

MEAG POWER

Current

COMMUNITIES

Quitman, Georgia

Curtis Pickels – Commission
Chairman

Danny Herring – City Manager
229-263-4166



QUITMAN

A CITY THAT HAS IT ALL

SERVICE, MANUFACTURING AND AGRICULTURE

*An exciting vision
for the future
is guiding
the city's
development
today.*

Not too many communities can claim such diversity but Quitman is a city of multiplicity, despite its small size.

Prominent in the economic makeup of this community are service organizations such as Brooks County Hospital and Presbyterian Home.

Quitman also is a city that sits in the midst of the U.S. yellow pine forest; 60 percent of the nation's construction lumber comes from the Southeast and other places much like Quitman.

At its core, Quitman and Brooks County are blessed with fertile, rich soil perfect for growing cotton and peanuts. In 2006, these two crops, the area's largest, accounted for \$33 million in produced values.

And there is one more thing Quitman claims today. That's the desire for an exciting future. Owners of the downtown's revitalized historic buildings, new entrepreneurs in the town's upcoming business park and the city's leadership are all focused on bringing positive change while maintaining the unhurried, comfortable lifestyle everyone in this South Georgia town enjoys.





Fast FACTS QUITMAN

POPULATION: 4,616

COUNTY: Brooks – Population 16,464

UTILITIES: Electric, water and sewer, solid waste, natural gas, cable television, and wireless internet.

TRANSPORTATION: Quitman is located on U.S. Highway 84 within 25 miles of I-75 and 27 miles of I-10

WORKFORCE: Brooks County is one of the first Georgia communities to begin the state initiative to be Certified Work Ready.

CORPORATE CITIZENS:

- Langboard Oriented Strand Board – forest products, engineered wood panels
- TLC Doors and Trim – wood products
- Presbyterian Home – retirement living, assisted living
- Beech Island Knitting – elastic manufacturer
- Brooks County Hospital – healthcare

“Our new industrial park development is so important to Brooks County and our future. It is a means to larger goals — jobs for our citizens and a stronger community.”

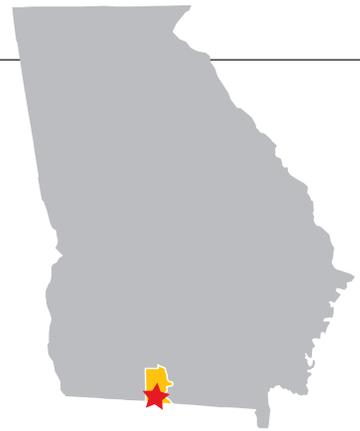
Tina Herring

Executive Director of the Development Authority

Roastwood Materials will be one of the charter tenants of Quitman’s new industrial park with plans to construct a headquarters, fabrication building and production kiln, totaling 13,000 square feet. The company plans to hire 52 employees over the next three years and make a total investment of \$2.5 million. The decision to open its facilities in Quitman was influenced by the city’s proximity to interstates and rail service.

An innovative company, Roastwood will launch a unique, eco-friendly pine product excellent for home decking projects. The roasting of the wood, popular in Europe for 15 years, creates a product that is resistant to bugs and rot. The process was created by Sir Walter Lindal, founder of Lindal Cedar Homes.

“We are on track to be the first in the U.S. to provide this product to the open market,” explains Roastwood President Jerry Walden.



THE FACE of PROGRESS

"Twenty thousand cars per day travel Highway 84 through the heart of Quitman. That inspires possibilities for our downtown merchants," explains Jack McCard of McCard & Company Antiques. Opportunity and progress are quietly but assuredly marching through Brooks County.

Visitors to downtown **Quitman** with its tree-lined boulevard may be surprised at what awaits them in this rural South Georgia community. Historic buildings have been transformed into inviting spaces for shopping and eating. McCard & Company Antiques is at home in a former 1890 buggy factory sporting 25,000 square feet of American antiques amid collectibles from Italy, France and Belgium. Antique buffs from over 150 miles away make the trek, seeking a treasure. WireGrass Restaurant and Bar owner James Horton helped rescue a downtown structure that was in virtual collapse. Now, the popular eatery, graced with historic exterior brick walls, features a mezzanine bar, wifi zone, and a very techy flat screen television in the powder room. Customers enjoy homemade yeast rolls, daily specials and evening fare provided by guest chefs.

On the south edge of town, progress is taking another shape. Local leaders are rolling out the red carpet for another type of customer — manufacturing and commercial businesses. The city is developing a new industrial park on Madison Highway and is already attracting companies to this new commercial center.

There is definitely a new and exciting vision guiding the leadership of this Southwest Georgia community, and the leadership of the town — along with the city's historic preservationists and new businesses — is working hard to make this vision a reality.



Jack McCard, owner of McCard & Company Antiques, returned home after a career in healthcare consulting to restore historic buildings. He is on his fifth property revitalization.





Presbyterian Home is a caring, high quality retirement community located on 60 charming acres in Quitman.



Quitman has 100-percent occupancy in its downtown retail district.

More About **HOMETOWN** **QUITMAN**

- **Historic preservation is a passion in Quitman.**

The entire four square miles, city limit to city limit, is designated an historic district by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

- **In 1818, U.S. President Andrew Jackson** made a treaty with the Spanish and the Native Americans and claimed the land that is now Brooks County for the United States.

- **Quitman is known as the Camellia City.** The city is sprinkled with the popular evergreen with its pink blossoms. Betty Sheffield, developer of the well-known camellia variety of the same name, was a longtime resident.

Location Georgia, a service of MEAG Power, assists business and industry in relocation and expansion efforts. For more information about Quitman, call **1-800-WIN-IN-GA.**

front cover photo: The Brooks County Courthouse, completed in 1864, is still in use today, although it has undergone remodeling and modernizing.

