

MARCH TO THE SEA HERITAGE TRAIL



GEORGIAONMYMIND.ORG
1-800-VISIT GA

Civil War Historic Driving Route

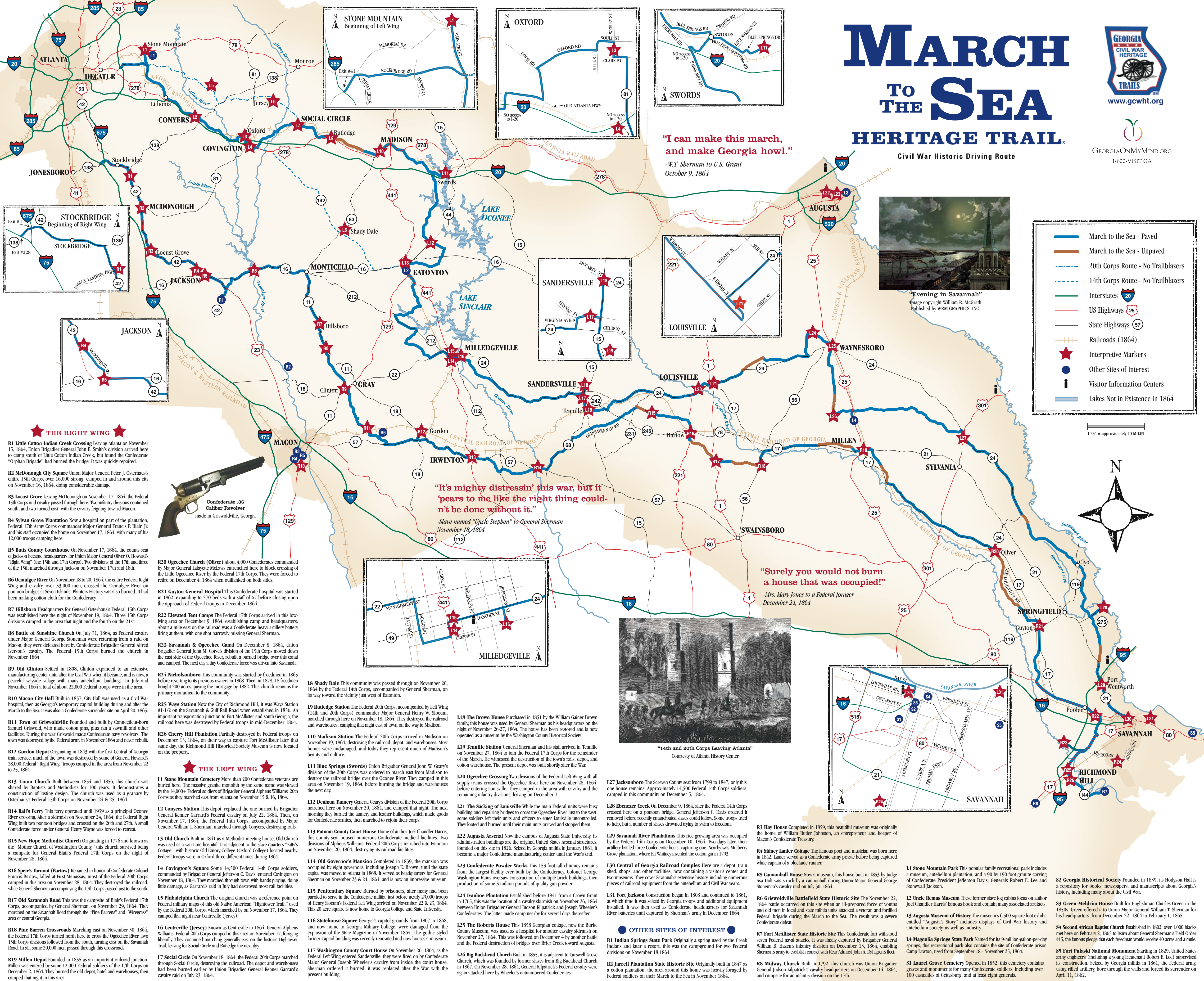
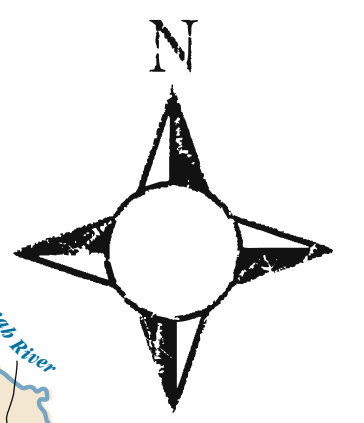
"I can make this march, and make Georgia howl."
-W.T. Sherman to U.S. Grant
October 9, 1864



"Evening in Savannah"
Image copyright William R. McGrath
Published by WRM GRAPHICS, INC.

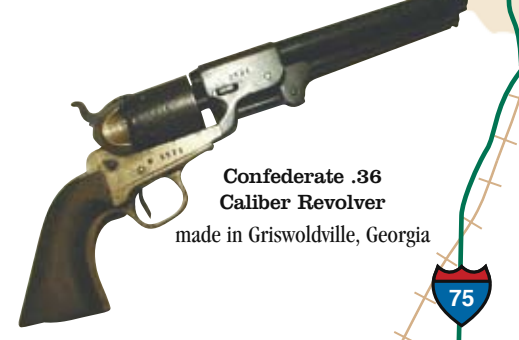
- March to the Sea - Paved
- March to the Sea - Unpaved
- 20th Corps Route - No Trailblazers
- 14th Corps Route - No Trailblazers
- Interstates
- US Highways
- State Highways
- Railroads (1864)
- Interpretive Markers
- Other Sites of Interest
- Visitor Information Centers
- Lakes Not in Existence in 1864

1:25" = approximately 10 MILES



★ THE RIGHT WING ★

- R1 Little Cotton Indian Creek Crossing** Leaving Atlanta on November 15, 1864, Union Brigadier General John E. Smith's division arrived here to camp south of Little Cotton Indian Creek, but found the Confederate "Orphan Brigade" had burned the bridge. It was quickly repaired.
- R2 McDonough City Square** Union Major General Peter J. Osterhaus's entire 15th Corps, over 16,000 strong, camped in and around this city on November 16, 1864, doing considerable damage.
- R3 Locust Grove** Leaving McDonough on November 17, 1864, the Federal 15th Corps and cavalry passed through here. Two infantry divisions continued south, and two turned east, with the cavalry feigning toward Macon.
- R4 Sylvan Grove Plantation** Now a hospital on part of the plantation, Federal 17th Army Corps commander Major General Francis P. Blair, Jr. and his staff occupied the home on November 17, 1864, with many of his 12,000 troops camping here.
- R5 Butts County Courthouse** On November 17, 1864, the county seat of Jackson became headquarters for Union Major General Oliver O. Howard's "Right Wing" (the 15th and 17th Corps). Two divisions of the 17th and three of the 15th marched through Jackson on November 17th and 18th.
- R6 Ocmulgee River** On November 18 to 20, 1864, the entire Federal Right Wing and cavalry, over 33,000 men, crossed the Ocmulgee River on pontoon bridges at Seven Islands. Planter's Factory was also burned. It had been making cotton cloth for the Confederacy.
- R7 Hillsboro** Headquarters for General Osterhaus's Federal 15th Corps was established here the night of November 19, 1864. Three 15th Corps divisions camped in the area that night and the fourth on the 21st.
- R8 Battle of Sunshine Church** On July 31, 1864, as Federal cavalry under Major General George Stoneman were returning from a raid on Macon, they were defeated here by Confederate Brigadier General Alfred Iverson's cavalry. The Federal 15th Corps burned the church in November 1864.
- R9 Old Clinton** Settled in 1808, Clinton expanded to an extensive manufacturing center until after the Civil War when it became, and is now, a peaceful wassail village with many antebellum buildings. In July and August 1864 a total of about 22,000 Federal troops were in the area.
- R10 Macon City Hall** Built in 1837, City Hall was used as a Civil War hospital, then as Georgia's temporary capitol building during and after the March to the Sea. It was also a Confederate surrender site on April 20, 1865.
- R11 Town of Griswoldville** Founded and built by Connecticut-born Samuel Griswold, who made cotton gins, plus ran a sawmill and other facilities. During the war Griswold made Confederate navy revolvers. The town was destroyed by the Federal army in November 1864 and never rebuilt.
- R12 Gordon Depot** Originating in 1843 with the first Central of Georgia train service, much of the town was destroyed by some of General Howard's 28,000 Federal "Right Wing" troops camped in the area from November 22 to 25, 1864.

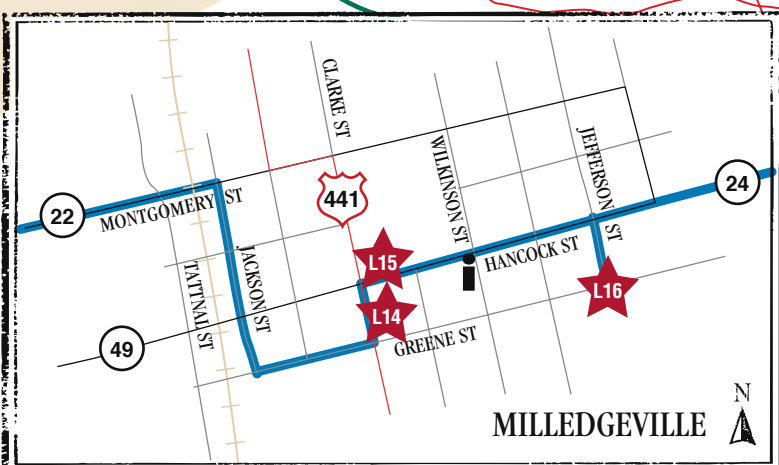


Confederate .36 Caliber Revolver
made in Griswoldville, Georgia

★ THE LEFT WING ★

- L1 Stone Mountain Cemetery** More than 200 Confederate veterans are buried here. The massive granite monolith by the same name was viewed by the 14,000+ Federal soldiers of Brigadier General Alpheus Williams' 20th Corps as they marched east from Atlanta on November 15 & 16, 1864.
- L2 Conyers Station** This depot replaced the one burned by Brigadier General Kerner Garrard's Federal cavalry on July 22, 1864. Then, on November 17, 1864, the Federal 14th Corps, accompanied by Major General William T. Sherman, marched through Conyers, destroying rails.
- L3 Old Church** Built in 1841 as a Methodist meeting house, Old Church was used as a war-time hospital. It is adjacent to the slave quarters "Kitty's Cottage," with historic Old Emory College (Oxford College) located nearby. Federal troops were in Oxford three different times during 1864.
- L4 Covington's Square** Some 14,500 Federal 14th Corps soldiers, commanded by Brigadier General Jefferson C. Davis, entered Covington on November 18, 1864. They marched through town with bands playing, doing little damage, as Garrard's raid in July had destroyed most rail facilities.
- L5 Philadelphia Church** The original church was a reference point on Federal military maps of this old Native American "Hightower Trail," used by the Federal 20th Corps, which marched by on November 17, 1864. They camped that night near Centreville (Jersey).
- L6 Centreville (Jersey)** Known as Centreville in 1864, General Alpheus Williams' Federal 20th Corps camped in this area on November 17, freighting liberally. They continued marching generally east on the historic Hightower Trail, leaving for Social Circle and Rutledge the next day.
- L7 Social Circle** On November 18, 1864, the Federal 20th Corps marched through Social Circle, destroying the railroad. The depot and warehouses had been burned earlier by Union Brigadier General Kerner Garrard's cavalry raid on July 23, 1864.

"It's mighty distressin' this war, but it 'pears to me like the right thing could-n't be done without it."
-Slave named "Uncle Stephen" to General Sherman
November 18, 1864



L8 Shady Dale This community was passed through on November 20, 1864 by the Federal 14th Corps, accompanied by General Sherman, on its way toward the vicinity just west of Eatonton.

L9 Rutledge Station The Federal 20th Corps, accompanied by Left Wing (14th and 20th Corps) commander Major General Henry W. Slocum, marched through here on November 18, 1864. They destroyed the railroad and warehouses, camping that night east of town on the way to Madison.

L10 Madison Station The Federal 20th Corps arrived in Madison on November 19, 1864, destroying the railroad, depot, and warehouses. Most homes were undamaged, and today they represent much of Madison's beauty and culture.

L11 Blue Springs (Swords) Union Brigadier General John W. Geary's division of the 20th Corps was ordered to march east from Madison to destroy the railroad bridge over the Oconee River. They camped in this area on November 19, 1864, before burning the bridge and warehouses the next day.

L12 Denham Tannery General Geary's division of the Federal 20th Corps camped here on November 20, 1864, and camped that night. The next morning they burned the tannery and leather buildings, which made goods for Confederate armies, then marched to join their corps.

L13 Putnam County Court House Home of author Joel Chandler Harris, this county seat housed numerous Confederate medical facilities. Two divisions of Alpheus Williams' Federal 20th Corps marched into Eatonton on November 20, 1864, destroying its railroad facilities.

L14 Old Governor's Mansion Completed in 1839, the mansion was occupied by eight governors, including Joseph E. Brown, until the state capital was moved to Atlanta in 1868. It served as headquarters for General Sherman on November 23 & 24, 1864, and is now an impressive museum.

L15 Penitentiary Square Burned by prisoners, after many had been paroled to serve in the Confederate militia, just before nearly 29,000 troops of Henry Stocum's Federal Left Wing arrived on November 22 & 23, 1864. This 20 acre square is now home to Georgia College and State University.

L16 Statehouse Square Georgia's capitol grounds from 1807 to 1868, and now home to Georgia Military College, were damaged from the explosion of the State Magazine in November 1864. The gothic styled former Capitol building was recently renovated and now houses a museum.

L17 Washington Court House November 26, 1864, as the Federal Left Wing entered Sandersville, they were fired on by Confederate Major General Joseph Wheeler's cavalry from inside the court house. Sherman ordered it burned; it was replaced after the War with the present building.

L18 The Brown House Purchased in 1851 by the William Gainer Brown family, this house was used by General Sherman as his headquarters on the night of November 26-27, 1864. The house has been restored and is now operated as a museum by the Washington County Historical Society.

L19 Tennesse Station General Sherman and his staff arrived in Tennesse on November 27, 1864 to join the Federal 17th Corps for the remainder of the March. He witnessed the destruction of the town's rails, depot, and cotton warehouse. The present depot was built shortly after the War.

L20 Ogeechee Crossing Two divisions of the Federal Left Wing with all supply trains crossed the Ogeechee River here on November 28, 1864, before entering Louisville. They camped in the area with cavalry and the remaining infantry divisions, leaving on December 1.

L21 The Sacking of Louisville While the main Federal units were busy building and repairing bridges to cross the Ogeechee River just to the west, some soldiers left their units and officers to enter Louisville uncontrolled. They looted and burned until their main units arrived and stopped them.

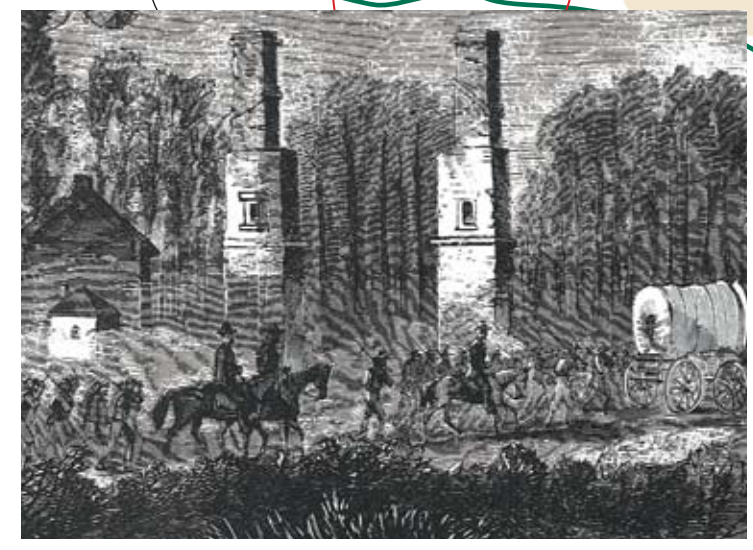
L22 Augusta Arsenal Now the campus of Augusta State University, its administration buildings are the original United States Arsenal structures, founded on this site in 1826. Seized by Georgia militia in January 1864, it became a major Confederate manufacturing center until the War's end.

L23 Confederate Powder Works This 153 foot tall chimney remains from the largest facility ever built by the Confederacy. Colonel George Washington Rains oversaw construction of multiple brick buildings, then production of some 3 million pounds of quality gun powder.

L24 Ivanhoe Plantation Established before 1841 from a Crown Grant in 1765, this was the location of a cavalry skirmish on November 26, 1864 between Union Brigadier General Judson Kilpatrick and Joseph Wheeler's Confederates. The latter made camp nearby for several days thereafter.

L25 The Roberts House This 1858 Georgian cottage, now the Burke County Museum, was used as a hospital for another cavalry skirmish on November 27, 1864. This was followed on December 4 by another battle and the Federal destruction of bridges over Bieber Creek toward Augusta.

L26 Big Buckhead Church Built in 1855, it is adjacent to Garswell Grove Church, which was founded by former slaves from Big Buckhead Church in 1867. On November 28, 1864, General Kilpatrick's Federal cavalry were again attacked here by Wheeler's outnumbered Confederates.

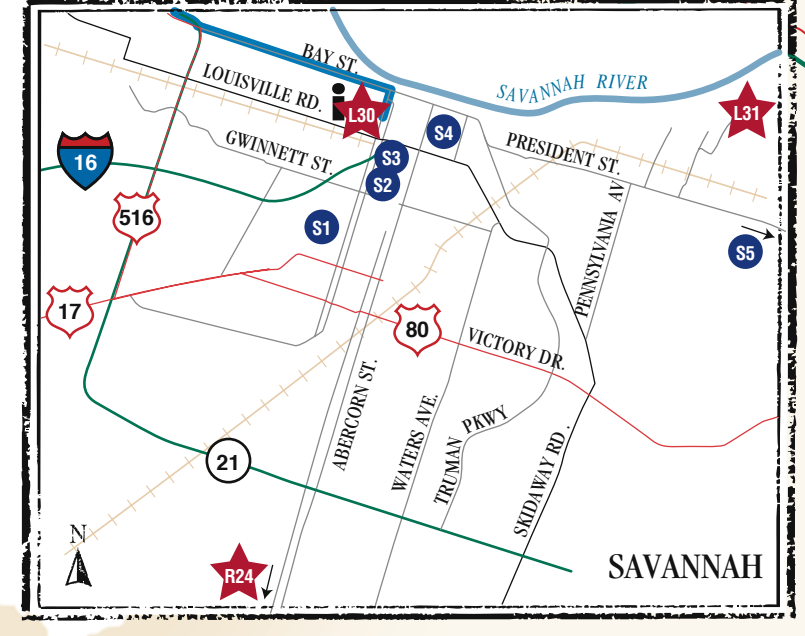


"14th and 20th Corps Leaving Atlanta"
Courtesy of Atlanta History Center

● OTHER SITES OF INTEREST ●

- R1 Indian Springs State Park** Originally a spring used by the Creek Indians and later a resort, this was the campground for two Federal divisions on November 18, 1864.
- R2 Jarrell Plantation State Historic Site** Originally built in 1847 as a cotton plantation, the area around this home was heavily foraged by Federal soldiers on their March to the Sea in November 1864.

"Surely you would not burn a house that was occupied!"
-Mrs. Mary Jones to a Federal forager
December 24, 1864



R3 Hay House Completed in 1859, this beautiful museum was originally the home of William Butler Johnston, an entrepreneur and keeper of Macon's Confederate Treasury.

R4 Sidney Lanier Cottage The famous poet and musician was born here in 1842. Lanier served as a Confederate army private before being captured while captain of a blockade runner.

R5 Cannonball House Now a museum, this house built in 1853 by Judge Asa Holt was struck by a cannonball during Union Major General George Stoneman's cavalry raid on July 30, 1864.

R6 Griswoldville Battlefield State Historic Site The November 22, 1864 battle occurred on this site when an ill-prepared force of youths and old men in local and state militia units attacked a veteran and fortified Federal brigade during the March to the Sea. The result was a severe Confederate defeat.

R7 Fort McAllister State Historic Site This Confederate fort withstood seven Federal naval attacks. It was finally captured by Brigadier General William B. Hazen's infantry division on December 13, 1864, enabling Sherman's army to establish contact with Rear Admiral John A. Dahlgren's fleet.

R8 Midway Church Built in 1792, this church was Union Brigadier General Judson Kilpatrick's cavalry headquarters on December 14, 1864, and campsite for an infantry division on the 17th.

L1 Stone Mountain Park This popular family recreational park includes a museum, antebellum plantation, and a 90 by 190 foot granite carving of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, Generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson.

L2 Uncle Remus Museum These former slave log cabins focus on author Joel Chandler Harris' famous book and contain many associated artifacts.

L3 Augusta Museum of History The museum's 6,500 square foot exhibit entitled "Augusta's Story" includes displays of Civil War history and antebellum society, as well as industry.

L4 Magnolia Springs State Park Named for its 9-million-gallon-per-day springs, this recreational park also contains the site of Confederate prison Camp Lawton, used from September 18 - November 25, 1864.

S2 Georgia Historical Society Founded in 1839, its Hodgson Hall is a repository for books, newspapers, and manuscripts about Georgia's history, including many about the Civil War.

S3 Green-Meldrim House Built for Englishman Charles Green in the 1850s, Green offered it to Union Major General William T. Sherman for his headquarters, from December 22, 1864 to February 1, 1865.

S4 Second African Baptist Church Established in 1802, over 1,000 blacks met here on February 2, 1865 to learn about General Sherman's Field Order #15, the famous pledge that each freedman would receive 40 acres and a mule.

S5 Fort Pulaski National Monument Established in 1829, United States army engineers (including a young Lieutenant Robert E. Lee) supervised its construction. Seized by Georgia militia in 1861, the Federal army, using rifled artillery, bore through the walls and forced its surrender on April 11, 1862.

