

Savannah Congress Coaster Set #4 – Savannah Architecture



Armstrong House - Armstrong was chief executive of Strachan Shipping Company, Savannah Marine Brokers; president of the Mutual Mining Company, extractors and shippers of Florida phosphate; and a director of the Hibernia Bank and of the Commercial Life Insurance and Casualty Company. He was a member of the Oglethorpe Club and the Savannah Cotton Exchange.

The Armstrong Kessler Mansion is located in Savannah's National Historic Landmark District at 447 Bull Street across from Forsyth Park. Six city lots were acquired to build the Armstrong mansion, and two existing houses were demolished to make room for the 26,000 square foot structure. The entire site is 0.5 acres. The mansion was designed by the architect Henrik Wallin in 1917 in an Italian Renaissance Revival style. The ten-bedroom home has nearly 26,000 square feet of living area. It is three stories over a full garden level with Granite balustraded terraces at each level. The attached carriage house was also three stories, having two garage bays designed for automobiles with front and rear entrances from the street or from the "lane" as they are called in Savannah. In 1935, widow Lucy Camp Armstrong Moltz and daughter Lucy Armstrong Johnson donated the property for the campus of Armstrong Junior College at the request of the City of Savannah.



Cathedral of St. John the Baptist - Immigrants fleeing turmoil in Haiti and France established Savannah's first parish, the Congregation de Saint Jean-Baptiste, near the end of the 18th century. To accommodate a growing Catholic population, half a trust lot on Liberty Square was reserved as a building site. The first Bishop, John England, placed the cornerstone of the new brick church. Saint John the Baptist (the only Catholic church in Savannah) was repaired following hurricane damage in 1839 and named the Cathedral. In 1876, the new French Gothic style Cathedral, with four side altars of white Italian marble was dedicated. The Cathedral spires were added in 1896.

A devastating fire on February 6, 1898, destroyed all of the Cathedral but the outside walls and the two spires. The rebuilding began immediately.

In 1998, the slate roof was replaced. The restoration was completed in November 2000 to honor the 150th anniversary of the diocese and the 100th anniversary of the rededication of the Cathedral. In 2012, cracks were discovered in the steeples of the Cathedral. The damage was caused by an 2011 earthquake, 500 miles away near Washington, DC, that gently rocked upper floors of office buildings in downtown Savannah. The repair work was completed at a cost \$1.5 million.

Six Spanish Franciscans sought to convert the Guale Indians along the Georgia coast in the late 16th Century. In the end, five of them would die by their faith, murdered at the hands of some of the very natives they sought to convert. A sixth Franciscan remained steadfast in his spiritual doctrine, despite torture and deprivations that ended only when Spanish authorities ransomed him from his captives. The five who were slain are known today as the Martyrs of Georgia.

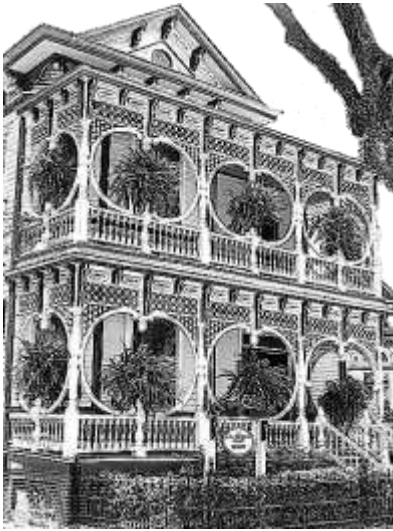


Juliet Lowe Birthplace - The Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace, also known as the Wayne-Gordon House, is owned by the Girl Scouts of the USA, and is a popular historic house museum for the general public and a Girl Scout national center commonly known as "The Birthplace". The house was built in 1818–1821 for James Moore Wayne, mayor of Savannah. Wayne was appointed the US Supreme Court, taking him to live in Washington, DC. He sold the house to his niece Sarah Stites Gordon, and her husband William Washington Gordon I, the first of four generations of Gordons to live in the house. They were Juliette Gordon Low's grandparents and parents.

Juliette Low's parents made major changes to the house in 1886, adding the fourth floor and the side piazza. Juliette Gordon Low was married in 1886, and spent much of the rest of her life living in England, though visiting her parents and other family and friends in New York, New Jersey and Savannah every year.

As an energetic widow in 1911, Juliette met Robert Baden Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts. He recruited her to become involved in the Girl Guides, and in 1912 she returned home to Savannah to start the movement in the US. She recruited girls all over Savannah. Juliette Low held elaborate teas for the Girl Scouts in her mother's parlor as a way to recruit.

The Girl Scouts of the USA purchased the home in 1953, and have restored the house to serve as a portal to the Girl Scout Movement. Opened in 1956 as a historic house museum, the home features many original Gordon family furnishings, including art by Juliette Gordon Low herself. The Birthplace was designated as Savannah's first National Historic Landmark in 1965, on the first National Register of Historic Places.



Asendorf House - The Gingerbread House, which was built in 1899, is an example of Steamboat Gothic architecture. It is known for the gingerbread arches that are featured predominantly on the exterior of the building. It is one of the most visibly famous homes in the Historic District Savannah GA.

Cord Asendorf was married to Bernhardine Asendorf and had four children. He is buried in Savannah's famous Bonaventure Cemetery. The features of The Gingerbread House are unmistakable and stand out as a fully designed home in the Gingerbread style, prevalent in the Black Forest region of Germany. It is framed by a 200-year-old oak tree at its entrance. Inside its doors you will find a conservatory, three fireplaces, a wooden staircase, and extensive wood trim throughout. Antique furnishings from the original period and the private courtyard with gazebo and small waterfall make this home a destination wedding spot. The interior of The Gingerbread House also features elaborate stylish wood trim and a languishing staircase.



Waving Girl - Florence Martus (1868–1943), also known as "the Waving Girl", took it upon herself to be the unofficial greeter of all ships that entered and left the Port of Savannah, Georgia, between 1887 and 1931. A few years after she began waving at passing sailors, she moved in with her brother, a light keeper, at his small white cottage about five miles up the river from Fort Pulaski. From her rustic home on Elba Island, a tiny piece of land in the Savannah River near the Atlantic Ocean, Martus would wave a handkerchief by day and a lantern by night. According to legend, not a ship was missed in her forty-four years on watch. A statue of Martus by the sculptor Felix de Weldon has been erected in Morrell Park on the historic riverfront of Savannah. Martus' father was an ordnance sergeant at Fort Pulaski on Cockspur Island, where she was born.[On September 27, 1943 Liberty ship SS Florence Martus was named in her honor.

In 1999, the city of Savannah named its ferry service the Savannah Belles Ferry after five of Savannah's notable women, including Florence Martus.[90]

The Waving Girl historical marker was officially dedicated in 1958 and is located near the visitor center at Fort Pulaski.