

# A Story of Georgia in 100 Buildings

HOW THE  
PEACH STATE HAPPENED



CRUDEN BAY BOOKS

# INTRODUCTION

Imagine a group of settlers arriving in an undeveloped location. First come shelters in which to live and then structures in which to work and shop. There are buildings for worship and education. As the community grows government buildings are required. With prosperity comes places in which to spend leisure time. And each step along the way builds a story only Georgia can call its own.

That story is all around you in the work of those who came before you. In these pages you'll learn the explanations behind the quirks, the traditions and the secrets that make Georgia uniquely Georgia. What building received America's first transcontinental phone call? Solved. Why did America's richest man rebuild a rural Georgia college? Mystery solved. What stadium hosted the most lopsided game in college football history? Identified. Only civilian airfield to service flyers from both World Wars? Revealed.

Cherokee souvenirs...college sports...gold rushes...Presidential footprints...iron horses...kissing bridges...octagon houses...roadside architecture...beloved carbonated beverages...cotton...the CCC...squares...historic stages...auto racing...tabby...diners...the golden age of motoring...Sears kit houses...minor league baseball...Carnegie libraries...five and dimes...marble...early aviation...bucket list golf...onions...This book will have you telling stories like a native in no time.

Almost all of the selections within are open to the public, or at least visible from public spaces. So, if you haven't seen these landmarks in person, fire up your GPS and get out and see the story of the Peach State standing in plain sight on Georgia streets!

**A STORY OF GEORGIA TOLD IN 100 BUILDINGS...  
HOW THE PEACH STATE HAPPENED**

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# Rock Eagle Site

Eatonton  
prehistoric



Mound building cultures inhabiting Georgia between 1,000 and 3,000 years ago often constructed earthworks in the shape of spirit animals, known these days as effigies. The thousands of pieces of quartzite here were assembled to resemble a bird but its true purpose is a mystery. The "eagle" is built on a rock outcropping so its use as a burial mound has been ruled out. A stone observation tower was constructed in the 1930s to fully appreciate the construction that spreads its wings 40 yards across. Only two avian effigy mounds have been discovered east of the Mississippi River - the Rock Eagle and a "hawk" thirteen miles away. The hawk is far more degraded to the point of being scarcely recognizable as an effigy mound. The University of Georgia keeps watch on the eagle these days.

# Etowah Indian Mounds

Cartersville  
prehistoric



The Muskogee Creek townsite on the banks of the Etowah River is considered among the most intact sites in the Southeast from mound-building Mississippian cultures who flourished approximately from 800 CE to the arrival of Europeans in the 1500s. The state historical site protects six earthen mounds, a plaza used for ceremonies and games, borrow pits dug out to build the mounds, and a defensive ditch nearly 10 feet deep. Towering more than six stories high, the flat-topped Temple Mound is believed to have housed four major structures alone. Excavation work, begun in the 1920s, has uncovered numerous copper tools and ceremonial statues at the Etowah site.

# Ocmulgee Earth Lodge

Macon

1015



Serious excavations here did not begin until the Works Progress Administration during the Great Depression. The work at Ocmulgee became the largest archaeology dig in American history. What they uncovered is 17,000 years of continuous habitation that have yielded some three million artifacts. There were eight major mounds including the awe-inspiring Great Temple Mound that rose 55 feet above the surrounding floodplain of the Ocmulgee River. It was constructed solely by carrying containers of dirt by hand. Circular earth lodges were also built into the mounds for conferences and ceremonies. The earth lodge reconstructed at the national monument rests on the original clay floor, carbon dated to the year 1015.

# Johnson Square

Savannah

1733



Savannah's squares are national treasures that cause many to call Georgia's oldest city the country's most beautiful. English soldier/founder James Oglethorpe wouldn't know about that, for him it was the most logical way to create space for such things as militia training. Oglethorpe would be proud, however, to accept the plaudits of those who place the plan in the first rank of city grids around the world. The original conception called for six squares and four were built; by the middle of the 1800s there were 24 and all but two remain. Johnson

Square, named for Robert Johnson, the royal governor of South Carolina who aided the colony of Georgia when it was being settled, was the first built and the largest. The Nathaniel Greene Monument in the center is the resting place for the second in command to George Washington during the Revolutionary War. Designed by architect William Strickland in 1825, the cornerstone was set by the Marquis de Lafayette. The obelisk is made of white marble and stands 50 feet tall.

# Fort Frederica

St. Simons Island

1736



This was the southernmost reaches of the British Empire on the North American continent in the 1700s and General James Edward Oglethorpe set out to protect it. The most immediate predator was the Spanish in Florida who the British had maintained a beef with for the better part of 200 years. Oglethorpe had only founded Georgia three years before and the fortifications on St. Simons were his top priority. He needed to include a town to make the defensive position more formidable and he enclosed it all in a tabby wall. Other outposts were constructed further south. The inevitable clash came when the War of Jenkins' Ear was declared in 1739. Oglethorpe struck first, sailing to St. Augustine but failing to capture the city. Two years later the Spanish arrived with 36 ships and 2,000 men. They penetrated the outer defenses but were repelled at Fort Frederica. The Spanish would never again raise arms on Georgia soil. After peace was declared the garrison was disbanded and only the town's tabby ruins were left to tell the tale of the clash of colonial empires in the New World.

# Horton House

Jekyll Island

1743



William Horton was Georgia founder James Oglethorpe's right hand man. When Oglethorpe departed America for the final time in 1743, Major Horton was left in command of the military colonial force. He constructed a tabby house and barn here to cultivate crops for the settlers at Frederica. He also brewed Georgia's first beer on the grounds. Christophe Poulain DuBignon was an aristocratic French sea captain who won the favor of Americans with his plundering of British ships during the Revolutionary War. When his own country erupted in revolution in the 1780s he came to Georgia and by 1800 owned all of Jekyll Island. He moved his family into Major Horton's old spread, adding wooden wings to the house and running a cotton plantation. There were more bad times than good and DuBignon put the island up for sale in 1819. There were no buyers. Jekyll Island remained in family hands until the 1880s when John Eugene DuBignon sold out to the richest men in America to start the Jekyll Island Club.

# Tybee Lighthouse

Tybee Island

1773



When James Oglethorpe conceived of Georgia as a place to settle the debt-ridden people of London he left England with a to-do list. Clear land. Build new fortifications and houses. Negotiate treaties with local Indians. Check, check, check. And build a lighthouse. Also check. The first light on Tybee Island was completed by 1736 but the tower crumbled in a hurricane five years later. The next tower was built from stone but only lasted 30 years before falling victim to the sea. The third try was given to John Mullryne who used bricks. Upon completion an examination

concluded, "The public has had most punctual justice done by John Mullryne." Indeed when the tower was taken to its present height of 145 feet in 1864 the first 60-feet of Mullryne's structure were used. The keeper on Tybee Island was dismissed in 1972 with the coming of automation. Today the 178 steps to the top of Georgia's oldest and tallest lighthouse are open to the public.

# New Echota

Calhoun

1788



The confluence of the Coosawatee and Conasauga rivers became a refuge for Cherokees from the Carolina colonies during the Cherokee-American wars. In the 1820s tribal leaders began meeting here and it was designated the capital of the Cherokee Nation. Buildings included a Council House and a Supreme Court as the Cherokees were the only group of indigenous peoples to adopt a republican form of government based on a constitution. News from the Cherokee Council was disseminated in the first Indian-language newspaper beginning in 1828; the *Cherokee Phoenix* also published an English version. Following the forced removal of the Cherokees in the 1830s the town was abandoned and forgotten. In 1931 the site was declared a Cherokee Indian Memorial and excavations began in the 1950s. The New Echota Historical Park opened with some restored original buildings, some reconstructions of key buildings and hundreds of artifacts from the last Georgia capital of the Cherokee Nation.

# Meadow Garden

Augusta  
1791



George Walton apprenticed in Virginia to be a carpenter but slipped away to Savannah to take a crack at the law. He was admitted to the Georgia bar in 1774 and quickly became a prominent voice in the cause for freedom from England. Walton was elected to the Second Continental Congress and was one of three Georgians to affix his name to the Declaration of Independence. Walton used not just his pen but his sword against the British, being shot off his horse and captured in the First Battle of Savannah. Walton remained on call to his government through much of his life, twice occupying the governor's mansion, once taking a U.S. Senate seat, and three times serving as Chief Justice of Georgia. Walton used this cottage in Augusta until his death in 1804; outside of town he built a country estate on 100 acres of confiscated Tory land that was given to him for his service that he called College Hill. Both National Historic Landmarks, College Hill is a private residence but Meadow Garden is one of the oldest house museums in the country, first opened to the public in 1901.

# Chieftains

Rome  
1792



As an esteemed young warrior Major Ridge was elevated to the Cherokee Council at the age of 21. He fought with the Cherokee against the Americans on the frontier and with the United States against the Creek and Seminole nations. In 1819 Ridge returned to a small log home he had built here at Head of Coosa in the 1890s and expanded it into a two-story wood-frame home to oversee more than 200 acres cultivated in cotton fields and fruit trees. From his plantation on the Oostanula River Ridge long opposed the sale of Cherokee lands and removal to the West but by the 1830s he began to view the tribal fate as inevitable. The Council negotiated the Treaty of New Echota here, agreeing to leave Georgia for Oklahoma. Ridge knew that when the "Trail of Tears" march to the West was complete he would be killed for his part in the ceding of ancestral Cherokee land which indeed happened in Indian Territory in 1839. The "Big House" was saved as a museum by the Junior League of Rome.

# John Ross House

Rossville

1797



After the Cherokee Nation reorganized as a constitutional government in the fashion of the United States John Ross assumed the position of principal chief. Ross was called the "Mysterious White Bird" who was not conversant in the Cherokee language. In the 1830s after gold was found on Cherokee Land and the drumbeat for removal grew louder Ross stuck by his belief in the rule of American law. He couched his arguments in terms Washington would understand, to no avail. He ultimately supervised the departure of the Cherokees from the East, departing with the last wagons on the Trail of Tears. Ross inherited the house from his grandfather, a Scottish trader who married into the Cherokee tribe. The spacious log home was originally built in a gap in Missionary Ridge and became a landmark in the Civil War, used by both sides as a hospital. It continued to stand as the town grew up around the old log building. Finally the town's foundational house was dismantled in the 1950s and reassembled in a park-like setting, still on the original Ross homestead.

# Archibald Clark House

St. Marys

1801



St. Marys was Spanish land until the Treaty of Paris in 1763 made it legal for Georgians to settle here. Not that they were in any hurry - a charter for "a town on the St. Marys" wasn't drawn up until 1787. Archibald Clark constructed the frame house and was still enlarging it when his friend Aaron Burr took refuge here for three months after his duel with Alexander Hamilton in 1804. The prickly Burr avoided another duel with Mrs. Clark by accepting her "invitation" to leave at that point. That was not the end of the excitement in the Clark household. Archibald, who practiced law and was Collector of Customs for the Port of St. Marys for over 40 years, was arrested by the British during the War of 1812 and the house commandeered as the enemy headquarters. The guests staying these days are welcomed, as the town's oldest house functions as an inn.



# Chief Vann House

Chatsworth

1804



James Vann was one of the faction of Cherokees who believed the best way to deal with the European incursion was to emulate their culture. No one did so better than Vann. He operated the Spring Place cotton plantation with an estimated 100 slaves and owned grist mills, 14 taverns, and ferry boats. He constructed a house commensurate with his position as the wealthiest man in the Cherokee Nation. Sited on a hilltop, this was the first brick house in the region. Members of North Carolina's Moravian community, who Vann had recruited to teach local Cherokees, contributed the Federal style design that includes one of Georgia's earliest cantilevered stairways. Vann was shot to death in 1809 at the age of 43 in an unsolved crime. His son "Rich Joe" inherited the plantation and the family lived here until the Trail of Tears eviction of 1835. The Vanns never saw the "Showcase of the Cherokee Nation" again. The house cycled through 17 owners without serious degradation, enabling a restoration by the State in the 1950s.

# Old College

Athens

1806



The University of Georgia lays claim to being the "birthplace of public education in America" by dint of the General Assembly becoming the first state to charter a university with an endowment of 40,000 acres of land. For 16 years the university existed only on paper. In 1800 the founders got busy. John Milledge bought 633 acres on the Oconee River and gave it the school. Josiah Meigs became the first president - and only professor. He started classes without a building that he planned to be raised after one on his alma mater Yale's campus. When it was finished the classroom-dormitory-dining hall-administrative space was named after Benjamin Franklin. Sentimentality was not running high a century later as the ivy-covered building, now called Old College, was living up to its name. Students had been moved out in 1906 due to unsafe conditions and a new campus plan endorsed by the chancellor called for plowing under the oldest building in Athens. Violins were played and heart strings were tugged and some new bricks and mortar were called in instead. There was decidedly more reverence for the bicentennial when a meticulous restoration was executed in 2006.

# Fort Jackson

Savannah  
1812



America's seacoast defenses were constantly evolving to adapt to advances in offensive weaponry. As a result most forts from the Second System Seacoast Fortification in the early 1800s have been redesigned to be unrecognizable to their original defenders. Fort James Jackson, sited three miles south of Savannah in a marsh more than a half-mile from dry land, still has nearly all its original masonry and looks like it did in the blueprints. Georgia's oldest brick fort, with its six-gun battery, is the nation's only look at how the United States tried to defend itself in the beginning. Fort Jackson repelled Union incursion from the sea during the Civil War but when General William Sherman took the city by land he walked easily through the back door.

# Traveler's Rest

Toccoa  
1816



For centuries the Unicoi Trail was the Interstate of the Native American world, a footpath linking the headwaters of the Savannah River across the lower Blue Ridge Mountains to modern-day Tennessee. In 1813 the Cherokee authorized the widening of the trail into a toll road suitable for freight wagons. James Rutherford Wyly brought a splash of civilization to the Georgia frontier with the construction of a house on the route that doubled as a stop for teamsters. In 1833 Wyly sold the property to his neighbor Devereaux Jarrett, who was amassing a 14,000-acre plantation and becoming "the richest man in the Tugaloo Valley." Jarrett expanded the inn to ten-rooms behind a welcoming 90-foot long porch. The structure now operated as a tavern, trading post and post office. After more than 120 years in the Jarrett family the last bit of the estate was bought by the State as an historic site to interpret early travel through the Appalachian Mountains.

# Telfair Academy

Savannah

1818



Brothers Edward and William Telfair set sail from Scotland for the American colonies in 1758. Edward headed for Virginia and William aimed for Savannah. Edward shortly migrated to Georgia as well and the brothers immersed themselves in the mercantile trade. Edward became one of the most prominent merchants and planters in the colony and was sent by his fellow townfolk to the Continental Congress. After the struggle for independence was achieved he served several years as governor. With the Telfair dynasty established in Savannah, distinguished English architect William Jay designed the family mansion in an elegant Regency Style. Through the efforts of Mary Telfair, a daughter of Edward who died in 1875 at the age of 84 and never married, the house was converted into the Telfair Museum of Art in 1886. It was the first public art museum in the South.

# Wayne-Gordon House

Savannah

1818



This elegant Regency style town house was another William Jay creation for James Moore Wayne, mayor of Savannah and the first Georgian to be appointed a Supreme Court Justice. He sold it to William Washington Gordon, in 1831, founder of Georgia's first railroad and the only native Savannahian honored with a monument in one of the city's squares. As glittering as those resumes are the house would not be nationally significant were it not for the birth of Juliette Gordon Low here on Halloween night in 1860. Low spent much of her adult life in England, enduring a loveless marriage. After she was widowed she met Robert Baden Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts, and was inspired to organize a similar outfit for girls. She returned to her ancestral city in 1912 brimming with boundless energy and founded the Girl Scouts of America.

# Owens-Thomas House

Savannah  
1819



Here is William Jay again. This is the commission - from wealthy cotton merchant Richard Richardson - that lured Mrs. Richardson's brother-in-law from his home in Bath, England to Savannah. Jay arrived just after Christmas in 1817 and stayed in America until 1824. In that time he created several architectural masterpieces and this house is considered the finest example of Regency architecture to survive in the United States. Jay used regional tabby, a mixture of oyster shells, sand, water and lime, to craft the first floor. Behind the house is the best preserved stable-slave quarters in the city and its tabby walls are original. The distinctive feature facing out to the square is a delicately undulating front porch. That is Savannah's first cast iron on the front portico. Meta Thomas, granddaughter of a previous owner, George W. Owens, willed the house to the Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences for a house museum.

# Scarborough House

Savannah  
1819



Here William Jay produced an exuberant blend of Regency and Greek Revival styles during the 1819 cotton boom for Savannah merchant prince William Scarborough. The house boasts a Doric portico capped by one of Jay's characteristic half-moon windows. Scarborough was a major investor in the side-wheel steamship *S.S. Savannah*, the first vessel to cross the Atlantic Ocean under steam power. The journey to Liverpool, England required 27 days. The achievement failed to impress potential customers and Scarborough was forced to strip the engines and convert the ship into a sailing packet. Two years later, on November 5, 1821 the *Savannah* wrecked off the coast of Long Island, capsizing the Savannah Steamship Company with it. Scarborough never lost his faith in steam power, patenting an invention to improve steam engine performance on paddleboats before he died in 1838 at the age of 62. Today his home hosts the Ships of the Sea Museum, stuffed with models of influential vessels.

# Sapelo Island Light

Sapelo Island

1820



Winslow Lewis, of Massachusetts stock, took on one of the most vexing problems of early 1800s America - keeping dangerous coastal waterways illuminated. Lewis developed a lighting system in 1812 that delivered more complete combustion of the whale oil and candle wick and won a contract to outfit all American lighthouses with his new lamps. The job took four years and afterwards he branched out into lighthouse construction around the country. His reputation surpassed his abilities as an engineer - most of his lighthouses would have to be replaced due to shoddy construction practices. But the Sapelo Island Light has made it to its 200th birthday. It is the oldest Lewis lighthouse still standing and the nation's second oldest brick lighthouse tower.

# Indian Springs Hotel

Indian Springs

1823



Indian Springs may be the oldest state park in America. The land surrounding the sulphur-infused waters was obtained from the Creek Nation in the Treaty of Indian Springs in 1825 and has been open to the public as a park ever since. In 1931 Indian Springs and Vogel kicked off the newly created formal Georgia State Park system. That original treaty was signed at the hotel constructed near the healing waters by cousins Chief William McIntosh and Joel Bailey two years earlier. When they added a tavern it was called the Treaty Room. Good vibes were flowing with the water at that time. As mineral springs lost their allure in the 20th century rambling resort hotels such as this - constructed with hand-planed boards, wooden pegs, and locally fired bricks - vanished from the landscape. Indian Springs Hotel is the only extant representative of Georgia's antebellum inns associated with the healthful springs. It has scored a restoration and lives on as a museum.

# Stephen Vincent Benét House

Augusta  
1829



The Federal government started manufacturing arms in Augusta in 1816 and moved its armory to this location a decade later. The Augusta Arsenal was seized by state troops only days after Georgia seceded from the Union on January 19, 1861 and began churning out a critical 75,000 rifle cartridges for the Confederacy daily. After the Civil War the facility continued to hum for almost another century. Most of the property was turned over to Augusta College in the 1950s. Colonel J. Walker Benét moved into the Commandant's House with his appointment in 1911. His son Stephen lived here until 1915 when he had his first book published at the age of 17. It is the only structure still standing with a connection to the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist and poet.

# Calhoun Mine

Dahlonega  
1829



No one knows for certain who made the first discovery of gold in Georgia in 1828 but within months America's second "gold rush" was in full frenzy (there had been a gold fever in North Carolina back at the turn of the century). Georgia held the Gold Lottery of 1832, which awarded land once owned by the Cherokee Nation to the winners of the drawing in 40-acre tracts. There was enough gold found in the Georgia mountains for the United States to establish a mint in Dahlonega in 1838. Most of the miners left Georgia to chase riches in California and elsewhere but it is estimated that Georgia produced about 870,000 troy ounces of gold before commercial production ceased in the mid-1900s. Gold was struck on land owned by Robert Obar and the land was ultimately purchased by South Carolina politician John C. Calhoun, who was sitting in the Vice-President's office at the time. The vein was still being mined in dribs and drabs more than 100 years later. Declared a National Historic Landmark, the Calhoun Mine now rests on private land.

# Octagon House

Columbus  
1830



Orson Squire Fowler was responsible for two wildly different fads in the middle of the 19th century. One was phrenology, the practice that mental acuity could be determined by the bumps on ones head. The other was eight-sided houses that he championed in a book called *The Octagon House, A Home for All*. Neither are much in vogue these days. Of the octagon houses built in America six have been designated National Historic Landmarks, including May's Folly. It was an everyday four-room house when attorney Alfred Iverson - one day to be a United States Congressman and Senator - built it. When Leander May got his hands on the property in 1862 he tacked on an octagonal addition to the front and reconfigured the original rectangle into an octagon as well, creating what is considered the only double octagon house in the United States. Bemused, and clearly short-sighted, town-folk dubbed the unique house "May's Folly." No word on whether Leander May also took stock in the bumps on the head theory as well.

# Tupper-Barnett House

Washington  
1832



William H. Pope built a handsome Federal-style house but it was after the town's Baptist minister Henry Allen Tupper moved in during 1853 that the building ascended to the first rank of Southern Greek Revival mansions. Tupper completely encircled the exterior in peristyle fashion with 18 fluted Doric columns in one of the nation's finest antebellum conversions that were all the rage at the time. Washington mayor Edward Augustus Barnett moved here in 1908 and the architectural treasure stayed in the family the remainder of the 20th century. A full restoration in 2017 prepared the house for a future life as event space.

# Fort Pulaski

Savannah

1833



This is the third fortification on Cockspur Island; the first in 1761 was Fort George, dismantled by the Americans in 1776 and the second was Fort Greene, built in 1794 but swept away by a hurricane in 1804. Every American army engineer who worked on the construction of the fort on Cockspur Island later went on to become either a Union or Confederate general. This was Robert E. Lee's first assignment after graduation from West Point. With an estimated 25 million bricks and 7 1/2-foot thick walls Fort Pulaski, facing seaward and protecting the entrance to the Savannah River, was considered impregnable until that Civil War. Federal troops stationed on Tybee Island began shellign the position on April 10, 1862 and after 30 hours of sustained bombardment the southeastern angle of the wall was breached with new rifled cannons. Over 5,000 shot and shell were fired with the loss of only one Union sailor. For the Confederacy 385 men and 48 cannons were lost as the Union sealed off the port of Savannah and much of the south to foreign trade. With the new rifled cannon deployed on the Savannah River defensive strategy was forced to change worldwide.

# Liberty Hall

Crawfordville

1834



Alexander Hamilton Stephens, the vice president of the Confederacy, was arrested here at his home and imprisoned in Boston's Fort Warren for several months after the Civil War. "Little Aleck" (he seldom weighed more than 100 pounds) served Georgia in virtually every elected office: U.S. Congressman in 1843, elected to the U.S. Senate in 1866 but disqualified because of his service in the Confederacy, and finally governor of Georgia in 1882. He died in office four months later. Through it all Stephens resided at Liberty Hall, two miles south of the log cabin where he was born in 1812; he bought the property in 1839 and his grave is in a stone wall. Now a Georgia state park, Liberty Hall is interpreted as it looked in 1875 when Stephens razed all but two original rooms for the re-styled two-story frame house.



# Old Medical College

Augusta  
1835



This is the first major commission attributed to Charles B. Cluskey, an Irish transplant who is credited with bringing the Greek Revival style to the South. And he started at the top of his game. The projecting temple portico, supported by imposing fluted Doric columns, became a signature look in public architecture. The brick building features a stucco dressing scored to look like stone. The Medical College of Georgia was just six years old when it settled into its new classical digs. The school remained until 1913 when the building became part of Augusta University. The faculty of the medical school was a major player in the formation of the American Medical Association in 1847 that established the world's first national code of medical ethics.

# Kolb House

Kennesaw  
1836



By the spring of 1864 Atlanta was the great prize of the Civil War, both strategically and politically. Its railroads and foundries made it a critical Confederate center for making war and if the approaching Union offensive ordered by General Ulysses S. Grant could be stopped before getting there it likely meant Abraham Lincoln would be defeated in the fall election by George McClellan who wanted to end the war and preserve the existence of the Confederacy. High stakes indeed. The biggest Union obstacle was the imposing Confederate defenses on Kennesaw Mountain. Union General William Tecumseh Sherman employed persistent flanking maneuvers - and one disastrous frontal assault - over the course of two weeks of fighting on the mountain. The Northerners surrendered men but the Confederates surrendered ground, eventually abandoning their positions on the night of July 2. Sherman crossed the Chattahoochee River and laid siege to Atlanta which capitulated on September 2. The farmhouse of Peter and Eliza Kolb, a rare surviving example of Georgia frontier vernacular architecture, was at the center of the fiercest fighting on the battlefield. Now restored to its 1864 appearance, it is the only surviving structure from the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain.

# The Bricks

Roswell

1839



While others came to North Georgia in the 1830s to chase gold Roswell King thought the Chattahoochee River was the ideal place for a cotton mill. He began churning out duck cloth and rope in 1838 and a year later erected two-story brick tenements for his workers. Some say they are the oldest apartments in the South. Union troops burned the Roswell mill and it was rebuilt in 1882. The buildings known as The Bricks have survived down through the years, aided considerably by their purchase by the Roswell Library Association in 1955.

# Old Governor's Mansion

Milledgeville

1839



Thanks to a shuffling between Savannah and Augusta, Georgia has actually had its state capital in 17 locations. One may have even been in South Carolina. Milledgeville assumed the mantle in 1807 and appeared to be ideal for a permanent 19th century American state capital to be laid out - centrally located with access to river transportation. Charles Cluskey gave the State a grand governor's residence called by future critics, "without question, his most perfect example of the Greek Revival house." In retrospect, it may have been too perfect. After the Civil War a new Georgia constitutional convention met to discuss its capital location once again. Milledgeville, with its profusion of column-fronted buildings, was looked on as the "Old South" while aggressive promoters of Atlanta portrayed their rebuilding city as the forward-looking "New South." After 61 years, the capital moved out of Milledgeville and future governors would henceforth make their beds in Atlanta.

# Red Oak Covered Bridge

Woodbury  
1842



Covered bridges are the favorites of romantics everywhere. Wooden bridges were, however, the apogee of practicality - the roof protected the structural elements from the weather. It is estimated that over 14,000 covered transportation bridges have been constructed in the United States and fewer than 1,000 remain. Georgia boasts some 14 authentic "kissing bridges" from the days of the horse and buggy when there were more than 200 across the state. Watson Mill Bridge, spanning the South Fork River on three piers, is the longest at 229 feet. The Coheele Creek Covered Bridge is the southernmost in the country. The oldest is the Red Oak Creek Covered Bridge (it is also the longest if you count approaches). The creator was a freed slave and Georgia's most famous covered bridge builder, Horace King. King used a lattice design devised by architect Ithiel Town with many small diagonal planks supporting the infrastructure. This is the only surviving King bridge of this sophisticated design, held together with 2,500 wooden pegs.

# Taylor-Grady House

Athens  
1844



Irish-born Robert Taylor sailed to Savannah with his parents as a child in the 1790s. Taylor grew into a powerful cotton merchant and planter who would count 17,000 Georgia acres in his portfolio. He built this grand Greek Revival home - dominated by 13 fluted Doric columns said to represent the original American states - as a country place. When his three sons matriculated at the University of Georgia, it became the permanent Taylor home. The patriarch died in 1859 and four years later the family sold the house to William S. Grady who was on furlough from his duties as a major in the Confederate Army. He never made it back, falling on the Battle of Petersburg. Grady's son Henry spent his teenage years here before his education and entry into journalism. He bought an interest in the *Atlanta Constitution* at the age of 30, becoming one of the most influential journalists of the time. A captivating orator, Grady traveled widely and spoke of the need for a "New South," balanced with agriculture and industry. Felled by pneumonia at the age of 39, Henry Grady would be the first inductee welcomed to the Georgia Newspaper Hall of Fame in 1931.

# Bonaventure Cemetery

Savannah  
1846



Run your finger down any list of America's most beautiful cemeteries and you won't go very far before landing on Bonaventure Cemetery. Naturalist John Muir was one of the first to wax rhapsodic about the arboreal splendor when he camped in the graveyard in the 1860s. It was private then, with not too many graves, sited on a scenic bluff of Colonel John Mullryne's old plantation. Oscar Wilde was another who was mesmerized by the statuary mingling with live oak trees draped in cascades of Spanish moss, calling it "incomparable." The city of Savannah purchased the grounds in 1907, opened it to public burials and the building of statues to the dead began in earnest. The sculptures assumed a whole new meaning in John Berendt's blockbuster book *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, and Clint Eastwood's follow-up film treatment cemented the haunting look of Bonaventure Cemetery in the public imagination.

# Augusta Canal

Augusta  
1847



The Cummings were the first family of Augusta. Thomas was the city's first mayor and son Alfred was also a mayor. But the most important contribution to the city's success came from another second generation Cumming, Henry. Located at the head of navigation on the Savannah River, Augusta's early prominence was built on commerce. But the coming of the railroads pushed the town into the economic doldrums in the 1840s. Henry's solution was a seven-mile canal dug from above the rapids into the bosom of Augusta to power mills. He financed a survey of the plan himself and helmed construction. By 1860 cotton mills were humming and Augusta was the second largest city in Georgia. The canal is still generating power today and the city is still drawing water from the waterway - the only canal in America in continuous use from the Industrial Revolution doing what it was built to do. The textile mills are gone, however, and the heritage area serves recreation needs.

# Green-Meldrim House

Savannah  
1850



John S. Norris designed this medieval Gothic mansion, one of the South's most distinguished of the genre, for cotton merchant Charles Green. It was the most expensive 19th-century house in Savannah. So naturally conquering Union General William T. Sherman made this his headquarters when Savannah surrendered during the Civil War. Here he learned that his seventh child, whom he had never seen, had died of pneumonia. Sherman sent the following telegram to President Abraham Lincoln in December, 1864: "I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the city of Savannah..." A later owner was Judge Peter Meldrim, mayor of Savannah. The house became a National Historic Landmark in 1976.

# Central of Georgia Railway

Savannah  
1853



Regarded as a remarkable design achievement by contemporaries, the Central of Georgia Railway complex was planned by William M. Wadley around 1850 with a price tag north of \$500,000. In 1855, a writer for the national journal *Colburn's Railroad Advocate* described it as "the most complete and elegant railroad station in the country..." The country's only intact antebellum railroad complex was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1976 as "a precedent example of comprehensive industrial planning." The Gray Building, now Kiah Hall of the Savannah College of Art and Design, is one the oldest surviving railroad office buildings in the United States. The Greek Revival structure was the headquarters for the railroad, organized in 1833. The Gray Building did duty as a train office for over 130 years - the longest run for any railroad building in America.