



A non-profit organization, the Summerville Neighborhood Association was founded by the residents of Summerville in 1976 and incorporated in 1977 to preserve the traditions and culture of the City of Summerville which was initially incorporated in 1861. Membership reflects the variety of ages and lifestyles found within the neighborhood. Housing varies from mansions to cottages. Shops, churches, synagogues, public and private schools, Augusta College, a hospital and a retirement home are to be found within the Summerville neighborhood.

*Project highlights include:*

Annual Fall Tour of Homes

Development of a comprehensive neighborhood plan for the future

Zoning Assistance

A quarterly neighborhood newspaper; The Summerville Post

Co-sponsorship of a series of historical seminars

Scholarships and essay awards

An annual Christmas tree lighting and carol singing

Listing of the District in the National Register of Historic Places

Through the combined efforts of the members, the Association has helped stabilize the Summerville neighborhood and has provided a common voice for the residents. Best of all, however, is the renewed sense of identity and pride that has been returned to the Summerville area. Members feel that life in an urban environment offers many exciting opportunities and that working together to further those qualities presents a challenging and rewarding experience.

Prepared by Historic Augusta, Inc.  
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# Summerville



*Augusta, Georgia*



*Gould's Corner*



SUMMERVILLE NEIGHBORHOOD  
ASSOCIATION  
Post Office Box 12212  
Augusta, GA 30904



Summerville, on the tree-covered sand hills overlooking Augusta, Georgia, has always been a very special community. Its healthful air and attractive vistas enticed early Augustans, including George Walton, signer of the Declaration of Independence, to build summer homes here. One of Walton's early Summerville neighbors was John Milledge, a governor of Georgia, and a gentleman farmer, who corresponded with Thomas Jefferson on "scientific farming."

In the early nineteenth century, many of Augusta's prominent citizens were attracted to this area. Usually their Summerville homes were intended for use only during the summer months when the heat and humidity along the Savannah River made their Augusta houses uncomfortable. Those summer months became a social season, with residents vying with each other in giving dances and suppers. Among the imposing estates were many smaller houses built in a style known as the "Sand Hills Cottage", typically a white frame house with a wide front porch and a dormer roof.



The village of Summerville was officially incorporated in 1861, and included all the area within a one mile radius of Gould's Corner, the intersection of Walton Way and Milledge Road. During the Civil War, both Summerville and Augusta were well protected by the Augusta Arsenal, a fortification which had been relocated from the banks of the Savannah River to Summerville in 1826 after many troops died of "swamp fever." Much of the Arsenal property is now the campus of Augusta College.

In the 1880's, Summerville entered a new and exciting period of its history. Attracted by its moderate winter climate, and by the hospitality of its residents, many Northern visitors chose Summerville as a winter resort. Some of the wealthy guests built elegant homes here, and added a diversity of architectural styles which even now gives Summerville so much of its interest and appeal. The new homes were matched by imposing resort hotels such as the Bon Air and Partridge Inn, which afforded their guests an opportunity to play the newly-popular game of golf at the nearby Country Club Course.



Today, Summerville is a part of the city of Augusta, but its residents are very conscious of the special history they share. We invite you to walk or ride along our beautiful tree-lined streets. Summerville is a neighborhood that is striving to preserve the best of its past, and to blend it with the new in a way which provides a rewarding way of life for its residents.

**1. GOULD'S CORNER**  
828 Milledge Road

This Italianate style mansion served as the geographical center for the Town of Summerville. All lands within a one mile radius were part of the 1861 village known as Summerville. Note the octagonal cupola on the home's roof.

**2. CHAMPION MAGNOLIA**  
828 Milledge Road

The huge tree towering nearly 100' and having a crown of 64' is the largest Cucumber Magnolia, a deciduous variety, in the Region. Ginkgo, dogwoods, oaks, and crepe myrtle abound in Summerville.

**3. MONTROSE (Alan Fuqua Center)**  
2249 Walton Way

This grand classic Greek Revival home has stood since before the civil war. Four Corinthian columns support a pedimented portico. A detached octagonal kitchen, a fleeting fad of 19th Century, can be found in the back.

**4. CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**  
Property of Artemus Gould  
Walton Way

The Church was founded in 1869. Its first building which was wooden, burned to the ground and was replaced with a brick structure paid for by Mrs. Gould, owner of Gould's Corner. The elaborate detailed and colorful building style is called High Victorian Gothic.

**5. APPLEBY LIBRARY**  
2260 Walton Way

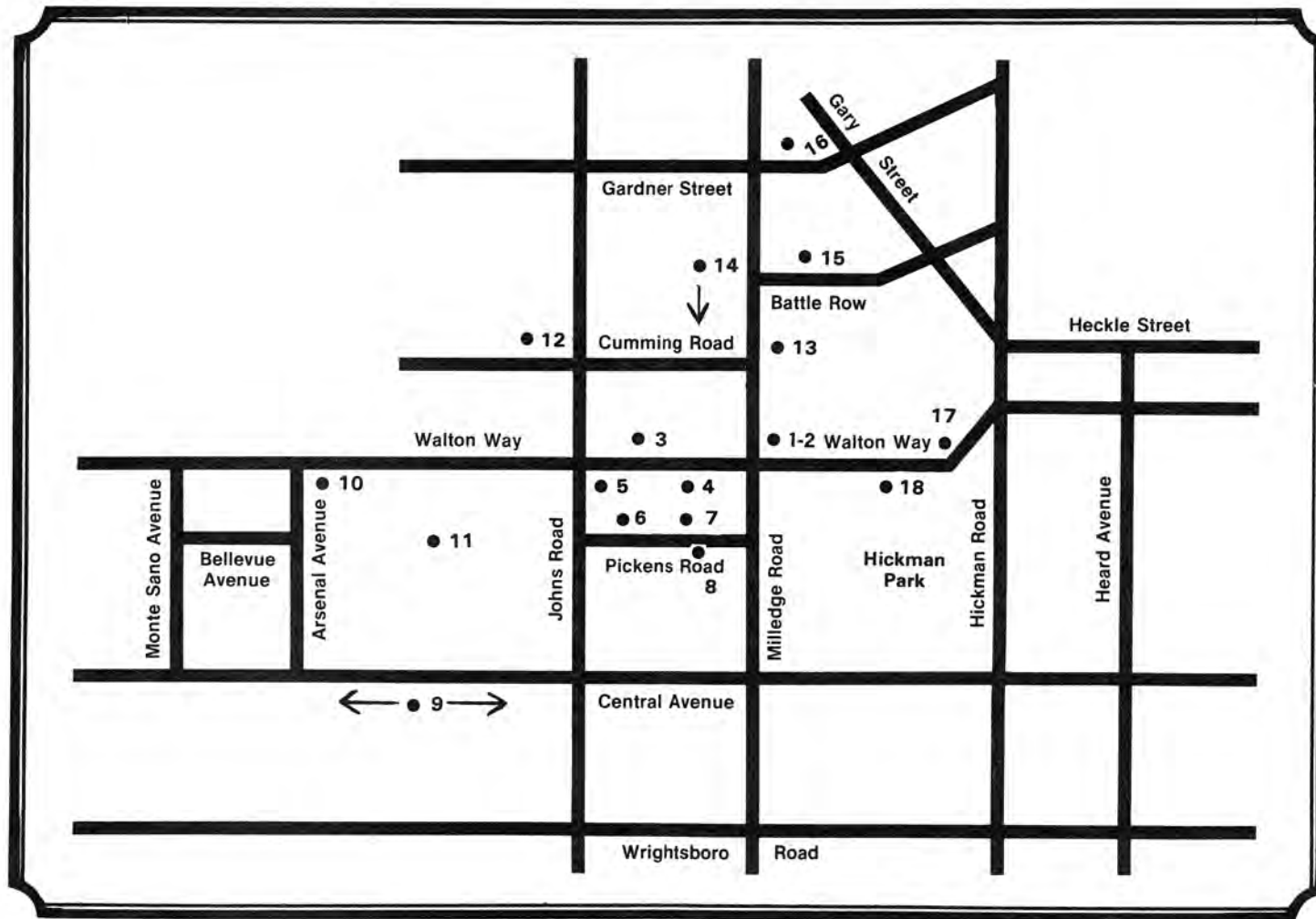
A 1830's Greek Revival building, painted white, in the tradition of the South, was at one time a winter residence for a northern industrialist. The home which was donated to the City is a good example of Adaptive Reuse - it's now the neighborhood library.

**6. "MIRROR HOUSES"**  
2237 Pickens Road & 2233 Pickens Road

Two homes, with sixteen rooms each, built around the turn-of-the-twentieth century for a brother and his sister. The houses are a mirror reflection of each other.

**7. RICHARD HENRY WILDE HOUSE**  
2229 Pickens Road

One of the neighborhood's oldest homes, this Sand Hills style cottage was built in 1810. The cottage is slightly raised, has a narrow front porch, two dormers on the roof.



**8. VICTORIAN COTTAGE**  
2230 Pickens Road

Homes built in the Victorian era were more elaborate and colorful than those built earlier. The window coverings, scrollwork, porch spindles and roof lines are details that add charm to the established residential character of the neighborhood.

**9. CENTRAL AVENUE PLANTED MEDIAN**  
Central Avenue - Hickman Road to Monte Sano Avenue

Once called "Exposition Avenue" because of the amphitheater found at the end. Central Avenue is planted with dozens of oaks, dogwoods, azalea beds, and crepe myrtles as a memorial to the dead of World War I.

**10. WALKER CEMETARY**  
Grounds of Augusta College

Look for the tomb stone which reads "killed by a cowardly assassin" in this family cemetery of U.S. Senator Freeman Walker. Augusta College is part of the University of Georgia system.

**11. U. S. ARSENAL**  
Grounds of Augusta College

In 1826, the old Arsenal was moved from the Savannah River to the healthier atmosphere of Summerville. At the outbreak of the Civil War, the Arsenal was surrendered to the Confederacy without a shot being fired.

**12. SUMMERVILLE CEMETARY**  
Corner of Johns and Cumming Roads

Resting place of many eminent Summerville residents and famous Georgians including Governors John Milledge and George Crawford, author Charles Jones Jenkins, Judge Joseph Lamar, and Thomas Cumming, first mayor of Augusta.

**13. FORSYTH HOUSE**  
728 Milledge Road

Home of John Forsyth, Governor of Georgia, U.S. Senator, Secretary of State, and Minister to Spain. Forsyth negotiated the purchase of the lands now known as Florida for the United States. This house is a good example of a Sand Hill Cottage.

**14. SAND SIDEWALKS**  
throughout "the Hill"

The residential character of Summerville is enhanced by the large number of shade trees, the varied barrier fences, manicured lawns, and uniform setbacks. The wide, sandy sidewalks paralleling the streets lend a pedestrian air and a relaxed atmosphere to the community.

**15. BATTLE ROW**  
Hickman Road to Milledge Road

Originally called "the Highway to the Hill," despite the fact that the road was only one wagon-wide. The trip from Augusta was an exciting one, with meals served as the cars lumbered along the macademized road. Summerville is really 300' higher in elevation than the City of Augusta.

**16. OVERTON**  
635 Gary Street

Home of Governor John Milledge, the original structure dates from 1798. It was part of a 5,000 acre plantation and the site of early scientific farming experiments. The nation's largest crepe myrtle is located on the grounds.

**17. BON AIR**

The Spanish influence is clear in the 1921 former resort hotel. U.S. Presidents Taft and Harding were guests. Augusta flourished as a winter resort before railroads popularized Florida.

**18. PARTRIDGE INN**

The inventor of the telephone Alexander G. Bell was once a guest in the former family hotel. The original family residences enclosed the structure. The roaring twenties with excellent cuisine and popular dance on summer eves were part of this festive era.