



Manning Store



Dersie Samples, Herschel Gunter, Velma Jones



Downtown Alpharetta

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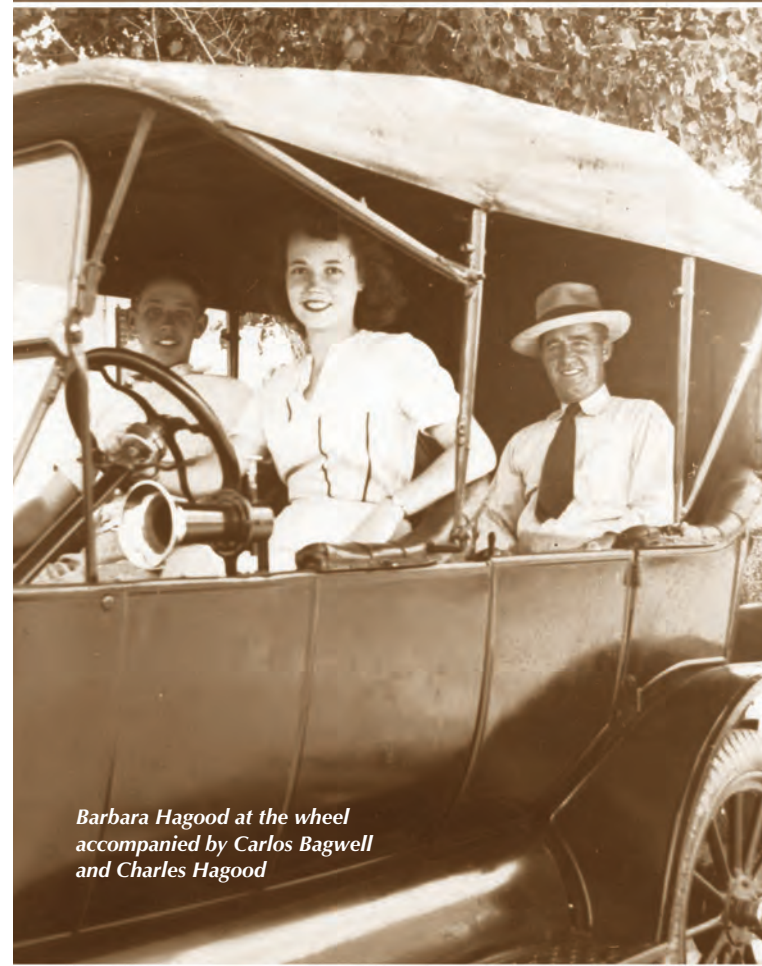
Alpharetta History Walk sponsored by



For additional historical information, contact the Alpharetta & Old Milton County Historical Society at 770-475-4663, located at 1835 Old Milton Parkway.

Alpharetta
GEORGIA

ALPHARETTA HISTORY WALK



Barbara Hagood at the wheel accompanied by Carlos Bagwell and Charles Hagood



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The Official Destination Marketing Organization for Alpharetta, GA

STEP BACK IN TIME

Explore the early days of Alpharetta on this self-guided tour with stops at 25 historic markers located within walking distance of one another and seven others located just beyond the tour's main sites. Uncover the story of Alpharetta's past at your own pace: learn what industry drove the city's economy and what buildings served uniquely different purposes from their modern-day functions. There's no better time to bring up a discussion of your own family's history. Gather the grandparents, bring along the youngsters and take a walk down memory lane.

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SEE
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THE HISTORY

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ALPHARETTA, GA OLD MILTON COUNTY

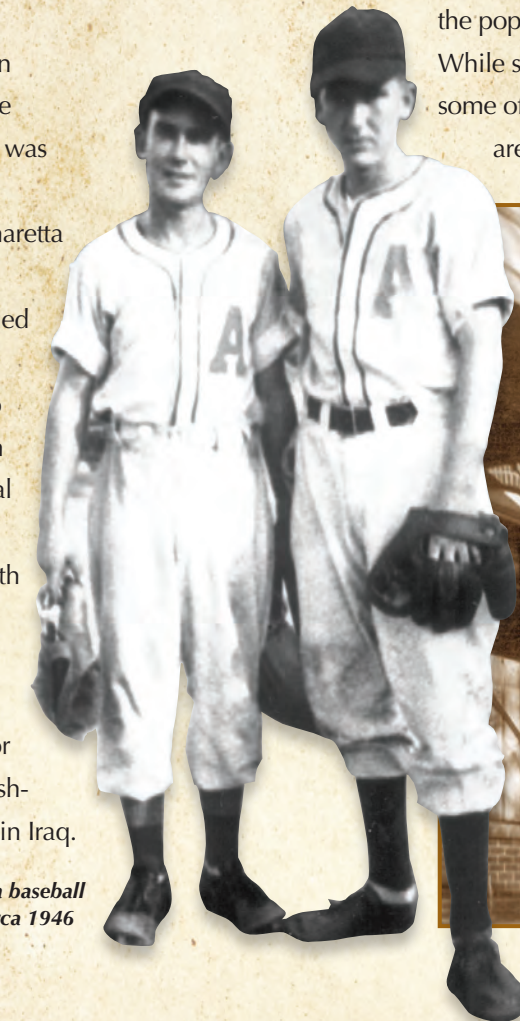
A morsel of genuine history is a thing so rare as to always be valuable. – Thomas Jefferson

As far back as 1835, New Prospect Campground was an overnight stop for travelers and traders. Prior to the formation of Milton County in 1858, the U.S. Coastal Survey Map also indicates an early settled community called Farm House near the Preston Ridge peak.

On March 23, 1858, Milton County was created and the Milton County Courthouse was erected at the site directly in front of present day Alpharetta City Hall. At the turn of the century, Alpharetta continued to be an overnight stop for travelers from Atlanta to Dahlonega. The downtown area had four hotels, several cotton gins and mercantile stores, and was bustling with activity.

Alpharettans have served their country in every major foreign war from the Spanish-American through the war in Iraq.

Alpharetta baseball players circa 1946



The town's economy was cotton farm based until WWII when the federal government encouraged local farmers to raise food crops, chickens and livestock.

In 1981, Alpharetta was a small town of 3,000. By 2015, the population increased to more than 62,000 residents. While striving to honor its rural roots, the city is home to some of the leading U.S. corporations. Its public schools are among the highest scoring in the nation.





1. Alharetta & Old Milton County History Museum | 2018
2 Park Plaza | Alharetta City Hall
 Start your tour at the History Museum, covering the history of Alharetta, from its earliest days as Cherokee Indian territory, through its remarkable emergence as one of the nation's most vibrant high-tech cities. A special part of the museum features a stories kiosk where visitors can enjoy interviews with Alharetta's most interesting citizens. Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30am to 5:00pm; Fridays, 8:30am to 4:30pm. Free admission.



2. Jones House | 1914
50 S. Main Street
 The craftsman style home was built for Will Jones and his wife May Jackson Jones at a cost of \$515.00. Mr. Jones owned and operated Jones Grocery which was located across the street on the corner of South Main Street and Milton Avenue. Mr. and Mrs. Jones and their son George were the only family ever to occupy the house, which after the couple's deaths became a commercial property.



3. Milton County Courthouse | 1895
2 S. Main Street
 This was the Courthouse of Milton County at the time it merged with Fulton County (1932). Created in 1857, the county was named for General Homer V. Milton (War of 1812), though some claim it was named for John Milton, first Secretary of State of Georgia. The courthouse was demolished in 1955. The existing building is a replica of the historic courthouse.



4. First Baptist Church of Alharetta | 1905
44 Academy Street
 In 1903, a group of women who met weekly for prayer and Bible study began collecting offerings. From these collections, the women purchased a sixty by one hundred foot lot and began construction of the First Baptist Church. The project was completed in 1905 and was located on this site.



5. J.J. Webb and Sons | 1910
21 N. Main Street
 The two-story brick building housed Shirley Brothers store, Milton County Bank, Buren Weatherford Grocery and Bates Grocery. C.P. Brady and Sons purchased it in 1934 and operated a Chevrolet dealership, gasoline station and garage.



6. Alharetta First United Methodist Church | 1834
69 N. Main Street
 Methodist circuit riders held camp meetings here in the early 1830s and a meeting house existed as early as 1834. In 1871, Isham Teasley donated land where the brick chapel now stands. A white frame church was there until 1931.



7. Bob and Lizzie Manning House | c. 1911
10 Cumming Street
 Bob and Lizzie Tatum Manning moved into this Prairie-Craftsman combination style house in 1918 and remained there until their deaths in 1967 and 1977 respectively. The home still retains its original hardwood flooring in all six rooms, fireplaces and mantels. The front porch columns were removed, and the porch enclosed in glass in the mid-1980s when the house became a commercial property.



8. Norman House | 1910
18 Cumming Street
 The six-room Queen Anne-style cottage has pine floors and fireplaces with original mantels and tiles. Cotton broker Clifford Pierce Norman, wife Nancy Lee Shell Norman and their three daughters lived there.



9. Lewis-Manning House | 1895
40 Cumming Street
 Colonel Tom Lewis built the five bedroom Queen Anne-style house. Siblings Tom H., James H. and Annie Manning lived there 1905-1953. Alharetta Mayor Sim Manning and his wife, Sarah Payne Manning, moved there in 1948.



10. B.F. Shirley House | c. 1910
112 Cumming Street
 This Queen Anne-style home built by B.F. Shirley in 1910 used a Sears, Roebuck & Co. house pattern. Features include a nine-room interior, veranda, and exterior stairs leading to the second floor. Renovations have been made, but the original building structure has not been altered. The Alharetta Woman's Club purchased the house in 1962 and paid the bank loan with funds from community projects.



11. New Prospect Campground | c. 1835
116 N. Main Street
 Several springs and proximity to westward routes made the campground a suitable overnight stop for travelers and a place for settlers to camp until land could be obtained for homes. The site became known as New Prospect. Later, a log building was constructed for a school and church.



12. Manning Mercantile | c. 1910
20 N. Main Street
 James H. and Thomas H. Manning operated the store in a wooden building that burned in 1902. It was replaced by a one-story brick building that later housed the U.S. Post Office, Bates Grocery, Cowart Shoe Shop, Cook Shoe Shop and the Alharetta Welcome Center. A second story was added in the 1990s.



13. R.J. Webb Building | 1907
Corner of Milton Avenue and Highway 9
 R.J. Webb built the two-story brick Webb Hotel, later known as the Alharetta Hotel. Residents included Milton County court attendees and school teachers. Businesses included Norman and Trammell General Merchants, U.S. Post Office, Alharetta Bank, Gordon's department store and Talmage Burgess Grocery. The building was razed in 1971.



14. Webb Guano House | c. 1901
21 Milton Avenue
 R.J. and J.J. Webb built the structure on property purchased from James Madison Dodd. The Teasleys bought the property in 1911 and built the Teasley's Warehouse portion. Later occupants were Q. A. Wills' cotton warehouse and chenille factory, Lad 'N Dad Slacks, and The Roswell Company. Frances Byers established the Cotton House Furniture store in the 1970s.



15. Original Milton High School | 1922
86 School Drive
 Milton School opened on this site in January 1922 to serve students in grades 1 through 11. A 12th grade was not added until 1950. When Milton County merged with Fulton County in 1932, the school received major upgrades including central heat, indoor plumbing, a cafeteria and school bus transportation. In the 1930s, students in the Future Farmers of America also built a log cabin on campus to use as a clubhouse. Before the school was razed in 2017, the log cabin was relocated to a City Park on Milton Avenue. When GA 400 opened in the 1970s, Alharetta's student population quickly outgrew the aging Milton facility. In the 2005-2006 school year, a new, modern Milton High School opened on Birmingham Highway. The original Milton building served as an alternative high school for several years before finally closing in 2017.



16. Future Farmers of America Log Cabin | 1935
200 Milton Avenue
 Members of Milton High School's Future Farmers of America built this rustic cabin of hand-hewn logs. Teacher P. L. Elkins provided seed money and project oversight. Alharetta merchants and farmers furnished other supplies. The cabin was once a center for social life and was relocated to this site in 2018 when the original Milton HS campus was demolished for a new school.



17. Resthaven Cemetery | 1860
90 Milton Avenue
 In December 1860, the Milton County Inferior Court gave two acres to the citizens of the county to be used as a graveyard. In May 1903, Milton County conveyed the Alharetta Cemetery Lot, now four acres, to Members of the Town Council and their successors. The lot was to be used as a general burial ground under the supervision of the Town of Alharetta. This is the final resting place for many of the founders of Milton County and the Town of Alharetta. The earliest recorded burial is that of Susan Camp Garrison, born 1822, died 1861. The cemetery property had previously been owned by Susan's father, Arthur T. Camp.



18. Dodd Hotel | c. 1870
120 Milton Avenue
 Dodd Hotel was owned by James Madison Dodd, 1828-1895. A businessman and Milton County constable, he operated a livery stable and barn on the north side of the street. The two-story hotel boarded cotton traders, drummers, court attendees and teachers. Dodd's wife, Sara Ann Wynn Dodd, prepared meals. The hotel operated until the 1940s.



19. Oliver-Waters-McCollum Warehouses | c. 1910
20 Milton Avenue
 Originally, the three buildings faced the National Highway, now Old Roswell Road. A brick facade was added in the 1970s. In 1909, John A. Oliver constructed the two-story Oliver warehouse. Prior to 1914, D.P. Waters constructed the Waters warehouse that connected the Oliver and McCollum structures. The McCollum warehouse was built around 1909. The only known elevator in Milton County was installed here and still exists.



20. Alharetta Business District
9 S. Main Street
 J.A. Oliver's general store operated until 1920, followed by the grocery stores of Jones, Lively and Talmage Burgess. In the mid 1950s, Phillips Variety Store opened. In this block were the Teasley, Johnson and Moore stores, John M. Martin Grocery, and establishments owned by the Devore, Mayfield, Waters, Thomas, Shaw, Kirby, Goswick and Reese families.



21. Alharetta Business District
29 S. Main Street
 Buildings south of Jones Alley housed the A.C. Carroll store, Shirley Brothers Mercantile and Milton County Bank (c. 1910), Jones Merchandise (c. 1914), Teasley Ford Motor dealership, Q.A. Wills Merchandise, Louie E. Jones Funeral Home (c. 1940), Barnett Brothers (c. 1950) and Parsons Hardware. The Webb Gin operated behind the complex (early 1900s).



22. Alharetta Business District
 Alharetta was formed in 1858 and a thriving business district soon developed. Many businesses had two entrances – one facing the Milton County Courthouse on Norcross Street, (now South Main Street) and the other facing National Highway, (now Old Roswell Street). The cotton gin operated behind this building. The cut through was called Gin House Alley. On June 26, 1902, a fire destroyed much of the town. Most of the lost buildings were replaced with brick or stone construction.



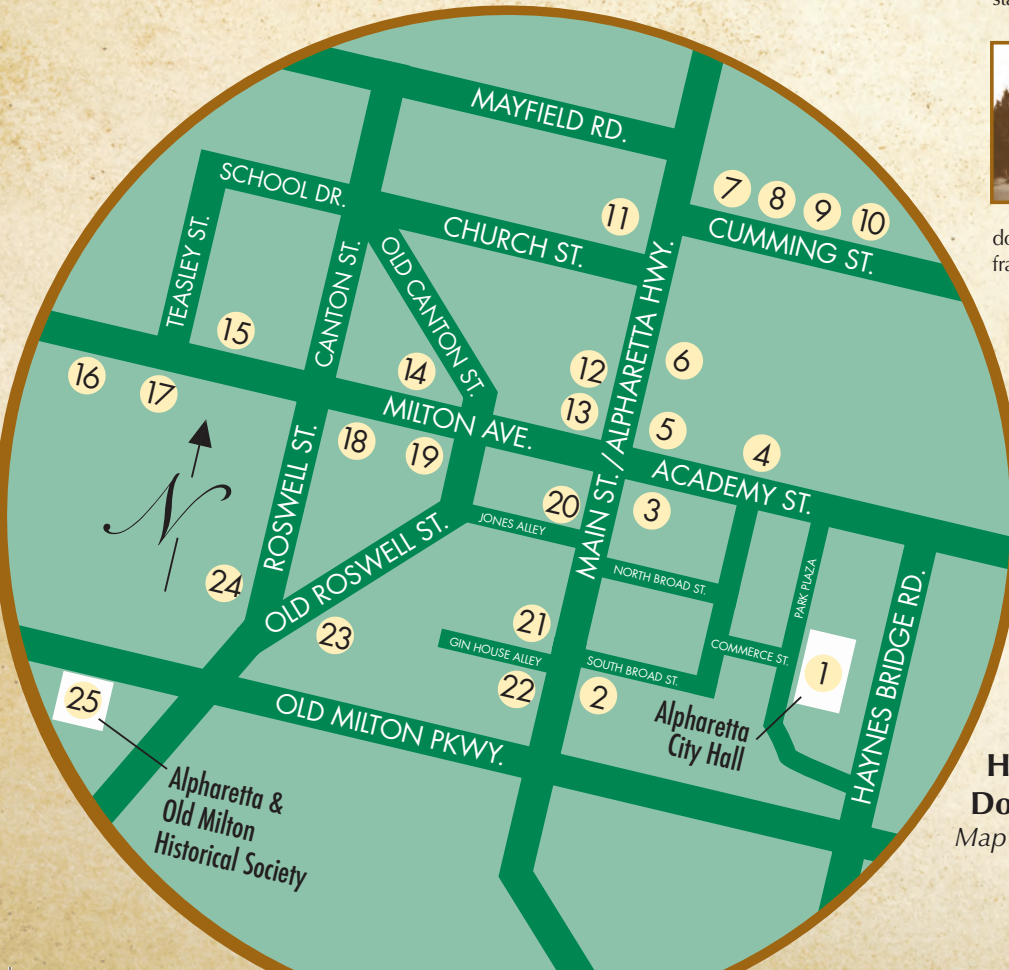
23. Waters House | c. 1880
48 Roswell Street
 This Colonial Revival structure has served as the home of numerous early city and county officials, physicians, and business owners since the 1890s. Residents include the McLesky, Foster, Oliver, Jones, Robertson, Waters and Garmon families. There have been changes to the exterior including the addition of brick columns and the enclosure of one of the side porches. The Waters family lived here during the first half of the 20th century. Mr. Waters owned the Alharetta Drug Store and was the book agent for Milton County Schools.



24. Skelton-Teasley House | 1856
61 Roswell Street
 The Greek Revival-style home was built for the family of Dr. Oliver P. Skelton, physician, postmaster and Ordinary of Milton County. His son-in-law John I. Teasley, a cotton planter, subsequently occupied it. The house sits on one of the highest points in Alharetta.

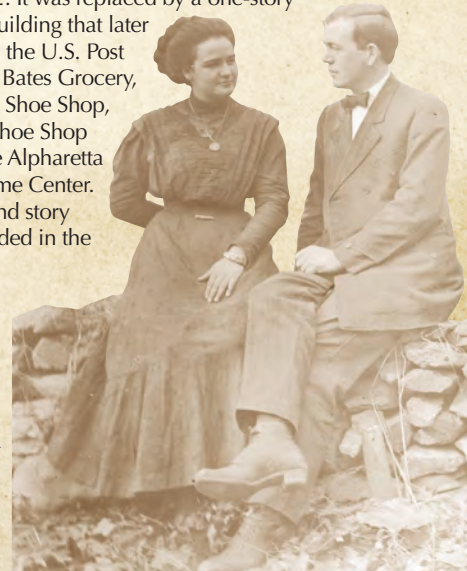


25. Mansell House | 1910
1835 Old Milton Parkway
 The six-room Queen Anne-style clapboard farmhouse was built by Robert Mansell for his wife, Maude Dorris. The Mansells were primarily cotton farmers. Originally situated on the family farm, the house was donated by the Herman Miller Company to the City of Alharetta and moved to its current location in 1993. The Mansell House is operated by the Alharetta & Old Milton Historical Society.



Historical Marker Locations
Downtown Alharetta, Georgia
 Map not to scale.

Myra Adeline and Payne Cook



- Additional Historical Sites to Visit in Alharetta:**
- Pineview Cemetery | c. 1950 | 300 Teasley Drive
 - Spence House | c. 1918 | 1145 Mayfield Road
 - St. James United Methodist Church | 1968 | 162 Kimball Bridge Road
 - Troy & Edith Rucker House | c. 1900 | 1080 Rucker Road
 - Upshaw House | 1925 | 212 Canton Street
- Future Historic Marker Sites*
- Bailey-Johnson School | 1950 | 154 Kimball Bridge Road
 - Farm House | c. 1830 | Corner of SR 400 & Old Milton Parkway