

ABSTRACT

THESIS: Downtown Chattanooga: Planning and Preservation

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This is an examination of the history of urban planning and renewal in the downtown area of Chattanooga. The downtown area suffered decline in the post–World War II era, something seen throughout the country. As the city worked to revitalize the area, their work was based on theoretical approaches that changed through time, often mirroring larger national trends. As time progressed, preservation came to play an increasingly larger role in the city’s renewal efforts. By looking at the history of urban revitalization in the downtown area, the value of preservation in supporting efforts at creating a vibrant downtown is apparent, as historic buildings provide much of the foundation for the modern renaissance seen today.