



Welcome to Downtown Clarkesville

To walk through downtown Clarkesville is to take a walk back in time, past historic old buildings, each of which has its own story to tell.

The Historic Mauldin House, also known as “The Little Pink Cottage” is historically significant as one of the once common, but now rare Victorian cottages in Clarkesville. The small farmhouse, adjacent to downtown, includes a historic millinery shop and Big Holly Cabin, a one-room, hand-hewn cabin built in the early 19th century.

Named to the National Registry of Historic Places, the house currently serves as the Visitor’s Center for the City of Clarkesville.



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Clarkesville TIMELINE

- 1540 Spanish explorer DeSoto passed through what would be the city of Clarkesville
- 1820 Post office named “Habersham Court House” was opened
- 1823 Clarkesville received its charter, a wooden courthouse was built. Streets were laid out and named for presidents
- 1830 A stagecoach carried visitors to Clarkesville
- 1832 A brick building replaced the wooden courthouse
- 1873 Trains brought visitors from Atlanta to Clarkesville
- 1880 Mauldin House was built
- 1898 Courthouse damaged by mysterious explosion; replaced by two-story brick building with clock tower
- 1910 A Streetcar provided transportation to and from the center of town
- 1923 Courthouse partially destroyed by fire
- 1924 A road was paved between Clarkesville and Cornelia - the first paved road north of Atlanta
- 1964 Brick courthouse demolished and replaced with yellow courthouse
- 1980 Clarkesville voted #1 retirement community in the United States by Rand McNally
- 2010 Clarkesville designated a *National Main Street Community*
- 2011 Groundbreaking on new Courthouse
- 2013 New Courthouse/Judicial Center opens
- 2014 Fire destroys 6 buildings in downtown Clarkesville
- 2017 Clarkesville rebuilds east side of square; receives numerous awards and notoriety for excellence in preservation. Makes cover of *University of Georgia Magazine*

The HISTORIC MAULDIN HOUSE

Millinery Shop & Big Holly Cabin



The Historic
Mauldin
House

In 1906, Clarkesville was still a popular summer retreat. Since the 1830s when only the stagecoach or private conveyance had made it possible to visit the area, Clarkesville had been a primary resort town. Villages created by stations along the line began to compete for the tourist trade. However, Clarkesville still retained its attraction for long time visitors and those who sought out the gentle atmosphere of a small neat community.

The Mauldin House dates from the late 19th century (circa 1880). Originally the house contained three rooms with two side porches. On the back porch there was a dug well with windlass for drawing fresh water. In 1904, an additional two rooms were added. This accounts for the strange roof angles on the rear of the building. In 1925, a bath room was also added off the back porch. The house has been called “The Little Pink Cottage,” although there was little evidence of this color on the unrestored siding.



In 1900, A.M. Mauldin, the first known owner, willed the house and land to his son Oscar McClain Mauldin. O.M. Mauldin had married Margaret Rebecca Niebuhr in 1894. She was born in Walhalla, S.C. and moved to Clarkesville to open millinery in the Barron Building. After their marriage the shop was moved to a small building adjacent to the Pink Cottage. The little building was relocated shortly thereafter to its present location. It was common in a village at that time to have home/shop operations. This example is the last remaining in Clarkesville.



The Mauldin family had three children, Louis Alexander, Oscar Burns, and Elinor Mary, Louis Alexander Mauldin married Kate Brewer. They had two daughters, Carolyn and Martha. Oscar Burns and his sister Elinor Mary stayed in the family home with their parents. After the death of their father the children continued to care for their mother. "Miss Maggie," as she was known was active throughout her life in the Presbyterian Church. She died in 1955 after a short illness. She was 88. Burns and Mary continued to live in their home for the rest of their lives.



After Burns died in 1986, Mary lived alone until she passed on in 1990.

The city then acquired the property. An additional building was moved adjacent to the shop from west of town. This had been the Heywood English home. It is a one room cabin typical of the early buildings of the area.

Today all three of these buildings serve as the centerpiece of Clarkesville's hospitality.



History of Big Holly Cabin



Big Holly Cabin is a primitive one-room pine log house built on the Georgia Mountain frontier in the early 19th century and occupied continuously by the Haywood English family until 1980.



The land, on which Big Holly Cabin originally sat, Land Lot 4, 10th District, was awarded by Land Lottery in 1819 to

Hezekiah Goss of Morgan County. The original tract consisted of 250 acres. Through a series of transfers, the land came into the possession of the Haywood English family of Habersham County. Haywood English emigrated from Virginia, first to North Carolina, then to Habersham County in 1819. In 1822, he was married to Sally McCrackin. He is believed to have constructed Big Holly Cabin at the time of his marriage or shortly thereafter.



Haywood and Sally had three sons and a daughter: William Jasper, Issac Newton, George Washington, Elizabeth J. Jasper and Newton English. The two eldest sons joined the Confederate Army and served until the end of the War between the States in 1865.

In 1868, Jasper came into possession of Big Holly and later deeded it to his son, William M., in 1905. Gennie Morris English inherited the property upon the death of her husband, William M., in 1942 and willed it to her son, Irenus. In 1956, Irenus English deeded it to his sister, Willie English Shirley, prior to his death in 1979, and Willie Shirley sold the property to Edward L. McConnell in 1981.



Big Holly Cabin was restored and refurbished by Dr. and Mrs. McConnell for historic and educational purposes before it was moved to its present location on the grounds of the Historic Mauldin House and Gardens. It stands as a tangible reminder of the past.

