

Centuries of History and Hospitality



 **Jekyll Island Club**
A HISTORIC HOTEL OF AMERICA

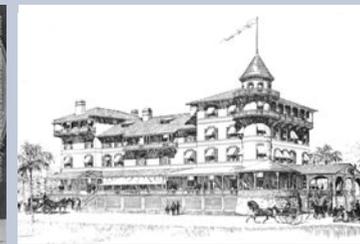
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HISTORIC HOTELS
of AMERICA
National Trust for Historic Preservation

A WALK THROUGH HISTORY



General Oglethorpe renames the island in tribute to his friend Sir Joseph Jekyll, an English politician.



John Eugene DuBignon sells the island for \$125,000 to wealthy American industrialists who create a hunting retreat, the Jekyll Island Club.



A secret meeting at the Jekyll Island Club results in the basic plan for the future Federal Reserve Banking System.



The first transcontinental telephone call is made with Club member Theodore Vail participating on Jekyll Island.



Restoration of Crane Cottage and Cherokee is completed at a cost of \$5.5 million, adding 23 additional specialty sleeping rooms to the Jekyll Island Club Hotel.

The Wanderer unloads 409 slaves on Jekyll Island; one of the last cargoes of slaves imported to the United States.

Jekyll Island's Great Dunes, an authentic links golf course, is built over the natural lay of the land beside the Atlantic Ocean.

The Great Depression takes its toll on the fortunes of some members.

The Jekyll Island causeway and original lift bridge are built connecting the island to the mainland.

Members enjoy the last "season" at the Jekyll Island Club.

The Club is elevated to National Historic Landmark status.

Restoration of the Jekyll Island Club begins.

1734 1792 1858 1865 1886 1896 1898 1899 1901 1903 1910 1915 1921 1929 1942 1947 1954 1972 1978 1985 1986 1993 2001 2010

The War Between the States puts an end to the plantation era.



Christophe DuBignon flees the French Revolution, purchases Jekyll Island and establishes a cotton plantation.



President McKinley and his wife visit members of the Jekyll Island Club.

Electric lights, thought to be merely a "fad," emblazon the Club for the first time.

Charles Alling Gifford, a premier architect of the day, designs a new Club addition, modestly named the "Annex."



A Louis Comfort Tiffany stained glass window is installed in Faith Chapel.

The Jekyll Island Club is added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Jekyll Island Club Hotel, National Historic Landmark, reopens, completely restored at a cost of \$20 million.



Georgia purchases Jekyll Island for \$675,000 and it becomes a state park.

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The Hotel is designated a Historic Hotel of America by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.



Sans Souci, one of the first condominiums in America is made ready for William Rockefeller, J.P. Morgan and four others.



In a joint effort with the Jekyll Island Authority, the Hotel renovates the historic indoor tennis center for \$3.8 million.

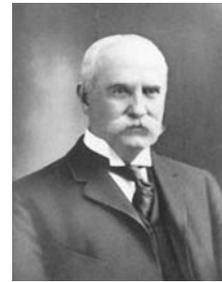




As you tour the Club, note the carefully preserved original woodwork, leaded art glass and heart pine floors.

The **Hall of Mirrors** begins your tour of the historic Jekyll Island Club. As you gaze into the first mirror on your right, look into infinity through the last original mirror and seamless frame lining this hallway.

The first room on the right is the **Federal Reserve Room**, where six of the country's most wealthy and highly respected financiers drafted the Aldrich Plan in 1910; this later became the basis for the Federal Reserve System in 1913. In addition to its use for meetings, men and women enjoyed this room for a friendly game of billiards.



The adjoining **Aldrich Room**, initially the Club card room, was named for Senator Nelson Aldrich of Rhode Island. He was chairman of the committee which met on Jekyll Island in 1910 and created the forerunner of the Federal Reserve

Plan. The decorative motif in the mantelpiece emulates the Lincoln commemorative wreath. A wreath of this design embellished Lincoln's casket in 1865. Thereafter, this motif became fashionable in mantel decoration.



Across the hall is the **Alexander Lounge**, formerly the Ladies' Parlor. The drawing displayed over the mantelpiece, rendered by architect Charles Alexander, represents the "front" of the Hunt Club he designed. A lovely leaded art glass piece serves as a skylight above the bay window.

The **Pulitzer Room**, adjacent to the Alexander Lounge, was formerly the main parlor. On the wall opposite the fireplace is a painting by G. Steele of the "Wanderer," the last ship to bring a significant cargo of slaves to the Unites States (1858).



Just off the Pulitzer Room is the **Aspinwall Room**, named after the first president of the Club, Lloyd Aspinwall (1888). It was originally an open porch and a popular place to watch the yachts arrive. This room was enclosed for year-round use after the Club opened.



The **Grand Staircase** is an exact replica of the one removed during the installation of elevators in the 1950s. Much of the original balustrade was hand turned and so is the present one.

Initially all meals were served in the **Grand Dining Room** as the Club House housed the only cooking facility. Chefs from around the world prepared the ten-course meals, and dining time was approximately three hours. Today a tradition lives on as our chefs prepare and serve breakfast, dinner and brunch on Sunday. The Grand Dining Room is open to the public.



The **Riverview Lounge** (adjacent to the Grand Dining Room). An afternoon tea is served Fridays and Saturdays with an array of fine teas, tea sandwiches, petite pastries and warm scones, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The Lounge may also be reserved for small private functions.



Through the windows you will see the smaller than Olympic but larger than standard size **Pool** which was originally filled by an Artesian spring well, rumored to have medicinal benefits. The pool has been modernized and is heated in winter.

In 1901 the **Club House Annex** was added to provide eight additional private apartments for Club members. The Annex was the first building to have indoor plumbing. Each Club member was given a certain number of specially printed guest cards to invite friends to visit during the season. The "strangers," as they were referred to by the Club members, were permitted to visit for no longer than two weeks and resided on the third floor.



"**Sans Souci**," the name of which means 'without care,' was built in 1896. This six-unit apartment building is considered to be one of the first condominiums built in this country. The floors, leaded glass, stairway and skylight are original.

Edwin Gould, the son-in-law of the first owners of the cottage known today as **Cherokee**, was in large measure responsible for the building of this Italian Renaissance residence. He purchased lot 32 from the estate of Walter Gurnee and submitted plans to build a two-story house on it for his in-laws, Dr. George F. Shradly and his wife, Hester. The cottage, which originally contained twenty rooms and six baths, was constructed in 1904 and first appears on the tax rolls in 1905 with a value of \$15,000. Restored in 2001, Cherokee now features 10 guest rooms and space for special events for up to 50 guests.



Built between 1914-1917 by Richard Teller Crane Jr., **Crane Cottage** is the most expensive house to ever be constructed during the club era. Completed in 1917, the home sprawled over two lots and originally featured 22 bedrooms and 17 bathrooms. The Italian Renaissance home was valued at \$50,000, twice as much as any other cottage on Jekyll at the time. Richard Teller Crane Jr., the youngest surviving son of Richard Teller Crane and his wife,



Mary Josephine Prentice, was the president of the Crane Company, a successful family business renowned for plumbing and bathroom fixtures. Today, Crane Cottage accommodates 13 guest rooms and special events for up to 130 guests.

To further explore the days of this lavish style, visit our Gift Shop, offering souvenirs and additional historical information found in "The Jekyll Island Club" written by William Barton McCash and June Hall McCash, along with other books about the Club.