

36

**First Methodist Church
Parsonage**
2120 Monticello Street –
1886

Built of heart-pine, this traditional cottage or bungalow-style home served as the original parsonage for the First United Methodist Church. It housed several ministers and their families until it was replaced in 1931 by the present parsonage at 1194 Monticello Street. It was sold by the Church in 1932 and occupied by the Otto Briscoe family until 1981. It remains a private residence.



37

Bates-Terrell House
2108 Monticello Street –
1845

A very much remodeled home with Colonial frontage added to a similar one-story house built by Dr. Horace J. Bates. Dr. Bates was one of the first physicians in the village of Newtonborough, as Covington was first known.



38

Edwards House
1184 Monticello Street –
1830

Plain boards, small square front columns and hand-carved mantels attest to the age of this structure. Home to several of Covington's most prominent families during its long history, the site was designated in the original plan of the city.



(Turn left onto Reynolds Street. On the right is the...)

39

**Conyers-Brown-Anderson
House**
1163 Reynolds Street –
1868

This home, now converted into a funeral home, was originally built around a log cabin that dated circa 1822. The building has been enlarged over time into a two-story structure with Ionic columns across the front. The many additions have molded this into a fine example of Greek Revival architecture.



(Turn right onto Hendricks Street, crossing Washington Street. Turn left onto Clark Street. On the left is...)

40

First Presbyterian Church
1169 Clark Street – 1926

The third Church constructed on this site, this was one of the first places where Dr. Peter Marshall, twice-appointed Chaplain of the United States Senate, preached. The film *A Man Called Peter*, 1953, was the first movie filmed in Covington.



(Turn right onto Emory Street, then left onto Usher Street. In front you will see...)

41

Bethlehem Baptist Church
2177 Usher Street

The Church was organized in 1849 and is thought to be the oldest Black Baptist Church in Newton County. The first worshippers built their church, which was a log hut, near the Georgia Railroad Depot. In 1856, a building was donated and erected on Usher Street. From 1896-1902 Rev. A.D. Williams, the maternal grandfather of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., served as pastor.



(Turn around going back to Emory Street. Turn left onto Emory Street, cross Hwy 278. On the right will be...)

42

The Georgia Railroad Depot
4122 Emory Street – 1855

The Depot was originally built in 1855 and repaired in 1866 after being burned during the Civil War. A brick addition in 1885 completed the present structure, which was totally renovated in 1985 for commercial use.



43

Kelly-Smith House
4175 Emory Street – 1880

An unusual feature of this charming cottage is the 1 1/2 stories and a circular staircase hidden inside a closet.



44

Odum House
4190 Emory Street – 1890

This very ornate Victorian home was built by Mr. & Mrs. W.C. Clark. Of special note are the beautiful stained glass windows, which were the height of fashion.



(Turn right onto Echols Street. On the left is the...)

45

Zachary-Echols House
5160 Echols Street – 1854

The federally austere home stands proudly in North Covington. Originally on 10 acres, the house was constructed by Thomas Jones for Louis Zachary, then sheriff of Newton County. In 1870, after her Alcovy River plantation burned, Sarah Jane Echols purchased the home. Used for a number of years as an apartment building, the home was converted back to a single family dwelling in 1988. Lovingly restored to its Greek Revival grandeur, the level of renovation is evident both inside and out. The carport and large rear porch feature the same detail used on the original façade.



Covington, Georgia

HOME TOUR

Self Guided

History of Covington, Newton County

Newton County and the City of Covington once belonged to the Creek Indian Nation. The Creek Indians roamed the land as the first English settlers landed on the coast of Georgia in 1733. In 1813 a treaty was negotiated whereby the Creek Indians relinquished all claim to the land and it was then sold in land lotteries.

Named in honor of Sergeant John Newton, a Revolutionary Soldier, Newton County was formed by the Georgia General Assembly on December 24, 1821. Settlers that arrived during this era selected the eastern part of the county for their homesteads. This was the site of the first brick building in the county. The Brick Store served as a general store, a stage coach stop and was the location of the first session of Newton County Court. The Georgia General Assembly, however, preferred that the county seat be in the center of the community, so Newton County's seat was moved west to Newtonborough.

Renamed for General Leonard Covington, who served in the Indian War and the War of 1812, the city of Covington was incorporated on December 6, 1822.

While the completion of the railroad in 1845 brought new growth and direction to the area, Covington and Newton County had seen success in both industry and agriculture before the addition of the railroad. The town continued to grow as a business, industrial and agricultural center and was soon accepted as the cotton market for local farmers.

Covington and Newton County played an active role in the Civil War. The evening of July 20, 1864, saw Union forces under Brigadier General Kenner Garrard move into Covington. Orders from Sherman were to burn bridges over the Yellow and Alcovy Rivers and destroy the railroad between Lithonia and Alcovy. Successfully completed, this raid stopped all communication between Atlanta and Augusta and ended all hope that defenders of Atlanta might receive desperately needed reinforcements from the Eastern Confederacy. Fortunately, Sherman spared many plantations and town homes on his "March to the Sea." Today, these historical homes and landmarks remain a proud reminder of our county's heritage.

For more information contact the
Covington Visitor Information Center
1143 Oak Street, SE, Covington, GA 30014
770-385-2077
www.DiscoverCovingtonGA.com

Welcome to Historic Covington, Newton County

As you begin to circle the Downtown Square, you will notice the historic Newton County Courthouse anchoring the northwest corner. Located at 1124 Clark Street, this beautiful Victorian Gem was constructed in 1884 and is a true testament to the style of the times. A study has been made of clock towers of this era and it was found that structures with an off-center tower are quite rare. The first courthouse originally stood in the center of the Square Park.

While on the Square, you will note the turn of the century and Victorian brickwork on many of the store fronts. The community is adamant and is taking a proactive approach to preserve and maintain the beautiful downtown, central business district.

(Go east from The Square on Floyd Street. You will now be entering the Floyd Street District of the National Register of Historic Places.)

PLEASE NOTE: Homes and property are private and not open to the public – this a self-guided architectural tour.

1 First Baptist Church 1135 Floyd Street – 1909



The Church was first constituted in 1823 with the cornerstone of the present building (the fourth to be occupied by the Church) laid on July 19, 1909. The style of architecture is Greco-Roman with Grecian columns of the Corinthian order and Roman keystone arches. (also of interest, #27 Early Church)

2 Porter-Rogers-Tuck House 1146 Floyd Street – 1903



Built by James Porter for his bride, Olive Swann, whose parents lived next door. Mr. Porter was one of the owners of Porterdale Mills. This home is a fine example of the architecture that attempted to re-create the graciousness of the antebellum South.

3 Graham-Simms House 1155 Floyd Street – 1839



This was the boyhood home of Gen. James P. Simms, C.S.A. Now known as *Boxwood*, the property features a lovely walled courtyard garden, reminiscent of the gardens of Savannah. Of particular note is the entrance with its fan lights and pilastered frame. The circular staircase is an outstanding feature of the interior. This was the location for the first meeting of the trustees of Emory College.

4 Swanscombe House 1164 Floyd Street – 1828



Built by Cary Wood and said to be the first clapboard house erected in town. A daughter inherited the house and made her home here with her husband, Gen. Robert J. Henderson, C.S.A. The home was purchased by T.C. Swann and named *Swanscombe* for the English ancestral home. The Doric columns and lovely gardens add to the grandeur of the home.

5 Floyd House 1184 Floyd Street – 1830



Home of Judge John J. Floyd for whom the street was named. A frequent visitor to the house was Judge Floyd's niece, Rebecca Latimer Felton, who became the first female member of the U.S. Senate. As you look at the front of the home you'll note an unusual departure from the expected as the end columns are square rather than round.

6 Usher House 1187 Floyd Street – 1845



Built by Robert Oliver Usher, whose wife was the sister of Judge Floyd who lived across the street. In the fall of 1864, when Sherman's forces marched past the home en route to Savannah, the family clustered on the balcony to watch the procession. The façade features six Doric columns and is capped by the only original "captain's walk" existent on a local antebellum home.

7 Daniel-Mixon House 2121 Floyd Street – 1845



Known as *The Verandah*, this superb antebellum Colonial Revival home was originally built for Englishman George H. Daniel, who married Huldah Colley, the daughter of Rev. Joel Colley who founded First Baptist Church of Covington. Southern charm abounds with the beautiful wrap-around verandah and surrounding manicured gardens. A renovation of the home was completed in 1998 by Master Historic Architect Neal Turner.

8 Adams-Clark House 2130 Floyd Street



The elegant frontage with its Grecian columns was erected by L.D. Adams to grace an earlier structure sometime between 1900 and 1920. Mr. Adams was the brother of G.C. Adams who was the organizer of a Corn Club which expanded into the national 4-H Club. Mr. & Mrs. W.C. Clark resided here until 1929.

9 Neal-Patterson House
2149 Floyd Street – 1855-59



Known as *The Cottage*, the home was built by McCormick Neal and his wife, daughter of Judge Floyd. This raised cottage structure is usually found in the Deep South along the rivers of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. The house has Doric columns and latticed brick work across the façade, with formal entry by a set of steps to the second floor. The house has been kept in almost identical condition as when first built.

cottage sits on property formed from a part of the vast holdings of Charles H. Sanders. A small windowless room at the front upstairs, as legend tells, was used to hide returning Confederate soldiers.

(Turn left onto Elm Street then turn right onto Conyers Street. Straight ahead is...)

10 Travis House
2154 Floyd Street – 1838



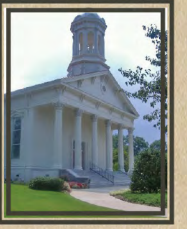
This attractive one-story home was built by Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bass Livingston. Upon their death, it passed to a daughter, Allie Margrett, who by then was the widow of Dr. Amos Campbell Whitfield Travis. In 1893, the Travis residence was so severely damaged by fire that the entire front portion had to be rebuilt. In 1921, Dr. William D. Travis remodeled the house so successfully that it remains one of Covington's most beautiful homes. It has been in the Travis family for five generations.

19 Ginn-Sanders House
3188 Conyers Street – 1851/1941



One of the most beautiful sites for a house in Covington is this rolling tract which has been graced by two of Covington's most distinguished houses. Originally part of the holdings of Rev. Charles Haynie Sanders, the property was purchased by William P. Anderson. The original home was destroyed by fire. The new structure, completed in 1941 - on the exact site of the original home - by Mr. & Mrs. S.A. Ginn, is a brick home with six square-columned pillars which make the façade reminiscent of the fictional *Tara* in the film version of Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind*. The rock wall dates to the time of the Anderson home.

28 First United Methodist Church
1113 Conyers Street – 1854



This stately building is filled with history from the Civil War and Sherman's march through Covington. The pews were removed and the church was turned into a hospital during the Civil War for soldiers wounded from both the North and the South. The elegant stained glass windows, added in 1897, have recently been refurbished. A beautiful crystal chandelier that originally hung in the Capital Theatre in Atlanta was placed in the church sanctuary in the summer of 1992.

(Turn left onto Church Street. On the left is the...)

11 King House
2161 Floyd Street – 1890



The home was occupied by Col. & Mrs. C.C. King from 1912 to 1984. The house was originally a single story, constructed as a mirror image of the Travis home directly across the street. The present Dutch Colonial style was created during a renovation in 1930 when a second story was added.

(Turn left onto Academy Springs Drive, go around the springs. On the left is...)

29 Cureton-Carr-Crowe House
2129 Church Street – 1842



The most prominent of the early owners of this home was Alfred M. Cureton, a wealthy merchant who married Amanda Perry. Upon his death, he deeded his home and one on the opposite side of Church Street to his granddaughters Annie Cureton Carr and Clara Cureton Carr. The home was subsequently purchased by Mrs. Wendell W. Crowe in 1943. Mrs. Crowe bricked the home during her ownership.

12 Cook-Adams-Williams House
2173 Floyd Street – 1880



Called *The Cedars*, built by Mrs. C.J. Cook and sold to S.H. Adams who deeded it to his wife. Mrs. Adams enlarged the house to its present size and, it is said, patterned it after the home of Gen. John B. Gordon, C.S.A. It was purchased in 1920 by William Franklin Williams. A bayed front entrance with Victorian-doubled doors, square columns and an L-shaped porch are unusual features of the home.

20 Magnolia Terrace
3140 Academy Springs Circle – 1846



Also known as the Steven-Decatur-Height House, the architecture of this home is Dutch Colonial and was remodeled in 1923. French artist Paul Reould painted a mural in the breakfast room two years prior to the 1947 still unsolved murder of his socially prominent wife.

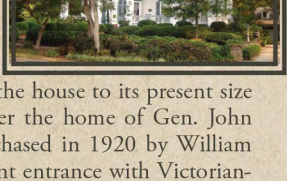
(Turn right onto Legion Drive, then left back onto Conyers Street. On the left is the...)

30 Mabry-Harper-Bush House
2145 Church Street – 1850



This home is Georgian in its floor plan and originally had a wrap-around porch on the front. The first deed mentioning this lot dates to 1845, at which time it was part of a 25-acre parcel of land. Mr. Joel Mabry, the original owner, sold the land and house in 1855 to Mrs. Winifred Harper, a widow whose son was lost in the Civil War.

13 Henry-Mobley House
3166 Floyd Street – 1858



Built by local dentist Dr. Henry T. Mobley. His family is said to be connected with the family of Revolutionary patriot Patrick Henry. The house departs from the Classical order to a freer style known as Victorian Cottage.

21 Camp-Porter House
2166 Conyers Street – 1914



Built for Miss Charles J. Camp-Porter (August 1, 1867-April 19, 1953). Called "Miss Charlie" all her life, she was the daughter of Charles Camp, founder of the bag and twine factory in what was to become Porterdale. Her mother, Julia McCracken, who later married Oliver Porter, continued running the flourishing factory. Original Victorian charm is evident throughout this handsome structure.

(Turn right onto East Street. On the right is...)

31 Dewald-Elliott-Pratt House
2171 Church Street – 1850



Known as *The Home of the Honest Man*, the house was built by Solomon Dewald, who paid off all his debts after the Civil War. The structure has lovely Doric columns and plastered walls. Square pilasters on each corner are repeated at the sides of the front door.

(Continue straight ahead through the traffic light onto Pennington Street. On the left is...)

14 Rheburgh-Sockwell-Hardman House
3190 Floyd Street 1845-50



Erected by William P. Anderson as a home for his daughter Fannie (Mrs. S.C.) Rheburgh and subsequently occupied by the Sockwell and Hardman families, this Williamsburg Colonial was revealed when later ornamentation was removed. The beautiful edifice is highlighted by its simple lines.

22 Worthington Manor
2129 East Street – 1850



Built for John J. Dearing, this antebellum home has original disappearing windows and heart-pine flooring. The current owners display a wonderful collection of American and European antique furnishing and paintings. The home is decorated in the tradition of a southern plantation after the return of its owners from their "Grand Tour" of Europe.

(Turn around and go back to Conyers Street. Turn right and on the left is the...)

32 Dixie Manor
3115 Pennington Street 1838



The only two-story brick antebellum home in Covington was built by Judge Thomas Jones. The architecture incorporates English Regency with Italian overtones. A secret staircase and interior walls 1 1/2 feet thick are of special interest. Down a path in the backyard is the original 4-seater "necessary house."

(Turn around, going back to the traffic light. Go right onto Monticello Street. On the right is...)

15 Thompson-Everitt-Davidson House
4120 Floyd Street – 1913



Built by C.S. Thompson, cashier for the Bank of Covington. The architecture is a blend of Colonial and Craftsman with Italian influences, which was fashionable at the time. The house was originally plumbed and electrified. Two original heating systems (steam and seven fireplaces) are retained in the home. Beveled glass is used extensively throughout. In April 1994, the Davidson's were awarded a citation by the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. This citation recognized the exemplary restoration and rehabilitation of the home.

23 Lee-Porter House
2146 Conyers Street – 1918



One of Covington's most imposing homes, magnificent Corinthian columns and many spacious rooms demand attention for this Greek Revival structure. The large foyer features an unusual grand staircase. The home was built for Lester Lee, son of E.O. Lee who owned *Regency Hall*.

(Turn left onto Davis Street into the Covington City Cemetery. On the left is the...)

33 Grayborne
4118 Monticello Street 1909



This charming Victorian home, sometimes referred to as Folk Georgian, was built by A.S. McGarity. The wide wrap-around veranda is the perfect setting for afternoon teas, cool breezes and friendly conversation. Mr. & Mrs. Walter E. Gray and their four children moved into the home in 1912. This was to be the Gray's family home for the next 70 years. The house was named for them, using a combination of Gray and the next homeowner, Osborne.

(Turn around and go back up Monticello Street to the traffic light. Go left at the light, staying on Monticello Street. On the left, just past the light, is the...)

16 Milner-Stillwell-Durden House
4158 Floyd Street – 1907



This Queen Anne Cottage was built by the Milner family. The lumber used during the original construction was cut at the Milner's own lumber company which was in operation in Covington during the early 1900's. The home reveals its auburn heart-pine floors, winding staircase, beautiful stained-glass windows, seven original fireplaces and mantles, and dated claw-foot tub.

24 Confederate Cemetery

Over 70 brave men are buried here who died from wounds received in and around the Battle of Atlanta (see Historical Marker).

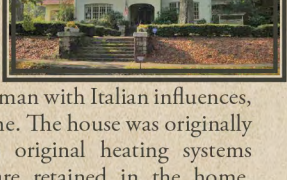
(Turn around and go back toward Conyers Street. Stay straight on Davis Street. On the right is...)

34 Lee-Rogers House
2204 Monticello Street 1898



Known as *Regency Hall*, this home was built by Mr. E.O. Lee for his wife and eight children. It is said that Mrs. Lee helped to design the home and worked, at times, right along with the carpenters in the building of it. Originally there were Victorian porches on both the first and second floors of the home.

17 Dearing House
4182 Floyd Street – 1845



Built on the Covington end of the vast Dearing Plantation (which stretched to the east toward the Alcovy River) by Dr. John Jackson Dearing, a native of Virginia. Classic cottage design and aged boxwood adds much to the property. The current owners are the third family to live in this lovely home.

25 The President's Home
1123 Davis Street – 1830



So named because it was built for the President of the Southern Masonic College, which was located across the street. The porch incorporates both Georgian and Greek Revival styles.

(Turn left onto College Avenue. On the left is the...)

35 Twelve Oaks B&B
2176 Monticello Street 1830



Also known as *Whitehall, Twelve Oaks Inn Bed & Breakfast* was so named in a nod to its acclaim as documented by *Gone With the Wind* author Margaret Mitchell. Ms. Mitchell wrote that this home is "what I would like Ashley's home (Twelve Oaks) to look like" for the filming of the movie *Gone With the Wind*. Originally built by Judge John Harris as his town home, tall Doric columns are connected by a carved balustrade, which is repeated across the second story of this three-story house. The Harris family had nine children and Judge Harris also owned a large plantation in the eastern portion of the county.

18 Camp-Pratt House
4158 Conyers Street – 1847



Built by Dr. Archibald Camp, a prominent pioneer of Covington, this attractive

26 Callaway House
1144 College Avenue – 1909



Built by Thomas G. Callaway. His son, Tom, Jr., was the State Senator who married Martha Candler. Martha was the granddaughter of Coca-Cola tycoon, Asa G. Candler. They made their home here for many years. This home has since been converted into law offices.

27 Early Church
1143 College Avenue – 1877-78



This structure was erected as a house of worship for the Covington Baptists shortly after being purchased from James T. Corley. The building served as First Baptist Church for several years before the Church moved to its current location on Floyd Street.

(Turn right onto Dearing Street, then turn right onto Conyers Street. On the left is the...)