

6 YONAH DAM



WE HOPE YOU ENJOY THE DRIVING TOUR!

Questions? Call 706-282-7636
www.tugalocorridor.org

HISTORICAL SITES OF THE
TUGALOO CORRIDOR

www.tugalocorridor.org

TO BEGIN TOUR...

from Toccoa, travel east 5 miles on US 123, turn left on Riverdale Rd, go 1/4 mile to Traveler's Rest.

Tour is approximately 20 miles long.

DRIVING TOUR

THE TUGALOO RIVER CORRIDOR

Where a wealth of history & natural beauty awaits you!

!
Private Residence locations should only be viewed from the road.

5 TUGALOO BEND HERITAGE PARK
2104 Yonah Dam Rd. 706-282-7636
www.tugalobend.org

4 PRATHER HOUSE (RIVERSIDE)
5185 Prather Bridge Rd.
(Private Residence)

7 PRATHER BRIDGE

8 CLEVELAND PIKE

9 RIVER ROAD & LAKE HARTWELL

JARRETT / HAYES HOUSE (LIBERTY LODGE)
494 Old Riverdale Rd.
(Private Residence)

3

PROVIDENCE CHURCH & CEMETERY
3968 Riverdale Rd.

2

TRAVELER'S REST HISTORICAL SITE (JARRETT MANOR)
4339 Riverdale Rd. 706-356-4362
www.gastateparks.org/travelersrest

1

11

TUGALOO TOWN TUGALOO MOUND

BROKEN BRIDGES & STEPHENS COUNTY PARK

10

GET MORE INFO & IMAGES OF HISTORICAL SITES BY VISITING:

www.tugalocorridor.org/historical-sites



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THE STEPHENS COUNTY FOUNDATION
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1. TRAVELER'S REST HISTORICAL SITE (JARRETT MANOR)

One of the first land grants after the American Revolution was made to Major Jesse Walton in 1785. The first structure on the Traveler's Rest site was his homestead, built in that year. In 1789, Major Walton was ambushed by a party of Creek Indians, and died a few days later. His widow sold their homestead to her brother, who sold it to James Wyly around 1800. By 1825, Wyly had replaced the old Walton homestead with the southern end of the structure which is on the site today. In 1833, Devereaux Jarrett purchased the Traveler's Rest Inn from Wyly and expanded its services by adding the northern end of the house, operating an inn, trading post, and post office there.

The site was designated a state historical site in 1955, when the inn and adjoining acreage were sold to the State of Georgia by the granddaughter of Devereaux Jarrett, Mary Jarrett White (who, it is said, was the first woman in Georgia to vote). The inn's exterior can be visited any day during daylight hours. Its interior is open to visitors Sat & Sun 9am-5pm.

www.gastateparks.org/travelersrest

2. PROVIDENCE CHURCH & CEMETERY

From Site 1, turn right on Riverdale Rd, and go ¼ mile to Providence Church, on the left.

The church was built in 1800 by Devereaux Jarrett, owner of Traveler's Rest. Later, his son C.K. Jarrett inherited the property and in 1850 sold the church site and surrounding grounds to the Methodist Conference for \$1,000. In 1857, the Jarrett brothers, sons of Devereaux, built a new church on the site. In 1950, and with much reluctance amongst the church members, the 93 year old church was torn down and the present brick structure was built. Graves in the cemetery date back to the original church.

3. JARRETT / HAYES HOUSE (LIBERTY LODGE)

(PRIVATE RESIDENCE) *View only from roadway. From Site 2, go .9 miles north along Riverdale Rd, then turn right on Old Riverdale Rd. The house is ¼ mile down on the left.*

The house was built between 1847 and 1853 by Robert Jarrett, son of Devereaux Jarrett. He and his wife Elizabeth Ramsay Jarrett were the first occupants. Over the years, the house has often been referred to as Liberty Lodge. Robert died around 1864, and Elizabeth

kept the house and land intact until her death in 1880. After her death, the home and about 150 acres went to her son Devereaux and his wife, Julia McAllister Jarrett. Upon Julia's death in 1949, Elizabeth Turnbull Hayes, granddaughter of Devereaux, and her husband Henry Butler Hayes, purchased the property, taking up residence there in 1951. Henry Hayes died in the mid-1980's and Elizabeth followed him in 2014, at the age of 100. Today the house is owned by Robert Daniel Hayes, the youngest son of Henry and Elizabeth.

4. PRATHER HOUSE (RIVERSIDE)

(PRIVATE RESIDENCE) *View only from roadway. From Site 3, continue along Old Riverdale Rd until it rejoins Riverdale Rd. Turn right and continue on Riverdale Rd until it dead-ends into Prather Bridge Rd. Turn right, go approx. 1.1 miles, house will be on your left.*

This beautiful, fourteen-columned, Greek revival antebellum home was built in 1859 by the Prather family and is still occupied by descendants of the builder. It was built with timber from the plantation and is a classic example of the architectural style of the pre-Civil War era. Notice its boxed columns, low wrap-around porch, and small veranda with decorative balustrade overhanging the front main doors. Typical of the era, the kitchen was separate from the house. The Prather family cemetery is just 15 yards to the right of the house. During the Civil War, Confederate General Robert Toombs, a close friend of the Prathers, took refuge at Riverside, hiding in a closet to escape capture by Union troops.

(Source: Kathryn Trogon, History of Stephens Co., GA)

5. TUGALOO BEND HERITAGE PARK

From Site 4, go north on Yonah Dam Rd for 2 miles.

Tugaloo Bend is an 87-acre historic park which has been the site of Estatoe Town, a native American village (Cherokee), and later the site of an operating farm for most of the 20th century. The property is owned and operated by the Stephens County Foundation, a community foundation which has created hiking trails, a picnic area, a covered pavilion, and restroom facilities.

Hours of Operation: March - November:

*Fri 1:30pm-5pm • Sat 8:30am-5pm • Sun 1:30pm-5pm
(Winter hours and other times by appointment)*

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6. YONAH DAM

From Site 5, continue north up Yonah Dam Rd to the dam.

Georgia Power Company began construction on Yonah Dam in 1923, and completed it in 1925. The Dam impounds Lake Yonah, a 325-acre lake with over nine miles of shore line. Lake Yonah, "Bear" in Cherokee, is sixth in a chain of power company lakes built during that era for power generation. Below the dam begins a six-mile stretch of the Tugaloo River, the only remaining unimpounded stretch of the river.

The Dinky Line Railroad was constructed from a point on the Southern Railway near Toccoa out to the dam site for transportation of materials and equipment for construction. Upon completion of the dam, the Dinky Line Railroad was dismantled. One can still see the path of the rail line in numerous places along Yonah Dam Road, and can sometimes find the smaller railroad spikes along the route.

7. PRATHER BRIDGE

From Site 6, retrace your steps southward on Yonah Dam Rd to the intersection in front of Prather House. Turn left. After ½ mile, you will encounter the bridge over the Tugaloo River.

Just south of the bridge are three pillars which once supported the Prather Bridge, a covered bridge constructed and destroyed four times during its history. The bridge was first constructed in 1804 by James J. Prather. Prior crossings had to be made by ford or by ferry. The stone used for the pillars was cut from a quarry on the nearby Prather plantation; the timbers for the bridge also came from the plantation.

The first bridge washed away, but was replaced in 1850, only to be burned in 1863 during the Civil War. The bridge was replaced in 1868, and lasted until 1920 when it washed away again. It was rebuilt, only to be burned in 1978, and has yet to be replaced.

8. CLEVELAND PIKE

From Site 7, cross the bridge into South Carolina.

The road crossing into South Carolina is called Cleveland Pike, named for a hero of the American Revolution, Benjamin Cleveland. Cleveland was an Ensign, Lieutenant, Captain, and Colonel in the North Carolina Militia. Born in Prince William County VA, in 1738, he achieved notoriety for his service as a Militia Colonel

in the Battle of King's Mountain in 1780, considered to be the turning point in the Revolution in the South. For his service, in 1793, he received a large land grant along the Tugaloo River. He died in 1806 at his home place along the South Carolina side of the river.

9. RIVER ROAD & LAKE HARTWELL

From Site 8, take the first right, River Rd. Continue southward along the shores of Lake Hartwell for 5 miles, back to US 123. Turn right and come back into Georgia, crossing Lake Hartwell as you do.

10. BROKEN BRIDGES & STEPHENS CO. PARK

On the left is Stephens County Park, an area with picnic tables, a boat ramp, and the locally famous BROKEN BRIDGES. The bridge was originally a railroad bridge, built about 1870, and used until the new Trestle (which you drove under on River Rd) was built in 1918, when the railroad was re-routed.

11. TUGALOO TOWN / TUGALOO MOUND

On the north side of US 123 is a historical marker describing Tugaloo Town, a dominant Cherokee village of the 1700's. Colonel George Chicken, in his Journal of 1725, described Tugaloo Town as "The most ancient town in these parts." He further described the people of Tugaloo to be "The most turbulent in the nation and also the most taken notice of by the other towns."

The name "Tugaloo" is derived from the Cherokee "DUGILU-YI," describing the town located at the site you are seeing. The Tugaloo Mound can be seen from the historical marker by looking north through the center span of the railroad trestle at a mound of trees in the center of the lake. Prior to the Lake Hartwell impoundment in the late 1950's, the Smithsonian Institute and the University of Georgia excavated the council house mound at Tugaloo Town in 1957-1958.

When leaving Tugaloo Town, continue west on US 123 for a short distance back to the beginning point.

You have completed the driving tour of the Tugaloo Corridor. There is much more to see, but not from the comfort of your automobile.

For additional information, contact us: 706-282-7636