



Local artist Jack Tupper stands next to the Fricke Sweatmon & Co. building mural on Second Avenue NE.

Railroad-Themed Mural

Local artist Jack Tupper hasn't let the record-high temperatures slow down his progress on the mural he is painting on the side of the Fricke, Sweatmon & Company, PC, building on Second Avenue Northeast. The mural of a 19th century train is close to being completed.

The purpose of the railroad-themed mural is to pay tribute to [Cullman's founding](#) and its founder, [Col. John G. Cullmann](#). Col. Cullmann had a dream of creating a colony in the U.S. for other German immigrants, and the South & North Railroad (later the L&N Railroad) needed settlements along their newly-completed rail line connecting Nashville and Montgomery. Col. Cullmann purchased an option as a land agent, and the rest is history.

Not only do we owe our community's founding to the railroad, but the railroad was a central part of everyday life in Cullman's early days. The mural depicting a 19th century train serves to remind us of our community's beginnings and the integral role the railroad played in it.

[Murals](#) are being painted on buildings throughout the [City of Cullman](#). All of them serve to promote Cullman, beautify the downtown area, and provide a link to our history and heritage. The murals are being done in conjunction with [The Great Alabama Homecoming](#) and [The Year of Alabama Small Towns and Downtowns](#). It's a community-wide event, coordinated by the [Cullman County Historical Society](#). Local artists Jack Tupper, [Bethany Kerr](#), and Adrian Scott are volunteering their time for the project. These artists will also be restoring vintage signs on buildings around town.

Any local business owners who would like a mural painted on the side of their building can contact Dot Gudger with the [Cullman County Historical Association](#) at (256) 734-4799.