

Tracking History and Timeline of Urban Change City of Dothan, AL

Critical Events

- 1885: Dothan officially chartered as a town.
- 1889: The Bank of Dothan opens at the corner of Foster and Troy streets.
- 1889: Porter Hardware, Dothan's longest continuously operating business, opens.
- 1889: the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad was built through this section. This was the beginning of Dothan's rapid progress. Population Growth Stage 1: introduction of railroads brought increased trade, more settlers and industries to Houston country.
- 1890: Dothan's official population, according to census records released later, is 247.
- 1900: Dothan's population rises to 3,875.
- 1903: Rose Hill school built as the first building constructed completely for educational purposes.
- 1908: Dothan's first known restaurant, operated by W.B. Lee Sr., opens in a tent.
- 1907: The completion of the Atlanta and St. Andrew's Bay Railway from Dothan to the Gulf of Mexico in 1907 further contributed to the city's growth
- (Great migration to the North- decline in population)
- 1918: Two disasters strike. Flu epidemic affects as many as 75 percent of Dothan families. Also, a tornado raced through the town, killing several and injuring many others.
- 1920: Dothan's population rises to 10,034.
- 1928: Congress established state aid in the 1921 Federal Aid Road Act, which provided enough funds for Alabama to increase its mileage of improved roads by more than 400 percent by the end of the 1920s.
- 1925: In November the U.S. Department of Agriculture approved the first of the numbered routes familiar today: U.S. Route 231, went from Montgomery through Dothan to Florida. With the improvement in road system in Dothan and other cities the automobiles and trucks were slowly replaced wagons and railroads for moving passengers and goods.
- 1930: The original Airport was built by Federal Government. Dothan's population rises to 16,046.
- 1938: November 10th, Dothan's first Peanut Festival opens. Dr. George Washington Carver gives inaugural address. Performers over the years have included Hank Williams Jr., Chubby Checker and Garth Brooks.
- 1940: Camp Rucker, an Army base activated during World War II. This caused population at Dothan to highly increase. Soldiers bought. Dothan's population rises to 17,194
- 1944: The site of the airport was turned into the campus of George C. Wallace Community College. The next airport was opened in 1965 and changed its name officially in 1999 from Dothan Airport to Dothan Regional Airport.
- 1945: during World War II, Dothan had an estimated population of over 24,000. The last government census in 1940 was 17,172. The rapid increase in population has been caused by war activities at Camp Rucker, near Ozark, Ala., and Napier Field, six miles away, for trainees in advanced flying. (Population Growth Stage 2 Establishing the Military Base).
- Economic diversification fostered population growth latter on.
- 1949: State Vocational Trade School — now Wallace College — opens.
- 1950: Dothan's population rises to 21,584.
- 1955: Predecessor of Troy University at Ft. Rucker. After the World War II, Dothan's population increased, causing Ft Rucker to educate more people and grow.
- 1957: Southeast hospital was founded.
- 1958: Final portion of Ross Clark Circle is completed.
- 1960: Dothan's population rises to 31,237.
- 1970: Construction of the nuclear plant Joseph M. Farley Nuclear Generating Plant began. Located near Dothan, Alabama in the southern United States
- 1976: Troy Dothan was founded. The university needed to expand to serve higher educational needs to the Wiregrass.
- 1977: Troy State University purchases old Thrasher House in Dothan for new campus.
- 1977: Unit 1 of the Plant achieved commercial operations.
- 1978: Flowers hospital opened an 80-bed, three-story addition.
- 1979: the hospital in the building it was in (on West Main Street) had grown physically as much as it could and was landlocked. Dr. Flowers decided to construct a new hospital on the western side of Dothan, in the direction of the city's growth pattern.
- 1981: Unit 2 began commercial operation. The Farley Nuclear Plant operating units continue to set records within the utility industry and are recognized for their outstanding operating histories and job opportunities.
- 1983: On June 18, after 33 years, Flowers Hospital was reincarnated in a 189,000 square foot, six-story tower supported by an adjacent professional office building.
- 1986: Flowers Hospital was the site of the first open-heart surgery in Dothan.
- 1987: On February 26, 1887, the Alabama Legislature created The State Normal School at Troy. One of the first normal schools in the region, the school experienced slight but continuous growth in its first five years
- 1988: a second, four-story physicians' office building went up. In 1990, a new 100,000 square foot, four-story tower was added to the hospital.
- 1990: Dothan's population rises to 53,589.
- 2005: Perhaps the biggest boon to the Dothan Subdivision came in as Hyundai completed the construction of a new automotive assembly plant near Montgomery. This plant generates significant traffic for the line.
- 2009: Dothan's estimated population rises to 67,583
- 2010: The Alabama College of Osteopathic Medicine (ACOM), a non-profit, private institution, was established in May 2010. As a result of the demand of students wanting to specialize in OM and because Dothan is a firm cluster for medical centers.



turpentine



Atlantic RR Depot



Napier Airfield



Camp Rucker



Wallace College



Farley Nuclear Plant



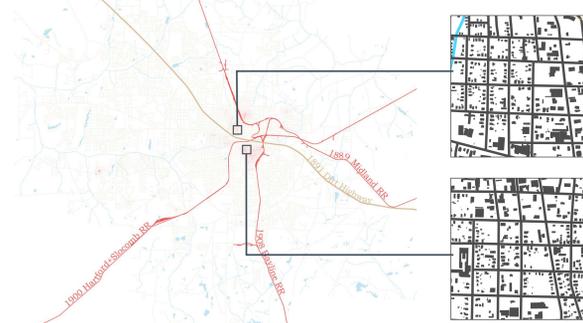
Flowers Hospital



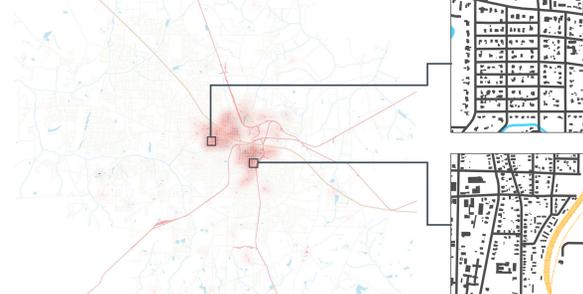
ACOM

Urban Growth Then, Neighborhood Form Now

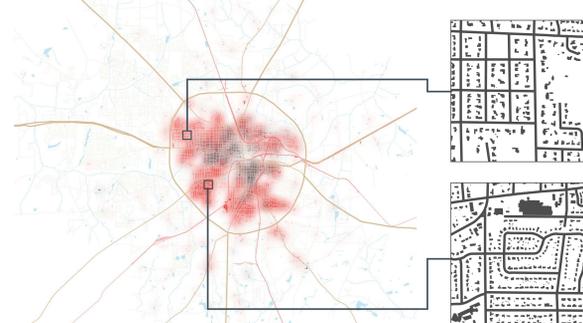
1920 - pop. 10,034



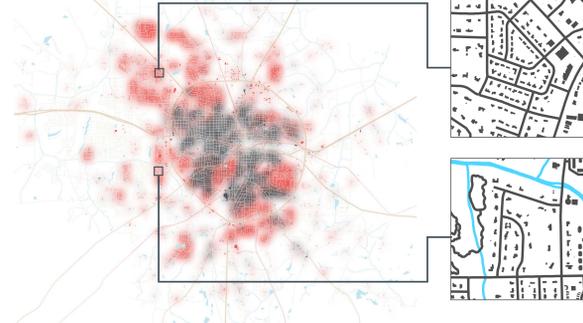
1940 - pop. 17,194



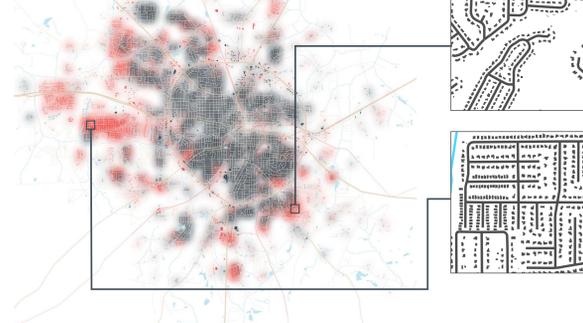
1960 - pop. 31,237



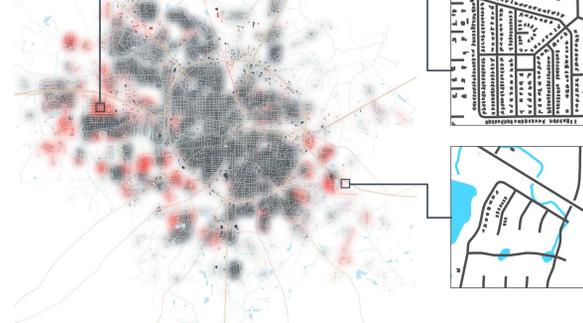
1980 - pop. 48,750



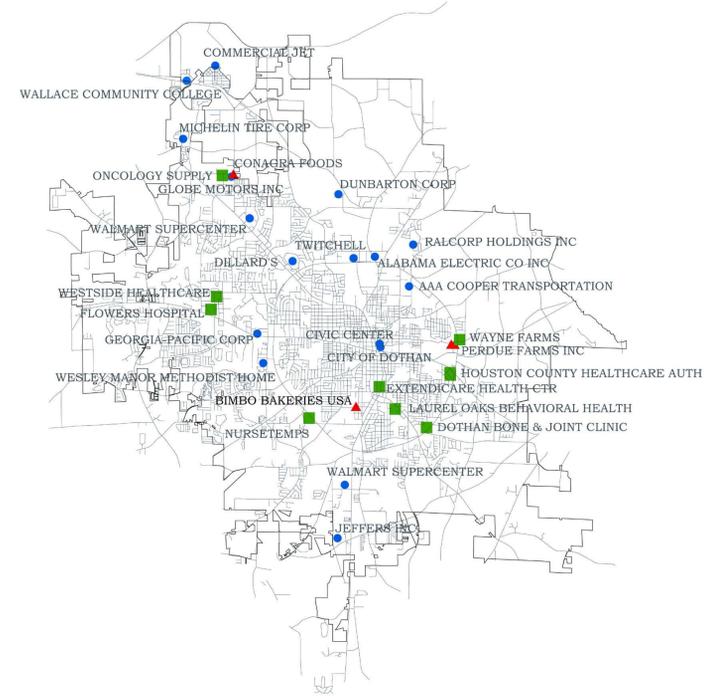
2000 - pop. 62,145



2018 - pop. 68,202

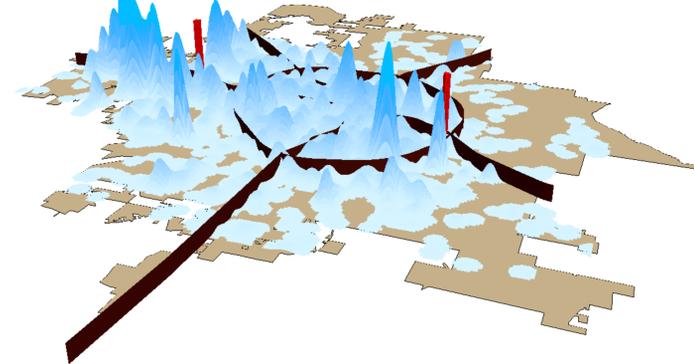


Business Locations >200 Employees

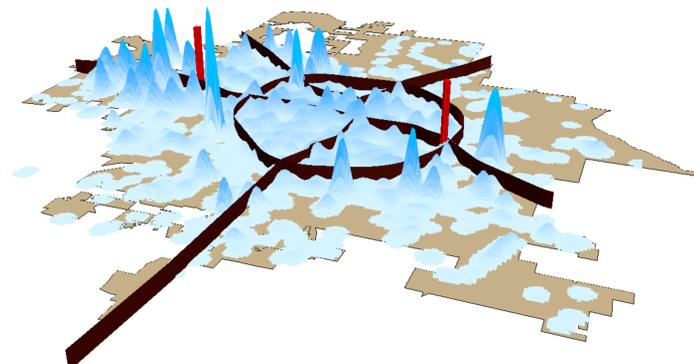


Construction Activity

1988-1997: Development along the 84 corridor is much higher than any other area in the city. Other major points of development are around the two hospitals. By this time Ross Park Circle is well established and development is beginning to move out further from the city centre



1998-2007: Highest density of development continues to be along the 84 corridor and the two hospitals, but permits allotted outside the circle increases further from the previous decade. Most building is happening to the north and west.



2008-2018: The 84 corridor continues to boom, but inside the circle see more building permits allot than in the two previous decades, even building permits are being allotted further from the city center. There is also a major spike in the northwest corner of town.

