



# The Rambler

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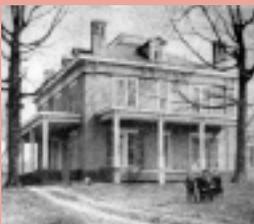
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*The Rambler* is the newsletter of The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation.

## Waking Up the Neighborhood

*Revitalization breathes new life into weary streets*

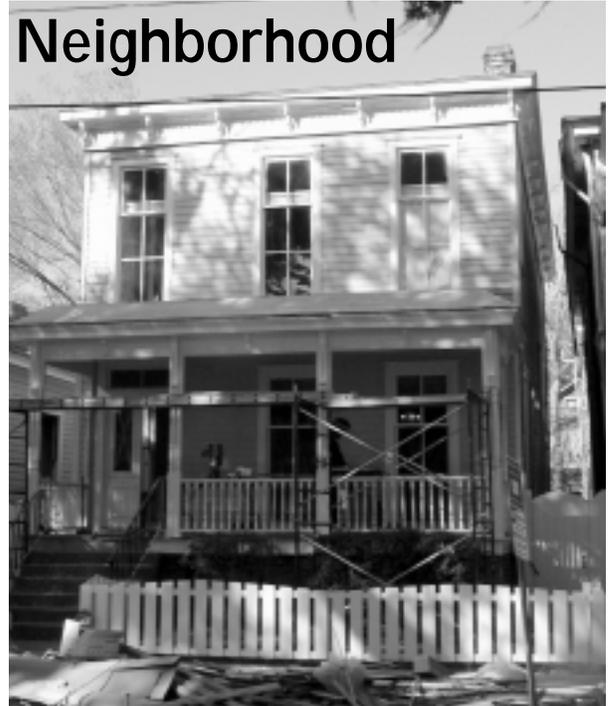
If you've got them, you know them. They're the streets you drive by and think, "what a shame." The forgotten historic neighborhoods that have seen better days. Places we've all driven by and thought, "...what if? What if someone fixed up those houses and cleaned up those streets—what sort of difference would it make?"

Local organizations in communities across the state have answered the call. Through preservation and revitalization, they have seen their most unsightly neighborhoods blossom into places children play, neighbors look out for one another and properties are proudly maintained. They have witnessed the return on investing in these existing, established neighborhoods instead of demolishing them for new construction.

### Who Are the People In Your Neighborhood?

Over the past 50 years, many intown neighborhoods were abandoned for the trend of building "bigger and better" outside the city. These neighborhoods were left defenseless against absentee landlords, houses shabbily subdivided into low-rent apartments and rampant crime. By the early 1990s, Macon's Huguenin Heights neighborhood had become a casualty of this phenomenon. The historic neighborhood, containing houses dating from the 1880s, was just a shell of its former self.

A small group of dedicated, longtime residents approached local organizations, including Macon Heritage Foundation, about the fate of their neighborhood. "We had never undertaken a big neighborhood project," said Kay Gerhardt, chair of the



Savannah's Brady Street is undergoing a major transformation as new owners are restoring properties in the area.

Neighborhood Revitalization Committee. "Primarily, we had restored isolated properties. It was pretty scary to make that sort of a commitment of our assets and time."

Through the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Community Partners program, Macon Heritage Foundation received grants to hire a construction manager and revolving lines of credit to purchase and renovate homes for resale. Mercer University, whose campus borders the south end of the neighborhood, provided stipends for faculty and staff as an incentive to purchase houses in the neighborhood. Since 1994, Macon Heritage has purchased, renovated and sold 16 homes with protective covenants. The neighborhood's property values have more than doubled while crime has been reduced by 85 percent.

Macon Heritage then began a second

*Continued on page 6*



Mark C. McDonald  
Executive Director,  
Historic Savannah  
Foundation

*The Rambler* is the newsletter of The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, the country's largest statewide preservation organization. With the support of nearly 9,000 members, the Trust works to protect and preserve Georgia's historic resources and diverse cultural heritage.

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# Preserving Community Values

As the historic preservation movement has evolved, activists have shifted efforts toward the preservation of the historic landscape as a whole rather than concentrating on individual buildings in isolation. We have come to realize that saving an individual house while ignoring its neighborhood is not successful preservation. Restored buildings standing in a sea of parking lots, or obscured by sign clutter only highlight the dehumanizing nature of modern culture.

**Neighborhood preservation is impossible without people who are willing to take risks, welcome outsiders and, most importantly, make decisions based on community and cultural values.**

Georgians have recognized the importance of retaining the integrity and continuity of our built environment, as opposed to expending all our energies on a few landmark buildings. The recognition, designation and protection of more than 480 National Register historic districts encompassing more than 52,000 separate historic properties in Georgia is tangible evidence of this focus. The quality of restoration work distributed throughout Georgia is very impressive. More impressive is the spirit of community that exists in our cities and neighborhoods. In his excellent work, *Preservation: Toward an Ethic* in the 1980's, Roderick S. French wrote, "The great potential contribution of preservation to American life is not in the saving of structures per se, but in the transformation of the values by which we live as people."

Those of us who have lived in struggling historic neighborhoods know the shared sense of values and responsibility

that exists in these micro-communities. This phenomenon gives us a hope for the future, as society turns away from the fixation on personal fulfillment and back to family and community responsibilities of our past. Neighborhood preservation is impossible without people who are willing to take risks, welcome outsiders and, most importantly, make decisions based on community and cultural values.

The great accomplishment of Georgia's preservation movement—the designation of more than 52,000 properties and the creation of more than 480 National Register historic districts—is an enduring responsibility. Many of the historic districts have been afforded legal protection by our city governments, ensuring their preservation for future generations of Georgians.

There is no greater feeling than seeing a neighborhood or downtown coming back to life. It is much like the sensations of springtime when bare,



dead-looking trees and shrubs explode in new life and color. This is what is happening to so many historic areas in our state. The historic preservation movement is substantially responsible for these positive developments.

Perhaps the most compelling reason we seek to preserve is to recapture a time when community was more important than individual enrichment. Georgia's historic sites and places represent this ideal. To fully understand their cultural significance, we must reconnect ourselves to the community values of the time in which they flourished.

# These Walls Can Talk—a Lot!

*Heritage Education program inspires Georgia students and teachers*

The word “history,” even to some adults, conjures up dusty recollections of years spent memorizing war dates and names of distant figures with white powdered hair. To combat this misconception, The Georgia Trust’s *Talking Walls* heritage education program works to blend the past with the present while instilling community spirit in young minds all over the state. In turn, it has made history one hot topic in schools that utilize this resource.

Through summer workshops, *Talking Walls* shows teachers how they can incorporate their community’s local historic resources in the classroom.

“Having been a teacher myself, I have witnessed the excitement and interest of students when given primary sources to analyze versus using the standard textbook,” said *Talking Walls* Manager Jennifer Holcombe.

The program has grown in popularity since it began in 1991, and now has reached more than 357,000 students in 52 school systems in 47 Georgia counties. Several school systems, inspired by the program, have taken it one step further. LaGrange’s Troup County High School students can take a course that focuses exclusively on local history and is so popular it is now offered twice each semester. The class covers topics such as archaeology, transportation, religion, education, and ethnic diversity. Clark Johnson, one of the founders of the school’s program, currently teaches the course to 56 students in two classes each day. “It helps to make it personal for them,” Mr. Johnson said. “It’s a way they can take what they’ve learned on a national level and use it at home to fit into their daily lives.”

In addition, local studies make for cost-effective field trips. “It shows



Christopher Powell, a local areas studies student at Morgan County High, volunteered as a docent in period dress for the Madison Tour of Homes this past December.

teachers they can take their students to interesting sites in town,” said Jerrie Holmes, public relations director for Troup County Schools. “Intown field trips are less expensive.”

Troup County’s heritage education program and local history will be spotlighted at The Georgia Trust’s Annual Meeting April 20 in LaGrange.

In Madison, Morgan County High School offers a state-approved and state-funded local history course as a social studies elective for students. Students take field trips to private homes and historical sites, catalogue cemeteries and are even creating a heritage education website for their community. In December, the town held a tour of homes and students served as docents and storytellers. “Everybody wanted to get involved,” said Pat Leming, vice

*Continued on page 5*

## What’s in Walton County?

Find out when The Georgia Trust visits this historic area just a little over an hour east of Atlanta for the **Spring Ramble June 1–2**. Activities have been planned for the entire family, including a Civil War encampment and hay rides at the Harris Homestead outside Monroe, tours of private homes and public buildings, and a sculpture exhibit at the Monroe Art Guild. An elegant dinner will be held on the grounds of the McDaniel-Tichenor House in Monroe, one of The Georgia Trust’s three house museums. Call 404-881-9980, ext. 3232 for more information.

## Calendar

March 30

### Easter Egg Hunt

McDaniel-Tichenor House,  
Monroe

Call 770-267-5602 for details.

April 6–7, 27–28

### Behind-the-Scenes Tours

Hay House, Macon

Call 478-742-8155 for details.

April 7

### Spring Collectors’ Day

McDaniel-Tichenor House,  
Monroe

Call 770-267-5602 for details.

April 13

### Hay Day Family Heritage Festival

Hay House, Macon

Call 478-742-8155 for details.

April 19 – 21

### 2002 Annual Meeting

LaGrange, Georgia

Call 404-881-9980, ext. 3232 with questions.

April 28

### Intergalactic Pet Show

McDaniel-Tichenor House,  
Monroe

Call 770-267-5602 for details.

May 3–5

### A Weekend of Treasures

Macon

Please see story on page 8.

May 5

### Mother’s Day Tea

Rhodes Hall, Atlanta

Please see story on page 8.

May 14

### The American Renaissance: 1876–1930s

Macon Museum of Arts and  
Sciences

Slide lecture by Richard Guy Wilson, commonwealth professor chair in architectural history and chair of the department of architectural history at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville. Sponsored by Hay House. Call 478-742-8155 for details.

# A Perfect Fit ...

## *New owners drawn to Revolving Fund house and landscape*

Jim Garner and Susan Hitchcock both share a love of all things historic: Ms. Hitchcock holds a master's degrees in historic preservation, with an emphasis on landscape history, and Mr. Garner has a lifetime interest in old houses and holds a master's degree in horticulture. After living in Midtown Atlanta for many years, the two decided to leave the hectic pace of the city and live one of their dreams together by buying an old house and restoring it.

Mr. Garner and Ms. Hitchcock researched properties as far away as Virginia, but couldn't find the right combination of location, price and style. When they came upon the ad in *The Rambler* last fall for the Rice-George House (c. 1815) in Eatonton, Ms. Hitchcock recalls she was very interested in the house, but wasn't sure where the town was located.

However, Mr. Garner had a soft spot for Eatonton—it was his home for the first three years of his life. During his call to Revolving Fund Director Frank White, Mr. Garner learned the property had another feature he and Ms. Hitchcock had never dreamed of finding—the remnants of a 19th-century landscape with ancient boxwoods and other plantings. “That was definitely a selling point for us,” he said.

When they first visited the property, they found an even greater surprise. “I was overjoyed to see that the boxwood garden, although overgrown, was healthy.” Ms. Hitchcock said. “I've spent most of my career researching other people's landscapes and now I can research and cultivate my own.” The house itself proved even better than they had expected as



The Rice-George House features the remnants of a 19th-century landscape (view of the house before the vegetation was taken off the front).

well. “I was prepared for the worst,” Ms. Hitchcock said. “When we got there, we were impressed with the overall condition of the house. Although it would require major repairs, it appeared to be a good candidate for restoration.”

After touring the property with several preservation-minded experts, including architectural historian Tommy Jones and Georgia Trust board member and architect Lane Green, they decided to buy the house. By purchasing a Revolving Fund property, the new owner agrees to follow certain guidelines for rehabilitation and donate a façade easement to The Georgia Trust. To Mr. Garner and Ms. Hitchcock, these conditions were another selling point.

“I believe in historic preservation and I believe these kinds of things are necessary to ensure these properties are preserved,” Mr. Garner said. “The question becomes, ‘do I believe in what The Georgia Trust is doing and is it a well thought-out way of pre-

serving these properties?’ And the answer is yes. If the time comes when I need to sell the house, I believe that somewhere there will be someone who believes the way I do and will see the value in preserving this house.”

To prepare for their new home and town, Mr. Garner has begun researching the history of Eatonton and its buildings, and has found that theirs is one of the oldest houses in the town. “I feel fortunate to have found something this significant and rare in Georgia,” he said.

Once the basic work of stabilization and installing a few modern upgrades is complete, the couple looks forward to spending time rehabilitating the gardens.

“I don't have any illusions about how difficult this is going to be,” Mr. Garner said. “But we hope to combine being responsible stewards with creating something special that we, and others, will be able to enjoy for years to come.”

### REVOLVING FUND NEWS BRIEF

Recently The Georgia Trust's option to purchase on the Brantley-Haygood house in Sandersville (see opposite page) was nearing the end of its agreement with the owner of the property. To ensure the house would be saved, the Revolving Fund Committee authorized the Trust to purchase the property. Through the generous financial and logistical support of concerned citizens, including William Veal and Ben and Nancy Tarbutton, the Revolving Fund obtained the funds necessary to repair the leaking roof and perform other maintenance and stabilization measures. In late February, the house was purchased by a preservation-minded buyer. Look for more information in the May/June issue of *The Rambler*!

# Talking Walls

(continued from page 3)

principal for the school. “English classes contributed stories, art classes contributed artwork—even if they were not taking the course, they still wanted to participate.”

Madison, a town rich in cultural history, has plenty to offer its interested students. “Many of our students come from families who have lived here for several generations,” explained Ms. Leming. “The program helps students understand how their family interacted in the town when they were their age.”

Another area that places a high value on its history is Sumter County. Not only do teachers participate in *Talking Walls* workshops and incorporate them into the classroom, but they have also assembled resource kits that contain primary sources including copies of historic photos, documents and an interactive CD-ROM. Lee Kinnamon, chair of the Social Studies department at Sumter County High

School, helps lead *Talking Walls* workshops and was instrumental in assembling the kit. “We have the good fortune of being able to use a wealth of original material,” he said. “I know for a fact that our students’ interest level increases when we include firsthand accounts and use original documents from the history of their community.”

Mr. Kinnamon is on the board of curators of the Georgia Historical Society and has formed a “Young Historians” youth affiliate chapter of the organization as an extracurricular activity. The organization of roughly 15 students does “real history” and has produced a website and several videos on local history.

Statewide, teachers are using heritage education concepts to create interest in history, but they are also creating inspired members of the community. “Madison is very proud of the students and what they have accomplished,” said Ms. Leming. “It has made them aware of preservation. We really see a difference in our children.”

## Revolving Fund Properties for Sale

Contact Frank White at 404-885-7807

### NEW PROPERTY!



**HARMONY CHURCH**, Senoia, 1896. Built for a Universalist congregation, Harmony Church is located in Coweta County near the historic town of Senoia. The interior of this vernacular building is completely paneled in wood. Original pews remain. The church could be adapted for residential or commercial use. More details coming soon!



**EVANS-WILLIAMS HOUSE**, Stone Mountain, c. 1830. Located just 2.5 miles from Stone Mountain Village, the house showcases interior Federal details, hand-planed board walls and wainscoating, two original fireplace mantels and two stone chimneys. Three outbuildings include a barn, smokehouse and original detached kitchen. The house is about 1300 square feet and sits on 2.92 acres. \$248,000.



**ZUBER-JARRELL HOUSE**, Atlanta, c. 1906. Located in the revitalized neighborhood of East Atlanta, this Neoclassical home contains four fireplaces, stained glass windows, original bathroom fixtures and elaborate woodwork. Rooms include a parlor, library, dining room, kitchen, 4 BR, 4 BA and a finished attic and basement. The house is about 5,000 square feet and sits on two acres. Price: \$848,000.

### See story on page 4!



**RIC GEORGE HOUSE**, Eatonton, c. 1815. Located just outside downtown Eatonton, this Plantation-style house has 6 fireplaces, interior wood paneling and original floors. The original parlor is 1 room deep and 2 stories tall. Several rooms, along with a Victorian-era style porch, have been added. House is approximately 2500 square feet and sits on 1.3 acres.



**CASPELL-FAULKNER HOUSE**, Moreland, c. 1900. New South Cottage has a central hallway with two rooms on each side and several additions at the rear. The interior contains delicate spindle work and door moldings with sunburst corner blocks. The house has original mantels, pocket doors, built-in cabinet and original floors. It is approximately 2000 square feet and sits on 2 acres.



**BRAMBLEY-HAYGOOD HOUSE**, Sandersville, c. 1880. Listed on the National Register. Located at 111 Harris Street in a historic district. Dr. Solomon Brambley built the Plantation Plain house. In 1900, architect Charles E. Choate was hired to renovate into the Victorian-era style. The house is beautiful and has apts. and has been divided into 4 units. It is about 5400 sq. ft. and sits on a .97-acre lot.

# Neighborhood

(continued from page 1)

neighborhood revitalization project in 1999, Tatnall Square Heights, just across Tatnall Square Park from Huguenin Heights. Macon Heritage plans to raise home ownership above 60 percent by selling at least 14 rehabilitated or sensitive-infill houses to preservation-minded buyers. So far, the Foundation has rehabilitated and sold eight properties and has good prospects for two others.

“We have a wonderful diversity of people living in these neighborhoods,” said Elaine Bolton, executive director of Macon Heritage Foundation. “I see the pride, the joy, the excitement that first-time homebuyers have when they own their own homes. It’s a wonderful excitement you can’t bottle.”

## From Florence, Italy to Savannah, GA

Historic Savannah Foundation is no stranger to neighborhood revitalization. For more than 45 years, the organization has focused on improving Savannah’s historic neighborhoods. Its most recent involvement is in the revitalization of Brady Street, a neighborhood in Savannah’s Thomas Square Streetcar Historic District.

In June 2000, Historic Savannah purchased four rowhouses on Brady Street through its Revolving Fund program. It sold its first property to Rob Sales, a local developer, and another to the Sottile family, a local Savannah family interested in beginning a preservation project. When the Sottiles visited their native Florence, Italy, they were impressed with the results of Florence’s governmental policy of revitalizing one entire street each year, and decided to try the concept in Savannah. But while the Florence government bills residents for improvements, the Sottiles decided to buy 10 houses in a two-block area and rehabilitate the buildings themselves, with guidance from Historic Savan-

nah Foundation. Melissa Jest, neighborhood coordinator for Historic Savannah, assisted the Sottiles in researching the owners of the houses. Historic Savannah also bought two additional rowhouses and an entire apartment building two blocks over from Brady. Today, 19 buildings in the neighborhood are being rehabilitated and sold by Domus LLC and Historic Savannah Foundation.

Just four blocks to the west, another revitalization project is underway in the Cuyler-Brownville neighborhood. Once a thriving, working- and



This house in Columbus was in disrepair (above) and rehabilitated (below) through the revitalization of the Seventh Street neighborhood.



middle-class African American neighborhood, Cuyler-Brownville suffered in the 1960s when a major highway connector cut through the western end. To re-establish the neighborhood, Historic Savannah Foundation, in partnership with the City of Savannah’s Community Housing Services Agency, has offered to purchase 24 units of historic rowhouses to develop as affordable housing. Also in the neighborhood, a former hospital built in the 1920s is being rehabilitated for affordable housing.

“People are discovering that Savannah’s history encompasses more

than just the downtown landmark district,” said Mark McDonald, executive director of Historic Savannah Foundation. “Areas that weren’t even considered historic are now not only listed on the National Register, but there is also a tremendous amount of rehabilitation work going on. It is expanding everyone’s idea of what Historic Savannah really is.”

## Columbus Takes the Initiative

Historic Columbus Foundation is also expanding the public’s idea of preservation. The organization is planning for one of the most groundbreaking neighborhood projects in the state—the Wynnton Initiative. Working with The Georgia Trust, Historic Columbus is developing a community plan for responsible, well-planned residential, retail and commercial growth in the Wynnton area, located in midtown Columbus. The Wynnton Initiative is attempting to bring together six historic neighborhood districts to form the largest contiguous historic district area in the United States.

A goal of the plan is to provide a blueprint for future transportation and commercial development in the area. While the project will include revitalizing some of the neighborhoods, its primary

focus is to improve the quality of life within the community by preserving greenspace, enhancing recreational and educational facilities and cultural and commercial institutions, and creating small commercial nodes to give the area a “village” feel.

“The folks in Columbus understand that preservation is still about rehabilitating one house at a time, but the Wynnton Initiative also addresses the issues associated with the broader goals of neighborhood and community revitalization, including transportation, the importance of neighborhood schools, greenspace and recreational

“City planners and real estate markets are recognizing that reinvesting in older neighborhoods makes sense economically and ecologically.”

Beth Shorthouse, manager,  
Neighborhood Reinvestment Initiative,  
The Georgia Trust

Background: A rehabilitated house in Macon's Huguenin Heights.

opportunities,” said Glen Bennett, senior director of preservation for The Georgia Trust.

Since the 1960s, Historic Columbus Foundation has worked to revitalize the city's historic districts. Over the past 30 years, its Revolving Fund program has “revolved” 70 properties throughout the city. Recently it was involved in two major intown revitalization projects. In the original City Historic District, preservation has moved east from the Chattahoochee River-front streets to the inner city. Its largest and most recent project centered around the declining Seventh Street neighborhood, located in the heart of the city. So far, its Revolving Fund has sold all of its 12 properties in the Seventh Street area and facilitated the sale of 10 others.

Fourth Street Towers, Inc., a community agency, has revitalized another deteriorating neighborhood in the original City Historic District. This organization has rehabilitated and sold historic and sensitive-infill properties as affordable housing. So far, eight houses have been sold through this project, which was funded by Fourth Street Baptist Church, Columbus Consolidated Government and Federal Home Program funds.

“Where once were gaping holes in the streetscape from earlier—before preservation—demolitions, Historic Columbus and partners have brought in appropriate infill houses and restored existing properties,” said Virginia Peebles, executive director of Historic Columbus Foundation. “Also, Historic Columbus has served as an advocate for other projects in the area to create a viable inner-city neighborhood.”

Neighborhood revitalizations are happening all over the state; cities such as Atlanta, Thomasville, Athens and Augusta, to name a few, are all working on or have completed similar projects.

“Neighborhood revitalization has been going on for many years,” said Beth Shorthouse, manager of the Trust's Neighborhood Reinvestment Initiative (NRI) program (see sidebar). “However, many communities are seeing more revitalization now in part because of increased awareness of smart growth. City planners and real estate markets are recognizing that reinvesting in older neighborhoods makes sense economically and ecologically.”

### Lending a Helping Hand

While it is arguable that it takes a village to raise a child, it often seems to take a community to raise a neighborhood. Revitalization requires support from all facets of the community—not just preservationists.

Macon, Columbus and Savannah all forged strong partnerships with their city governments, which made projects such as disposing of trash or installing new power and water lines a much smoother process.

“So many people have been so good to us,” Ms. Bolton said. “We have had good support from the city and local financial organizations and we really have a hard-working committee of volunteers.” Ms. Peebles and Mr. McDonald both share similar stories of the positive partnerships their organizations have formed with private and public organizations in their communities.

“Local buy-in and partnerships are keys to successful revitalization efforts,” Ms. Shorthouse said. “Collaboration between local government and neighborhood representatives ensures that the best interests of the entire community are being addressed in the revitalization plan.”

## How to Recycle a Neighborhood



Neighborhood revitalization projects in Macon, Savannah and Columbus all share common goals of preserving the integrity of the physical neighborhood, working with community partners to economically complete these projects and building a sense of neighborhood and community pride in homeowners.

The Georgia Trust's NRI program works to help communities learn how they can achieve these goals.

“Reusing the existing infrastructure of intown neighborhoods is good for the local economy and it satisfies the need for more dense urban development, which is a critical component of smart growth,” said Beth Shorthouse, NRI manager. “It is the ultimate form of recycling!”

The Georgia Trust's goal for the program is to build capacity for neighborhood revitalization efforts at the citywide level. To do this, it is seeking community partners from around the state who will take on the leadership role of revitalization within their community with guidance and planning support from the Trust. The NRI committee is developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) from which it will select two or three pilot communities. To be considered, candidates must have 501(c)3 status or be agencies of a local government with a demonstrated capacity for fostering neighborhood development within the context of historic preservation. Neighborhoods must be on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

For more information on The Georgia Trust's NRI program, visit [www.georgiatrust.org/ga\\_neighbor.html](http://www.georgiatrust.org/ga_neighbor.html) or call 404-881-9980.

# AROUND THE HOUSES



## HAY HOUSE

### Macon Displays Secret Treasures

Explore a world of treasured antiques, secret gardens and historic homes May 3-5 for a "pilgrimage through time" in Macon. Hay House will host a tour of significant historic homes and their gardens and a tour of exceptional private residential gardens while the Museum of Arts and Sciences will showcase fine 18th- and 19th-century antiques at its premier antiques show and sale.

"This event offers visitors an extraordinary weekend of special activities in a city nationally recognized for its musical, historical and architectural heritage," said Suzanne Harper, director of Hay House.

Restful waterfalls, koi ponds, a backyard treehouse retreat and organic gardens planted for different seasonal looks and sun requirements are among the exhibits that await visitors on the 9th annual Secret Gardens tour to benefit Hay House. Master gardeners will be on hand at each tour site to answer questions. A plant sale will be

held as part of the tour, which will be located in the Devonwood area of north Macon.

Four of Macon's most outstanding historic homes and their gardens will be featured on a special tour in the Macon Historic District, which is listed on the National Register. A variety of architectural styles will be highlighted at these residences, two of which were designed by architect Neel Reid.

The Museum of Arts and Sciences Show and Sale will offer a spectacular array of fine antique furniture, art, ceramics, silver, jewelry and oriental rugs from more than 20 dealers from Europe and the United States. The exceptional quality of each object, strict adherence to dating and excellence in presentation will be the hallmark of this outstanding show and sale to benefit the Museum of Arts and Sciences.

Riverside Ford and Fickling and Company are presenting sponsors for the historic homes and secret gardens tours and WMAZ-TV and *The Macon Telegraph* are media sponsors for the weekend's events. A patron preview party for the historic homes and



Treasured antiques, historic homes and secret gardens will be on display May 3-5 for "A Pilgrimage Through Time."

secret gardens tours will be held May 3 at the home of Floyd and Carolyn Williams.

For ticket and tour information, contact Hay House at 478-742-8155.



## MCDANIEL-TICHENOR HOUSE

### Spring Brings Family Events

In collaboration with the Junior Service League of Monroe, the McDaniel-Tichenor House will host two functions that have become perennial

favorites in the community: an Easter Egg Hunt for children and a pet show featuring a wide array of local animals. Pet owners are invited to bring pets of all breeds, sizes and shapes to the Fifth Annual Intergalactic Pet Show Sunday, April 28. Prizes will be given to each pet based on its individual qualities. The Easter Egg Hunt will be held Saturday, March 30.

Dig through your attic or basement and bring your old Coca-Cola memorabilia, pottery and glass to the third of the McDaniel-Tichenor House's very popular "Collectors' Days" Sunday, April 7. Following the success of last fall's Collectors' Day, which attracted more than 100 guests, the spring event will feature experts who will appraise family treasures.

Please call 770-267-5602 for more information about these and other events at McDaniel-Tichenor House.



## RHODES HALL

### Mother's Day Tea and Kids' Camp

Show your mother or grandmother how much you care by taking her to an elegant tea at historic Rhodes Hall May 5, 3-5 p.m. Enjoy traditional English tea refreshments in the splendor of the restored décor of the Rhodes Hall parlor, the favorite room of Amanda Rhodes, wife of Rhodes Furniture Company founder Amos Rhodes. Planned activities include mother-daughter portraits taken by a professional photographer.

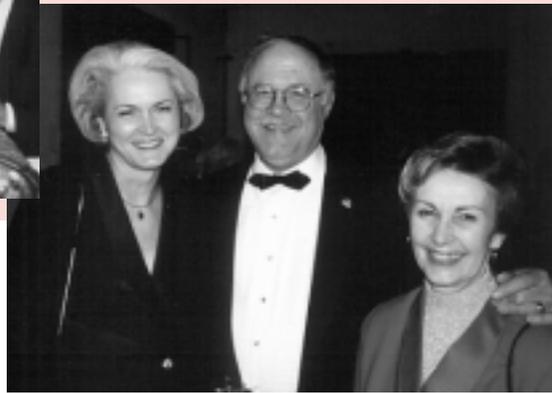
Attention parents! Mark your calendars for summer camp at Rhodes Hall every Tuesday in July from 10 a.m. to noon. Children ages 9 through 12 are invited to learn about life around 1900 and participate in activities such as making handboxes, flower bookmarks and books, learning herbal medicine, and listening to storytelling.

Call 404-885-7800 for more information about upcoming activities at Rhodes Hall.

# THE GEORGIA TRUST PHOTO GALLERY



**Dining in a Landmark:** This year's Landmark Dinner was held January 26 at Hay House, a National Historic Landmark and one of the Trust's three house museums. Pictured at left (L-R): **Carol and Huey Daigle** of Newnan dine with **Dr. Marion Kuntz** and guest in the ballroom of Hay House.



Pictured at left (L-R): **Bonnie and Hamp Dowling** of Macon visit with **Pat Edwards** of Barnesville, former Georgia Trust chair.

**It's Mardi Gras Time!** Rhodes Hall celebrated Fat Tuesday with the Krewe of Rhodes Mardi Gras Happy Hour. **Jungle Jim and the Swing Sets** played lively Cajun music for the 100 guests who enjoyed New Orleans-style hors d'oeuvres, Louisiana beer and hurricanes. Pictured at left (L-R): Krewe of Rhodes Co-Chairs **Lori Spear** and **Maria Baratta**. Pictured below: guests donned masks and beads to celebrate Mardi Gras.



**Rhodes Returns:** Furniture designers from **Rhodes Furniture Company**, started by Amos Rhodes in the 1870s, toured Rhodes Hall in December. The designers were treated to a special display of actual furniture sold by Rhodes at the end of the 19th century.

## DON'T FORGET!

**Georgia Trust Annual Meeting, April 19-21, LaGrange**

Tour private and public properties, attend the Preservation Awards presentation and enjoy the company of other preservation-minded people as we explore this historic town. For details, visit [www.georgiatrust.org](http://www.georgiatrust.org) or call 404-881-9980, ext. 3232 (Georgia Trust members will receive invitations in late March.)

## ATLANTA

### APC Finds New Home...and Preservation Project

The historic Grant Mansion has seen it all from its perch in Atlanta's Grant Park neighborhood. Since it was built in 1857, the mansion has withstood the Civil War, several fires, neglect, mistreatment and a rather eclectic string of occupants. The Grant Mansion's newest owner, however, is hoping to reverse the years of damage and turn the mansion into a hub of preservation activity.

The Atlanta Preservation Center recently purchased the Grant Mansion, one of only four antebellum houses in Atlanta, and plans to restore it as its new headquarters, preservation resource center and house museum. Today the house looks far different from the stately mansion originally built for Lemuel P. Grant, a railroad magnate, city builder and philanthropist who donated 100 acres to Atlanta for Grant Park in 1882. Its three porches have been stripped away and the entire second floor is gone, leaving rooms open to the sky on either side of the restored hallway entrance on the main floor. The Preservation Center plans to move into the existing liveable space and rebuild the second floor, porches and other missing parts of the house over the next several years.

"This was the last opportunity to save the Grant Mansion, and we did not want to miss it and have the property fall victim to the infill invasion that has characterized Atlanta's intown neighborhoods," said Boyd Coons, executive director of the Atlanta Preservation Center. "After 60 years of neglect and controversial treatment, it is our hope to give this unique resource what is necessary for its return as a major representative of Atlanta's history."

In addition to Mr. Grant, the house has ties to several other famous Atlantans. After Mr. Grant's death in 1893, his grandson and wife shared the home with Mr. and Mrs. Robert P. Jones, who gave birth to future world-famous golfer Robert Tyre "Bobby" Jones in the house in 1902. Later, Margaret Mitchell took an interest in the fate of the Grant Mansion and in 1941 she helped newspaperman Boyd Taylor buy the house with hopes of restoring it. When Mr. Taylor began removing porches and other historic elements, Ms. Mitchell sued him in 1947 but lost. Mr. Taylor lived in the house until his death in 1981, but by



An early photo of the **Grant Mansion** (above) shows the house before its porches and second story were removed (below).



then the house had badly deteriorated.

These days, the future is looking much brighter for the Grant Mansion. The Preservation Center has received strong support from its board members and other organizations, including Atlanta Landmarks, in raising the necessary funds to purchase the property. In 2003, the nonprofit organization will begin a fundraising campaign to complete the renovations, provide an endowment for the mansion's future and begin a revolving fund to assist in purchasing other endangered Atlanta buildings.

The Preservation Center moved from its former location, the Rufus M. Rose House in Midtown, into the Grant Mansion March 5. An open house celebration was planned for March 17 in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Bobby Jones and the kick-off of the Preservation Center's Grant Park walking tours.



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## THOMASVILLE

### Thomasville Reserves Hotel for Revitalization

Thomasville's picturesque Main Street has long been held up as a model for successful downtown revitalization. But the real driving force behind the preserved structures is a town full of preservation-minded people determined to save historic structures and a city government that supports these ideals. In a recent leap of faith, the Thomasville Downtown Development Authority (DDA) purchased a major portion of the massive, vacant Mitchell House Hotel building and plans to bring it back as a viable part of the community.

Built in the late 1800s, the Mitchell House Hotel was once one of several elegant establishments in Thomasville, then a popular winter resort town. For years, the hotel maintained a successful operation mainly through word-of-mouth. Over the years, as tourism declined, the building was divided up and used for other purposes—street-level retail, office space and even a department store. However, due to the building's size and magnitude, many floors were still unused

and fell into disrepair.

Concerned citizens of Thomasville had long speculated about the building and its potential for revitalization. With the support of the city council, the DDA purchased most of the old hotel less than one year ago.

Approximately one third of the massive structure is owned by Diane Williams Parker, who has been rehabilitating her portion of the building over the past few years.

"I just think it's great that the city has gotten involved," Ms. Parker said. "We're really excited about the building's future."

While the DDA has not reached a decision on what the building's future use will be, it is considering a variety of options. "In the beginning, we had grandiose ideas of restoring the



Over the years, the Mitchell House Hotel building has been subdivided and almost appears to be separate buildings.

hotel," said Sharlene Celaya, Main Street manager for Thomasville.

"Now we are more practical. We've had a dozen people—from the National Trust, HPD (the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources), The Georgia Trust, consultants and developers—come through here with suggestions for reuse."

*Continued on page 15*

## NORTH GEORGIA

### New Alliance Forms to Promote Preservation

Despite increasing growth and development in recent years, North Georgia remains a place of great beauty and a wealth of natural resources. Several preservation groups in the area have joined together to ensure that the area's historic resources will be protected and promoted as well. The North Georgia Preservation Alliance has formed to strengthen the effectiveness of historic preservation organizations in the area by advocating for quality growth through preservation of the region's historic downtown areas, landscapes, structures, artifacts and documents.

Representatives from organizations in Fulton, Cobb, Cherokee, Bartow, Pickens, Gilmer and Hall counties as well as from the Georgia Historical Society, The Georgia Trust and the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources attended the initial meeting, held in October at the Crescent Farm Historical Center in Canton. The group discussed topics such as

growth management, heritage education, cemetery preservation, tourism and membership. The group also plans to compile a 10 Most Endangered List for historic sites in the North Georgia region.

"Due to the unprecedented growth of North Georgia, many historic and natural resources are at risk," said Judson Roberts, past president of the Cherokee County Historical Society and a catalyst for forming the North Georgia Preservation Alliance. "Our mission is to empower historic preservation groups and historical societies to make them more effective in achieving missions of advocacy and education in North Georgia."

The second meeting of the North Georgia Preservation Alliance will take place April 22. If you or your organization is interested in attending, please call Judson Roberts at 770-345-3288. Visit the group's temporary website at [www.rockbarn.org/coalition](http://www.rockbarn.org/coalition) for general information about the alliance.

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## Hotel Revitalized

(continued from page 11)

Ms. Celaya said the most likely option will be a mixed-use development with offices, retail and apartments or condominiums. The project, which has been estimated between \$5 million and \$15 million, will be spearheaded by a committee of 20–25 people. The Thomasville DDA is currently exploring funding possibilities and plans to complete a marketing study to determine the best use for the property.

"It's been a dream for a lot of people over the years," said Ms. Celaya. "Had the town not voiced their concerns, it may have been forgotten."

One of those concerned citizens was Georgia Trust board member Mary Beverly, who chairs the Mitchell House Steering Committee and played an active role in securing the building for the city. "The successful renovation of this historic building is critical to the continuing viability of downtown Thomasville," Ms. Beverly said.

Meanwhile, Ms. Parker is continuing to rehabilitate her section of the building, which once housed her grandfather's department store. Together with residential designer and historic preservation consultant Charles Olson, she has restored the original mezzanine and emporium back to 1921 and they now house a restaurant and fabric store. Currently Ms. Parker and Mr. Olson are working to restore the façade of the building to the 1910s. The upper floors of her section will be tied into the city's renovation of the main structure.

"It's going to be a long haul and a complicated project," Ms. Celaya said. "But we just see such an opportunity for some sort of reclamation of the building."

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*These days, many of us are looking close to home for travel options. In this new column, which will run several times a year, let our traveling statewide staff tell some of their adventures and unique experiences, as we go...*

# On the Road Across Georgia

## Cruisin' Down Highway 41 ...

In my work at the Trust, I see my fair share of highways. But I guess I'm lucky because I love to drive, especially when I can cruise down any portion of **historic US Route 41**. From Catoosa County, where it enters North Georgia (southeast of Chattanooga), most of Georgia's alignment of "The Dixie Highway" runs perpendicular to its super-highway replacement, I-75. US 41 exits our state in Echols County, south of Valdosta, en-route to its final destination, Miami. Many designated "Main Street" communities are along US 41 including **Calhoun, Cartersville, Griffin and Valdosta**, to name a few. From north or south, take time to drive US 41 into **Macon** as a destination, staying on all of the "business" alignments as you go. You will be treated to great roadside architecture, old motor courts, historic bridges, and a guaranteed adventure on a familiar road you may have forgotten existed or a new way of traveling across Georgia—off the interstate!

*Paul Simo, Main Street Design Manager*

## Good Old Southern Hospitality

Recently I had the pleasure of taking road trips to **Plains** and **Augusta** to prepare for this summer's heritage education workshops. Oftentimes, the small southwestern town of Plains is overlooked for its larger neighbor, **Americus**. In fact, before I left, someone said to me, "there is no place to stay in Plains, you'll have to stay in Americus." While I love Americus, I decided to put this idea to the test. On my last trip down to the **Jimmy Carter National Historic Site**, I made it my mission to find somewhere to sleep in Plains...and I was successful! "**The Plains**" is a bed & breakfast inn located right in the heart of the town. Not only were fresh-roasted peanuts waiting for me when I arrived, but the next morning I was served a huge Southern breakfast. I felt right at home in the 'big pink house on the corner.' I had another wonderful experience in Augusta, where I stayed at the **Partridge Inn**, a beautiful old inn with a huge verandah and a rooftop deck that overlooks the historic downtown area. In fact, I never realized Augusta had so many hills until I saw the town from that angle! Augusta's downtown commercial district has a lot of great restaurants, including the **Blue Sky Kitchen**, where I stopped for lunch. Blue Sky has an eclectic menu and there is always a crowd. Also, the **Pizza Joint** serves up outstanding pizza in the coolest atmosphere—it is located in a former industrial building, so there are high ceilings and exposed ductwork. Just a tip—make plans to come to Augusta on the first weekend of the month. The downtown comes alive with **First Friday**, a "block party" where stores stay open late and the streets are filled with people!

*Jennifer Holcombe, Talking Walls Manager*



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