

# Marion County Heritage Map Project

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Cultural Geography and Graphic Design students together at Pasaquan, February 13, 2016

Spring 2016

Columbus Community Geography Center

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## Project Overview

With the soft opening of Pasaquan, Marion County’s visionary art environment, in summer 2016, and its grand opening by Columbus State University in fall 2016, the Marion County Chamber of Commerce requested that the *Columbus Community Geography Center* partner to develop a heritage tour map of the county for welcome centers across the state. This small rural county of 8,700 residences, 60% white, 30% black and 7.5% Hispanic. One fifth of the population live below the poverty level. It recently lost several hundred jobs with the closure of the local chicken processing plant. Plans to launch a tourism program is understood to be of great importance to the community.



The heritage map will be designed to be displayed in a tourism materials

importance to

CSU’s Dr. Amanda Rees, Professor of Geography, and Professor Chuck Lawson, Department of Art, College of the Arts joined forces to create a heritage tour map of Buena Vista and Marion County.



Student Erin Wenzel working with community members at the heritage workshop, February 13, 2016.

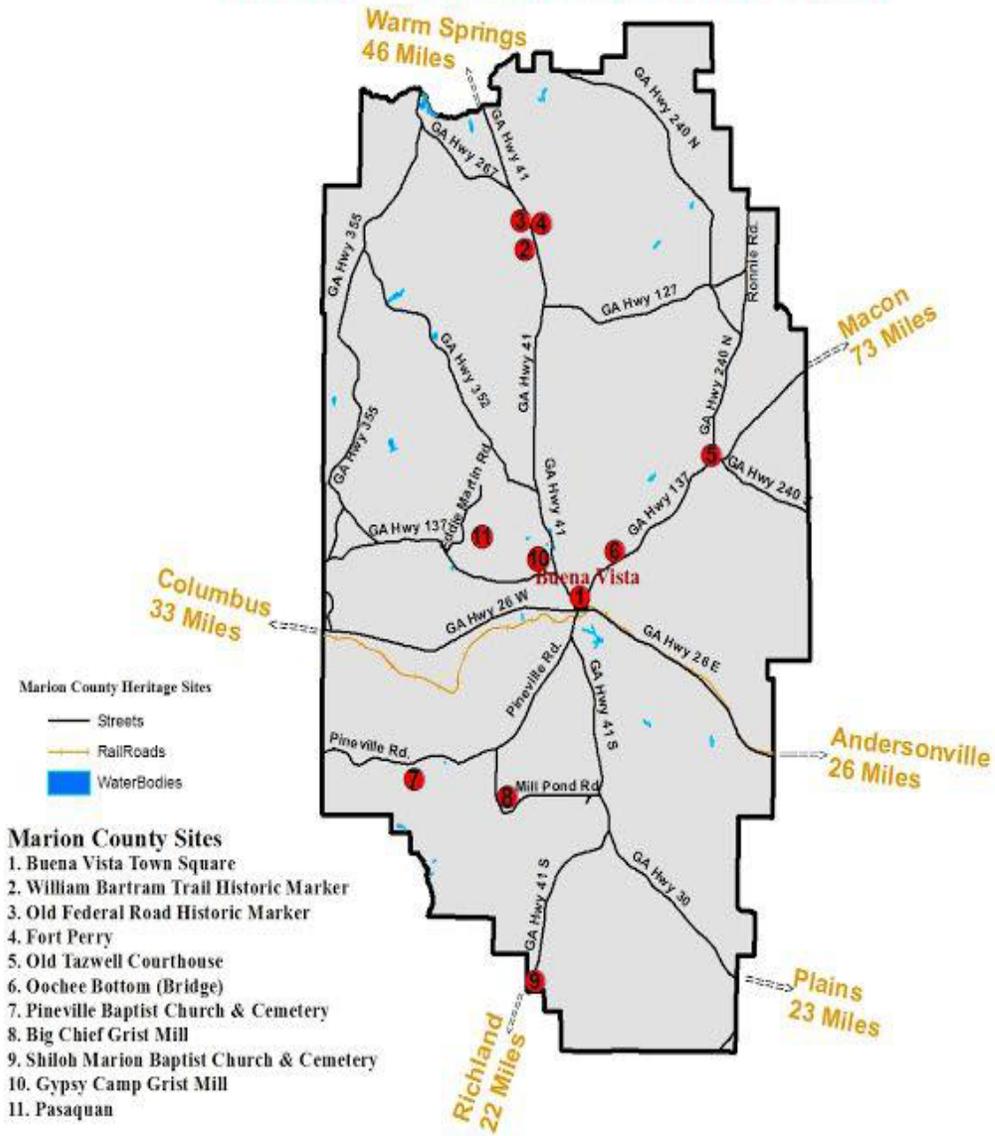
Geography students ran a community workshop to identify twenty-one county and city heritage sites for inclusion. They researched and wrote short descriptions for the map and extended histories for an accompanying web page to be accessed from the map with a QR code. Students also produced an accurate map of each site and the major roads and other primary physical features of the county and city.

Graphic design students then received the map text and GIS maps of the county and the city. Students designed three “roughs” of the map for external review. The first review included Marion County leaders, state tourism representatives, and several faculty in art, GIS and geography. The roughs were then refined and presented again to a group of reviewers.

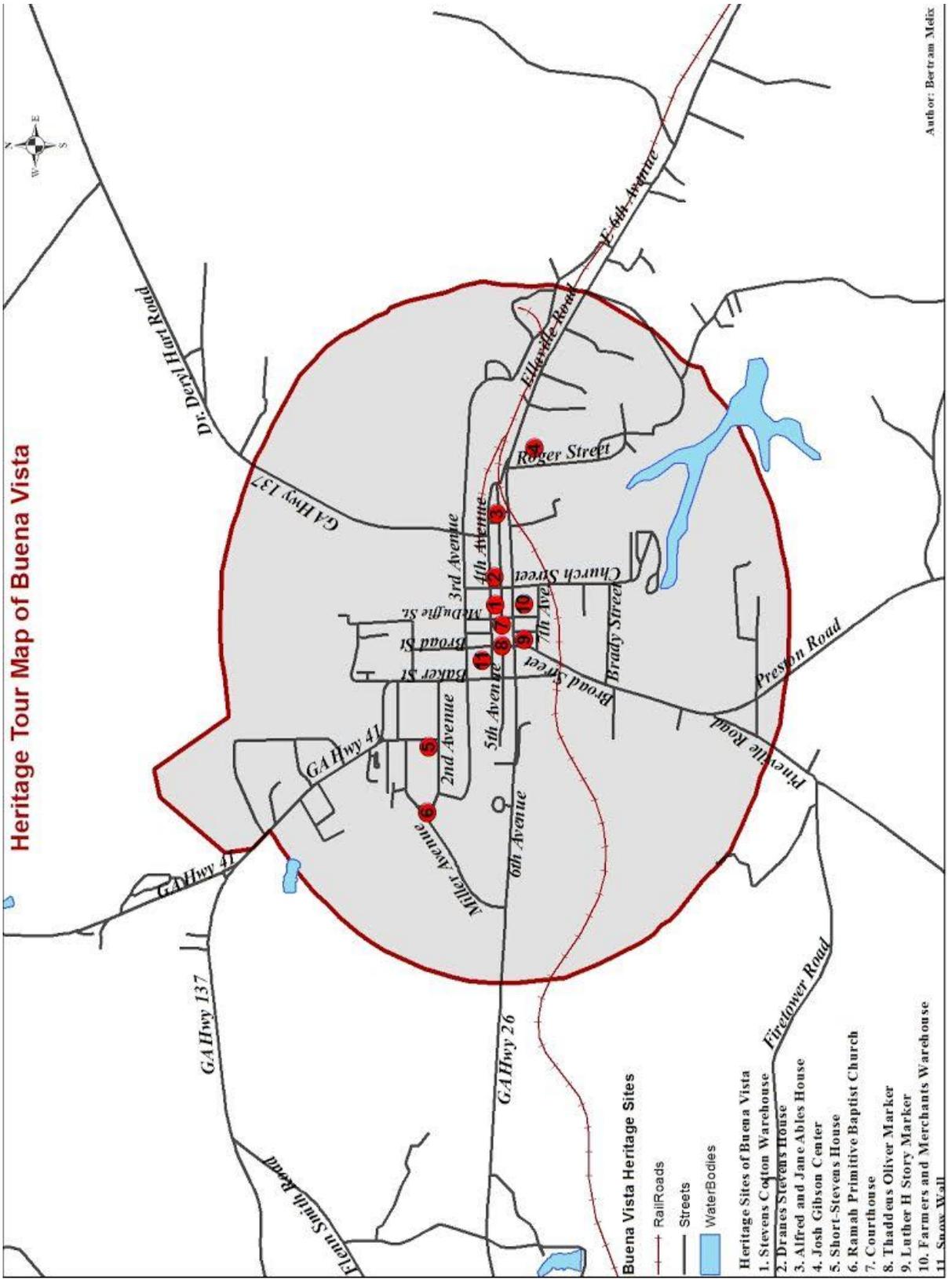
This project proved to be a good fit for CSU’s QEP “Real World Problems Solving” project in its testing phase in spring 2016. This interdisciplinary “service learning” project offered high impact educational practices, fieldwork, student-led heritage

workshop in Marion County, critical feedback from community members on writing, and design. This interdisciplinary project was aligned with CSU’s mission to support alternative pedagogical approaches to address the needs of millennial learners.

## Heritage Tour Map of Marion County



Author: Bertram Melix



## Text for the Heritage Tour Map of Buena Vista and Marion County, GA

(Text introduction front panel of the map)

From the Colonial Period to the twenty-first century, our history has included writers, artists, poets, and sportsmen who have made their innovative marks, often through adversity, well beyond our county's borders.

(back panel of the map)

From William Bartram's lyrical botanical notebook at the eve of the Revolutionary War to the Civil War poetry of Thaddeus Oliver, this community has witnessed creativity. In the twentieth century, the county birthed the baseball player Josh Gibson and the visionary arts environment of St. EOM's Pasaquan, while offering a way station in the life of renowned folk artist Bessie Harvey. From our antebellum architecture to our agricultural heritage, let Marion County inspire you.

### *Marion County Tour*

1. Established in 1827, within twenty years Marion County's population had grown to over 10,000 as cotton quickly dominated the plantation economy. After the Civil War, the county faced agricultural and economic challenges. As cotton production waned, forestry grew in prominence. Buena Vista's courthouse square marks the center of the county and the beginning of our tour.
2. In 1774, botanist William Bartram battled the stifling heat and humidity of a Georgia July to observe the indigenous plants, animals, and peoples of the region that would become Marion County.
3. Originally used as a trading route by indigenous peoples, the Old Federal Road evolved into a transportation route between Milledgeville, GA and New Orleans before being superseded by the railroad.
4. Constructed in 1813, Fort Perry (a small supply post) was an 8-pointed wooden fort that protected and defended the Old Federal Road.
5. Initially built in 1838, the Tazewell Courthouse was rebuilt after an 1845 fire. Since 1848 this antebellum structure has been home to a Masonic Lodge.
6. According to local lore, Oochee Bottom served as a hunting ground where Yuchi people gathered food and harvested deer pelts for trade.
7. Draped in Spanish moss, Pineville was an early community in the county. Its cemetery laid to rest inhabitants as early as the 1840s.

8. Located on a peaceful mill pond, the water-powered Big Chief Grist Mill ground corn into meal for local farmers from the nineteenth century onwards. It was owned by three generations of the Upton family.

9. Shiloh-Marion Baptist Church and Cemetery, represents one of the last remnants of Church Hill community. Established in 1835, it features a simple wooden clapboard building and hand-stacked stones and includes the graves of former slaves and Native Americans.

10. Moved in 1930 and powered by electricity, Gypsy Camp Grist Mill ground corn until the 1960s. Close by, Romany people camped during many summers in the first half of the twentieth century.

11. A welcoming visionary arts environment, Pasaquan was built over a 30-year period by St. EOM. The house and grounds embodies his vivid utopia.

### *Buena Vista City Tour*

1. Built in 1920 by R.W. Stevens, the Stevens Cotton Warehouse stored ginned and baled cotton awaiting shipment. The building's construction marked a period of cotton crop devastation by the boll weevil and the beginning of a national agricultural depression.

2. An excellent example of neoclassical architecture, the Drane-Stevens House features a wraparound porch and fluted Doric columns. Built in 1921, it is noted for its elaborate interior woodwork.

3. Born into slavery in 1862, by the 1880s Alfred Ables was a highly successful businessman who, at his death, donated land for an African-American school, where the Josh Gibson Center now stands. Built in 1892, the Alfred and Jane Ables House is an example of a New South cottage.

4. Josh Gibson, born in 1911 and known as the 'Black Babe Ruth', was the son of sharecroppers who subsequently moved to Pittsburgh in 1924. Gibson would become a baseball player in the Negro League and was posthumously inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. This center was named in honor of the community's most famous son.

5. The neo-classical Short-Stevens House is framed by towering magnolia trees and four two-story columns. Built in the early twentieth century, it is distinguished by its grand scale, original mantles, and mid-century features.

6. This unadorned place of worship was built in 1845; a brick veneer was later added to the outer walls. Ramah Primitive Baptist Church's most eccentric member was Eddie Owens Martin (St. EOM), who is buried in its cemetery.

8. This antebellum courthouse was built in 1850. In 1928 it was renovated and received its tetrastyle facade, which includes four large columns supporting a pediment decorated with a golden eagle.

7. A young teacher, poet, and would-be lawyer, Thaddeus Oliver arrived in Buena Vista in 1850. Thought by some to have written "All Quiet along the Potomac Tonight," he died a Confederate captain in 1864.

9. Medal of Honor recipient Luther Story died in 1950 at the age of 19 while defending his fellow soldiers in the Korean War.

10. Built in 1920, Farmers and Merchants Cotton Warehouse included both a walk-in safe and a sprinkler system to protect the flammable cotton bales. By 1970 the warehouse was in decline as nylon fabrics became popular.

11. "*Snowed Saturday nite, Feb 10, 1934.*" Snowfall is considered a novelty in the Deep South; writings on this wall documented heavy accumulations in a display of local pride.

## Web Site Heritage Materials

### Introduction to the Marion County Heritage Tour

#### *Buena Vista Square & the Expansion of the County*

Marion County was named after the Revolutionary War hero General Francis “Swamp Fox” Marion. One of the most striking features of this county was its rapid population growth. Established in 1827, by 1850, it was home to 10,000 residents. What explains this remarkable growth?

Newly accessible after the signing of the 1805 Treaty of Washington, western Georgia quickly opened up to immigration of cotton planters. Though Sea Island – long-staple – cotton thrived in the temperate climate of coastal Georgia, it was not appropriate for the more extreme climate of western Georgia. Short-staple cotton, introduced to Georgia in the 1790s, was well-matched to the flat, rich soils of counties along the fall line – the boundary between the coastal

plain and the Piedmont, and runs between Augusta in the north east central west Georgia. However, required far more labor to harvest cousin. Marion County planters importing slave labor to clear the pine forests, as well as planting and harvesting cotton. By 1850, the remarkable success of the plantation cotton economy accounted the rapid expansion of population with just over 10,000 residents in the county, a third of whom were enslaved. This rapid success gave way to the birth of various small communities as this 1899 map indicates including: Church Hill, Glen Alta (the birth place of the future St. EOM), Dranesville, Japanese, Juniper, Thornville and Zellobee. By 1850, Buena Vista was chosen as the new central site for the county’s seat of government. Beginning at the heart of the county, we will be visiting several of these former communities on our tour. However, today you will see few cotton fields as much of the county has re-focused on timber production.

Marion County, 1899.  
Source: Central of  
Georgia Railway Map of  
Alabama and Georgia,  
1899.



and Columbus in short-staple cotton than its Island quickly began region’s longleaf

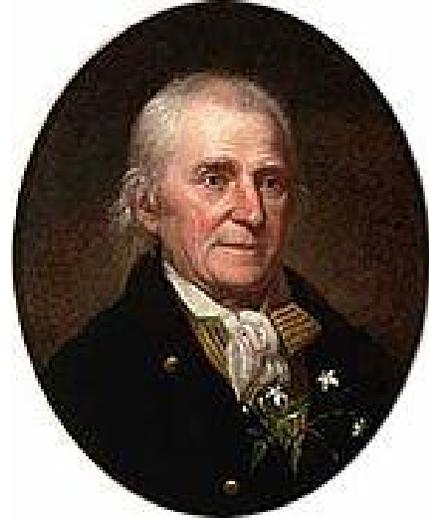
*Submission composed by Amanda Rees, April 30, 2016.*

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Giesen, J. C. “Cotton,” *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, 2016.  
Georgia Historical Society. No date. Plantation Economy. <http://georgiahistory.com/education-outreach/online-exhibits/online-exhibits/encounter-and-exchange/a-new-encounter-black-slaves-in-georgia/plantation-economy/>

## William Bartram's Trail

Throughout the late eighteenth century, just before the American Revolution, botanist William Bartram (1739-1823) explored the new, uncharted territories of the southeastern United States. This gentle and reclusive Quaker was hired by British physician John Fothergill to collect and sketch plants. Bartram's drawings and detailed diaries of his adventures were later published (1791). Bartram's *Travels* inspired English Romantic nature writings of Wordsworth and Coleridge, and his works were published and read widely in Europe.



Portrait of William Bartram by Charles Willson Peale, 1808.



[XI.] *Hydrangea quercifolia*

the United States.

Bartram's diary includes a description of his journal from Savannah to the

Chattahoochee River, using Native American trail that would become the Federal Road through the future Marion County. This part of his diary included vivid descriptions of fierce biting flies, delicate oakleaf hydrangeas, and the cooling rain which left his men feeling renewed in early July 1774. He also described staying one night with Creek peoples in eastern Marion County. Bartram was given the name of *Puc Puggy* (the flower hunter) by the Seminole people. His *Travels* is now recognized as the first

Sketch of the oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) from Bartram's *Travels* (1794).

environmental literature published in

Submission composed by Erin Wenzel and Amanda Rees, April 16, 2016

### *References and Further Reading*

Bartram, W. 1791/1794. *Travels through North and South Carolina, East and West Florida, the Cherokee Country, the Extensive Territories of the Muscolgulers, or Creek Confederacy, and the Country of the Chactaws*. Philadelphia: James & Johnson.

## The Old Federal Road



Marion County, 1834. Source: H.S. Tanner, Map of United States of America.

Georgia hosted two Federal Roads, both connecting eastern Georgia with rapidly developing western settlements and supporting regional trade, expansion and communications.

The southern portion of Georgia's Federal Roads, transected Marion County and would eventually connect Fort Wilkinson, near Milledgeville Georgia and Pensacola, Florida.

Identified by a distinctive line on this 1834 map a faint line of this map, the Federal Road was originally a Lower Creek trading path. Botanist William Bartram took this train in 1774. When the Creeks signed of the Treaty of Washington in 1805, they gave the US government rights to develop a "horse path" to support more efficient mail delivery between the nation's new capital and New Orleans, Louisiana. The horse path was eventually widened from 15 to 24 feet wide and dotted with several forts to protect this vital route. The Federal Road continued to serve migrants, traders and their wagons. It would have been the primary access point for new settlers arriving in Marion County after its establishment in 1827. The Federal Road was used until its role was superseded by railroads in the late 1830s and 1840s.

Submission composed by Jazmine Kindred, April 20, 2016.

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Haynes, J. "Federal Road." *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, 30 March.

Owby, T. and Wharton, D. 2006 "Phase I: Development of Historical Context for the Federal Road in North Georgia." The Center for the Study of Southern Culture. 2006.

## Fort Perry

Fort Perry was located on a section of Georgia's southern Federal Road constructed between 1805 and 1810. Built in 1813 of wood with an earthen embankment, though the fort no longer exists, aerial images of the site reveal the faint shape of an eight-sided star-shaped design. This design was unusual for both Southern and US forts.

Fort Perry served as a supply fort for the forces of General John Floyd during the Creek War, also known as the Red Stick War of 1813-1814., this regional war was fought amongst various Creek factions, European empires, and the United States.



Google Earth image shows the outline of Fort Perry's eight-sided design. Source: Google

At Fort Perry, troops were garrisoned to help insure safe passage for travelers along the Federal Road. Though the fort saw

minimal use during the Creek War, forts constructed along the Federal Road were designed for quick construction. They would provide tactical and strategic stations. Having met the needs of the campaign, they were then left to fall to disrepair. However, in 1834, Fort Perry is still identified as location on the map of Marion County.

Submission composed by Chris O'Pry, April 15, 2016

### *References and Further Reading*

Daniel T. Elliott, Mike Bunn, Don Gordy, and Terry Jackson, *Fort Perry Reconnaissance, Marion County, Georgia* (Savannah, GA: LAMAR Institute Publication Series, 1990, Report Number 164) 3.

National Register of Historic Places, Fort Perry, Marion County, Georgia, National Register #775000601.

## Tazewell Courthouse

An act of state legislation on Dec 27, 1838, designated Tazewell as the county seat. The Georgia General Assembly (the state legislature) also directed that a courthouse be built there.

In 1845 a devastating fire burned this building to the ground. In 1848 the county built a sturdy heart-pine courthouse that we see today. Costing \$1,637, this two -story building is the



Old Courthouse, Tazewell, Marion County, Ga.  
Photograph courtesy of David Rush, 2016.

only wooden county courthouse in Georgia still standing. It has a full width one-story porch supported by wooden posts. The courthouse was only used as the seat of government for two years before the Georgia General Assembly required that each state's county seat be located at the center of the county. Thus the work of the county courts was moved to Buena Vista in 1850.

The Freemasons Society has used the top floor of the Tazewell Court House for over 165 years. In 1838 the Masons requested to be chartered at this building by the Grand Lodge of Georgia and were issued a charter on November 7 in the name of Marion Lodge No. 14. The courthouse was eventually purchased by the Masons from Marion County in 1950. In 2016, the Marion Lodge No 14 has a membership of 29 men making this antebellum building as an active center in the community of Tazewell.

Submission composed by Stephen Graziano, April 15, 2016

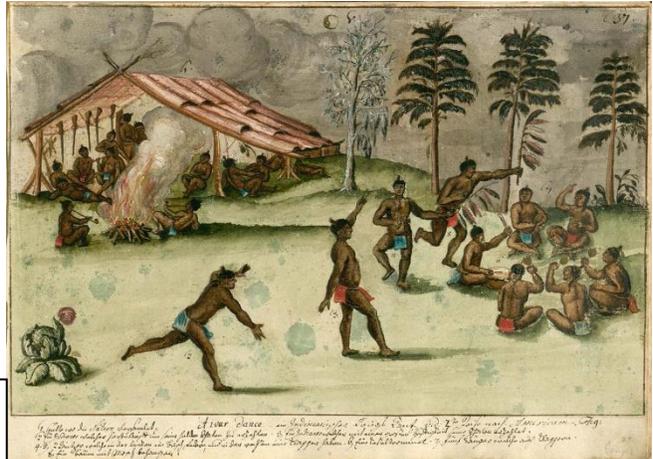
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Grand Lodge of Georgia. "Masonic Messenger." December 2013. Accessed March 24, 2016.

National Register of Historic Places, Old Marion County Courthouse, Tazewell, Georgia, National Register #80001116.

## Oochee Bottom

Dominating Georgia's colonial period, the Muscogee Nation outnumbered both colonists and enslaved Africans until the 1760s. The Muscogee Nation were a comparatively new and complex political organization known by colonists as the Creek Confederacy. The confederacy included the Yuchi peoples, who are referred to in Marion County as Oochee.



An Indian War Dance. Philip Georg Friedrich von Reck 1736. Courtesy of National Library of Denmark and Copenhagen University Library.

The Yuchi established a major settlement 'Euclaw Town' on the Chattahoochee River, nine miles south

of present-day Columbus. Well-known allies of the British and they often traded deer hides with coastal colonists. William Bartram visited this community in 1778 and he described it as the largest and most compact Indian community he had ever encountered.

From these large communities smaller Taliwa (daughter) villages would spring. Self-sufficient, with between twenty and thirty members, they practiced farming and hunting returning to the mother community for major celebrations. Southern Marion County hosted on such daughter community close to the confluence of the Kinchafoonee and Lanahasse creeks. Arrowheads have been found along numerous creeks such as the one that follows along Oochee Bottom. These creeks welcome deer searching for a drink at dawn and dusk. These creeks provided habitat to support the deerskin trade between Yuchi's and European colonists. Euclaw Town was destroyed in the Creek War of 1813-1814. The Yuchi, along with the rest of the Creek Confederacy, were removed in several waves to Oklahoma, along what has been commonly described as the Trail of Tears.

Submission composed by David Buxton, April 24 2016

### *References and Further Reading*

Hvidt, Kristian, ed. Von Reck's Voyage: Drawings and Journal of Philip Georg Friedrich von Reck. Savannah, GA: Beehive Press, 1980.

King, Adam, "Mississippian Period: Overview", *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, 2015, <http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/mississippian-period-overview>.

Worth, John E, " The Eastern Creek Frontier: History and Archaeology of the Flint River Towns, ca. 1750-1826" , UWF.edu, 1997, <http://uwf.edu/jworth/worthsaa1997.pdf>.

## Pineville Cemetery and Church

Located in the southwestern corner of Marion County, Pineville church was founded in 1835 by Elder Andre Hood. According to the local oral history this church was an African American church since at least the early 1920s. This old wooden church, its accompanying church cemetery, and the larger town cemetery offer up the last remnants of this community.

The Pineville community cemetery

Buena Vista and Ellaville Railroad identified with a heavy black line. Source: Cram map of Georgia 1886.



includes the graves of many civil war soldiers, yet its most interesting spectacle would be the grave of John Mayo (1759-1842), a Revolutionary War soldier. Mayo,

who had enlisted for six months, served as a private in the North Carolina Troops (Edgecombe County).

The post-Civil War Reconstruction era found Marion County lagging behind more economically diversified counties. Atlanta newspaper editor, Henry W. Grady called for the "The New South." A modernized region that would integrate with the rest of the nation, and reject the antebellum, slavery-driven plantation system of the Old South. To capture that desire to integrate regions, the Buena Vista and Ellaville Railroad was built in 1884, as an extension to Buena Vista's already functioning railroad connection to the busy river city of Columbus (established in 1880). Pineville lay along a route that of the Buena Vista and Ellaville Railroad which saw connecting trains to Florida and Savannah. One unlikely passenger dropped off: the Spanish moss. This flowering plant hangs from tree branches and absorbs nutrients and water from the air and rainfall, and gives Pineville a distinctive, otherworldly feel. By the 1920s, the railroad had failed, the New South did not visit Pineville, and the community disappeared.

Submission composed by Shayna Hayworth, April 16, 2016.

### *References and Further Reading*

Trish Elliot-Kashima, "Churches of Marion County Georgia," October 18, 2015.

<http://www.thegagenweb.com/marion/church/churches.htm>. Caldwell

Wilber W., *The Courthouse and the Depot*. Macon, Georgia: Mercer University Press, 2001.

## Big Chief Grist Mill

Constructed in the mid-1800s on Lanahassee Creek in Southern Marion County, Big Chief Grist Mill has been owned by three generations of the Upton family.

Located between two major antebellum communities, Pineville and Church Hill, local farmers brought their corn for grinding while their families picnicked around Powell's Mill Pond.



Powell's Mill Pond, dam, newly reconstructed sluice gate and mill building that makes up Big Chief Grist Mill, Marion County, GA. Photography courtesy of David Rush, 2016.

Before corn could be ground, it needed to be dried, a process that could take several weeks. Once completely dried, the corn was poured into a hopper then grounded between two millstones. These stones were often made of granite, were on average 15 inches thick and each weighed around a ton. At the mill dam, the sluice was opened and closed to control the flow of water by turning the sluice wheel. Closed in 1950 it was reopened in 1980 for several decades to supplied stone-ground corn, commonly understood as superior to more industrially produced corn meal, in regional stores.

Submission composed by Mia Harris, April 23, 2016

### *References and Further Reading*

Oral interview with Laverne Powell and Dr. Amanda Rees. April 2016.

## Shiloh Marion Baptist Church and Cemetery

The Shiloh Marion Baptist Church and cemetery provide some of the few remaining structure of the Church Hill settlement. The influx of white settlers after the 1827 land lottery was paralleled by improvement of old trading paths combined with the creation of a network of new roads. Church Hill (which may have first been called Centerville) arose in 1835 at such a crossroads that included the Old Salt Trail, connected Columbus to the coastal town of St. Mary's, Georgia.



Shiloh Marion Baptist Church, Marion County, GA. Photography courtesy of David Rush, 2016.

Church Hill was a bustling community with five churches including Christian Union (1840-1870), Evan Chapel Methodist Church (1838-1898), Mount Pisgah Free Will Baptist Church (dates unknown), Shiloh Baptist Church (1835-present), and Smyrna Presbyterian Church (1838-1925). In addition it was home to the Centerville Academy (school) established in 1838 by the Presbyterian Church. By 1865, twenty-four families lived in the community and in the 1886-1887 *Georgia Gazetteer* Church Hill was described as having a bank, depot, express and telegraph office “an excellent academy, commons schools, steam gins and grist mills. One thousand bales of cotton the main exports. Mail weekly.”

Shiloh Marion Baptist Church is a simple, one-story, one-room Greek revival style church is an excellent example of antebellum rural architecture which held regular services between 1836 and 1935. With a gable roof, and covered in pine weather boarded siding, the exterior has little ornamentation. A path through the woods leads to the baptismal pool, which is located at the head of two springs. The only cleared space is occupied by the church and the adjacent historic cemetery. Separated from the church by a dirt road, it contains type forms of burial markers and is numerous stone-piled graves. Two areas of the cemetery are identified as the location of marked for Former Slaves and Native American graves. For the latter, stones were used to build a house-type covering for a burial and were likely gathered locally.

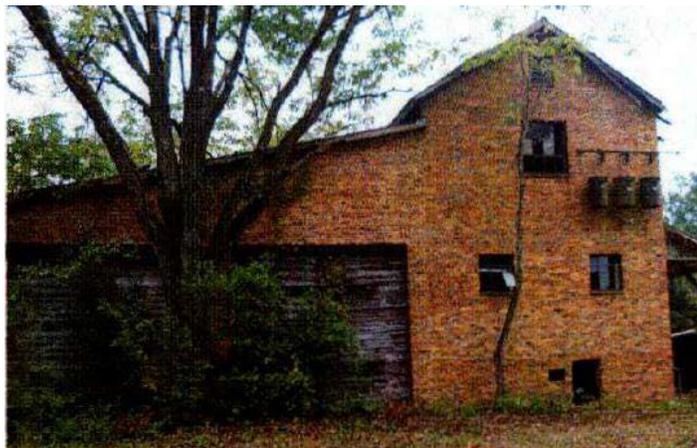
Submission composed by Shayna Hayworth, April 16, 2016.

### *References and Further Reading*

National Register of Historic Places, Shiloh Marion Baptist Church, Marion County, Georgia, National Register #84001159.

## Gypsy Camp Mill

The Gypsy Camp Grist Mill sits just west of Buena Vista's city limits on the Murray Estate. Local lore has it that this impressive brick structure was moved from its original location to its current site in 1930. At the time the mill was a key agricultural asset to the community. Using electricity to power a network of chutes and belts woven through the three-story building to grind of corn into meal. It operated for



Gypsy Camp Grist Mill. Photograph courtesy of C. Murray, 2016.

thirty years, closing in the early 1960s. Gypsy Camp Grist Mill got its name from a nearby campground and store where for a few weeks

every winter a gypsies made their home, purchased supplies and traded. The building stood at the “y” intersection of two highways.

The initial immigration of ethnic groups commonly referred to as ‘gypsies’ into the United States began in the 1850s including the Ludar from Romania, and the Rom from Serbia and Russia. It is likely that the group which made camp just outside of Buena Vista were the Romnichel gypsies. Migrating from England in the 1850s, this group gained work in the United States by breeding and trading large draft horses, suitable for agriculture. While the use for horses declined in the northern states after World War I Southern farmers, challenged by lack of investment and often difficult terrain saw yearly visits by Romnichel who traded horses, told fortunes and crafted unique, rustic furniture.

Submission composed by Erin Wenzel and Amanda Rees, April 16, 2016.

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Murray, C. “Gypsy Camp Grist Mill” typed narrative shared with Dr. Amanda Rees by email, February 29, 2016.

Salo, M.T. and Salo, S. Romnichel Economic and Social A Organization in Urban New England, 1850-1930.” *Urban Anthropology* 1982, 11(3-4): 273-313.

Smithsonian Institute. n.d. “Gypsies” in the United States.” *Migrations in History*, Smithsonian Center for Education and Museum Studies.

<http://www.smithsonianeducation.org/migrations/gyp/gypstart.html> accessed February 29, 2016.

## Pasaquan

This visionary arts environment located in the heart of Marion County, was the creation of one of its native sons, Eddie Owens Martin (1908-1986), also known as St. EOM.

Born in the now vanished community of Glen Alta, the son of a sharecropper, Martin was abused by his father. He left Marion County at the age of 14 and headed to New York. Martin was a hustler on the city streets. Later, he read people's fortunes. In addition, he spent time in the city's art museums and even travelled to Mexico City. However, at harvest time, Martin would always return to his mother's home to help out.



Pasaquan, Marion County, Georgia. Photograph courtesy of Alisa Williams, 2016.

When his mother died he inherited her home which became a canvas where he could freely express himself. Pasaquan offers an eclectic mix inspired by the artwork from the Pacific region's Easter Island to Pre-Columbian Central America.

After his death in April of 1986, St. EOM's Pasaquan was placed into the care of the Pasaquan Preservation Society, until 2014 when it became part of a conservation program supported by the Kohler Foundation. In late 2015 it was gifted to Columbus State University. St. EOM's art can be seen outside of Pasaquan in the National Museum of American Art in Washington, D. C.; the American Folk Art Museum in New York City, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in California, and the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, Georgia.

Submission composed by Alisa Williams, April 16, 2016

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Fussell, Fred C. "St.EOM (1908-1986)." *New Georgia Encyclopedia*. 06 December 2013.  
Joiner, Dorothy M. "Martin, Eddie Owens (St. EOM)." *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* Vol. 23 Folk Art. 2013.

## Introduction to the Buena Vista City Heritage Tour

We begin our Buena Vista City tour at the courthouse square. This section of the tour brings us from the Civil War period until today.

Marion County remained an agricultural economy in the post-Civil War period. With the collapse of the plantation system while land remained with its owners, they had little resources to invest. Former slaves remained in the area but owned no land. Landowners quickly began to subdivide their holdings, allowing freedmen to cultivate plots of between 30 and 80 acres.

Landowners developed three types of tenancy.

1. Cash renters: renters paid cash per acre to use the land, providing their seeds, implements, and animals. Cash renters kept all profits.
2. Share-cash renters: landowners provided the seed and housing and renters used their own animals and farm equipment. Cash renters would keep between two-thirds to three-quarters of their crop, providing the landowner with the rest a



Few photographs of Marion County sharecroppers exist. However, this image of a thirteen year-old sharecropper boy taken in Sumter County that borders Marion County, gives a sense of conditions. July 1937, photographer Dorothea Lange, Library of Congress Collection.

third in cotton and a quarter in corn as rent.

3. Sharecroppers: the most common tenancy across the South and in Georgia. Sharecroppers provided labor while the landowner's profits arose from half of the sharecropper harvest. Most former slaves (Josh Gibson's family) and many poor

whites (including the Eddie Owens Martin's family) were sharecroppers.

Across the United States the end of the nineteenth century experienced an extended economic depression, and though there was a brief economic revival in the early 1900s to 1920 (the time when the city's two cotton warehouses were built). However by 1920 another agricultural depression descended, and that in combination with the boll weevil's devastation of cotton crops across the state by 1918, led to many residents relocating to cities beyond the South. The sharecropper system was virtually unchanged until the 1950s, and by the turn of the twenty-first century Marion County's agricultural economy had shifted to forestry.

Submission composed by Lexus Houston and Amanda Rees, April 29 2016.

Causey, V. No date. *Rural Georgia*. Notes for future book shared with Dr. Amanda Rees.

## Stevens Cotton Warehouse



Steven's Cotton Warehouse, Buena Vista, GA. Photograph Courtesy of David Rush. 2016.

Located on the courthouse square, the Steven's Cotton warehouse, built circa 1920, symbolizes the central importance of cotton in Marion County. By the mid-nineteenth century, cotton was a key crop in Marion County, and

the American South. It was arguably America's most important commodity and made up a large portion of the global supply. While production soared, Southern farmers increasingly depended on slave labor to meet global demand.

Cotton planting took place in early spring, when rows of seeds were placed three feet apart. Over the next six months, careful tending and weeding of the plants would take place. In late August, once the plant had bloomed, bolls of cotton containing the seed would give way. Men, women, and children worked the fields from sun-up to sun-down to clear the crops. Fields were sometimes picked as many as 7 times a season as plants continued to develop bolls well into the fall and winter.

Once the cotton was picked, it was dried before it was ginned. The cotton gin, a machine that separated the seed from the cotton fiber, allowed 50 pounds of cotton a day to be prepared, compared to one pound if done by hand. After removing the seeds, the cotton was then pressed into large bales and wrapped in burlap cloth. These bales were stored in large cotton warehouses to await shipment. R.W. Stevens was an influential businessman in Buena Vista whose wealth accrued from cotton.

Submission composed by Paula Crawford-Corrick, April 16, 2016

### *References and Further Reading*

Gates, Henry Louis, Jr. "Why Was Cotton 'King'?" *The African Americans: Many Rivers to Cross*. PBS. 2013.

Hillgard, E. W., *Report on Cotton Production in The United States: General Discussion of Cotton Production*. Department of the Interior, 1884.

## Drane-Stevens House

William Arthur Drane was a leading doctor and surgeon of Marion County. A native of the county, Drane had graduated in 1882 from the University of Georgia's medical school. He maintained his residence and professional practice in Buena Vista, the county seat. Descending from early planters, this family was prominent in the state of Georgia.

Drane and his wife, Margaret Bryan Drane purchased the property in 1882 where they built a modest cottage on the two acre lot. In 1903, their daughter, Margaret Drane Hornady built the elegant residence currently located on the property. This house was built in front of the original home and eventually the smaller home was dismantled. In the fall of 1921, Mrs. Hornady sold the property to R. W. Stevens, the owner of a cotton warehouse on the town square.



Drane-Stevens House. Photograph courtesy of David Rush, 2016.

Set against the beautiful, southern landscape of oak and pecan trees, the home greets you with a beautiful wrap-around porch supported by Doric columns. Once inside, the large central entrance hall is surrounded by pairs of rooms, creating the Georgian-style floor plan. The dog-legged stair case

leads to a central landing between floors that feature stained glass windows. The second floor includes 3 bedrooms each containing their original mantels. Throughout the house there is elaborate woodwork including baseboards, wood doors, door surrounds, mantels and floors.

Submission Composed by Paula Crawford-Corrick, April 16, 2016

### *References and Further Reading*

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National Register of Historic Places, Drane-Stevens House, Marion County, Georgia. National Register #99000899.

## Alfred and Jane Ables House

The Alfred and Jane Ables House was built in 1892 by former slave turned businessman Alfred Ables.

Built in the is best described as “folk Victorian” which was a New South design for homes that typically belonged to the middle and upper class society of rural Georgia.

Located in a predominantly African American neighborhood, the design and architecture of the home is significantly different than that of the homes around it.

Having been restored in 1993 by the a resident of Buena Vista as well as one of the

granddaughters of Alfred Ables, the home has maintained much of its original design. In 2001 it received an Excellence in Restoration award from the Georgia Trust.

Alfred Ables is best remembered for his assistance in the community by providing jobs and housing for the poor. Upon his death in 1916, he donated 16 acres of land to be used to build an African American school that has since become the headquarters of the Marion County School Board.

Submission Composed by Chandler Garrett, April 16, 2016

### *References and Further Reading*

National Register of Historic Places, Alfred and Jane Ables House, Marion County, Georgia. National Register #02000841.



Alfred and Jane Ables House, Buena Vista, GA.  
Photograph courtesy of David Rush, 2016.

## Josh Gibson



Josh Gibson, while playing for the Crawford Giants. n.d. Baseball Hall of Fame.

Born on December 21, 1911 in Marion County, Georgia to Mark Gibson and Nancy Woodlock, Josh Gibson was the first of three children born into a sharecropping family. The agricultural depression combined with the havoc wrought by the boll weevil in the 1920s drove many from the failing fields of the South. In 1924, Gibson's father moved to Pittsburg, Pennsylvania to find work at a steel factory. The rest of the family soon joined him. It was there in Pennsylvania that Josh Gibson was both a swimmer and track star before taking up baseball. He joined the Gibels A.C. an amateur team, he was then recruited into the Crawford Colored Giants in 1929, part of the Negro Leagues. At six foot 1 inch, Gibson's was a powerful hitter. Marring when he was seventeen, his young wife, Helen Mason, died in childbirth leaving him to father twins, Helen and Joshua in 1930. Gibson played first for the Pittsburgh Crawfords

before joining the Washington Homestead Grays. By the 1940s, the Grays were playing half their home games in Washington D.C. and the other half in Pittsburg. In 1940 he married Hattie Jones having lived with her for six years previously.



Josh Gibson sign, Buena Vista, Georgia. Photograph courtesy of David Rush 2016.

It has been estimated that Gibson hit nearly 800 in his career, and it is even said he hit 85 in a single season. Both figures would be record setting, which earned him the name, "the Black Babe Ruth." In 1947, Gibson died from a stroke and was buried in in Pittsburg. In 1972, he became the second "Negro Leaguer" to be inducted to the Baseball Hall of Fame, following Satchel Paige.

Submission composed by Dustin Coleman, April 16, 2016

### *References and Further Reading*

- Brashler, William. 2000. *Josh Gibson: A Life in the Negro Leagues*. Chicago: Ivan R. Dee.
- Coe, Jonathan. n.d. "Future Hall of Famer Josh Gibson is Born." *National Baseball Hall of Fame*. Accessed March 8, 2016. [baseballhall.org/hof/gibson-josh](http://baseballhall.org/hof/gibson-josh).
- Ribowsky, Mark. *Josh Gibson: The Power and the Darkness*. Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2004.

## Short-Stevens House



Short-Stevens House, Buena Vista, GA. Photograph courtesy of David Rush, 2016.

The Short-Stevens House is a beautifully preserved example of early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Neoclassical architecture. Characterized by its grand scale, geometric form, use of columns and preference for blank walls, neoclassical architecture thrived in the American South in the early twentieth century.

The son of Reverend William Joseph Short and Nancy (Wallas) Short, William B. Short was born on a homestead plantation located in Marion County on October 29, 1861, just after the start of the Civil War. After completing his education in Marion County, W. B. Short continued his education

graduating from Emory University in 1885 with a Bachelors of Art. Returning to his native county, Short taught school while pursuing a law internship with Honorable Morgan McMichael. Upon completing the bar, Short began to take an active role in the public affairs of Marion County. Elected county surveyor then county treasurer, he served one term as Clerk of the Superior Courts.

Procuring the property located at 211 Crawford Street in Buena Vista, Georgia, William B. Short and his wife Mollie built the lavished home ca 1920. Mollie Short, also from a well-known local family was cousin to Oscar B. Colquitt (also of Buena Vista) who was subsequently elected governor of Texas in 1910. where they would raise their 3 children. Supported by four massive Doric columns this home reflects the purest form of the neoclassical spirit with its wide walls and geometric shapes. In 1953 the home was remodeled by Columbus architect T.W. Smith.

Submission composed by Paula Crawford-Corrick, April 16, 2016

### *References and Further Reading*

- Knight, Lucian Lamar. *A Standard History of Georgia and Georgians*, Vol. 6. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1917, pp. 2905-2907.
- Ryan, Kate. "Endangered Properties of Georgia." *The Georgia Trust*. Accessed March 13, 2016. [www.georgiatrust.org](http://www.georgiatrust.org).

## Ramah Primitive Baptist Church

Built in 1845, Ramah Primitive Baptist Church was part of a larger emergence of primitive Baptist churches in the early nineteenth century. Inspired by the Second Great Awakening in the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, embracing a belief in predestination theology. Simple buildings with little adornment were created for worship.

Conservative traditions in the church meant that men sat on the left side in the 'amen corner' while single women sat on the right side in the 'women's corner.' Landowners

sat in the front pews with sharecroppers took up the rows behind them and the Marion County Sheriff brought prisoners to sit in the rear pews. It was also common for all races to attend church services together. Inside the church there is no molding, no crosses or memorials, no wall sconces, photographs, paintings, artifacts on the wall, stained glass windows, or a pulpit. Anything that could be understood as a potential 'idol' was prohibited included a cross. In the early 1900's a window was enclosed behind the pulpit so that a 'halo' did not form around the minister. Eddie Owens Martin, occasionally accompanied his mother who was a parishioner. Dressed in a green suit, with bells and tassels, his long beard flowing, and wearing 'elf-like' shoes he provided a dramatic contrast to the stark interior.

Within the cemetery a local Marion County artist and creator of the visionary arts environment, Pasaquan, Eddie Owens Martin rests along-side his mother who was a member of the Ramah Primitive Baptist Church.

Submission composed by Alisa Williams, April 16, 2016

### *References and Further Reading*

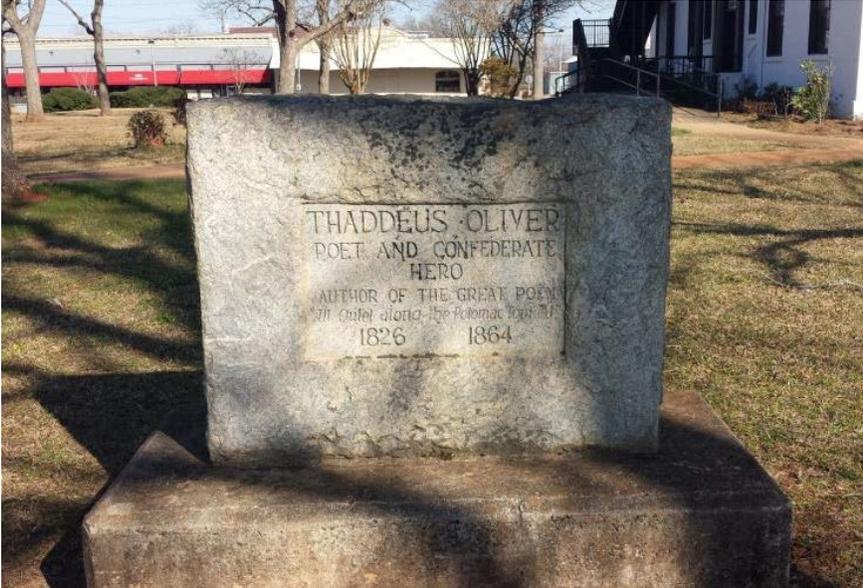
Crowley, John G. "Primitive Baptists." *New Georgia Encyclopedia*. 16 September 2014. Web. 21 April 2016.

Dillard, Mike. "Ramah Church, Buena Vista, Georgia" short narrative history emailed to Dr. Amanda Rees, 29 February 2016.



Ramah Primitive Baptist Church, Buena Vista, GA.  
Photograph courtesy of David Rush, 2016.

## Thaddeus Oliver



Thaddeus Oliver marker, Buena Vista courthouse square, Marion County, GA. Photograph courtesy of David Rush, 2016.

Born in Jeffersonville, Twiggs County, Georgia on December 25<sup>th</sup>, 1826, Thaddeus Oliver left his home and travelled 85 miles to Marion County in 1850 with the goal of becoming a lawyer. Oliver, joined the community just as it established its county court, this was also a high point in the county's economic success from King Cotton. He spent his time in Marion County apprenticing under Judge Mark Blanford, to

become a lawyer. While apprenticing with the judge he also taught school for two years at the Buena Vista Academy before taking the bar exam in 1852.

During his training he met and married Sarah Penelope Lawson, whose father Hugh Lawson was a plantation owner. He joined the Confederate Army in the Buena Vista Guards, Co. I, Seventh Ga. Infantry. While serving it is believed by some that Thaddeus Oliver authored of the poem, "All Quiet Along the Potomac Tonight," though this claim has been disputed, others claim the poem was written by Lamar Fontaine of Mississippi. Thaddeus Oliver is credited with organizing the Co E, 53<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, in Marion County. Elected as the regiment's Captain, Oliver was wounded and hospitalized in Charleston, South Carolina. Oliver died from his injuries on August 21, 1864. He was buried on the Hugh Lawson Plantation, Houston County with his wife.

Submission composed by Skyler Corbin, April 19, 2016

### *References and Further Reading*

Wayne Erbsen, *Rousing Songs and True Tales of the Civil War*. Native Ground Books & Music, 2000.

Mark Weitz, *A Higher Duty: Desertion Among Georgia Troops During the Civil War*. Lincoln. University of Nebraska Press, 2005.

## Marion County Courthouse

In spring 1846 Marion County's Grand Jury was directed to name seven commissioners to select the new county seat to be located within one mile of the county center. Confirmed by local referendum, in 1848 plans were made to move the county seat from Tazewell to "Pea Ridge," which subsequently changed its name to Buena Vista.

The Marion County antebellum courthouse is this county's third courthouse. This two-story white brick structure was built by contractor Enoch Williams in 1850 from locally fired brick, with a stucco cement finish and a flat roof.



Marion County Courthouse, Buena Vista, GA.  
Photograph courtesy of David Rush, 2016.

In 1928, a hipped roof was added, along with a Corinthian tetrastyle façade and clock tower were added to the building. These additions changed a plain vernacular square-cross building plan into a dramatic neoclassical statement that seemed to harken back to an antebellum past. The domed clock tower rises in three stages, and an eagle weathervane sits atop the tower, echoing the golden eagle in the façade's pediment. It was modernized again between 1964-1965 to include features acoustical tile ceilings painted plaster walls, and asbestos tile floors throughout the entire building.

Submission Composed by Stephen Graziano, April 16, 2016.

### *References and Further Reading*

Battle family papers (Marion County, Ga.), circa 1800s. MS 2677(M). Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library, The University of Georgia Libraries.

National Register of Historic Places, Marion County Court House, Marion County, Georgia Washington, National Register #80001115.

## Farmers & Merchants Cotton Warehouse



Farmers & Merchants Cotton Warehouse, Buena Vista, GA.  
Photograph courtesy of David Rush, 2016.

Not only does Marion County have two antebellum courthouses, it is also home to two cotton warehouses both located on the

courthouse square.

After leaving the cotton fields and prior to arriving at the warehouse, the raw cotton would first need to be ginned. This process separates cotton fibers from seeds. Lowe (who owned the Farmers & Merchants Cotton Warehouse) and Stevens co-owned a cotton gin in Buena Vista. After ginning, the cotton was baled and stored in local warehouses. Landowners and sharecroppers alike would negotiate the price of cotton at the warehouse and the Farmer's & Merchant's Warehouse included a walk-in safe to facilitate negotiating price on site. Having purchased the cotton from the farmers, both Lowe and Stevens would negotiate the sale of baled cotton to regional cotton mills. The warehouse also included a built-in sprinkler system as cotton is flammable.

Operated by three generations of Lowes, this cotton warehouse was constructed at a critical moment. From the 1830s to the beginning of the Civil War King Cotton ruled the local economy and having met several major agricultural depressions at the end of the nineteenth century, cotton production peaked again in Georgia at the eve of World War One (1917). By 1923 the boll weevil had ravaged Georgia's cotton crop, indeed between 1923 and 1924, cotton production declined by 30% which propelled the migration of black and white tenant farmers. By the 1960s world markets had turned their attention away from cotton and towards petroleum-based synthetic products such as nylon and by 1970 the Farmers & Merchants' Warehouse was put to other uses.

*Submission composed by Lexus Houston, April 16, 2016.*

### *References and Further Reading*

- Bonner, James C. *A History of Georgia Agriculture, 1732-1860* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1964).  
Daniel, Pete *Breaking the Land: The Transformation of Cotton, Tobacco, and Rice Cultures since 1880* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1985).  
Lowe, R. Oral Interview with Amanda Rees, April 2016.

## Snow Wall



Snow Wall. Photograph courtesy of David Rush, 2016

Buena Vista, Georgia has a humid subtropical climate with warm and muggy summers and mild winters. Summers in central Georgia are long, consistently warm and humid weather. Afternoon high temperatures are typically in the low 90s degree Fahrenheit over 70 to 80 days of the year.

In this region of Georgia, low winter temperatures average in the mid-30s degree Fahrenheit, with lows of 32 degrees Fahrenheit or below for 40 to 50 days a year.

There are measurable amounts of rainfall on approximately 120 days a year, resulting in an average of between 45 and 50 inches annually. Central Georgia can go for several years without seeing any snowfall. And significant snowfall is even more rare.

That being the case, it is not a wonder that when it does snow, the phenomenon must be documented in some way. Located on a brick wall next to the former pharmacy is the Snow Wall. The wall reveals accounts of snowfall written in chalk such as:

*\* day Feb 26, 1933*

*Snowed Saturday nite Feb 10, 1934*

*Snowed Jan 1935*



Close up of the Snow Wall. Photograph courtesy of David Rush, 2016

Locals are glad to have a representation for something that's considered a novelty here in the Deep South.

Submission composed by Chandler Garrett, April 16, 2016.

### *References and Further Reading*

National Weather Forecast Office, Peachtree City, Ga. April 16, 2016.

## Bessie Harvey



Born to Homer and Rosie Mae White in Dallas, Georgia, Bessie Harvey (1928-1994) became a respected folk artist who brought together Afro-Atlantic vernacular traditions with a distinctive personal vision. One of thirteen children, she married Charles Harvey at the age of 14 and moved to Buena Vista, Georgia in 1942. Having suffering from spousal abuse, Harvey returned with her children to Knoxville, Tennessee. Throughout most of her adult life, Harvey experienced visions of which she thought revealed the divine presence in nature.

After the death of her mother in 1974, Harvey's interest in art evolved. She began painting faces she saw within the branches and the roots near her home Aloca, Tennessee. She

believed her new found talent was God-sent, saying: "God is the artist in my work."

Bessie Harvey.  
Photograph by  
William S. Arnett,  
1987. Courtesy of  
Souls Grown Deep.

Suffering an accident in 1977, she found herself with more time to commit to her art work. Broadening the materials she worked with, Harvey began experimenting with beads, costume jewelry, spray paint, shells, putty and cloth, in order to achieve her visions. Harvey named her figural compositions after the spirits she envisioned. Harvey's work

should be seen within the context of both the religious practices of the African Diaspora including the Congo root medicine known as 'nkisi' that in the American South became known as hoodoo.

Along with the addition of new materials, Harvey began developing small dioramas entitled *Africa in America*, for African American children to better understand their heritage. Harvey's work can be found in several important group exhibitions including *Dream Singers, Story Tellers*, (1992; Trenton, NJ State Museum). She was honored posthumously in the 1994 in New York's Whitney Biennial exhibition. A retrospective of her work occurred in *Awakening the Spirits: Art by Bessie Harvey* (Knoxville, Tennessee, 1997).

*Submission composed by* Lexus Houston, April 20, 2016.

### *References and Further Reading*

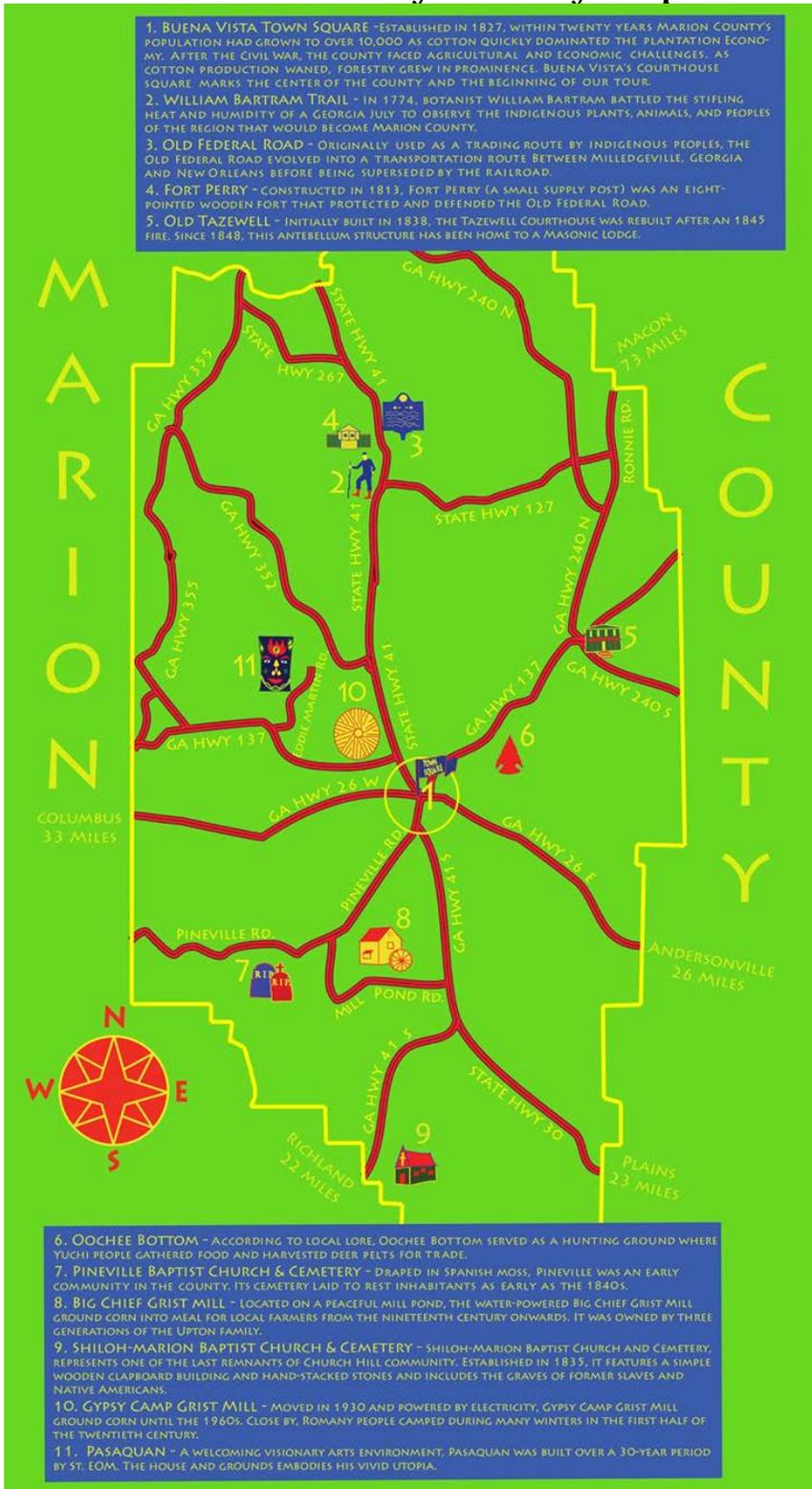
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Borum, Jenifer P. "Spirit from Head." *Raw Vision*, no. 37 (Winter 2002): 42-49

Cavin Morris, Shari. "Bessie Harvey: The Spirit in the Wood." *The Clarion* (spring/summer 1987): 44-49.

Wicks, Stephen C. *Revelations in Wood: The Art of Bessie Harvey*. Knoxville, Tenn., 1997.

# Team A: County and City Map



# EXPLORING THE PAST IN



FROM THE COLONIAL PERIOD TO THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY, OUR HISTORY HAS INCLUDED WRITERS, ARTISTS, POETS, AND SPORTSMEN WHO HAVE MADE THEIR INNOVATIVE MARKS, OFTEN THROUGH ADVERSITY, WELL BEYOND OUR COUNTY'S BORDERS.



USING YOUR QR CODE APP FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EACH HERITAGE SITE.

1. STEVENS COTTON WAREHOUSE- BUILT IN 1920 BY R.W. STEVENS, THIS WAREHOUSE STORED, GINNED, AND BAILED COTTON AWAITING SHIPMENT. THE BUILDING'S CONSTRUCTION MARKED A PERIOD OF COTTON CROP DEVASTATION BY THE BOLL WEEVIL AND THE BEGINNING OF A NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL DEPRESSION.
2. DRANE-STEVENSON HOUSE- AN EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF NEOCLASSICAL ARCHITECTURE, THE DRANE-STEVENSON HOUSE FEATURES A WIPAROUND PORCH AND FLUTED DORIC COLUMNS. BUILT IN 1921, IT IS NOTED FOR ITS ELABORATE INTERIOR WOODWORK.
3. ALFRED AND JANE ABLES HOUSE- BORN INTO SLAVERY IN 1862, BY THE 1880S ALFRED ABLES WAS A HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN WHO, AT HIS DEATH, DONATED LAND FOR AN AFRICAN-AMERICAN SCHOOL, WHERE THE JOSH GIBSON CENTER NOW STANDS. BUILT IN 1892, THIS HOUSE IS AN EXAMPLE OF A NEW SOUTH COTTAGE.
4. JOSH GIBSON CENTER- JOSH GIBSON, BORN IN 1911 AND KNOWN AS THE "BLACK BAE RUTH," WAS THE SON OF A FARMER WHO SUBSEQUENTLY TO PITTSBURG IN 1924, ALBERG IN 1926, AND THE WASKEMAL PIERS ON THE NEGRO LEAGUE AND WAS POSTHUMOUSLY INDUCTED INTO THE BASEBALL HALL OF FAME. THIS CENTER WAS NAMED IN HONOR OF THE COMMUNITY'S MOST FAMOUS SON.
5. SHORT-STEVENSON HOUSE- THE NEO-CLASSICAL SHORT-STEVENSON HOUSE IS FRAMED BY TOWERING MAGNOLIA TREES AND FOUR TWO-STORY GONDOLAS. BUILT IN THE EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY, IT IS DISTINGUISHED BY ITS GRAND SCALE, ORIGINAL MANTLES, AND MID-CENTURY FEATURES.



6. RAMAH PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH- THIS UNADORNED PLACE OF WORSHIP WAS BUILT IN 1845; A BRICK VENEER WAS LATER ADDED TO THE OUTER WALLS. RAMAH PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH'S MOST ECCENTRIC MEMBER WAS EDDIE OWENS MARTIN (ST. EOWM), WHO IS BURIED IN ITS CEMETERY.
7. BUENA VISTA COURTHOUSE- THIS ANTEBELLUM COURTHOUSE WAS BUILT IN 1850. IN 1928 IT WAS RENOVATED AND RECEIVED ITS TETRASTYLE FACADE, WHICH INCLUDES FOUR LARGE COLUMNS SUPPORTING A PEDIMENT DECORATED WITH A GOLDEN EAGLE.
8. THADDEUS OLIVER MARKER- A YOUNG TEACHER, POET, AND WOULD-BE LAWYER, THADDEUS OLIVER ARRIVED IN BUENA VISTA IN 1850. THOUGH BY SOME TO HAVE WRITTEN "ALL QUIET ALONG THE POTOMAC TONIGHT," HE DIED A CONFEDERATE CAPTAIN IN 1864.
9. LUTHER H. STORY MARKER- MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT LUTHER STORY DIED IN 1930 AT THE AGE OF 19 WHILE DEFENDING HIS FELLOW SOLDIERS IN THE KOREAN WAR.
10. FARMERS & MERCHANTS WAREHOUSE- BUILT IN 1920, THIS WAREHOUSE INCLUDED BOTH A WALK-IN SAFE AND A SPRINKLER SYSTEM TO PROTECT THE FLAMMABLE COTTON BALES. BY 1970 THE WAREHOUSE WAS IN DECLINE AS NYLON FABRICS BECAME POPULAR.
11. SNOW WALL- SNOWFALL IS CONSIDERED A NOVELTY IN THE DEEP SOUTH; WRITINGS ON THIS WALL DOCUMENTED HEAVY ACCUMULATIONS IN A DISPLAY OF LOCAL PRIDE.

FROM WILLIAM BARTRAM'S LYRICAL BOTANICAL NOTEBOOK AT THE EVE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR TO THE CIVIL WAR POETRY OF THADDEUS OLIVER, THIS COMMUNITY HAS WITNESSED CREATIVITY. IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, THE COUNTRY BIRTHED THE BASEBALL PLAYER JOSH GIBSON AND THE VISIONARY ARTS ENVIRONMENT OF ST. EOWM'S PASAQUAN, WHILE OFFERING A WAYS STATION IN THE LIFE OF THE RENOWNED FOLK ARTIST BESSIE HARVEY. FROM OUR ANTEBELLUM ARCHITECTURE TO OUR ARGICULTURE HERITAGE, LET MARION COUNTY INSPIRE YOU.



# Team B County and City Map





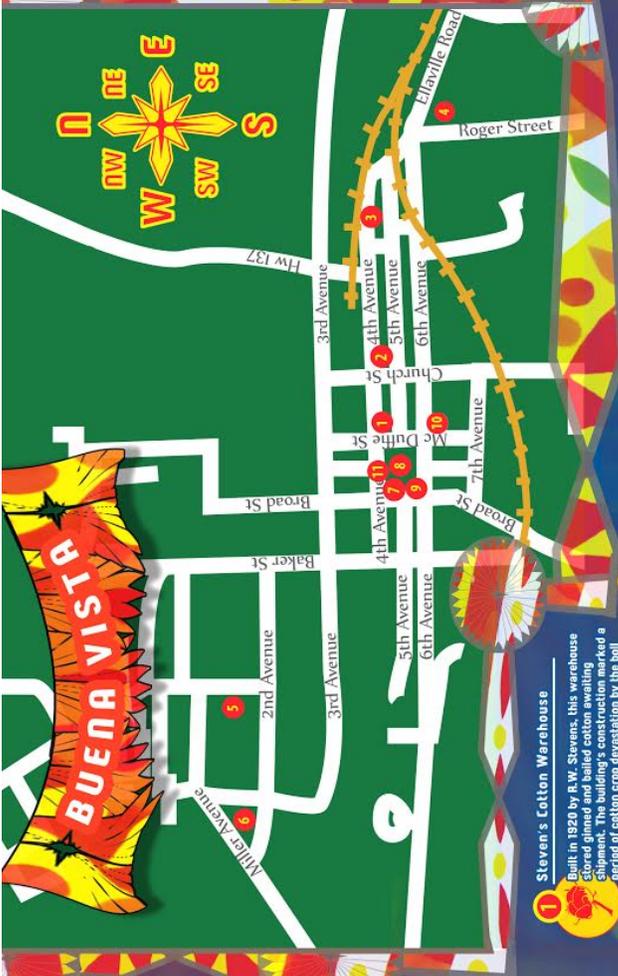
SEE OUR STORY

**BUENA VISTA**

MARION COUNTY VA

**A Heritage Tour**

**From the Colonial Period to the twenty-first century, our history has included writers, artists, poets, and sportsmen who have made their innovative marks, often through adversity, well beyond our county's borders.**



Map labels: Miller Avenue, Baker St, 2nd Avenue, 3rd Avenue, 4th Avenue, 5th Avenue, 6th Avenue, Church St, Mc Duffie St, Broad St, 7th Avenue, Elizaville Road, Roger Street, Hw 137.

**1 Steven's Cotton Warehouse**  
Built in 1920 by R.W. Stevens, this warehouse stored ginned and baled cotton awaiting shipment. The building's construction marked a period of cotton crop devastation by the boll weevil and the beginning of a national agricultural depression.

**2 Drane-Stevens House**  
An excellent example of neoclassical architecture, the house features a wraparound porch and fluted Doric columns. Built in 1921, it is noted for its elaborate interior woodwork.

**3 Alfred and Jane Abels House**  
Born into slavery in 1862, by the 1880s Alfred Abels was a highly successful businessman and African-American school, where the "Josh Gibson Center" new stands. Built in 1892, the Alfred and Jane Abels House is an example of a New South cottage.

**4 Josh Gibson Center**  
Born in 1911 and known as the "Black Babe Ruth," Josh Gibson was not only a baseball player, but also a businessman. In 1924, Gibson would become a baseball player in the Negro League and was posthumously inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. This center was named in honor of the community's most famous son.

**5 Short-Stevens House**  
This neo-classical house is framed by towering magnolia trees and four two-story columns. Built in the early twentieth century, it is distinguished by its grand scale, original mantels, and mid-century features.

**6 Ramah Primitive Baptist Church**  
This unadorned place of worship was built in 1845; a brick veneer was later added to the exterior walls. Ramah Primitive Baptist Church's most eccentric member was Eddie Owens Martin (St. EDM), who is buried in its cemetery.

**7 Thaddeus Oliver Marker**  
A young teacher, poet, and would-be lawyer, Thaddeus Oliver arrived in Buena Vista in 1850. Though by some to have written "All Quiet Along the Potomac Tonight," he died a Confederate captain in 1864.

**8 Marion County Courthouse**  
This antebellum courthouse was built in 1850. In 1928 it was renovated and received its Art Deco facade, which includes four large columns supporting a pediment decorated with a golden eagle.

**9 Luther K. Story Marker**  
Medal of Honor recipient Luther Story died in 1950 at the age of 19 while defending his fellow soldiers in the Korean War.

**10 Farmer's and Merchant's Warehouse**  
Built in 1920, this warehouse included both a walk-in cooler for a specific cotton variety and an area for storing cotton bales. By 1970s, the warehouse was in decline as nylon fabrics became popular.

**11 Snow Wall**  
Snowfall is considered a novelty in the Deep South; writings on this wall documented heavy accumulations in a display of local pride.

**From William Bartram's lyrical botanical notebook, at the eve of the Revolutionary War to the Civil War poetry of Thaddeus Oliver, this community has witnessed creativity.**

**In the twentieth century, the county birthed the baseball player Josh Gibson and the visionary arts environment of St. EDM's Pasquan, while offering a way station in the life of renowned folk artist Bessie Harvey.**

**From our antebellum architecture to our agricultural heritage, let Marion County inspire you.**



# Team C County and City Map



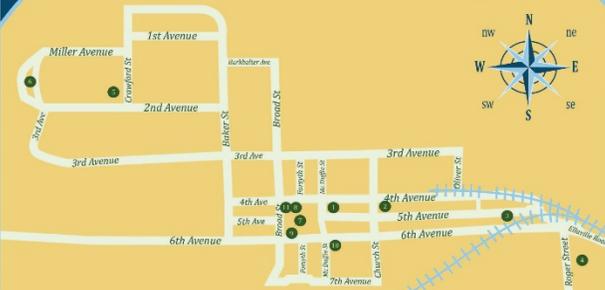
# Exploring The Past



From the Colonial Period to the twenty-first century, our history has included writers, artists, poets, and sportsmen who have made their innovative marks, often through adversity, well beyond our county's borders.



# EXPLORING BUENA VISTA



## HERITAGE SITES

- 1 Stevens Cotton Warehouse**  
Built in 1920 by R.W. Stevens, this warehouse once stored and baled cotton awaiting shipment. The building's construction marked a period of cotton crop devastation by the boll weevil and the beginning of a national agricultural depression.
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Josh Gibson, born in 1917 and known as the "Black Babe Ruth," was the son of sharecroppers who subsequently moved to Pittsburgh in 1924. Gibson would become a baseball player in the Negro League and was posthumously inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame. This center was named in honor of the community's most famous son.
- 5 Short-Stevens House**  
The neo-classical Short-Stevens House is famed for towering magnolia trees and four two-story columns. Built in the early twentieth century, it is distinguished by its gable roof, original stained, and mid-century features.
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A young teacher, poet, and would-be lawyer, Thaddeus Oliver arrived in Buena Vista in 1850. Thought by some to have written "All Quiet Along the Potomac" during the Civil War, he died a Confederate captain in 1864.
- 7 Ramah Primitive Baptist Church**  
This unadorned place of worship was built in 1812; a brick annex was later added to the side walls. Ramah Primitive Baptist Church's most essential member was Eddie Owens Murray (c. 1860), who is buried in its cemetery.
- 8 Buena Vista Courthouse**  
This antebellum courthouse was built in 1850. In 1861 it was renovated and received its tetrapyle facade, which includes four large columns supporting a pediment decorated with a golden eagle.
- 9 Luther H Story Marker**  
A local of honor resident Luther Story died in 1904 at the age of 19 while defending his fellow soldiers in the Korean War.
- 10 Farmers & Merchants Warehouse**  
Built in 1920, this warehouse included both a vaulted roof and a complex system to protect the flammable cotton bales. By 1950 the warehouse was in decline as rayon fabrics became popular.
- 11 Snow Wall**  
"Snowed Out" by white, Feb. 10, 1934 - "Snowfall is considered a novelty in the Deep South; writings on this wall documented heavy accumulations in a display of local pride."

From William Bartram's lyrical botanical notebook at the eve of the Revolutionary War to the Civil War poetry of Thaddeus Oliver, this community has witnessed creativity. In the twentieth century, the county birthed the baseball player Josh Gibson and the visionary arts environment of St. EOM's Pasaquan, while offering a way station in the life of renowned folk artist Bessie Harvey. From our antebellum architecture to our agricultural heritage, let Marion County inspire you.



Josh Gibson, 1939. Image courtesy Arthur K. Miller

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For more history on each heritage site follow the QR Code

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