

Touring Edgecombe – Seeing What You’ve Been Missing Issue #4 – The Douglas Block, Rocky Mount



The Douglas Block is located at Main and Thomas St. in Rocky Mount. From the early 1900’s through the 1970’s, it was the centerpiece of the African-American Business district in Rocky Mount, as well as a main anchor in the downtown corridor. For decades it was brimming with activity from a comprehensive collection of commercial and social attractions including a pharmacist, doctor’s office, restaurants, and movie theater.

Following the flow of business out of downtown areas across the nation and in Rocky Mount into more suburban, mall-centered areas, the Douglas Block declined and sat mostly idle for years. But now, the redevelopment of the area has brought new life to the buildings and the downtown area. The Booker T. Theater is now back open for movies and social events, and the Douglas Building is filling with businesses that include an attorney’s office, computer repair business, hair salon, shopping, and a pediatrics office. So if you want to see the rebirth of a historic downtown, then you need to see what you’ve been missing at The Douglas Block, Rocky Mount. For more information, visit the website www.douglasblock.org.

For more information on great places to visit and upcoming events in Edgecombe County, visit www.edgecombecountync.gov