

YESTERYEAR IS ALWAYS HERE

*From antebellum homes and heritage attractions to antiques and restaurants,
Roswell lives its history*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROSWELL, GA– September, 2007 – Located along the northern banks of the Chattahoochee River, Roswell has a rich past intersected and shaped by several significant historical events: the 1828 discovery of gold in north Georgia; the opening of cotton mills, known collectively as the Roswell Manufacturing Company, a decade later; and the occupation by Union troops in July of 1864 on their march to Atlanta. Today, visitors to Roswell can see this history preserved in antebellum homes and heritage attractions that recall chapters of its past and in a treasure trove of antiques and even restaurants whose buildings provide a peek into yesteryear.

BACK IN THE DAY . . .

Gold brought town founder Roswell King down the Indian trails by horseback to the forests and rushing waters of Vickery's Creek—the perfect environs for a mill enterprise that was fully operational by 1839, just one year after the native Cherokee people were forced onto the Trail of Tears.

From its beginning, Roswell's mills became some of the most critical in Georgia. During the Civil War, they were one of the leading suppliers of goods to the Confederacy. When Union soldiers arrived in Roswell to take the river bridge, they discovered two things: the bridge had been destroyed by Confederate troops (the Union would hastily rebuild it, only to burn it down) and the mills were still in operation. Flying over the mills in an attempt to disguise their purpose was a French Flag.

THE LOST MILL WORKERS

Unfortunately, Roswell's neutrality claim was untrue; while the mill manager was indeed from France, the letters "C.S.A." were woven into the fabric. The action so enraged General W.T. Sherman that he ordered the mills burned. The 400 mill workers, mostly women and children, were charged with treason and shipped north to uncertain fates. It was an action that enflamed the emotions and the anger of citizens both north and south, causing even northern newspapers to criticize the Union general. Although the women and children were eventually released, the fates of most remain a mystery. Today, the Lost Mill Workers of Roswell Monument located in Old Mill Park pays tribute to these citizens.

SAVED FROM SHERMAN'S 'MARCH TO THE SEA'

Although the mills were burned, other private property was spared during the Civil War, also by order, including the 1839 Bulloch Hall. Built by Major James Stephens Bulloch, grandson of Georgia's Revolutionary Governor, Archibald Bulloch, this Greek Revival mansion has ties to a U.S. presidency. Teddy Roosevelt's mother, Mittie Bulloch, married his father, Theodore Roosevelt, (Sr.), in the formal dining room of the house in a ceremony so auspicious that ice cream, a rare delicacy then, was served—a first for this part of Georgia.

Also spared was Barrington Hall, one of the best examples of Greek Revival Temple Architecture in the United States. Built for Roswell King's son Barrington, the circa 1840s house took five years to construct. It is today a steward of many founding family possessions, including china, sterling silver, photos and furnishings.

The Smith Plantation Home, built in 1845, also survived and is today a living history museum and monument to genteel farm life. The 12-building complex includes the Smith's two-story farm house and a variety of outbuildings, including servants quarters, cook house, smoke house, corn crib, barn, carriage house, well and spring house.

Roswell's history is given rich narrative in these architectural treasures, among many other antebellum homes and buildings found in its Historic District, and in its Historic Town Square. Built in 1839, it is a showcase to the town founder's New England roots, precisely and centrally located and neatly surrounded by small shops. A commissary built across from the Square, where the original building still stands, was actually a general store that sold tonic, wine, sugar, sundries and most provisions, except liquor.

A TASTE OF HISTORY

Against this vintage backdrop is a bustling storefront shopping street with antique shops, gifts and collectibles boutiques, art galleries and restaurants and known collectively as the Shops of Historic Roswell, and the Queen Ann and Gothic Victorian-inspired Shoppes of Plumtree Village, also in the Historic District.

Even the restaurants have an historic flavor, with many of them, including the Fickle Pickle, J. Christopher's and Pastis, tucked into historic buildings, fully renovated but maintaining Roswell's early 19th century heritage.

Located on the northern banks of the Chattahoochee River in Fulton County, Roswell, Georgia's sixth largest city, is in an area whose history was impacted and shaped by the 1828 discovery of gold in north Georgia, the opening of cotton and woolen mills known collectively as the Roswell Manufacturing Company a decade later and the occupation by Union troops in July of 1864 on their march to Atlanta. Today Roswell thrives with historic and natural attractions, shopping and gallery hopping and casual and formal dining options. For more details about Roswell's history and its many heritage sites, contact the Historic Roswell Convention & Visitors Bureau by calling toll-free 1.800.776.7935 or by visiting www.cvb.roswell.ga.us.

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