



"Clinton Methodist Church"



"Pine Ridge School"



"McCarthy - Pope House "

The Town That Time Forgot



Located 12 miles northeast of
Macon, GA and one-and-a-half miles
southwest of Gray just off Highway 129

Clinton, The Village

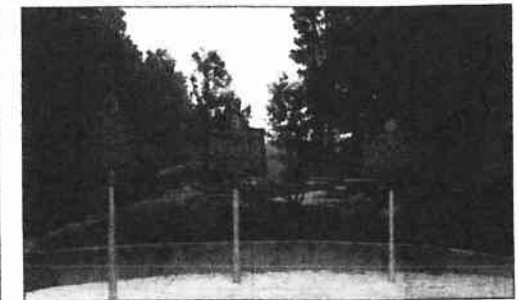
Clinton was settled in 1808 on the remote western frontier of Georgia. In 1810, Clinton had a population of 85 and was a rough frontier town consisting mostly of log houses, a frame courthouse and a few frame dwellings. By 1820, Clinton's population had swelled to 841 making it the fourth largest city in Georgia with a thriving economy. There was a Samuel Griswold cotton gin manufacturing facility, a leather tannery, 5 law offices, 4 taverns, 3 doctors and 56 houses. Public buildings included the Jones County Court House, Jail, Academy and Methodist Meeting Hall.

During the mid 1800's, Clinton took on the air of an aristocratic community surrounded by the estates of wealthy planters. This tranquil and almost idyllic village met with great drama and tragedy as the War Between the States pushed closer. Clinton was located in the direct line of Sherman's right wing on their fiery "March to the Sea". In November of 1864, almost two thirds of the town was laid to waste by the Union Army. Within three years of that event, fire had claimed numerous other remaining structures. Today only 13 original structures remain giving testimony to a time long ago but not forgotten.

The Old Clinton Historical Society, formed in 1974, is guided with the mission of preserving and restoring Clinton as the unique early nineteenth century survivor that it is today.



Clinton Town Cemetery



Clinton Roadside Park

1. Old Clinton Roadside Park, 2004. This park was created with funds obtained through a DOT Transportation Enhancement Act grant. All of the historic markers about Clinton's early days are located here, with the exception of the Iverson House and the Clinton Methodist Church locations. The Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails marker will also be placed here when Jones County's portion of the trail is "marked". This park nestles in a granite outcropping on a hill above the secondary spring site for the Clinton Female Seminary. The main spring site is under the four-lane highway just to the south of the park area.

2. Clower-Gaultney House, 1816-19. Built by Peter Clower, who operated a store in Clinton, this house once had a two-story gallery across the front, supported by four small round columns. The interior featured hand-painted wallpaper which was bought by a woman who had it transferred to her home in another town. The mantels and wainscoting were removed at the same time.

3. Jones House. This small house is more than likely antebellum. A photograph of Clinton taken around the turn of the century reveals that the house then had the same basic outline as the main body of the house has today. Wine racks have been found in the cellar.

4. Law Office. Part of this structure is thought to be antebellum. After the War Between the States, Judge Jackson Clay Barron used the structure as his law office.

5. Barron-Blair House, 1810-1820. Built by Captain John Mitchell, a Clinton commissioner, and added to by James Smith, an attorney, it was purchased in 1845 by Dr. Horatio Bowen who became the leading doctor in the county. He also was a planter and one of the largest wine producers in the state. Later, it was the home of Judge Barron.

6. Parrish-Billue House, 1810. Captain Jonathon Parrish was one of the earliest settlers of the county and a Clinton commissioner in 1816. His wife ran a boarding house for the young men of the town. The house was the headquarters for Gen. Kilpatrick of the Federal cavalry on the March to the Sea.

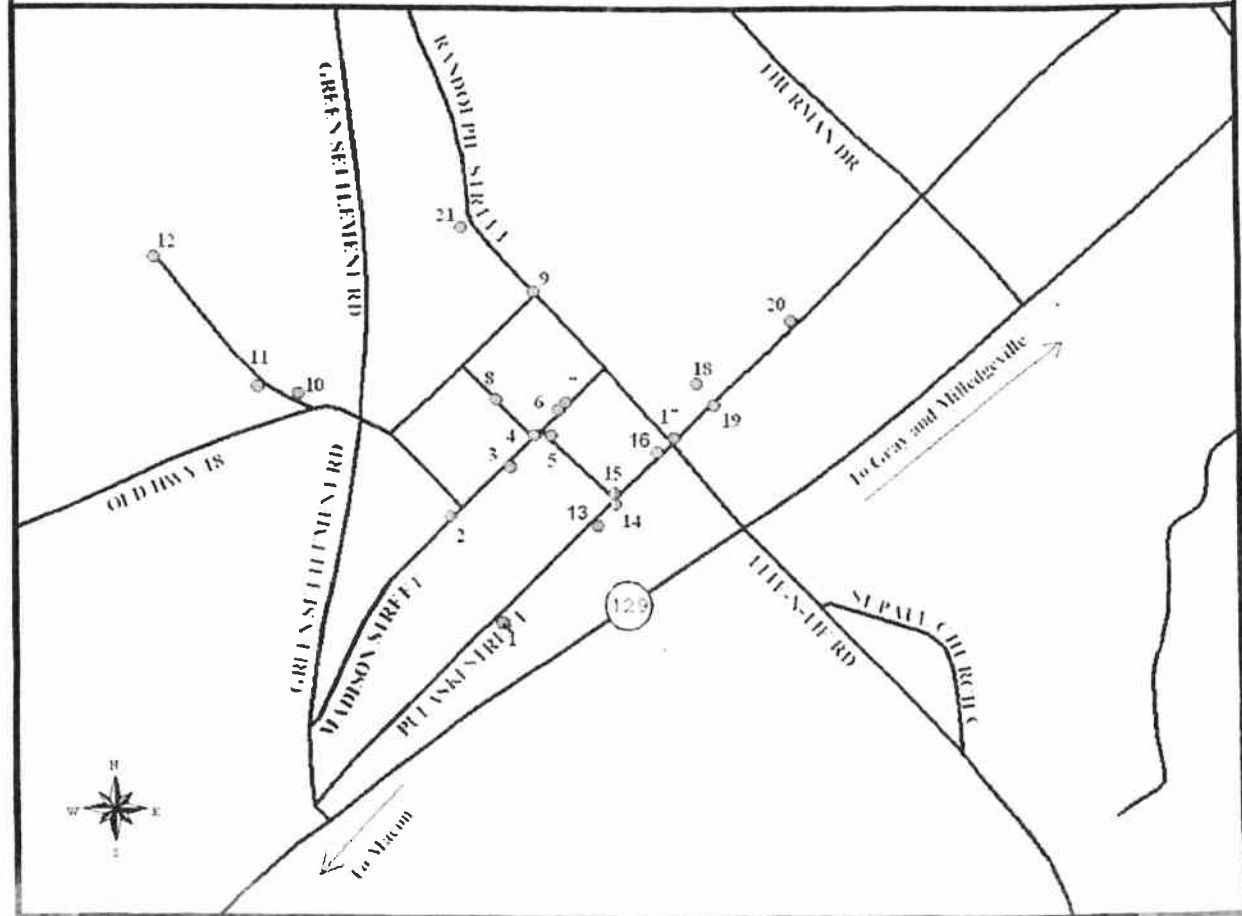
7. Iverson Law Office, 1821. In 1830 this was the law office of Alfred Iverson, Sr. and Samuel Lowther, Esq.

8. Califf House. Not until recent research into Clinton's architectural heritage was this house recognized as one of the early structures. Maggie Califf, a prominent black school teacher for whom one of the county schools was named, lived here.

9. Lockett-Hamilton House, 1830. Built by James Lockett whose wife, Hetty, lived here until 1860, this house after the War Between the States was the home of James H. Blount, a lawyer and a U.S. Congressman from 1872-1892. His daughter, Eugenia Dorothy Blount Lamar, a President-General of the U.D.C., was born here in 1866. Later it was home to Roland T. Ross, Clerk of the Superior Court, for several decades.

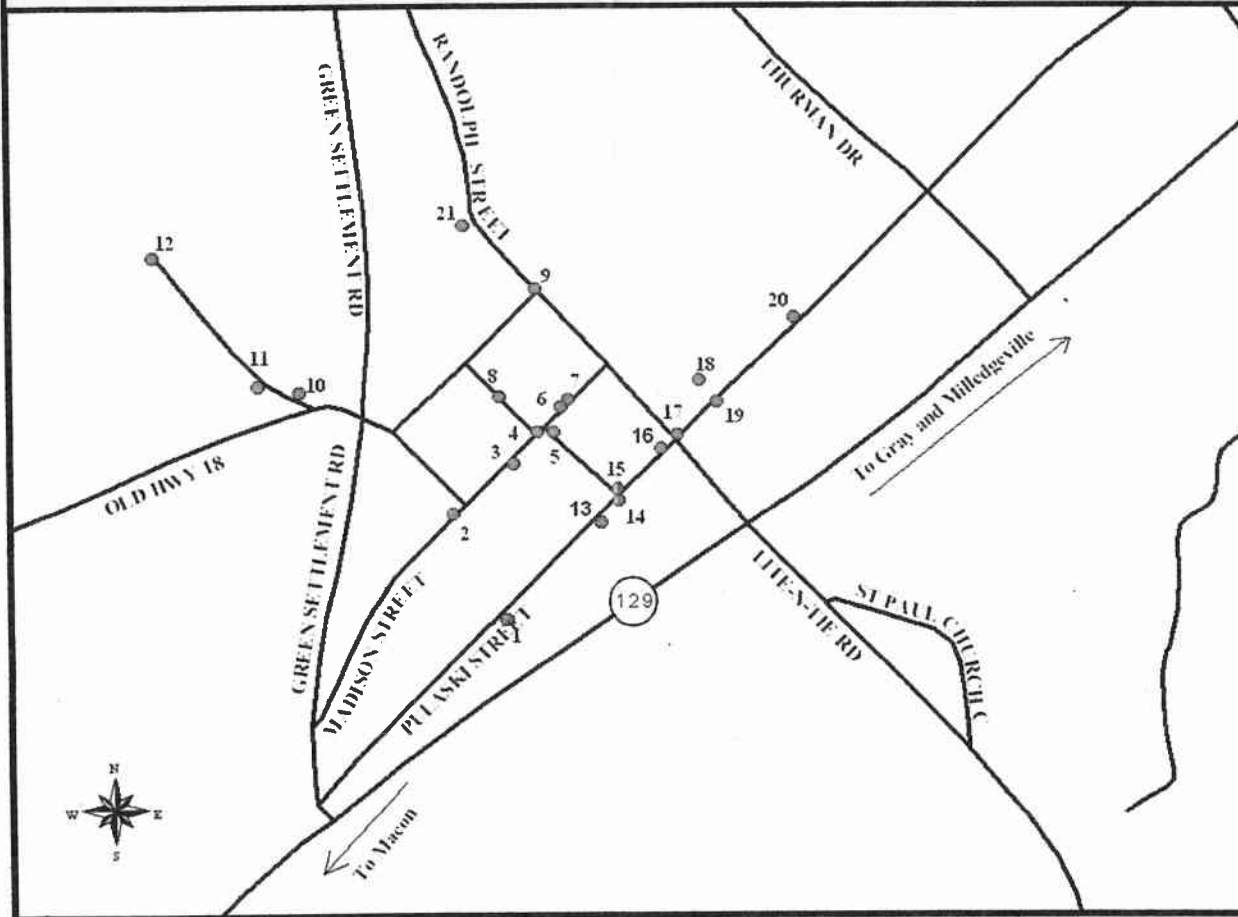
Old Clinton Historic Structures and Sites

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Old Clinton Historic Structures and Sites



(four continued)



10. Old Clinton Methodist Church, 1821.
A church building was located here as early as 1813 and a Methodist Society as early as 1810. People from the young town of Macon are said to have attended services here before a church was built in Macon.

11. Clinton Town Cemetery. The town cemetery stretched from the area just beside the Methodist Church to the portion of Randolph Street marked #21.

12. Jones-Ross House, 1826. Built by Mrs. Beersheba Jones, this house is located at the end of a road that runs through the cemetery at the Methodist Church. In 1850, it was the home of John Pitts whose brother was one of two Jones County delegates to the secession convention. He had been elected by a narrow margin over a Union man.

13. McCarthy-Pope House, 1809-1810. The oldest house in the village is thought to have been built by Roger McCarthy, one of the earliest settlers of the county. A later resident, Charles McCarthy, was Clerk of the Superior Court

14. Big Red Barn, early 1900's. Located on property that was part of the Reuben J. Stewart estate and adjacent to the site of the 19th century jail (foundations still in evidence), this structure is typical of one that is fast disappearing from America's landscape, even in the rural areas. It has housed many fund raising events for OCHS and is the well-known landmark for directions. "Go to the Red Barn. I'll meet you there." Restoration work began in late 2004 and is being done with volunteers and donations, with the intent of not only preserving the structure but also creating a craft demonstration location.

15. Miss Annie's Store, early 1900's. Located on what is known as the Reuben Stewart home place and where a tavern once stood in Clinton's heyday, this building served as a community general store and gas station for Clinton before growth in the town of Gray gradually pulled business away. It was restored over a 2-year period with volunteer labor from Civil War re-enactor units and donated materials and money from them and other concerned citizens. It was dedicated to Mrs. Earl Hamilton (Miss Annie) by the re-enactor units on the occasion of her 80th birthday for her role in Clinton's preservation.

16. Hutchings-Carr House, 1810-11. Built by Robert Hutchings, one the earliest settlers and a tax collector, sheriff, and State Representative, the house was later occupied by his son, Charles, who was a partner of Joseph Winship in the mercantile business

17. Kingman-Comer House, 1817. Among the owners of this house were Elbert Hutchings and Dr. Asbury Kingman who for many years was the Worshipful Master of the Masonic Lodge. The house has been altered inside and out.

18. Pine Ridge School, 1889. Originally located in the community of Pine Ridge east of Clinton about 4 miles, this structure was donated to OCHS in the 1980's by the Morton family with the understanding that it would be restored and preserved. The little school had to sit in place until 2000, when, through donations, OCHS was able to relocate and restore the building as a museum. It currently sits almost exactly on an original building location of Clinton in its hey day, facing an original street, Pickney.

19. Rosser-Barron House, c.1818. Built by Daniel Rosser, this was the home of Wiley Pope, a hotel keeper, in 1860. It was often called the W.W. Barron house. William Wiley Barron was born in 1857 in the old Gibson Hotel, or Tavern. He gave a deposition in 1930 recalling his impression of Clinton's direct encounter with the War Between the States.

20. Iverson-Edge House, 1821-26. Noted as an example of the medieval style in 19th century Georgia, this house was owned by the Iversons. Father and son were distinguished Georgian's, both Brigadier Generals of the Confederate Army. The senior Iverson represented Jones County in the legislature 1827-1829.

21. Oldest Part of the Clinton Town Cemetery. The grave of William D. Bunkley may be the oldest marked grave in the Clinton cemetery - 1812.