

## OTHER SITES OF INTEREST

### *Jefferson Davis' Heritage Trail & Sherman's March to the Sea*

Follow Confederate President Jefferson Davis' trail of flight as he traveled through Washington County. Visit the site of his encampment just outside the town of Warthen while you are simultaneously driving the Civil War Historic Route taken by Sherman on his March To The Sea. Washington County has the "unique" distinction of being the only county in Georgia to have had the presence of both men. Part of the Civil War Heritage Trail.



### *Hamburg State Park*

Experience the sounds of nature while visiting this early twentieth century grist mill and museum. The park encompasses 741 acres with a 225 acre lake. Enjoy camping, fishing, picnicking, hiking, and other amenities. The museum houses early era milling equipment, as well as the historic water-driven gin and grist mill, still in operation. Hamburg became a State Park in 1968.



Photo Courtesy of William Rawlings

### *Thomas Jefferson Elder Community Center ca. 1890*

Visit this community center built on the original site of the Elder School, where education for the African-American children of Washington County had its first founding. The school was built on the Rosenwald Plan and African-American artifacts, archives, and memorabilia can be seen while touring the museum.



Photo Courtesy of Layne H. Kitchens

On the National Register of Historic Places.

A county proud of her historical significance, inherent culture and gracious character.

Welcome to Washington County; where the Coastal Plain meets the Piedmont, where yesterday has not been forgotten and the richness of proud southern heritage prevails. The county, formed for the purpose of issuing bounty land grants to Revolutionary War Soldiers in 1784, was named in honor of General George Washington, and was the ninth county in the state of Georgia. Visitors will find sixth and seventh generations of these soldiers still living in Washington County and will be greeted with the same warm gracious southern way of life that has passed proudly from generation to generation.

The towns comprising the county have their own stories to tell. From Antebellum, Victorian Era, Federal, Greek Revival, and post-Civil War homes and structures, visitors will connect with the past, experience the present, and see unfolding plans for the future which will continue to perpetuate our ancestors' legacy and guard the county's rich heritage which has prevailed for over two hundred years.

While visiting, you will be immersed in the past and will experience how events have formed our historical county, how determination has fortified her citizens through years of destruction and reconstruction, and above all feel the indomitable spirit of those who came before which still casts influence today. Come and be our guest as you visit our historical county, and receive southern hospitality at its very best.

### *Contact Information*

#### **Brown House Museum**

268 North Harris St., P.O. Box 6088, Sandersville, GA 31082

Phone: 478-552-1965

Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday 2-5PM, Saturday 10AM-3PM

#### **Old Jail Museum & Genealogy Research Center**

129 Jones St., Sandersville, GA 31082

Phone: 478-552-6965

Email: [genealogyresearch@att.net](mailto:genealogyresearch@att.net)

Website: [www.wacogrc.org](http://www.wacogrc.org)

Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday 2-5PM, Saturday 10AM-3PM

#### **The Thomas Jefferson Elder Community Center**

316 Hall Street, P.O. Box 6137, Sandersville, GA 31082

Phone: 478-553-9050

Website: [www.wacoelderite.com](http://www.wacoelderite.com)

Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 2-5PM

#### **Washington County Chamber of Commerce**

P.O. Box 582, Sandersville, GA 31082

Phone: 478-552-3288

Website: [www.washingtoncounty-ga.com](http://www.washingtoncounty-ga.com)

### *Washington County Historical Society*

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!



WELCOME TO

*Washington  
County*  
GEORGIA

HISTORY ~ HERITAGE ~ HOSPITALITY





# HISTORICAL SITES TO VISIT

## Warthen Old Jail ca. 1786

Visit the oldest wooden jail in Georgia. Built of rough hand hewed logs from local timber, this historical structure has withstood the test of time. The jail once held Aaron Burr on his journey to Richmond for trial. On the National Register of Historic Places.



Photo Courtesy of Laura McNeely

## Old City Cemetery ca. 1831

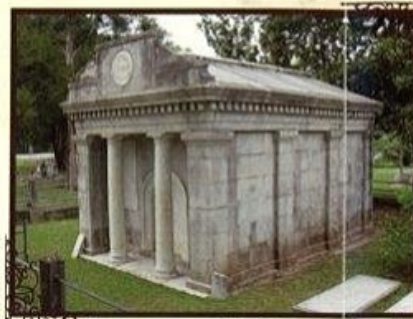


Photo Courtesy of Shaun Veal

Browse at your leisure in the county's oldest and most scenic cemetery. The Victorian Era cemetery is the final resting place of missionaries, a Georgia Governor, Civil War Soldiers, business and county leaders, and prohibitionists. Explore this quiet place and see examples of funerary art of the mid-nineteenth century to art deco monuments of the twentieth century.

On the National Register of Historic Places.

## Washington County Courthouse ca. 1869



Photo Courtesy of Laura McNeely

Visit the focal point of the county seat in Sandersville. Built on the same foundation as the one burned by Sherman, the Victorian style red brick courthouse stands proudly over the town square, reminiscent of times past. As you stroll the courthouse grounds listen for the sounds coming from the bell tower as the original brass bell installed in 1899 strikes the time. On the National Register of Historic Places.

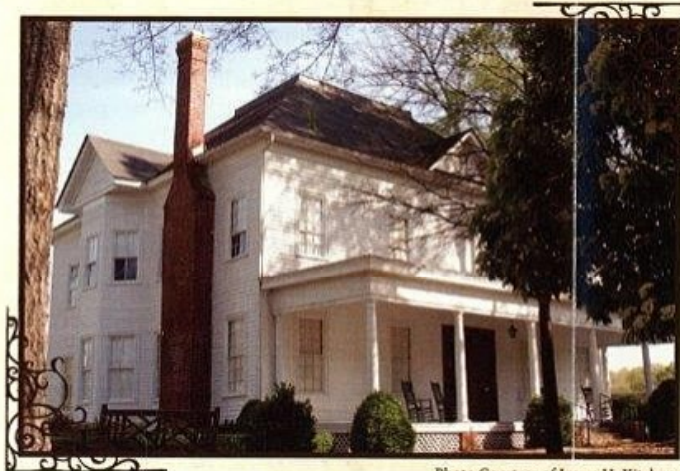


Photo Courtesy of Layne H. Kitchens

## Brown House Museum ca. 1851

See Washington County history unfold in the house where General Sherman headquartered overnight. This historical museum features period furniture and houses prominent collections of the past and present life of the county. Artifacts, memorabilia, and Civil War Relics can be seen. An unforgettable display of Washington County Pottery is the latest addition to the museum.

## Old Jail Museum & Genealogy Research Center ca. 1891



Photo Courtesy of Layne H. Kitchens

Explore a Victorian Era conjoined jail and sheriffs' home, one of a few known to exist today. Tour the old jail cells with the original locking mechanism and graffiti left behind by prisoners. The old gallows yard is adjacent to the jail. The Genealogy Research Center can be found in the home portion. A library filled with historical books on Washington County and adjacent counties and states is available for researchers. The center is a repository for family books, files, and other Washington County history. While you are visiting, listen or watch for evidence of the ghost "Essie," believed to inhabit the historical home. Researchers will be glad to share their stories about their experiences with this popular ghost.

## Charles E. Choate

### ARCHITECTURE



Photo Courtesy of W. Kim Kitchens

Visit the Chamber of Commerce to view a multimedia exhibit of the life and works of Charles E. Choate. Using study guides and location maps, enjoy a self driving tour of documented buildings by the architect. Thirteen of his designs in Washington County have been placed on the National Register of Historic Places.