

Clocktower



Through the years several restoration projects have taken place. In 1986, the Rome Jaycees raised more than \$80,000 to repair the brick structure and provide landscaping on the grounds around the tower. The most recent project, the creation of a museum featuring murals by local artist Chuck Shultz, became a reality in 1995, again through the fund-raising efforts of the Rome Jaycees.

Since 1872, the Clocktower has stood as a faithful watchman over Rome, marking the hours

of our history and welcoming each visitor into its shadow. The melodious ringing of its bell signals that all is well in Georgia's Rome.

CONQUER THE CLOCKTOWER

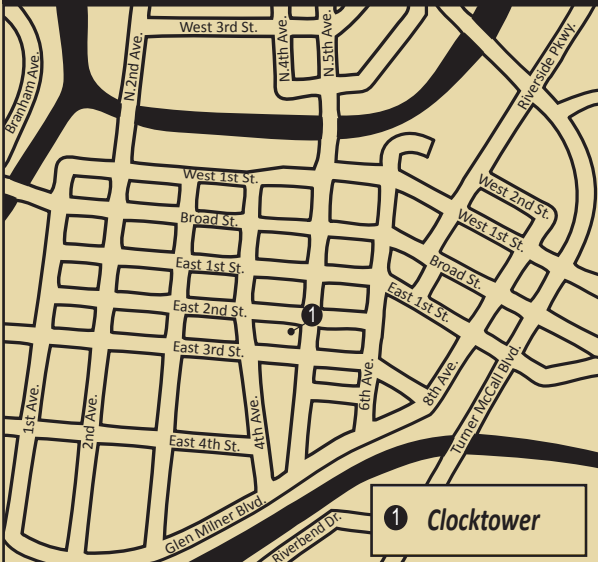
For the best views of Rome, climb the clocktower! Open to the public or for tours the first Saturday of summer months or by special appointment. A museum inside includes murals from Rome's history and the restored original clockworks.

Free admission

1st Saturdays

May - Oct: 12:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

Historic Downtown Rome



6.15



Georgia's Rome

Rome-Floyd Visitor Center

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W

hen in Georgia's Rome, synchronize your watch with the Old Town Clock. Everyone else does, because if your timing is different, you're likely to be late – or early, as the case may be.

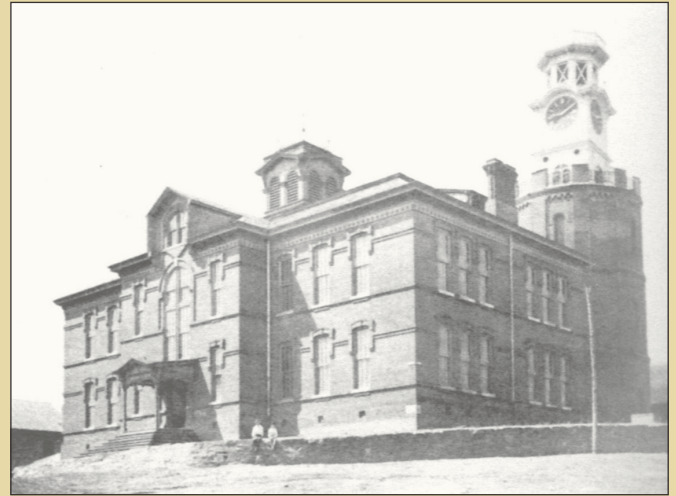
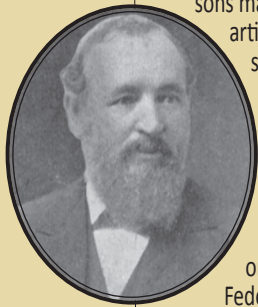
The clock, with its incredible record for accuracy, is the official symbol of the city and perhaps its most beloved landmark. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Clocktower stands in the center of town on Clocktower Hill, one of the seven hills of Rome.

The story of the Clocktower begins with Mr. James Noble, Sr. of Cornwell, England, who moved his family of six sons and several daughters from Reading, Pennsylvania to Georgia's Rome. He purchased property along the banks of the Etowah River in downtown Rome and built an immense foundry and machine works. Here, he and his

sons manufactured steam engines and other articles of iron and steel. When the South seceded from the Union, the Noble Foundry converted a large share of its production to producing cannons for the Confederacy. This activity became known to Federal forces which led to the occupation of Rome in 1864.

Months later, General Sherman ordered the evacuation of Federal troops, the Noble Foundry destroyed, and most of the downtown area burned by fire.

Following this destruction and in an attempt to rebuild, Rome found itself badly in need of a waterworks. In 1870, the Noble family led a movement to upgrade the city's water supply with the proposed construction of a water tower. This project was projected to cost \$100,000 - the city's total revenue at the time totaled \$21,000! The proposal became quite a political issue. The water tower was planned for the hill where the Clocktower stands now. There were those who insisted such terrific water pressure from opened faucets would "knock the bottom out of a tin cup." Needless to say, the issue passed, and in 1871 the water tower was built. The water tower is built of 10 foot sheets of iron, manufactured at the Noble Foundry. Transported to Neely Hill, these sections

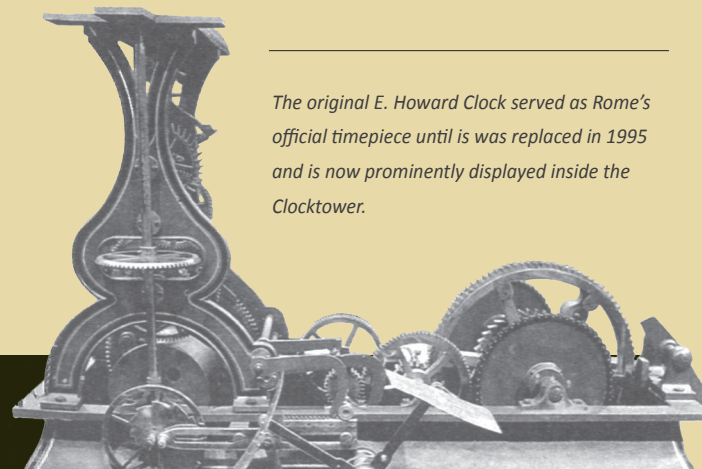


Several generations of Rome students attended Neely School, Rome's first city school building, located adjacent to the City Clocktower. The corner slab is still located at the site.

were hand-riveted together to form the tank. The tank itself is 26 feet in diameter, 63 feet deep and had a capacity of 250,000 gallons. It is surrounded by a red brick tower decagon in shape, with a three foot space to permit an interior spiral staircase of 107 steps. The tower is surmounted by a 41 foot superstructure containing the clock works and the four faces making it 104 feet high.

The clock was made by the E. Howard Clock Company of Boston, Massachusetts and was shipped to Rome on October 7, 1872, on the order of

John W. Noble. Its face is nine feet in diameter; the minute hand is four feet and three inches and the hour hand, three feet and six inches. It is known by the manufacturer as their "No. 2, hour-striking, eight day clock." The bell was made by the Meneely Bell Foundry of West Troy, New York. It is of genuine bronze, 32 inches high, and measuring 40 inches in diameter at its rim which is 3 1/2 inches thick. Molded into its rim is the date 1872. The bell has functioned properly since its original installation, but the first mechanism, an old hand windlass, has been replaced by a small electric motor.



The original E. Howard Clock served as Rome's official timepiece until it was replaced in 1995 and is now prominently displayed inside the Clocktower.