

STEP BACK IN TIME

Explore the early days of Alpharetta on this self-guided tour with stops at nineteen historic markers located within walking distance of one another. 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 than their modern-day functions. And 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.

While you are here, take time to discover our dynamic city. With access to 300 things to do, five distinct shopping districts and over 150 dining options, there is plenty to fill your days. Choose one of 23 modern and affordable hotels listed on the back of the brochure or take advantage of specially designed hotel packages found on our website.

SEE IMAGINE FEEL THE HISTORY



City of Alpharetta

1. Old Milton 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.

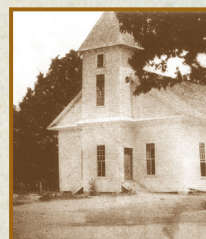


Atlanta-Journal and Constitution

2. 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.



AFUMC

3. 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.



Marian Norman Bagwell

4. Norman House | 1910

18 Cumming Street

The six-room Queen Anne-style cottage has heart 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.



Joyce Samples

5. 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, moved there in 1948.

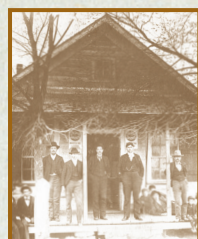


Drew University Collections

6. 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.



Linda Stovall

7. 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.

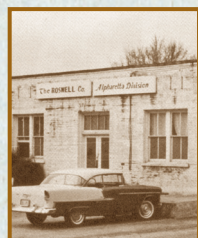


Howard Knight

8. R.J. Webb Building | c. 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 the 1970s.



Milton Aerie Yearbook

9. 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.

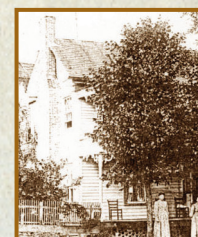


Alpharetta Historical Society

10. Future Farmers of America Log Cabin | 1935

86 School Drive

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 one-room, one-floor cabin serves as a teaching museum for the Alpharetta Historical Society by illustrating life in the 1800's.

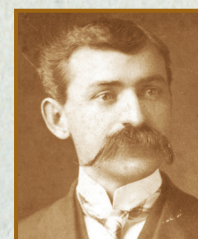


W.S. Bates

11. 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, prepared meals. The hotel operated until the 1940s.



Clayton Hawkins

12. 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.

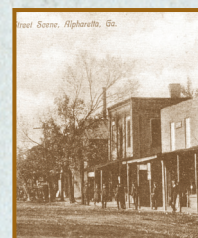


Connie Mashburn

13. 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.



W.S. Bates

14. Alpharetta Business District

29 S. Main Street

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. On June 26, 1902, a fire destroyed much of the town. Most of the lost buildings were replaced with brick or stone construction.



Milton Aerie Yearbook

15. 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).



Donald Devore

16. Alpharetta Business District

1 S. Main Street

J.A. Oliver's general store at 1 South Main Street operated until 1920, followed by the grocery stores of Jones, Lively and Talmage Burgess. In the mid 1950s, Phillips Variety Store opened. At 3 South Main Street 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.



17. 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 Alpharetta Historical Society and moved to its current location in 1993.

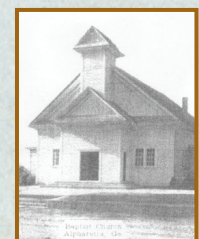


Connie Mashburn

18. B.F. Shirley Home | c. 1910

112 Cumming Street

This Queen Anne-style 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.



W.S. Bates

19. First Baptist Church of Alpharetta

c. 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.

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.

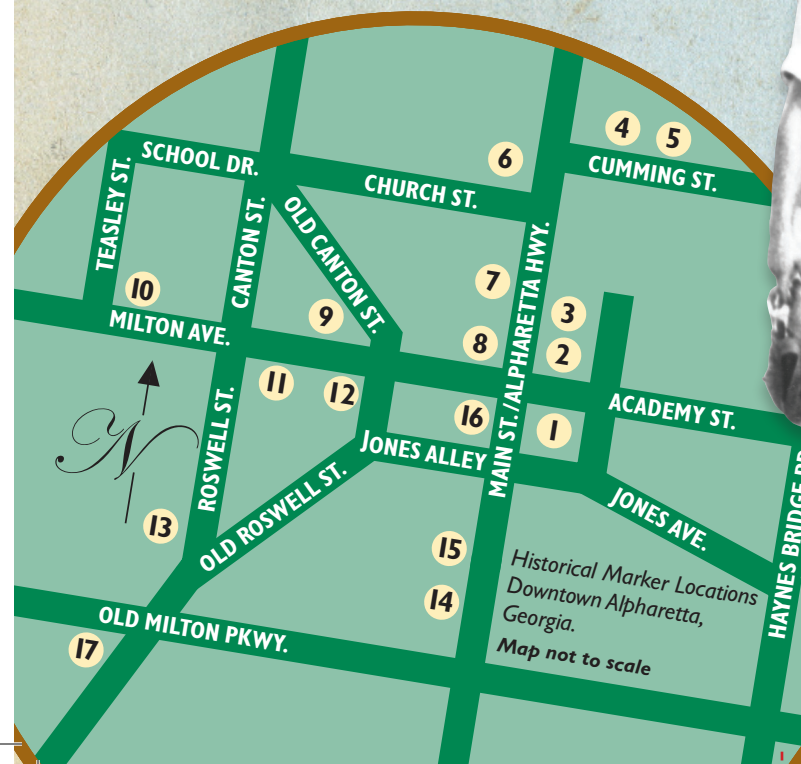
As far back as 1835, New Prospect Campground was an overnight stop for travelers and traders. Prior to the formation of Milton County in 1858, the U.S. Coastal Survey Map also indicates an early settled community called Farm House near the Preston Ridge peak.

On March 23, 1858, Milton County was created and the Milton County Courthouse was erected at the site of the 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.

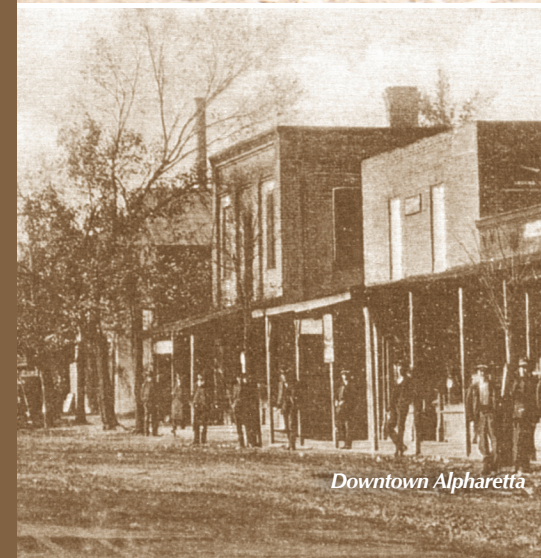
In 1981, Alpharetta was a small town of 3,000. By 2007, the population had increased to more than 50,000 residents. While striving to honor its rural roots, the city is home to some of the leading U.S. corporations. Its public schools are among the highest scoring in the nation.



Alpharetta baseball players circa 1946



Dersie Samples, Herschel Gunter, Velma Jones



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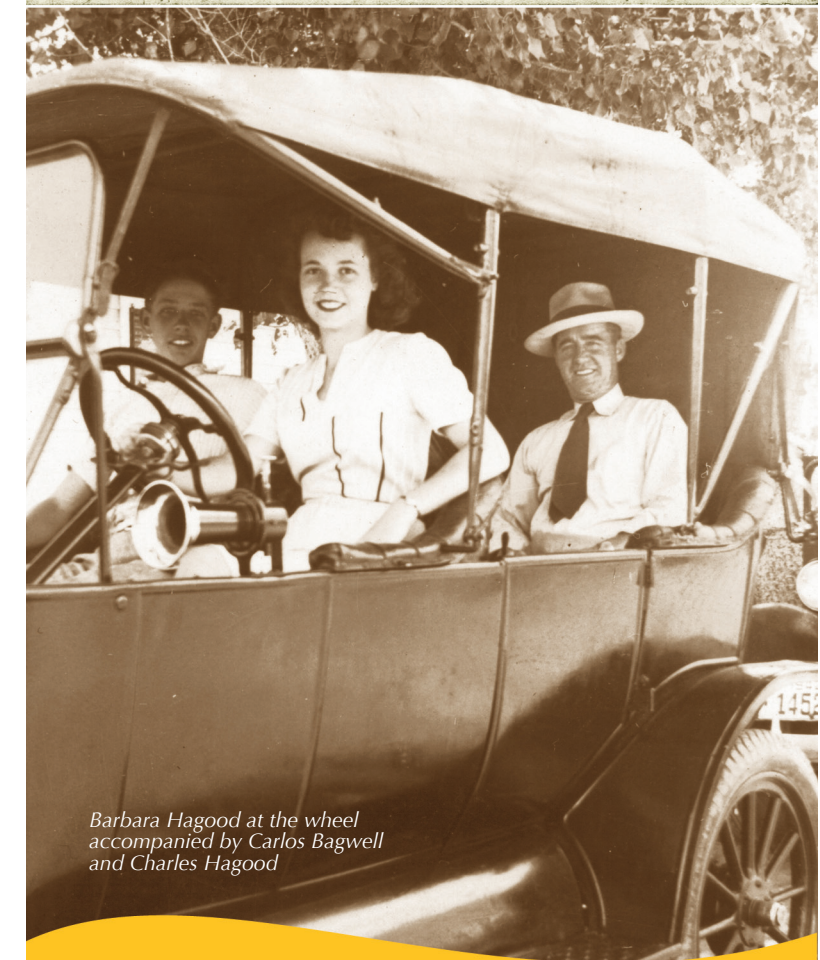


Special thanks to
Old Milton History and Genealogy Group for photographs

For additional historical information, contact
the Alpharetta Historical Society at 770-475-4663.

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ALPHARETTA
georgia

ALPHARETTA HISTORY WALK



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



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