

# DISCOVER OUR HERITAGE

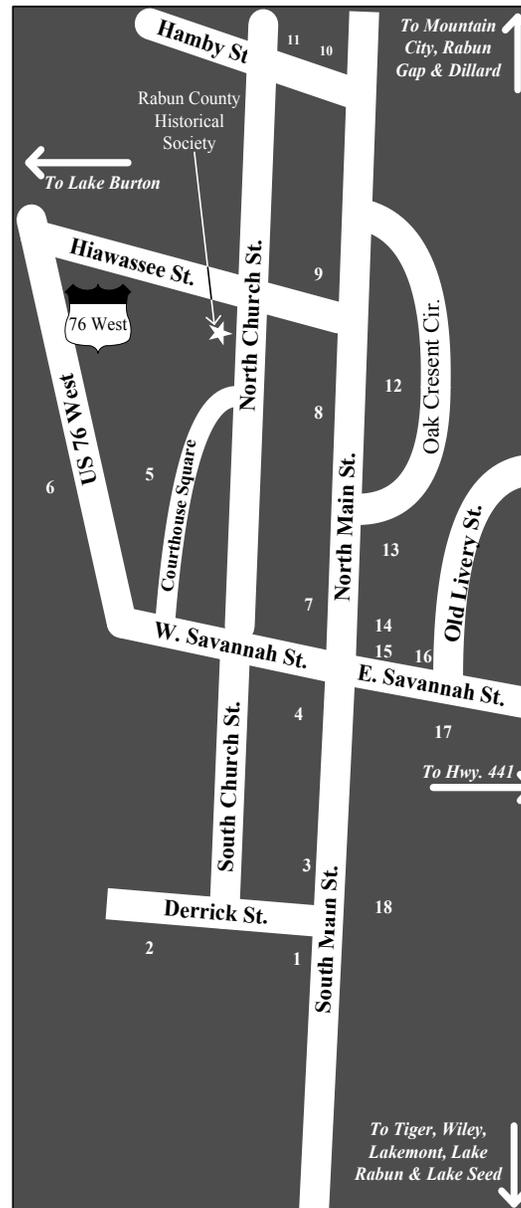
Rabun County was created in 1819 when the state of Georgia dictated a treaty with the Cherokee Nation which removed the Native Americans. The county was named for a recently deceased governor, William Rabun. The land, which had been home to the Cherokees for thousands of years prior to the arrival of Europeans, was given to white settlers in a land lottery.

Clayton was made the county seat in 1823, but the town was not incorporated until 1909. Clayton's location on a ridge-line at the intersection of several creeks had been known by the Cherokee as the equivalent of the English word, "Dividings". It was the location of the convergence of several important Cherokee trails connecting villages to the north, east and west.

**CELEBRATING  
200 YEARS** ★★  
**RABUN-COUNTY**  
**1819 BICENTENNIAL 2019**



## TOUR MAP



# HISTORIC CLAYTON, GA WALKING TOUR



*Looking south on Main Street c. 1928*

## RABUN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

[www.rabunhistory.org](http://www.rabunhistory.org)

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81 North Church Street





### #1 • 100 South Main Street

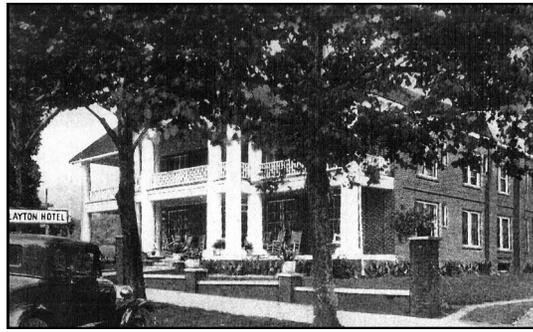
A Chevrolet dealership was at this location since 1928. It was remodeled to house Clayton Pharmacy.

*Photo c. 1960*



### #2 • 87 South Church Street

The original congregation began in 1819 as Stekoa Baptist Church. Clayton Baptist Church has been at this location since the mid-19th century. The current sanctuary was erected in 1924. *Photo c. 1875.*



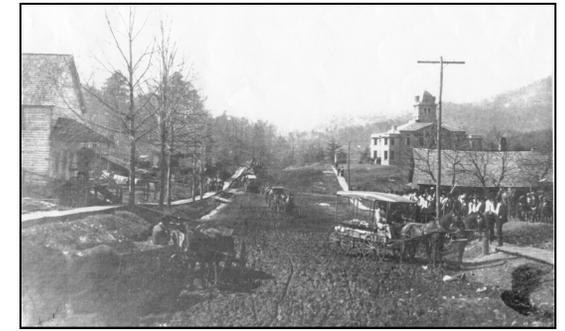
### #3 • 60 South Main Street

A hotel has been located on this corner since the 19th century. The Clayton Hotel, as it was known, has burned at least twice and has been remodeled many times. *Photo c. 1940.*



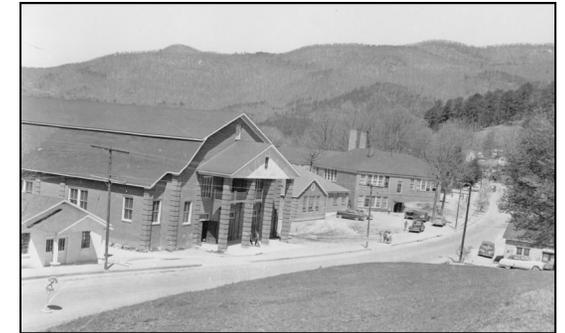
### #4 • West side of South Main

This entire block was constructed between 1902 and 1914. The brick building that houses Reeves Hardware was built in 1914 by the Derrick family. Reeves moved into the building in 1928. This block has also housed a post office, bank, super market, drug store, and movie theater. *Photo c. 1955*



### #5 • West Savannah Street

The county courthouse was opened on this site in 1908 with a separate jail sitting just east of the building. The clock in the tower struck each hour for the entire town. The building was replaced in 1968, and the jail is now at a different site. *Photo 1909*



### #6 • 201 West Savannah Street

This building was originally constructed in 1935 by the WPA as a high school gymnasium. A new high school was relocated in 1978, and in 1999, the county renovated the building to use as a Civic Center. *Photo c. 1970*



### #7 • 23 North Main Street

The original building on this site was constructed in the mid-19th century as a hotel. It was operated by the Cannon family as the Blue Ridge Hotel from the early 20th century until it was torn down in 1949 and replaced with a department store. *Photo c. 1920*



### #8 • 55 North Main Street

Built in 1920, the C.B. Brown building was a department store operated by Frank Bleckley. He sold it to Belk - Gallant in the 1950s, and it operated until the 1970s. The building has been remodeled and now houses Doncaster. *Photo c. 1955.*



### #9 • 109 North Main Street

This Texaco station was operated by Roy Jones from the 1950s until the 1980s. The building replaced a residence on this site. It has been significantly remodeled and repurposed as a bar and restaurant. *Photo c. 1960.*



### #10 • 175 North Main Street

David Mize operated a mortuary and florist at the site of his family home. Both buildings were torn down in the 21st century to be replaced by the Rumor Hazit Restaurant in 2007. *Photo c. 1960.*



### #11 • 30 Hamby Street

Built in 1904, this home has been owned by the same family since 1918 when Clyde Holden purchased it. The Corinthian style columns made of redwood trees were added to the front porch in the 1930s. The Holdens used the upper floor as a boarding house. Mr. Holden was a rural mail carrier in the mornings while practicing law in the afternoons.



### #12 • 74 North Main Street

Built by Russell Ivie as a gas station, garage and Pontiac dealership in the 1930s and called the Black Rock Service Station. Located here for many years has been Butler's II. *Photo c. 1940.*



### #13 • 34 North Main Street

This gas station was built in 1928 by former professional baseball players, Claude and Fred Derrick. Previously on this site was a hotel called the Wall House, built in the mid 19th century. It is now Prater's Main Street Books.

*Photo c. 1930.*



### #14 • Corner of North Main & East Savannah Streets

This building was built in 1935 by the WPA to be used as their county headquarters. It has served as Clayton City Hall and the County Extension Office. The Rock House, as it is now called, is rented by the city for meetings and events. *Photo c. 1940.*



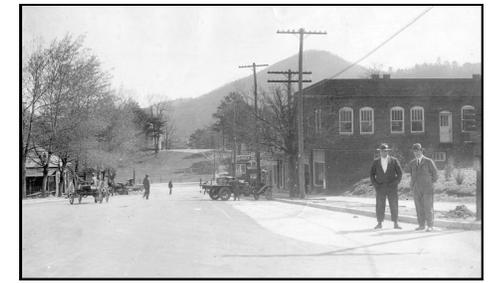
### #15 • 29 East Savannah Street

Built in the first decade of the 20th century by Dr. J.C. Dover, it is probably Clayton's oldest commercial building. It has housed Hamby Hardware, Alley's Jewelry and Dr. E. R. Taylor's dental office, among other businesses. *Photo c. 1960.*



### #16 • 73 East Savannah Street

The Tallulah Falls Railroad was finished to Clayton in 1905 bringing mail, freight and increasing numbers of visitors. This depot was built in 1912 to replace the original that burned. The railroad ceased operation in 1961, and the depot was torn down to be replaced by Keller Furniture. *Photo 1913.*



### #17 • East Savannah Street

Savannah Street was perhaps named for Savannah Cannon Bleckley, proprietor of the Bleckley House. The brick buildings shown in this photo were erected in the 1920s and have housed, among others, C. E. Cannon's Dry Goods, Georgia Power Company, and a grocery store. *Photo c. 1925.*



### #18 • 71 South Main Street

The earliest record of a Methodist circuit rider in Rabun dates to 1837. Clayton Methodist Church's first building was made of handmade brick. A major renovation was completed in 1923 when the building was moved 20 feet west and south. The 1880 church bell, made in Troy, New York was re-hung in the tower. *Photo c. 1925.*