

# ALPHARETTA & OLD MILTON COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM AND WALK



# STEP BACK IN TIME

Begin your history tour at the Alpharetta & Old Milton County History Museum inside Alpharetta City Hall to see photos, memorabilia, artifacts, and learn about the families and citizens who lived in Historic Alpharetta. Interact with the stories kiosk where visitors can enjoy interviews with 70 of Alpharetta's most interesting residents. Museum admission is free. The museum is located at 2 Park Plaza in Downtown Alpharetta and is open Monday-Thursday 8:30am-5:00pm and Fridays 8:30am to 4:30pm.

After exploring the museum, discover what many of the landmarks featured in the history museum look like now on a self-guided history tour around the city. Uncover the story of Alpharetta's past at your own pace! Learn what industry drove the city's economy when the city was formed and what buildings served uniquely different purposes from their modern-day functions. The tour features stops at 25 historic markers located within walking distance of one another around Downtown Alpharetta, with an additional seven sites located just a short drive from the downtown area. Gather the grandparents, bring along the youngsters and take a walk down Alpharetta's memory lane.



*Manning Store*



*St. James UMC Congregation*



*Downtown Alpharetta*

# 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.

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.

In 2018, Alpharetta opened the Alpharetta & Old Milton County History Museum inside Alpharetta's City Hall to establish a permanent collection of artifacts and interpretative displays that bring Alpharetta's heritage to life.



*Alpharetta baseball  
players circa 1946*





## 1. Alpharetta & Old Milton County History Museum | 2018

### 2 Park Plaza | Alpharetta City Hall

Start your tour at the History Museum, covering the history of Alpharetta, 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 Alpharetta's most interesting citizens. Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:30am to 5:00pm; Fridays, 8:30am to 4:30pm. Free admission.

## Historical Marker Locations Downtown Alpharetta, Georgia

Map not to scale.



## 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 Alpharetta | 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. Alpharetta 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 mantles. 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. Alpharetta 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 Alpharetta 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 Alpharetta 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 Alpharetta Hotel. Residents included Milton County court attendees and school teachers. Businesses included Norman and Trammell General Merchants, U.S. Post Office, Alpharetta Bank, Gordon's department store and Talmage Burgess Grocery. The building was razed in 1971.



*Future Historical Marker - Coming Soon!*

#### 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 - 2005

86 School Drive

Milton School opened on this site in January 1922 to serve students in grades 1-11. A 12th grade was not added until 1950. After 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 1936, W.P.A. workers constructed the north and south wings and enlarged the cafeteria. A sports program was added in 1949. In 1953, *The Aerie* yearbook was first published. Elementary students were transferred to a new school in 1956. Population growth which began in the 1960s accelerated rapidly following the opening of GA400. By the early 2000s, it was determined that the community needed a larger, more modern campus. A new Milton High School opened on Birmingham Highway in the 2005-2006 school year. The original campus was cleared in 2017 to make way for a new STEM high school.



#### 16. Future Farmers of America Log Cabin | 1935

200 Milton Avenue

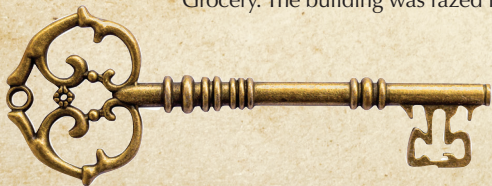
Members of Milton High School's Future Farmers of America built this rustic cabin of hand-hewn logs. Teacher P. L. Elkins provided seed money and project oversight. Alpharetta merchants and farmers furnished other supplies. The cabin was once a center for social life and was relocated to this site in 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 Alpharetta 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 Alpharetta. This is the final resting place for many of the founders of Milton County and the Town of Alpharetta. 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. Alpharetta 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. Alpharetta Business District

### 29 S. Main Street

Buildings south of Jones Alley housed the A.G. 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. Alpharetta Business District

Alpharetta 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 Alpharetta Drug Store and was the book agent for Milton County Schools.



## 24. Skelton-Teasley House | 1856

### 61 Roswell Street

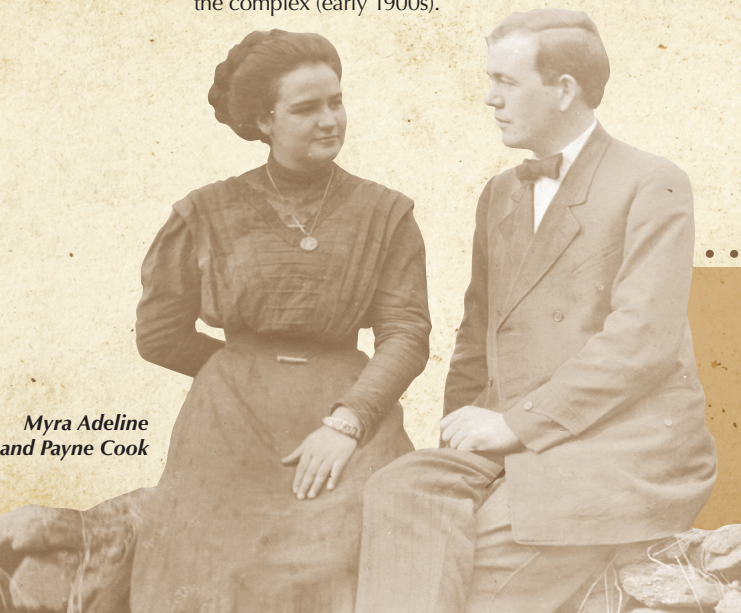
The Greek Revival-style home was built for the family of Dr. Oliver P. Skelton, physician, postmaster and Ordinary of Milton County. His son-in-law John I. Teasley, a cotton planter, subsequently occupied it. The house sits on one of the highest points in Alpharetta.



## 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 Alpharetta and moved to its current location in 1993. The Mansell House is operated by the Alpharetta & Old Milton Historical Society.



Myra Adeline  
and Payne Cook

## Additional Historical Sites to Visit in Alpharetta:

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

# Alpharetta GEORGIA

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*why not stay the weekend?*

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**Comfort Inn Alpharetta-Atlanta North** | 770-664-7997

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**Courtyard Atlanta Alpharetta** | 678-366-3360

**Courtyard Atlanta Alpharetta/Avalon Area** | 770-475-9955

**DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Atlanta-Alpharetta** | 678-347-0022

**Embassy Suites by Hilton Atlanta Alpharetta** | 678-566-8800

**EVEN Hotel Alpharetta-Avalon Area** | 770-869-2546

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**Extended Stay America-Atlanta-Alpharetta-Northpoint-West** | 770-569-1730

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**Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott** | *Coming 2023*

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**Hampton Inn & Suites Alpharetta/Roswell** | 770-640-5511

**Hilton Alpharetta Atlanta** | 678-240-9222

**Hilton Garden Inn Atlanta North/Alpharetta** | 770-360-7766

**Hilton Garden Inn Atlanta Northpoint** | 678-566-3900

**Holiday Inn Express & Suites Alpharetta-Windward Parkway** | 678-339-0505

**Home2 Suites by Hilton Alpharetta** | 470-479-6699

**Homewood Suites by Hilton Atlanta-Alpharetta** | 770-998-1622

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**Hyatt Place Atlanta/Alpharetta/Windward Parkway** | 770-343-9566

**La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Atlanta Alpharetta** | 770-754-7800

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