

"Georgia's Westward Expansion"

Georgia's Five Capitals

GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Georgia's Five Capitals

Supporting Question: Why has Georgia's capital been in five different geographic locations around the state?

Task: Match the correct primary source map to the correct corresponding historical marker. Each historical marker and corresponding map represent one of the five locations of Georgia's capitals. Plot each of the five locations on a map.

Student Instructions: Read each historical marker (or historical marker webpage) and review each primary source map. Using the context clues from the marker text and the details in each map, plot Georgia's five state capitals on a blank map of Georgia or use "[My Maps](#)" from Google. For each location, pay attention to the various geographic features and the evidence or information as to why the capital was moved there.

For each capital location explain the following:

- The geographic features in the area that made each location accessible and useful as the seat of government. For example: rivers, mountains, coastline, farmland, etc.
- Explain why the capital location was moved to or from that place.

Assessment: Write a response to the supporting question, *why has Georgia's capital been in five different geographic locations around the state?* Cite the major geographic features of each capital location and evidence as to why the locations changed over time.

Zero Mile Post

📅 POSTED ON NOVEMBER 18, 2015

MARKER TIME PERIOD: 19TH CENTURY

REGION: ATLANTA METRO

COUNTY: FULTON

MARKER PROGRAM: GEORGIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION / DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

MARKER SUBJECT: POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT, TRANSPORTATION

Year Erected: 1958

Marker Text: This Zero Mile Post marks the Southeastern Terminus of the Western and Atlantic Railroad, about which a settlement grew and eventually became Atlanta. This railroad, to Chattanooga, Tennessee, was built, and still is owned by the State of Georgia. It was authorized by the State Legislature December 21, 1836. The route was surveyed by Colonel Stephen Harriman Long, Chief Engineer, May 12, 1837 to November 3, 1840. Construction began March 1838. The original terminus was located near the present-day Georgia World Congress Center and moved in 1842 to a site beneath the Central Avenue bridge and adjacent to Underground Atlanta. The settlement which sprang up was called Terminus. It was incorporated as the town of Marthasville, December 23, 1843. The name was changed to Atlanta, December 26, 1845. It was incorporated as the City of Atlanta, December 29, 1847, with corporate limits extending one mile in every direction from the State Depot which was between here and what is now Pryor Street. Beginning in 1850, Western and Atlantic Railroad placed mile posts along its 138-mile line to Chattanooga, one at each mile. A new City Charter approved February 28, 1874 redefined the corporate limits as a circle one mile and a half in every direction from this mile post. To ensure its long-term preservation and wider public accessibility, in 2018 the original mile post was moved to the Atlanta History Center and a replica was installed in its place.



Re-erected in 2019 by the Georgia Historical Society and the Atlanta History Center

Zero Mile Post. Re-erected by the Atlanta History Center and the Georgia Historical Society. 2019.

Cemetery Square

📅 POSTED ON JUNE 16, 2014

MARKER TIME PERIOD: 19TH CENTURY

COUNTY: BALDWIN

MARKER SUBJECT: CEMETERY/BURIAL GROUNDS, POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT, RELIGIOUS HISTORY

MARKER PROGRAM: GEORGIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION / DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

REGION: PIEDMONT

Year Erected: 1961

***Marker Text:** This square was reserved for public use in the city's original survey and became the site of early church buildings. One hundred yards south of this point is a stone marking the site of the first Methodist Church erected in Georgia west of the Oconee River, in 1805. The earliest graves date from this period. Near the church site is a lot containing graves of legislators who died during legislative sessions in Milledgeville. None appear after 1845 when rail transportation became available. Those legislators who died in Milledgeville were: Senators, William W. Baker, Liberty Co., 1826; Nathaniel Bradford, Crawford Co., 1841; Robert Brown, Murray Co., 1838; Jonathan Lewis, Burke Co., 1834; George Galphin Nowlan, Effingham Co., 1816; Alexander M. Sanford, Bryan Co., 1843; James Thompson, Walker Co., 1840; and Representatives, John Bell, Decatur Co., 1827; Jacob Hentz, Baker Co., 1845; Aaron Jones, Lee Co., 1834; McLin Lunday, Screven Co., 1834; James Spalding, McIntosh Co., 1820; and Horatio Webb, Jackson Co., 1840.

***This marker is missing**

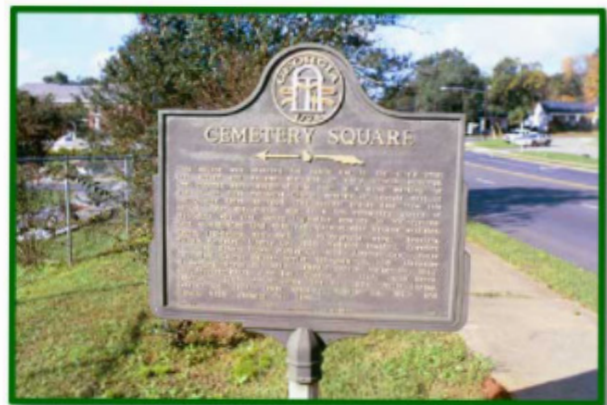



Photo: Ed Jackson

Cemetery Square. Erected by the Georgia Historical Commission. 1961.

Savannah: Colonial Capital and Birthplace of Representative Government in Georgia

 POSTED ON JUNE 16, 2014

MARKER TIME PERIOD: 18TH CENTURY, COLONIAL

COUNTY: CHATHAM

MARKER PROGRAM: GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REGION: LOWCOUNTRY

MARKER SUBJECT: POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Year Erected: 2008


Marker Text: In March 1750, the Georgia Trustees in London resolved to allow colonists to elect a representative assembly to meet in Savannah, Georgia's colonial capital. Sixteen delegates met on January 15, 1751, for a twenty-four-day session. Representative government continued in 1755 in the Commons House of Assembly, which by 1770 began meeting in a building on the southeast trust lot of Reynolds Square. In 1777, the new state constitution provided for an elected House of Assembly. The Georgia constitution of 1789 expanded the legislature to two houses, known as the General Assembly.



Erected by the Georgia Historical Society and the Office of the Secretary of State

Savannah: Colonial Capital and Birthplace of Representative Government in Georgia.
Erected by the Georgia Historical Society and Office of the Secretary of State. 2008.

Market House

 POSTED ON NOVEMBER 5, 2015

MARKER TIME PERIOD: 18TH CENTURY

MARKER SUBJECT: ARCHITECTURE AND LANDSCAPE, BUSINESS, INDUSTRY, AND COMMERCE

MARKER PROGRAM: GEORGIA HISTORICAL COMMISSION / DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

COUNTY: JEFFERSON

REGION: PIEDMONT

Year Erected: 1979

Marker Text: This Market House was built between 1795-1798 as a publicly owned multi-purpose trading house. Louisville newspapers record sales of large tracts, household goods, town lots and slaves by sheriffs, tax collectors, marshals and people of the community at the Market House.

This square became the hub of the transportation routes that centered on Louisville when the State Capital was located here (1794-1807). Although portions of the structure have been replaced, the Market House has never lost its distinctive style.

Inside the Market House hangs a bell that was cast in France for a New Orleans Convent in 1772. The ship carrying the bell was sacked by pirates and the bell was sold in Savannah. It was given to the State Capitol but was used in the Market House as a community warning signal.



At the intersection North Main Street and Mulberry Street in Louisville, Georgia

Market House. Erected by the Georgia Historical Commission and Department of Natural Resources. 1979.



A new and accurate map of the province of Georgia in North America. [London?: s.n, 1779] Map.
<https://www.loc.gov/item/2008625108/>.



Sketch of the northern frontiers of Georgia: extending from the mouth of the River Savannah to the town of Augusta / by Archibald Campbell. Engraved by Willm. Faden, 1780. Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of Georgia Libraries.

“A plan of Milledgeville: the capital and permanent seat of the government of the state of Georgia ...
copied from the original plan on 2nd day of Sept. 1808. Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library,
University of Georgia Libraries.