

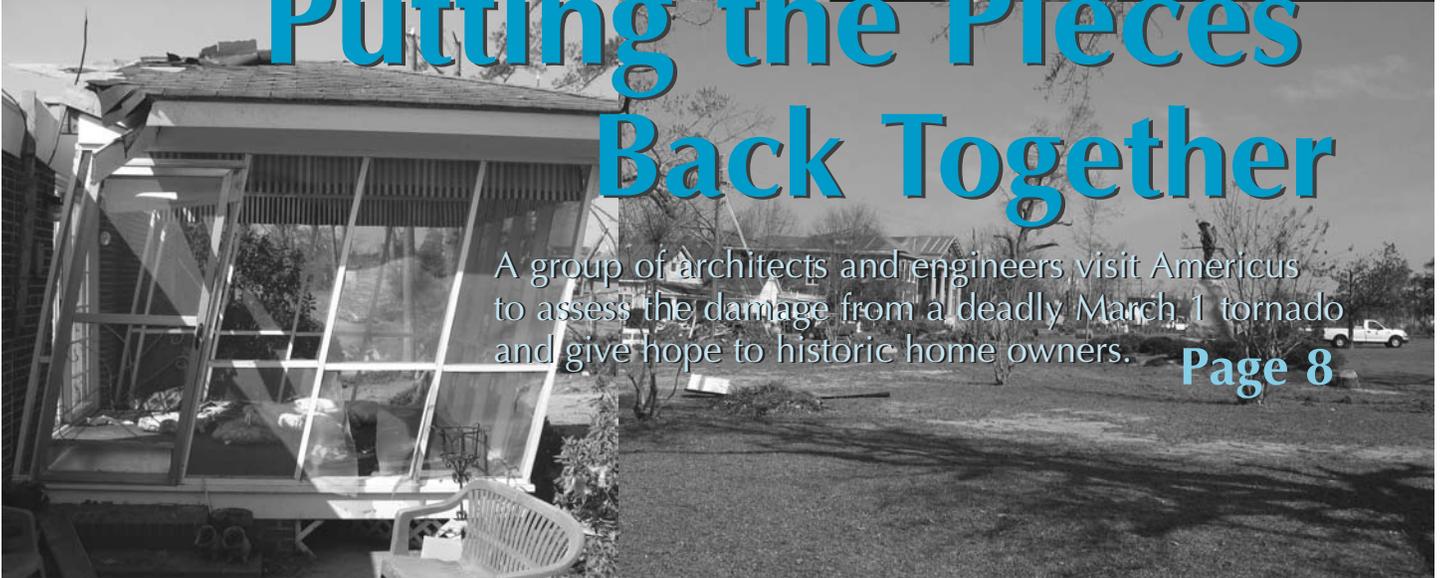
The Rambler



Putting the Pieces Back Together

A group of architects and engineers visit Americus to assess the damage from a deadly March 1 tornado and give hope to historic home owners.

Page 8



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The Rambler is a publication of The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, the country's largest statewide preservation organization. With the support of more than 8,000 members, the Trust works to protect and preserve Georgia's historic resources and diverse cultural heritage.

The Rambler seeks to increase public awareness and understanding of preservation's economic impact on community revitalization and quality of life by highlighting current challenges, recent success stories and how the Trust is active in Georgia's preservation efforts statewide.

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Preservation Helps Americus Recover

As recorded in our lead story, the tornado that struck Sumter County seemed to just drag across the landscape for the entire width of the county, without the typical bounce.

Other tornados damaged Pat and Dexter Jordan's house in Columbus, Hickory Hill of the Watson Brown Foundation in Thomson and numerous buildings in those and other communities around Georgia.

Our heartfelt sorrow for these communities and our instinct to help immediately was tempered by our past experience.

Dealing with human tragedy, finding places to stay, storm cleanup, sorting through precious belongings and trying to recuperate from a sense of shock are all immediate priorities. In this context, some understandably feel that historic preservation is fluff or dressing that is not germane to the key issues.

In our experience, however, nothing could be further from the truth. Those who are hit hard by disasters seek a feeling of well being, and preservation plays a key role in helping to efficiently and effectively bring back some sense of normalcy.

While preservation is not the most important issue and is by no means a panacea, it is nearly always a help in a time of crisis when historic buildings have been damaged.

And so former Georgian Nancy Tinker, now at the Southern Regional Office of the National Trust, offered to fund a grant to The Georgia Trust and organized a team of engineers and architects to aid the homeowners of Americus.

Arriving 11 days after the tornado seemed to be the right time. We went to Americus because it had the most damage to historic properties.

Fortunately the storm skirted the downtown, and the Windsor Hotel had only minor damage, as did one building across the street.

The adjoining residential historic district was not so fortunate. Thousands of trees had blown over in Sumter County. It is a tribute to the people of Sumter County and those who came to their aid that when the team arrived, all the trees that had toppled onto historic houses had already been removed.

Not a single fallen tree trunk in the historic district was left, just some debris piles that were rapidly being loaded and hauled by dump trucks working nonstop.

Damaged roofs were already temporarily covered with tarps—more than 100 of them—except those with roofs entirely blown off.

The badly damaged historic brick Rees school appears salvageable, but the mature landscapes in the residential district, at Rees Park and at Senator George Hooks project Oak Grove Cemetery are devastated.

In Americus, the team offered advice on technical issues so that home repairs would last longer as well as maintain the quality of the community. Historic buildings have distinct features, and the team was able to help in several

instances to ensure that repairs were in keeping with the house structure.

Nothing lends quite so strong a good feeling than the notion that despite the irreparable damage, much has been returned to the way it was. Historic preservation-focused building repair plays a key role in ensuring that repairs are completed in the least expensive and yet most effective manner.

One surprising lesson we learned is that there are no clear protocols for recovery disasters in historic districts. The Southeast office of FEMA has expressed interest in working with The Georgia Trust on a series of such protocols, which of course we would do in conjunction with many partners.

This experience along with that of Montezuma and others has given us a great desire to see such a set of protocols developed so others do not need to be reinventing the wheel when disasters strike. The building materials, conditions, insurance issues, local preservation commissions, tax incentives and other elements all call for a distinct set of protocols in historic areas.

With funding, the Trust would like to work on this as this partnership develops. The Trust is also interested in organizing a second team to return to Americus and continue helping residents, as well as assess the historic Rees school.

If you are interested in participating or would like to help the effort in another way, contact Gloria Tinsley at 404-885-7810 or gtinsley@georgiatruster.org.



Greg Paxton
President and CEO
The Georgia Trust
for Historic Preservation

AROUND THE HOUSES

RHODES HALL

Price Gilbert Jr. Charitable Fund Saves Rhodes Hall Ceiling, Walls

The International Fine Arts Conservation Studios (IFACS) has recently completed restoration of Rhodes



Hall history," said Rhodes Hall Director Laraine Lind. Mike Starr, Board Chairman at The Georgia Trust, agrees. "The Price Gilbert Charitable Fund has been a significant supporter of important projects at the Trust."



Repairs to Rhodes Hall's library ceiling are now complete.

Hall's decorative library ceiling and plaster and silk walls in the parlor, thanks to the generous support of the Price Gilbert Jr. Charitable Fund.

"Their donation of \$20,000 helped us save an important piece of Rhodes

In 2005, a portion of the library ceiling, comprising canvas on plaster, collapsed.

At that time, IFACS examined the damage, removed sections of exposed lath and checked the ceiling structure.

After reinstalling lath and applying three coats of traditional lime plaster to a quarter of the ceiling, the edges of torn canvas were temporarily secured to allow the plaster to cure. Then, the canvas was carefully reattached, the edges repaired and missing pieces of the decorative "clouds" expertly repainted.

The section of fallen canvas had been stored until the recent restoration.

"IFACS did a spectacular job," said Ms. Lind.

HAY HOUSE

Macon Gardens, Mansions & Moonlight May 4-6 to Benefit Hay House



of The Georgia Gardener's Guide and the recently revised Month-By-Month Gardening in Georgia.

Macon's own Mark Ballard, The Artist™, will showcase his creative genius on Friday and Saturday. Audience favorite Nick Maniatis of Grow-Mor Collection orchids will talk on exotic orchids at 2 p.m.

on Saturday.

Admission to all Garden Market seminars is complimentary, thanks to sponsors Cox Communications and Butler Automotive Group. Garden Market hours: Friday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.–6 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Cox Communications, The Telegraph, 13-WMAZ, Macon Magazine, and The 11th Hour are all providing promotional support. Macon Gardens, Mansions & Moonlight tickets include a Hay House tour.

Call Hay House for information on tours or tickets at 478-742-8155 or visit the website at www.hayhouse.org.

Macon will blossom May 4–6 for Hay House's annual Macon Gardens, Mansions & Moonlight event. Presented by Riverside Ford and Fickling & Co., the weekend's bouquet of activities includes three garden tours, seminars and a free Garden Market, where visitors can purchase garden plants, art, antiques, home furnishings and other domestic wares.

The renowned Secret Gardens Tours, presented by sponsor ACE Hardware, features private gardens in the historic Ingleside area. Tours are held all three days.

The romantic Moonlight Home and Garden Tour, sponsored by Chris R. Sheridan General Contractors, also in the Ingleside neighborhood, will take place in the evenings Friday, May 4, and Saturday, May 5.

The sixth annual Historic Homes Tour, sponsored by Zaxby's, features four houses in the InTown Macon neighborhood on Park Place and Appleton Avenue, with tours offered all three days.

In addition to garden tours, the popular Garden Market at Central City Park features specialty vendors selling flowering plants, herbs, shrubs, orchids, and many rare plant varieties, as well as unique home furnishings, garden art, antiques and décor. The free event is sponsored by Security Bank and Fairfield Financial.

Garden Market highlights include celebrated Georgia gardening experts Erica Glasener and Walter Reeves, co-authors



Mark Ballard's zany humor and creativity inspires his centerpieces.

Golden Isles, Brunswick Will Host Spring Ramble, Annual Meeting May 18–20

Picture yourself walking with history through some of the oldest structures in Georgia during the Spring Ramble and Annual Meeting to Brunswick and the Golden Isles in May! Jekyll, St. Simons, and Sea Islands, as well as the coastal city of Brunswick, have a unique historic and architectural past.

Since its founding in 1973, the Trust has been involved in Brunswick and the Golden Isles.

Seven former Trustees have been from the area, including Tom Stroud, Mimi Franklin, Martha Veal, Virginia Hay and the late Henry Green, and Frank McCall, who designed many fine houses on Sea Island.

“We last visited the region in 1996. Since then, many changes have occurred,” said Greg Paxton, President and CEO of the Trust.

“The Old Coast Guard Station on St. Simons was restored and has been transformed into a maritime museum. The historic Jekyll Island Club has taken on the appearance of a four-star resort, with pathways, interpretive signage and restoration of several cottages. The King & Prince on St. Simons has been completely rehabilitated. Last year, Brunswick’s Old City Hall received the prestigious Marguerite N. Williams award,” he added.

In fact, the area abounds with Preservation prize-winning properties; the Trust has recognized the Sea Island Company and 14 other projects in the Golden Isles with awards.

A national Institute of Museum Services award to Coastal Georgia Historical Society recognized the Talking Walls program, designed to help teachers bring history home to their communities through use of local historic resources.

Everyone participating in this Ramble and Annual Meeting will discover that the more than 300 years of history suffusing through this area will make this one of our finest Rambles to date.

The first European settlers landed on Georgia’s coast in the mid-sixteenth

century. By 1667, three Spanish missions occupied St. Simons Island.

The English claimed this territory with the first permanent English settlement on St. Simons in 1736, two years after the founding of Savannah.

Led by James Edward Oglethorpe, the settlement included the fortified town of Frederica on the north end of St. Simons Island as well as fortifications on Jekyll Island and Cumberland Island which were designed to avert Spanish invasion.

The Spanish, by this time well-established in St. Augustine, Florida, tried to lay claim to these islands again in 1742, but ultimately withdrew after the Battle of Bloody Marsh on St. Simons.

In 1789, George Washington proclaimed Brunswick one of the five original ports of entry for the Colonies, and the cotton plantation era provided economic prosperity for plantation owners.

The Civil War and the abolishment of slavery, however, left Brunswick and the Golden Isles destitute.

During Reconstruction, the early days of the resort industry began. The Jekyll Island Club opened in 1888, and by the 1920s, prosperity returned as



The Romanesque Old City Hall in Brunswick, built in 1889, was damaged by a fire in 1970s. The City of Brunswick received the Trust’s Marguerite N. Williams award in 2004.

Georgia’s coast became a playground for America’s industrialists.

The Cloister on Sea Island opened its doors in 1928 and the King and Prince on St. Simons Island opened as a private



After their ships were torpedoed by a German submarine in 1942, surviving merchant marines were taken to the old Coast Guard center, now a maritime museum operated by the Coastal Georgia Historical Society.

club in 1935.

Today, Brunswick and the Golden Isles are undergoing rapidly advancing development and simultaneously, a renewed commitment to preservation.

Weekend highlights:

■ Faith Chapel

This 1904 Gothic cedar chapel features exquisite stained glass windows. Many members of the Jekyll Island Club attended during their turn-of-the-century visits.

■ Christ Church

Built in 1820, this is the site of the advent of Methodism by John and Charles Wesley.

■ Historic Downtown Brunswick

Old Town Brunswick's Historic District, the second largest small town urban district in Georgia, offers streets

lined with turn-of-the-century homes, the campus of Glynn Academy and an eclectic mix of architecture.

■ St. Simons Island Lighthouse Museum

Built in 1872, the lighthouse is open to the public year round and maintained by the Coastal Georgia Historical Society.

■ Maritime Center at the Old Coast Guard Station

Built in 1937 on St. Simons Island, the Station is now a waterfront historic museum.

The Friday Ramble on St. Simons Island is followed by the Heritage Reception at the home of Ann Boardman on Sea Island and dinner at The Maritime Center on St. Simons.

Saturday morning, the Annual Meeting will be at Brunswick's Ritz Theatre, followed by an afternoon Ramble to 11 sites in Old Town Brunswick and Windsor Park.

Saturday evening's reception and dinner at the Jekyll Island Inn, with private tours of the Jekyll Island Landmark District or "Millionaire Village."

St. Simons Island's King & Prince hosts Sunday brunch. The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation thanks partners Coastal Georgia Historical Society, Brunswick



On the site of the 1820 Christ Church of St. Simons, Charles Wesley and his brother John, who later founded Methodism, preached.



Fort Frederica, the most expensive fort in its time, helped James Oglethorpe defeat a superior Spanish force in 1740, due to its location at a bend in the river.

Landmarks Foundation, Inc., and the Museum & Historic Preservation Division, Jekyll Island Authority, co-sponsors of this event.

Contact the Trust at 404-885-7805 or membership@georgiitrust.org with questions or to register.

Visit www.georgiitrust.org and click the link under What's New for hotels and information, or to register. Be sure to mention the Trust when making your reservation.

PHOTO GALLERY



The 23rd annual Preservation Ball, held Jan. 20, 2007, at the Atlanta History Center, featured blackjack, craps and roulette tables. Attendees gambled for preservation with play money and chips.

From top left: 2007 Preservation Ball Chairs **Sissy & David Perdue** and Honorary Chairs **Margaret & Rhodes Perdue** showed more than 200 enthusiastic partygoers a wonderful time at An Evening at Monte Carlo.



While it has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places since 1974, the location of one of the oldest historic sites in Georgia remains a well-guarded secret.

Spanning the Flint River and bridging into both Clayton and Fayette counties, what the Register calls “Orkin Early Quartz Site with prehistoric significance” is an ancient Muscogee stone fish trap that some kayak aficionados would like to see torn down.

About 2,500 years ago, a group gathered at the river to piece together a white quartz and flint masterpiece of simplicity that provided the tribe with a bounty of easily captured fish.

They selected a high-banked spot in the river where a stone dam, or weir, could collect rising waters, and piled the rocks into a curved wall that

Secrecy Protects Prehistoric Fishing Site

stretched from what is now the Clayton riverbank to the Fayette side, leaving an opening part way down the wall for a small amount of water to flow through.

Based on what is known about more modern fish weirs, the tribe’s women and children most likely went upriver to beat the surface with branches, churning confusion that sent panicked fish tumbling toward the stone wall and through the small opening.

As the fish spilled through, fishermen on the other side of the wall scooped them up by the basketful.

The importance of the fish trap was brought to light in 1971 via an archaeological dig conducted by UGA’s Department of Archaeology and inspired by Lucy Huie and Gail Notti of Historical Jonesboro.

“I first learned of this weir from the grandson of an Indian trader in the early 1970s,” said Lucy Huie.

According to Clayton County historian Ted Key, an active member of Historical Jonesboro, “Capturing fish with weirs was a common practice by native people of that period. Not many of this type of weir are left in Georgia rivers.”

While some of the weirs simply suffered time’s rav-

ages, others were likely dismantled over the centuries, to facilitate boating.

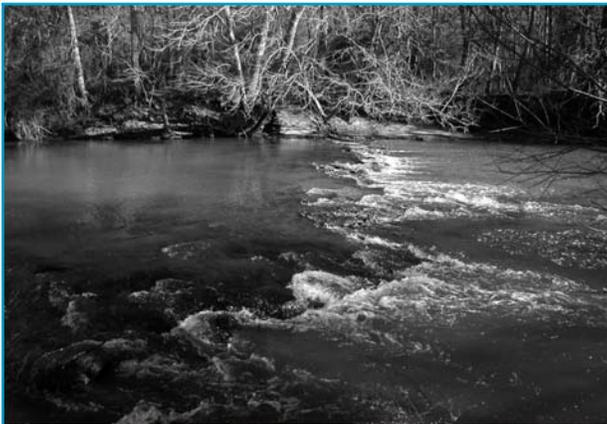
In an effort to save this ancient weir from a similar fate, archaeologists, local historians and preservationists banded together to get the site listed in the Register. While listing ensures some protection, keeping the location secret provides additional safety against vandalism or dismantling by boaters who don’t care about the weir’s status.

A plan to create a Heritage Trail linking the fish weir site to other Clayton County heritage sites, and with tie-ins to adjoining counties’ trail systems, is being studied by Clayton County’s Greenspace Program.

“We are developing a master plan that will fully address the future recreational needs of our citizens. The construction of a countywide trail system will be expensive, but having a comprehensive master plan will assist us in attaining the funds needed,” said Nathan Parrott, Greenspace Program coordinator.

The heritage trail project is a way to simultaneously protect the fish weir and bring its location to public attention and use.

“We are eager to preserve the weir and incorporate it into the southern trailhead of the Heritage Trail, which the Greenspace board is planning for Clayton County’s citizens,” said Clayton County Commissioners Chairman Eldrin Bell.



Ripples indicate the presence of the 2,500 year old stone weir once used to trap fish in the Flint River.

HENRY COUNTY

Nash Farm in Lovejoy has been the site of more than one battle. Henry County, the victor of the most recent fray, is not only preserving the important civil war site for posterity but making the property available for a thorough archaeological assessment.

The 204 acre parcel packs a powerful historic punch.

A Confederate encampment for at least four distinct groups and the site of several battles, including the Battle of Lovejoy’s Station, Kilpatrick’s Union Cavalry Raid, and the final military action in the Battle of Jonesboro, nearly became a subdivision of 399 new homes.

In an ironic twist, it was the developer’s own legal counsel who accidentally brought the site’s importance to the attention of Henry County commissioners during his request for rezoning in a letter to commissioner B.J. Mathis, who represents the area. Commissioners denied the rezoning request in 2005.

Eminent Domain Saves Site for Archaeological Assessment

Henry County approached the developer to purchase the land for an historic park, but the two could not agree on price.

Due to the rich Civil War history on the site, Henry County decided to condemn it using eminent domain. After paying \$8 million, the property was turned over to Henry County and became Nash Farm Battlefield.

Dr. Daniel Elliott, president of the Lower Appalachian Mississippian Archaeological Research Institute of Savannah (LAMAR Institute) was hired to perform an archaeological assessment. The discovery phase has just been completed.

“Cavalry battles finish quickly, as opposed to infantry battles where troops are entrenched for days or weeks,” Dr. Elliott said.

“Kilpatrick’s Union Cavalry charge on Aug. 20, 1864, was a frantic dash by 4,700 horsemen to escape the Confederates.

Restoration of the Edward Peters House, designed by noted architect Gottfried L. Normann for the son of Atlanta's first tycoon hailed by many as the "father of Atlanta," is about to get underway.

The Savannah College of Art & Design (SCAD) has recently taken ownership of the post-civil war mansion.

Surrounded by 3.3 wooded acres, the 1883 Peter's House is one of the oldest representatives of the Queen Anne style in the South.

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1972, and given Atlanta Landmark Building status by the Atlanta Urban Design Commission in 1989, the rehabilitated building will retake its original name, Ivy Hall.

It will serve as an arts and writing center, with some events open to the public.

The Mansion Restaurant occupied Peters House from 1971 until a fire in the late 1990s closed it down and the building fell into disrepair.

Early attempts by then-owner William Swearingen to sell to a developer were stymied by the home's Landmark status.

"The Trust, along with Atlanta

Peters House Restoration to Begin



Peters House in midtown Atlanta will be renamed Ivy Hall when it become a cultural arts and writing center for the Savannah College of Art and Design after restoration is completed.

Preservation Center and the Trust for Public Land, searched for a buyer who would retain the historic integrity," said Greg Paxton, President and CEO of The Georgia Trust.

As a result of a lawsuit Swearingen brought against the city of Atlanta, a judgment protected the house itself but allowed development of the land.

The gift, applauded by the Trust and other preservation groups, was contingent upon receipt of a permit to develop the acreage.

In spring of 2005, the Trust engaged Gene Surber, FAIA and recipient of the Trust's prestigious Mary Gregory Jewett Award, as well as Ed Daugherty, FASLA, to work with Swearingen to

create a plan to subdivide the property so that subsequent construction would not detract from the historic building.

Shortly after, Swearingen sold paring lots on the edge of the property to a developer and donated most of the block and the Peters House to SCAD, a move initiated by Sr. Vice President of College Resources Glenn Wallace.

The solution has proved to be creative on more than one level.

SCAD, which offers undergraduate and graduate programs in historic preservation, will find many teachable moments during the restoration, which will be partly undertaken by students.

In all, the project is expected to cost \$2.2 million.

The college has created numerous "living labs" where preservation students can directly experience restoration work.

Among the more than 45 rehabilitation projects SCAD has undertaken in Savannah are the restorations of four other Normann-designed buildings. They include the 1892 Henry Street School, the 1895 Anderson Street School, the 1906 Bernard Street School and the 1895 Citizens Bank.

It was over in 15 minutes at a cost of 750 human lives," he added.

The successful escape of Kilpatrick's troops and the outcome of the battle of Lovejoy Station the following month in part on the same site, allowed Major General Sherman to secure his hold on Atlanta and mount his march to the sea.

Over 100 relics, including ammunition, bridle rings, horseshoes, bombshells, swords, and pocket knives were unearthed in the first 45 minutes of the LAMAR excavation.

"Nash Farm is one of the few sites where a Cavalry engagement has been discovered and documented archaeologically. It's a nearly pristine landscape that can be restored to August, 1864, the definitive battlefield park for the second half of Sherman's Atlanta Campaign" Dr. Elliott said.

In all, over 1,000 artifacts were discovered and catalogued, and their points of discovery marked.

"Henry County has done a wonderful service to the past and the future in preserving this site," said Greg Paxton, President and CEO of the The Georgia Trust.



The site of numerous Civil War battles, Nash Farm Battlefield has recently undergone a thorough archaeological survey which catalogued 1,000 historic items .

Putting the Pieces Back Together

On March 12, a group of architects and engineers visited Americus to assess the damage from a deadly March 1 tornado and give hope to historic home owners.



All photos by Evan Thibeault

On the night of March 1, a Category F3 tornado ripped through Sumter county in Southwest Georgia. It cut through the heart of Americus's historic district, destroying Sumter Regional Hospital, most of its doctor's offices and the Salvation Army and Red Cross headquarters, as well as damaging more than 100 historic homes.

In its wake, the storm also left hundreds of homeowners frightened and unsure about if they could save their beloved historic homes, and if so, how.

Local and national preservation groups quickly swung into action in the aftermath. The Georgia Trust partnered with the National Trust, the Department of Natural Resources Historic Preservation Division and the Department of Community Affairs to organize a building assessment team, which would travel to Americus to tour the damage and provide repair and restoration guidance to property owners.



Homes such as this one throughout Sumter County were damaged by the tornado. Many were damaged from falling trees.

“Our goal by helping assemble this team was to help homeowners and building owners quickly and effectively make repairs and return to some sense of normalcy,” said Greg Paxton, President & CEO of The Georgia Trust.

The building assessment team was funded in part by a \$4,000 grant from the National Trust to The Georgia Trust. The team, which included Laura Moore and Teresa Hartle of Tucker-based Willett Engineering, architect David Steele from Atlanta-based OJP/Architect, Americus Historic Preservation Commission chair Kent Sole, and his co-chair and Americus architect Meda Krenson, toured the damaged areas March 12 through March 14.

Over the three-day period, the architecture and engineering team, with help from the Trust's Main Street Design Assistance Program Manager Evan Thibeault, went house to house, giving specific advice to more than three dozen homeowners and their contractors.

“We were crawling down under houses and up into attics,” recalls Krenson.

“It was unreal to see so many trees uprooted and so many homes damaged in such a concentrated area,” said the Trust's Thibeault. “But because of that, we were able to provide information and assistance to so many people. They really appreciated us stopping by in person and taking a look at their homes.”

Because a lot of the damage was concentrated around the historic Rees Park, the team began there and followed a map of damaged homes already developed by Regional Preservation Planner Sevanne Steiner.

“We went over to Rees Park and just started from house to house to house,” Krenson said. “All the homeowners were there because they were all going through their belongings, so it just worked out real well.”

“Laura and David and Teresa, everyone did a great job,” she adds. “They were so patient with these people. They were just so comforting.”

The Georgia Trust also organized a workshop and public

meeting that included representatives from FEMA and National Trust-affiliated insurance agent Genny Dill, who offered advice on dealing with losses in historic properties. The State Historic Preservation Division also discussed some of the tax incentives available for repair work.

The meeting was standing room only, with about 100 people in attendance.

“[The team’s visit] reinforced the fact that this is the historic fabric of the community,” said Jo Childers, DCA Downtown Programs Advisor, who also lives in Americus. “Since there was so much damage, to be able to have some experts come in, especially the structural engineers, who give appropriate advice was so helpful.”

According to Richard Cloues, deputy state historic preservation officer and Survey & Register unit manager for HPD, historic houses with extensive damage were clustered in three areas: a block along South Lee Street at the south end of the historic district, a block around all sides of Rees Park on the east side of the historic district, and a block along East Church Street near the cemetery.

“Many large trees throughout the historic district, in a swath running from southwest to northeast, had been blown down or stripped of branches,” he noted. “This single factor alone has dramatically changed the appearance of the historic district.”

Most of the damage in the historic district was as a result of



A team member leans against one of the hundreds of irreplaceable century-old trees upturned during the tornado.

downed trees, many of them as old as the houses surrounding them. Storm winds also are held accountable for the minor roof surface damage. Out of the more than 100 damaged buildings in the area, only a dozen lost their roofs.

“The oldest house on Rees Park had the roof completely torn off,” Krenson said. “It took the roof off and the chimneys down to the top of the walls. If it hadn’t been for the chimneys, I think the whole house would have gone.” The roof has since been repaired and the chimneys put back up.

“Most of the work that we saw being done by property owners appeared to be appropriate,” said Cloues. “There seems to be a prevailing sentiment to save whatever can be saved.”

The team did encounter a group of contractors that were inadvertently damaging a home while trying to repair the roof.



The architectural assessment team spent three days in Americus assessing the damage from the tornado on the historic homes in the area. More than 100 historic homes were damaged from the March 1 tornado.

Unbeknownst to the contractors, the house underwent an earlier rehabilitation that removed a wall between the entry foyer and the living room and replaced it with steel rods hanging from the attic for support.

“What they were doing was adding more stress onto the building,” Krenson said. “They were causing more plaster to crack downstairs.”

Such instances are why the team was originally assembled. The group not only helped homeowners assess the damage, but also gave guidance on the best way to repair the houses without further damaging the existing historic fabric of the structure.

“Because of us going around, we were able to tell them about the proper mortar mix, things like that,” said Krenson, who also encouraged home owners to save and reuse historic bricks knocked off chimneys and walls from the storm. “People don’t know about that stuff. They’re desperate to get things repaired so they’ll just take anything.”

For many, what looked like severe, irreversible damage was not as bad as it first seemed.

“In some cases, things were worse than people thought,

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but in the majority of cases, things were not as bad as they thought,” Krenson said. “The team was able to reassure them and give them some guidance on what to tell their contractor or insurance company.”

One such incident involved a house with a leaning porch.

“There was one lady who thought the foundation had been knocked out from under her house. They crawled under there and told her it was just the porch foundation that had been knocked out,” Krenson recalls. “The main body of the house was OK, but you really couldn’t tell unless you crawled down under to see.”

The Georgia Trust family and friends did not escape unscathed. Trust members Martha Dykes and Angie (Mrs. Thomas) Marshall’s homes were damaged by fallen trees, as was Trustee Jim Gatewood’s 1850s cottage. Most of the mature landscaping around his property was also destroyed.

Tornado Wreaks Havoc Across Town

Residential homes weren’t the only historic properties damaged by the storm.

Rees school, at one end of the park, was slated for SPLOST-funded rehabilitation. During the tornado, it lost the roof to its gymnasium and part of its back wall. Thankfully, however, the structure has been deemed salvageable.

In downtown Americus, several structures received minor damage, including three storefronts and the Windsor Hotel.

Once the tornado left the historic residential district, it cut a large swath through historic Oak Grove Cemetery, which received a Georgia Preservation Award for Excellence in Rehabilitation in 2004. The nearly 200-year-old cemetery includes more than 360 gravesites dating back to 1856.

During the award-winning rehabilitation, volunteers had scoured the ground with metal detectors to dig up pieces of fence buried for years, some with trees and roots growing through them. The pieces were then identified and numbered, then reassembled and welded together around the gravesites.

Many of those wrought iron fences so painstakingly repaired just a few years ago crashed to the ground, felled by



Americus Historic Preservation Commission chair Kent Sole shows damage to his property to Meda Krenson during the assessment team’s visit in March. Despite such severe damaged to his own home, Kent volunteered to help the grant-funded team assess other damaged historic homes in the area.

trees or toppled monuments. Twenty-six fences were damaged in all, some extensively.

More than 100 trees, some as old as the cemetery itself, were uprooted or toppled, including red cedars, magnolias and red oaks.

Nearly 130 monuments were damaged, some severely. Many monuments had simply been resting on marble slabs, the binding agent long eroded. When the 165-mile-an-hour winds roared through, dozens simply fell over.

Luckily, that means many of them can be repaired. The Chicora Foundation has already visited the cemetery, and are currently developing an assessment of the damage and what it will take to start restoring the cemetery once again.

Two well-known arborists have also visited the site to assess the damage to the historic landscape. Senator George Hooks, who was instrumental in the cemetery’s rehabilitation, hopes that a recent request to UGA’s School of Environmental Design will result in students developing a master plan for the cemetery this summer.

Senator Hooks is doing his best to help along the way, encouraging others to donate funds to the cause.

Looking Forward

Senator Hooks, along with Americus native Anne Sheffield Hale, are among the many who continue to help Americus restore its historic character and landscape.

Most of the fallen trees have been removed and roofs replaced, but still, much recovery remains.

“It’s calmed down a lot,” notes Krenson. “The big chain-saws and dumptrucks and helicopters have sort of quieted down. But it’s still pretty rough, especially out Hwy. 19, which is beyond the hospital.”



The original Sumter County hospital also suffered some damage during the tornado, though not nearly severe as the current one.

GEORGIA TRUST REVOLVING FUND FOR ENDANGERED PROPERTIES FOR SALE



BAGWELL-LITTLE HOUSE
Carnesville, c. 1810. Federal house on 1.75 acres, just off the square. Original interior details, faux painted panels, graining on doors & wainscoting. Perfect for shops, offices or restaurant. New systems, roof, siding. Interior painted surfaces need restoration. Contact \$199,000. Frank White, 404-885-7807.



HARMONY CHURCH
Senoia, c. 1986. 1.5 pastoral acres. 14' ceilings, heart pine floors, walls & ceilings. Rehabilitated to 2BR/2.5 BA residence that was recently featured on HGTV. Library wall w/rolling ladder, big kitchen & gathering room. Carriage house could have apartment. \$325,000. Contact Frank White, 404-885-7807.



STOVALL HOUSE
Satee, c. 1837. Built by Moses Harshaw. National Register-listed house operated as a Bed & Breakfast as well as a restaurant for more than 20 years. On 28 acres of rolling green hills; ideal for a vineyard or continued use as a small inn or restaurant. \$2,500,000. Contact Frank White at 404-885-7807.



GACHET HOUSE
Barnesville, c. 1825. Plantation Plain home built by Benjamin Gachet. The 2,700-sq.-ft. 4 bedroom, 2.5 bath house has a central hall plan & retains original Federal mantels, staircase, heart pine floors & mouldings. On 2.5 acres w/63 additional acres avail. \$385,000. Contact Frank White at 404-885-7807.



COWEN FARMSTEAD
Acworth, c. 1854. Plantation Plain house on .6 acre makes ideal commercial or office space. For more information on this property, contact Frank White at 404-885-7807.



E.M. ROGERS HOUSE
Adel, c. 1907. This Queen Anne cottage features 14' ceilings, heart pine floors & hipped roof. The 2,000-sq. ft. house also contains 6 fireplaces, 7 rooms & 2 full baths. The surrounding .5 acre property includes 3 outbuildings. \$110,000. Contact Frank White, 404-885-7807.

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(List Period: Dec. 2, 2006-Feb. 28, 2007)

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First, upgrading members will be bumped an additional level. For example, a \$225 level member renewing at \$450 is enrolled at the \$1,000 level for one year.

Or members making an incremental increase will have that amount matched dollar-for-dollar.

"Board of Trustees Vice Chair Clay Boardman has given members two powerful ways to increase their giving. The Boardman Challenge will allow us to expand the Trust's reach in reclaiming, restoring, and revitalizing Georgia's historic resources, and we are grateful," said President & CEO Greg Paxton.

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Once it's gone. it's gone forever



AMERICUS, c. 1880s. Three bedroom, three bath in the Historic District, convenient to everything. Lots of character—heart-pine floors, six fireplaces, nicely updated kitchen. Master bathroom & closet currently being renovated. Pretty backyard with walled-in patio & fountain. Contact Charles Crisp, Southern Land & Realty, 229-924-0189. \$139,000. For information & interior photos please visit www.southernlandandrealty.com



ATHENS, c. 1890. Charming renovated four bedroom, three & a half bath Queen Anne cottage in the Boulevard Historic District features heart pine floors, walnut paneled library, grand sunroom, gourmet kitchen, huge Master suite & much more. Separate one bedroom cottage & studio. Fantastic period details throughout. \$620,000. Diane Adams, Prudential Blanton Properties, 706-613-6040 or 706-255-9200. Visit prudentialblanton.com for additional pictures.



ATHENS c. 1910. Morton-Cooley Home. Craftsman style blocks from UGA in Athens's popular 5-Points. Completely and accurately restored with period lighting and hardware. Five bedrooms, three & one-half bathrooms. 4,700 sq. ft. plus basement. \$1,250,000. Contact Louise Hyers, 706-296-8664 or Mike Geyer, 706-202-1660. Coldwell Banker 706-543-4000. Many additional pictures at: www.jjcooley.com.



ATLANTA, c. 1896. Stonehurst, on Midtown's largest residential (triple) lot, near Piedmont Park. Currently a Bed & Breakfast. Main house & two cottages totalling seven bedrooms, five baths. Two porches, music room w/original inglenook & leaded glass windows, banquet-sized dining, renovated eat-in kitchen. 11' ceilings, off-street parking. \$1,800,000. Contact Alan Hanratty 404-876-0000. RE/MAX Greater Atlanta. www.showing247.com/stonehurst.



BAINBRIDGE c. 1903. Originally built as the Fordham Hotel in downtown Bainbridge. Approximately 10,000 square feet on three floors located in the Central Business District. Perfect for mixed-use development. Artist's renderings are available by email. For information concerning this property such as price & condition, please contact Amanda Glover, 229-248-2000 or aglover@bainbridgecity.com.



COVINGTON, c. 1833. Register-listed Greek Revival, museum quality restoration. Whitehall offers eight bedrooms, six baths, multiple parlors, 11 fireplaces, banquet-sized dining room, 12' ceilings, mahogany study, grand stairs, modern kitchen & baths, 3.5 manicured acres, pool, putting green, two gazebos, two sunrooms. Stroll to town square. Possible B&B. \$1,495,000. Harry Norman Realtors. Jeffrey Masarek, Lee Meadows, 404-314-1104 or 404-583-2525. http://www.m2-realty.com/our_new_listings.php.



COVINGTON, c. 1855. The Cottage, meticulously restored four bedroom, three-and-a-half baths in Covington's Historic District. 13' ceilings, wide center hall, seven fireplaces, heartpine floors & more original features. Abundant kitchen offers modern amenities and blends. Landscaped acre surrounded by pierced brick wall. Four car garage, pea gravel courtyard. \$890,000. Jeff Masarek, Lee Meadows at 404-583-2525 or 404-314-1104. Interior photos at www.m2-realty.com. Harry Norman Realtors.



FLOWERY BRANCH, c. 1860. Lake Lanier dog trot heart pine log home on wooded lake lot. Lovingly restored in 1990. One-and-a-half story home 1936 sq. ft. with two brick fireplaces, 3BR/2BA, living room, kitchen, dining area. Small front porch and 45-ft. back porch both with lake views 650 sq. ft. Two-level dock on year-round deep water only an hour from Atlanta. \$469,000. Joy Vannerson, 770-540-2764 or email jvannerson@mindspring.com.



LAGRANGE c. 1915. Beautifully restored older home on tree-lined street. Features include hardwood floors, seven fireplaces with handsome mantels, high ceilings, elegant kitchen with granite countertops, new roof, in-ground pool with pool house, attic storage. \$497,000. Contact Jenny Copeland at J. Copeland Realty 706-402-4084. For further information please visit www.jcopelandrealty.com.



LAGRANGE c. 1833. The epitome of the Greek Revival style, this exquisitely restored home is among the finest examples of its type in Georgia. Features heart pine Ionic columns, a cantilevered balcony, beautiful mantels, heartpine floors & so much more. Situated on 12 beautifully landscaped acres, this property has over 300 mature boxwoods. A unique, exquisite property. \$1,500,000. Jenny Copeland, J. Copeland Realty. 706-402-4084. Visit www.jcopelandrealty.com for pics.



LAGRANGE c. 1840. Gracious Greek Revival with beautiful Doric Columns & cantilevered balcony is situated on a spacious two acre lot in elite area of LaGrange. This lovely home offers a formal living room, dining room, music room, den, five bedrooms & three baths. \$750,000. Contact Jenny Copeland at J. Copeland Realty 706-402-4084, visit www.jcopelandrealty.com.



MARIETTA c. 1888. Wonderful historic home in the heart of Marietta. High ceilings, hardwood under carpet, two fireplaces, Formal wide entry, formal parlor, dining room, eat in kitchen, four bedrooms, one bath. Interesting architectural details: curved hallwall, mouldings, doors & waved window glass. Attic, screen porch. Deep 160' city lot. \$269,900. RealtyBiz, Inc. Broker, Liz Helenek 770-855-4420 or 404-805-5729 or visit www.realtybizonline.com for interior photos.



NEWMAN, c. 1854. Five-bedroom, three-and-a-half bath Greek Revival on three acres in College Temple Historic District. Spacious floorplan, high ceilings, original heart pine floors & period details. Master suite on main floor. Formal living & dining, eat-in kitchen, library, sitting room. Four large bedrooms & two bath, plus two large additional rooms on 3rd floor. Walk to downtown. \$825,000. 770-304-3301, or email thedenthouse@gmail.com.



QUITMAN, c. 1860. Harris-Ramsey-Norris House, a charming Greek Revival cottage with Gothic-pitched roof, features original heartpine flooring, 9" plank walls/ceilings, four fireplaces, & restored carriage house. Approx. 1400 sq. ft., new electrical, plumbing, central heat & air. \$159,000. Contact Tim Reisenwitz, 229-605-9881. Visit http://www.historicproperties.com/detail.asp?detail_key=sequio02 for interior photos & further information.



THOMASVILLE c. 1884. Paxton House Bed & Breakfast. Recipient of state & local preservation awards as well as the coveted AAA Four Diamond Award. The Inn has four buildings: the Main House (completely restored), Carriage House, Pool House & Garden Cottage. Perfect turn-key operation or family residence. \$2,500,000. Contact Julie Bryan, RE/MAX of Thomasville, 229-403-9990 or 229-226-3911. Visit www.southgahomes.com for interior pics.



THOMSON, c. 1795. Listed in the Register. Neoclassic home features approx. 3,000 sq. ft. It offers four bedrooms, two baths, beautiful parlor, large, gorgeous dining room, keeping and living rooms, custom paneled library. Seven fireplaces & owner's suite on main. Spectacular garden areas with pavilion, brick paths & arbor, sun porch, two cottages. Many other custom features. \$298,000. Contact Gardelle Lewis, Jr. at 706-736-3375 or visit www.gardellelewis.com.



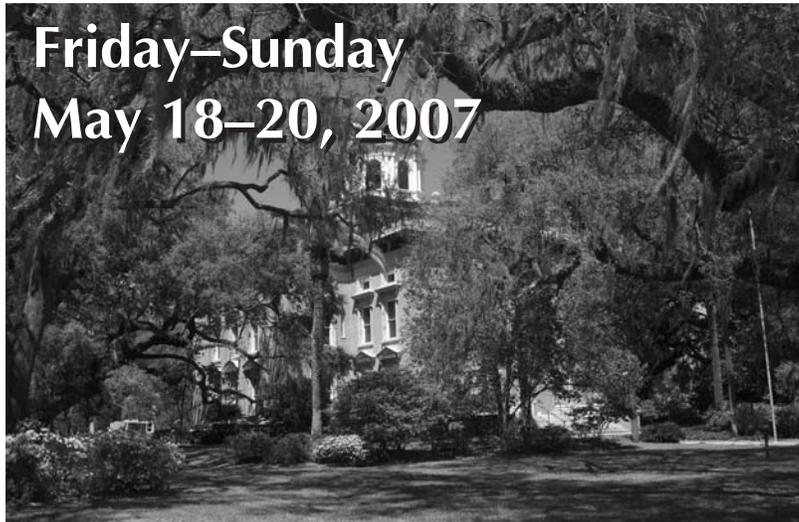
TYBEE ISLAND, c. 1895/1910. Just East of Savannah. Coastal cottage loaded with charm. This three bedroom, two & a half bath historic island home features a center hall, pocket windows, high ceilings, hardwood floors & magnificent front porch overlooking a lovely park. Just a brief, relaxing stroll to the beach! \$599,000. Contact owner/ broker Pamela Lossing, Metro Properties at 912-232-9011, or metroproperties@bellsouth.net.



WAYNESBORO, c. 1827-1837. Registered in the local Historic District with a National Register application pending, this house is the oldest home in town. Federal design, heart pine floors, four bedrooms, three baths, approximately 3,312 sq. ft. on .58 acres. For further information contact Gardelle Lewis, Jr. at 706-736-3375 or visit www.gardellelewis.com.

Walk with History

**Friday–Sunday
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Ramble Brunswick and the Golden Isles with members and friends of The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation.

Get a glimpse of the area's history as never before. Visit private homes not open to the public. See restored, award-winning historic buildings. Enjoy fine dining with fellow preservationists.

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*The Georgia Trust thanks the Georgia Tourism Foundation for its support. www.georgia.org.
Photo of Glenn County Courthouse courtesy of Georgia Department of Economic Development.*

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\$89 per night

Hampton Inn and Suites
230 Warren Mason Blvd.
Brunswick, GA 31520
(912) 261-0002
\$69 to \$89 per night

Brunswick Manor Bed & Breakfast
825 Egmont Street
Brunswick, GA 31520
(912) 265-6889
\$100-\$110/night

Jekyll Island Club Hotel
371 Riverview Dr.
Jekyll Island, GA 31527
(912) 635-2600
\$179 to \$339 per night

Ask for the Georgia Trust block when reserving rooms at these motels.

Upcoming Events

May 4-6 Macon Gardens, Mansions & Moonlight

Hay House & greater Macon
Tour Macon's private gardens and historic homes, shop specialty vendors & attend gardening seminars. Call 478-742-8155.

May 18-20, 2007
2007 Spring Ramble & Annual Meeting
Brunswick & The Golden Isles
Ramble Brunswick, Jekyll Island, Saint Simon's Island & Sea Island to learn about the rich history of one of the country's most beautiful coastal regions.

For more upcoming events, go to the Events Calendar at www.georgiatrust.org.



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404-881-9980
www.georgiatrust.org

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