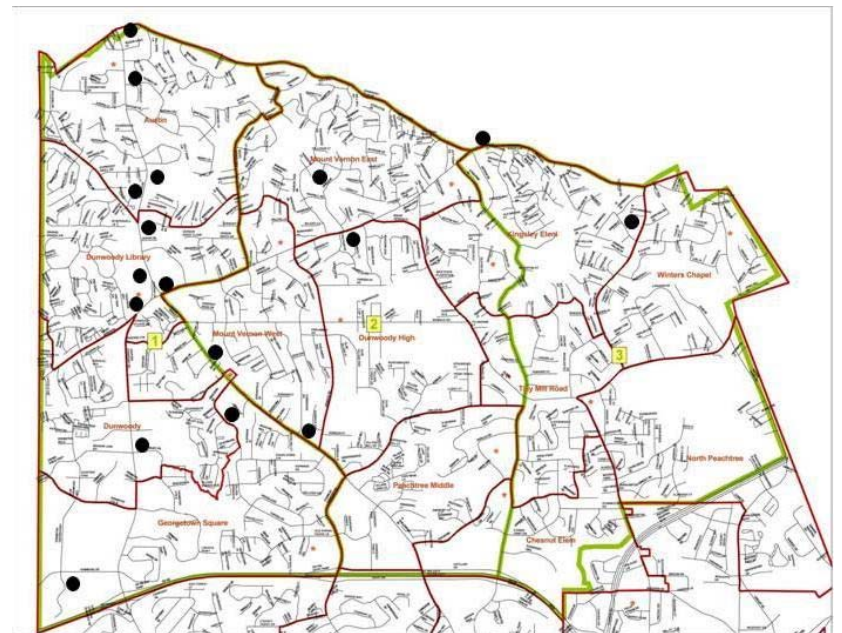


# MAP

## HISTORIC SITES IN DUNWOODY, GEORGIA

*Written and compiled by  
Carol Anne Spangler,  
Girl Scout Troop #21429,  
for Gold Award Project  
2009*



# DRIVING DIRECTIONS

**(Note: This 20-mile loop begins and ends at the Cheek-Spruill Farmhouse)**

## START:

1. The Cheek-Spruill Farmhouse, 5455 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road, the NE corner of Chamblee-Dunwoody Road and Mount Vernon Road  
Turn right (north) onto Chamblee-Dunwoody Road  
Travel 0.3 miles, turning right into the KinderCare Learning Center entrance, 5695 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road  
New Hope Cemetery is located directly ahead
2. Exit KinderCare Learning Center driveway, turning right (north) onto Chamblee-Dunwoody Road  
Travel 0.3 miles, veering to the right as street forks onto Roberts Drive  
Turn right into the Dunwoody Nature Center, 5343 Roberts Drive  
Follow driveway, ending at the T. K. Peters home
3. Exit Dunwoody Nature Center, turning right (north) onto Roberts Drive  
Travel 0.6 miles, turning right (east) onto Glenrich Drive  
Travel 0.1 miles. Larkin Martin in located on the left, at 5661 Glenrich Drive
4. Reverse direction on Glenrich Drive for 0.1 miles  
Turn right (north) onto Roberts Drive  
Travel 0.3 miles, turning right (east) into Ebenezer Primitive Baptist Church, 7325 Roberts Drive
5. Turn left (south) onto Roberts Drive from Ebenezer Primitive Baptist Church  
Travel 1.1 miles  
Swancy Farmhouse, 5308 Roberts Drive, will be on the right, directly opposite Dunwoody Park
6. Continue south on Roberts Drive for 0.4 miles, continuing straight as Roberts Drive becomes Chamblee-Dunwoody Road  
The Dunwoody Chamber of Commerce, 5518 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road, is housed in the last remaining Railroad Section Gang House
7. Turn right (south) from the Dunwoody Chamber of Commerce, and travel 0.2 miles and turn right (west) onto Mount Vernon Road  
Travel 0.1 miles and turn right (north) into second Dunwoody United Methodist Church entrance at 1548 Mount Vernon Road, next to the DUMC Chapel building

8. Reverse direction and turn right (west) onto Mount Vernon Road from Dunwoody United Methodist Church
  - Travel 0.1 miles
  - Turn left (south) onto Ashford Dunwoody Road
  - Travel 1.6 miles
  - Immediately after passing Perimeter Mall, turn right (west) onto Hammond Drive
  - Travel 0.3 miles, turning left (south) on Perimeter Center Parkway, NE
  - Travel 0.1 miles and turn left (east) at first traffic light into office building entrance that runs between Fuddrucker's Restaurant and Marriott Hotel
  - Proceed 0.1 miles
  - Cemetery entrance is on left, marked by Dunwoody Preservation Trust sign and adjacent to the office building housing Cotton States Insurance and Pilgrim's Pride at 244 Perimeter Center Parkway, NE
9. Reverse direction 0.1 miles in office parking area and turn right (north) onto Perimeter Center Parkway, NE
  - Travel 0.1 miles, turning right (east) onto Hammond Drive
  - Travel 0.3 miles and turn left (north) onto Ashford Dunwoody Road
  - Travel 0.7 miles
  - Turn right (east) at Meadow Lane, immediately after passing the Stephen

- Spruill Home Place at 4681 Ashford Dunwoody Road
  - Travel less than 0.1 miles and enter parking area on right, immediately after passing by the side of the home
10. Reverse direction and exit Stephen Spruill Home Place parking area by turning left onto Meadow Lane
    - Travel less than 0.1 miles and turn right (north) onto Ashford Dunwoody Road
    - Travel 0.3 miles, turning right (east) on Valley View Road
    - Proceed 0.6 miles until Valley View Road ends at Chamblee-Dunwoody Road
    - Turn right (south) on Chamblee-Dunwoody Road
    - Travel 0.2 miles
    - Turn right (west) on Holly Oak Place
    - Travel 0.1 miles, and turn right (north) on Sirron Court, proceeding 0.1 miles to 5068 Sirron Court, inside the cul-de-sac
  11. Reverse direction for 0.1 miles, exiting Sirron Court
    - Turn left (south) onto Holly Oak Place and travel 0.1 miles
    - Turn right (south) onto Chamblee-Dunwoody Road
    - Proceed 0.5 miles to Donaldson-Bannister Farm and Cemetery, located on the left at 4831 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road

12. Exiting Donaldson-Bannister Farm, turn right (north) onto Chamblee-Dunwoody Road  
Travel 0.8 miles  
Eidson Home Place is located on right at 5171 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road
13. Continue north on Chamblee-Dunwoody Road for 0.5 miles  
Turn right (east) on Mount Vernon Road  
Travel 1.1 miles  
Warnock Cottage is located on the right at 2081 Mount Vernon Road
14. After passing the Warnock Cottage, continue east on Mount Vernon Road for 1.2 miles. The road curves slightly to the right and becomes Dunwoody Club Drive  
Continue 1.0 mile on Dunwoody Club Drive  
Turn right (south) when Dunwoody Club Drive ends at Happy Hollow Road  
Travel 0.2 miles on Happy Hollow Road and turn right (west) on W. Fontainebleau Court  
Proceed less than 0.1 miles  
Cassidy Home is located at 2579 W. Fontainebleau Court, inside the cul-de-sac
15. Reverse direction for less than 0.1 miles to exit W. Fontainebleau Court  
Turn left (north) onto Happy Hollow Road  
Travel 0.2 miles  
Turn left (west) onto Dunwoody Club Drive

- After 1.0 mile, road will curve slightly to the left onto Mount Vernon Road  
Travel 0.1 miles on Mount Vernon Road  
Turn right (north) into the Life Center Family Church, 2690 Mount Vernon Road  
N. W. Ware Home is located in the SE corner of the church parking lot
16. Exit parking lot at Life Center Family Church  
Turn right (west) and travel 1.2 miles on Mount Vernon Road  
Turn right (north) on Vernon Lake Drive into Dunwoody Club Forest subdivision  
Travel 0.5 miles and turn right (east) onto Houghton Court, S., proceeding less than 0.1 miles to Wardlaw Home located at 1741 Houghton Court, S., inside the cul-de-sac
  17. Reverse direction for less than 0.1 miles to exit Houghton Court, S  
Turn left (south) on Vernon Lake Drive  
Travel 0.5 miles  
Turn right (west) onto Mount Vernon Road  
Travel 1.2 miles  
Turn right (north) onto Chamblee-Dunwoody Road  
Travel less than 0.1 miles.  
Turn right (east) to return to Cheek-Spruill (The Dunwoody) Farmhouse

**END**

**Cheek-Spruill Farmhouse  
(The Dunwoody Farmhouse)  
Circa 1906**

**Address:** 5455 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road  
NE corner of Mount Vernon Road  
and Chamblee-Dunwoody Road

**Recognitions:** Georgia Register of Historic  
Places (1999)  
National Register of Historic  
Places (1999)



**Historical Background:** Mr. Joberry Cheek built the gabled-elf style farmhouse in 1906 for his son, Bunyan Cheek, an engineer involved in the construction of the Morgan Falls power plant. Originally featuring the house, barn, smokehouse, chicken house, cornfield, and pasture, the property covered 2.5 acres in the “heart” of Dunwoody. As the town expanded,

the farmhouse remained at “the crossroads” of Dunwoody. The home featured six fireplaces, plus lath and plaster walls. Built as a one-story home, the owners raised the entire house to allow for a one-story addition below. Mature trees in the yard grew originally along a split rail fence that encompassed the yard. Subsequent owners after Bunyan Cheek were the Crook family, followed by Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Church. Carey Spruill, a planter and architect and the eldest son of Mollie and Stephen Spruill, purchased the home in 1945. In the years of Spruill’s ownership, cornfields surrounded the home. He plowed his garden with his mule, Shorty, into the mid-1970s, growing vegetables for sale at his stand located at a nearby service station.

**Update:** Carey Spruill died in 1983. Upon the death of his widow, Mrs. Carey (Florence Warnock) Spruill in 1994, the Dunwoody Preservation Trust (DPT) formed to preserve historic properties in Dunwoody, starting with the “Save the Farmhouse” campaign. The campaign raised over \$200,000, unfortunately not enough to purchase the property from the Spruill heirs. The Guardian Savings and Loan in Houston, Texas purchased the property in 1998 and donated .5 acres of the property, including the site of the Farmhouse, to the Dunwoody Preservation Trust. The DPT used its donated funds to clean, paint, and repair the farmhouse property, restoring it to its original

splendor. The barn had to be demolished, but the DPT was able to move the smokehouse and chicken house onto the donated property.



The restoration revealed original bead board ceilings on the main floor, hidden by a dropped ceiling, as seen in the front bedroom (left) of the main level of the farmhouse. Upstairs, in the oldest part of the home, a small “witness” cutaway reveals the original wall construction technique of mixing lath and plaster with horsehair filling. Also on the second level, evidence exists that the owners plastered over the original first floor exit doors when they raised the home. Volunteers painted the porch ceilings “haint blue” to ward away spirits.

**Current Use:** The Cheek-Spruill Farmhouse currently serves as the Dunwoody Town Hall, host to a myriad of community meetings, events, and festivals.

## **New Hope Cemetery Circa 1859**

**Address:** 5695 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road



**Historical Background:** New Hope Presbyterian Church, the third church established in the Dunwoody community, formed in 1883, but disbanded thirty-four years later, in 1917. The church cemetery, on land, according to local rumor, donated by the Dunwoody family of Roswell, still exists on Chamblee-Dunwoody Road. Many of the pioneers of the early Dunwoody community are buried in this cemetery, including the three young men killed in the explosion at Joberry Cheek’s mill in 1920.



The grave of Pvt. Thomas J. Connaway, the only Confederate Civil War veteran interred at New Hope, is located midway along the first row of burial sites in the NW corner of the cemetery.

**Update:** The cemetery, situated slightly off the road, is easily accessible from the KinderCare Learning Center parking area.



**Current Use:** Historical Cemetery

## The T. K. Peters House Circa 1945

**Address:** 5343 Roberts Drive

**Historical Background:** T. K. Peters, a local inventor, writer, and photographer, and his wife, Grace, built their home on the site of an early Battle of Atlanta-related conflict on Wild Cat Creek. Peters constructed the home from cinderblock and brick, also adding a small-attached shed. The property spread over six acres of farm rich soil. Three gun emplacements are located just below the house. Peters mounted a large millstone, six feet in diameter, on the front of the home. The millstone came from a mill that originally stood on the property.



**Update:** DeKalb County Parks and Recreation Department purchased the home in 1975, at the time owned by the Ross Lane family. Community groups cleaned the home and the surrounding trails, and the land served as the home of the North Arts Center. The Arts Center moved to its new home in the North DeKalb Cultural Arts Center in the late 1980s, and over the next three years, the land and home once belonging to T. K. Peters fell into disrepair due to vandalism. In 1990, a group of interested citizens proposed the idea of establishing the Dunwoody Nature Center on the site.

**Current Use:** Office and Classroom space for Dunwoody Nature Center

### **Larkin Martin House Circa 1840**



**Address:** 5661 Glenrich Drive

**Recognitions:** Oldest surviving home in Dunwoody

**Historical Background:** The home and surrounding property, owned by Mr. Larkin Martin, an early member of Ebenezer Primitive Baptist Church, originally covered more than 300 acres. Subsequent owners of the property sold much of the farmland for residential development, including property for the formation of Titus Farms, now called Sellars Farm, and the Mill Glen subdivision. The front porch of the farmhouse faced west to Roberts Drive, but later renovations enclosed the porch, making it a part of the interior, and altering the façade of the home to face south. The two-



bedroom home also featured a living room, entry hall, and a back porch, later enclosed to form the kitchen. The pump house next to the kitchen housed a dug well, and in modern times, a large water storage tank and electric pump. Board and batten encased the exterior of the farmhouse. Knotty pine paneling covered the walls of the living room and entry hall, with floors made of pine boards. The fireplace in the living area featured a double wooden mantle. When Mr. Richard Titus purchased the home in 1950, the acquisition included the house plus eight acres of land. That expanded to include 14.5 acres during the family's seventeen-year tenure in the home.

**Update:** Mr. Richard Titus built an addition to the original house structure in 1955, constructed by the Amacher Construction Company of Dunwoody. In the new addition, Titus added another 1336 square footage to the existing 1625 sq. ft. structure and included two additional bedrooms, one bathroom, a kitchen, and a dining area. The expansion also included a garage area in the basement. A covered breezeway with casement windows and a roof made of clear plastic panels connected the two structures. At this time, the owners added a porthole from the whaling ship, *USN Atlantic*, next to the front door, now fronting Glenrich Drive. Mr. Titus wrote a book titled Dunwoody isn't Bucolic Anymore. outlining the history of the Larkin Martin House.

The home currently sits on approximately one acre of land.



**Current Use:** Private Residence

**Ebenezer Primitive Baptist Church (Circa 1829) and Cemetery (Circa 1880)**

**Address:** 7325 Roberts Drive

**Recognitions:** First church established in Dunwoody



**Historical Background:** Ebenezer Primitive Baptist Church holds the distinction of being the first church in Dunwoody that is still active. Radford Gunn served as the founding pastor of the congregation. The current building is the fourth church building built by the congregation. The Primitive Baptist denomination does not allow instrumental music in its worship services, but instead, members rely on Sacred Harp music, a southern choral tradition that uses four musical notes, denoted by different shapes, and seven sounds. Each of the shapes relates to the specific sound associated with fa, sol, la, or mi. Ebenezer Primitive Baptist sponsored singing

schools and Fa-Sol-La Song Festivals to promote its form of Sacred Harp music.



A cemetery sits on the north side of the church building, parallel to Spalding Drive. The white obelisk near the front of the cemetery is a monument to Dunwoody's founder, Major Charles Dunwoody, placed by the Sons of Confederate Veterans organization in 2003. A dirt path on the southern edge of the cemetery leads to burial plots of Civil War soldiers.



**Current Use:** Church and Cemetery

**Swancy Farmhouse  
Circa 1889**



**Address:** 5308 Roberts Drive

**Historical Background:** Willis J. Swancy and his wife, Clara, purchased this home, built in 1889, around 1929. At the time, the Swancys were living with Clara's family members across the street in a large two-story yellow home located at the site of the current Dunwoody Fire Station on Roberts Drive. When purchased, the small home had three rooms, but the property included 31 acres of farmland. In 1931, Willis Swancy built an extra room and a porch at the rear of the home, later adding stairs leading to an upstairs room addition in the mid-1940s. Roberts Drive, paved in 1938, did not receive electrical power until 1945, as another nearby farmer objected to having power poles located on his property, believing

it would lower the value of his land. The family added an indoor bathroom in 1950. Willis and Clara Swancy sold 21 acres of land for the development of the Knollwood subdivision in 1966, and built a new brick home behind the original farmhouse for their use. The family sold additional acres of property again in the 1980s.

**Update:** Various members of the extended Swancy family lived in the original farmhouse until 1996 when the family sold the home. The new owner completed a large remodeling and addition project in the years since, yet artfully retained the appearance of the original small farmhouse structure.

**Current Use:** Private Residence

## Railroad Section Gang House Circa 1880

**Address:** 5518 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road



**Historical Background:** Major Charles Dunwoody built a narrow gauge track in 1880 along the abandoned route of a previously proposed railroad project from Chamblee to Roswell via Dunwoody. Standard gauge track replaced the original narrow track in 1903. Between 1880 and 1921, *The Dinkey*, the train of the Roswell Railroad, and later of the Southern Railroad, made twice-daily trips from Roswell carrying lumber, cotton, woolen goods, and produce to Chamblee. On its return trip, the train mostly carried supplies and manufactured goods, along with catalog orders. Mr. Ike Roberts served as the only engineer for *The Dinkey*, also called *Old Buck*,

for its entire forty-one years of operation. The train usually consisted of an engine and tender, a combination baggage and passenger car, plus five to six freight and flat cars. Besides Roberts, the crew consisted of a fireman, a conductor, a brakeman/baggage man, and a flagman. Although, if flagged, the train would stop anywhere along the track to pick up or drop off passengers, the Dunwoody Train Depot was the train's third of four scheduled stops along the 9.8 mile route between Roswell and Chamblee. The railroad established the region between Mount Vernon Road to the Chamblee-Dunwoody-Road/Roberts Road split as the business center of Dunwoody. Just north of the depot, the railroad built three section houses, small white clapboard structures, to lodge work crews in charge of maintaining the train's roadbed.

**Update:** In 1994, commercial development removed two of the original three section houses.

**Current Use:** Dunwoody Chamber of Commerce

**Dunwoody United Methodist Chapel  
Circa 1941**

**Address:** 1548 Mount Vernon Road



**Historical Background:** Dunwoody Methodist Episcopal Church, the fourth church founded in Dunwoody in 1899, began as an interdenominational Sunday School, which met at the Dunwoody School House. The interdenominational membership grew steadily until 1903 when residents John Cates, Stephen Spruill, J. C. Spruill, and Henry Spruill met and set plans in motion to build a new church building. Mr. Cates donated the land for the church, on Mount Vernon Road west of Nandina Lane. The original church building opened in October 1903. The Methodist Episcopal Church, through a series of divisions and mergers, is now a major component of the present United Methodist Church.

**Update:** The chapel, built in 1941, is located west of the current sanctuary and was the church's second sanctuary building.

**Current Use:** Dunwoody United Methodist Church Chapel

## Stephen Martin Cemetery Circa 1859

**Address:** 244 Perimeter Center Parkway, NE



**Current Use:** Historical Cemetery

**Historical Background:** Family cemetery of Mr. Stephen Martin, who married a member of the Spruill family, is located between commercial development at the Hammond Drive/Perimeter Center Parkway intersection and I-285. Many of the plots are unmarked or marked by unlabeled rock mounds or walls. Others feature traditional headstones.

**Update:** The location of the family burial plot forced a slight rerouting of the perimeter interstate at Ashford Dunwoody Road. The burial ground is accessible from a marked gravel driveway on Perimeter Parkway.

## Stephen Spruill Home Place Circa 1889

**Address:** 4681 Ashford Dunwoody Road



**Historical Background:** Mr. Stephen T. Spruill, one of the earliest Dunwoody pioneers, owned large parcels of land in the Dunwoody area. He married Miss Mollie Lee Carter in 1889, and they raised their large family of eleven children in a log home behind his grandparent's home near the site of present day Ashford Dunwoody Road and I-285. In 1905, he moved his family into his grandparent's home, originally built in 1867. Spruill remodeled the house into a white frame Victorian farmhouse by covering the original logs with wide boards and removing one of the ells. He kept, however, the original design, stone fireplace, oak floors, and an ornately

carved mantelpiece. The remodeled home featured four rooms with a central hallway, which ran the length of the house. The hallway design, coupled with 14-foot high ceilings, facilitated air circulation. Two rooms at the back of the current building are from the original 1867 structure.

After the death of his first wife, Stephen Spruill married Ethel Gertrude Warren in 1933. By this time, "Mr. Steve" owned several farms in DeKalb and Fulton Counties, where he raised hogs and cattle, grew corn, cotton, and fruit trees, and operated a sawmill. In the 1930s, Spruill had several hundred acres planted in cotton and employed sixty farmhands and tenants. An on-site commissary offered commodities not grown on the property to farm employees. He actively used the log smokehouse for curing meat into the 1970s. Iron hooks for drying and curing meet are still visible on the smokehouse walls. Spruill family folklore contends that a cellar built under the smokehouse served as a hiding spot for family valuables during the Civil War. A second outbuilding, the seed house, stored farm supplies. Built in the early 1900s, Spruill constructed the seed house entirely of mill-cut lapboard siding, completely avoiding the use of rounded logs. Mr. Spruill died in 1967 at the age of 97.



**Update:** In 1991, Stephen T. Spruill's heirs donated the family home place, two outbuildings, and 5.4 acres on Ashford Dunwoody Road, slightly north of its original location, to the North Arts Center. The donation agreement stipulated that the Arts Center move the home to its new site. The agreement also required that the organization use the home for educational art purposes. The North Arts Center restored the home to its 1930's appearance for use as an art gallery, history exhibit, and gift shop.

**Current Use:** Spruill Center Gallery and Historic Home Place

### The Norris "Little House" Circa 1901

**Address:** 5068 Sirron Court

**Historical Background:** Mr. J. D. Norris, owner of the Norris Candy Company, built a summer vacation home in Dunwoody in 1901. In the late 1930s, fire destroyed the original home. The home's guesthouse, identified now as the "Little House," remains on the property site. Of interest, the home is located on Sirron Court, which is the name Norris spelled backwards.



**Update:** After purchasing the property in 1948 from the Norris' eldest daughter, Maris Letts, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kelly added a large red barn to the property. The barn, although no longer part of the current Norris home property, exists as part of another private residence in the Heathwood subdivision.

**Current Use:** Private Residence



**Donaldson-Bannister Farm and Cemetery  
Circa 1870**

**Address:** 4831 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road

**Recognitions:** Georgia Register of Historic Places (2008)  
National Register of Historic Places (application pending)



**Historical Background:** Mr. W. J. Donaldson built the 2-story house, originally painted white and surrounded by a white fence, at the corner of Chamblee-Dunwoody and Vermack Roads, soon after the end of the Civil War. Members of the Donaldson family, including patriarch W. J. Donaldson, are buried in the small family cemetery located on the north side of the home.



The home place featured eight outbuildings including a blacksmith shop, a 3-stall barn, washhouse, well, and commissary.



After the death of Mr. Donaldson's third wife in 1935, his heirs divided the property for sale. Mrs. Lois Bannister purchased the home as a summer home, adding electricity and water. She also made several room additions to the original structure. Following Mrs. Bannister, the property passed through many other hands. David and Linda Chesnut became the seventh owners of the property in 1975.

**Update:** The Chesnut family restored and updated the home after their mid-1970s purchase. They also repaired the home again after it received extensive damage in the 1998 Dunwoody tornado.

**Current Use:** Purchased by DeKalb County Green Space Initiative for use as county park and educational facility

### **The Eidson Home Place Circa 1931**

**Address:** 5171 Chamblee-Dunwoody Road

**Recognitions:** First brick home built in Dunwoody

**Historical Background:** Mr. Lon Eidson, owner of a store and filling station on Chamblee-Dunwoody Road near Kingsdown Road, built the first brick home in the Dunwoody community. Mr. Glen Austin and Mr. Calvin Eidson actually constructed the home, and Mr. Harvey Drake, a member of the extended Eidson family, completed all the brick and concrete work. Lon Eidson's wife, Bertha Moss Eidson, served as the first president of the Dunwoody Home Demonstration Club. She was the daughter of P. L. Moss, owner of Moss' General Store, the first real store in the Dunwoody community. The turn-of-the-century store, which sold general merchandise and featured a water well for visitors, was located at what is now the triangle formed by Mount Vernon Road, Chamblee-Dunwoody Road, and Nandina Lane.

Lon and Bertha Eidson had two small children, Perry and Bertha Frances, when they moved into the home. The children built a fire around the wash pot in order to provide warm water for their first bath in the new home, and the

original tub is still present in the home. Two fireplaces and a warm morning heater provided heat for the house. A set of French doors, still present in the home today, separated the living and dining rooms, and promoted heat retention for the more-utilized living area of the home. Through the years, the Eidson family continued to outfit the home with such modern conveniences of central air, central heat, and kitchen appliances, marking a substantial upgrade from Bertha's original dishwashing dishpan/rinse pan assembly line procedure, and freestanding Hoosier cabinet for organization of kitchen staples.



Update: The Eidson family sold a portion of the family property in 1999 for residential development, a subdivision named Eidson Hall, in honor of the family.

**Current Use:** Personal Residence

### **Warnock Cottage Circa 1913**



**Address:** 2081 Mount Vernon Road

**Historical Background:** The home of William R. Warnock, an Irish immigrant, built near the time of his marriage to Martha Amanda Adams. The Warnocks were charter members of Ebenezer Baptist Church and grandparents to Florence Warnock, later Mrs. Carey Spruill, final inhabitant of the Cheek-Spruill (Dunwoody) Farmhouse.

**Current Use:** Private Residence

**Cassidy House  
Circa 1930**

**Address:** 2579 W. Fontainebleau Court

**Recognitions:** Dunwoody Tour of Homes,  
1981

**Historical Background:** Mrs. Clara B. Cassidy built the home in 1930 as a hunting lodge and summer home. Forty acres of land surrounded the house, which she purchased for ten dollars per acre. The home's original well and water pump is still located on the porch, now enclosed for use as a breakfast room. A large fireplace, constructed of granite quarried from Stone Mountain, served as the primary heat source for the home. Tongue-and-groove pine paneling covered many of the interior walls, and the Cassidy home featured several coffered, waffle-patterned decorative, ceilings.



**Update:** The home received substantial damage in the Dunwoody tornado of 1998. Originally condemned by DeKalb County, the current homeowners, Ken and Brenda Lamb, received permission to restore the house to its original condition.

**Current Use:** Private Residence

**The W. N. Ware House  
Circa 1876**

**Address:** 2690 Mount Vernon Road  
Located in SE corner of parking lot  
of Life Center Family Church



**Historical Background:** John Ware, a farmer originally from Newton County, Georgia, moved to Dunwoody to farm about 170 acres of land located around the site of the current Orchard Park Shopping Center. He and his wife, Eliza Brown Ware, built this home soon after their 1875 marriage, and it served as the birthplace of their son William N. Ware, Sr. in 1877.

William N. Ware, Sr. (Newton) married another Dunwoody native, Ella Warnock, whose childhood home, the Warnock Cottage, still

stands slightly over 1 mile east of the W. N. Ware home on Mount Vernon Road. Their son, William N. Ware, Jr. grew up in the farmhouse, attending school in Dunwoody and playing in the nearby Chattahoochee River, which ran through the back of his family's property.

Despite the best efforts of William N. Ware, Sr., including a stint operating a still in what is now Brooke Farm subdivision, the family had to leave the farm during the depression. They sold the land to the Spruill family and moved to the Kirkwood area of Atlanta, but still visited relatives and friends in the Dunwoody area, traveling to the area on dirt roads since the county did not pave Chamblee-Dunwoody and Mount Vernon Roads until after 1950.

**Update:** The home faced Mount Vernon Road, but the Life Center Family Church relocated the home from its original location for use as office space. One of the sharecropper homes supplied for workers on the Ware farm, present until the early 1980s, fronted on Jett Ferry Road.

**Current Use:** Business Center for Life Center Family Church

## **The Wardlaw House Circa 1929**

**Address:** 1741 Houghton Court, S.

**Historical Background:** William C. Wardlaw, a manager with Trust Company Bank, was one of the first Atlanta business executives to build a summer home in Dunwoody. The home boasted large rooms, high ceilings, rambling architecture style, and the community referred to the home as "The Shack." Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Martin served as the caretakers of the estate, which faced Mount Vernon Road at the time of its construction. A gazebo on the property was built entirely from arrowheads found in the area.

**Update:** The home is now positioned within the Dunwoody Club Forest subdivision. The rear of the home is viewed from Houghton Court.

**Current Use:** Private Residence



A special thanks to the following people for their assistance in compiling the information contained within this brochure:

Mrs. June Dempsey Eidson  
Mr. and Mrs. Philip (Elena) Green  
Mr. Ken Lamb  
Mrs. Peggy Swancy  
Mr. Dan L. Titus  
Mr. William N. Ware, III

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