

# OLDE TOWN CONYERS HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR

*Self Guided*



About the cover: Gailey's Dry Goods was founded on Center Street in 1899 by Robert Owen Gailey, Sr. After Mr. Gailey's death in 1936, another family generation took over with Gailey Summers and his brother, Herbert, taking charge. The name of the store was changed shortly thereafter to Gailey's Department Store and closed in 1979 when Gailey Summers died. It was Rockdale County's oldest store.

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### 1 DEPOT/CONYERS WELCOME CENTER

901 Railroad Street, Conyers GA  
Dr. William D. Conyers of nearby Covington, Georgia, purchased the land the Depot stands on today from a stubborn blacksmith named John Holcombe for \$700 and deeded it to the Georgia Railroad. The present building was built in 1891. The last passenger train stopped at the Conyers Depot on June 30, 1972. The Conyers Welcome Center opened in the Depot in December 2005. (Hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.) 33.667, -84.018



### 2 THE DINKY

intersection of Center Street & Green Street  
The Milstead 104 "Dinky" is a 1905 Rogers steam locomotive (one of only three left in the world) that transported cotton duck fabric on a three-mile spur between the Depot and Callaway Mills in the nearby community of Milstead. The Dinky ran from 1903 to 1961 before it was sold to the Agrirama in Tifton, GA. In 1983, the Rockdale County Historical Society raised funds to purchase and restore the engine as a monument to the community's railroad heritage. The Dinky returned to Conyers in time for its welcome home debut at the Olde Town Fall Festival. 33.667, -84.019

### 3 CENTER POINT PARK

Center Point Park, or Depot Park, was the original location of the Depot before it was destroyed by fire. Adjacent to the present day Depot, it serves as the home of the Dinky locomotive. When Conyers was incorporated as a town by the state legislature on February 16, 1854, the city limits were established as a half mile in every direction from the Depot, the center of town, and thus, Center Point Park. 33.667, -84.667



### 4 GEORGIA HISTORICAL MARKER: SHERMAN AT CONYERS

864 Green Street  
Located at the Nancy Guinn Memorial Library, this marker details Sherman's arrival in

Conyers. It is rumored that not far from the library, in the backyard of a residence at 973 Green Street on a large rock outcropping, General Sherman read the Augusta newspaper and found his secret plan had not been discovered. 33.665, -84.018

### 5 GEORGIA HISTORICAL MARKER: FIGHTIN' JOE WHEELER

Located near the entrance of the Nancy Guinn Memorial Library, this marker celebrates the achievements of Major General Joseph Wheeler and his staff. Joseph Wheeler was captured by Union Forces on May 9, 1865 at Flat Rock near Panola Mountain in south Rockdale County. They were brought to the prison camp which was located behind the present day library. 33.665, -84.018



### 6 GEORGIA CIVIL WAR HERITAGE TRAILS MARKER

Brigadier General Kenner Garrard brought troops through and burned the previous Depot on July 22, 1864. Nearly four months later, Major General William T. Sherman made his "March to the Sea" by way of Conyers, burning everything in sight. 33.667, -84.018

### 7 WATER TOWER

Entrance on Commercial Street  
The first water system for Conyers residents was constructed around 1900. It is now a prominent feature in the city's (1.5 acre) Celebration Park. 33.667, -84.017



### 8 PINE LOG CEMETERY

Entrance via Adams Street, or Pine Log Road.  
Located at South Main Street and Pine Log Road, the Pine Log Cemetery's earliest grave marker was placed in 1853.

Geocache enthusiasts should be on the lookout for a hidden cache in this historic cemetery and final resting place of some of Conyers' first settlers. 33.666, -84.018

### 9 GEORGIA HISTORICAL MARKER: ROCKDALE COUNTY COURTHOUSE

922 Court Street  
Sixteen years after the founding of the city of Conyers in 1854, Rockdale County was founded in 1870 from parts of nearby Henry and Newton Counties. The first courthouse was constructed in Colonial Revival style in 1898. The present day Rockdale County Courthouse was built in 1939. (Hours of operation are Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.) 33.667, -84.017



### 10 OLD JAIL MUSEUM

967 Milstead Avenue  
The Old Jail was constructed in 1897. All exterior walls are three bricks thick and all interior walls are two bricks thick. The floor and ceiling of the second floor area are constructed of steel with six inches of concrete above it. The main floor consisted of the sheriff's office, living quarters of the sheriff and family, and a kitchen. The upstairs housed a jailer's room that also served as the hanging room. The jail is now used by the Rockdale County Historical Society as a museum. (Hours of operation are the second Saturday of the month, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment by calling 770-602-2606.) 33.669, -84.017

### 11 GEORGIA HISTORICAL MARKER: CONYERS FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

921 North Main Street NW  
Originally the Conyers Methodist Episcopal Church, now Conyers First Methodist Church, was founded in 1852. Alexander Hamilton Stephens, vice-president of the (Southern) Confederate States of America spoke here before the election of 1856. This church and Conyers Presbyterian Church, which relocated to 911 Main Street in 1880, known as "sidewalk churches," previously held joint services with First Baptist Church of Conyers that was previously located at what is now known as the Rockdale Auditorium at 903 Main Street. (Church hours vary. Call 770-483-4236.) 33.667, -84.019



### 12 OLD COCA-COLA BOTTLING PLANT

882 N. Main Street  
The Conyers Coca-Cola Bottling Plant operated from April 1907 – December 1967. The expansion of the building in the late 1950s added more than 70 employees. Today, many locals know the building as "The Landmark" office building. 33.668, -84.018

Historical information compiled for this walking tour was obtained from the following sources:  
*A History of Rockdale County* (1987),  
*The Heritage of Rockdale County* (1998)  
and *Judy Bond, president of the Rockdale County Historical Society.*  
[rockdalehistory.org](http://rockdalehistory.org)

