

ATHENS, ALABAMA
COLUMNS & CULTURE

• LIMESTONE COUNTY ANTEBELLUM TRAIL •
 - HOMES FROM THE 1820'S THRU 1860'S -



AUDIO CD AVAILABLE
 Stop by the Athens-Limestone County
 Visitors Center at 100 Beaty St. North in Athens
 to pick-up your audio tour CD for \$5.00 + tax.



ATHENS-LIMESTONE COUNTY
TOURISM ASSOCIATION

100 Beaty Street North, Athens, AL 35611
 GPS 34.803 -86.967

Visitor Center open M-F 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sa 8 a.m.-Noon

256-232-5411 www.VisitAthensAL.com

Printed in U.S.A./2.5m/3-15

ATHENS, ALABAMA
**COLUMNS
 & CULTURE**
 LIMESTONE COUNTY ANTEBELLUM TRAIL



HOMES FROM THE
 1820'S THRU 1860'S



AUDIO CD
 AVAILABLE



www.VisitAthensAL.com • 256-232-5411

• LIMESTONE COUNTY ANTEBELLUM TRAIL •

EARLY SETTLEMENT OF LIMESTONE COUNTY



A painting showing Fort Hampton in 1812.
 (Prints available for purchase.)

John Craig and his family, the first settlers of European descent to settle here, camped by the big spring near present day Beaty Street in 1805. Hostile Indians soon drove the Craigs out, but the United States Treaty” with the Cherokee the following year. Under this treaty the Cherokee ceded their land north of the Tennessee River except for Chief Doublehead’s Reserve, which lay between the Elk River and Cypress Creek. However, the Chickasaw still claimed land in the area.

In the fall of 1808, two brothers, Robert and William Moore, from the settlements near present-day Huntsville, settled the site of Mooresville on the Tennessee River. In 1810, President James Madison ordered the establishment of Fort Hampton, an outpost located west of the Moores’ homestead, to keep white settlers from trespassing on Chickasaw land. The



President James Madison

Chickasaw ceded their land in this region to the United States in 1816 and the government began selling the regions public lands soon after.

Limestone County was created by the newly organized Alabama Territorial General Assembly in 1818. Named for Limestone Creek, which cut through a deposit of hard limestone, the new county then had a population of 4,500. That year Robert Beaty and John Carroll bought several acres in the vicinity of John Craig’s big spring and sold lots. A new town, which would soon become “Athens,” quickly grew up around the spring.



Robert Beaty

On October 15, 1818, the residents of Moore’s settlement petitioned the General Assembly to pass an Act of Incorporation. Mooresville, incorporated on November 16, 1818, was the first town to be incorporated in Alabama Territory. Athens was incorporated three days later, on November 19, 1818. Alabama did not become a state until November 1819, so Mooresville and Athens are older than the state of Alabama.

ANTEBELLUM ECONOMY OF LIMESTONE COUNTY



A Limestone County cotton field at harvest time.

King Cotton dominated the Limestone County economy as it did most of the rest of the Old South and many of the county's residents were small farmers, planters, artisans, merchants or slaves. The successful planters and merchants built spacious and handsome homes, most of them in prevailing neoclassical styles of the period.

Planters' homes stood at the center of a large and busy complex of cotton fields; gardens of vegetables, herbs and flowers; grape arbors, and orchards of apple, fig, peach, pear, pecan, plum and walnut trees.

The planters cultivated their fields with oxen, mules and horses. Plantation outbuildings included carriage houses, outhouses, stables, barns, tool and molasses sheds, grain cribs, blacksmith shops, cotton gins and slave houses, know as "the quarters." Most of the quarters in Limestone County had no more than ten to fifteen houses.

Many of the plantations raised milk cows and beef cattle and often had pig pens and yards for poultry and other fowl. People kept their vegetables in cellars and preserved their meat by smoking it in houses built for the purpose. They got their water from well or spring houses and cooked delicious meals of home grown vegetables and fruits and beef, pork, chicken, guineas or turkeys in separate kitchen buildings. Even town homes had outbuildings nearby, especially well houses, kitchens, carriage houses (or stables or barns), outhouses and chicken houses.

These buildings were made of brick manufactured from the native red-clay soil and lumber cut from the virgin timber that grew in abundance in Limestone County. The county's artisans also manufactured household furnishings and tools from the native trees, though the cotton economy allowed the importation of many goods from Europe and the Atlantic Seaboard.



Mahogany sideboard made by George D. Blair in Athens, 1829.

LIMESTONE COUNTY ANTEBELLUM TRAIL

As you begin your tour, please note the brown, numbered signs in front of each stop in Athens. Each stop will have a numbered sign in front of it which corresponds to the number in your brochure and your audio CD. Numbered signs are not used in Mooresville; there, the stops are identified only with street numbers. While we begin our trail in Athens and end it in Mooresville, please feel free to follow it in any order you prefer.



STOP 1
DONNELL HOME "PLEASANT HILL" CA. 1851
601 SOUTH CLINTON STREET



STOP 2
JONES-HATCHETT HOME "COMAN HALL"
CA. 1855, 519 SOUTH CLINTON STREET



AN AUDIO CD FOR THE ANTEBELLUM TRAIL DRIVING TOUR IS AVAILABLE FOR \$5.00 + TAX AT THE ATHENS-LIMESTONE COUNTY VISITORS CENTER, 100 N BEATY ST, ATHENS, AL; (256) 232-5411



STOP 3
RICHARDSON-GORDON HOME CA. 1834
401 SOUTH CLINTON STREET



STOP 4
WALKER-KUYKENDALL HOME CA. 1855
309 SOUTH CLINTON STREET

LIMESTONE COUNTY ANTEBELLUM TRAIL



STOP 5

BEATY-MASON-GARRETT HOME & SLAVE
CABIN CA. 1826
211 SOUTH BEATY STREET



STOP 7

SLOSS-STOCKTON HOME CA. 1845
202 NORTH BEATY STREET



STOP 9

HOBBS-DARBY-CANNON HOME CA. 1838
204 NORTH MARION STREET



STOP 11

TANNER-SMITH HOME CA. 1845
111 NORTH MADISON STREET



STOP 6

VINING-LOVVORN HOME CA. 1824
301 EAST WASHINGTON STREET



STOP 8

MARION STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST CA. 1836
124 NORTH MARION STREET



STOP 10

CRAIG-WILSON HOME CA. 1845
207 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET



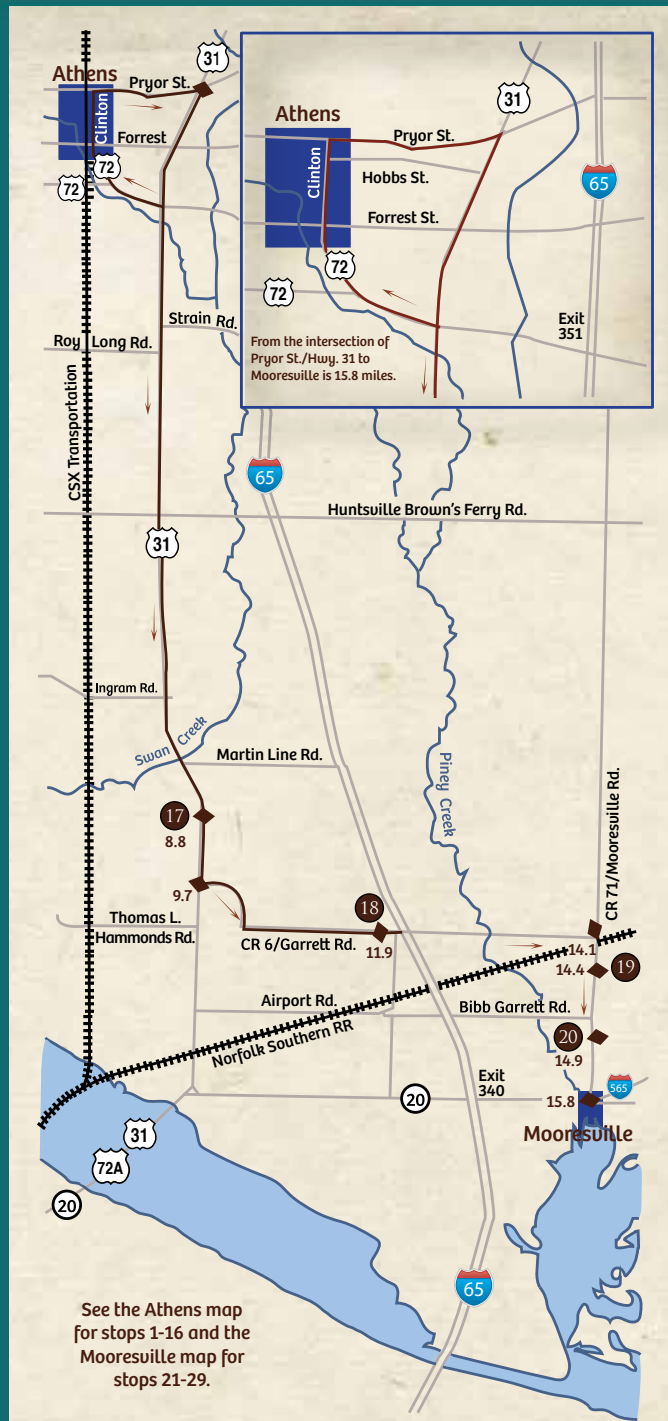
STOP 12

GOVERNOR GEORGE S. HOUSTON HOME CA. 1830
CURRENTLY A LIBRARY AND MUSEUM
101 NORTH HOUSTON STREET
HOURS: TUESDAY - FRIDAY, 8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.
SATURDAY, 9:00 A.M., TO 12:00 P.M.

LIMESTONE COUNTY ANTEBELLUM TRAIL

ATHENS AREA OF THE ANTEBELLUM TRAIL

- 1 - Donnell Home "Pleasant Hill" ca. 1851
- 2 - Jones-Hatchett Home "Coman Hall" ca. 1855
- 3 - Richardson-Gordon Home ca. 1834
- 4 - Walker-Kuykendall Home ca. 1835
- 5 - Beaty-Mason-Garrett Home & Slave Cabin Ca. 1826
- 6 - Vining-Lovvorn Home ca. 1824
- A. Athens-limestone visitors center
- B. Big Spring Park
- 7 - Sloss-Stockton Home ca. 1845
- 8 - Marion Street Church of Christ ca. 1836
- C. The City Municipal Building
- D. Buildings on the Courthouse Square
- 9 - Hobbs-Darby-Cannon Home ca. 1838
- 10 - Craig-Wilson Home ca. 1845
- 11 - Tanner-Smith Home ca. 1845
- 12 - Governor George S. Houston Home ca. 1830
- 13 - Martin-Johnson Home ca. 1820
- 14 - Slave Quarter of Martin-Johnson Home
- 15 - Murrah-Pryor Home ca. 1838
- E. The Old L & N Freight Depot
- 16 - Founders Hall, Athens University ca. 1842



See the Athens map for stops 1-16 and the Mooresville map for stops 21-29.

ATHENS TO BELLE MINA TO MOORESVILLE

- 17 - Pryor-Flower Hill Farm ca. 1858
- 18 - "The Cedars" ca. 1859
- 19 - Eggleston-Frazier Home "Woodside" ca. 1861
- 20 - Govern Thomas Bibb Home "Belle Mina" ca. 1826

MOORESVILLE

- 21 - Stage Coach Inn and Tavern ca. 1825
- 22 - Mooresville Post Office ca. 1840
- 23 - Peebles-McCrary Home ca. 1826
- 24 - Campbell-Crumblish Home ca. 1826
- 25 - Peebles-Leftwich-Harris-Lovvorn Home ca. 1826
- 26 - Thach-Sherrill Home ca. 1825
- 27 - Mooresville Church of Christ ca. 1854
- 28 - Mooresville Union Church ca. 1839
- 29 - Peebles Home "Sedgefield" ca. 1850

LIMESTONE COUNTY ANTEBELLUM TRAIL



WATCH FOR THE ANTEBELLUM TOUR SIGNS!

MAP KEY

- First direction
- Second direction
- Third direction
- Tour Roads
- Other Roads
- Tour Stops
- Mileage Markers

Mileage shown is cumulative between Pryor Street and Mooresville.

ATHENS TOUR

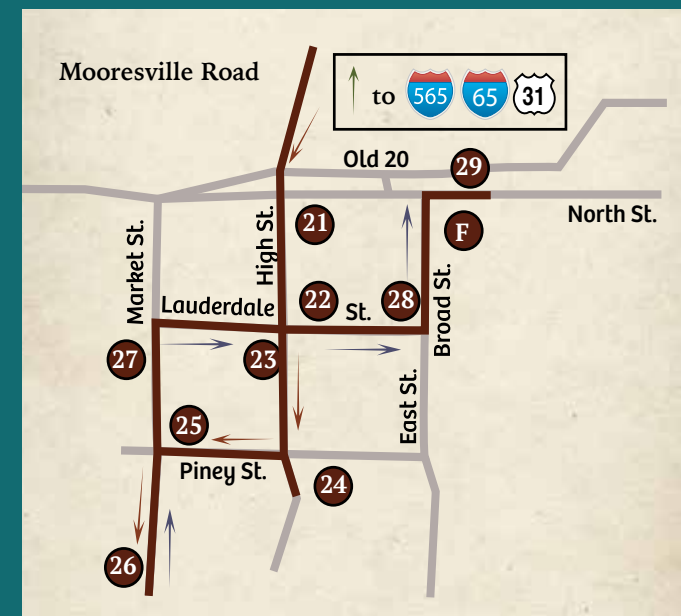
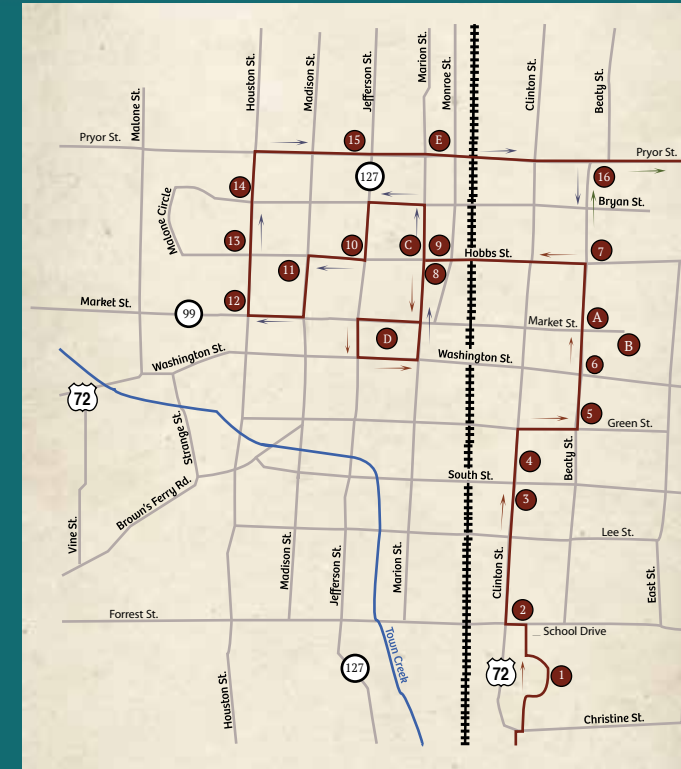
Stop A. Athens-Limestone Visitors Center, 100 North Beaty Street. Open to Public. Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Stop B. Big Spring Park. Open to Public

Stop C. The City Municipal Building, 200 West Hobbs Street. Open to Public. Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Stop D. Buildings on the Courthouse Square. Open to Public

Stop E. The Old L & N Freight Depot, Currently the Alabama Veterans Museum & Archives, 100 West Pryor Street. Open to Public. Hours: Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to p.m.



LIMESTONE COUNTY ANTEBELLUM TRAIL



STOP 13

MARTIN-JOHNSON HOME CA. 1820
207 NORTH HOUSTON STREET



STOP 15

MURRAH-PRYOR HOME CA. 1838
405 NORTH JEFFERSON STREET



STOP 17

PRYOR-FLOWER HILL FARM CA. 1858
8495 HIGHWAY 31 SOUTH



STOP 19

EGGLESTON-FRAZIER HOME "WOODSIDE" CA. 1861
6660 MOORESVILLE ROAD



STOP 14

SLAVE QUARTER OF MARTIN-JOHNSON HOME
BETWEEN 303 & 308 NORTH HOUSTON STREET



STOP 16

FOUNDERS HALL, STHENS UNIVERSITY CA. 1842
300 NORTH BEATY STREET
OPEN TO PUBLIC MONDAY - FRIDAY, 8:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.



STOP 18

"THE CEDARS" CA. 1859
22877 GARRET ROAD



STOP 20

GOVERNOR THOMAS BIBB HOME "BELLE MINA" CA. 1826
6185 MOORESVILLE ROAD

LIMESTONE COUNTY ANTEBELLUM TRAIL



STOP 21
STAGECOACH INN AND TAVERN CA. 1825
4936 HIGH STREET



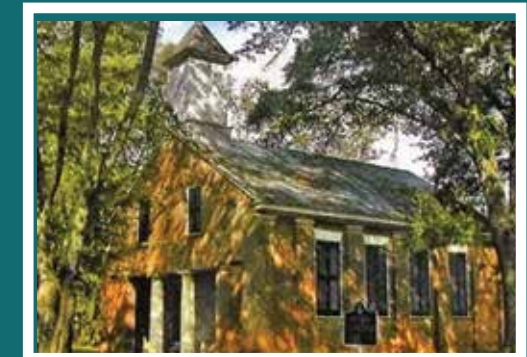
STOP 23
PEEBLES-MCCRARY HOME CA. 1826
4845 HIGH STREET



STOP 25
PEEBLES-LEFTWICH-HARRIS-LOVVORN
HOME CA. 1826, 4810 MARKET STREET



STOP 27
MOORESVILLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
CA. 1854, 4849 MARKET STREET



STOP 28
MOORESVILLE UNION CHURCH CA. 1839
25035 LAUDERDALE STREET



STOP 22
MOORESVILLE POST OFFICE CA. 1840
LAUDERDALE STREET



STOP 24
CAMPBELL-WOODROOF-CRUMLISH HOME CA. 1826
4804 HIGH STREET



STOP 26
THACH-SHERRILL HOME CA. 1825
4772 MARKET STREET



STOP 29
PEEBLES HOME "SEDFIELD" CA. 1850
25179 NORTH STREET