

Columbia
Square



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Design by MacKay Wilford

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WELCOME TO SAVANNAH GEORGIA

In 1966 Savannah was designated a National Historic District due to its unique, well preserved city plan and historic building stock.

Begun in 1733, General Oglethorpe's city plan now extends all the way from the Savannah River to Gwinnett Street, and from East Broad Street to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

Oglethorpe's plan began with six wards; at the center of each ward was a public square, flanked on the east and west by trustee lots for public buildings, and by 60 x 90 lots on the north and south.

Recognizing the brilliance of this plan, city fathers implemented it in the southward expansion of the 1800s, ultimately creating twenty-four squares from the Savannah River to Gaston Street. Savannah's city plan is celebrated because it has been utilized throughout the City's history and remains as valid and effective today as in its inception.

The Landmark District is also lauded for its outstanding variety of architectural styles, including residential, commercial, and institutional buildings, many of which have been carefully restored and/or maintained to retain their original grandeur.







127 HABERSHAM



THE KEHOE HOUSE

In 1842, at the age of ten, William Kehoe emigrated to America from County Wexford, Ireland, with his mother, father, four brothers and three sisters in tow. The family settled in the Old Fort District of Savannah with other Irish immigrants. William apprenticed in an iron foundry and worked his way up to become a foreman. Eventually, he bought the foundry, then located east of Broughton Street. After World War I, he built a new foundry on the riverfront and quickly became one of Savannah's most successful and prominent businessmen.

In 1868, William Kehoe married Anne Flood and the two quickly started a family. Their first address, also on Columbia Square, was 130 Habersham Street. As his business and family grew, Kehoe built a larger, more grand and stately home. He liked the Historic District so much that he purchased the southern half of the lot, located diagonally across the street, for \$950. The Kehoe House was designed by DeWitt Bruyn, and was built at the cost of \$25,000. The home was completed in May of 1892, whereupon Mr. and Mrs. Kehoe and their ten children moved into their new home.

Mr. Kehoe's heirs sold the house in 1930. In the thirty years following the sale, the property was used



as a boarding house, funeral parlor, and held for a time held by Alabama and New York Jets football star, Joe Namath. In 1990, Mr. Namath sold the property, and after a two year renovation, the property opened as a Historic Bed and Breakfast Inn; The William Kehoe House. The property was sold again in 2003. It was purchased by its current owner, HLC Hotels, in May of 2007.

Today, it is a bed and breakfast, one of the only 4-star bed and breakfasts in the South, and the only one in Savannah. It is also quite possibly America's only haunted 4-star establishment.



THE DAVENPORT HOUSE

At the Davenport House visitors glimpse into the American past when the nation was new and Isaiah Davenport, a young carpenter from New England, achieved success as a builder in his adopted city. The world of 1820s Savannah is presented through the outstanding Federal-style home Davenport built for his household.

Davenport's fine home was a tangible demonstration of his builder's skills as well as a residence for his growing family and the enslaved people who worked in the home and in his business. Furnished as it would have been in the 1820s, the museum received a Preserve America Presidential Award for the authentic period restoration.

As time passed, the once stately home in a fashionable neighborhood became a rundown rooming house in a seedy part of town. Threatened with demolition in 1955, a group of community-spirited citizens joined forces to purchase the Davenport House.

Today, as an historic house museum, the Isaiah Davenport House provides a look at domestic life and aesthetics from an earlier time as it welcomes visitors from across the United States and around the world to historic Savannah.

**324 EAST
STATE STREET**



**402 EAST
STATE STREET**









**324 EAST
STATE STREET**



**COLUMBIA
SQUARE**



HISTORIC SAVANNAH FOUNDATION

A half century of economic decline and the impact of the automobile in the first part of the 20th century resulted in Savannah's heritage wallowing in sad decay. By the mid-1950s, the loss of the many historical landmarks sparked the formation of Historic Savannah Foundation.

Led by seven visionary women, the History Savannah foundation purchased the Davenport House and thus began the organization's formal entry into the world of preservation and real estate.

Since that auspicious beginning in 1955, they have started a Revolving Fund to buy and sell endangered historic properties which has now saved over 350 buildings and counting, in not just the Landmark District but throughout several of Savannah's National Register districts.

This has grown into one of the most respected local preservation organizations in the country — emphasizing not only the protection of individual historic buildings but also the revitalization of blighted neighborhoods. HSF is proud of its outstanding museum, the Isaiah Davenport House, its nationally recognized Revolving Fund, and its educational programs.



17HUNDRED90 INN & RESTAURANT

Nestled among its tree covered squares, Savannah, Georgia is blessed with antebellum architectural treasures, and premiere among the Hostess City's restored hotels and inns is its oldest, 17Hundred90.

Named for the year it was constructed, this inn has been in service for over a hundred years, providing an experience and attention to detail without equal in a historic city which prides itself in showering visitors in the unhurried luxury and service of times gone by. The ground level is thought to date from a previous structure destroyed in the great Savannah fire of 1820 . Original wood shingles are visible in the attic and wooden pegs and wedges holding beams in place can be found throughout the building.

It is within easy walking distance (three short blocks) from Savannah's renowned Factors Walk and River Street, perhaps the south's finest restoration of an antebellum river port.

The best part of 17hundred90 is the long tradition for fine dining and tasty drink. Fresh seafood, carefully prepared steaks, lamb and chicken and southern vegetables combine with fine wines and carefully mixed cocktails to make a delightful dining experience.





COLUMBIA SQUARE

Columbia Square was laid out in 1799 and is named for Columbia, the poetic personification of the United States. It is located on Habersham, between State and York Streets.

In the center of the square is a fountain that formerly stood at Wormsloe, the estate of Noble Jones, one of Georgia's first settlers. It was moved to Columbia Square in 1970 to honor Augusta and Wymberly DeRenne, descendants of Jones. It is sometimes called the "rustic fountain," as it is decorated with vines, leaves, flowers, and other woodland motifs. It looks as though it's been in Columbia Square forever. Like it sprouted from the ground.

The Columbia Square area borders an area to the east in Savannah known as the Eastern Commons which housed a collection of boarding houses, taverns, bordellos, grog shops, shacks, and small mercantile operations throughout most of the 19th century. Columbia Square is also considered to be one of the most haunted areas in Savannah.

Neglected throughout much of its history, like much of the city's eastern side, Columbia Square has enjoyed a magnificent restoration and is today one of Savannah's most lovely squares.