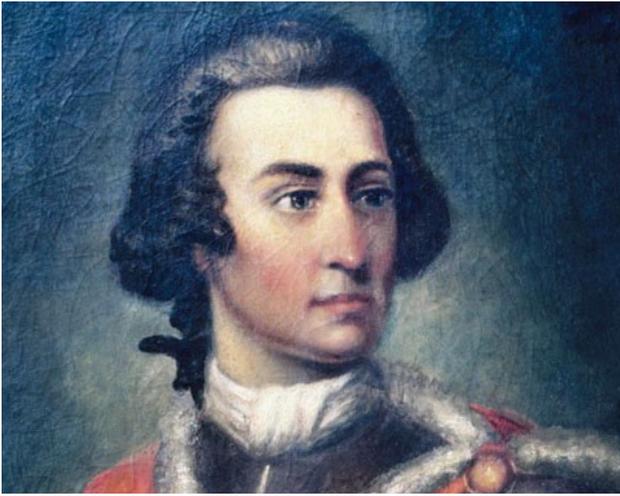


**TOUR GUIDE MANUAL • 2016 Edition**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**4** INTRODUCTION TO THE MANUAL

**5** CHAPTER 1  
The Development of Savannah

MAP OF SIGNIFICANT SITES

**10** CHAPTER 2  
Savannah's Evolution

**15** CHAPTER 3  
The American Revolution

**20** CHAPTER 4  
Unrest in the South

**27** CHAPTER 5  
The Modern City

**36** CHAPTER 6  
The Ward System

MAP OF HISTORIC WARDS

**38** Decker Ward – Ellis Square

**39** Derby Ward – Johnson Square

**40** Heathcote Ward – Telfair Square

**42** Percival Ward – Wright Square

**43** Reynolds Ward – Reynolds Square

**45** Anson Ward – Oglethorpe Square

**46** Franklin Ward – Franklin Square

**47** Warren Ward – Warren Square  
Washington Ward – Washington Square

**48** Columbia Square – Columbia Square

**50** Greene Ward – Greene Square  
Liberty Ward – Liberty Square

**51** Elbert Ward – Elbert Square

**52** Jackson Ward – Orleans Square



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

<p><b>52</b> <i>Brown Ward – Chippewa Square</i></p> <p><b>54</b> <i>Crawford Ward – Crawford Square</i></p> <p><b>55</b> <i>Pulaski Ward – Pulaski Square</i> <i>Jasper Ward – Madison Square</i></p> <p><b>56</b> <i>Lafayette Ward – Lafayette Square</i></p> <p><b>58</b> <i>Troup Ward – Troup Square</i></p> <p><b>59</b> <i>Chatham Ward – Chatham Square</i> <i>Monterey Ward – Monterey Square</i></p>	<p><b>61</b> <i>Calhoun Ward – Calhoun Square</i> <i>Wesley Ward – Whitefield Square</i></p> <p><b>63</b> <b>CHAPTER 7</b> The Historic District’s Burial Grounds</p> <p><b>65</b> <b>CHAPTER 8</b> Gaston Street &amp; Forsyth Park</p> <p><b>69</b> <b>CHAPTER 9</b> Touring the Historic District’s Perimeter</p>	<p><b>80</b> <b>CHAPTER 10</b> City Ordinances for All Tour Guides</p> <p><b>APPENDICES</b></p> <p><b>92</b> <b>APPENDIX A:</b> Filming in Savannah</p> <p><b>93</b> <b>APPENDIX B:</b> Suggested Readings</p> <p><b>96</b> Savannah’s Research Libraries and Archives</p>
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## INTRODUCTION TO THE TOUR GUIDE MANUAL

Tourism Leadership Council,  
Tour Guide Certification development committee,  
December 2015



The TLC's Tour Guide Certification program seeks to enhance historical interpretation in the greater Savannah area. The Tour Guide Certification program is a voluntary, but hopefully valuable, addition to professional résumés. In addition to certifying knowledgeable tour guides, the Tour Guide Program seeks to demonstrate the integrity of Savannah's historical interpretation, and its role in promoting the Savannah area as a tourist destination.

The first priority for the *Tour Guide Manual* volunteer development committee is developing the *Tour Guide Manual* and the Tour Guide Certification Exam. Candidates will begin receiving certification by January 2016.

The program and the *Tour Guide Manual* should be systematically reviewed by the committee every one or two years. Volunteers and TLC partners who promote the preservation and conservation of these resources are invited to share their expertise in the development of the *Manual*. In the review process, the committee should identify the needs of tour companies and historical interpreters. Feedback from exam takers, certified guides, and other program participants will be key in determining future development.

The *Tour Guide Manual* prepares candidates for the Tour Guide Certification Exam. The slender history presents Savannah's Landmark Historic District ward by ward and square by square, and gives context within which to understand the development of the historic district and its perimeter.

### PROPOSALS FOR TOUR GUIDE CERTIFICATION EXAM:

The Tour Guide Certification Exam focuses on the ability to communicate information about the greater Savannah area's "tourist landscape". Candidates should recognize major sites (extant historic buildings, squares, riverfront, natural preserves, cemeteries, monuments) and should demonstrate a working knowledge of major points in Savannah's history (colonization, cotton industry, etc.). The *Tour Guide Manual* prepares candidates for a multiple choice and fill in the blank exam. Certification exams will be considered on a pass/fail basis.

In the publishing of this Tour Guide Manual, the Tourism Leadership Council worked with a committee of tour guides, historians, and industry professionals to determine the needs and educational benchmarks for Savannah tour guides.

The Committee was comprised of representatives from Architectural Tours of Savannah, Armstrong State University, Cobblestone Tours, Footprints of Savannah, the Georgia Historical Society, Old Savannah Tours, Old Town Trolley, and the Tourism Leadership Council.

The Tourism Leadership Council would like to thank all members of the committee for their time and effort. Committee members volunteered their time to assist in the advisement and writing of this document. We would like to sincerely thank our Committee Members:

Kayla Black	Patricia Meagher
Charlie Brazil	Mickey Minick
James Caskey	Erin Purdy
Christy M. Crisp	Jim Salandi
Dr. Christopher M. Curtis	Jonathan Stalcup
Vaughnette Goode-Walker	

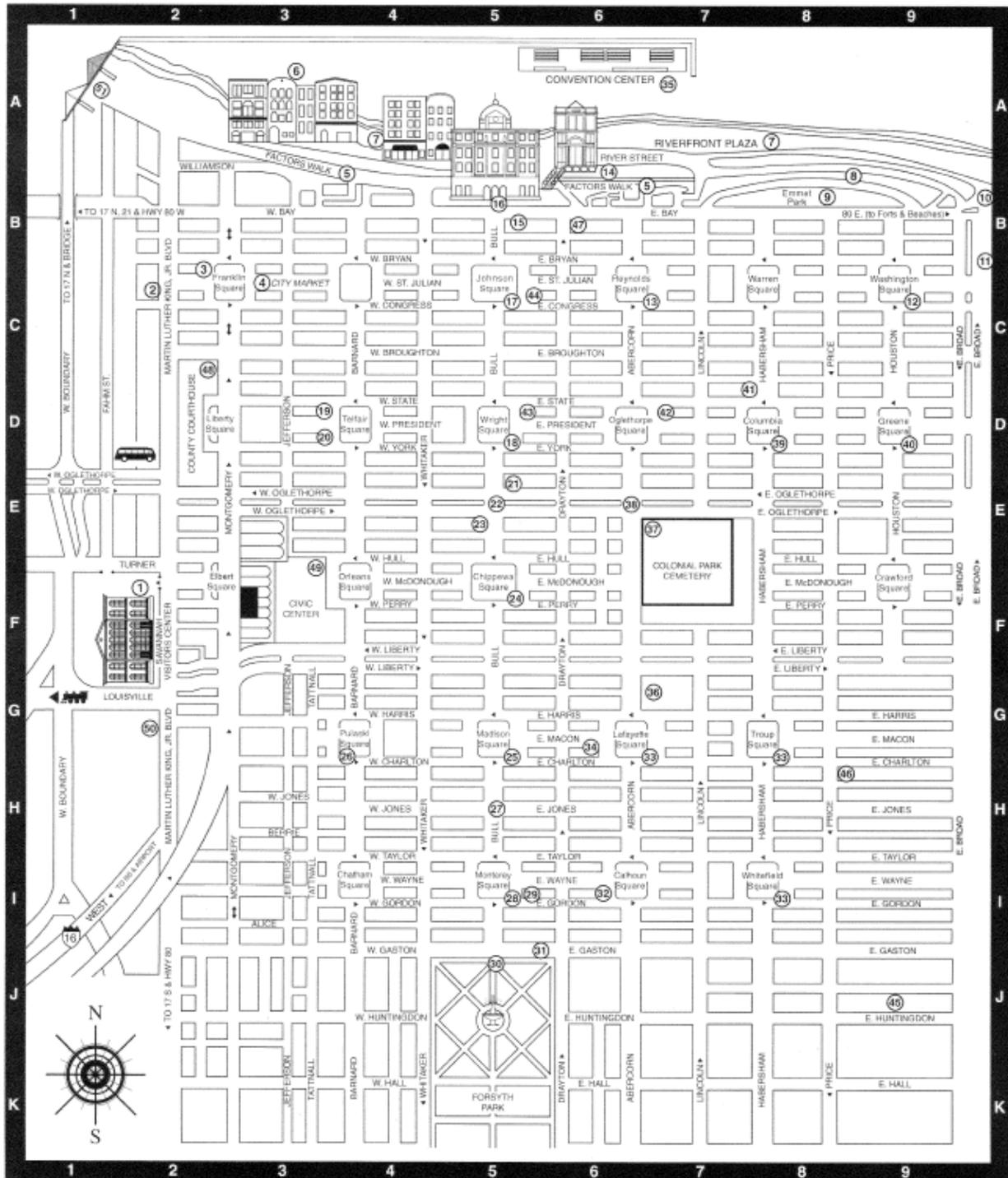
Our special thanks go out to Bridget Lidy and the City of Savannah for all of their assistance and guidance.

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**Photo Credits:** John Alexander, Marianne Brown, Devon Donnahoo, Amelia Doyle, Kim Dulek, Rodney Gary, Joey Gaston, Aleah Hearn, Richard Johnson, Grace Lee, Jason Manchester, Litus Marshall, Keith McClimen, Elizabeth Neale, Tara Nobles, Jenna Richards, Bryan Stovall, Judith Trahan, Cynthia Van Duin, Richard Villamor, Victoria Watson, Tim Welch

# CHAPTER 1

## The Development of Savannah



- |   |                                     |   |  |   |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| 1. Savannah Visitors Center                   | 12. Washington Square               | 23. Independent Presbyterian Church           | 33. Whitefield, Troup, and Lafayette Squares         | 43. Lutheran Church of the Ascension    |
| 2. Ships of the Sea Museum                    | 13. Reynolds Square                 | 24. Chippewa Square                           | 34. Andrew Low House                                 | 44. Christ Episcopal Church             |
| 3. First African Baptist Church               | 14. Cotton Exchange                 | 25. Madison Square                            | 35. Savannah International Trade & Convention Center | 45. King-Tisdell Foundation and Cottage |
| 4. City Market                                | 15. U.S. Customs House              | 26. Pulaski Square                            | 36. Cathedral of St. John the Baptist                | 46. Beach Institute                     |
| 5. Factors Walk                               | 16. City Hall                       | 27. Jones Street                              | 37. Colonial Park Cemetery                           | 47. Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce   |
| 6. West End of River Street                   | 17. Johnson Square                  | 28. Monterey Square                           | 38. Oglethorpe Avenue                                | 48. Chatham County Courthouse           |
| 7. Riverfront Plaza/River Street              | 18. Wright Square                   | 29. Temple Mickve Israel                      | 39. Columbia Square                                  | 49. Savannah Civic Center               |
| 8. Waving Girl Monument/1996 Olympic Monument | 19. Teffai Museum of Art            | 30. Forsyth Park                              | 40. Greene Square                                    | 50. Historic Railroad Shops             |
| 9. Emmet Park                                 | 20. Trinity United Methodist Church | 31. Gaston Street                             | 41. Davenport House                                  | 51. The Eugene Talmadge                 |
| 10. Fort Wayne                                | 21. Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace  | 32. Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church |  |   |
| 11. Trustee's Garden Village                  | 22. Oglethorpe Avenue               |   |  |   |

Map provided by Savannah Area Convention and Visitors Bureau

## THE FIRST INHABITANTS

Savannah has a rich and fascinating history which, in many ways, begins with the Native Americans who hunted and fished in the region as early as 10,000 BCE. These indigenous people began as hunter-gatherers, but archaeological evidence found in the Savannah area indicates that by 3,500 BCE, they formed agricultural settlements in the region.

By the first millennium BCE, these agriculturalists became traders and merged with the widespread Mississippian culture that linked the Mississippi River and Gulf of Mexico waterways with Central American trade.

Locally, the most celebrated of these sites is the Irene Mounds, located approximately five miles upstream from the present City of Savannah. The Irene Mounds were originally excavated in the 1930s by the Works Progress Administration, which employed African-American women as archaeological workers. The collection of pottery and other artifacts taken from the mounds is now housed at the University of Georgia in Athens.

At the time of Oglethorpe's Landing, the Yamacraw were the predominant native culture in the Savannah area. The Yamacraw formed in the late 1720s under the leadership of Chief Tomochichi from some bands of Yamasee and Lower Creek people. By 1728 the Yamacraw had settled along the Savannah River near its



*Chief Tomochichi*

mouth. Tomochichi was likely Creek, and his tribe of Yamacraw was comprised of about two hundred natives, mostly of Creek and Yamasee origin. This was not the first time that Tomochichi, nor many of his people, met the English.

## EUROPEAN EXPLORATION

Long after the earliest native cultures called coastal Georgia home, European nations decided to expand their trading networks and their profits through the discovery of resources in the New World.

During the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, Spanish came to the Americas to convert inhabitants to Roman Catholicism. During this same timeframe, the French came to the New World seeking gold and found "black gold" in the lucrative fur trade. In 1562, the French built a fort on Parris Island, South Carolina, but abandoned it by 1564.

The English came to the New World with very different expectations. Their intent was to create new British lands that would alleviate England's overpopulation and expand Britain's economy. The hope was that these settlers would prosper and become a new class of English consumers and trading partners. In the



*Yamacraw Dwellings*

Carolinas, the production of sugar, followed by rice, provided significant income by the late 17th Century. However, this success was tempered by attacks from Indians to the South and the Spanish along the coast. The Carolinians retaliated by burning several Spanish missions along the coast and going to war against the Yamassee Indians. 2015 marks the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of the Yamassee War. Problems persisted and ideas for a new colony to the South were planned several times, but never realized.



*James Edward Oglethorpe*

Beginning in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, the English, like much of Europe, were strongly influenced by a new philosophical movement called the Enlightenment. Philosophers in France and Great Britain extolled the natural rights of man. It became obvious to some members of the British Parliament that while the nation was succeeding in trade with her colonies, domestic problems like alcohol consumption, debtors' prisons and the general condition of the poor were underserved in England.

### **THE PLANNING OF GEORGIA**

Savannah was established on February 12<sup>th</sup>, 1733, on a sandy bluff overlooking the Savannah River. British General James Edward Oglethorpe, a member of English Parliament, stood on the bluff as the founder of a grand experiment: a colony of debtors.

In England, if a person owed debts and could not pay, then that debtor was sent to prison. Numerous debtor prisons were overflowing with those who had been unable to maintain financial solvency. Oglethorpe had a personal interest in changing this system: his good friend Robert Castell had fallen into debt and been cast into Fleet Prison, where he died of smallpox. Oglethorpe lobbied hard for prison reform, and saw the establishment of debtor colonies as a solution to relieve England of the burden of her poor.

Oglethorpe used his influence in Parliament to secure funds for passage to the New World. The plan was not to empty the debtor prisons into boats bound for America, but rather offer a solution to those who were in danger of being imprisoned for their debts. Not a single person who came to the New World with Oglethorpe in the original voyage shows any evidence of being in debtor's prison, but nearly all were impoverished. They were chosen not for having the skills to make the new colony a success, but for perhaps not having the skills to avoid financial ruin and imprisonment in England.

As a military man who had served European commanders in the field, he saw the advantage of positioning his colony between the Carolinas and the Spanish settlements in Florida. Oglethorpe understood the careful planning that would be needed to turn a group of unfortunates into a thriving colony and a citizen soldiery. Oglethorpe's plan laid out a system of "agrarian equality," designed to support an economy based on family farming. Land ownership was limited to fifty acres, including a lot in town, a small farming (more of a garden) lot outside of town, and a forty-five acre farm. No one was permitted to acquire additional land through purchase or inheritance.

The motto of the new colony was Latin: "Non sibi sed aliis," 'not for themselves, but for others.'



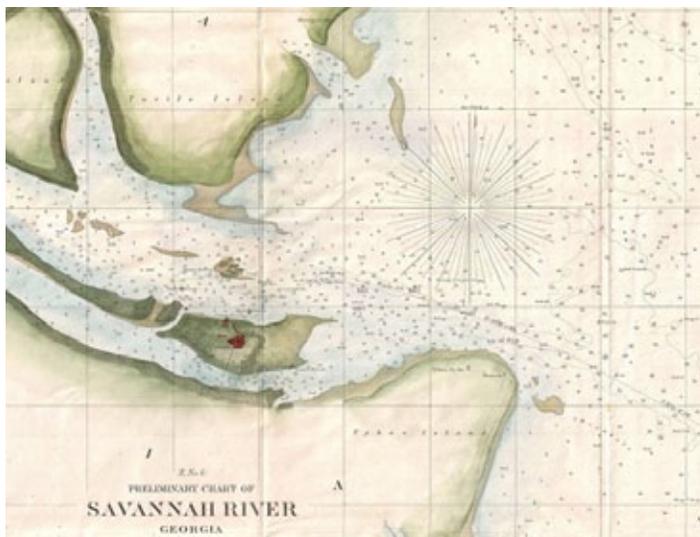
*The seal of the colony of Georgia: the motto translates to 'not for themselves, but for others.'*

## SETTING SAIL

On November 17<sup>th</sup>, 1732, the two-hundred ton galley ship Anne set sail from England. Aboard were approximately 35 families, a doctor, an Anglican priest, and Oglethorpe's dog.

They landed in what was then known as Charles Town, South Carolina on January 13<sup>th</sup>, 1733, and from there they sailed south. They entered the mouth of a river the Spanish had named 'Sabana.' 'Savanna' is the English derivative of that Spanish word meaning 'grassy plain,' which the Lowcountry marsh certainly resembles. Regardless of where the name originated, Oglethorpe, Colonel William Bull, and the militia sailed 18 miles upriver before choosing a site for settlement.

Oglethorpe brought a small group along with him to negotiate the settlement of Georgia. Among this group was a woman named Mary Musgrove. Musgrove was descended from a Creek mother and an English trader, and grew up in South Carolina. Musgrove married an English trader and set up a trading post on the Savannah River as early as fifteen years before Oglethorpe's arrival. Musgrove's ability to translate between the Yamacraw, Creek, and English proved instrumental to the development of the colony, and she maintained that position from 1733 until 1743.



*The primary reasons for the founding of the Colony of Georgia were:*

- 1. To provide relief to debtors in England.*
- 2. To assist the English poor and the unemployed.*
- 3. To remove the poor so that England would not have to support them.*
- 4. To provide relief for persecuted Protestants like the Salzburgers.*
- 5. To act as a buffer to protect South Carolina from Spaniards in Florida.*
- 6. To strengthen the British Empire by the success of the colony and its population.*
- 7. To supply raw products such as wine, hemp, silk and flax to manufacturers in England and relieve England's dependence on foreign trade.*
- 8. To establish another market for English-made products to be exported to the colony.*

## THE FOUNDING OF GEORGIA

The first child born in the new colony was Georgia Close, born March 17<sup>th</sup>, 1733, to Henry and Hannah Close.

The colony was founded on Yamacraw Bluff, which Oglethorpe felt afforded protection against an assault from the river. This bluff is located where the Hyatt Regency Hotel stands on the riverfront. Oglethorpe was met by Tomochichi, the leader of the Yamacraw Indian tribe. Tomochichi gave the settlers permission to live in the surrounding area, and Oglethorpe and the Indian pledged friendship, a bond that lasted many years. Among other things, the two leaders had a common dislike for the Spanish, with whom the Yamacraw Indians occasionally skirmished.

In 1734, Tomochichi accompanied Oglethorpe to England, along with his wife, son, and six representatives of the Lower Creek People. There, he met King George II. The chief was looking for assurance that the Yamacraw people would benefit from their relationship with the English. After their return from England a school was established for children of the Yamacraw tribe, so that they could be educated in the English manner. Tomochichi would continue to be very valuable in fostering peaceful relations with neighboring tribes until his death in 1739.

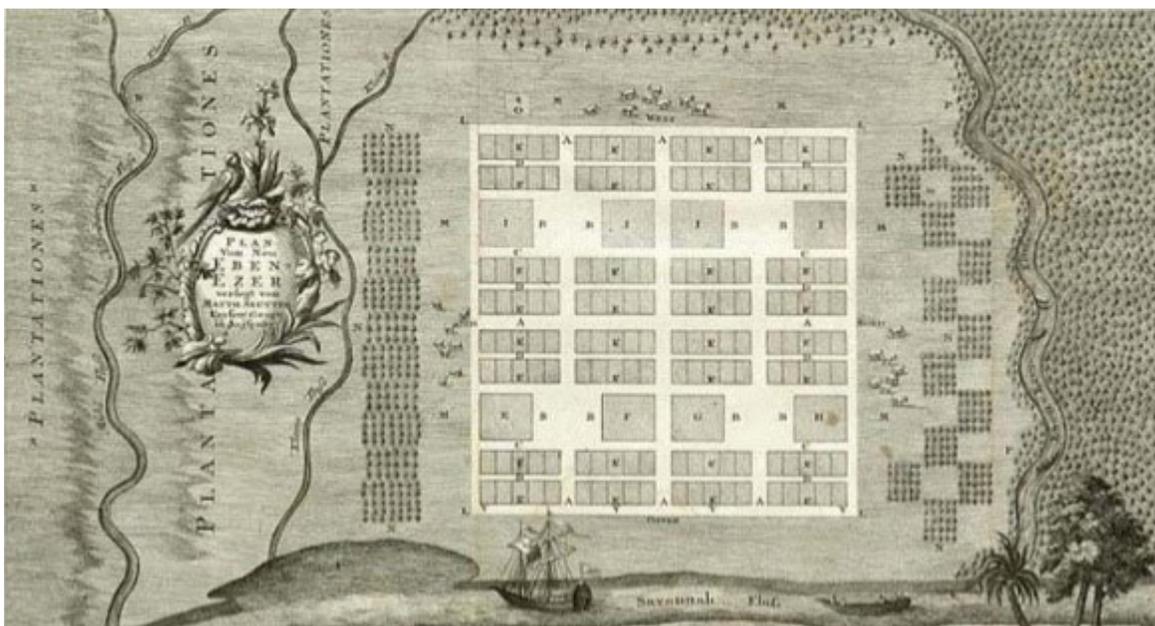


Most of the plants that the colonists brought could not adjust to the harsh extremes of Georgia's high and low temperatures, and the experiment was deemed a failure. However, from this garden came the original peach trees and cotton plants which eventually became major crops for the state of Georgia.

The few colonists able to pay for their own passage were given a tything lot. Indentured servants had to work off the terms of their servitude, usually lasting 5 to 7 years, before receiving their own land. The few colonists with servants were allowed 500 acres, but slaves were not permitted.

During the early colonial period, Savannah grew through the recruitment of the poor, debtors and the arrival of groups seeking refuge from religious persecution. The Salzburgers, Austrian Protestants, had first fled to England and found sponsorship for their journey to Savannah from Lutheran King George II and the English Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. Many Sephardic Jews escaping the Spanish Inquisition also went first to England. 🏠

Almost from the very beginning, the colonists began to protest these prohibitions, primarily lobbying for more land, and for slaves, like neighboring South Carolina. Shortly after settling on Yamacraw Bluff, General Oglethorpe established an experimental project called Trustees Garden, setting the city's earliest economy into motion. The 10-acre experiment was bounded by the Savannah River to the north and Broughton Street to the south.



*Map of the Salzburger settlement of New Ebenezer on the Savannah River*

# CHAPTER 2

## Savannah's Evolution

### SAVANNAH'S CITY PLAN

One of Oglethorpe's most enduring contributions was the development and implementation of an innovative city plan for Savannah, which included a grid system and green space. Designers proposed the idea of gridded streets and open squares or parks to promote a healthier, more efficient way to plan a city. These geometric groupings that serve as the building blocks of Savannah's Historic District are called wards. Each ward consists of intersecting streets, a square, four trust lots, and forty tything lots.

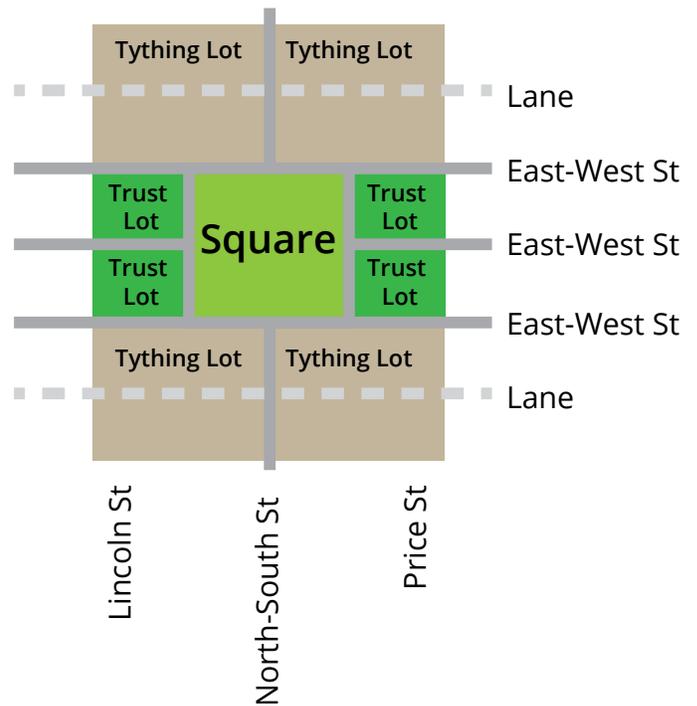
Green spaces and squares also provided a sense of community among the residents living around them. Larger green spaces were also planned as public markets and public commons, places for public assembly and strategic sites for military defense. Oglethorpe was likely familiar with the most recent layouts of defensive military camps designed for easy assembly of troops in secure open spaces.

The first square in this grid system was named Johnson Square, which was quickly followed by present-day Ellis, Wright, and Telfair Squares. The city would eventually expand to 24 squares.

Four smaller blocks, referred to as trust lots, front the square on the east and west. The trust lots were set aside for public buildings and churches. The north-south street on which the square is centered provide the thoroughfare between the squares and the trust lots.

The four larger blocks on the north and south sides of the square are called tything lots. They are further divided by east-west lanes.

### WARD LAYOUT



Each tything lot was divided into ten house lots of equal sizes. Each owner of a house lot was also entitled to a garden lot of five acres at the edge of town, and approximately 45 acres (minus the size of the garden lot) further out of town for large-scale farming (farm lots). Each ward contained 40 building lots facing the north or south, 20 on the streets bordering the squares, and 20 on streets forming the outer borders of the wards.

On the map above, you can see the lanes that run through the tything lots. Each of those lots is fully divided by a lane. Each of those lanes are named for the street to the north. For example, the lane that runs between in Johnson Square and City Hall is called Bay Lane.



*Noble Jones was the first to take advantage of a 500-acre plot of land that is located on present-day Isle of Hope. His family plantation, Wormsloe, is named for a place in his native Wales.*

## DEFENDING THE NEW COLONY

When the early colony was established, Oglethorpe directed his attention to the defense of the colony against Spanish incursion from Florida. Oglethorpe and his troops were unsuccessful in seizing two Spanish forts in Florida. The Spanish launched their attack of Fort Frederica in the summer of 1742. General Oglethorpe was successful in defusing the attack. The most famous battle of this incursion was The Battle of Bloody Marsh. Once again, General Oglethorpe and his troops were successful in defending the area. The series of skirmishes ended with a treaty in 1748. The two nations unofficially agreed upon the St. Johns River as the boundary between Georgia and Florida.



*Noble Wimberly Jones, first president of the Georgia Medical Society, and son of Noble Jones, owner of Wormsloe Plantation.*

## EARLY DEVELOPMENTS

Most of Georgia's first colonists settled on house lots in the wards that Oglethorpe laid out and tended their gardens in the five-acre plots that ringed the settlement. However, as much as 500 acres per person was available in the surrounding country. The first man to take advantage of this opportunity was Noble Jones. Jones leased part of an island located on the Skidaway River on what is now known as the Isle of Hope.

The Skidaway River, which provided access to the Atlantic Ocean, served as a "back door" for early shipping traffic into Savannah and provided much-needed protection for Savannah. Noble Jones named his family's plantation Wormsloe (originally spelled "Wormslow") after a place in his native Wales, Wormslow Hundred, Herefordshire.



*Bethesda Academy was established in 1740 as an orphanage, making it the oldest child caring institution in the country. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.*

Noble Jones served as a doctor and carpenter for the colony. He trained his son, Noble Wimberly Jones, as a physician. The younger Jones served as the Georgia Medical Society's first president.

In 1740, the Georgia Trustees granted George Whitefield 500 acres to establish the Bethesda Orphanage for boys, with James Habersham acting as the administrator for the project. Within a year of opening, 150 children were cared for by the orphanage. Today, Bethesda Academy (as it has been called since 2013) is the oldest child caring institution in the country, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and still actively serves the community.

### **THE COLD REALITY**

Life was very hard in Colonial Savannah. In promotional material to attract prospective colonists, Oglethorpe had described the area (which he had never laid eyes on) as having air that was "healthy, being always serene, pleasant and temperate, never subject to excessive heat or cold, nor to sudden changes." Needless to say, these claims proved to be false. The very first fatality in Savannah was William Cox, the only

doctor in the colony. Roughly half of the 114 that landed at Yamacraw Bluff in February 1733 were still alive in the New Year of 1734.

The Anglican Reverend Henry Herbert fell extremely ill, and passage was booked for him to return to England. This left Savannah without spiritual guidance. Oglethorpe sent for John and Charles Wesley, whose father had been a trusted friend. They arrived in 1736, but their stay was short in Savannah (John stayed 21 months, Charles stayed far less), rife with illness and local gossip. After the pair left Savannah, they went on to found Methodism. The Colonists soon found that there was the need for a burial ground. The first cemetery was located on the southern end of Wright Square. The old cemetery was bordered by Bull, Whitaker, York and Oglethorpe streets. The first cemetery was only in use during the first 17 years of the city's existence, and there is only a brass plaque to commemorate those graves today.

The graves were not moved into the new cemetery, and the city allowed the plot of land to be developed. In 1750, plans were made for a

new cemetery, later called Colonial Park Cemetery, outside the city's wall along what is now Oglethorpe Avenue.

Despite successes at Wormsloe and the Bethesda Orphanage, by 1750 it was becoming apparent that the Georgia colony was not producing an income comparable to other British colonies. The Trustees' idealistic vision of a community of farmers tending their garden lots was eclipsed by the overwhelming success of Carolina's plantation system. The Trustees relinquished their charter and the Crown officially took over the colony in 1752. Wealthy planters from South Carolina, whose West African-inspired system of rice culture depended upon cultivation of a narrow band of land on tidal estuaries, moved into Coastal Georgia, allowing the colony to prosper at last.

## **RULES OF THE NEW COLONY**

The colony was established by charter, and granted and signed by King George II in 1732. The charter provided for a group of Trustees to govern the colony.

The Trustees established several provisions for early settlers. In 1735, rum, brandies and spirits or strong waters were banned. However, beer, ale and wine were permissible. In 1742, the prohibition on liquors was repealed, shortly before Oglethorpe left Georgia for England.

The Trustees directed that no lawyers be allowed in the colony. They feared the divisiveness that would be encouraged by lawyers seeking clients. They ruled that colonists should plead their own causes before the bailiffs. The ban on lawyers lasted until 1755.

Originally, Jews were also banned. Following the death of the colony's doctor, a group of Sephardic Jews arrived in Georgia. There was a doctor in the first group of Jewish settlers who agreed to help the ailing colonists, resulting in the ban being lifted.

### *Savannah's Evolution*

While Roman Catholics were allowed in the colony, none were able to worship in colonial Georgia because of suspected sympathies with the Catholic Spanish. All other colonists were given freedom to worship as they pleased. The ban on Catholic services persisted until after the acceptance of the United States Constitution in 1789.

The prohibition that most troubled the colonists was the rule against slavery. Slaves loaned from South Carolina helped clear the town in 1733 and erected the first houses. The Trustees legally banned slavery in 1735. Colonists observed the accumulation of wealth by their slave-owning neighbors in the Carolinas, and almost immediately began to petition the Trustees to end the prohibition on slavery. The failure of colonists to develop a substantial cash crop economy gradually weakened the resolve of the Trustees.

Disheartened by the colonists' desire to repeal the rules of the colony, Oglethorpe left Georgia in July of 1743. Oglethorpe remained a Trustee until shortly before the Trustees turned the colony over to the Crown in 1752. Oglethorpe never returned to Georgia.

The ban on slavery was repealed in 1750, and slavery was made legal in Georgia on January 1, 1751. Also repealed was the law which stated that no man could own more than 500 acres.

Slavery combined with the dissolution on the limits on land ownership changed everything in Savannah. The economy flourished, and rice became the major cash crop.

## **THE BEGINNINGS OF THE RIVERFRONT**

James Habersham Sr. was instrumental in advancing Savannah's fortunes through trade. It was Habersham, former headmaster at Bethesda Orphanage, who first saw the potential for a viable import-export business based off a wharf system along the riverfront.



*John Wesley briefly stayed in Savannah, and went on to found Methodism after his departure.*

By the late 1740s he had established a direct trade with London, eliminating middlemen in Charleston. Habersham and his partner were granted permission to greatly expand the wharf area, and their business model was helped immensely by the legalization of slavery.

Habersham was a proponent for the use of slave labor, and he used this newfound labor force to greatly increase their shipping empire. It is a sad (and increasingly glossed-over) part of Savannah's economic and social history that River Street was literally built by enslaved human beings.

According to city records, this public waterfront area stretched only between present-day Bull and Whitaker Streets on the bluff.

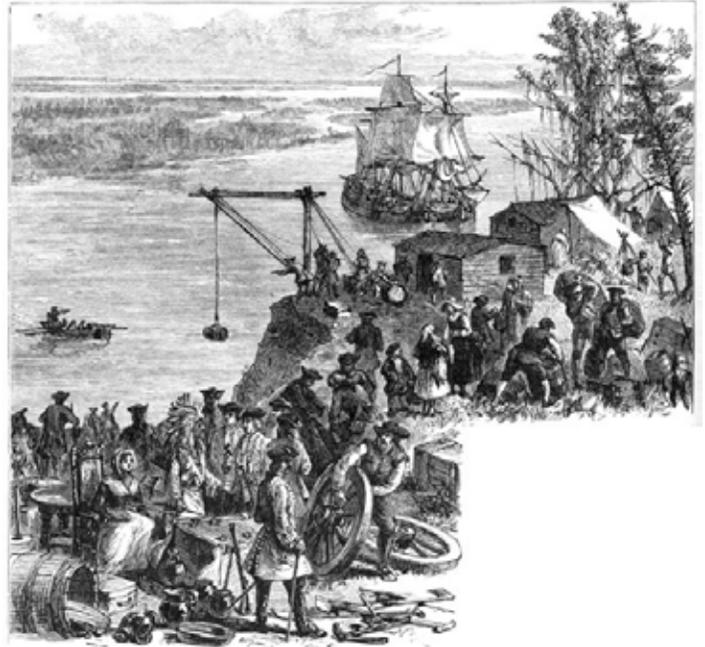
### THE ROYAL PROVINCE

With so many disparate voices and a void of leadership after Oglethorpe left Savannah, the colony needed discipline, particularly as the colony was transferred from trustee colony to a new status of royal province.

The Royal Governor, Captain John Reynolds, was named in 1754. Reynolds was a strict disciplinarian; Savannahians were unaccustomed to strong leadership. He installed friends and cronies into office, and agitated the Royal Council. Reynolds was removed from office in 1757, and replaced by Henry Ellis—who was much less politically aggressive than Reynolds, and proved to be a much more successful Royal Governor.



Royal governors Captain John Reynolds (left) and Sir James Wright



Ellis' primary contribution was to strengthen the city's defenses, and to improve relations with Native American neighbors. Three years into his tenure, Ellis' health suffered (he, true to form, blamed the "intense heats"), and he returned to England.

Savannah's third—and last—Royal Governor, Sir James Wright, was appointed in 1760, as King George III came to power. Wright was very much a successful Governor. He attracted new settlers, negotiated with Native American tribes, and oversaw an expansion of the territory. Wright himself became one of the largest landowners in the state with eleven plantations and 523 slaves.

In the 1770s the beginnings of revolutionary fervor was spreading through the colonies, but Wright's popularity did much to delay rebellion in Georgia. A strong administrator, Wright could allay colonial frustrations, but he could not stop the growing dissatisfaction with colonial rule. 🏮

# CHAPTER 3

## The American Revolution

### THE BEGINNINGS OF DISCONTENT

As the newest colony founded under English rule, Georgia maintained close ties with England and had the least experience in the development of a Colonial Assembly. The English Stamp Act was passed in 1765. The Stamp Act required that all official documents, like marriage certificates and deeds had to be affixed with an official stamp, and were subject to taxation. The Stamp Act was only levied in the British American colonies, resulting in more tension between loyalists and separatists than ever before.

Georgia was opposed to British taxation, but not anxious to rebel. Georgia was seen as a Loyalist stronghold—the rich upper class plantation owners were not anxious to change the system that had made them so wealthy.

There were a number of Loyalists in Savannah, who remained closely aligned with Great Britain. Many were dependent upon trans-Atlantic trade for their livelihood while many of the older generation tended to be conservative in their politics. However, in 1776, Georgia sent George Walton, Button Gwinnett and Lyman Hall as delegates to the Continental Congress, and they signed the Declaration of Independence.

### THE REVOLUTION COMES TO GEORGIA

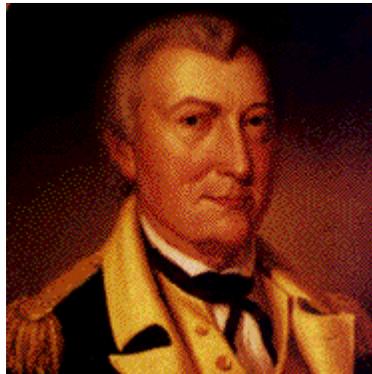
On August 10th, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was read in Savannah. A new

government was quickly in place. Archibald Bulloch was elected the first Governor, but he quickly passed away.

Button Gwinnett replaced him as Governor. Gwinnett imagined himself a commander, yet had no military experience. It was Lachlan McIntosh, who was in charge of the Continental troops in Georgia. Colonial forces in the region often received orders from both Gwinnett and McIntosh that contradicted one another. Their bad relationship was further tainted when an invasion of British-held Florida, planned by Gwinnett, went awry and McIntosh and Samuel Elbert were left wandering around a swamp. McIntosh blamed the mission's failure on Gwinnett.



*Button Gwinnett, Georgia delegate to the Continental Congress and signer of the Declaration of Independence.*



*Lachlan McIntosh, commander of the Continental troops in Georgia. Gwinnett and McIntosh fought in a duel in 1777, and Gwinnett was fatally wounded.*

Gwinnett challenged McIntosh to a duel in May of 1777. Both men were wounded in this duel, and Button Gwinnett died three days later, of a gangrenous infection. McIntosh was tried for murder, but was acquitted, and went on to serve General Washington in Valley Forge in the winter of 1777. Both Gwinnett and McIntosh are believed to have been buried in Savannah's Colonial Park Cemetery, just thirty years apart.

### THE BATTLE FOR SAVANNAH

The war went badly for both sides in New England. The British saw that they might not be able to subdue the rebellious colonies, at least not completely. They turned their attentions southward in 1778. The southern colonies produced lucrative cash crops vital to both armies.

The British high command targeted seizing control of Southern cities like Savannah and



## THE SIEGE OF SAVANNAH

Savannah is most often associated with the Civil War, but many are not aware that the second bloodiest battle of the Revolutionary War occurred in the fall of 1779. French forces began the effort to retake Savannah in September of 1779, and the Siege lasted until October 17<sup>th</sup>, 1779.

The Continental Army with her allies, the French and a regiment of soldiers from Haiti (which allegedly included the future first king of Haiti), fought to liberate this city from British Occupation, which held the City for a year.

It was an epic and poorly planned disaster. The French artillery opened fire on the City on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. On October 4<sup>th</sup>, 53 heavy cannon and 14 mortars began a five-day bombardment. Ultimately, this attack did little to damage the defenses of the English. Instead, considerable damage was done to the town itself. After almost a month plagued by delays, these allied forces determined that they only hope to continue the Siege was by a direct attack on the town.

On October 9<sup>th</sup>, the ground attack on the town began, and the fighting raged for days on many fronts. The allies attacked British fortifications and the casualties were horrendous. Fifty British casualties and close to one thousand Allied casualties. The Siege of Savannah was ultimately abandoned on October 17<sup>th</sup>, as the Continental Army and her allies withdrew. The city was never liberated. Only after the British surrender at Yorktown did the British pull up stakes and evacuate in 1782.

Several notable American heroes fell in the assault, including Sgt. William Jasper, a hero from an earlier battle in South Carolina at Sullivan's Island, who was killed trying to save his regimental colors. Another was the "Father of the American Calvary," Count Casimir Pulaski. Pulaski was the highest-



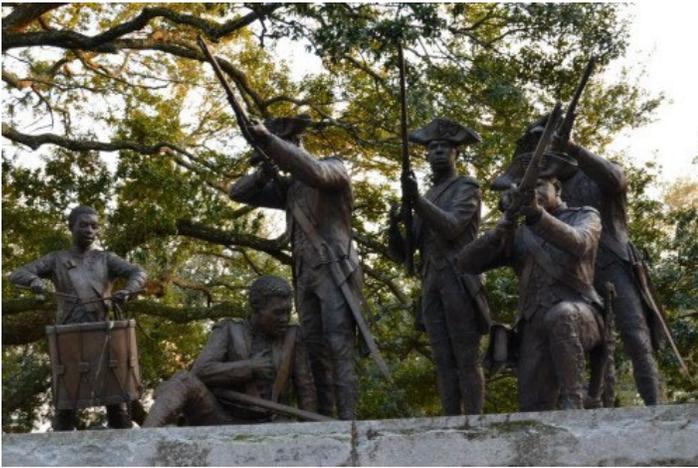
*Casimir Pulaski*

Charleston in 1778. The American in charge of defending the city was General Robert Howe, in command of roughly 700 troops.

Opposing him to the south was Colonel Archibald Campbell, with 3,000 British soldiers. General Howe unwisely disregarded repeated warnings from George Walton about an undefended passage through a swamp on his right flank.

The British offered a small reward to a slave named Quamino Dolly who knew the way through the passage. With Dolly's help, Colonel Campbell was able to emerge behind the American forces. Many of the retreating Americans found themselves bottled against Musgrove Creek. Those that couldn't swim either drowned, were shot, or taken prisoner.





*A monument to the Haitian soldiers that fought in the Siege of Savannah, located in Franklin Square.*

ranking foreign officer to die in the American Revolution. Pulaski was downed by cannon fire, but the English were so impressed by his skill, they spared him the musket, and allowed him to be carried off the field. He died several days later. Personally recommended by Benjamin Franklin, this man saved George Washington's life at the Battle of Brandywine.

## THE TIDE TURNS

In 1783, the war ended with the passing of the Treaty of Paris. Those loyal to the English Crown in the area evacuated to Tybee Island and awaited transport back to England, along with English forces, in 1782. Recovering from the war, Savannah moved forward into relative prosperity.

Many plantations formerly held by British Loyalists were awarded to key members of the resistance. General Nathanael Greene, commander of the southern theatre of operations for the Colonials and good friend of George Washington, was awarded Mulberry Grove Plantation, located a few miles northwest of Savannah.

Unfortunately, Greene did not enjoy his lovely property for long. He fell ill with sunstroke in June of 1786 and lingered in a coma for a

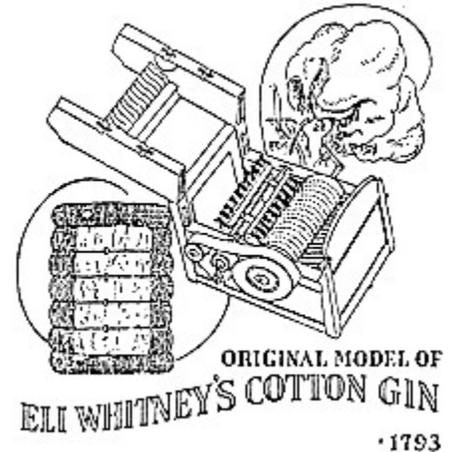


*General Nathanael Greene*

week before expiring. He left behind a widow, Catherine (Caty), who ran the plantation after his death.

## THE COTTON GIN

Attempting to run the plantation by growing short staple cotton, Caty sought advice about processing the cotton from young Eli Whitney, who was visiting at Mulberry Grove in 1793. His idea for "combing" the seeds out of the sticky cotton with rotating lines of teeth may not have originated with him since the need for such a device was on the minds of many short staple cotton growers. However, Whitney was the first to patent the design.



Whitney is widely recognized for starting a revolution in cotton planting in the South. His invention also made slavery highly profitable in areas where other cash crops would not thrive. The opening of new cotton lands to the north and west of Savannah increased the city's value as a port for the shipment of cotton, and lumber and naval stores (pitch, turpentine and rosin) which were the by-products of clearing land for cotton.

## POST-REVOLUTIONARY CHANGES

In 1788, Andrew Bryan, a bondsman (slave) on Brampton Plantation, organized a Baptist church in the barn of the plantation that would evolve into what is arguably the oldest African-American congregation in the United States.

Bryan had been baptized at the plantation by George Leile. George Leile was a slave who had been received into the membership of the (white) Baptist Church in Burke County, and is known as the first African-American missionary in the United States.

From his fortuitous beginning, Bryan became evidently an inspired preacher and regularly drew a substantial congregation. In 1789, Bryan bought his freedom.

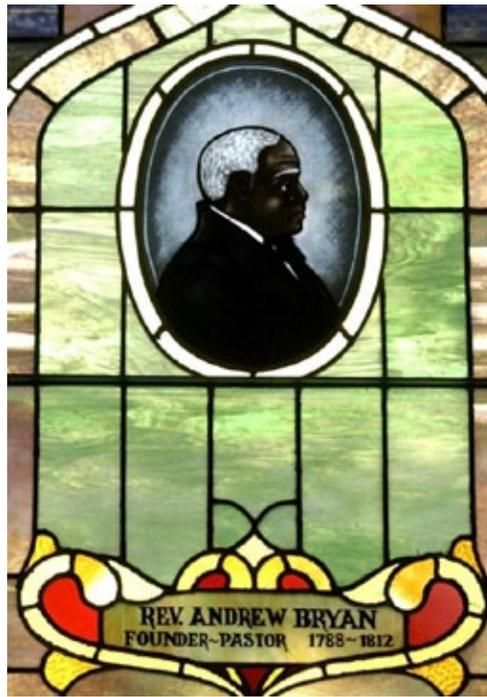
The site for the Bryan Street African Baptist Church was purchased by Bryan in 1793, and the original congregational structure was built in 1794. By 1800, the congregation was large enough to split to two locations. The Bryan Street congregation took the name of First Bryan Baptist Church, while the congregation on Montgomery Street would become First African Baptist Church.

In May 1791, United States President George Washington visited Savannah. Although he found the climate not to his liking, he expressed satisfaction with his quarters on Telfair Square (then known as St. James Square) and was quite pleased with his reception.

The Chatham Artillery, an acclaimed local military outfit, was toasted at the occasion by President Washington. Washington also awarded the Chatham Artillery with the Washington Guns, a pair of cannons which now sit on Bay Street just east of City Hall. The Washington Cannons remain the oldest monuments in the City of Savannah.

### **CHALLENGES FOR THE NEW STATE**

In 1796, a fire destroyed over 200 buildings leaving their occupants homeless and in many cases jobless. A second devastating fire swept through the city in 1820. This fire destroyed



463 buildings. Fighting fires during this period was done by "bucket brigades," and Savannah's buildings were required by ordinance to have buckets on hand.

In 1812, the Hibernian Society of Savannah was formed by 13 Irishmen to help needy Irish immigrants. The population of Savannah doubled between 1809 and 1860, in part due to the immigration of laborers, many from Ireland. A significant portion of that population growth also came from the Northern states immigrating south. By 1820, Savannah was the 18th largest city in the United States.

The War of 1812 between the United States and Great Britain, caused difficulties in cross-Atlantic commerce. Many Savannahians worried that their proximity to the ocean would make them vulnerable to attack.

In 1820, the same years as a second major fire, the citizens of Savannah also suffered through a widespread yellow fever epidemic. Yellow fever is a viral infection that is caused by mosquitoes and resulting in fever, nausea, and eventually death. A Marker denoting the graves of yellow fever victims can be found near the front gate of Colonial Park Cemetery. As many of these victims were buried in mass graves, it is difficult to determine the locations of the graves themselves.

Add to these disasters a nationwide economic depression, and it would appear that Savannah had a very stressful decade. However, the port again helped Savannah to recover.

During this time, architect William Jay arrived in Savannah from England. His sister, Anne, had married into Savannah society. As the wife of Robert Bolton, the former Miss Anne Jay was able to introduce her brother to Savannah's



*The Scarbrough House (left), which played host to President James Monroe, and the Owens-Thomas House (above) were designed by architect William Jay, who designed several of Savannah's most iconic residences.*

high society. Savannah was well known in England as an affluent partner in the cotton trade.

Jay's designs remain arguably Savannah's most famous buildings. His designs featured many Regency elements, and were very popular among the wealthiest of Savannahians. In the two years of his Savannah residence, Jay designed the Telfair, Scarbrough, and Richardson residences.

Richard Richardson lost his fortune, just three years after taking up residence of his Jay-designed home on Oglethorpe Square. The house became the property of the Savannah Branch of the Bank of the United States and served as a boarding house until 1829. In 1825, the city provided quarters for the Marquis de Lafayette, a visiting French dignitary, in the Richardson house deeming it the most elegant and spacious of quarters available in the city.

In 1951, then-owner Margaret Thomas died, leaving the home to the Telfair Museum. At her request, the home is now called the Owens-Thomas House.

In 1819, Savannah hosted yet another United States President, James Monroe, who stayed with William Scarbrough in his new Jay-designed home on West Broad Street. Scarbrough was also able to show the President his new steam driven sailing ship, the S.S. Savannah which was soon to depart on its maiden voyage to Liverpool and St. Petersburg, Russia, becoming the first steamship to cross the Atlantic Ocean.

Like Richardson, Scarbrough experienced financial disaster shortly after moving into his mansion. Despite great fanfare, the S.S. Savannah was not a commercial success. In November of 1820, he was declared an insolvent debtor by the Court. Fortunately for Scarbrough, his home was purchased by a business associate, and it was possible for the family to continue to reside in the property.

By 1830, Georgia's First City had taken another step toward establishing itself as a major hub of commerce. 🏠

# CHAPTER 4

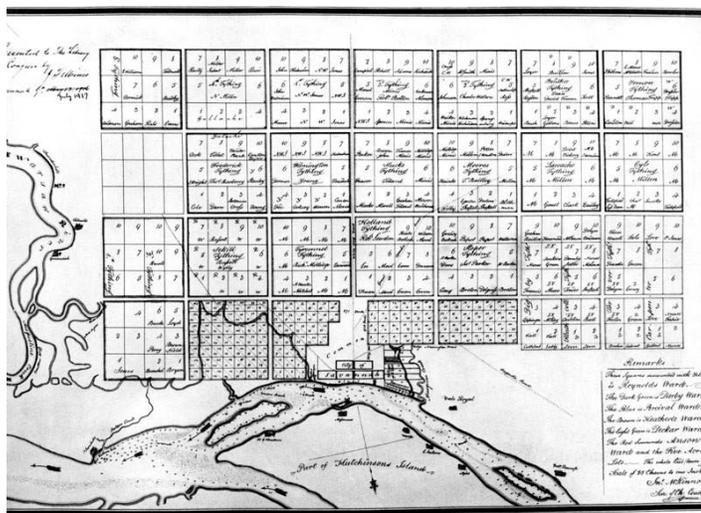
## Unrest in the South

### THE ANTEBELLUM

Cotton truly was king in Savannah in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century, contributing to the city's opulence and wealth. Magnificent homes and lavish plantations were constructed throughout the region as Georgia's most genteel city enjoyed the finest luxuries from around the world. River Street bustled with ships loading up cotton for export to England and beyond.

During this period, Savannah became the seat of cotton shipping, but excelled in the growth of rice. The City of Savannah was the largest stockholder of the Central Georgia Railway, allowing more cotton to be shipped from the interior of the state to the coast quickly. By 1820, Savannah was exporting ninety thousand bales of cotton a year.

Centuries ago, ships packed with ballast unloaded their stones, paving River Street with its distinctive cobblestones and allowing ships to load up with natural resources harvested from coastal Georgia. The city's port has always been a significant part of the local economy, transporting New World goods bound for Europe.



Map of Savannah, circa 1820.

The period before the Civil War proved to be a busy and prosperous time in Savannah's history. In December 1833, the Central Railroad and Canal Company of Georgia was chartered, which authorized the construction of a railroad reaching northwestward into the interior of the state. Workers also dug the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal to connect the Savannah and Ogeechee Rivers.

Savannah's prosperity in the 1830s and 1840s relied heavily on slave labor. While wealthy local families paid for the construction of opulent mansions, port facilities, railroads and canals, African-American slaves cleared the land, felled the trees, and planted and harvested the cotton. African-Americans also made the bricks, forged the iron and constructed the buildings that helped develop Savannah's identity as an affluent, successful city. They also grew, harvested and supplied much of the produce and meat available at the City Market.

Even relics of metropolitan slavery can be seen today in the Owens-Thomas House. The slave quarters directly behind the house are one of the oldest intact examples of urban slave quarters in the South.

As a port city, Savannah was Georgia's largest slave trading center during the Antebellum period. The Montmollin Building housed the operations of slave traders John Montmollin and Alexander Bryan from the mid-1850s until the surrender of Savannah in December of 1864. This was by no means the only slave market in Savannah.

Joseph Bryan was one of the largest slave-dealers in the region. In March of 1859, Pierce Butler, a planter from Philadelphia with two inherited plantations in the Darien area, arranged for Bryan to sell 436 slaves. Butler was in debt and selling off his Southern investments to



stay solvent. This was the largest single sale of slaves in the United States, and is known as the “Weeping Time.” There were roughly thirty babies sold in the two days of the sale, which occurred about three miles west of town, at the Ten Broeck Race Course. The event was reported widely throughout the North, the most notable coverage coming from an undercover journalist, Mortimer Thomson.

The status of African-Americans residing in Savannah during the antebellum period varied. The 1848 Census shows that just over 40% of the city of Savannah’s population was enslaved at that time.

Not only were there enslaved people attached to households or working for business owners, nominal slaves were “leased out” or leased themselves out as skilled artisans with an obligation to generate income for their owners. It was possible to buy one’s freedom through great thrift and frequently working a second job when contracted duties for the day were finished. Free persons of color also resided in antebellum Savannah, owning businesses, providing services, and vending produce at the City Market.

There were less than 650 free persons of color in Savannah in 1848. During this period, free persons of color were required to have a white guardian.

Andrew Cox Marshall, the Pastor of the First African Baptist Church, bought his freedom from Richard Richardson. Richardson first loaned him the money to purchase his freedom and then became his guardian. While the necessity of a

guardian indicates that free persons of color were not citizens in their own right, a guardian was also a guarantor of status, protecting a free person of color from the charge of being an escaped slave and being sold back into slavery.

In 1832, under the leadership of Pastor Marshall, the congregation purchased the former Savannah Baptist Building on Franklin Square. This building would be home to the First Colored Baptist Church, and the first black Sunday school. It would later change its name to First African Baptist Church. Slaves would come to work on the structure at the end of the day after their obligations were completed. On some of the pews in the balcony, craftsmen carved decorative symbols representing their African heritage. The members of the First Bryan Church finished the sanctuary in 1859.

8

**SAVANNAH CITY CENSUS—1848.**

	WHITES.		SLAVES.		FREE COL'D.		Total.
	Mals.	Female.	Mals.	Female.	Mals.	Female.	
Anson Ward, - - -	135	165	105	176	7	12	600
Brown Ward, - - -	106	117	98	153	4	4	482
Columbia Ward - - -	114	143	93	165	3	2	520
Crawford Ward, - - -	35	66	22	52	6	18	199
Decker Ward, - - -	185	107	33	65	1	1	392
Derby Ward, - - -	262	171	117	141	5	10	706
Elbert Ward, - - -	126	147	72	150	5	7	507
Old Franklin, - - -	228	178	71	124	2	4	607
New Franklin, - - -	115	79	10	28	1	0	233
Green Ward, - - -	114	138	82	121	12	35	502
Heathcote Ward, - -	176	171	160	156	11	7	681
Jackson Ward, - - -	108	139	98	154	0	0	490
Jasper Ward, - - -	84	129	49	75	3	4	344
Lafayette Ward, - -	24	72	25	38	5	3	167
Liberty Ward, - - -	166	155	86	129	0	1	531
Monterey Ward, - - -	7	11	5	4	0	0	27
Oglethorpe Ward, - -	519	480	448	508	109	172	2326
Percival Ward, - - -	144	131	92	148	10	10	525
Pulaski Ward, - - -	58	76	57	74	1	4	270
Reynolds Ward, - - -	139	146	63	125	3	10	489
Warren Ward, - - -	211	132	66	104	12	19	514
Washington Ward, - -	242	189	67	122	11	23	645
Currie Town District, -	262	262	187	275	24	40	1050
Carp's Row, Trustees' } Gardens & Gilmerville, }	97	85	139	146	5	10	482
Outside, - - -	72	41	71	50	1	0	235
<b>Totals - - -</b>	<b>3,729</b>	<b>3,521</b>	<b>2,316</b>	<b>3,370</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>13,573</b>

**RECAPITULATION TOTALS.**

White Males, - - -	3,729
“ Females, - - -	3,521
Colored Males, Slaves, - - -	2,316
“ Females “ - - -	3,370
“ Males, Free, - - -	241
“ Females “ - - -	396
<b>Grand Total City, - - -</b>	<b>13,573</b>

**CLASSIFICATION OF AGES.**

	Under 5	5 to 14	14 to 21	21 to 30	30 to 40	40 to 50
Whites - - -	1,071	1,304	899	1,026	1,092	499
Colored - - -	977	1,300	879	1,288	849	502
	50 to 60	60 to 70	70 to 80	80 to 90	90 to 100	
Whites - - -	267	137	48	7	0	
Colored - - -	280	168	75	34	11	

*Savannah City Census - 1848*

One of the many distinct features of this building are the holes in the floor in the shape of an African prayer symbol. Beneath the floor of the church auditorium is another finished subfloor, leaving a small open space between the first and second floor. It is rumored that the prayer symbol holes in the basement floor were actually air holes to hide runaway slaves.



The entrance to this tunnel remains unknown today. Unfortunately, the building has never been excavated, so the presence of this tunnel and its use has not been proven. This portion of the building's history is based entirely on oral accounts.

Among other limits forced upon African-Americans in the antebellum period, there was a law forbidding their education, first enacted in Savannah in 1817. Nonetheless, many children and adults learned to read, write, and cipher in the clandestine schools that developed in the city. In 1829, a second ordinance was passed, this time by the State of Georgia, to prevent the education of black children. They did not specifically forbid blacks from learning how to read and write; they simply banned teaching them in an organized school. The punishment, depending on whether it was a state or city infraction, carried as much as a \$500 fine for whites. For anyone of African descent was caught providing education to slaves thirty-nine lashes were to be administered in public, as well as a fine of \$100.



*Mother Matilda Beasley*

Reverend James M. Simms taught reading and writing clandestinely, and went on to lead his own school in the 1840s. He was caught teaching, and as he was a black man, he was publicly whipped for teaching.

Nevertheless, there were several individuals who dedicated themselves to teaching. Records show that there were at least six or seven illegal schools in operation in Savannah in 1860.

Jane Deveaux and her mother, Catherine, a free woman from Antigua, taught black children to read the Bible. They are credited with the longest surviving clandestine school which operated for nearly 30 years.

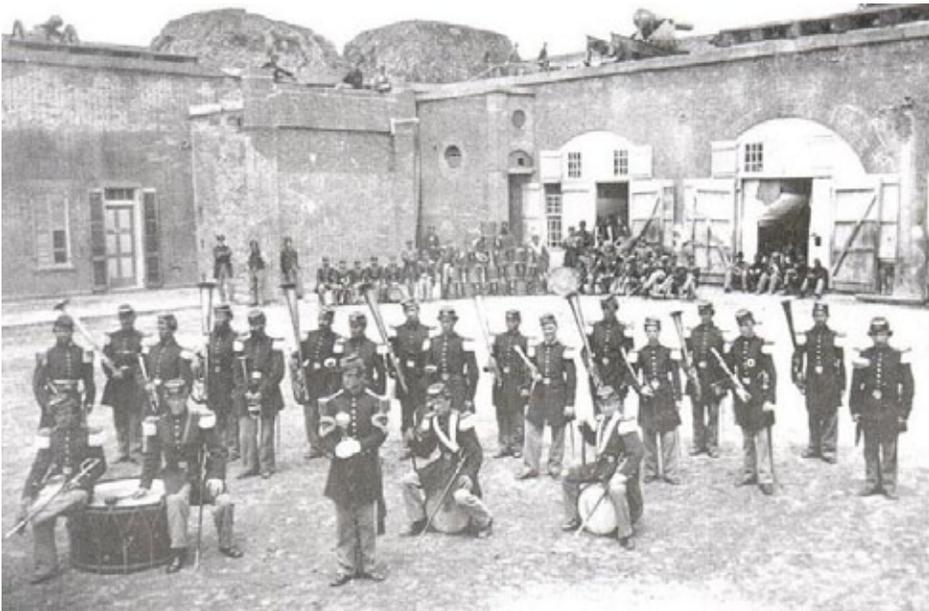
Mother Matilda Taylor Beasley, a freewoman from Louisiana, ran a clandestine school from approximately 1850 until 1860. While there are no records that exist on her school, we know that she spent a number of years in Savannah working to educate children.

Students of clandestine schools often hid their books in brown paper, work pails, and other mundane trappings to prevent them from being seen in the open. With this simple camouflage, many believed that these children were learning trades, which was not illegal.

## **THE CIVIL WAR**

The Civil War proved to be one of the most trying periods in Savannah's history. On January 19<sup>th</sup>, 1861, Georgia seceded from the Union.

Georgia took control of two Savannah area fortifications, Fort Pulaski and Fort Jackson, immediately after announcing succession. Fort Pulaski, was the scene of Savannah's only Civil War military combat (other than a skirmish to the west of the city). This masonry fort was thought to be invincible.



*Union soldiers at Fort Pulaski*

In April of 1862, however, Union troops fired rifled cannons from Tybee Island, under the direction of Union General Quincy A. Gilmore, for more than 30 hours. Union troops fired more than 5,000 shells at Fort Pulaski before Confederate Colonel Charles Olmstead surrendered the fort on April 11, 1862. Union forces would occupy Fort Pulaski throughout the remainder of the Civil War, and it would remain the City of Savannah's only site of military combat during the Civil War.

A Union blockade, with strongholds in nearby Port Royal, S.C. and Hilton Head Island, S.C. put pressure on Savannah, blocking port commerce and causing rampant inflation which bankrupted many residents of the city.

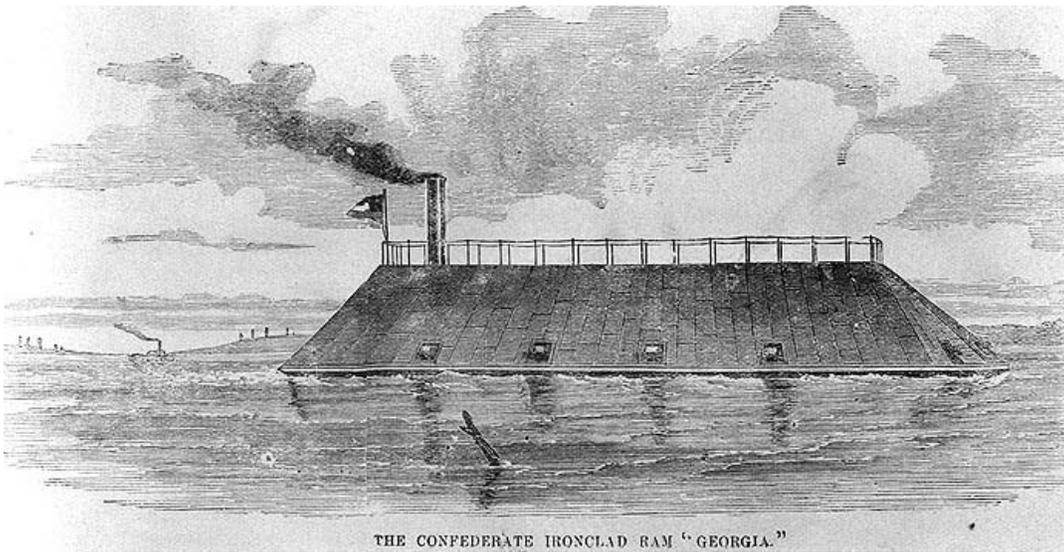
In April of 1862, Union Commander General David Hunter issued an order that, "All persons of color lately held to involuntary service by enemies of the United States in Fort Pulaski and Cockspur Island, Georgia are hereby confiscated and declared free..." After the battle at Fort Pulaski, General Hunter began enlisting black soldiers from the occupied districts of South Carolina and formed the first such Union Army regiment, the 1<sup>st</sup> South Carolina (African Descent). Hunter was initially ordered to disband, but eventually got approval from Congress for his action.

Fort Jackson was strengthened with the building of two forts. However, hard times persisted throughout the Civil War for Savannah. The Union navy blockaded the mouth of the Savannah River. Shortages developed in every aspect of life.

During the war, Savannah became a major shipbuilding port for the Confederacy during the Civil War. The Ladies Gunboat Society raised funds to build an ironclad which was named the Confederate States Ship (C.S.S.) Georgia.

This formidable ship was anchored opposite Fort Jackson so that Union warships advancing up the Savannah River would be subject to crossfire. Other vessels were built in Savannah including the ironclads C.S.S. Savannah and C.S.S. Atlanta.





THE CONFEDERATE IRONCLAD RAM "GEORGIA."

*The C.S.S. Georgia was built in Savannah and anchored at Fort Jackson. Shipbuilding was a major aspect of the economy of Savannah during the Civil War.*

## THE MARCH TO THE SEA

In December 1864, Union General William Tecumseh Sherman burned Atlanta and traveled east with his army to the outskirts of Savannah in his "March to the Sea."

During the march south from Atlanta, Brigadier General Jefferson C. Davis' Union XIV Corps was generally followed by a band of refugees, who were freed from slavery as the Union forces moved South.

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, Davis and thousands of Union soldiers crossed the roughly 164-foot-wide Ebenezer Creek on their way to Savannah on a pontoon bridge. Confederate General Joseph Wheeler's cavalry had been in pursuit of the Corps, intensifying Davis' frustration with the slow movement of the civilian refugees. Upon the crossing of Davis' troops, the pontoon bridge was dismantled before any civilians could cross.

It is not known how many of these refugees were left stranded, but at least 5,000 were left to face Wheeler's advancing cavalry. Many tried to cross the creek and drowned. Many were caught, beaten, killed, or returned to their owners when General Wheeler's cavalry caught them. This is often referred to as the Massacre at Ebenezer Creek.

## THE OCCUPATION OF SAVANNAH

Sherman's troops encountered resistance and there was a minor skirmish west of Savannah. After a minimal exchange of gunfire, Union forces marched into Savannah on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 1864.

Savannah's officials decided to surrender the city to Union forces, rather than to

fight and risk Savannah's destruction. Sherman accepted the surrender of the city from Mayor Richard Arnold and wired President Lincoln, "I beg to present you as a Christmas gift, the City of Savannah with 150 heavy guns and plenty of ammunition and also about 25,000 bales of cotton."

On January 12<sup>th</sup>, 1865, Sherman and Secretary of War Edwin Stanton met 20 representatives of the African-American communities of Savannah, a delegation comprised largely of Baptist and Methodist ministers, to discuss emancipation. Secretary Stanton came to Savannah specifically to investigate the Massacre at Ebenezer Creek. Major James A. Connolly of Illinois sent an account of the Massacre to his congressman, who then leaked it to the press. As a result, Sherman was primarily concerned with quickly providing means for the many black refugees of the Civil War to become self-sufficient, as the Union Army could not support them while on campaign. Fifteen of the twenty ministers that met with Sherman and Stanton had been born into slavery, and all agreed that the best way to provide for newly emancipated slaves was for them to have land.

On January 16<sup>th</sup>, 1865, Sherman issued Field Order No. 15 with President Lincoln's approval. The Field Order was read from Second African Baptist's original building. The order

confiscated coastal property from Charleston to the St. Johns River and redistributed it to freedmen in 40-acre allotments. It also authorized the loan of mules from the army to the freedmen as they settled on their new properties.

While United States President Andrew Johnson rescinded the order after Lincoln's death, Field Order No. 15 had one lasting result as the catalyst for the organization of the Freedman's Bureau. In March of 1865, the U.S. Congress formally created the Bureau of Refugees, Freeman, and Abandoned Lands to aid in the transition of former slaves to freedom. This entity was established to provide assistance by furnishing rations, establishing schools, and developed a contract labor system for those freed from slavery until 1872.

Savannah would remain occupied by Union forces well after the Confederate surrender at Appomattox in April of 1865.

## THE RECONSTRUCTION

After the Civil War, Savannahians strove to maintain control over commerce, but the national market grew, absorbing other ports and railroad systems into one vast commercial network. By 1873, the city was in financial disarray, worsened by a national depression in the same year.

In 1876, a fire destroyed much of the waterfront. In 1886, an earthquake devastated Charleston and caused damage in Savannah. In 1889, there were another three major fires. One of these fires destroyed the Independent Presbyterian Church. Hurricanes also ravaged the city in 1893 and again in 1896. During this period, thousands of lives were also claimed by Yellow Fever.



*General Sherman delivering Field Order No. 15, which confiscated land from Charleston to the St. John's River and redistributed it to freed slaves. The order was read from Second African Baptist Church.*

These misfortunes may have kept Savannah from competing with larger ports like New Orleans, but it did not completely hinder the city's growth and recovery. By the 1880s, the city had made a healthy recovery and continued a steady, if not remarkable, growth in trade and commerce. Founded in 1872, the Savannah Cotton Exchange was symbolic of this economic recovery and growth. The Cotton Exchange building on Bay Street was built in 1886, making Factor's Walk the so-called 'Wall Street of the South.' There is no more poignant example of what happened in the South during these years than the total paradigm shift along the banks of the Savannah River: the old plantation system, which had provided the economic and social framework of the entire region, was no longer a viable means of progress. Some of these properties, like the former Greene plantation, Mulberry Grove, were destroyed by Union forces during the Civil War. Others were replaced by factories. The home at Hermitage Plantation was dismantled by Henry Ford, and the Savannah Gray bricks from this plantation were recycled for use in the Ford Plantation in Richmond Hill. The Hermitage property was later leased by the Union Bag and Paper Company.



*The Cotton Exchange building, located on Bay Street, is an icon of the economic recovery that occurred after the Civil War.*

For African-Americans, the era following the Civil War meant new opportunities for education and employment. In 1867, with a gift from Alfred Ely Beach, editor of the *Scientific American*, the Beach Institute was founded. This was the only school where African-American youth could receive an education through the 12th grade. This opened African-American education opportunities to higher education. In the 1890's, a school for African American nurses and a black owned and managed hospital opened.

In 1890, the Georgia General Assembly passed legislature that established the Georgia State Industrial College for Colored Youth, which would become known as Savannah State University in 1947. Today, Savannah State University is the oldest black public university in Georgia. Savannah's African-American leaders ran for political office and submitted legislation to create public schools for all. Men like Ulysses Houston and James Simms, both of whom served in the Georgia legislature, went on to represent African-Americans in their struggles for equality as Reconstruction ended. Unfortunately, by the 1890s, racial segregation was not only the goal of white supremacists, but the

law of the land. African-Americans responded by developing and patronizing their own schools and businesses.

In February 1883, the 150-year anniversary of Savannah and Georgia was celebrated in a great event, which included a reenactment of Oglethorpe's landing in Savannah. Governor of Georgia Alexander Stephens (also the former Vice President of the Confederacy), was the featured speaker. During the sesquicentennial, Savannah's first electrified home turned on its lights, a residence on Lafayette Square now called Hamilton-Turner Inn.

Despite the fires, hurricanes, and yellow fever outbreaks that occurred in Savannah from 1876 until well into 1890, Savannah began to again see relative post-war prosperity. Periodic calamities did not halt the migration of the city's well-to-do to summer accommodations on the coast. Response to this interest can be seen with the construction of the DeSoto Hotel in 1890. 🏠



*DeSoto Hotel*

# CHAPTER 5

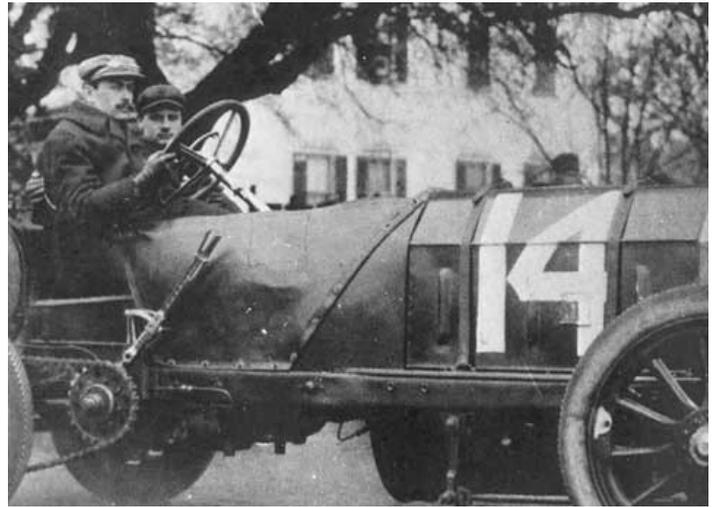
## The Modern City

### MILITARY DEVELOPMENT

The Spanish American War began in 1898 and had a dramatic effect on Savannah's militias and population. Having spent more than thirty years regretting the loss of the war against the North, citizens reconciled and joined in a rebirth of national patriotism. Savannah became a place of passage for soldiers on their way to Cuba and a hospital for returning ill and wounded troops. Nellie Kinzie Gordon and her daughter, Juliette Gordon Low, played an important role in organizing nursing services for returning troops. During this period, Fort Screven was built on Tybee Island, and Forsyth Park went into use as a parade ground and staging area.

In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Savannah's association with the military became stronger with the establishment of Hunter Army Airfield, Camp Stewart in nearby Hinesville, and the shipbuilding facilities on the Savannah River. All of these military installations played a part in the conflicts in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

At the beginning of World War I, the port of Savannah became a center for shipbuilding and maintenance. Savannah added a new person-



*In 1908, Savannah hosted the American Grand Prize road race, an event that briefly filled the streets of the city. The races came to an end when much of the track area became residential neighborhoods.*

ality to its ranks of the famous when Captain Frank O. Hunter became Georgia's only flying ace during World War I. In 1940, the City would rename its airport (once called the Savannah Municipal Airport) in his honor.

Over time, Savannah's civilians would grow to have a close relationship with the military. One example of the admiration of service members in Savannah can be seen as Old Estill Avenue was renamed Victory Drive as a memorial in honor of Chatham County's fallen troops.

### THE 20TH CENTURY AND BEYOND

The first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century brought fame and excitement to Savannah. Savannah played host to the road race known as the American Grand Prize in 1908. The immensely popular American Grand Prize races were repeated in 1910 and 1911, but the practice died out, almost as quickly as it began, because the city was growing. Much of the area where the track was located became neighborhoods, and this highlighted another change for Savannah, as many of the areas outside of the Historic District became increasingly suburban over the next 100 years.



*Captain Frank O. Hunter was the only flying ace from Georgia during World War I. Hunter was also a key officer in the "Mighty Eighth" Air Force during World War II.*



*Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts, and the original Girl Scout headquarters, located on Drayton Street.*

In 1912, Juliette Gordon Low founded the Girl Scouts of America in Savannah. Low was influenced by the Girl Guides and Robert Baden-Powell's efforts with the Scouting Movement. Her carriage house on Drayton Street behind the Andrew Low House became the organization's first headquarters. The Girl Scouts became the nation's largest organization devoted to developing leadership, service, and survival skills for young women.

In the 1920s, the "Jazz Age" business flourished in Savannah, and we saw an artistic growth in the newly recovered region that continued for many years. Legendary songwriter Johnny Mercer, who composed hits like "Moon River" and

"Days of Wine and Roses," began his career as an actor in the Town Theater Group.

Acclaimed Southern writer Flannery O'Connor was born at St. Joseph's Hospital in 1925. O'Connor spent much of her childhood in Savannah, growing up on Lafayette Square, before writing famous short stories like 'A Good Man is Hard to Find' and "Good Country People", as well as her two novels, *Wise Blood* (1952) and *The Violent Bare it Away* (1960).

Joe "King" Oliver brought his Creole Jazz Band to Savannah in 1937. Playing on what was then West Broad Street, King remained in Savannah until his death in 1938.



*Joe "King" Oliver was one of many jazz musicians who performed in Savannah.*

In 1930, as a result of the Great Depression, the city saw the beginning of momentous and largely difficult changes. The port experienced a major decline in shipping, and banks failed all over Georgia. During the Great Depression, many Savannahians were aided by the Works Progress Administration. Through the work of the WPA, Savannah High School was constructed on Washington Avenue. Young men in the Civilian Conservation Corps restored Fort Pulaski, which had been named a national monument in the 1920s. Savannah and the state celebrated its bicentennial in 1933 with balls, street dances, parades and pageants

along with a visit from United States President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1931, scientist Charles H. Herty established the Savannah Pulp and Paper Laboratory on River Street. In this plant, he discovered uses for cotton seed meal and developed methods for processing pulp paper out of pine. The economy of Savannah was given a considerable boost when Union Bag and Paper Company moved to the area, becoming one of the region's largest employers for many years.

A famous Savannah tradition ended in 1931, when George Martus, keeper of the light on Elba Island, retired. At that time, he and his sister Florence, known as the "Waving Girl," because she waved her handkerchief to all passing ships, moved to dry land. She waved at every ship that arrived or departed between 1887 until 1931. Though there are many stories, many of them romantic, but none are true. Of the stories of long lost lovers, Martus said: "That's a nice story. But what got me started - I was young and it was sort of lonely on the island for a girl. At first I would run out to wave at my friends passing, and I was so tickled when they blew the whistle back at me."

In 1935, the City of Savannah established Armstrong Junior College, which was named for the donor of the original building located just north of Forsyth Park. Its home in the historic Armstrong House was a gift to the city from the family of George F. Armstrong, and it first opened its doors to 175 students. The College moved south to its current location in 1966, just two years after receiving a four-year college status. Notable alumni include Stacy Keach, former Mayor Otis Johnson, and Stratton Leopold.

## **THE SECOND WORLD WAR AND MILITARY GROWTH**

World War II, like the First World War, turned Savannah into an important shipbuilding center. Southeastern Shipyard, downstream from the city, produced over 80 Liberty ships or cargo ships, bringing an additional 15,000 jobs to the city.

*The Modern City*



General Frank O. Hunter became a key officer in the Eighth Air Force, activated as part of the United States Army Air Forces in January of 1942. The "Mighty Eighth" earned its name by being able to dispatch 2,000 four-engine bombers and 1,000 fighters on a single mission.

Hunter Field was used as a light bomber training field, until 1945. In 1950, Chatham Field was found to be unsatisfactory for military use, and Hunter Field became Hunter Air Force Base. Chatham Field became the Savannah Municipal Airport (now known as the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport).

In the 1960s, Hunter Air Force base was placed on a closing list, as it simply did not have the facilities needed to support transport missions. However, as the United States became involved with the Vietnam War, there was a growing need for helicopter training sites. In 1966, the Department of Defense announced that the Army's Advanced Flight Training center would operate out of Hunter Army Airfield and Fort Stewart.

Fort Stewart began as Camp Stewart in 1940, and was used primarily as an anti-aircraft artillery training center. It was home to a detachment of Women's Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), a civilian division that performed training duties at Liberty Airfield, thereby freeing their male counterparts for combat duty. Camp Stewart would also be used to house Prisoners of War from the North African campaigns during World War II. Camp Stewart became Fort Stewart in 1956.

The United States Public Health Service moved into the former Central of Georgia Hospital on Oatland Island to study tropical diseases. The facility became a technical development laboratory for the Center for Disease Control shortly after World War II.

In 1968, the United States Air Force transferred Hunter Field to the Army, and it was renamed Hunter Army Air Field. In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, it is home to units of the Third Infantry Division, other non-divisional military units and the Savannah Coast Guard Air Station.

### **CIVIL RIGHTS IN SAVANNAH**

The postwar period was an important era in the lives of Savannah's African-American population. Rev. Ralph Mark Gilbert, pastor of the First African Baptist Church, reorganized the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and was elected President of that organization in 1942. Through his efforts in voter registration and electoral reform, Rev. Gilbert was instrumental in implementing the establishment of United Service Organization (U.S.O.) canteens for black military men at Camp Stewart and in Savannah at the West Broad Street YMCA.

In 1947, Savannah became one of the first cities in the South to hire African American police officers, as nine black officers were appointed



*The first nine black officers were hired at the Savannah Police Department in 1947, but only had limited power.*

to the Savannah Police Department. This was a huge achievement in progress, but was still largely flawed. For instance, none of the officers were able to arrest white citizens.

This was largely attributed to a voter registration drive launched by Rev. Gilbert, who remained President of the NAACP until 1950. Under his leadership, more than forty NAACP chapters were organized in Georgia.

Westley Wallace Law, more commonly known as W.W. Law, replaced Gilbert as president of Savannah's chapter of the NAACP. Law began his work with the NAACP at a young age, protesting segregation at Savannah's Grayson



*Peaceful protests like the march on Broughton Street pictured above were a big part of the civil rights movement.*



*W.W. Law was an active figure in the NAACP, leading protests such as wade-ins on the Tybee beach and sit-ins at lunch counters. He went on to advocate for preservation of historic buildings significant to the black community.*

Stadium in high school. Law served as President of the NAACP Youth Council while in college.

Law was fired from his job as a letter carrier because of his Civil Rights activities. He was later reinstated to his job by Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy. Law would continue to work for the Postal Service, and retire after forty years of service, in addition to his work in the community, several local churches, the Boy Scouts, and the NAACP.

Law advocated for peaceful protests. He led wade-ins at Tybee Beach and sit-ins at Kress and Woolworth lunch counters. He also led an eighteen-month boycott of Broughton Street merchants. He opposed night marches, believing that they could allow people to become violent.

Hosea Williams was a Purple Heart recipient and a chemist for the Department of Agriculture when he settled in Savannah. Williams joined the NAACP after he was hospitalized for drinking from a water fountain marked as "whites only." A father of nine, Williams fully devoted himself to the Civil Rights movement. Williams later formed the Chatham County Crusade for Voters. He was fired from the Department of Agriculture in 1963 for speaking out against racist policies. He was arrested

many times, and was jailed for sixty-five days, the longest continuous sentence of any civil rights leader.

While Williams was in jail in 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. came to Savannah. He delivered a sermon on the same ground where General Sherman had issued his Field Order No. 15, the Second African Baptist Church. This speech was an early version of his "I Have a Dream" speech. Williams would later join the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and would go on to work with Reverend King.

The work of Civil Rights leaders in Savannah resulted in the desegregation of public facilities in Savannah in October 1963. This was eight months ahead of Federal desegregation legislation, and resulted in the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King referring to Savannah as "the most desegregated city south of the Mason-Dixon line" in his 1964 New Year's Day address.

In 1963, Savannah High School and Groves High School were desegregated. Nineteen students between the two schools led the movement. Many were hand-picked by the NAACP and the Chatham County Crusade for Voters.

Youth leaders Earl T. Shinhoster and Sage Brown were among the students to integrate Groves High School. Shinhoster would go on to work for the NAACP as director of the



*Groves High School was desegregated in 1963, along with Savannah High School. Nineteen students led the initial movement toward integration.*

Southeast Office. Brown would go on to receive a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star for his service during the Vietnam War, and would later return to Georgia to continue his work for Civil Rights as a lawyer.

Robert Robinson would be among the students to help integrate Savannah High. Like Brown, Robertson would go on to become a lawyer. In his second term as City Alderman in 1989, he was killed by a mail bomb.

Former Mayor Otis Johnson became the first African-American to graduate from Armstrong Junior College (now Armstrong State College) in 1964.

## **CULTURAL PRESERVATION IN SAVANNAH**

Following the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, W.W. Law turned to lead another cause that dramatically changed Savannah—the preservation of the city’s historic buildings, specifically those black historic sites.

Understanding the potential benefit to African-American neighborhoods in Savannah, W. W. Law and fellow activists organized the Yamacraw Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History and the Beach Institute Historic Neighborhood Association (ASALH). Through research and with the help of federal monies, these preservationists identified African-American sites and structures worthy of preservation and preservation funding. As president of the ASALH, he helped to establish the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum, the Negro Heritage Trail Tour, the King-Tisdell Cottage Museum, and the Beach Institute of African-American Culture.



*The Beach Institute was built in 1867 to educate newly-freed slaves. At the time, it was the only school in Savannah to provide an education through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade.*

The Beach Institute itself was built in 1867 by the Freedmen’s Bureau for the education of newly freed slaves. In the years following the Civil War, the Beach Institute was the only school in Savannah to provide an education through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The project was funded by Alfred Ely Beach, inventor and editor of *Scientific American*. The American Missionary Association (AMA) assisted in providing education for students. The AMA ran the school until 1939, and the Board of Education then used it until 1970. In 1988, Savannah College of Art and Design bought the

vacant Beach Institute building and donated it to the King-Tisdell Foundation. It reopened in 1990 as a cultural center.

Law worked to move King-Tisdell Cottage to its present location on East Huntingdon Street and organized the Beach Institute Historic Neighborhood Association. This Cottage was built in 1896 by W.W. Aimar. The home is named for Eugene and Sarah King, as well as Sarah’s second husband, Robert Tisdell. The home was set for demolition in 1970. With the help of Law, the City of Savannah, and the Historic Savannah Foundation, the home was moved to its current location. Today, it houses pieces of period furniture, reflecting the furnishings of a black family in the 1890s. Many of Ulysses Davis’ works are featured here and at the Beach Institute.

Law was instrumental in preserving Laurel Grove South Cemetery, a historically African-American burying ground. He worked to refurbish and replace damaged headstones at the cemetery for a number of years. Law gave tours of the cemetery for the rest of his life. Upon his death in July of 2002, Law was buried in Laurel Grove South, the cemetery he worked to preserve.



*The original City Market building was demolished in 1954 to make way for a parking garage.*

## **HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN SAVANNAH**

Preservation began before the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, and a number of successful steps were taken to preserve the city's historic treasures. A Society for the Preservation of the Parks was organized in 1921 and continued to battle against the destruction of city squares through World War II.

In 1945, the president of Savannah Gas, Hansell Hillyer, and his wife Mary, began restoration of buildings in the Trustees Garden complex owned by the gas company. In 1951, the Owens-Thomas House was bequeathed to the Telfair Museum of Art by Margaret Thomas to be used as a house museum. In 1953, the Wayne Gordon House, also known as the Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace, was purchased by the Girl Scouts of America as a memorial to its founder.

Despite these efforts, a number of landmark buildings were demolished. In 1954, the old City Market building was demolished for the construction of a parking garage (which was recently torn down as part of a larger effort to restore Ellis Square).

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, a number of architecturally-significant buildings were demolished, including the DeSoto Hotel and Union Station. The DeSoto was demolished in 1968, due to its lack of air-conditioning. In 1963, Savannah's Union Station was torn down to make way for Interstate 16.

In 1955, the Isaiah Davenport House, a historically significant Federal period home on Columbia Square, was threatened with demolition. Seven local women formed the Historic Savannah Foundation, a non-profit organization which promotes preservation of the city's historic structures. To prevent the demolition of the Davenport House, these dedicated preservationists raised money and purchased the home.

This act started an organized preservation movement in Savannah and marked the founding of the Historic Savannah Foundation. The home was restored and opened to the public as a house museum in 1963.

In 1966, the area from E. Broad Street to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and from the north side of the Savannah River to Gwinnett Street was officially designated a National Historic Landmark District. Savannah's historic district is home to thousands of architecturally-significant buildings including award-winning examples of Federal, Victorian, Regency and Italianate architecture located within the 2.2 square mile area.



*Union Station was torn down in 1963 to make room for the newly-constructed Interstate 16.*



River Street in 1970 and today.

Since then, the Central of Georgia Railroad has been designated a National Historic Landmark District and several historic suburbs have been designated National Register Historic Districts including Ardsley Park-Chatham Crescent, Cuyler-Brownville, Daffin Park, Parkside, Eastside, Gordonston, and Thomas Square Streetcar District. In all of Savannah, there are 15 Historic Districts.

In the 1970s, determined to revive the history and glory of old River Street, local business leaders, urban planners and government officials joined forces to create the River Street Urban Renewal Project. By transforming 80,000 square feet of empty, abandoned cotton warehouse space into a colorful array of shops, restaurants and art galleries, the River Street Urban Renewal Project had an enormous economic impact on downtown Savannah. Today, more than 70 businesses call River Street home.



The "Bird Girl" statue pictured on the cover of the best-selling book *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* was relocated from Bonaventure Cemetery to the Telfair Museum Collection.

## SAVANNAH MOVING FORWARD

In 1979, the founding of the Savannah College of Art and Design, which has since become one of the largest art colleges in the United States, advanced the cause of preservation in the city by purchasing and restoring many older buildings, including their Student Center, a former synagogue, the Lucas and Trustees Theatres, as well as former hotels and homes that have been converted into administrative buildings or dormitories. This private university has four campuses throughout the world and over 10,000 students.

In January of 1994, an international audience discovered Savannah in the pages of author John Berendt's best-selling book, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. Berendt's book focuses on a sensational Savannah murder and a host of colorful local characters. Affectionately referred to as "The Book" in Savannah, *Midnight in the Garden of Good & Evil* held a top position on *The New York Times* Best-seller List for more than five years, breaking all previous records.

The “bird girl” statue featured in a Jack Leigh photograph on the cover of the book became such a popular tourist destination that it had to be relocated from Bonaventure Cemetery to the Telfair Museum Collection, where it remains on permanent display in one of the three Telfair Museums.

Savannah currently enjoys status as one of the East Coast’s largest seaports, and has industries ranging from paper products (International Paper) to luxury private jets (Gulfstream). We are also known for our Southern Hospitality, being one of the most popular destinations in the South. 🏮

Savannah has long been a popular location for film, having been home to productions like “The Longest Yard” and “Glory.” Following the popularity of “The Book,” was the production of “Forrest Gump,” and later film version of “Midnight in the Garden of Good & Evil,” directed by Clint Eastwood. From there, many films have been produced in Savannah, and we are gaining popularity as a location for other media, for television, video games, and streaming services.

In 1996, the Olympics were held in Atlanta, but all open water sailing events were held in Savannah. About 1,000 spectators per day came to see the events, and the Olympic Torch (or Cauldron) remains as a monument on River Street.



*The Lucas Theatre circa 1943 and today. The theatre was saved from demolition in 1986, and maintains a strong relationship with the Savannah College of Art and Design.*

# CHAPTER 6

## The Ward System

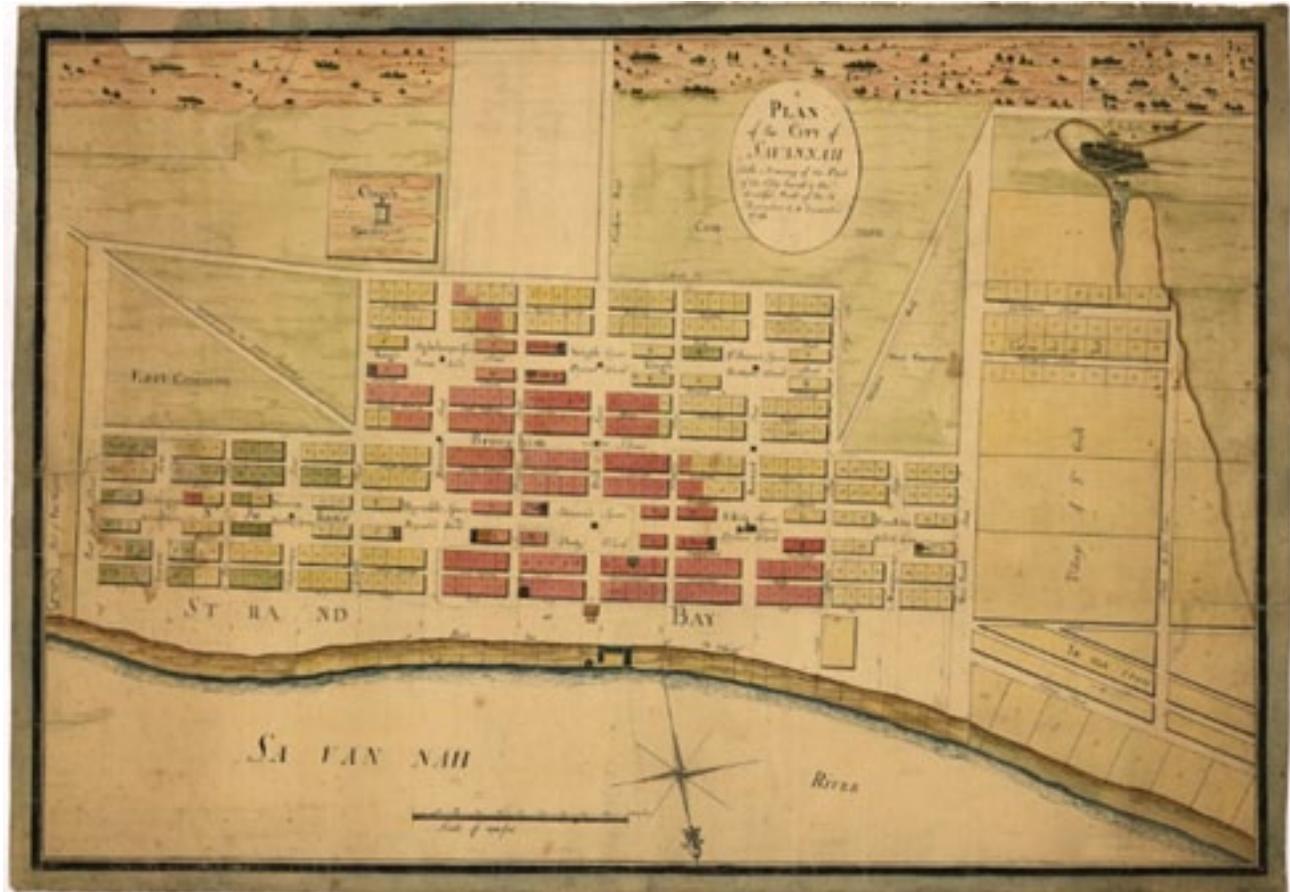


Oglethorpe laid out the town in a ward system. The centerpiece of each ward included a square which was designed to promote a sense of community within the ward and also to serve as a site for military defense. The first four wards were laid out to the south of Bay Street. From west to east, they are Decker and Derby wards and directly to the south of this pair are Heathcote and Percival wards. These wards were named for members of the Georgia Trustees and benefactors of the Colony: Sir Matthew Decker, member of Parliament and benefactor; the Earl of Derby; George Heathcote; and Lord Viscount Percival, first President of the Trustees.

Street names are significant to the historical development of Savannah. Once called "The Strand," Bay Street is named for its location at the edge of the bluff. Broughton Street is named for Thomas Broughton of South Carolina who, with four of his sawyers, gave two months of carpentry work to the new colony.

Oglethorpe Avenue, formerly known as South Broad Street, serves as the southern boundary of the first set of wards. It is named for the colony's resident Trustee, General Oglethorpe. Jefferson Street is named for Thomas Jefferson, the author of the Declaration of Independence (1776) and third President of the United States (1801-1809). Whitaker Street is named for Benjamin Whitaker, Chief Justice of the Colony of Carolina. Drayton Street is thought to be named for Thomas and Anne Drayton, who sent laborers to assist with the formation of the new colony.

As the colony became a state, and Savannah became a proper city, names would continue to carry significance, both locally and nationally, as relating to the history and culture of our area. While some of our streets, squares, and landmarks have been renamed or removed, many bear their original names and features that are strikingly similar to what they would have been for our forbearers.



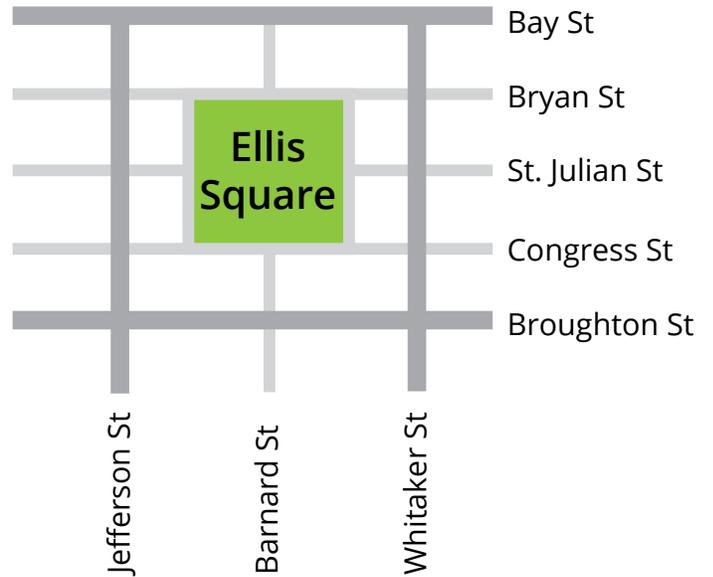
## DECKER WARD & ELLIS SQUARE

The naming of Decker Ward honors Sir Mathew Decker (1679-1749), one of the commissioners to collect funds for the Trustees. He was also the director and governor of the East India Company and a member of Parliament.

The square in Decker Ward is named for Henry Ellis, who served as the second Royal Governor of Georgia. Ellis Square, originally known as Market Square, was the site of 4 public markets between 1733 and the 1950s. The Market Square supplied the residents of Savannah with most of its foodstuffs. In the late 18th and through the first half of the 19th centuries, most of the covered stall owners were white while many of the vendors whose carts filled the streets around the market were black. Much of the produce and meat sold by these vendors was raised by plantation slaves and sent to market in dugout canoes. By the time slavery had taken hold in Georgia, Decker Ward was also the site of the commercial slave market.

In 1954, the market building was demolished to make way for a multi-storied parking structure which occupied the entire square. In 2005, the parking garage was torn down to make way for the restoration of Ellis Square. This project includes the recreation of Ellis Square as a community green space and an underground parking facility.

## DECKER WARD



Bryan Street is named for South Carolinian Joseph Bryan, who assisted Oglethorpe in establishing the colony. After the American Revolution, Duke Street was renamed Congress Street. Barnard Street is named either for a French engineer named Bernard or a family named Barnard who lived on the street in the Colonial period. St. Julian Street is named for James St. Julian, who assisted the colony for one month by directing the construction of housing.



*Ellis Square*

## DERBY WARD & JOHNSON SQUARE

Derby Ward is named for the Rt. Honorable James, the Tenth Earl of Derby and one of the original Trustees. The square in Derby Ward is named for Robert Johnson, who was the Royal Governor of South Carolina in 1733 when Georgia was founded. It was laid out in 1733 and is the largest of all the squares. Bull Street is named for William Bull, the Surveyor General of South Carolina, who assisted Oglethorpe in laying out Savannah's first wards and squares.

The Greene Monument in Johnson Square honors General Nathanael Greene of Rhode Island, who was a hero of the Southern campaign during the American Revolution. In 1825, the Marquis de Lafayette, the aide-de-camp to General Washington during the American Revolution, laid the corner stone for the monument. William Strickland was the architect of the monument.

Greene was so beloved by Savannah that he was given a plantation to the west of Savannah called Mulberry Grove. He lived on the plantation with his wife Caty until his death from sunstroke. Greene was buried first in Colonial Cemetery, then reburied along with his son, George Washington Greene, under the monument in 1901.

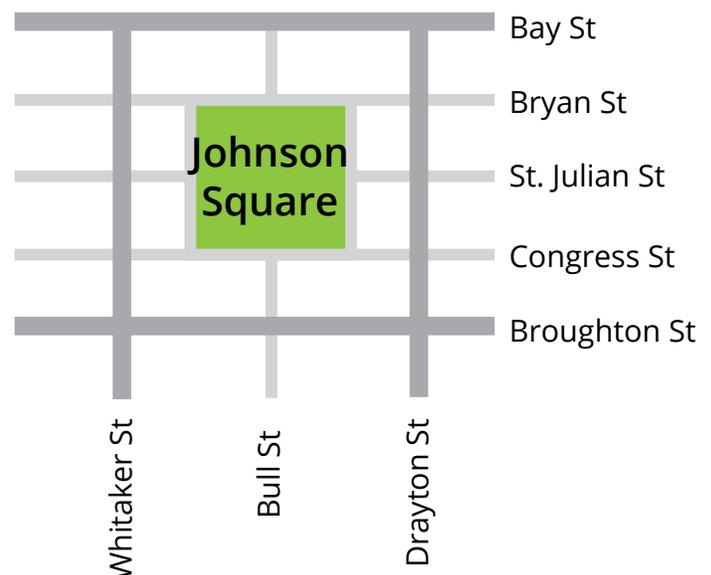
Prior to being the site of the Greene Monument, Savannah's Liberty Pole was erected in Johnson Square. The Georgia Gazette announced the raising of the pole in July of 1775, to petition for the establishment of the country that would become the United States of America.

In 1740, Savannah's early colonists laid the foundation for Christ Church, the first Anglican (Episcopal) church in Georgia, on the southeast Trust Lot of Johnson Square. The first church was dedicated in 1750 and burned in the Great Savannah Fire of 1796. The second was begun in 1803, but it was destroyed by hurricane in 1804. Its construction started again in 1810 and was designed in the Neo-Classical style of the Federal period. Its tower was fitted with a bell case by Revere and Son of Boston in 1819. The building was demolished in 1838 to



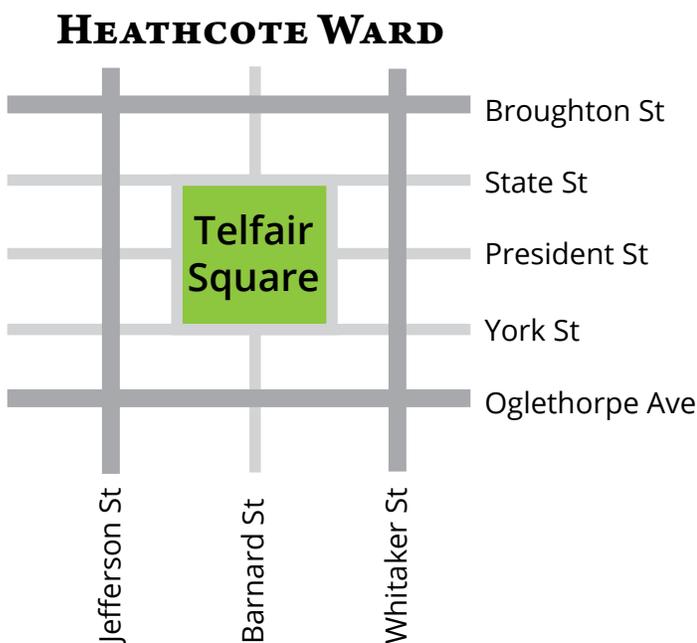
*The Greene Monument in Johnson Square honors the American Revolution hero Nathanael Greene.*

## DERBY WARD



make way for the present church. The present church building is a partially restored edifice built in 1838 that survived a fire in 1897. The first minister was Henry Herbert who died on the Anne when returning to England. He was followed by Samuel Quincy who served a short tenure. In 1736, John Wesley, accompanied by his brother Charles, became the third minister to Christ Church. He returned to England and founded the Methodist Church which included the new religious practices and philosophies he learned during his stay in Savannah in the company of German pietists. He was succeeded in his role as curate by George Whitefield who traveled and preached throughout the colonies to raise funds for Bethesda Orphanage.

On the southeast corner of East Bay and Bull streets is the United States Customs House, designed by architect John S. Norris in the Greek Revival architectural style. It was built between 1848 and 1852 and is the first iron, fire-proof building in Savannah. Its location which is across from the Cotton Exchange makes it part of the commercial heart of 19<sup>th</sup> Century Savannah. On this site was an original cottage built for the Widow Overend, which was leased to General Oglethorpe as his Savannah residence. The cottage burned in 1845.



Johnson Square became the community's financial center. At the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, it was surrounded by Savannah's first skyscrapers.

### HEATHCOTE WARD & TELFAIR SQUARE

Heathcote Ward was named for George Heathcote, who was one of the original Georgia Trustees. The square in Heathcote Ward was originally named St. James Square. In 1883, it was renamed Telfair Square to honor the contributions of the Telfair family to Savannah's economic and cultural progress.

In 1803, Prince Street was renamed State Street, and King Street was renamed President Street. These changes reflected the public's abhorrence of the former monarchy after the American Revolution. York Street was named for the Duke of York. However, the street name was not changed after the Revolution possibly because the royal colony of New York was not renamed.

In the southeastern quadrant of Telfair Square is a low-lying monument commemorating the Girl Scouts, and in the northeast quadrant is the image of a chambered nautilus.

From 1733 to 1883, this square was one of the most fashionable residential areas. Noteworthy buildings include the Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences, the oldest public art museum in the South. Originally, it was the Telfair family home which was built circa 1820. It is one of three remaining Regency style structures in Savannah designed by William Jay. An addition was designed by Detlef Lienau when the building became a museum circa 1883-1886.

Edward Telfair emigrated from Scotland and formed a successful importing agency in Savannah. He sent his children to Philadelphia for a "republican" education. The home on the square was built for Alexander, who died young and left the family estate in the capable hands of Mary. She never married, and according to her letters, never intended to do



*The statues that stand in front of the Telfair Museum depict Rubens, Raphael, Phidias, Michelangelo and Rembrandt. All were sculpted by Victor Tilgner, except for the statue of Michelangelo, which is the work of Paul Anton Wagner.*



*The Jepson Center for the Arts was completed in 2006, and regularly features a host of contemporary artwork. The "Bird Girl" statue made popular by "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" is housed in the permanent collection.*

so, having no inclination to take orders from a man. Margaret wed William B. Hodgson.

In 1875, Mary Telfair died at the age of 84 as the surviving heir and supported many charitable causes with family properties. The residence, and its contents, on Telfair Square were left to be used as a public academy of arts and sciences. Mary Telfair endowed the Telfair Hospital, and gave a building to the Independent Presbyterian Church. Mary also completed the building begun by her sister (Margaret) for the Georgia Historical Society called Hodgson Hall.

In each case, she characteristically added restrictions to her bequests. For the Telfair residence, she ordered the carving of the name "Telfair" to be written in larger letters than "Academy of Arts and Sciences," and on a separate line. The Telfair hospital was to have a board of directors exclusively comprised of women. The mahogany pulpit of the Presbyterian Church was to be left intact. Hodgson Hall was named in her brother-in-law's honor, and William Hodgson's portrait is hung in perpetuity.

The statues that stand in front of the Telfair Museum are, left to right, Rubens, Raphael, Phidias, (directly in front of the entrance, holding a hammer to indicate that he was the build-

er of the Parthenon in Athens,) Michelangelo and Rembrandt. All were sculpted by Victor Tilgner, except for the statue of Michelangelo, which is the work of Paul Anton Wagner.

The Trinity Methodist Church is located on the southwest Trust Lot. It is the oldest Methodist congregation in the city. The congregation was founded in 1807 and housed from 1813 to 1850 in Wesley Chapel at the corner of South Broad (Oglethorpe) and Lincoln streets. The Greek Revival style building at Telfair Square was designed by architect John B. Hogg and was completed in 1850.

The Telfair's Jepson Center for the Arts, completed in 2006, stands on the southwest corner of Barnard and York streets. Designed by internationally-acclaimed architect Moshe Safdie to house the Telfair Museum's contemporary art collections and changing exhibitions, the building is known for its sleek 21<sup>st</sup> Century architecture and for honoring Oglethorpe's plan of leaving the lane behind the square uninterrupted. The second level of the building forms a bridge over the lane, and offers two roof gardens where the lane crossing can be observed. The front wall of glass allows a unique view of the square from the inside lobby of the building.

Two tiled Federal buildings named for Juliette Gordon Low are located on the southeast corner of Barnard and York streets and on the eastern trust lots. In front of each building is a mosaic covered sculpture by Ned Smythe. The column to the north symbolizes culture and the palm tree in front of the south building symbolizes nature. Smythe called the combined installation "Worlds Apart."

**PERCIVAL WARD & WRIGHT SQUARE**

The Wright Square originally carried the name of the ward, Percival, for Viscount Percival, who later became the Earl of Egmont. It was renamed Wright Square in honor of James Wright, Georgia's last Royal Governor.

Two monuments are located in the square. One monument honors William Washington Gordon, founder of the Central of Georgia Railroad, and the other monument is dedicated to Tomochichi, leader of the Yamacraw Indians. Tomochichi died in 1737 and was buried in the center of the square in a ceremony held by the colonists. Appropriate to his nation's custom, his interment was beneath a mound over which Oglethorpe had placed a pyramid. By the late 1870s, the mound and pyramid had been severely damaged by vandals. Additionally, it was unclear where Tomochichi was buried. In the early 1880s, the mound was removed in order to make way for the monument to William Washington Gordon at the behest of the Central of Georgia Board of Directors who wished to commemorate W.W. Gordon's contributions to Georgia. Unfortunately, workers discovered the grave too late to halt the erection of the Gordon Monument.

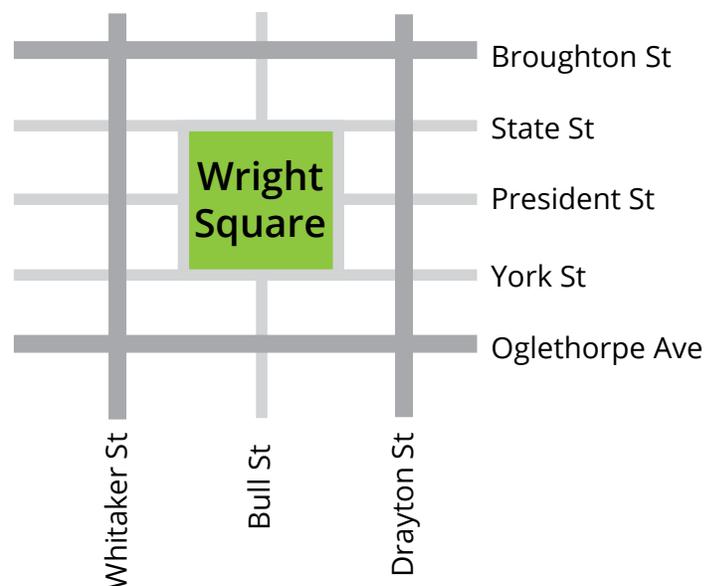
In 1899, the Colonial Dames, with Mrs. Nellie K. Gordon (the wife of W.W. Gordon II) as its president, made the erection of a monument to Tomochichi their highest priority. A rough piece of granite was quarried from Stone Mountain and installed in the southeast quadrant of the square. Tomochichi himself still lies underneath the Gordon Monument.

Designed by Van Brunt and Howe of Boston, the Gordon Monument is elaborately symbolic



*A monument to William Washington Gordon, founder of the Central of Georgia Railroad, is one of two monuments that stand in Wright Square.*

**PERCIVAL WARD**



and features a blend of classical references. The four columns consist of polished red granite with Corinthian capitals. Four winged putti support a globe decorated with coin shapes symbolizing wealth. The winged figures each have attributes symbolizing Agriculture, Manufacture, Commerce and Art, inferring that these four elements bring prosperity and progress to the globe. The classical urn within the columns is of Elliottsville (Georgia) limestone.

Wright Square was commonly known as “Courthouse Square” because from its earliest days to the present, it has had a courthouse on the square. Today, the United States Federal Courthouse showcases Renaissance Revival style and graces the west side of the square. The original building sat on the southwest Trust Lot. In 1931, an addition on the northwest Trust Lot doubled the size of the building and closing the segment of President Street running through the lot. The original building’s decoration is carved marble which are the same decorations reproduced on the north addition in ceramic.

The Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse in Savannah is named for Tomochichi, but you will not find his name on the exterior of the building itself. Today, the Tomochichi building serves as offices for the U.S. District Court and Court-related functions.

The Chatham County Courthouse sits on the southeast Trust Lot. Designed in 1889 by architect William Gibbons Preston, its eclectic style echoes elements of the Federal Courthouse and southwestern Mission style.

The northeast Trust Lot is occupied by the Lutheran Church of the Ascension which was built in 1844. It has been altered over the years in a Romanesque Revival building with Arte Nouveau details popular at the time.

At 10 East Oglethorpe Avenue (at the corner of Bull Street) stands the Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace. The house was built in 1820 for James Moore Wayne, a statesman, jurist, officer in the Georgia Hussars, former City mayor, and Justice of the United States Supreme Court



*Girl Scouts are a frequent sight in Savannah, visiting sites such as the Juliette Gordon Low birthplace, which is located just off Wright Square.*

from 1835 to 1867. Wayne sold the house in 1831 to his niece, Sarah Stites and her husband, William Washington Gordon. After his death in 1842, his son, William II. and his wife, Eleanor (“Nellie”) Kinzie Gordon, moved in with the elder Mrs. Gordon. The Wayne-Gordon House became the birthplace of their five children, including Juliette in 1860.

The Girl Scouts of America purchased the Wayne-Gordon House in 1953, and a museum of Gordon family life was opened in 1957. The home is now referred to as the “Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace,” and Juliette was literally born in that home. The house is interpreted as it was enlarged and modernized by Lienau in 1886 which was the last year of Juliette Low’s residence. The museum is visited by Girl Scouts from all over America who earn a special badge for learning about the girlhood of their founder.

## **REYNOLDS WARD & REYNOLDS SQUARE**

In 1734, Reynolds Square was laid out as “Lower New Square.” Reynolds Square was named for John Reynolds, the first Royal Governor of Georgia. A Filature House, which processed silk cocoons, was located on the northeast Trust Lot. It was the first large building in the colony and was constructed by Constable Peter

Tondee during the early years of settlement. The long unwinding rooms of the Filature House were also used for public meetings. In 1791, President George Washington was guest of honor at a dinner in the Filature House. The building burned prior to 1850, and the lot is presently occupied by offices.

Abercorn Street is named for James Hamilton, the sixth Earl of Abercorn, who was a prominent benefactor of the colony.

In 1736, John Wesley's parsonage stood on the southwest Trust Lot across St. Julian Street from the Filature House. A statue of Wesley, who served as the third curate of Christ Church, stands in the center of Reynolds Square. Wesley came to Savannah as an Anglican, but traveled to the colony in the company of a sect of German Moravians, whose influence on the development of Methodism is important. He caused dissention in his congregation through rigid adherence to church law. In 1737, he returned to England, where he developed his new Protestant sect. The sculpture depicts Wesley at the age of 33, and was commissioned by Georgia Methodists in 1969. The bronze statue is on top of a black marble pedestal.

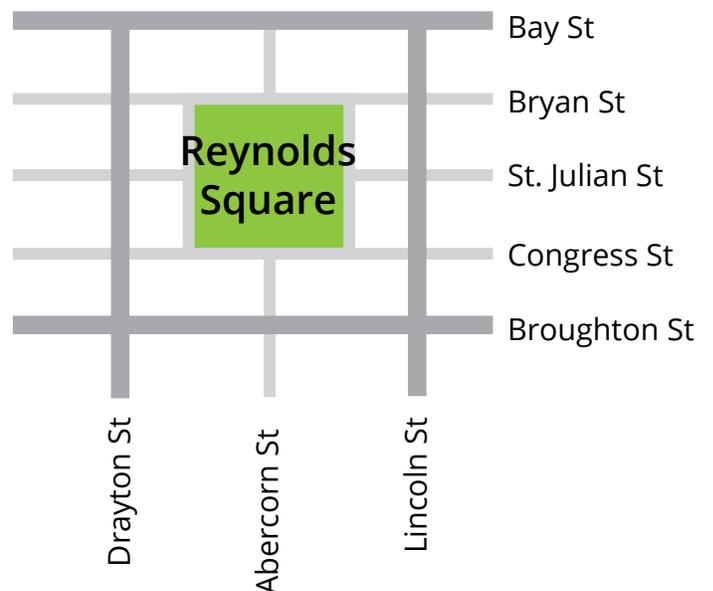


*A statue of John Wesley, founder of Methodism, was built in Reynolds Square in 1969.*

On the western side of Reynolds Square is the building constructed for James Habersham, Jr., the son of the acting Royal Governor (1771-1773) James Habersham and an important cotton factor. The house was built in 1789, and the porch was added in 1812. The Habersham House, built in the Georgian Period, is now the Olde Pink House after having been a tea room for several years. It became a restaurant in 1968 after being restored by Jim Williams, preservationist and antiques dealer who restored several residences in Savannah. The Pink House is one of the few properties to survive the Great Fire of 1796.

Across St. Julian Street on the other west side Trust Lot is the Oliver Sturgess House, which was built in 1813 in the Federal Period. Sturgess became partners with William Scarbrough in the building of the S. S. Savannah, was the first steam powered vessel to cross the Atlantic. South of Reynolds Square on Abercorn Street

## REYNOLDS WARD



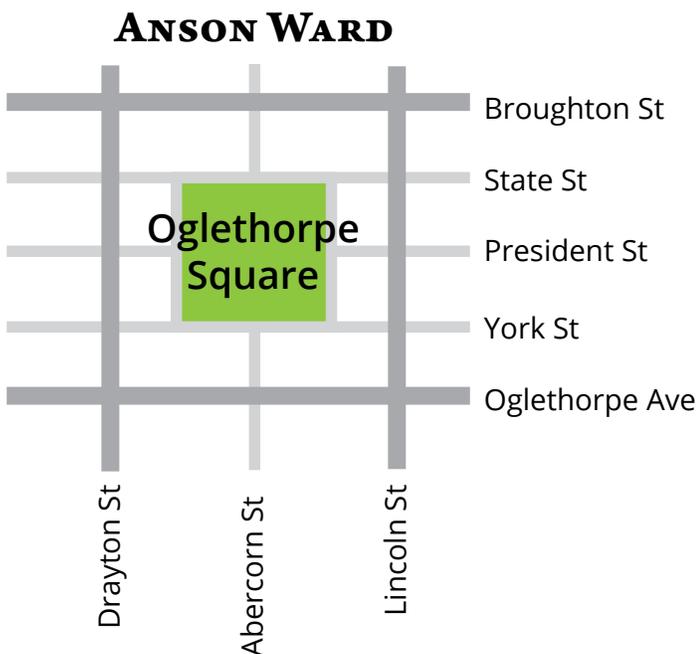
is the Lucas Theatre, a historic movie palace that serves as a popular site for a wide variety of concerts, performances and films. The building was originally designed by C.K. Howell and constructed in 1921. The theater was restored and reopened to the public in 2000 and is presently owned and managed by the Savannah College of Art and Design.

On the southeast corner of East Bay and Drayton streets stands the former Hibernia Bank, designed by architects Mowbray and Uffinger in 1914. It presently houses the Savannah Chamber of Commerce offices.

### ANSON WARD & OGLETHORPE SQUARE

In 1734, Oglethorpe Square was laid out as "Upper New Square." Anson Ward is named for Lord Anson, Commodore of the British Navy. In 1743, he defeated one of the Spanish treasure ships leaving the Philippines bound for Mexico which provided great wealth for Anson and the British Empire. Anson Ward sits on a parallel with Percival and Heathcote wards.

The Owens-Thomas House is located on the northeast Trust Lot. Designed by William Jay, it was built between 1816 and 1819 for Richard Richardson who was a banker and cotton merchant. Richardson and Jay were related by marriage. Jay also designed the Scarbrough House on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard



*The Owens-Thomas House is a prominent feature of Oglethorpe Square, designed by renowned architect William Jay. It is the only trust lot residence that retains its original yard and outbuildings.*

and the Telfair Residence/Museum on Telfair Square. All three of the buildings are in the Neo-Classical style popular during the English Regency period. The house plan is a square villa, but its façade combines Greek columns and Roman arches. The interior features elegant plasterwork, a second-floor bridge spanning the center stairwell and one of the nation's earliest indoor plumbing systems with cisterns, baths, showers and flush toilets. In 1830, the house was purchased by George Welshman Owens, politician and planter, and inherited by his granddaughter Margaret, who married Dr. James Thomas. The Thomas' daughter bequeathed the residence to the Telfair Museum of Arts and Sciences in 1951, and it is now a house museum interpreted as it appeared during the residency of Mr. Owens.

This is the only trust lot residence complete with original yard and outbuildings, including a combined carriage house and urban slave quarters, open to the public. The courtyard is laid out as a parterre garden. On the President Street side of the house is an example of an early cast iron balcony used in America where the Marquis de Lafayette reviewed a parade in his honor in 1825.

## FRANKLIN WARD & FRANKLIN SQUARE

Franklin Square was named to honor Benjamin Franklin, a founding father of the nation and the country's first Postmaster General. He also served as Georgia's colony agent in London. Montgomery Street is named for the Revolutionary War General Richard Montgomery.

The square anchors the western end of the City Market district. On the northwest Trust Lot is the First African Baptist Church. This congregation was organized just outside Savannah by Andrew Bryan. Bryan found that preaching was his vocation, and his first church was organized in 1788 with sixty-seven members.

The congregation relocated to Savannah, to West Bryan Street (west of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard). This congregation built a church at this West Bryan Street location in 1794. In the 1830s, they moved to Franklin Square, where they bought a church building formerly occupied by white Baptists. The old church on West Bryan Street became the First Bryan Baptist Church, and the church on Franklin Square became First African Baptist Church.

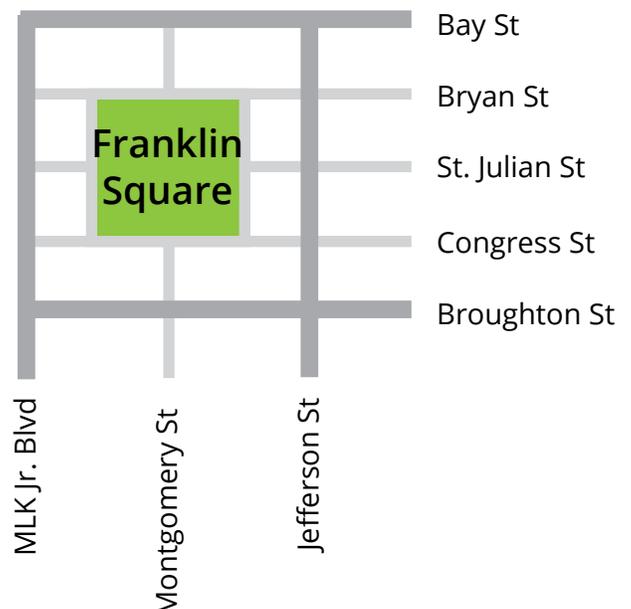
The current sanctuary is a notable building, constructed between 1859 and 1861. Its present steeple was added later to replace a steeple lost in a hurricane. The ground level of the building exhibits patterned holes drilled into the wooden floor are rumored to be evidence of the church's participation in the Underground Railroad. In the stained glass windows over the main altar are portraits of early ministers of the church. In the 1960s this church was an important meeting place for civil rights workers. A partial replica of the sanctuary and a filmed narration of the movement can be found at the Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. The Church has its own museum of documents and artifacts confirming the governance and the spirituality of its congregation.

In the mid to late 19<sup>th</sup> century, a wooden water tower was located in Franklin Square and draymen, haulers for hire, parked their mule- and horse-drawn wagons around the square.



*First African Baptist Church on Franklin Square was formed by Andrew Bryan in 1788, and the church played an important role in the civil rights movement.*

## FRANKLIN WARD



Franklin Ward and adjacent Decker Ward were not only anchors of the City Market, which stretched eastward to Whitaker Street and west to West Broad Street, but also comprised sites of markets, including slave brokerage houses and holding spaces.

Today, the two squares are connected by St. Julian Street's pedestrian walkway, with a variety of shops and restaurants that serve the public as the City Market. In Franklin Square, there is now a large monument honoring the Haitians that fought in the Siege of Savannah.

### WARREN WARD & WARREN SQUARE

Laid out in 1791, Warren Ward and its square were named for General Joseph Warren, who died in 1775 at the Battle of Bunker Hill. Warren has no direct connection to Savannah, but was a member of the Sons of Liberty, as well as President of the Provincial government of Massachusetts, the highest ranking politician in the Revolutionary government.

Many of the houses on the north and the east sides of the square were built between 1790 and 1820, allowing visitors to imagine how the square looked in its first years of development.

One of the most notable buildings in Warren Ward is presently located at 426 East St. Julian Street, moved from Price Street south



*The home located at 426 East St. Julian Street was moved from Price Street, where it was home to Jane Deveaux, who operated a secret school for students of color.*

of Oglethorpe Avenue and restored by Jim Williams. When on Price Street, it was the home of Jane Deveaux, a free person of color operating a clandestine school in the building prior to Emancipation. Pupils arrived with baskets of sewing materials to appear that they were simply dropping off work for the Deveaux family, but books and writing materials were concealed at the bottom of the baskets.

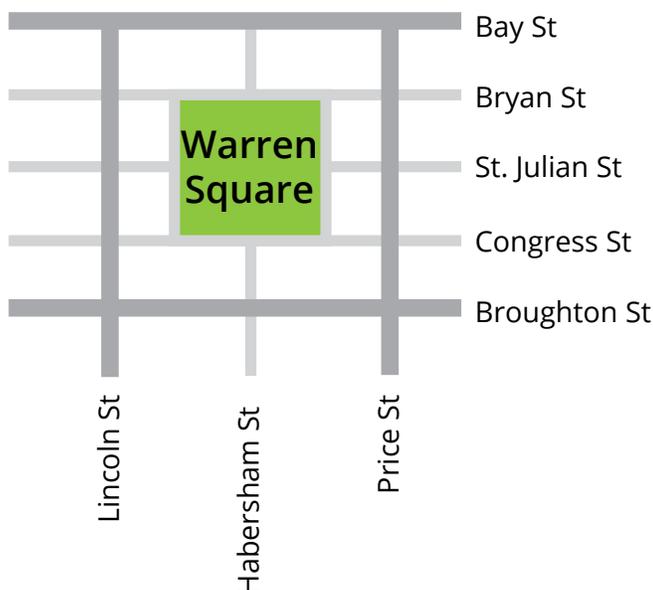
The Deveaux clandestine school is but one of many that existed in antebellum Savannah, although most locations have disappeared as the city developed. The importance of this remaining structure lies in its testimony to the significance of education among the African-American population of antebellum Savannah.

The Berrien House is one of the more prominent homes in this ward, as it underwent a long renovation. The home was named for Major John Berrien, a Revolutionary War veteran, and later, Georgia's State Treasurer. The home was raised, and the bottom floor was added as storefronts in 1971.

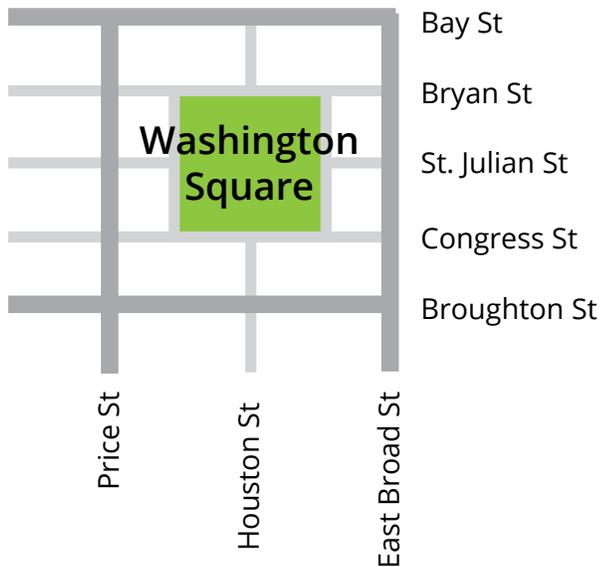
### WASHINGTON WARD & WASHINGTON SQUARE

Both Washington Ward and Square are both named for President George Washington, in honor of his official visit to Savannah in 1791. During the visit he attended several festivities and services at Christ Church. In gratitude for the courtesies shown to him on his visit, he

### WARREN WARD



## WASHINGTON WARD



sent Savannah two cannons captured from the British in the victory at Yorktown.

Houston Street (pronounced “House-ton”) was named for John Houstoun, the first mayor of Savannah when the city was recognized by Legislative act in 1789.

Houston and St. Julian streets are lined with some of the oldest houses in Savannah. The St. Julian Street itself appears more historic than it actually is, owing to the faux tabby streets.

Between Price Street and Washington Square are two notable buildings with relations to a Bestseller. The Hampton Lillibridge House was built circa 1796-99, but was moved from Warren Square to its current location. The Charles Oddingsells House was built in 1797. Both of these homes were restored by Jim Williams, a Savannah antiques dealer who was perhaps best known as the subject of the book and film *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.

Like Warren Ward, Washington Ward was home to many freepersons of color. Freedman, or free black persons, including Betsey Baptiste, owned homes in this north east area of Savannah. In 1795, Betsy Baptiste was brought to America as a slave, having been born free. She began registering as a freewoman in 1813, after serving as a slave to a mulatto woman for

a number of years. She became a successful business person, and owned her home.

There are a handful of notable properties are located on Houston Street, including a building located at 21 Houston Street, which was built in 1852 for Simon Mirault, a free person of color. Mirault was an émigré from Haiti who became a successful tailor in Savannah. The property was originally located in Troup Ward and was subsequently relocated to its current location.

The largest building on Washington Square is a cotton warehouse built in 1860, which became a Savannah’s first Coca-Cola bottling factory in 1902. Prior to that time, several freedman owned property in that area.

## COLUMBIA WARD & COLUMBIA SQUARE

Habersham Street is named for James Habersham, who served as a member of the first Colonial Council and was the merchant that helped make transatlantic trade possible for the new port. Habersham was also the financial director of the Bethesda Orphanage.

Laid out in 1799, the ward and square could have been named after the poetic name of the United States of America or to celebrate the 1790 founding of the new United States Capitol Building located in the District of Columbia.

Columbia Square is the site of the Wormsloe Fountain, which was placed in the square in the 1970s by the descendants of Noble Jones, the founder of Wormsloe Plantation.

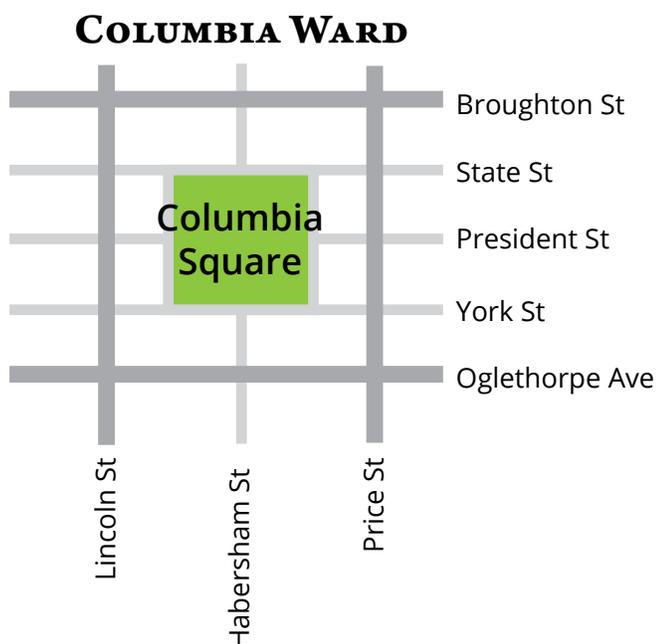
Columbia Square is another example of a square that has retained its original surrounding environment. On the northwest corner of Habersham and East State streets stands the Isaiah Davenport House, which was built in 1820 in the Classical Revival style of the Federal period. Master builder Isaiah Davenport constructed this house as his family residence.

The Davenport House also represents the beginning of the 20th century historic preservation movement in Savannah. Threatened with demolition in 1955, seven prominent Savannah women began raising the \$22,500 needed to purchase the house. Saving the Davenport House from demolition was the founding act of the Historic Savannah Foundation.

The Davenport House opened as a museum in 1963 and underwent a second restoration between 2000 and 2003 to return the house to its original state. In 2005, the home received a Presidential Award for these efforts. It also features a courtyard garden, recently redesigned by noted horticulturist Penelope Hobhouse.

On the northeast corner of Habersham and East State streets is the Francis Stone House which was erected in 1821-23. An addition was built on the rear of the house in 1880. On the southeast corner of Habersham and York streets is a house that was built before 1809. On the southwest corner of Habersham and York Streets is the location of the Abraham Sheftall House, which was built in 1818. It was moved to this location from the Civic Center area and currently serves as the offices of the Historic Savannah Foundation.

Columbia Ward also boasts one of Savannah's Victorian period mansions. The Kehoe House, located at 123 Habersham Street, is in the Queen Anne style that is characterized by an asymmetrical design with projecting bay windows. DeWitt Bruyn designed the house for William Kehoe who owned Kehoe Ironworks. The iron architectural elements on the house were made at Kehoe's foundry and show the variety of styles he could produce. The lower level windows have Greek Revival pediments above them. There are Italianate brackets supporting the eaves. Renaissance Revival details permeate the entire façade from the Corinthian columns to the balustrades surrounding the porches.



*The Davenport House on Columbia Square was threatened with demolition in 1955. Seven women raised the funds to purchase the house, which was the initial act of what would become the Historic Savannah Foundation.*

Two other properties were relocated to Columbia Ward. Built in 1856, 418 East State Street was moved to its current location from an adjacent site. The property located at 420 East State Street was built in the 1700s and relocated from Greene Ward. The property is known as Laura's House for Miss Laura Jones who was a prominent member of Second African Baptist Church. She occupied the home from the 1930s to the 1960s when it was still located in Greene Ward.

### GREENE WARD & GREENE SQUARE

Both ward and square were named for General Nathanael Greene, who was the second in command to George Washington in the American Revolution and owner of Mulberry Grove Plantation.

Greene Square served as the centerpiece of an African-American community in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. On the northwest corner of Houston and East State streets is the Cunningham House, constructed in 1810 by Henry Cunningham. He was a former slave and founding pastor of the Second African Baptist Church. After Cunningham's death, the residence became a home for orphaned girls.

The Second African Baptist Church occupies the northwest Trust Lot in Greene Ward. In



1802, the congregation of the First African Baptist Church, then called the First Colored Church, reached a membership of 850. At that time, 200 members of the congregation moved to the Second African Baptist Church, which was then called the Second Colored Church. In 1823, the two churches were renamed First African Baptist Church and Second African Baptist Church by the Sunbury Association, an association of area Baptist churches. It is from this location that General Sherman issued Field Order No. 15. This order stated that each freedman would receive 40 acres and a mule, redistributing roughly 4000,000 acres of land to newly freed black families in forty acre segments.

In 1818, the residence built at 542 East State Street was constructed for Charlotte and William Wall, free people of color. The property located at 513 East York Street was built for the estate of Catherine Deveaux who was part of a prominent African-American family in Savannah.

The Kate Baldwin Kindergarten was founded on this Square by the children of Kate A. Baldwin, and dedicated in her memory. It was incorporated in 1899 as a charitable institution for the "free training, instruction, and education of young children... to fit them for entrance into institutions of higher education." It operated kindergartens (as many as five at one time) and a training school (also referred to as the Normal Department) for kindergarten teachers. By 1907, there were three kindergartens. The Kate Baldwin Free Kindergartens educated approximately 4,000 children between 1899 and 1943.

### LIBERTY WARD & LIBERTY SQUARE

Liberty Square does not resemble its original layout, and has not since the mid-1930's, when the City made plans to run U.S. 17 straight through Montgomery Street. The addition of the Chatham County Courthouse and Robbie Robinson Parking Garage further altered the landscape of Liberty Ward. West President Street, which originally ran through the Ward, is no longer accessible.

Nonetheless, there is a small tract of grassy land outside the County Courthouse that exists as the

remains of the Square. A contemporary eternal “flame of freedom” is located on these vestigial remains near the east entrance of the Chatham County Courthouse. It was a gift of the American Legion to Chatham County.

The Robbie Robinson Garage was named for a City alderman and civil rights attorney, who was one of the first to integrate Savannah High. Robinson was killed by a mail bomb in 1989, a crime that was traced to Walter Moody.

Liberty Ward was originally laid out in 1799 and named for the public sentiments of the period. This included the Sons of Liberty, a name given to patriots of the Colonies prior to the American Revolution, and British provocations against the American merchant fleet which led to the War of 1812.

A contemporary eternal “flame of freedom” is located on the vestigial remains of Liberty Square near the east entrance of the Chatham County Courthouse. It was a gift of the American Legion to Chatham County.

In 1908, the B’Nai Brith Jacob congregation built a new synagogue at 112 Montgomery Street. They split from the Mickve Israel congregation in 1861. The structure was designed by Hyman Witcover in a Moorish style. On each the twin towers is a Star of David. In 1968,

the Jewish congregation moved to the Southside and the Montgomery Street sanctuary. The building is currently owned by the Savannah College of Art and Design and serves as a student center.

**ELBERT WARD & ELBERT SQUARE**

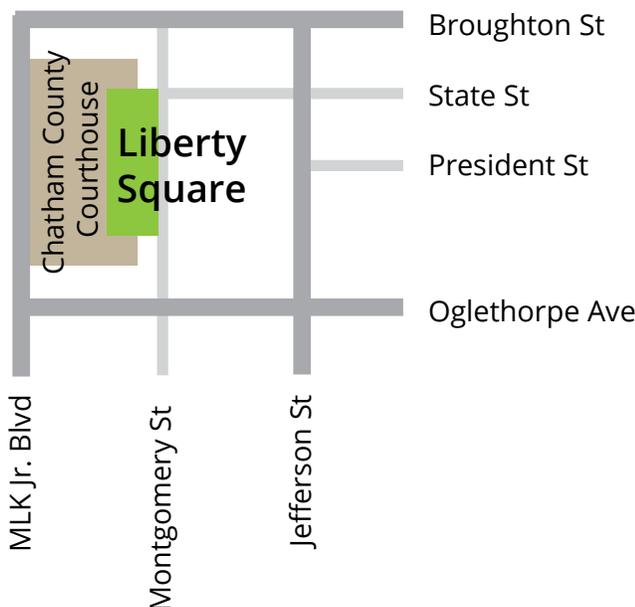
In 1801, Elbert Ward was the first ward to be added south of the original city boundary of South Broad Street.

The ward and square were named for Georgia Governor Samuel Elbert, a planter and Revolutionary warrior. Laid out after the fire of 1796, the City sold its lot to finance a citywide cistern project. Federal Highway 17 was routed through downtown Savannah on Montgomery Street in the 1930s. This caused the dissection of Elbert, Liberty and Franklin squares for traffic.

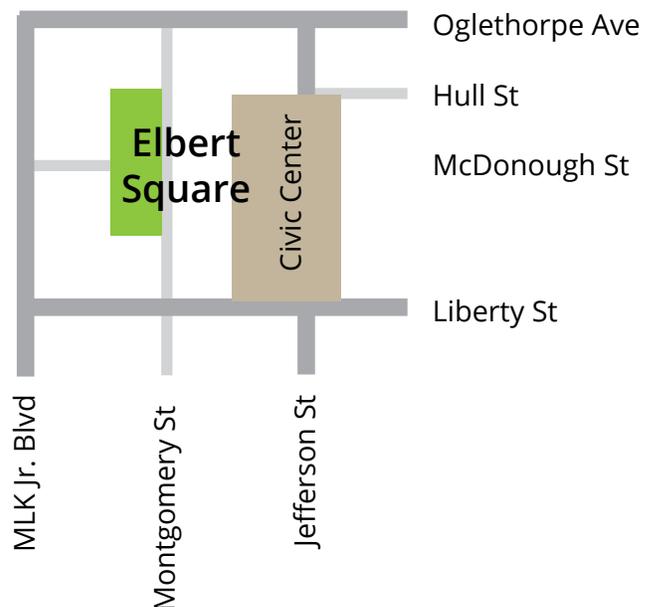
Like Liberty Square, the decision to run an off-ramp through Montgomery Street dramatically changed the shape of this Ward. Today, the ward is largely comprised of the Savannah Civic Center and its parking area, which took up what would have been the remaining Eastern section of the Square. The Civic Center was completed in 1974.

All that remains of Elbert Square is a small grassy area to the west of the Civic Center. In

**LIBERTY WARD**



**ELBERT WARD**



1969, the “Flame of Freedom” was placed here, but was moved to Liberty Square in front of the County Courthouse.

One of the remaining historic buildings in this ward is the Distillery. This was home to the Kentucky Distillery Company (later the Louisville Distilling Company), which shut down operations during Prohibition. After the closing of the distillery, the building became Freich’s Pharmacy. Freich’s operated as a drug store with a soda fountain and lunch counter until 1940.

It has long been a part of local legend that the second floor of Freich’s Pharmacy was used to produce bathtub gin and homemade beer during those Prohibition years.

### **JACKSON WARD & ORLEANS SQUARE**

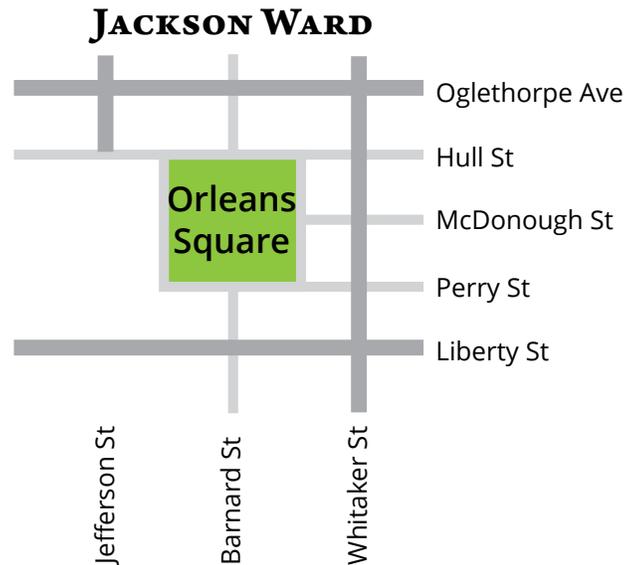
Orleans Square’s name comes from the Battle of New Orleans, the battle that made then General Andrew Jackson famous. In fact, many of the names from this area of town, south of Oglethorpe Ave, were laid out after the War of 1812. Many were named in honor of battles or war heroes from that period of time. McDonough Street is named for Commodore Isaac McDonough, who triumphed over the British Navy on Lake Champlain in the War of 1812.

Jackson Ward was laid out in 1815. The ward was of course named after Andrew Jackson, who emerged as the hero of that battle.

The streets that define the north and south edges of the square are named for Commodores Hull and Perry, who fought and defeated the British on the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812.

In 1989, the German Memorial Fountain and accompanying benches were placed in the square to commemorate the early German immigrants to the Colony of Georgia.

On the southeast Trust Lot stands the Champion-McAlpin House, now known as the Harper Fowlkes House. The house was designed by the architect Charles Cluskey in 1844 for Aaron Champion who bequeathed it to his



daughter, Maria (Mrs. James W.) McAlpin. In 1895, the third floor was added in the Mansard style and transformed the Greek revival mansion into a Beaux-Arts structure.

### **BROWN WARD & CHIPPEWA SQUARE**

Brown Ward and Chippewa Square were laid out in 1815, the same year as Jackson Ward and Orleans Square. Brown Ward is named for Major-General Jacob Brown, who served as commander of the American forces at the Battle of Chippewa in 1813 during the War of 1812.

In the center of Chippewa Square stands the 20th Century statue of General Oglethorpe, founder of the Colony of Georgia. He is dressed in the military uniform of the period and faces south to the Spanish enemy in Florida. At the monument’s base are four lions holding shields bearing Oglethorpe’s family crest, the seal of the State of Georgia, the seal of the Georgia colony and the seal of the City of Savannah. The Colonial Dames, the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Georgia Legislature each played a role in planning and funding the monument.

Noted American sculptor Daniel Chester French received the commission for the bronze statue. His associate, architect Henry Bacon, designed the base of the monument. French and Bacon also collaborated to design the Lincoln Memorial located in Washington, D.C.



*The Savannah Theater opened in 1818, and was the cornerstone of Savannah's original theater district in Chippewa Square.*

One of the most notable buildings is the Savannah Theater which occupies the northeast Trust Lot. Its original design was the work of William Jay whose Regency style architecture is still recognizable in the Owens Thomas House, the Scarbrough House and the front section of the Telfair Academy. The theater opened in 1818, creating Savannah's original theater district in this square. The structure has been greatly altered over time including conversion into a movie-house and multiple renovations to the exterior.

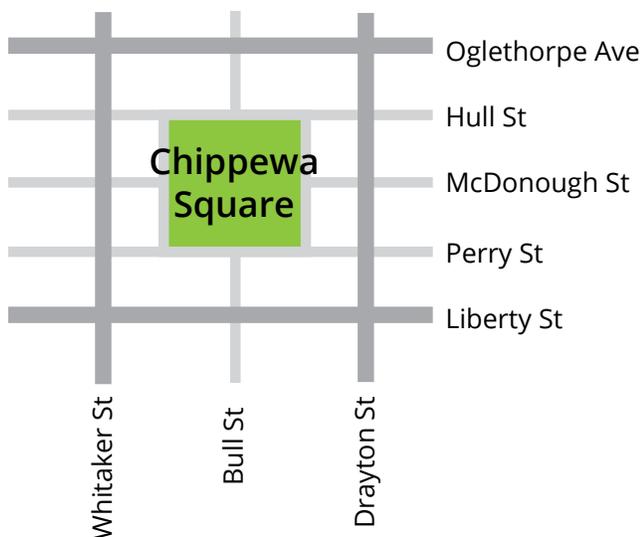
On the northwest Trust Lot of the ward stands the First Baptist Church. This church remained open during the Civil War. On the Sunday before General William T. Sherman's arrival in the city, the minister preached to his usual Confederate congregation. The following Sunday he preached to a congregation of Federal troops.

In 1993, the scenes in the film *Forrest Gump* where the character Gump sits waiting for a bus were filmed on a brick platform to the north of the square.

The Independent Presbyterian Church located at 25 West Oglethorpe Avenue was designed by John Holden Greene in 1817. United States President James Monroe attended the church's 1819 dedication. In 1889, the church was destroyed in a fire. The church was rebuilt using the original plans as well as the marble baptismal font and flagstones. William Preston, architect of the Cotton Exchange, the Chatham County Court House and the Savannah Volunteer Guards Armory, supervised the reconstruction. In 1885, in the parlor of the old manse, future United States President Woodrow Wilson married Ellen Louise Axson who was the granddaughter of the pastor, Rev. I.S. Axson.

At the intersection of Oglethorpe and Bull streets stand two monuments—the Jewish Cemetery Monument on the west side of the median and the St. Andrews Monument on the east. The Jewish Cemetery Monument was erected by the Mordecai Sheftall Cemetery Trust in 1982-83. This granite monument with a menorah motif commemorates the granting

### **BROWN WARD**



of the original burial plot allotted to the new Savannah Jewish community by General Oglethorpe in 1733. The community consisted of 42 Jewish emigrants who were largely refugees from Spain and Portugal and arrived aboard the second ship to reach Savannah in 1733. According to the rules of the Georgia Trustees, Jews should not have been able to remain in the new colony. However, Oglethorpe allowed them to stay, reasoning that the Trustees had only meant to ban Roman Catholics. Additionally, the colonists needed a Jewish doctor, Dr. Nunez, who was one of the passengers on the first ship to arrive in Georgia. Inscriptions on bronze plaques attached to the monument are taken from the Mordecai Sheftall Diary.

As with the Jewish Cemetery Monument, the Irish Monument in Emmett Park, and the German Memorial Fountain, the St. Andrew's Monument was erected in the 1980s to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Georgia colony and the participation of various ethnic and religious groups in her history.

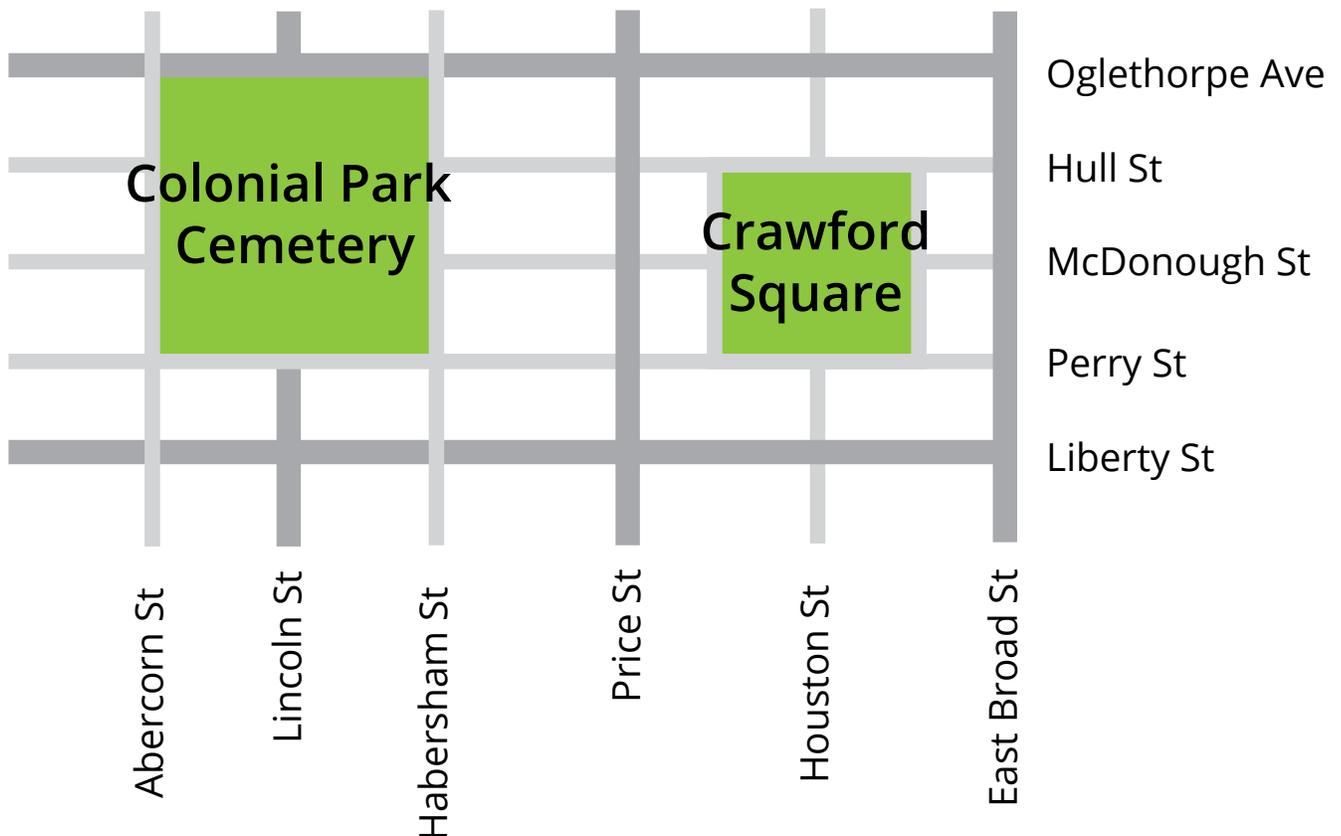
The monument is located in the Oglethorpe Avenue median and is a blue granite obelisk with an image of St. Andrew on his cross and iron emblems taken from the Society's burial grounds in Laurel Grove Cemetery.

**CRAWFORD WARD & CRAWFORD SQUARE**

Crawford Ward covers the largest area of all the 24 wards in the Historic District to include Colonial Park on the west and reaching East Broad Street on its eastern edge. The ward and square, built in 1841, are named for William Harris Crawford, who was the Secretary of Treasury under President Madison and a former State governor and senator.

Notable buildings between Colonial Park and Crawford Square include the 1887 Chatham County Jail and Police Barracks on Habersham Street. This Chatham County Jail was used until 1978. It was purchased and restored by the Savannah College of Art and Design.

**CRAWFORD WARD**



Crawford Square had been a children’s playground long before the contemporary equipment was installed, but one of the most distinctive features of this Ward is its history as a site of police and firefighting operations for the city.

The “Big Duke” Call Bell Firefighters Memorial is located in the median of East Oglethorpe between Drayton and Abercorn streets. The bell used to summon volunteer firefighters. It was nicknamed “Big Duke” for Alderman Marmaduke Hamilton, who chaired the City Council Fire Committee in 1872 when the bell was purchased. When the City began the practice of hiring full time firefighters in 1890, the bell had won popular support as a monument. It was rung in honor of returning veterans of the Spanish-American War and cracked at that time. It was recast in 1901, and in 1985, a historic marker explaining “Big Duke’s” significance was added.

The brick City Police Barracks located at 323 East Oglethorpe at the corner of Habersham Street was built in 1869-70. The Police Officers Monument, a memorial to the City’s fallen police officers, was unique when it was erected because it was the only cast metal monument in the nation that can truly be called “folk art.” The original was carved in wood by G. W. Woods, a Savannah woodcarver, with city patrolman R. I. Ketterman as the model. It

was cast in stainless steel, and mounted on a granite die bearing the outline of a police badge and the names of police officers killed on duty in Chatham County from 1869 to the present. It was a project of the Police Officers’ Wives Association.

### **PULASKI WARD & PULASKI SQUARE**

The ward and square were named for Count Casimir Pulaski, who was an 18<sup>th</sup> century freedom fighter. Banished from his native Poland for rebellion against the King, he made his way to Paris where Benjamin Franklin persuaded him to fight for American independence. Pulaski made it to America and fought with General George Washington in Pennsylvania. He eventually formed his own legion in Maryland and came to Coastal Georgia and fought in the 1779 Siege of Savannah. During the battle, Pulaski was mortally wounded and died two days later. He was the highest ranking foreign officer to die in the American Revolution.

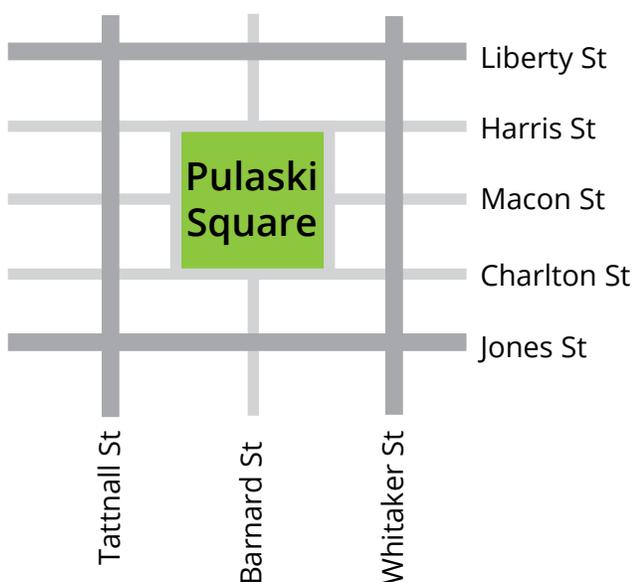
Tattnall Street was named for Governor Josiah Tattnall. Jones Street is named either for Noble Wimberly Jones, a delegate to the Continental Congress, or for Major John Jones, a colonial officer killed in the Siege of Savannah in 1779.

Harris Street is named for General Francis Harris, a member of the first General Assembly of Georgia. Charlton Street was named for Judge Thomas Usher Pulaski Charlton, who served as the mayor of Savannah for several terms in the early 1800s. Charlton was mayor during the the major fire as well as the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1820. Macon Street is named for Nathaniel Macon, a North Carolina statesman known for his states rights ideology.

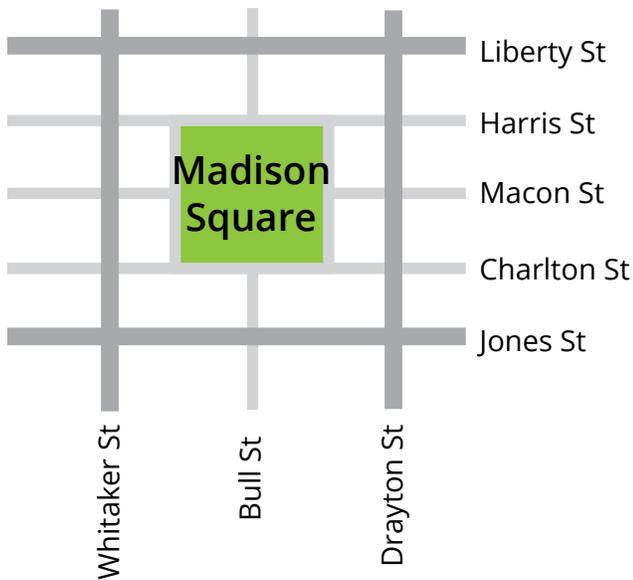
### **JASPER WARD & MADISON SQUARE**

Jasper Ward was laid out in 1837. The ward was named for Sergeant William Jasper of South Carolina who was a non commissioned soldier of the American Revolution and died in the Siege of Savannah. The square was named for United States President James Madison, the 4<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America.

### **PULASKI WARD**



## JASPER WARD



*The Sorrel-Weed House was the residence of Brigadier General Moxley Sorrel, who hosted General Robert E. Lee in his home on Madison Square.*

The monument in Madison Square is a memorial to Sergeant Jasper. The monument was designed by Alexander Doyle and is made of bronze and marble.

Distinguished buildings along Madison Square include the Sorrel-Weed House, which was built between 1835 and 1840, on the southwest corner of Bull and Harris streets. The home was built for Francis Sorrel, a shipping merchant, prominent in the West Indies. This was the childhood home of Brigadier General Moxley Sorrel, the youngest General of the Civil War. General Moxley would go on to host Robert E. Lee in this home. His memoir, "Recollections of a Confederate Staff Officer," would be published after his death.

On the southwest Trust Lot is St. John's Episcopal Church. The property was built in 1853 by architect Calvin Otis. On the southeast Trust Lot is the Green-Meldrim House, a Gothic Revival designed by John Norris. Construction on this home began in 1853, but was not completed until 1861. In 1864, the home was used temporarily by Union General William T. Sherman as his headquarters at the invitation of Charles Green, a British cotton merchant. The house passed from the Green family to Peter W. Meldrim, and was later sold to St. John's Episcopal Church in 1943.

On the southwest corner of Bull and Charlton streets is the Scottish Rite Temple designed by Hyman Witcover, the designer of City Hall. On the southeast corner is the Savannah Volunteer Guards Armory, designed by William Gibbons Preston in 1892, and built between 1913 and the 1920s. The building was the first to be occupied by the Savannah College of Art and Design.

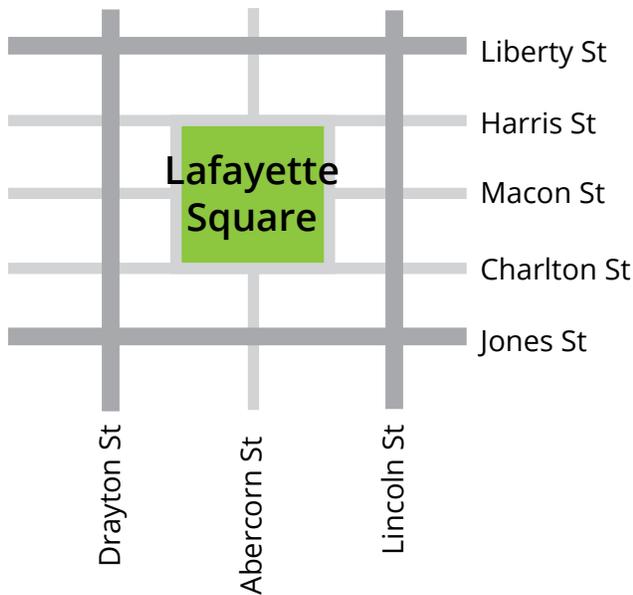
Most of the residences were built between 1850 and 1870, although some notable examples were built later. Notable architect John S. Norris designed 10 West Jones. In the block between Whitaker and Bull streets, numbers 12 and 14 are a double house designed by Alfred S. Eichberg, perhaps Savannah's most notable builder in brick and terra cotta. This structure was erected in 1891.

## LAFAYETTE WARD & LAFAYETTE SQUARE

Added in 1837, both ward and square are named for the Marquis de Lafayette, George Washington's Aide de Camp, a hero of the American Revolution and representative of French allies.

The largest building on the square is the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist which was designed by architect Francis Baldwin. The structure, which seats 1,000 people, was erected from 1872 to 1876, but had to be rebuilt in 1898 after a fire. The structure is brick, stucco and

## LAFAYETTE WARD



*The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist sits just north of Lafayette Square. The building was rebuilt in 1898 due to a fire.*

whitewashed with decorative terra cotta elements. The adjoining rectory was constructed in 1888 and is the Bishop's residence.

On the southwest Trust Lot of Lafayette Square is the house built for Andrew Low in 1849. The structure was designed by John Norris who also designed the United States Custom House, among many other homes and buildings in Savannah. Low was a Scottish cotton factor. His son, William, married Juliette Gordon Low. Today, the Andrew Low House is owned by the National Society of Colonial Dames and is used as their state headquarters. The carriage house west of the Andrew Low House is where Juliette Gordon Low established the first Girl Scout troops. In her will, Low bequeathed this building to the Savannah Girl Scout Council.

Built in 1856, the modest home at 207 East Charlton Street was the childhood home of famed Southern writer Flannery O'Connor. The house was purchased in 1989 by members of the Armstrong State University English department and is now owned by the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home Foundation. The parlor floor is used for literary occasions.



*The fountain in Lafayette Square commemorates the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the colony of Georgia.*

The second level exhibits O'Connor's own childhood furnishings.

On the east side of Lafayette Square is the Hamilton-Turner House, built in 1873 for Samuel P. Hamilton. The home is Second Empire in style, and was designed by architect J.D. Hall, and built by Abraham Scheidecker. The house is perhaps best known for two things: being the first home in Savannah to boast electricity, and its involvement in the book *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* as the residence of Joe Odum.

The Semiquincentenary Fountain in the square was given to the city by the Colonial Dames and paid for by receipts from visitors to the Andrew Low

House. It commemorates the 250th anniversary of the founding of the Colony of Georgia and the town of Savannah in 1983.

On the northeast corner of Drayton and Liberty streets stands Drayton Tower, one of Savannah's most notable landmarks from the modernist movement of 20th century architecture. In 1949, Billy Bergen submitted the design for Drayton Tower as his fifth year design project at Georgia Institute of Technology. Along with his father, Savannah architect Cletus Bergen, he was able to complete the building in 1951. The building was a response to a growing demand for veterans' and low-income housing. It included cutting edge technology such as air conditioning, chilled water at the taps, and Sorex heat absorbing glass.

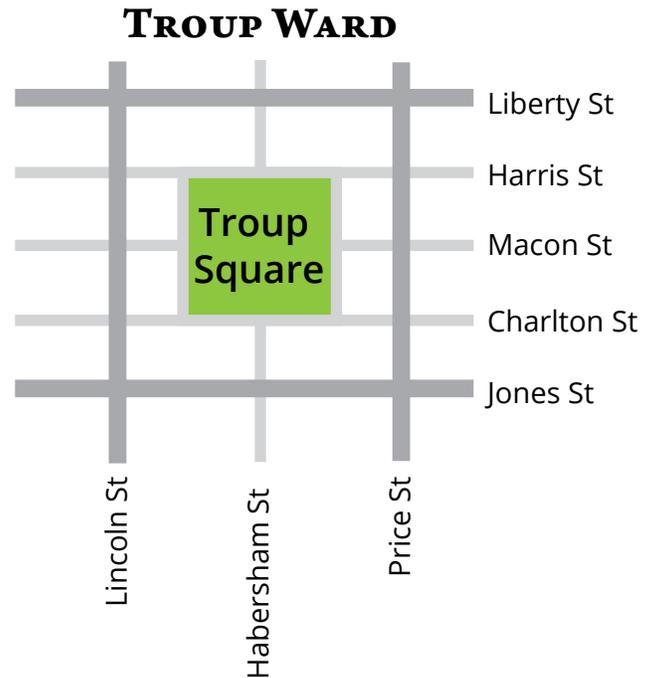
Between Abercorn and Habersham streets, there are homes that date between 1850 and 1870. On the south side of Liberty Street stands the Sisters of Mercy Convent which was built in 1845 when this Catholic religious order came to Savannah to assist the Irish community with its health and education needs. The architect was Charles Cluskey who had previously designed the Champion-McAlpin (or Harper Fowlkes) House on Orleans Square.

Between 1852 and 1854, 101-119 East Jones Street were also built for Eliza Ann Jewett. The Abraham Minis House at 204 East Jones Street was designed by architect Stephen Decatur Button and built in 1859-60. It was originally stucco.

## TROUP WARD & TROUP SQUARE

Both ward and square are named for George McIntosh Troup of Savannah who served as State and United States Congressman and Governor of Georgia in 1823. The square was named for him when he was still alive, which is quite unusual. Lincoln Street is named for Benjamin Lincoln who served as General in the Continental Army and was a combatant in the Siege of Savannah.

Laid out in 1851, Troup Square has two ornaments which include the Myers Drinking Foun-



tain and the Armillary Sphere. The bronze fountain was given to the City by Mayor Herman Myers in 1897, and was originally installed in Forsyth Park.

The present fountain in Troup Square is a reproduction made from casts of the middle part of the fountain. The faucets and catch basins originally stood four feet off the ground and were intended to be used by people. Today, it is much lower to the ground, and used by many of the local dogs. The repurposed fountain has been a catalyst for an annual blessing of the animals in the square.

The Armillary Sphere dates to 1968 and functions as a sundial which is decorated with the signs of the zodiac. The term armillary generally refers to a "skeleton" globe, with hemispheric and various other elliptical divisions indicated by metal "bracelets."

The Lane family (of Judge Mills B. Lane) owned the Troup Trust Building on Habersham Street. Opposite this building is John Norris's Unitarian Church, a congregation initially comprised of African Americans. Originally built on Oglethorpe Square in 1853, the building itself was moved to Troup Square as St. Stephens Episcopal Church in 1860. It later became a Baptist Center, and then, once again, a Unitarian-Uni-

versalist church in 1997. The music director of the first Unitarian church in its former location was James L. Pierpoint, who wrote the Christmas favorite, "Jingle Bells," possibly during his tenure with the church.

Jones Street is often cited as the premier residential street in the Historic District.

### CHATHAM WARD & CHATHAM SQUARE

Chatham Ward and its neighbors to the east are the last wards included in the Historic District. All were developed in the period between 1841 and 1856, a time of rapid economic growth.

Laid out in 1847, Chatham Ward and Square are named for the Earl of Chatham, William Pitt. Taylor Street is named for United States President Zachary Taylor, who served as General of the United States Army during the Mexican War of 1848-49. The naming of the wards establishes an informal timeline based on United States history. Gordon Street is named for the prominent Gordon family, including William Washington Gordon, the first president of the Central of Georgia Railroad.

Wayne Street is named for James Moore Wayne, for whom the Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace was built, and who served Savannah and the United States as mayor, state legislator, member of Congress and Associate Justice

of the Supreme Court. Unlike his fellow Southern Justices, Wayne saw no legal justification for the secession of the Southern states. He remained at his post at the bench, hoping to represent Southern interest in the Courts.

On the northwest corner of the square is the Barnard Street School, which was built in 1906. It is presently classrooms and offices for the Savannah College of Art and Design. On the southeast of the square along Gordon Street is Gordon Row which is a block of row houses with intact service buildings that line Gordon Lane to the south. The block runs from Chatham Square to Whitaker Street and was built in 1853.

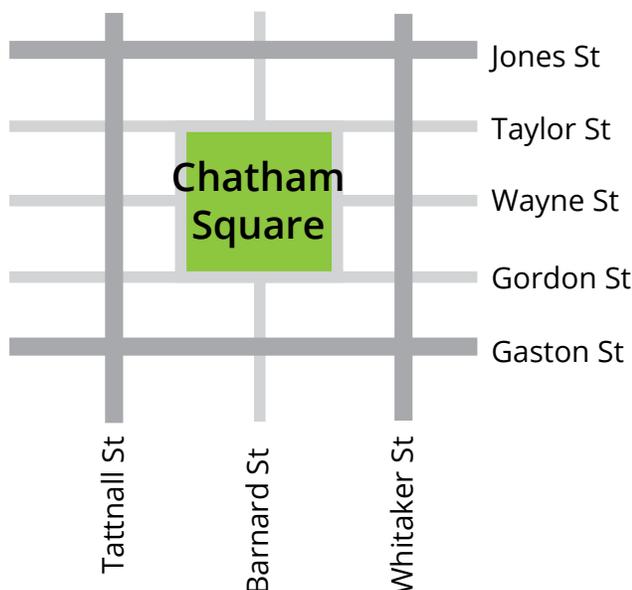
In 1943, Sema Wilkes opened Savannah's most successful boarding house in a home built in the 1870's. During that time, many Southern towns had a boarding house, where you could rent a simple room, or find a communal dining room that offered meals. Today, it houses one of Savannah's most famous restaurants, having hosted chefs, stars, and a seated President (so far).

### MONTEREY WARD & MONTEREY SQUARE

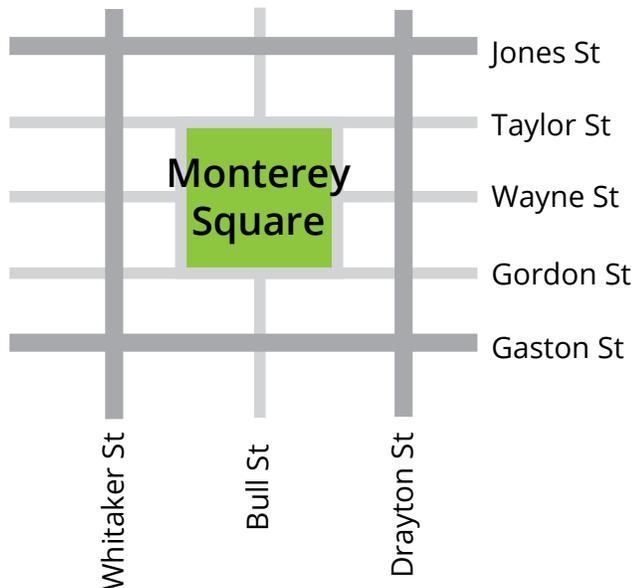
Laid out in 1847, both the ward and square are named for the Battle of Monterey, Mexico which was a significant victory for the United States in the Mexican War. It also represented a noteworthy victory for the Southern states. In 1845, Texas became a part of the Union. Texas was a slave-holding state with delegates to U.S. Congress voting for a states rights political platform.

Count Casimir Pulaski, the Polish Revolutionary war hero, was first memorialized along with Nathanael Greene at the Greene Monument, since the monument commission that wished to honor both men could not afford two separate monuments. In 1852, the lottery that funded monuments had enough to commission a separate monument for Pulaski for placement in Monterey Square. The design of the monument is the work of sculptor R. E. Launitz. The marble is from Carrara, Italy, although not of the highest quality. The sculptor chose Monterey Square over other locations

### CHATHAM WARD



## MONTEREY WARD



*Monterey Square is home to a monument to Casimir Pulaski, a Revolutionary War hero.*

like Wright and Chippewa squares because he felt the scale of buildings in those squares was inappropriate. The female figure at the top of the monument represents "Liberty." The wounding of Pulaski is the subject of a panel on the base of the monument.

In the 1990s the monument had weathered to a point that required removing it from the square and casting a new "Liberty" and new garlands for her pedestal. The originals are now in the Savannah History Museum, and the replacements, made of marble dust and resin, have been reassembled on the site along with the original base and shaft. One of the sections of the shaft was discovered to have been installed upside down. During the reinstallation, it was once again placed upside down for the sake of historic continuity. It can be identified by the position of its stars.

Notable buildings on the square include 429 Bull Street on the southwest Trust Lot. Known as the Mercer-Williams House, this residence was originally built for General Hugh Mercer, a hero of the Confederacy, and was designed by John Norris. Construction on the house was begun in 1860, but was not completed until 1871. However, it is arguably best known for its 20<sup>th</sup> Century occupant.

It was purchased in 1969 by Jim Williams, a Savannah antique dealer with a deep commitment to historic preservation, who took two years to restore the home. Williams served as one of the central characters in John Berendt's best-seller, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. The house has been featured in such films as *Glory* and, of course, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. During his ownership, the carriage house served as Williams' antique shop.

On the southeast Trust Lot stands the Synagogue of the Congregation Mickve Israel, built between 1876 and 1878. It was designed by Henry G. Harrison and modified by J. D. Foley in the Gothic Revival style. The congregation is one of the oldest in America, third only to congregations in New York and Newport, Rhode Island. In 1733, the congregation began when a ship carrying mostly Sephardic Jewish refugees from the Spanish Inquisition arrived in Savannah. They arrived in July of 1733, just five months after Oglethorpe landed.

According to the Colonial charter, the colony was not to allow Jews. However, this group of 42 refugees had something that fledging Georgia needed: a physician named Samuel Nunez. The group was headed by Benjamin Sheftall and Abraham Minis. Philip Minis became Georgia's first white male child born in the colony. The Sheftall family would also continue to prominently achieve in Georgia, as Mordecai Sheftall became the highest ranking Jewish

officer of the American Revolutionary forces, attaining the rank of Deputy Commissary General to the Continental Troops in South Carolina and Georgia.

The congregation was chartered in 1790 by Governor Edward Telfair. The first and second synagogues were located at Liberty and Whitaker streets. In 1876, the Congregation acquired its current site at Monterey Square. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a museum and fellowship facilities were added on the rear of the trust lot replacing a 1957 structure. Architects for the new building were the Maryland firm of Levin-Brown. The museum contains numerous artifacts including the Torah that was brought over to the colony in 1733. This Torah predates the settling of the colony, and is among the oldest in the country.

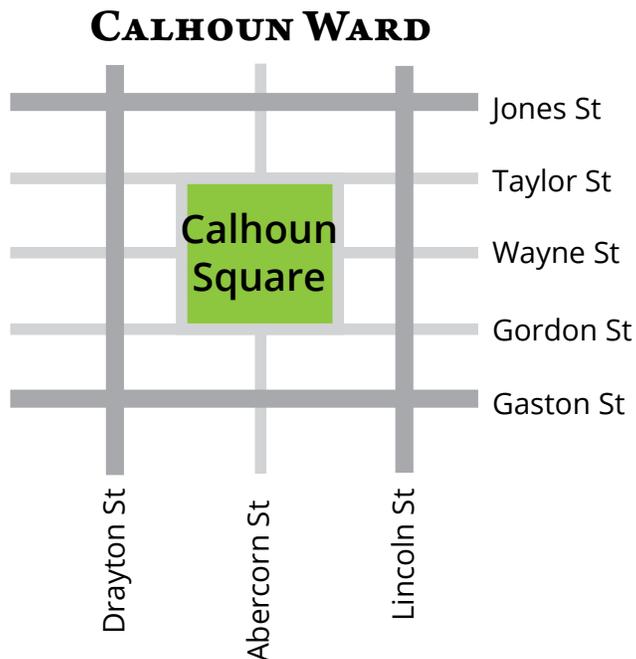
The residence at 5 West Jones Street was built for Eliza M. Thompson and is now one of the city's oldest inns. Thompson was an independently wealthy woman who was fond of giving lavish and elegant parties.

### **CALHOUN WARD & CALHOUN SQUARE**

Laid out in 1815, both ward and square honor John C. Calhoun, a U.S. Senator from South Carolina and advocate of nullification—the right of states to reject federal laws of which they disapproved. The naming of this ward and square reflect the growing concerns of Savannahians over the politics of states rights and slavery.

Calhoun Square is most closely associated with its children. Every May Day, Chatham County school children dance around a Maypole erected in the center of the square.

On the southeast corner of Gordon and Abercorn streets is the historic Massie School, established in 1856 as Savannah's first public school and now owned by the Chatham County School District. The original Massie School was also built by John Norris, though additions have been made to the original structure. The building has served a number of purposes, including as a hospital during the Occupation of Savannah during the Civil War. It has also



served as a Freeman's school. Today, it is operated as a Heritage Center and museum.

On the southwest Trust Lot stands Wesley Monumental Methodist Church, designed by the firm of Dixon and Carson. Built between 1876 and 1890, the structure was built as a memorial to John and Charles Wesley. Both are depicted in a stained glass window within the sanctuary.

### **WESLEY WARD & WHITEFIELD SQUARE**

Wesley Ward was named for John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement. The square honors Rev. George Whitefield (pronounced "Wit-field"), Wesley's successor to the role of Anglican curate in Savannah. Whitefield is also the founder of the Bethesda Orphanage (1740). Wesley Ward was the last ward to be developed before the Civil War. Homes were constructed both before and after the Civil War in this ward.

The gazebo in the center of Whitefield Square is a popular scene for weddings and is architecturally in keeping with the houses surrounding the square. However, the gazebo itself was gifted the city much later, in the 1970's, by actor Burt Reynolds, who filmed a handful of films in the Lowcountry.

## WESLEY WARD



*The gazebo in Whitefield Square was gifted to the city by actor Burt Reynolds. It is now a popular location for weddings in Savannah.*

At the corner of Gordon and Lincoln streets, just off the square, is Beth Eden Baptist Church, designed by Henry Urban in 1893 for an African-American congregation. The choir loft in the sanctuary features a mural by William Pleasant, a local African-American folk painter.

The square and much of the ward sits over the site of the first African-American burying ground in Savannah. It was laid out in 1818 when the burying of slaves in backyards was outlawed. Andrew Bryan, founder of the First African Baptist Church, and Henry Cunningham, minister of the Second African Baptist Church, were both originally buried here. However, like many others at this site, very few were reinterred in Laurel Grove South Cemetery when the ward was developed.

The church on the northwest Trust Lot is First Congregational Church, built for an African-American congregation in 1895. The influence of the Congregational Church in African-American education during Reconstruction is well documented. 🏛️

# CHAPTER 7

## The Historic District's Burial Grounds

One of Savannah's oldest burial grounds, Colonial Park Cemetery was originally designated as a burial site in 1750, and appears on a 1770 map of Savannah as a much smaller property than its present size of six acres. This burial ground was open to white Christian citizens of Savannah until 1853, by which time it was crowded and badly kept.

Colonial Park Cemetery is home to the graves of more than 9,000 persons, many of whom are in unmarked plots, or plots that are no longer marked. Many are in mass graves, owing to Yellow Fever outbreaks. At the front of Colonial Park cemetery, there is an Historical Marker designating the graves of the victims of the Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1820, when nearly 700 died in that year alone.

Burial sites were developed to the east and west of Savannah at Bonaventure, Laurel Grove and Cathedral (now called Catholic Cemetery) cemeteries in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, Colonial Cemetery fell into a state of disrepair, and its existence was threatened. As the result of a lawsuit, the City was given responsibility for preserving the grave markers and turning the grounds into a park. In 1896, the Savannah Park and Tree Commission began beautification of the park, and has since restored many of the gravesites.

Among the gravesites in the Colonial Park Cemetery are those of many famous Americans and Georgians including: Archibald Bull-och, an ancestor of Theodore Roosevelt; and John and Joseph Habersham, both of whom served as delegates to the Continental Congress (Joseph was also Postmaster General under Presidents Washington, Adams and Jefferson). Lachlan McIntosh, a Revolutionary War leader, is buried at the cemetery. William Scarborough, the former owner of the Savannah Steamship Company and the Scarborough House is also buried in Colonial Cemetery.



*The Colonial Park Cemetery, located in the city's Crawford Ward, holds more than 9,000 graves, many of which are unmarked. Some prominent people buried in the cemetery include John & Joseph Habersham, delegates to the Continental Congress, and Revolutionary War leader Lachlan McIntosh, who is known for his duel with Declaration of Independence signer Button Gwinnett.*

McIntosh's dueling partner, Button Gwinnett, is commemorated with a columned memorial of white marble. Gwinnett is better known as one of Georgia's signature delegates of the Declaration of Independence. It is unknown if Gwinnett's remains are buried in the park. However, the City created the memorial to him based on a claim that the remains buried in the cemetery are his.

## LAUREL GROVE CEMETERY

Laurel Grove Cemetery is an important resting place for Savannahians. Laurel Grove is divided into two segments, North and South. The Laurel Grove Cemetery is divided by Highway 204. Many parts of Savannah were segregated, and cemeteries were no exception.

In Laurel Grove North (generally referred to simply as “Laurel Grove”) are the gravesites of James Pierpont, Juliette Gordon Low, James Moore Wayne, victims of Yellow Fever epidemics and military units, along with many prominent Savannah politicians. Amid Live Oak trees, Laurel Grove preserves many excellent displays of Victorian statuary and mausoleums.

Although planned as early as 1818, Laurel Grove first opened for burials in 1853. More than 1500 Confederate Soldiers are buried in a section devoted entirely to the Civil War dead. Eight generals are buried in Laurel Grove: Francis Bartow, Jeremy F. Gilmer, Paul J. Harrison, Sr., Gilbert M. Sorrell, Lafayette McLaws, Peter McGlashan, Henry C. Wayne and Edward C. Willis.

Laurel Grove South is where leading African-American Savannahians are buried including the Reverends Andrew Marshall, Andrew Bryan and Ulysses Houston, who served in the Georgia Legislature during Reconstruction. Clandestine school teacher and Georgia State Representative James Simms is also buried at Laurel Grove South. He was instrumental in the establishment of Georgia State Industrial College, which is now known as Savannah State University. 🏛️



*Laurel Grove Cemetery is divided into two segregated segments: North and South. The North segment holds many well-known white citizens, such as Juliette Gordon Low and James Pierpont, and the South segment is the final resting place for prominent African-American citizens like Reverend Andrew Bryan, founder of the First African Baptist Church.*



*“Little Gracie” Watson’s gravesite is a popular attraction in Bonaventure Cemetery, which is located east of downtown Savannah.*

# CHAPTER 8

## Gaston Street & Forsyth Park

On the southwestern corner of Gaston and Whitaker streets is Hodgson Hall, which was built in 1876. The building was commissioned by Margaret Telfair to honor her late husband, William Hodgson. Today, it serves as the home of the Georgia Historical Society which was chartered by the Georgia Legislature in 1839. The Historical Society has a statewide mission to collect and preserve the history of Georgia as well as providing a valuable research library for scholars, students and the public. The building with high vaulted ceilings and decorative ironwork is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Dietlef Leinaw was the architect for Hodgson Hall and the addition to the Telfair Academy building. He was also one of the founders of the American Institute of Architects.

On the southeast corner of Drayton and East Hall streets is a building designed by Alfred Eichberg, the Kayton-Grainger-Huger House, built in 1889. Eichberg was a Savannah architect best known for his work in brick and terra cotta work. The residence recently occupied by a funeral home has been renovated as part of a new upscale hotel, and is now known by its address, 700 Drayton (Street). Eichberg's decorative use of arches, an elaborately scrolled false pediment, and the tower, typical of Queen Anne style, make the building noteworthy.

In 1888, the home located at 225 East Hall Street was designed by William G. Preston, the architect of the Savannah Cotton Exchange.

Another Eichberg building is located on the northwest corner of Lincoln and East Huntingdon Streets. It is a double house which was built for the Tiedeman family in 1890. Further east on Huntingdon Street is the row of houses with polychrome brickwork and carpenter gothic porches which was built for the McMillan Brothers in 1892. The McMillans also built numbers 318-320, and 302-308 East Huntingdon Street in the 1880s.



*700 Drayton Street is also known as the Kayton-Grainger-Huger House, designed by architect Alfred Eichberg. The house is now part of the upscale hotel, the Mansion on Forsyth Park.*

The Marine Memorial is located on south side of Gaston Street opposite Bull Street. The Savannah Detachment of the Marine Corps League erected the memorial in 1947 for the 24 Chatham County Marines killed in World War II. Subsequently, the names of Marines killed in Korea and Vietnam have been added. The memorial is a solid piece of Georgia marble with bronze plaques and the Marine Corps symbol attached. The architects of the memorial were Cletus Bergen, William Bergen and John Tasse. William Bergen served as a Marine Corps officer and designed Drayton Towers.

On the northwest corner of Bull Street at Gaston Street is the Armstrong House, which was designed by Henrik Wallin and built in 1917. Its subsequent owner, Mrs. George Armstrong, gave the building to the City to enable the founding of Armstrong Junior College which is now Armstrong Atlantic State University on the Southside of Savannah. The Armstrong House is now law offices.

Opposite the Armstrong House at 450 Bull Street is the former residence of Henry Jackson which was built in 1857 with later additions continuing along Gaston Street. It is now the Oglethorpe Club, a private club.

Eichberg (and his frequent partner, Calvin Fay) was also responsible for the design of the Telfair Hospital for Females, on the South end of Forsyth Park. The style of this building is different from many of the buildings that Eichberg designed as private residences in Savannah. The style is Italianate, and without many of the terra cotta and brick details that Eichberg designs are known for. More characteristic details can be seen in Eichberg designed properties located at 208 and 210 East Gaston Street.

## **FORSYTH PARK**

Forsyth Park was originally set aside by William B. Hodgson prior to 1851 for “the pleasure of the public.” It was named for John Forsyth who served as governor and Secretary of State to United States Presidents Andrew Jackson and Martin Van Buren.

Leaving Gaston Street and turning south on Whitaker Street there are several fine examples of Victorian residences surrounding Forsyth Park, the public park which serves as a central recreational destination in downtown Savannah. At 118 West Hall Street is a Queen Anne style residence designed by Alfred Eichberg. The house is unusual as an Eichberg design since it is of frame construction. It has both weatherboard and patterned shingle siding, stucco and stone pediments and sunburst brackets.

At the southwest corner of Whitaker and Hall streets is the Chestnut House built in 1897. This building is a noteworthy example of Queen Anne architecture with a tower on the



*Along the perimeter of Forsyth Park, Drayton and Whitaker streets are filled with examples of Victorian architecture.*

front facade and balanced pavilions on the porch. This house is a favorite of local residents for its extensive show of wisteria which extends across the front porch and down the side of the house.

In the center of the Forsyth Park extension stands the Confederate Monument, with a multi-storied base and a forty-eight foot sandstone shaft. The monument was originally designed by Robert Reid of Montreal to have marble allegorical and military figures on the corners of the base. It also had a figure entitled “Resurrection” at the pinnacle and an interior niche under the shaft with a figure representing “Silence” enclosed. Several of these



figures are now in Laurel Grove Cemetery and in the Confederate cemetery in Thomaston, Georgia. The site in Forsyth Park extension was chosen for its quiet since the Savannah Memorial Association, known also as the Ladies' Memorial Association, expressed a desire that the monument be viewed in a contemplative atmosphere rather than in the bustle of Savannah's main squares. It was also deemed too tall to be viewed close-up as one would have to see it in a square.

The monument was officially dedicated on May 25, 1875. However, completion became an issue due to lack of funding. In 1878, a proposal was made to remove the allegorical figures that then graced the monument and to accept the donation by George Wymberly Jones DeRenne of a bronze statue of a Confederate soldier to top the monument. The sculptor was David Richards of New York. The model for the soldier was Alfred S. Bacon who was a Savannahian, although the face is probably not his likeness. A copy of this bronze exists in Poughkeepsie, New York, as a memorial to Federal dead with the C.S.A. on the rucksack changed to U.S.A.

Bartow and McLaws Monuments are two bronze busts that were originally installed in Chippewa Square. In 1910 they were moved to make way for the Oglethorpe Monument. They now flank the Confederate Monument. Savannah native Francis Stebbins Bartow graduated from Yale Law School, became a member of the Secession Convention for Georgia, and was elected to the Confederate Congress. A member of the Oglethorpe Light Infantry, he became a Colonel in the 8<sup>th</sup> Georgia Regiment and went on to become Brigadier General leading the 8<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup> Georgia Regiments on a victorious charge at Manassas. He died heroically at that battle in 1861.

LaFayette McLaws of Augusta was a graduate of West Point and a veteran of the Mexican War. When Georgia seceded from the Union, McLaws resigned from the Union army to serve the Confederate army as a major. By 1862, he was promoted to Major-General and was placed in command of the District of



*The Confederate Monument stands in the center of Forsyth Park, and was dedicated in 1875.*

Georgia. That same year, he along with Joseph Johnston surrendered to General William T. Sherman. After the war, McLaws worked in the insurance business, was a tax collector for the Federal Government served as Savannah's postmaster from 1875 until 1876. He became president of the Savannah Confederate Veterans Association and a delegate to its first state convention in 1889. He died in 1898.

The Georgia Volunteer Memorial to the Georgia Veterans of the Spanish-American War is a bronze sculpture located at the southern end of Forsyth Park. It was created in 1902 by Theo Alice Ruggles Kitson of Massachusetts. Over 50 replicas were made and placed in parts of the U.S. as memorials to veterans of the Spanish-American War. It has acquired a nickname, "The Hiker" although it was never named that



*The iconic fountain in Forsyth Park was installed in 1858. There are replicas of the fountain in Cusco, Peru and Poughkeepsie, New York.*

by its sculptor or by the Gorham Company that reproduced it for sale. The statue was reproduced in the same bronze formula in so many places that it is used as a gauge for the effects of acid rain upon bronze across the nation. The Savannah Memorial stands on a pyramid of Georgia granite.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Georgia Regiment served in Cuba during the war and about 50 Savannahians participated as Company K, although they were not involved in the fighting. Other Savannahians served in a different way. Since Savannah was a major embarkation point for soldiers going to and coming from Cuba, Nellie Kinzie Gordon (the wife of W. W. Gordon II) who served as President of the Colonial Dames and her daughter Juliette Gordon Low gave care to the sick and wounded. This gesture was appreciated by soldiers from the North and South. As a Spanish American War Veteran representative said later, the war and the attendant compassion “blended blue and gray into khaki.”

Built in 1909, the Dummy Forts are located just to the south of the Forsyth Park Fountain. This provided shelter for local militia companies using the Forsyth Park extension as a parade ground and drill field. The western building now houses the Fragrant Garden for the Blind. The Forsyth Park Fountain is a cast iron fountain and the accessories that accompany its

installations were the product of Janes, Beebe & Company. Their version was a copy of a fountain designed by a French iron foundry for the 1851 Crystal Palace Exhibition in London. The Savannah version was purchased from the Janes, Beebe & Company catalog as the centerpiece of Forsyth Place, which was the original landscaped area of the park. Forsyth Place, the fountain and walkways were influenced by the style of the French Second Empire as were many American public parks during the 1850s. Bull Street was thought of as a boulevard, and the fountain created the ultimate focus of a long vista beginning at the City Exchange (today the location of City Hall). The fountain was turned on only in the afternoons because it had no recirculating pump until just prior to World War II.

The installation of the fountain in 1858 might also have been inspired by the creation of the new City water works. The dimensions of the pool surrounding the fountain were enlarged to accommodate the gushing water pressure. In 1870, the fountain was painted in imitation of Siena marble, which is largely a terra cotta color veined in ochre and purple. It was painted white for the first time in 1935. The same fountain with a pool of smaller dimensions is the centerpiece of the grand plaza in Cusco, Peru, painted green. There is also a copy in Poughkeepsie, New York. 

# CHAPTER 9

## Touring the Historic District's Perimeter

The Historic District is bounded by Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard on the west, River Street on the north, East Broad Street on the east and Gwinnett Street on the south. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard was formerly called West Broad Street. During the Jim Crow period, it was the commercial and social center of African-American Savannahians. It was renamed to honor the revered Civil Rights leader in 1990. The original town limits were from the Savannah River, East Broad Street, West Broad Street and South Broad Street.

Gwinnett Street is named for Button Gwinnett, a Savannah shopkeeper and signer of the Declaration of Independence. Gwinnett's signature is the rarest of all those who signed the Declaration. Gwinnett was Commander of the Georgia troops in the Continental Army, and resigned that post to become a Georgia delegate to the Continental Congress.

The perimeter of the Historic District includes places and structures that have contributed to the history of Savannah, and its economic and social fabric. Beginning at the northwest corner of the Historic District, (Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and New Franklin Ward, which lies between the River and West Bay Street,) are a group of former warehouses, now shops and residences, built between 1820 and 1872. Between these structures, the west end of the Hyatt Hotel stands.

At the head of Bull Street is Savannah's City Hall, designed by Hyman Wallace Witcover, which replaced the old City Exchange building. The cornerstone was laid in a traditional Masonic ceremony at Bull and Bay streets in 1904. The building opened to the public in January 1906. Additional events for the community were held as the structure was under construction.

The centerpiece of the building's interior is a four-story rotunda under a ceiling of stained



*The Savannah City Hall sits at the intersection of Bull and Bay streets, and was completed in 1906.*

glass. Directly underneath is a fountain symbolizing the prosperity of the City. The sculptor of the fountain was Fernando Miranda. The design features dolphins and shells supporting a putto holding aloft a cornucopia with the seal of the City of Savannah at his feet.

To the east of City Hall is the Thomas Gamble Building, named after the former Savannah mayor (1933-1937, 1939-1945) and the leading force behind the founding of Armstrong Atlantic State University. South of the Gamble Building on the Abercorn Street ramp are open warehouses designed by Charles B. Cluskey and built in 1842.

In 1887, a grand opening was held for Savannah Cotton Exchange located at 100 East Bay Street. The stately brick and terra cotta building was designed by William Gibbons Preston, of Boston, who also designed the DeSoto Hotel. On both buildings Preston used extensive terra cotta decorations and relief panels. The interior featured a board on which were posted daily world market prices for cotton. Cotton factors or planter's agents could choose where to ship cotton in order to get the best profits for their clients.

In front of the Cotton Exchange is the Cotton Exchange Fountain. The red terra cotta winged lion was originally installed in 1889 from terra cotta objects purchased from a New Jersey company. The winged lion is an emblem of St. Mark the Evangelist, a symbol of protection and Christ's resurrection. The Cotton Exchange has been resurrected as the Solomon's Lodge and is a repository of Masonic artifacts and papers occasionally open to the public.



*The Cotton Exchange fountain was installed in 1889. The winged lion is a symbol of protection and Christ's resurrection, and represents St. Mark the Evangelist.*

## **MONUMENTS ON EAST BAY STREET**

On the north side of East Bay Street is "The Strand," a park-like area which is the site for many of Savannah's memorials. From west to east, the following monuments can be seen.

On the west side of City Hall near the entrance to the Hyatt Hotel is a granite bench referred to as the Oglethorpe Bench. According to information gleaned from old maps, this is the original location where Oglethorpe pitched his tent and spent his first night in the Colony. The designer of the bench was J.deBruyn Kops, an architect and Savannah resident. The Geor-

gia Society of the Colonial Dames of America, in cooperation with representatives from other ancestral societies, acting as the Oglethorpe Monument Association was responsible for erecting this monument in 1906. Nearby is a small monument marking this section of the bluff as the most historic spot in Georgia.

After visiting Savannah in 1791, George Washington sent these two cannons to the Chatham Artillery, one of Savannah's oldest militia companies. The Washington Guns were a symbol

of his gratitude to the Artillery for performing a full military funeral in 1786 for General Nathanael Greene who was one of Washington's favorite officers. These two cannons are the oldest monuments in the city. In 1881, they were taken to Yorktown where they were used to celebrate the centennial of that battle. The cannons were decorated for the occasion with silk flags embroidered "George" and "Martha," the names having been given them by the

Chatham Artillery. In 1958, the cannons were given to the City by the Chatham Artillery and installed at their present location.

To the east of the Washington Guns is the City Exchange Bell. It once hung in the steeple of the City Exchange on the site of City Hall. The bell tower where the bell now hangs is a replica of the City Exchange's original tower from 1803. In 1804, the City Council ordained that the bell should be rung at the close of business hours each day as well as to greet visiting dignitaries, meetings of the council, and "occasions of great importance."

The Salzburger Monument of Reconciliation in Salzburger Park is located between the Aber-

corn and Lincoln ramps. Dedicated in 1996, the serpentine stone Salzburger Monument of Reconciliation was carved in relief by Austrian Anton Thuswaldner and presented to the Georgia Salzburger Society and the City of Savannah by the State of Salzburg, Austria. It commemorates the plight of the 37 Salzburgers driven from their homeland by religious persecution who sought refuge in the new colony of Georgia in 1734. The Salzburgers founded two settlements called Abercorn and Ebenezer, west of Savannah where their Salzburger descendents still live. The Georgia Salzburger Society Museum is located in Rincon.

The Georgia Hussars Monument commemorates the Georgia Hussars who were and still remain one of Savannah's important militias. Organized by General Oglethorpe in 1736 as a mounted patrol, the Hussars' original purpose was protecting the new colony from the Spanish in Florida. In that role, the Hussars fought against the Spanish in the Battle of Bloody Marsh on St. Simons Island in 1742. In 1779, the Georgia Hussars were among the patriots attacking the British fortifications at Springhill Redoubt which is located at Battlefield Park on Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. The Georgia Hussars continued as a horse cavalry unit until 1940.

To the east of the Hussars Monument is a granite obelisk honoring the Savannah Marines who fought in the Korean conflict. The monument bears their names.

Emmet Park runs east along Bay Street from Rossiter Lane to the end of Bay Street. The park is named for Irish poet and patriot Robert Emmet. Additional monuments are located in Emmet Park.

The Savannah Irish Monument and Celtic Cross is located opposite Habersham Street. It commemorates Georgian Irish immigrants and the 250th anniversary of the founding of Georgia. It is a Celtic Cross, and was carved by a young stonecarver from County Roscommon, Ireland. The stonecarver won the Stonecutter's Apprentice of the Year Award for his work. Its engraved motif is the Celtic knot, which symbolizes everlasting life.

The Vietnam War Memorial, at the junction of East Bay Street and Rossiter Lane, consists of a marble mass which symbolizes the terrain of Vietnam. In the reflecting pool is the shape of the peninsula that is the site of the nation of Vietnam. On the upper end of the marble mass is a bronze sculpture marking a battlefield grave marker of a pair of combat boots with an M16 rifle with bayonet driven into the mass and a helmet. The names of all 106 Savannahians killed in this conflict are carved into an adjacent marble tablet.

Founded in 1786, the Chatham Artillery erected the Chatham Artillery Monument in 1986 to celebrate its bicentennial. The monument is made of grey granite and bears a bronze eagle is inscribed with a brief history of the militia and a list of its commanders and presidents.

The Dr. Noble Wimberly Jones Monument was dedicated in 2004 and honors Dr. Noble Wimberly Jones, a distinguished Savannahian who served as first President of the Georgia Medical Society, the oldest local medical society in the United States. Dr. Jones was also a veteran of the American Revolution and a Georgia delegate to the Continental Congress. The monument also marks the bi-centennial of the founding of the Georgia Medical Society.

The Beacon Range Light stands at the eastern end of Bay Street near the junction of East Broad Street. It consists of a light atop a cast iron shaft ornamented with leaf scrolls and banding. It was placed in position in 1858 at the request of the Mayor and Aldermen of the City by the Federal Light House Board. It was Federally sanctioned as a navigation aid to warn ships of the wrecked ships sunk in the river as a defense during the Revolutionary War. It originally shone with a red light that was to align with the Fig Island beacon light on the far side of the Savannah River shipping channel.

Beyond East Broad Street, Bay Street descends across what was once Trustee's Garden, becoming General (Lachlan) McIntosh Boulevard as it does so.

## TRUSTEES GARDEN

In the Georgia Trustees' original plans for the colony of Georgia was an experimental garden. According to early visitor Baron Von Reck, who arrived with the Salzburger immigrants, "all sorts of trials and experiments with various plants and trees" could be conducted. Today the 10 acre site is referred to as Trustees Garden. It is much smaller than the area that Oglethorpe established as a garden area which extended from the riverbank up the bluff as far as East Broad Street and Congress Lane, and from Randolph Street to the Savannah River. The garden was divided into four equal squares of 2½ acres each with crosswalks dividing the squares. At the center of the square was an Indian burial mound which Oglethorpe assured Tomochichi would continue to be respected by the colonists.

The crosswalks were originally lined with orange trees, according to the account of Francis Moore, the keeper of the colony stores and assistant to Oglethorpe in 1735 and 1736. In his lengthy account, Moore describes plantings of mulberry trees intended to feed silkworms, apple and pear trees, olive, fig, pomegranate and coffee trees, cotton and bamboo plants, and coconut palms, as well as an assortment of medicinal herbs.

It appears that Oglethorpe laid out Trustees Garden to span as many types of soil and microenvironments as possible. The bluff soil was sandy and dry while the soil below the bluff and at the riverbank was clay and moist.

The hopes of the Trustees that the garden would produce useful medicines and cash crops, especially mulberry leaves for feeding silk worms, never materialized. In the first few years, plants on the bluff were killed by frost, arguments among gardeners resulted in poor maintenance, and the silk cocoons went to waste because someone stole the winder. Enough silk filament was raised in Savannah to weave into eight pounds of cloth which was presented to Queen Charlotte, the wife of George III. The garden languished and was broken up into individual plots in 1755.



*The Pirates' House Restaurant is a popular destination with a storied history. Underneath the dining room there are two tunnels that bear similarities to tunnels mentioned in author Robert Louis Stevenson's works.*

## EAST BROAD STREET

Turning south onto East Broad Street from East Bay Street, the contemporary area named for the original Trustees Garden lies to the east. On East Broad Street in the present Trustees Garden area is the location of one of the oldest structures in Savannah which dates from 1794-1808. The building located at 20 East Broad Street is the current location of the Pirates' House Restaurant, a popular downtown dining destination. Under the dining room are two tunnels. In 1962, one of the tunnels was uncovered under an arch during a renovation. The opening is 10 feet deep. Its construction date and purpose are unknown. Another underground passageway lies at the bottom of a stairway in the "rum cellar." Various legends abound regarding these tunnels, and author Robert Louis Stevenson mentions Savannah in his *Treasure Island*, and included something resembling those Pirates' House tunnels in his novel *Kidnapped* (1887).

The Beach Institute Neighborhood runs from Price Street east to East Broad Street and from Liberty Street to Gwinnett Street. It was originally a mixed community of laborers employed in the railroad yards and mills across East Broad Street. The Beach Institute, located on the southeast corner of Price and Charlton streets, was founded in 1867 by the Freedman's Bureau in cooperation with the American Missionary



*The King-Tisdell Cottage depicts a house typical of an African-American family in the 1890s. Various artifacts and period pieces furnish the cottage, and the work of artist Ulysses Davis is prominently featured.*

Association. It served as the first school for African-Americans in Savannah. By this time, the neighborhood around the Beach Institute was predominately African-American. Its benefactor was Alfred E. Beach who bought the lot on which it stands. In 1990, under the aegis of W. W. Law, the building reopened as a museum and cultural center. It features the work of Ulysses Davis, an internationally known folk artist working primarily in wood.

On the north side of Huntingdon Street between Price and East Broad streets is the King-Tisdell Cottage, which was moved to its current location in 1981. Originally built in 1896, it was purchased by African-American businessman Eugene King. After his death, his widow mar-

ried again to Robert Tisdell. The cottage was moved from Ott Street, near Wheaton Street, as part of an urban redevelopment project. The King-Tisdell Cottage and the Beach Institute are owned by the King-Tisdell Cottage Foundation and are open to the public.

At East Broad Street and East Gordon Street is the complex of buildings belonging to the Roman Catholic Church of St. Benedict the Moor. In 1874, the church was established and opened its doors to African-Americans. St. Benedict was a former slave in Italy in the 16th Century and was a Franciscan. Bishop William Gross sought assistance from French Benedictine brothers in ministering to the needs of the new congregation. The following year, Father Gabriel Bergier, a French monk opened a school on Perry Street in Crawford Ward for African-Americans. In 1889, Mother Matilda Beasley, an African-American of substantial wealth founded the Third Order of St. Francis in connection with the Church. This was the first order of African-American nuns in Georgia. The order of nuns was unable to support itself, and disbanded in 1900. Mother Matilda also opened the St. Francis Home for Colored Orphans on Habersham Street. Sacred Heart Church provided Mother Matilda with a residence which still stands at 1511 Price Street.

**GWINNETT STREET**

The Victorian National Register District was designated in 1974 and includes the area from Gwinnett Street to Anderson Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to East Broad Street.

Within the 500 block of East Gwinnett Street in the Victorian District are several small Victorian houses with verandas which were all built between 1881 and 1898. In the 200 block of East Gwinnett a row of Italianate houses with deep eaves and brackets feature bay windows the full height of the house. These houses also date to the 1880s.

## MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BOULEVARD

Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard was formerly called West Broad Street and was the hub of the city for African-American Savannahians with retail shops, businesses services, theaters, clubs and restaurants lining the street. The street was renamed for the Civil Rights Leader in 1990. Many important elements of African-American culture are along Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and in the neighborhoods adjacent to the corridor. The City is currently working to redevelop this important corridor.

On West 36th Street is the site of the Charity Hospital, the first hospital established by African-Americans for African-Americans. It was opened in 1896 by Doctors Cornelius and Alice Woodby McKane, and originally was named the McKane Hospital. Dr. Alice McKane also founded the McKane School of Nursing which educated African-American men and women starting in 1893. Alice Woodby McKane managed the facility as principal. In 1901, the hospital was renamed Charity Hospital. It was recently renovated to provide affordable housing to residents of Savannah.

The Savannah Tribune newspaper has served African-Americans in Savannah since 1875. Founder John DeVeaux served as both editor and manager until 1889 when Sol C. Johnson purchased the publication. Johnson began his career as a printer's devil—the youth who pushed the lever to lower the press—and worked for DeVeaux before purchasing the paper from him. Johnson went on to become a prominent local journalist, philanthropist, educator, and founder of the Savannah Tri-

bune, the nation's oldest newspaper catering to African-Americans. The current location of the Savannah Tribune Building is on the east side of the 900 block of Montgomery Street.

The Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum located at 460 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard was founded by African-American preservationist and historian Wallace Westley Law (W. W. Law). It is named for Reverend Ralph Mark Gilbert, who served as the pastor of First African Baptist Church, and was a catalyst for the Savannah Civil Rights Movement. The museum uses interactive exhibits, interpretive

recreations and videotaped recollections of members of the community to tell the story of how segregation laws and social conventions were challenged in Savannah.

The museum also celebrates the community that once existed around it with an exhibition about West Broad Street.

Constructed in 1914, the museum building was once the location of the Wage Earners Bank and served as the location of the Savannah Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People during the Civil Rights Movement.

On the west side of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard is the Harris Street entrance to the Central of Georgia Railroad Shops complex. The site has a collection of antebellum industrial buildings, a drop forge, a machine shop and an assortment of rolling stock to include locomotives and Savannah trolley cars. The centerpiece of the complex is a smokestack surrounded by built-in privies and washrooms on its lowest level, and a handsome cast iron water tank one level up. The complex was also



*Just off Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard is the Georgia State Railroad Museum, which regularly demonstrates their steam engines on display. The roundhouse features a working electric turntable.*

a site used in the filming of *Glory* starring Denzel Washington and Matthew Broderick. The Railroad Roundhouse features a working electric turntable for shunting rolling stock into work stations.

The area between Harris Street and Louisville Road stood vacant for much of the 20th Century, but was the site of a major Revolutionary War battle which

was one of the bloodiest in 1779. On the side, Colonial troops joined with the French, Polish and Haitian to fight the English. Unfortunately, they were unsuccessful in their object of capturing the earthwork Springhill Redoubt. The Springhill Redoubt has recently been recreated as the centerpiece of Savannah's Battlefield Park. It commemorates the camaraderie and spirit of the joint forces that suffered defeat in October 1779. Memorials to the many units that comprised the Colonial army are in the planning stage.

Across Louisville Road from Battlefield Park is the 1853 Passenger shed of the Central of Georgia Railroad. It sits behind the 1876 Central of Georgia Head House which was designed in 1860, but not built until after the Civil War. The Head House currently houses the Savannah Visitor Center, the Passenger Shed houses the Savannah History Museum. The museum's narrative exhibition on Savannah history occupies the main area of the Passenger shed and an adjacent gallery exhibits historic costumes. Exhibits also feature Savannah's citizen soldiers and the Confederate mosquito fleet in the Savannah River. Plans to retrieve and stabilize the ironclad C.S.S. Georgia from the bottom of the Savannah River are underway.



*The Ships of the Sea Museum was designed by architect William Jay in 1818, and features a variety of model ships and nautical artifacts such as scrimshaw pieces.*

The Visitors Center parking lot was once the Central of Georgia's cotton yard where millions of bales of cotton were unloaded and stored until they could be transferred to the harbor. In December 1864 when General William Tecumseh Sherman's army neared Savannah, orders were given to burn the cotton. A stiff wind from the west arose pro-

hibiting the cotton from being torched without burning the city. Upon Sherman's successful occupation, he was able to telegraph President Lincoln and present him with a Christmas gift of "the city of Savannah, 150 heavy guns, plenty of ammunition, and also about 25,000 bales of cotton."

To the north of the Visitors Center parking lot, another Central of Georgia Building stands which was designed by Calvin Fay and Alfred S. Eichberg in 1882. It now houses the Building Arts Department of the Savannah College of Art and Design. The adjacent building to the north was constructed in 1855 by the Central of Georgia and served as their company headquarters. The company emblem can still be seen on the ceiling of the portico. At the corner of this building, Turner Boulevard intersects with Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. Turner Boulevard is named for Henry McNeil Turner who was the founder of the first African Methodist Episcopal Church of Savannah in 1865. A historic marker on the boulevard indicates where the first church was located. Its successor is St. Philip's Monumental A.M.E. Church which is currently located in the 1100 block of Jefferson Street.

The Ships of the Sea Museum is an excellent example of a Classical Revival or Regency style structure designed by William Jay in 1818 for



*River Street is currently home to nearly 100 businesses.*

William Scarbrough. The property, located at 41 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, has been restored and now houses the Ships of the Sea Museum. Model ships, maritime paraphernalia, scrimshaw and shellwork, uniforms and dramatic scenes are part of the museum collection. Behind the house is a formal garden with a small classical pavilion.

During the Reconstruction, the Scarborough House was owned by individuals until finally being purchased by George W.J DeRenne in 1878. He turned around and deeded the building to the Board of Education, so that the home could be used to educate children of African decent. The building became the West Broad Street School, and was home to remained in use for students up to the eighth grade until 1962.

In 1788, Andrew Bryan, a slave, was permitted by his owner to preach and established the earliest African-American Baptist church in the United States. Slaves from surrounding plantations came to hear him preach in a barn. In 1793, he purchased land at 575 West Bryan Street just west of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard and established the First Bryan Baptist Church. The present building was designed by John B. Hogg and was completed in 1888.

Across Bryan Street from the church is the Yamacraw Art Park. The centerpiece of the park is a fountain with bronze sculptures of children designed by Jerome Meadows. Panels in the park celebrate the history of the Yamacraw community, once home to Native Americans who greeted Oglethorpe, and then an early African-American community centered around the church. The park was dedicated on May 13, 2006.

On the southwest corner of Indian Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard just north of Bay Street is Yamacraw Bluff. In the antebellum era, this section of Yamacraw Bluff was home to free people of color. It was also occupied by nominal slaves who were bondsmen and women who possessed particular marketable skills that allowed them to lease themselves out to work. They were able to earn some money for themselves and pay their owners. In this location they found reasonable lodgings and a sense of community.

### **SAVANNAH'S WATERFRONT**

Savannah's waterfront has played an important role throughout the history of Savannah. Today, River Street is the home to approximately 100 businesses which include hotels,



*The African-American Monument is directly across from the River Street Visitors Center, dedicated to the challenges faced by African-Americans in Savannah's history.*

restaurants, offices and retail establishments as well as upper-story residential development.

Further north along Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard is the intersection of River Street which extends along the riverfront parallel to Bay Street. The old cotton warehouses that line the forty foot bluff were constructed between 1790 and 1840. Factors, or cotton brokers, had offices on Bay Street. Using a unique design, they had their offices above their cotton warehouses and created a series of wrought iron bridges connecting them to Bay Street. This created an area called "Factors Walk" and allowed the ramps and lanes to be open for cargo to pass by.

The ramps connecting Bay Street to the Savannah River were once sand causing wagons and horses carrying cargo to get stuck. In the 1850s, ballast stones were used to pave the ramps.

In 1977, an urban renewal project was completed with the dedication of Rousakis Waterfront Plaza. Named in honor of Mayor John

Rousakis (1970 to 1991), the plaza covers a half-mile stretch of land between the Savannah River and rows of old warehouse that front River Street. The Plaza was designed by a local architecture firm Gunn and Meyerhoff and is supportive of the historic character of the waterfront and respects the scale and linear movement to welcome pedestrian traffic. Additionally, focal points were created that became an extension of Oglethorpe's city plan. In 1996, the riverwalk was extended eastward to support the Olympic Sailing events which were held in Savannah.

A series of monuments are on Rousakis Plaza. Facing the bottom of Barnard Street ramp on Rousakis Plaza is the S. S. Savannah Monument, a steel replica of the first steamship to cross the Atlantic Ocean. Owned by William Scarbrough and captained by Moses Rogers, the S. S. Savannah began her maiden voyage from Savannah on May 22, 1819 and arrived in Liverpool, England on June 20 of the same year. The monument also recognizes the U.S.S. Savannah which served in World War II, and the Nuclear Ship Savannah and is the gift of the Propeller Club of Savannah.

Opposite the River Street Visitor Center is the African-American Monument, dedicated to the courage of the African-American family that rose from slavery, passed through years of segregation, created the Civil Rights movement and survived triumphantly into the 21st Century. A verse by poet Maya Angelou is inscribed on the base of the monument which depicts a family of four, rendered in bronze.

Continuing eastward on River Street, the Merchant Seaman Monument, located on the Abercorn Ramp, is dedicated to the memory of Chatham County merchant seamen who have lost their lives at sea. The monument consists of an iron anchor and chain resting on a marble rectangle enclosed by a brick reflecting pool. The Savannah Chapter of the Women's Propeller Club of the United States sponsored the monument which was dedicated in December 1974.



*The Waving Girl statue depicts Florence Martus, who waved at ships entering Savannah between 1887 and 1931.*

In 1996, Savannah was the site of the Olympic yachting events. The Olympic Yachting Cauldron was built by sculpture Ivan Bailey to hold the Olympic flame. The cauldron is located in Morrell Park and has five base pedestals representing the five Olympic rings, sails representing the yachting competitions and a copper flame.

Florence Margaret Martus (1868-1943) was the sister of the lighthouse keeper on Elba Island and is known as Savannah's legendary "Waving Girl." For 44 years, she lived on Elba Island and from 1887 until 1931, she waved a handkerchief by day and lantern by night to all arriving and departing ships. Rumormongers claimed that Miss Martus was waiting for the return of a lost love. She denied this story, and her neighbors in Thunderbolt where she lived when she left Elba Island remember that she waved from her yard to passing trucks and cars. The Waving Girl Monument was placed in Morrell Park to commemorate this Savannah legend.

The fame that the Waving Girl brought to Savannah has been memorialized in a statue by Felix de Weldon who was also the sculptor of the Iwo Jima Memorial in Arlington, Virginia. The statue was donated by the Altrusa Club, an international business and professional women's organization, to recognize the service Miss Martus rendered to Savannah and ships visiting the port.

In 2010, Savannah dedicated "A World Apart," honoring Chatham County's Veterans of the Second World War. The World War II monument is located on the West End of River Street, an appropriate choice, as Liberty Ships were built in our shipyards, and the port's significance in the transport of supplies. The Monument is comprised of a globe, split in two, symbolizing the division between the two theatres of battle, in Europe and the Pacific. The halves are seated atop bricks of Georgia granite, allowing visitors to walk between the two sections were the names of the 527 service members from Chatham County killed in World War II are inscribed on the inner walls.

"A World Apart" is also notable in that it was designed by local architect Eric Meyerhoff. Meyerhoff had previously been very active in convincing the City to preserve and restore its Riverfront.

## **HUTCHINSON ISLAND**

In the days when Savannah was a major east coast port, shipping tons of cotton, turpentine, rosin and pitch to the world, the cobbled ramps extended to the river's edge where independent African-American boatmen ferried passengers across the river to Hutchinson Island. Below City Hall is the City Hall Landing with the Savannah Belles ferries providing transportation to and from Hutchinson Island.

The Savannah Belles ferries serve as a reminder that this used to be the only way to cross the Savannah River to South Carolina. For gentlemen of Savannah wishing to defend their honor, ferries were a necessity. When dueling was outlawed in Savannah, duelists took the



*Ferries regularly cross the Savannah River, traveling between the mainland of Savannah and Hutchinson Island.*

ferry to South Carolina in order to shoot at each other without fear of legal complications.

In the 19th Century, Hutchinson Island was home to a member of an old Charleston family named the Manigaults. Because he supported the Union during the Civil War, they exiled him to Hutchinson Island. During his time on the island, he raised exceptional roses and was visited by rose fanciers from around the globe. The Talmadge Bridge, originally built in 1954 and reconstructed as a higher bridge in 1991, provides access to Hutchinson Island and South Carolina from Savannah.

Today, Hutchinson Island is the home of the Savannah International Trade and Convention Center, which opened in 2000. Overlooking Savannah's world-renowned Riverfront and landmark Historic District, the Savannah International Trade & Convention Center is architecturally unique to the City. The Trade Center also features 100,000 sq. ft. of divisible exhibit space, 50,000 sq. ft. of prime meeting space, including 13 meeting rooms, four executive board rooms, a 25,000 sq. ft. Grand Ballroom, and a state-of-art 367 seat auditorium.

Other developments on Hutchinson Island include the Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort

& Spa. The Westin has been the site of the PGA Tour's Champions Tour Legends of Golf since 2003.

### **GEORGIA PORTS AUTHORITY**

Since 1945, the Georgia Ports Authority has coordinated international trade and investment which enrich the State's economy in Savannah and Brunswick. Georgia's deepwater ports and inland barge terminals support more than 275,968 jobs throughout the state annually and contribute \$10.8 billion in income, \$35.4 billion in revenue and some \$1.4 billion in state and local taxes to Georgia's bustling economy. The Port of Savannah, home to the largest single-terminal container facility of its kind on the United States East and Gulf coasts, is comprised of two modern, deepwater terminals: Garden City Terminal and Ocean Terminal.

Along Savannah's waterfront, visitors can watch Savannah River traffic. Visitors are often surprised at the size of ocean going vessels that move up and down river, to and from the port, guided by a local fleet of tugboats. Pleasure craft including mid-sized cruise liners often anchor at Rousakis Plaza. 🏮

# CHAPTER 10

## City Tour Service Ordinances

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### TOUR SERVICE ORDINANCE CITY OF SAVANNAH CODE

#### Sec. 6-1502. Definitions.

(a) *Tour Guide.* Any person who drives or operates a tour service vehicle on the streets of Savannah or who acts or offers to act as a guide for hire through any part of the city or who serves as an actor during a tour for hire. "Tour guide" as used in this article does not include any person acting or offering to act as a guide for hire, or an actor during a tour for hire, when the tour is to be conducted solely on private real property.

(b) *City.* The word "city" shall mean the mayor and aldermen of the City of Savannah, Georgia, a municipal corporation, said definition to include all area within the corporate limits of the City of Savannah.

(c) *Historic district; district.* The Savannah Historic District so designated on the official zoning map of the city.

(d) *Holding zone.* Areas designated by the city for the parking of motor coaches.

(e) *Idling.* The running of an engine of a motorized vehicle while vehicle is not in motion.

(f) *License.* The right and privilege granted by the city to a tour service company for the operation of a tour guide service or business incorporating the use of one or more tour service vehicles within the corporate limits of the city.

(g) *Loading zone.* A public place alongside the curb or a street or elsewhere which has been designated by the city as reserved for the loading and unloading of passengers from vehicles, including tour service vehicles.

(h) *Motor coach.* For the purpose of this section, a motor coach is defined as a passenger vehicle which exceeds 34 feet in overall body length, excluding school buses and Chatham Area Transit vehicles on regularly scheduled passenger routes within the city.

(i) *Motor coach escort.* A person who accompanies a motor coach walk-through under the supervision of a tour guide whose purpose is not to lead guided tours, but to assist in guiding pedestrians safely. A motor coach escort is not required to be registered with the city by a tour service company.

(j) *Motor coach walk-through.* A narrated tour in the squares for passengers of a motor coach.

(k) *Prohibited streets map.* A map which identifies streets on which motor coaches may not operate.

(l) *Restricted Areas.* Sections of the city designated by Ordinance in which all tour guides and tour service companies shall not operate at certain times or under certain conditions. Restricted areas include:

- (1) The 400 and 500 blocks of East St. Julian Street and Washington Square from 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. (November 1st through February 28th) and 9:30 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. (March 1st through October 31st); and
- (2) South of Liberty Street and east of the western-most curb line of Lincoln Street from 12:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. year-round.

(m) *Street.* The word "street" shall mean and include any street, alley, lane, avenue, court or public place in the city.

(n) *Tour service company.* The holder of a business tax certificate issued by the city regarding operation of a tour guide service or business under the provisions of this article, whether a person, firm, partnership or corporation.

(o) *Tourism director.* The individual employee or organizational unit of the city charged with the responsibility for administering and enforcing this article.

(p) *Tour service vehicle.* A vehicle engaged in the business of carrying passengers for hire or offering to carry passengers for hire, through any part of the city when the primary purpose of riding in such vehicle is not transportation but touring and sight-seeing; including motor coaches which are operated as a part of special tours and are not operated as a part of a tour service company; excluding horse-drawn carriages, and also excluding limousines (as they are defined by the laws of the state) which are operated primarily as a transportation service vehicle and which conduct tours on a reservation basis only; provided, however, that nothing contained herein shall exempt the conduct of the tours by limousine from the provisions of this article as it pertains to the conduct of tours by tour guides. Quadricycles may operate as tour service vehicles, subject to the provisions of sections 7-1133 and 7-1134 of City of Savannah Code of Ordinances and shall only operate between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 10:30 p.m.

Tour service vehicles operating within the city shall be standard automobile, limousine, tour bus, van or trolley-type vehicles which are compatible with and not damaging to the infrastructure and ambiance of the historic district. Such vehicles shall be no more than 13 feet in height, shall load and unload passengers only on the right-hand or curb side, shall not have double-deck passenger compartments, shall not be combination or train-type vehicles, and shall not be amphibious or boat-type vehicles except as provided in section 6-1548 below. Any tour service vehicle which exceeds 34 feet in length shall be operated in compliance with the motor coach regulatory provisions of this ordinance.

(q) *Walking tour.* A narrated tour conducted on foot by a tour guide on sidewalks in squares.

(r) *Walking tour guide.* Any person who conducts a walking tour.

(s) *Tour service review committee.* The tour service review committee shall consist of three members to include the parking services director or appointed designee, the tourism director or appointed designee and the metropolitan planning commission historic preservation director or appointed designee. The purpose of the committee is to make decisions and recommendations regarding the tour service industry to protect the ambiance and aesthetics of the national historic landmark district.

**Sec. 6-1503. License required.**

No person, firm or corporation shall operate a business involving the use of tour services, other than horse-drawn carriages and limousines which are operated primarily as transportation service vehicles and only incidentally as tour service vehicles within the city, unless a current business tax certificate for the business has first been issued by the city in accordance with the provisions of the annual revenue ordinance.

**Sec. 6-1504. Fixed place of business required.**

Each tour service company, as a condition for holding a license under the provisions of this article and the annual revenue ordinance, shall establish and maintain a fixed headquarters on private property for the operation of the company's business. The headquarters shall conform to the ordinances of the city and shall provide adequate off-street parking space for all tour service vehicles not in service on the streets. The company headquarters shall not be moved except by the approved transfer of the company's license to another location.

**Section 6-1505. Insurance for the benefit of passengers.**

Any tour service company operating one or more tour service vehicles shall give and maintain a policy of liability insurance from an insurance company authorized to do business in the State of Georgia for each vehicle in use as a tour service vehicle with minimum coverage as shall be required by state law for bodily injuries to more than one person which are sustained in the same accident and for property damage resulting from one accident. Such insurance shall inure to the benefit of any

person who shall be injured or shall sustain damage to property caused by the negligence or misconduct of a tour service company, its servants or agents. Such policies of insurance shall be filed with the city and shall specifically provide that such policy shall not be canceled without notice to the city.

**Sec. 6-1507. Notice when voided.**

Before any policy of insurance required in this article is voided for any cause, nonpayment of premium or otherwise, notice thereof shall be given, in writing, to the city treasurer at least five days before the same shall take effect.

**Section 6-1509. Registration.**

A tour service company shall register a tour guide with the city prior to the tour guide working as an employee or independent contractor of the tour service company. The tour service company shall provide to the City in person, by mail or on-line, on forms which may be provided by the tourism management and ambassadorship department, the name of the tour guide, and the tour service company name and contact information. It shall be voluntary for a tour service company to provide a photograph of the tour guide. Registration shall be had annually. There shall be no fee for registration.

**Section 6-1512. Identification displayed.**

A tour service company shall provide a tour guide working as its employee or independent contractor an identification badge with a minimum size of three (3) inches by two and one-half (2.5) inches, which badge shall be worn by the tour guide during tours in a way to be clearly visible to the public. The badge shall contain in the upper left hand corner an identification photograph of the tour guide, which photograph shall be no smaller than one (1) inch by one (1) inch, and on the bottom half of the badge the tour guide's name and the name of the tour service company.

**Sec. 6-1522. Administrative hearing and appeal.**

Any decision of the tourism director to deny a tour service company access to designated tour service vehicle stands or to remove a vehi-

cle from the streets under section 6-1530 may be appealed within ten days. All appeals shall be made in writing to the tourism director. Such appeal shall be heard by an administrative hearing panel, which panel shall be made up of (a) the revenue director or his designee, (b) the city traffic engineer or his designee, (c) the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan police chief or his designee, and (d) two members of the tourism advisory committee.

The administrative hearing shall be informal and shall be presided over by the revenue director or his designee. The majority decision of the administrative hearing panel shall be provided to the tour service company or the tour guide in writing within one day of the hearing. Decisions of the administrative hearing panel may, within ten days of notification, be appealed in writing to the city manager, whose ruling shall be final.

**Sec. 6-1523. Identification and marking generally.**

(a) *Generally.* Every tour service vehicle shall have a sign in plain view on each side of the vehicle, in letters not less than four inches high, containing the full name of the tour service company operating the vehicle. All markings must be permanently fixed to the vehicle, except motor coaches which are operated as a part of special tours and are not operated as a part of a tour service company. No electronic or neon signage is permitted. No tour service companies or tour service operators may operate a tour service vehicle of the same color scheme. Color schemes must be approved by the tour service review committee. Color scheme shall be recorded and controlled by the tourism director; provided, however, that tour service companies shall be permitted to use rental vehicles on a temporary basis as replacement vehicles for permanent tour service vehicles upon notice to the tour services coordinator and with the use of temporary signs and temporary numbers on said vehicles. The use of temporary vehicles shall not exceed seven days without additional approval of the tourism director, which approval shall not be unreasonably withheld. There shall be no third-party advertising of any kind on tour service vehicles.

(b) *Trolley tour vehicle marking.* The total area of exterior markings must be no greater than 55 square feet in the aggregate and will be measured in square units regardless of the shape, structure, font, type or graphic style and will be based on markings as a whole, including the spaces between letters or images. These markings may include registered logo, company name and contact information only. Required vehicle service numbers will not be included in the aggregate measurement. Markings must be evenly distributed on the trolley tour vehicle. All markings must be consistent with approved color scheme. Except for special events for which the prior approval of the tourism director is required, there shall be no temporary exterior markings permitted to be hung or affixed to the exterior of a tour vehicle. The tourism director will approve the trolley vehicle markings during the vehicle inspection process.

**Sec. 6-1524. Numbers generally.**

There shall be on each side and on the rear of each tour service vehicle, except motor coaches which are operated as a part of special tours and are not operated as a part of a tour service company, a number at least six inches high, such number to be a separate and distinct number from that on any other tour service vehicle in the city. The numbers must be permanently affixed to the vehicle. The number shall be assigned to the tour service vehicle and the owner thereof by the tourism director and shall not be altered or changed without the consent of the tourism director.

**Sec. 6-1525. Registration of number and name of owner.**

The number assigned a tour service vehicle in accordance with this article, together with the name of the owner of the tour service vehicle, shall be registered with the tourism director in a book kept for that purpose.

**Sec. 6-1526. Safe mechanical condition of tour service vehicles required.**

Every tour service vehicle operated on the streets of the city shall be maintained in a safe mechanical condition, with all safety equipment remaining intact and operative at all times when the tour service vehicle is in

service. No vehicle shall be licensed as a tour service vehicle except fully enclosed, self-propelled vehicles.

**Sec. 6-1527. Cleanliness of tour service vehicles required.**

Each vehicle operating under this article shall be kept painted and in a clean and sanitary condition, free of litter and debris, and at all times suitable for public transportation of passengers.

**Sec. 6-1528. State license tag for tour service vehicles required.**

Prior to the use and operation of any vehicle as a tour service vehicle under the provisions of this article, the owner of the vehicle shall secure and display on the vehicle a current Georgia license registration tag.

**Sec. 6-1529. Vehicle inspection and certification required.**

Each tour service vehicle shall be inspected by the tourism director for compliance with provisions of this article and shall pass such inspection before the vehicle may be used as a tour service vehicle in the city. A yearly certification shall be issued by the tourism director. Fees for certification and permits shall be as set forth in the city's revenue ordinance. All such fees shall be utilized to offset the costs for the tour services program. Each tour service vehicle involved in a major accident (major accident being defined as any accident which disables the vehicle so that it must be removed from operation for repair) shall be inspected by the tourism director before it may be returned to service transporting passengers for hire.

**Sec. 6-1530. Authority for removal of tour service vehicles from streets.**

The tourism director shall have the authority to remove from operation on the streets of the city any vehicle used as a tour service vehicle which is in violation of this article and to prohibit operation of the tour service vehicle until all deficiencies have been corrected. Any order of the tourism director to remove a vehicle from the streets may be appealed to an administrative hearing panel as provided in section 6-1522 of this article.

**Sec. 6-1531. Rates of fare.**

(a) *Rate card required.* No owner or driver of a tour service vehicle shall charge a greater sum for the use of the tour service vehicle than in accordance with the published and advertised rates which shall be displayed in each vehicle; provided, however, that the provisions of this section shall not apply to customized or specialized tours which are not a part of the regular scheduled tours of the company but which are separately contracted for. Rates shall be displayed in such place as to be conspicuous and to be in view of all passengers.

(b) *Published literature.* Published literature provided by tour guides and tour guide services shall describe specifically any and all services offered and the rates to be charged therefore on regularly scheduled tours. In the event any tour is offered for hire during which said tour guide will, for any period of time, leave the immediate premises of the tour which he or she is conducting during the conduct of the tour, the published literature provided by tour guides and tour guide services shall specifically state same and shall disclose that the tour guide will be replaced by a different tour guide or a museum or house guide.

**Sec. 6-1532. Stands generally.**

(a) *Parking stands.* In the discretion of the mayor and aldermen, upon the recommendation of the city manager, parking stands may be designated for the parking of tour service vehicles within the corporate limits of the city. Whenever any stand is established, the stand may be used by tour service vehicles on a rotation basis of first come, first served, except as provided hereunder. Time limitations for parking at stands designated by the mayor and aldermen shall be designated in each individual case as ordinances are passed designating the stands.

(b) *Visitors center parking lot.* Upon application by a licensed tour service operator for a stand in the visitors center parking lot, the tourism director shall assign a stand, as available, upon execution of a lease agreement for such stand. The city manager is authorized to execute lease agreements for the city ("lessor") with in-

dividual tour service operators ("lessee"). Such lease agreements shall include the following provisions:

(1) The lessee shall agree to conduct tours from the visitors center parking lot on a regular basis and to post the tour company's name and logo, if any, tour rates, tour departure times, and duration of tours on or within a sign provided by the city as lessor. Lessee shall determine tour rates, tour departure times, and the number and duration of tours.

(2) Under such lease, the lessor will agree that in consideration of lessee's entering into a lease agreement, the lessor will permit lessee's tour vehicle access to the visitors center parking lot, will provide a designation parking space for the exclusive use of the lessee, and will furnish lessee with an appropriate sign on or within which the lessee shall display its name and logo, if any, tour rates, tour departure times, and duration of tours.

(3) The rental rate for one assigned parking space or stand during the term of such lease shall be \$100.00 per month, or as otherwise may be provided in the annual revenue ordinance, to be paid in advance on or before the first day of each month. Rental during any portion of the first calendar month of a new lease shall be prorated by day.

(4) Lessee shall specifically agree to comply with all requirements of the Savannah Code, part 6, chapter 1, article R, entitled "Tour Services for Hire" [this article], and with all applicable state laws related to operation of sightseeing tour vehicles.

(5) The lessor reserves the right under such lease to restrict tour vehicle access to the visitors center parking lot and leased spaces for a period up to 15 days each calendar year. Lessee's monthly rental will be prorated by day during restricted periods. When restricted from use of the visitors center parking lot, the lessee will be allowed to load

and unload passengers for the purpose of conducting tours from a location on Martin Luther King Boulevard or other appropriate location designated by the tourism director.

(6) No tour service vehicle shall park in the visitors center parking lot at a location other than the assigned tour service stand without prior approval of the tourism director except in an area designated for parking of vehicles not on duty and for charter bus parking, which parking area shall be designated by the tourism director.

(7) Entering the visitors center by a tour operator or representative is prohibited except for delivering brochures for supplying the display rack, and then only after prior notice by the visitors center staff.

(8) Tour guide operators shall not be permitted to park their private vehicles in the visitors center parking lot.

(9) Loud, boisterous, or obscene language in the visitors center parking lot is prohibited at all times.

(10) Only one tour company representative per leased space will be allowed in the visitors center parking lot at any particular time.

(11) Any tour company owner or tour guide who is the subject of a public complaint involving activity in the visitors center parking lot will, within three working days after notice from the tourism director, make arrangements to meet with the tourism director to resolve the complaint.

(12) No person or firm may lease or use more than one tour bus stand in the visitors center parking lot, either individually or as an associate of or through any company or agency, or through common ownership at any organizational level.

(13) Any person, firm, or corporation which holds leases to two spaces in the visitors center parking lot may use such spaces interchangeably. There shall be no require-

ment for separate company identities, licensing, color schemes, etc. for use of two spaces.

(14) Lease of a tour bus space does not constitute a property right and should not be considered an asset by any tour company. If any tour company should buy or merge with another company, the remaining entity will have no inherent right to the leased space of the purchased or merged company.

(15) Tour bus stands in the visitors center parking lot shall be laid out and arranged contiguously within the lot. Such stands shall be assigned and reassigned on the basis of company choice in the order of seniority rank according to company ownership and date of licensing by the city. A change in company ownership, which shall include a transfer or a change in ownership of a majority of the stock in a corporation, shall cause a loss of seniority, making such company a new company for purposes of assigning stands. Such new company shall vacate the stand held by the previous owner, move to the bottom of the seniority list, and be assigned a stand when available on the basis of its seniority. When a stand becomes vacant and available for leasing, any tour business which leases a stand shall be eligible to advance to the vacant space in the order of company seniority. Any motor tour business which holds a city business tax certificate shall be eligible to lease any vacant space, or to displace any company from a second space pursuant to subparagraph [subsection] (12) above, in order of company seniority.

(16) The parking services administrator may establish written rules and procedures from time to time as necessary to administer lease agreements.

(17) Administrative hearing and appeal of regulatory or enforcement action related to leased stands in the visitors center parking lot shall be as provided in section 6-1522 of this article.

(18) The parties to lease of a tour stand in the visitors center parking lot shall specifically agree that nothing contained in a lease agreement with the city shall be construed to designate or appoint the City of Savannah as agent for the lessee, nor shall anything contained in the lease be construed to designate or appoint the lessee as agent for the City of Savannah in the performance of any of the services described in this article. The lessee shall acknowledge and agree that it is an independent business engaged in providing tour services and shall agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the mayor and aldermen of the City of Savannah, Georgia, its successor and assigns, its principals, agents, and employees, from any and all claims for loss, damage, or injury sustained by lessee or to lessee's property or by any agent or employee of lessee or by any person whosoever, in connection with any manner arising out of the provision of tour services and use of visitors center parking lot and property.

(19) The lessee shall obtain and keep in force comprehensive general liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000.00 for its undertakings associated with leasing a parking space in the visitors center parking lot. The lessee shall give evidence of the required coverage by providing to the tourism director a copy of certificate of insurance from an insurance company licensed to do business in the State of Georgia.

(20) Any lease may be canceled by either party upon the lessee providing 30 days' written notice and the lessor providing 30 days' written notice of cancellation to the other party.

(21) Any lease executed pursuant to this article shall expire two years from the date of execution; provided, however, that the parties to the lease may at the time of expiration enter into an agreement for an additional term. If no additional term is agreed upon, and notice of cancellation is not given, the lease will continue on a month-to-month basis until canceled by either party.

**Sec. 6-1533. Application for stands.**

Any person desiring to have a place designated as a regular stand for tour service vehicles in the city shall make application by written petition to the mayor and aldermen for the establishment of such tour service vehicle stand, setting out where the stand is desired to be.

**Sec. 6-1534. Driver not to leave vehicle while waiting to be hired; tour guide not to leave tours during conduct of same.**

It shall be unlawful for any driver of any tour service vehicle to leave the immediate premises of the vehicle while the vehicle is parked in a tour service vehicle stand while waiting to be hired. It shall be unlawful for any tour guide to leave the immediate premises of the tour which he or she is conducting during the conduct of said tour unless and until said tour guide is replaced by another tour guide or a house or museum guide. Published literature provided by tour guides and tour guide services shall specifically describe said conduct as provided in section 6-1531(b) above.

**Sec. 6-1535. Soliciting passengers prohibited.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to solicit passengers verbally or by gesture, directly or indirectly, at any tour service vehicle stand or upon the streets or sidewalks of the City, or within any public facility of the City.

**Sec. 6-1536. Use of designated bus stops or taxicab or limousine stands prohibited.**

It shall be unlawful for any driver of any tour service vehicle to park or stand at any bus stop designated for use by the Chatham Area Transit Authority or at any taxicab or limousine stand except as provided herein for designated loading and unloading zones.

**Sec. 6-1537. Restriction on number of passengers.**

No driver shall permit more persons to be carried in a tour service vehicle as passengers than the rated seating capacity of the vehicle as rated by the tourism director. A child in arms shall not be counted as a passenger.

**Sec. 6-1538. Refusal to carry orderly passengers prohibited.**

No driver shall refuse or neglect to convey any orderly person or persons, upon request, unless unable or forbidden by the provisions of this article to do so.

**Sec. 6-1539. Prohibitions of drivers.**

It shall be unlawful for any driver of a tour service vehicle or any tour guide to attempt to divert passengers or tour guide customers from one hotel, restaurant or business to another or to use a tour service vehicle while for hire for any purpose other than as a tour and sightseeing vehicle.

**Sec. 6-1540. Tour service vehicle movement prohibited under certain circumstances.**

No driver shall collect fares, make change, or take on or discharge passengers while his tour service vehicle is in motion.

**Sec. 6-1541. Property left in tour service vehicle by passenger.**

Any tour service vehicle driver or operator discovering in any tour service vehicle under his control personal property which was lost or left therein by a passenger of such tour service vehicle shall report the loss and deliver all of the property to the office of the tour service company within 12 hours after the discovery of the property. The driver's report shall include brief particulars to enable the company to identify the owner of the property. The company shall retain the property on behalf of the owner for at least 60 days.

**Sec. 6-1542. Safety equipment required.**

(a) Each tour service vehicle shall be equipped with electrically powered lights or lanterns and reflectors when operating during the hours of darkness.

(b) Each tour service vehicle shall have on board at all times a four-pound all-purpose fire extinguisher and a first aid kit.

**Sec. 6-1543. Traffic regulations.**

(a) Tour service vehicles shall operate on the streets of the city in accordance with the rules

of the road as provided in the laws of the state and the ordinances of the city.

(b) Tour companies are prohibited from operating vehicles, including but not limited to trolleys, vans, automobiles, buses, and motorcoaches, as passenger shuttles for transportation purposes within the historic district, except that they may operate a hotel passenger pickup shuttle on a route from the visitor's center along the following streets: Fahm Street from the visitor's center to Oglethorpe Avenue, Oglethorpe Avenue east to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard north to Bay Street, Bay Street east to General McIntosh Boulevard, General McIntosh Boulevard east to Harbor Street, then return west on General McIntosh Boulevard to Bay Street continuing west to Price Street, Price Street south to Liberty Street, Liberty Street west to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, cross Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to Turner Boulevard, Turner Boulevard east to Fahm Street and the visitor's center. Tour companies may reverse this route if preferred. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard may be traveled south from Oglethorpe Avenue to Liberty Street permitting tour vehicle access to Liberty Street without traversing the entire route. Tour vehicles accessing Liberty Street in this manner may then use Drayton Street north from Liberty Street to Bay Street. Hotel shuttle vehicles shall be permitted to access hotels along the designated route using streets immediately adjacent to each hotel leading to the nearest tour bus stop, passenger loading zone, or stop on hotel private property. Private shuttle access to the historic district from south of Gwinnett Street is limited to Drayton Street, Montgomery Street, and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. Any tour service vehicle operating as a hotel passenger pickup shuttle shall be clearly and prominently identified as a "hotel shuttle." Other tour service vehicles may collect passengers from designated stops prior to beginning a tour and may distribute passengers back to the designated stops after a tour ends. Tour companies may provide private contract charter transportation service within the historic district upon prior approval of the tourism director.

(c) Tour vehicle passengers may board or disembark designated tour bus stops only. Tour service vehicles shall move to the edge of the street pavement before loading or unloading passengers. No tour service vehicle may pause or stop for the sole purpose of narrating a tour. It shall be unlawful for tour service vehicles to operate at such speeds or motion as to obstruct traffic within the city; provided, however, that this section shall not be construed to require the violation of any state, federal, or municipal traffic law or regulation.

(d) The city manager is hereby authorized, upon the recommendation of the tourism advisory committee and/or the tourism management and ambassadorship department, to designate areas in the historic district where the following regulations shall apply: A maximum of two tour vehicles may be present on a square or street segment at the same time. Tour vehicles are limited to a maximum of one trip around a square during the course of a tour.

(e) The city manager is authorized, upon recommendation of the tourism advisory committee, the tourism management and ambassadorship department and/or the city traffic engineer, and in coordination with Chatham Area Transit, to designate the number and location of tour bus stops within the historic district.

(f) Each local tour vehicle company shall submit to the tourism management and ambassadorship department a map or maps clearly showing tour vehicle routes to be utilized by the tour company. Such map(s) shall be submitted during January each year. If a tour company changes its route(s) during the year, updated map(s) shall be submitted to the tourism management and ambassadorship department. The tourism management and ambassadorship department will evaluate tour vehicle routes for purposes related to traffic and public safety.

**Sec. 6-1544. Limitations on engines running.** No tour service vehicle 35 feet or less in length may stop or park with engines running longer than ten minutes to load and ten minutes to unload.

**Sec. 6-1545. Loudspeakers and recorded messages, activity outside of tours.**

(a) It shall be unlawful to operate loudspeakers outside tour service vehicles within the City; loudspeakers may be operated within the confines of tour service vehicles for the sole benefit of the passengers within the confines.

(b) No tapes or recorded messages purporting to give information about the City's history or landmarks shall be used in tour service vehicles unless all of the information contained therein is true and factual. The Tour Services Coordinator or his designated representative shall examine the tapes or recorded messages to determine if the information contained therein is true and factual.

(c) No sound shall be audible outside of the tour service vehicle.

(d) All activity associated with a tour, including but not limited to interaction with people, actors, other tours and props must be contained within the vehicle or method of conveyance (motor coach, bus, trolley, automobile, van, segways, bicycle, carriage, walking tour, etc.).

**Sec. 6-1546. Motorcoaches in the historic district.**

(a) Operating areas. Motorcoaches shall not operate on streets designated as prohibited on the prohibited streets map.

(b) Prohibited streets map. There is hereby created and adopted a prohibited streets map with the streets on which motorcoaches shall not operate.

(c) Registration required. All motorcoaches shall be registered with the office of the tourism director and receive a daily permit before transporting passengers within the historic district. The permit shall specify the date, destination, and purpose of visit and be displayed in the lower left-hand corner of the front windshield, in plain view clearly visible from outside the vehicle. If the purpose of the visit is for touring, Section 6-1503 requires that no person, firm or corporation shall operate

a business involving the use of tour services unless a current business tax certificate for the business has first been issued by the city in accordance with the provisions of the annual revenue ordinance.

(d) *Passenger loading.* No motorcoach shall pick up or discharge passengers on the public streets or public properties of the city except at designated loading zones. Vehicles shall park in a designated loading zone for no more than 15 minutes to load and ten minutes to unload passengers, unless such zone is also designated as a timed holding zone. After unloading, the vehicle shall move to a designated holding zone and shall not return to the historic district attraction until the designated time for the end of the tour to load passengers.

(e) *Parking.* No motorcoach shall park at any location on the public streets or public parking facilities in the historic district except at designated motorcoach holding zones. At no time shall a motorcoach park, after loading or unloading, in a space reserved for public transportation.

(f) *Limitations on engine running.* No motorcoach may stop or park with engines idling in the Savannah historic district except to load and unload, or as provided for in holding zones designated also as idling zones.

#### **Sec. 6-1547. Tourism advisory committee.**

(a) *Creation and composition.* There is hereby created a tourism advisory committee, which shall consist of 13 members appointed by the mayor and aldermen. One shall be a representative of the lodging industry; one shall be a representative of a tour company; one shall be a member of the Savannah Visitor's Bureau; one shall be a representative from a historic district, museum or attraction; two shall be members of the downtown neighborhood association; two shall be members of Historic Savannah Foundation; one shall be a representative of the food, beverage and/or retail industries; one shall be at large with demonstrated knowledge of the history and/or architecture of the historic district; two shall be residents at large and one shall be a member at large.

(b) *Purpose.* The tourism advisory committee shall make policy recommendations to the tourism management and ambassadorship department, city manager and mayor and aldermen in the areas of parking and routine of tourism-related traffic activities, and the enforcement of tourism management regulations and other related issues.

(c) *Terms of office.* Advisory committee members shall serve a term of three years and may be reappointed for one additional three-year term. Members may not be reappointed to the committee after completion of their second term until they shall have been off the committee one year. Provided, however, that of those persons initially appointed, four shall be appointed for a one-year term; four for a two-year term; and three for a three-year term.

(d) *Organization.* The committee shall elect from its membership a chairman and vice chairman. The tourism management and ambassadorship department shall provide administrative assistance to the committee.

(e) *Meetings.* The committee shall meet at least quarterly.

(f) *Report.* A report shall be prepared annually summarizing the committee's activities for the previous year.

#### **Sec. 6-1548. Operation of amphibious vehicles.**

Pursuant to section 6-1502, paragraph (n) of this article, amphibious or boat-type vehicles shall not operate as tour service vehicles or for any other purpose within the city, except as provided in this section. Amphibious vehicles may operate in an area of the city contained within the following borders: beginning on Indian Street at the Eugene Talmadge Memorial Bridge, east along the north curblineline of Indian Street to the east curblineline of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, then south from Indian Street along the east curblineline of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to the north curblineline of Oglethorpe Avenue, then east along the north curblineline of Oglethorpe Avenue to the east cur-

bline of Montgomery Street, then south along the east curbline of Montgomery Street to the south curbline of Liberty Street, then west along the south curbline of Liberty Street to the east curbline of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, then south along the east curbline of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard to the south curbline of West Jones Street, then west along the south curbline of West Jones Street to the west curbline of West Boundary Street, then north along the west curbline of West Boundary Street to Oglethorpe Avenue, then along the west side of Highway 17A to and over the Eugene Talmadge Memorial Bridge. Amphibious vehicles are specifically excluded from the Visitors Center Parking Lot.

**Sec. 6 -1549. Walking Tour Provisions.**

(a) *Prohibited conduct.* Walking tour guides and guests shall refrain from encroaching on private property including, but not limited to, trees, bushes, tree lawns, porches, gardens, steps and streets open to vehicular traffic. No tour may block sidewalks to prevent other pedestrians from passing. Noise of the participants is to be kept at a conversational level. Any artificial voice amplification systems are forbidden. It is the tour guide’s responsibility to make their guests aware of these prohibitions and obtain compliance.

(b) *Number of guests.* A walking tour is limited to 30 guests. Motor coach walk-throughs must have a motor coach escort for groups over 30.

**Sec. 6-1550. Penalties for violation; issuance of citations; suspension and appeal.**

(a) Failure to comply with this article or any of the laws, ordinances, and regulations of this city may result in revocation of permit and shall be punishable as provided in section 1-1013 of this Code.

(b) Any citation issued for violation of this article shall be issued to the tour guide or tour service vehicle at the time of the violation when deemed appropriate by the enforcement officer issuing the citation.

(c) In the event that an enforcement officer deems it inappropriate to deliver a citation to the tour guide or tour service vehicle at the time of a violation, a citation may be issued at the time of the violation and delivered by hand or fax to the tour guide, tour service company or other business operating a tour. Any such citation shall be delivered by 10:00 a.m. on the business day following the day of issue. Any citation delivered in this manner shall be fully valid, and shall be considered sufficient notice of the charges. A tour service company who believes a citation to be issued based on a misapplication of an ordinance to the facts may contest the citation in writing within seven days to the tourism director.

(d) Any tour service company or other business operating a tour whose operators receive five or more sustained citations for violating this article in a 30-day period shall be assessed

**SCHEDULE OF SANCTIONS**

<b>Number of Citations in 30-day period</b>	<b>Local Tour Vehicle Sanctions Visitor Center OR Suspension</b>	<b>Penalty Fee</b>	<b>Motor Coach Sanctions Permit OR Suspension</b>	<b>Penalty Fee</b>	<b>Walking Tour Sanction Penalty Fee</b>
5 or more citations	1 day	\$500	5 days	\$500	\$500
10 or more citations	3 days	\$750	15 days	\$1000	\$1000
15 or more citations	5 days	\$1000	30 days	\$1500	\$1500

a fine as appropriate. The schedule of sanctions is shown on the previous page.

Tour companies suspended under this section must pay all outstanding citations in full before parking lot/touring permit privileges will be reinstated.

The suspension days shall be determined by the city. Any tour service company which has been suspended from the visitors center parking lot may appeal such action pursuant to section 6-1522 of this article.

Appropriate sanctions in accordance with the above schedule shall be determined by the City. Any tour service company which has been sanctioned under this section may appeal such action pursuant to Section 6-1522 of this Article.

Tour companies suspended or assessed fees under this section must pay all outstanding citations in full before parking lot or touring permit privileges will be reinstated. 

# APPENDIX A

## Filming in Savannah

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### FILMING IN SAVANNAH

Selected Filmography (Film, Television, & other media)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>1962:</b> Cape Fear  | <b>1999:</b> The Legend of Bagger Vance                          |
| <b>1974:</b> The Longest Yard   | <b>2000:</b> The Gift<br>The Fugitive (Television)               |
| <b>1975:</b> Gator  | <b>2009:</b> The Conspirator<br>The Last Song<br>Ruby            |
| <b>1976:</b> Roots  | <b>2010:</b> X-Men: First Class                                  |
| <b>1977:</b> The Lincoln Conspiracy                                       | <b>2012:</b> CBGB<br>Abraham Lincoln vs. Zombies                 |
| <b>1988:</b> The Return of Swamp Thing                                    | <b>2013:</b> The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out<br>of Water         |
| <b>1989:</b> Glory  | <b>2014:</b> Magic Mike: XXL                                     |
| <b>1993:</b> Forrest Gump   | <b>2015:</b> Gifted<br>The Birth of a Nation<br>The Do-Over<br>Z |
| <b>1994:</b> Now & Then   |  |
| <b>1995:</b> Something to Talk About                                      |  |
| <b>1996:</b> Wild America   |  |
| <b>1997:</b> Midnight in the Garden of Good & Evil<br>The Gingerbread Man |  |
| <b>1998:</b> Forces of Nature<br>The General's Daughter                   |  |

# APPENDIX B

## Suggested Readings

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- Cothran, James R. *Gardens and Historic Plants of the Antebellum South*. Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 2003.  
*Information on Trustee's Garden, and both indigenous and introduced plants favored by Southern Gardeners.*
- DeBolt, Margaret Wayt. *Savannah: A Historical Portrait*. Gloucester Point, Virginia: Hallmark Publishing Company, 2001.  
*A comprehensive history of Savannah that includes industry, politics and a look at the city's multi-cultural heritage.*
- Digital Library of Georgia. <http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/?Welcome&Welcome> (link verified 21 May 2007). The Digital Library of Georgia is maintained by Georgia Library Learning Online (GALILEO), an initiative of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.
- Elmore, Charles J. *General Hunter's Proclamation: The Quest for African-American Freedom Before and During the Civil War*. Washington, D. C.: Eastern National Park and Monument Association, 2002.  
*A remarkable story about General Hunter, Union Commander of Fort Pulaski, and how he issued the first emancipation proclamation.*
- Granger, Mary, ed. The Savannah Writers' Project. *Savannah River Plantations*. Savannah, Georgia: The Oglethorpe Press, Inc., reprinted 1997 (copyright 1947).
- Hall, Clyde W. *One Hundred Years of Educating at Savannah State: 1890-1990*. East Peoria, Illinois: Versa Press, 1991.  
*A history of Savannah's own historically black college, now Savannah State University.*
- Historic Savannah*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Savannah, Georgia: Historic Savannah Foundation, 2005.  
*The latest edition documenting historic properties in the landmark district.*
- Hornstein, Julius. *Sites and Sounds of Savannah Jazz*. Savannah, Georgia: Gaston Street Press, 1994.  
*Dr. Hornstein is regarded as the authority on Savannah's jazz history.*
- Hoskins, Charles Lwanga. *Out of Yamacraw and Beyond: discovering Black Savannah*. Savannah, Georgia: Gullah Press, 2002.
- Johnson, Charles J. *Mary Telfair: the Life and Legacy of a Nineteenth Century Woman*. Savannah, Georgia: Frederic C. Beil, 2002.  
*In addition to drawing an informative and readable portrait of Savannah in the early and mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century, this author gives us the character of one of the South's most remarkable women.*

Johnson, Whittington *Black Savannah: 1788-1864*. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 1996.  
*A very readable, scholarly work on the eponymous subject; highly recommended*

Lane, Mills. *Savannah Revisited*. Savannah, Georgia: Beehive Press, 1973.  
*Great details about some of Savannah's most important buildings.*

Lawrence, Alexander A. *Storm over Savannah*. Savannah, Georgia: Tara Press, 1979.  
*The 1779 Siege of Savannah in detail.*

Levy, B. H. *Savannah's Old Jewish Community Cemeteries*. Macon: Mercer University Press, 1983.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1996.

National Register of Historic Places. <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/> (link verified 21 May 2007). Site maintained by the National Park Service.

New Georgia Encyclopedia online. <http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/nge/Home.jsp> (Lasted access 6/26/07).  
*Its categories are very comprehensive; it's recommended that you search in more than just history.*

"Online Virtual Tour of Savannah." [www.ourcoast.com/savannahcityguide/visiting/tours/savannah.shtml](http://www.ourcoast.com/savannahcityguide/visiting/tours/savannah.shtml)  
*A handy review, featuring a map of the squares, which, when selected by cursor, provide an illustration of the square and a list of the most notable features surrounding it.*

Piechocinski, Elizabeth Carpenter. *The Old Burying Ground: Colonial Park Cemetery, Savannah, Georgia, 1750-1853*. Savannah: The Oglethorpe Press, Inc., 1999.

Rubin, Rabbi Saul Jacob. *Third to None: The Saga of Savannah Jewry, 1733-1983*. Savannah: 1983.

Russell, Preston and Barbara Hines. *Savannah: A History of Her People since 1733*. Savannah, Georgia: Frederic C. Beil, 1992.

Savannah College of Art and Design. *Virtual Savannah Project*. [http://vsav.scad.edu/vhs\\_frameset.html](http://vsav.scad.edu/vhs_frameset.html)  
*The historic district from inception to the present in three dimensions. Select any view and navigate to buildings in existence at that time. Requires high-speed internet and a special three dimensional program that is obtainable from the Virtual Savannah Project home page. This project has been several years in the making, and is still a work in progress.*

Savannah Christian Middle School. *Historic Savannah National Math Trail*.  
[www.nationalmathtrail.org](http://www.nationalmathtrail.org).  
*On the National Math Trail Map, choose submissions. Click on Georgia, select Historic Savannah National Math Trail, and choose bibliography. Contains several recommended publications, and links to several sites with information on Savannah.*

*Savannah Morning News*. "Savannah Remembers: An Exclusive Documentary of Personal Memories As Told by Those Who Lived Then" (documentary). Savannah: Morris Communications Company, LLC, 2004.

Savannah Unit, Federal Writers Project: *Savannah*. Savannah, Georgia: Savannah

Review Printing Company, 1937.

*This is how we were in 1937; a guide not only to this era, but to what came before 1937.*

Sieg, Chan. *The Squares of Savannah: An Introduction to Savannah*. Norfolk: The Donning Company, Publishers, 1984.

Smith, Derek. *Civil War Savannah*. Savannah, Georgia: Frederic C. Beil, 1997.  
*A solid social history of the epoch*

Spitler, Rita F. *Higher Ground: Historic Churches and Synagogues in Savannah*. 1995.  
*A brief pictorial and historical roundup of our historic places of worship.*

Tuck, Stephen G. N. *Beyond Atlanta: The Struggle for Racial Equality in Georgia, 1940-1980*. Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 2001.

Waring, Joseph Frederick *Cerveau's Savannah*. Savannah, Georgia: Georgia Historical Society, 1973.  
*Another era of Savannah's history under the microscope. Waring surveys Cerveau's 1837 panoramic painting in detail, locating many buildings that have disappeared, and some that survive.*

Weeks, Carl S. *Savannah in the Time of Peter Tondee: the Road to Revolution in America*. Columbia, S.C.: Summerhouse Press 1997.

# SAVANNAH'S RESEARCH LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES

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Savannah is an epicenter for preservation and research. Public and private archives and libraries collect specific types of historical resources and are open to researchers. These manuscripts and records shape the way history and historical preservation are understood in Savannah. These notes on local libraries and archives have been compiled from repository mission statements and repository researcher procedures available online. Researchers who wish to visit one of these repositories should look online to review researcher procedures, consult finding aids, and to make arrangements for visiting.

## **City of Savannah Research Library and Municipal Archives**

2 E Bay St, Savannah, GA 31401

*The Research Library and Municipal Archives collects, manages preserves and makes accessible records documenting the City of Savannah's history. The Library & Archives services reference requests from researchers and the general public which relate to archival and historical City records under its administration in the City Records Center.*

*The Library & Archives shares the City's history through a variety of public outreach activities, including tours of City Hall, permanent and rotating exhibits, and special programs. For more information see Public Programs.*

*The Research Library and Municipal Archives is open to the public for research. Researchers must make a research appointment. Please review the current rules and procedures. A brief Public Research Application must be filled out.*

## **Chatham County Clerk of Courts**

Chatham County Courthouse, 133 Montgomery Street, Savannah GA.

## **Kaye Kole Genealogy & Local History Room, Bull Street Branch, Live Oak Public Library**

Address: 2002 Bull Street, Savannah, Georgia 31401

Telephone: (912) 652-3697

Website: [www.liveoakpl.org](http://www.liveoakpl.org)

*Sources include the Thomas Gamble Collection, genealogical resources, biography and subject clipping files and general Savannah history.*

## **Chatham County Probate Office**

Record Room (912) 652-7268

Fax Number (912) 652-7262

Chatham County Courthouse, 133 Montgomery Street, Savannah GA.

*The Probate Court of Chatham County is open from 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. except holidays. Please check Chatham County Holiday Schedule.*

## **Georgia Historical Society**

Research Center: 501 Whitaker Street, Savannah, GA

Phone: (912) 651-2128

Fax: (912) 651-2831

*The Georgia Historical Society's Research Center is located in historic Hodgson Hall and is open Wednesday through Friday from 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. and the first and third Saturdays of the month from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Before visiting during holiday seasons or special events, researchers are*

*encouraged to check the online calendar for closings. Researchers are required to present a valid ID (government-issued photo ID with signature) and to register at the reference desk in order to research the collection. Prior to visiting, researchers should review and complete the Patron Registration Form. This form must be renewed annually by all researchers.*

### **Asa H. Gordon Library/Special Collections**

Special Collections is located on the 2nd floor of the Asa H. Gordon Library on the Savannah State University campus. 2200 Tompkins Road, Savannah, GA 31404

**Website:** <http://library.savstate.edu/>

**Telephone:** (912) 358-4333

**Fax:** (912) 358-3184

**E-mail:** [specialcollections@savannahstate.edu](mailto:specialcollections@savannahstate.edu)

*Special Collections at Asa H. Gordon Library has been established to appraise, collect, organize, describe, preserve, and make available Savannah State University records of permanent institutional and historical value. Special Collections will further encourage the dissemination of knowledge pertaining to the origins of programs and goals of the University by providing facilities for the retention, preservation, servicing, and research of Savannah State University records. In addition, Special Collections will serve as a research source for the study of the University's history by members of the University community and the scholarly community at large. Special Collections at Asa H. Gordon Library serves as a repository for materials documenting the history of Savannah State University. The collections include documents, manuscripts, photographs, campus publications, and books by Savannah State faculty, staff, and alumni. Special Collections also presents exhibits and forums for lectures, presentation and academic discussions.*

### **Catholic Diocese of Savannah Archives**

Catholic Pastoral Center, 2170 East Victory Drive, Savannah, GA

*The Archives Department preserves the permanent and enduring records of the diocese, its people, institutions and associations. Our collection represents the documentary heritage of the local church and its people in the southern part of Georgia for over two centuries. Established by the Bishop, it exists primarily to serve the administrative needs of the Diocese, but it is also open for scholarly research, in keeping with the precepts of canon law and the civil laws of the United States.*

### **Lane Library Special Collections**

The Lane Library Special Collections is located on the second Floor of the Lane Library on the Armstrong State University Campus. 11935 Abercorn Street, Savannah, Georgia.

**Telephone:** (912) 927-5332

**Website:** [www.library.armstrong.edu](http://www.library.armstrong.edu)

*The University Archives supports the goals of Armstrong State University by identifying, collecting, preserving and making available selected university records and personal papers of enduring value received from administrators, faculty and students for the use of university staff, students, scholars, and the general public. It also makes available manuscript collections of enduring value for local or regional history. Each user must fill out a research application on his/her first visit, and on succeeding visits when requested.*

### **The Archives and Special Collections at Jen Library**

201 E Broughton St, Savannah, GA

*The Jen Library's Archives and Special Collections include a number of topical collections of rare and unique materials. The largest collection is the Don Bluth Collection of Animation, which contains the cells, drawings, storyboards and administrative papers of the studio and materials for feature productions and games, as well as concepts and ideas. Book collections include artists' books and art press*

*books, pop-up books, local history materials, limited editions, and rare books on artists, architects and art movements. Manuscript collections include the published records of SCAD, the papers of Myrtle Jones, a local Savannah artist, collections of fashion materials, stereo views and postcards of Savannah, and of memorabilia from the old Hotel De Soto. The library also houses a large collection of comic books and limited edition or rare graphic novels. Departmental periodical titles include older issues of serials in the circulating collection, as well as titles that are housed only in Special Collections. The Access Services department houses current theses, but these are relocated to Special Collections after five years.*

*Archives and Special Collections are open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.*

### **The Georgia Archives**

**Address:** 5800 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, Georgia 30260

**Telephone:** (678) 364-7000

**Website:** [www.georgiaarchives.org](http://www.georgiaarchives.org)

### **The National Archives at Atlanta**

**Address:** 5780 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, Georgia 30260

**Telephone:** (770) 968-2100

**Website:** [www.archives.gov/southeast/](http://www.archives.gov/southeast/)

*This branch of the National Archives serves Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. The Archives in Morrow has both a Microfilm Research Room and an Archival Research Room, with extensive microfilm holdings of value for genealogy research and general historical interest. It also has about 180,000 cubic feet of archival holdings dating from 1716 to the 1980s, primarily textual records but also maps, photographs, and architectural drawings.*