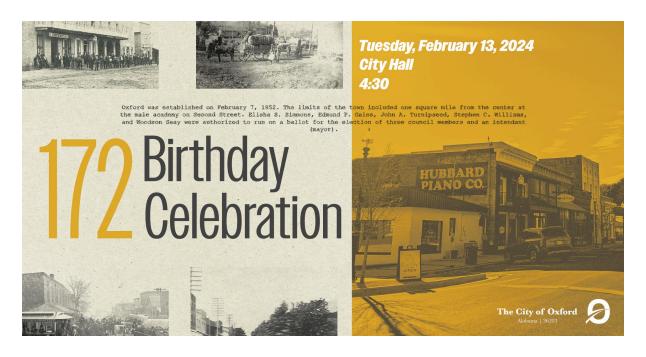


## **Upcoming Groundbreaking for Spring Street Station**



More information about Spring Street Station can be found here!

City of Oxford's 172nd Birthday Celebration



2024 Downtown Litter Clean Up Days



## Oxford Performing Arts Center- Spring 2024 Series

Oxford Performing Arts Center has announced its Spring 2024 Series. More details can be found here!

# Spotlight Business of the Month - Cotton Antiques & Collectibles

Cotton Antiques & Collectibles, successor to Cotton Furniture, has been a landmark in downtown Oxford for decades. The store offers a variety of vintage items, antiques, and collectibles at a reasonable and affordable cost. Customers are valued and quality service is priority. Cotton's is apart of the Alabama Antiques Trail.

518 Main Street Oxford, AL 36203 256-835-6000 Facebook- @Cotton Antiques & Collectibles Wednesday - Saturday, 9 AM - 4 PM





## **Oxford Train Depot**

The Oxford Train Depot at Spring Street was constructed in spring 1884 as a replacement for the original depot that was destroyed nearly two decades prior by Union Troops raiding through Oxford at the end of the Civil War.

The first tracks of railroad in Alabama were laid in the Muscle Shoals region in 1832. New economic opportunities spurred from the construction of the railroad. The railroad stimulated growth for the development of nearby communities and towns. Transportation of goods and people became much more efficient than before. In 1848, the Alabama & Tennessee River Railway was created.

The State of Alabama Legislature authorized the newly formed Franklin & Oxford Railroad to construct a single or double track between Oxford and the state line to Georgia in 1853. Articles of incorporation for the LaGrange and Oxford Railroad were passed by the legislature on February 2, 1856. The company was represented by Elisha S. Simmons, Dudley Snow, and E.L. Woodward. Plans of this newly founded firm were to construct a line from Oxford to West Point, Georgia. Both companies failed to construct either line. In 1861, the Alabama and Tennessee River Railway completed tracks from Talladega to Oxford. It was at the time that the first depot was constructed in Oxford. The rail line was

primarily used to transport munitions, supplies, and iron to aid the Confederate States Army.

In 1884, the East Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia Railway constructed the modified Italianate depot and freight warehouse. The building was almost identical to the depot at Piedmont, Alabama. The depot played a vital role in the development of Oxford's post-Civil War economy in the transportation of cotton, iron, and people. The depot symbolically represented the "New South."

Italianate architecture was introduced in the Southern United States between the 1840s and 1850s but primarily popularized in Oxford's style of homes in the 1870s and 1880s. The architectural style is characterized by overhanging eaves with large brackets or cornices, low roofs, arched windows and doorways, and a balanced symmetrical facade with a square massing building.

Southern Railway, successor to the ETV&G Railway decommissioned the depot in the 1960s. Since then it has primarily been vacant, with the exception of a haunted house attraction known as "Terror," (predecessor to The Terrortorium) in 2005-2006 and a dance studio in the 2010s. The landmark will soon be home to the much anticipated Spring Street Station!



## Calendar of HMSO Events & Committee Meetings

To stay up-to-date with all things happening in Historic Downtown Oxford, please checkout our newly improved calendar <u>here!</u>

#### Dine, Shop, & Explore!

Historic Downtown Oxford offers a unique experience for everyone including, but no limited to a first class performing arts center, a locally owned and operated coffee shop, variety of speciality shops, a Southern home-cooking restaurant also locally owned and operated, two art galleries, three historic churches, and walking distance to homes listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage and National Register of Historic Places.

A full directory listing can be found here.

#### About Historic Main Street Oxford (HMSO):

Historic Main Street Oxford (HMSO) is an economic and community development organization that focuses on the Four Point Approach strategy of organization, promotion, design, and economic vitality as outlined by Main Street America. The Four Point Approach makes Main Street an effective tool for a community-based, volunteer-driven, grassroots revitalization efforts. HMSO was created in 2014 when Oxford became a Designated Main Street Community by Main Street Alabama.

## Vision Statement:

Historic Downtown Oxford will become Northeast Alabama's destination for arts, dining, entertainment, shopping, and special events.

### Mission Statement:

The mission of Historic Main Street Oxford is to enhance downtown vibrancy, preserve its history, empower its community of business, and foster a center of activity for residents and visitors.

#### Our Team:

Jeremy Farr, downtown resident Charlotte Hubbard, city council member & owner of Hubbard's Off Main

Robin Leonard, board secretary & downtown resident
Gerry Lyons, Oxford Police Department
Karen Grammer, owner of The Main Olive
Debbie Nothdurft, retired Oxford City Schools
Gwen Parrish, board chair & owner of The Vine Chiropractic
Ben Stewart, Oxford Fire Department

**Hunter Gentry**, *director* **Donna Timmons**, *board secretary assistant* 



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Our mailing address is: 145 Hamric Drive East

P.O. Box 3383 Oxford, AL 36203

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