## A HISTORIC TOUR OF



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Columbus, Georgia

**COLORING BOOK** 

A HISTORIC TOUR OF	
OUR TOWN COLUMBUS, GEORGIA	
Coloring Book	

Written by:

**ROGER HARRIS** 

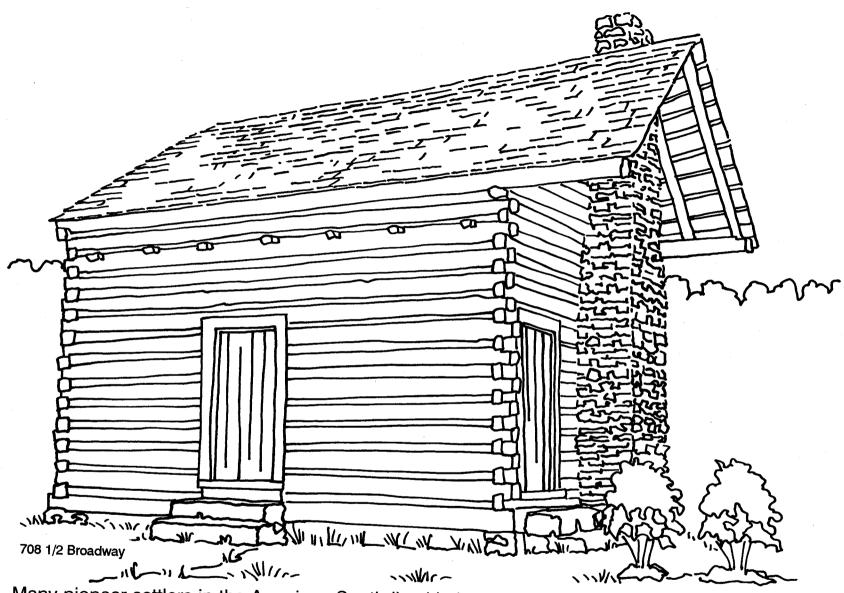
Designed and Illustrated by: **PETER CRANTON** 

## Dedicated to: MARY WHITE COPPAGE

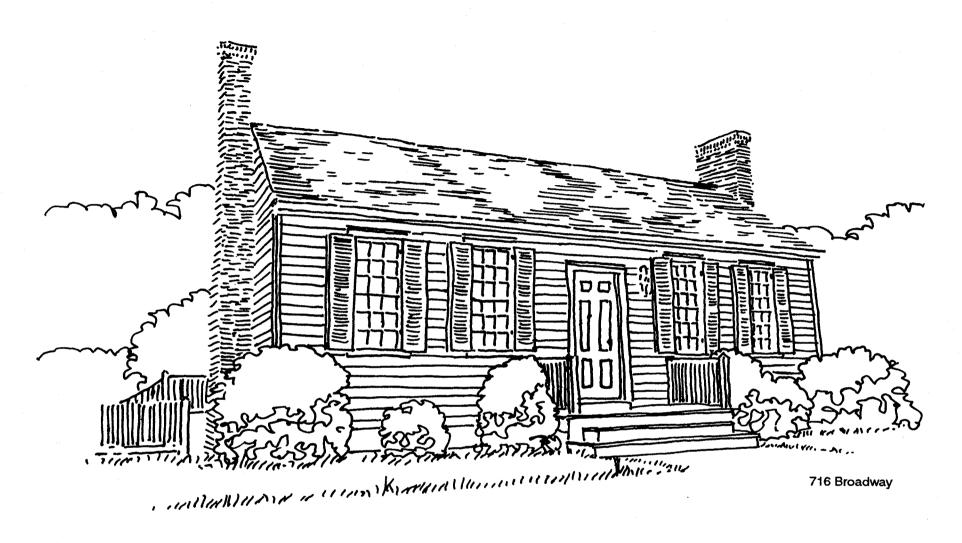
Edited and Presented by:
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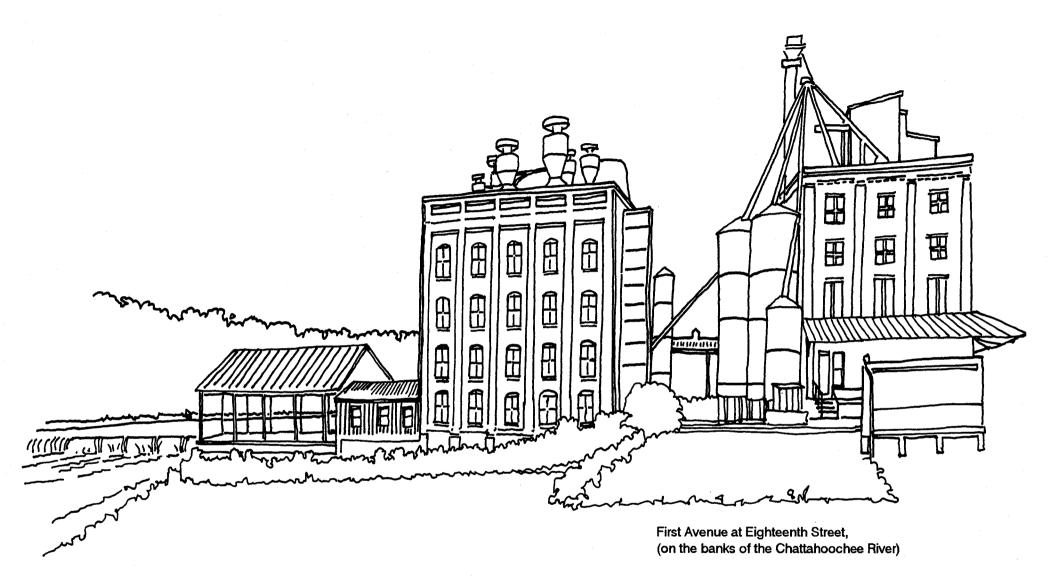
chief william McIntosh was an important Indian leader of the Chattahoochee Valley. He is remembered for the part that he played in the Treaty of Indian Springs, which meant the removal of the Indians to the West in the mid-1830s. The influence of Native Americans is seen even today in place-names like Muscogee, Chattahoochee, Weracoba, and Eufaula.



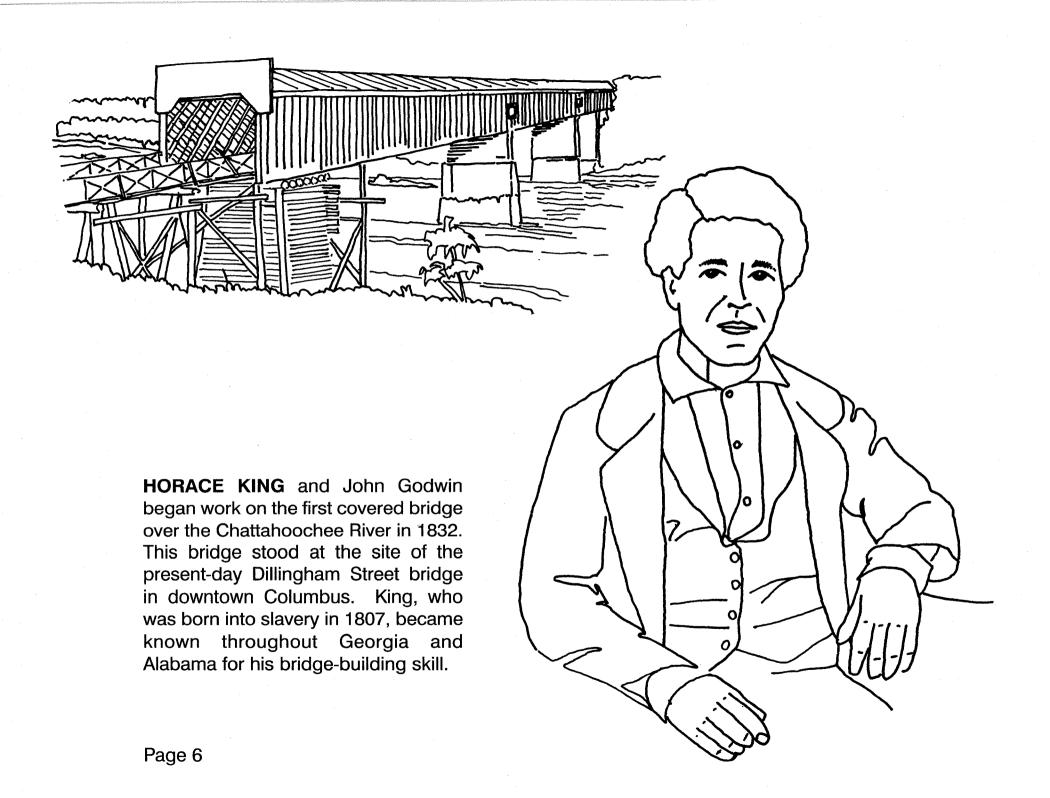
Many pioneer settlers in the American South lived in houses like this **log cabin**, located on "Heritage Corner" in the Historic District. It was built in the early 1800s. An entire family could have lived in this small building, although there is only one room inside! Children would have probably climbed a wooden ladder to sleep upstairs in the loft.

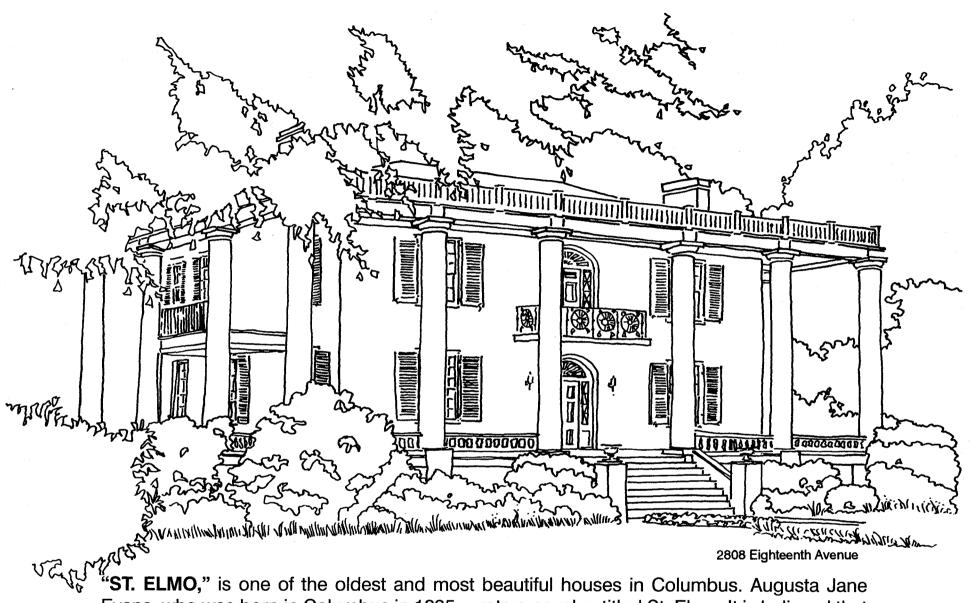


The **WALKER-PETERS-LANGDON HOUSE** is the oldest residence in the original city of Columbus. This cottage was built in 1828, the same year that Columbus was founded. Underneath the house is the kitchen, which has two fireplaces and a brick floor. Behind the house are several buildings: a "necessary-house," a drying-house and a slave-house which were moved to this location.



CITY MILLS, Columbus's first industry, was built in 1828 near waterfalls on the Chattahoochee River. In this place, corn meal and flour were produced for generations of people living in Columbus. This important industry was started by Seaborn Jones, a well-known pioneer Columbusite.





"ST. ELMO," is one of the oldest and most beautiful houses in Columbus. Augusta Jane Evans, who was born in Columbus in 1835, wrote a novel entitled <u>St. Elmo</u>. It is believed that Miss Evans wrote the last chapters of her book while visiting her aunt and uncle in this house. Because her story was such a success, the name of this house was changed from "El Dorado" ("The Paradise") to "St. Elmo."



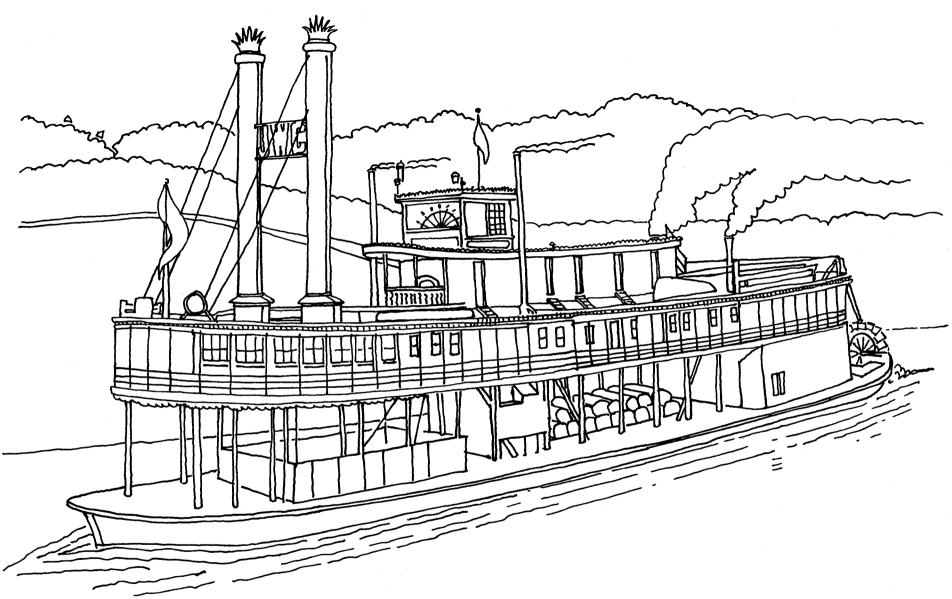
2303 Wynnton Road

This building, which serves as the school museum for the **WYNNTON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**, was built in the 1840s. For many years, teachers and their pupils used this structure as a classroom. In fact, for nearly 100 years, schoolchildren warmed themselves in this building by sitting next to a pot-bellied stove! The Wynnton School Museum is the oldest building in continuous use for educational purposes in the state of Georgia.

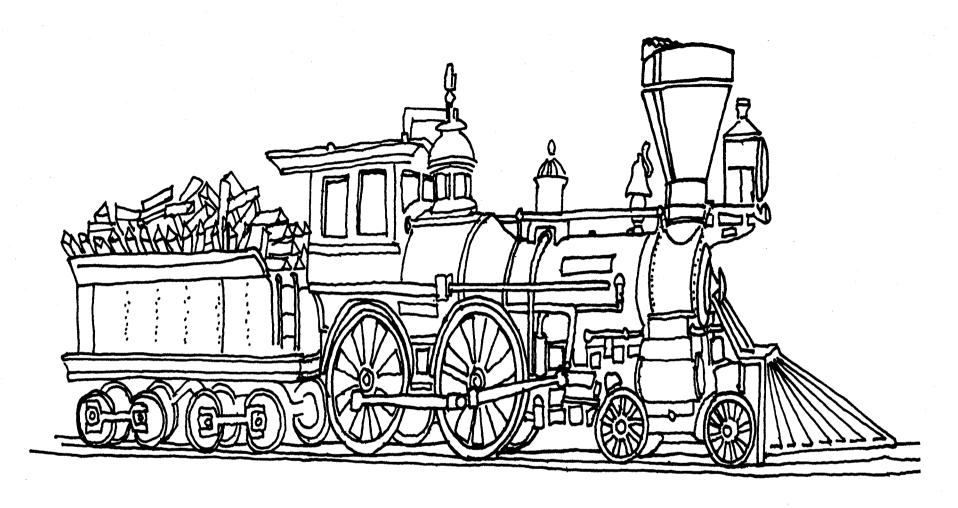


Thirteenth Street at Cedar Avenue

John Banks, the gentleman who built this house in the 1830s, was also one of the pioneer citizens most active in the founding of private schools for boys and girls living in the Wynnton area. Mr. Banks and his wife, Sarah, raised twelve children at "**THE CEDARS**": nine sons and three daughters. Seven of those sons served in the Confederate Army; three of them were killed in Civil War battles and two more died from war-related wounds.



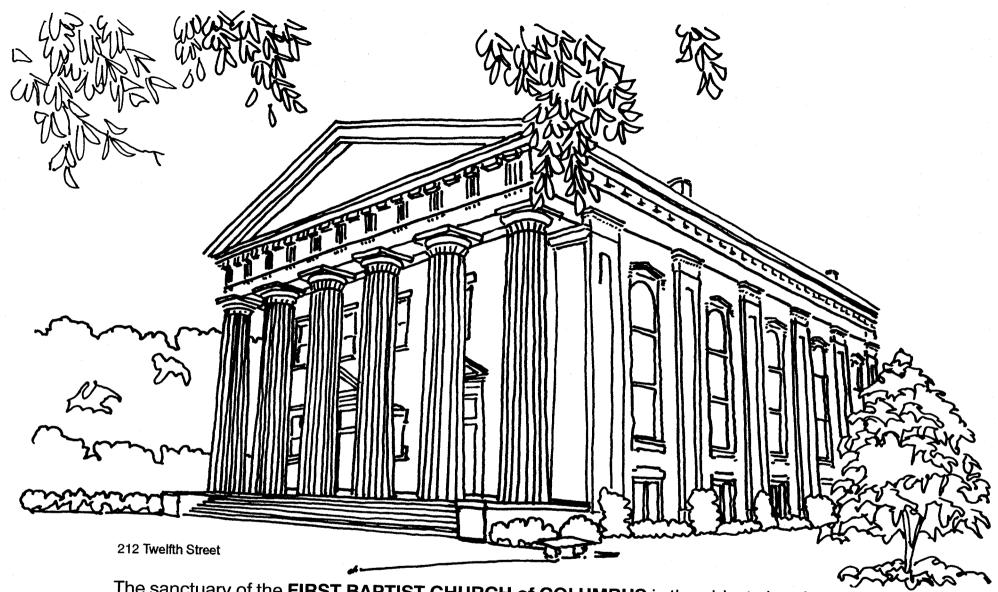
Before the invention of the automobile -- and even before the use of trains -- people in Columbus travelled up and down the Chattahoochee River in riverboats like the "John W. Callahan, Jr.," pictured here. Riverboats operated as early as 1828 on the Chattahoochee. They carried people and cargo as far south as the Gulf of Mexico.



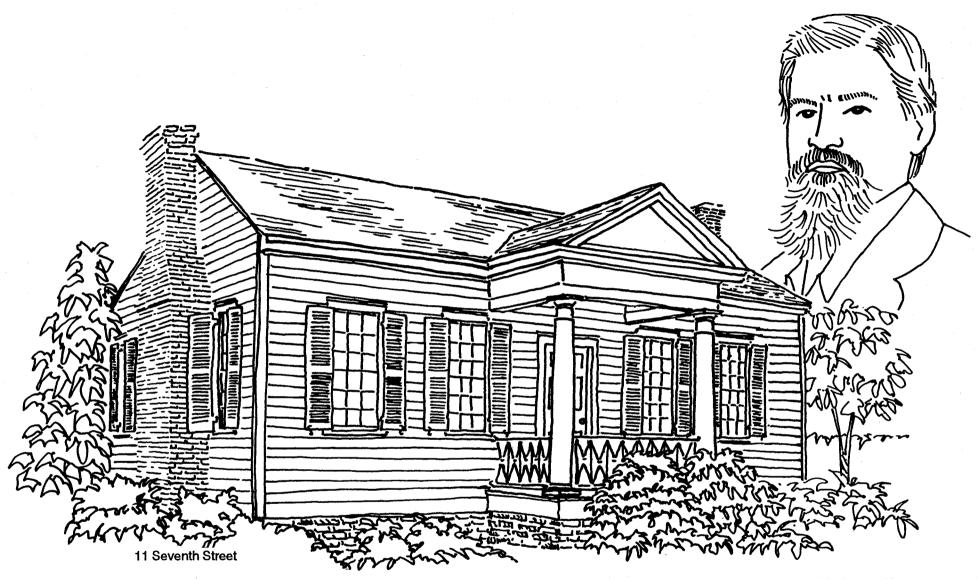
It was not until 1853 that people in Columbus could ride all the way across the state of Georgia by train. With access to trains, passengers were able to choose between travel by horse, steamboat or rail. Trains, at that time, moved at a speed of only twenty miles per hour, which meant that a trip from Columbus to Savannah might have taken as long as two days to complete. In modern automobiles, that same trip today can be made in only five hours!

One of the most outstanding church buildings in downtown Columbus is the sanctuary of the ST. JAMES A.M.E. CHURCH on Sixth Avenue. Built in 1876, it is the city's oldest sanctuary still in use by a black congregation. This is one of the oldest African Methodist Episcopal congregations in the state of Georgia.

1002 Sixth Avenue



The sanctuary of the **FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of COLUMBUS** is the oldest church structure in the original city. This building, which is located on Twelfth Street in downtown Columbus, was constructed in 1859. The structure is located on "Church Square," a piece of land that was part of the original plan of the city. This square has been shared by congregations of First Baptist and St. Luke Methodist Church since the very first years of the city.



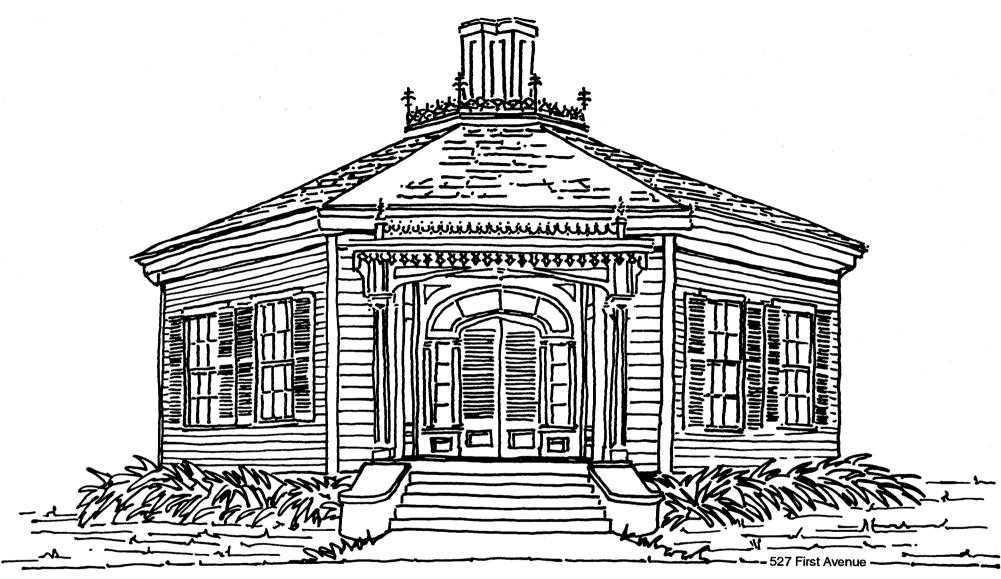
**JOHN PEMBERTON**, the creator of the formula for Coca-Cola, lived in this house with his wife and their son from 1855 until 1860. Pemberton worked as a pharmacist in downtown Columbus and later in downtown Atlanta. When Pemberton poured his first glass of Coca-Cola syrup in 1886, he had no idea that "Coke" would become the most popular soft drink in the world!



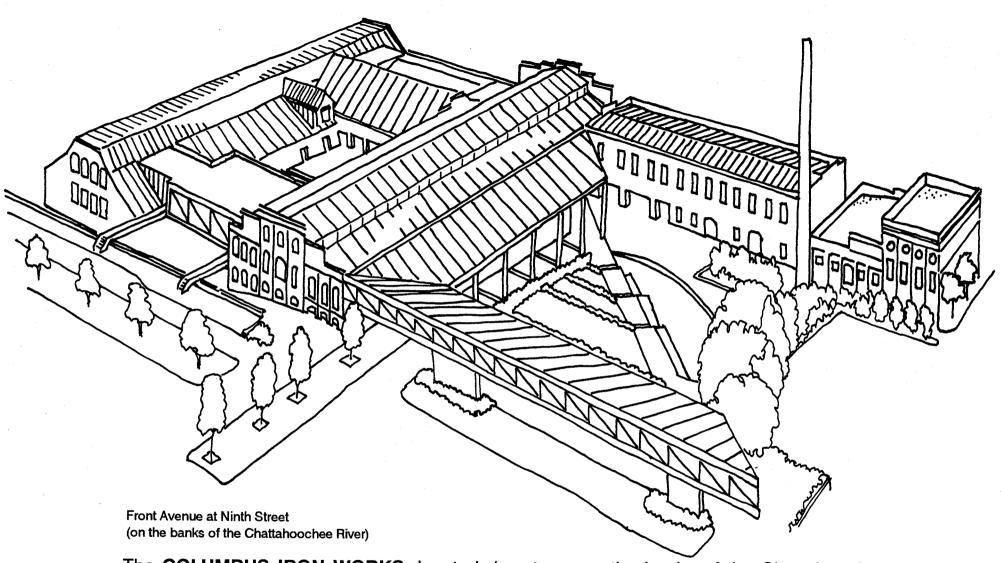
"DINGLEWOOD," built in the 1850s, is one of the most outstanding pre-Civil War homes in Columbus. Among the former residents of this mansion was Julia Hurt Colquitt, the young Columbus woman who was courted by one of Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte's great-nephews. While living in Paris, France, in the years after the War, Julia met the dashing Bonaparte -- but she refused to offer her hand in marriage.



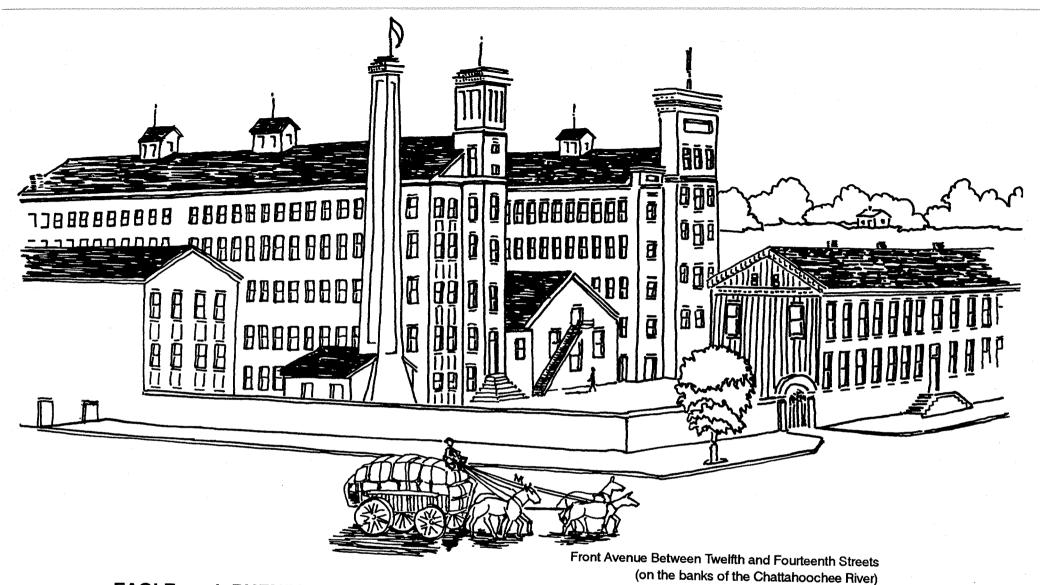
The **ILLGES HOUSE**, like "Dinglewood," was built before the Civil War. However, these houses were built several miles apart. At the time when the Illges House and "Dinglewood" were completed, residents of these properties would have visited each other by crossing town in horse-drawn carriages. It was not until the early 1900s that Columbusites could ride across the city in their automobiles.



This home is the only historic double-octagon house in the United States. When Leander May built this structure, many people thought that his design was *foolish* - hence the name "**THE FOLLY**." However, the house that he completed in the mid-1800s has been admired by many people in more modern times. In fact, this unique residence has been named a National Historic Landmark for Architecture.



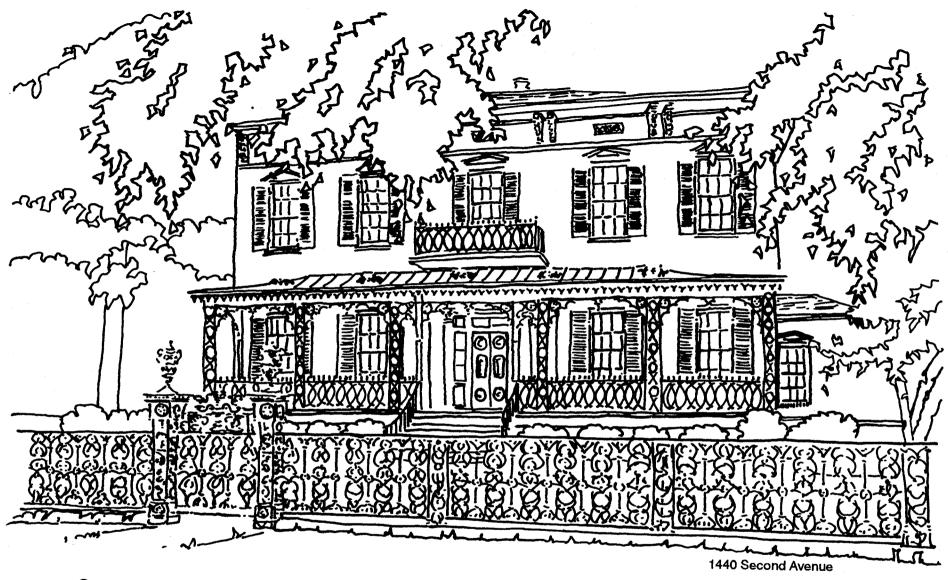
The **COLUMBUS IRON WORKS**, located downtown on the banks of the Chattahoochee River, was one of Columbus's most important industries for many years. During the Civil War, the Iron Works produced cannons and machinery used in boats that operated for the Confederate States of America. In 1979, the Iron Works was given a new use: the city's **Convention and Trade Center**.



**EAGLE and PHENIX MILLS** is one of the most important industries in the history of Columbus. This textile factory was established in 1850 by William H. Young, a native of New York. During the Civil War, this mill (then called "Eagle Mill") was one of the leading textile producers in the South. Eagle and Phenix Mills was purchased by Fieldcrest Mills, Inc. in 1978 and was in operation in downtown Columbus until the mid 1990s.



**HENRY L. BENNING** was a famous Confederate General and a prominent Columbus lawyer. Because of his fame, the military post near Columbus was named "Fort Benning." Benning's wife, Mary, was the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Seaborn Jones, who built the house called "St. Elmo." Henry Benning and Mary Jones were married in 1839 and lived for many years in her parent's grand home.



Construction of the **RANKIN HOUSE** was begun before the Civil War. However, the house was not finished until after the war's end. James Rankin, whose family was the first to live in the house, was a native of Scotland. He arrived in Columbus, like many other Europeans, in the mid-1850s. The Rankin Hotel, in downtown Columbus, was also named for the Rankin family. This house is the headquarters of the **Historic Columbus Foundation**.



**700 Broadway** is the headquarters of the Junior League of Columbus. Built about 1870, it is the only two-story brick house on its original location in the Historic District. The Historic Columbus Foundation saved this house in 1977 and has assisted many people and businesses in saving other historic structures in Columbus.



The **SPRINGER OPERA HOUSE** was built in 1871 by Francis J. Springer, who came to America from France. Mr. Springer's opera house became one of the most important cultural centers in the South. Actors, actresses, musicians, and politicians from all over this country and from abroad have come to Columbus to appear on the Springer stage. On its 100th birthday in 1971, Georgia Governor (later U.S. President) Jimmy Carter named the opera house the **State Theatre of Georgia**. The Springer is also a National Historic Landmark.

Augusta Howard was born in Columbus in 1865. As the founder and first president of the Georgia Woman Suffrage Association, Miss Howard helped win the right to vote for women in Georgia and in other states throughout this country. Her family home, "Sherwood Hall," stood in the area of Jordan High School. In that house, the Howard family entertained Susan B. Anthony, the national leader in the fight to attain the right to vote for women. Ms. Anthony's likeness is found on the coin known as the Susan B. Anthony silver dollar.





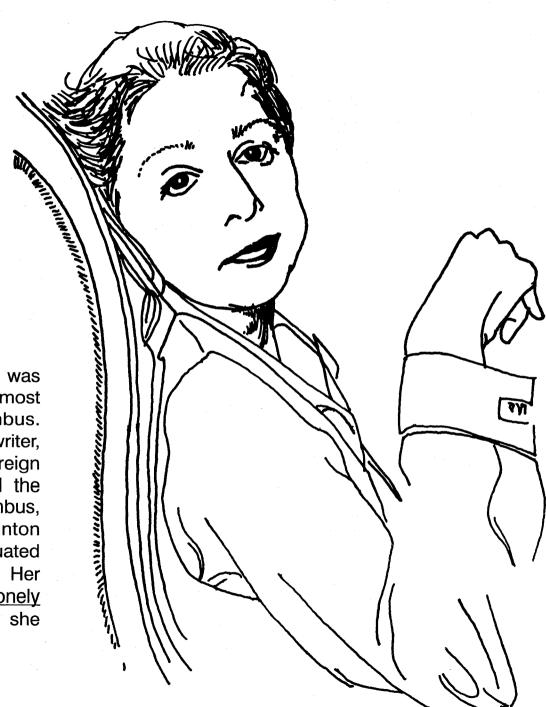
the world's first black combat aviator, was born in Columbus in 1894. After stowing away on a ship to Europe, he joined the French Foreign Legion in 1914. Bullard joined the French Air Service and flew at least twenty missions in the fall of 1917. For his outstanding service during World War I, he was awarded France's highest military honor, the War Cross. Bullard died and was buried in New York City.



William H. Spencer was one of the most important black Columbusites in the history of the city. He was the first superintendent of the old "colored" school system in Columbus. His work in education was done before black and white children were able to attend the same schools. The **SPENCER HOUSE**, where he lived with his family, is a landmark in downtown Columbus.



The **COLUMBUS DEPOT** was for more than fifty years the center of heavy passenger train traffic. From the time that it was built in 1901 until the early 1970s, the Depot was one of the busiest places in town. The last passenger train came through Columbus in 1971. In 1985, the "Save Our Station" community campaign, spearheaded by the Historic Columbus Foundation, saved this passenger station from demolition. The building now serves as the headquarters of the Greater Columbus, Georgia Chamber of Commerce.



CARSON McCULLERS, who was born in 1917, is one of the most famous natives of Columbus. Because of her success as a writer, her books are read in many foreign languages by people around the world. While living in Columbus, McCullers attended Wynnton Elementary School and graduated from Columbus High School. Her first novel, The Heart Is a Lonely Hunter was published when she was only 23 years old.



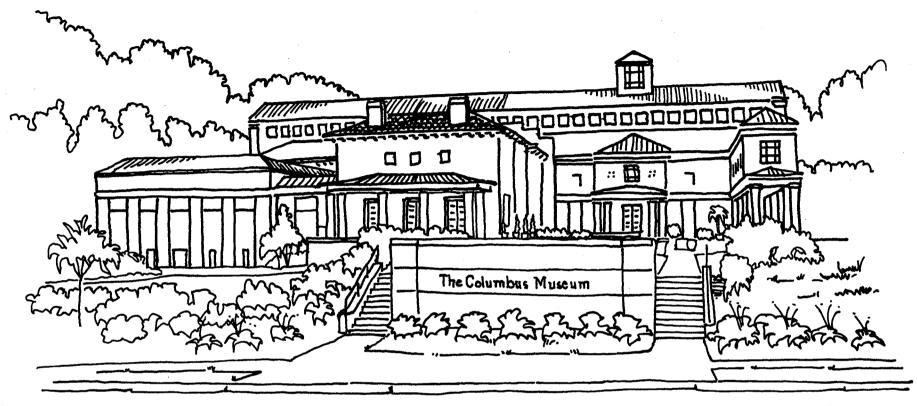
"RIVERSIDE" was built by Arthur Bussey of Columbus in 1909. The house was part of a large plantation owned by the Bussey family. "Riverside" is now the home of the Commanding General at Fort Benning. The army established "Camp Benning" in Columbus in 1918. Camp Benning was renamed Fort Benning in 1922 and has grown to be the largest infantry school in the world.



**GERTRUDE PRIDGETT RAINEY** -- better know as "Ma" Rainey -- is called the "Mother of the Blues." She was born in Columbus in 1886 and lived in this house during the last years of her life. "Ma" Rainey began her singing career at the Springer Opera House in downtown Columbus. She went on to sing in many clubs and theatres around the country and was a well-known star when she sang at Columbus's Liberty Theater.



ROBERT WINSHIP WOODRUFF, who became the president of the Coca-Cola company at the age of thirty-three, was born in Columbus in 1889. In addition to being an international business leader, Woodruff was also one of the most important leaders of the 20th century in the arts, education, and social progress. Because of his work, Coca-Cola has become the most widely recognized trademark in the world.



1251 Wynnton Road

The home of W.C. Bradley, a prominent Columbus citizen and businessman, serves as the core of **THE COLUMBUS MUSEUM**. His house, which was built in 1912, is in the center of the drawing above. The Museum features the "Chattahoochee Legacy" - a permanent exhibit that traces the history of Columbus and the region from prehistoric times to the present. The Museum is a place where art, history, and creativity open the door to an exciting world of discovery.

## **Reminiscences of Mary White Coppage**

as told to Roger Harris, February 1993

My Daddy had a bookstore; so of course, we had a lot of access to children's books. And Daddy read to us. One of my earliest memories is sitting in his lap while he read <u>Alice in Wonderland</u>; I guess that was maybe before I could read.

When I was five, I remember getting on the streetcar by myself and going uptown to the Grand Theatre, on the west side of Broad Street. On Saturday mornings, they had children's matinees . . . I could go by myself. The streetcar fare was a nickel. It cost a dime to go to the movie and a nickel to come back home.

On Saturday morning, we would go to the cemetery. Grandma and I would get on the streetcar and go out to Linwood. She would put flowers on Grandpa's grave every Saturday . . . if there were any flowers in the yard. On the way back, we'd go across the street from the transfer station to the City Drugstore and eat a dish of ice cream and sit in those little wire-back chairs.



610 Broad - Home of Mary Coppage's grandmother.

Until I was seven years old, we lived at 610 Broad with my grandmother. There was a parkway all the way down the middle of the street, and the children in the neighborhood used to play on that median. We didn't have a lot of toys to play with, so we just made up games. We'd play "London Bridge Is Falling Down" and "Drop The Handkerchief," things like that . . . all of the children in the neighborhood played together. I was twelve years old when we moved to Wynnton. We had so many children in Wynnton, and we used to play out at night. We didn't call it "Hide and Seek;" we called it "High Spy" . . . I guess that it started being "I Spy," but it ended up being "High Spy."

When we moved around on First Avenue, we had a little garden in the backyard. Daddy gave each one of us a little plot where we could plant some fast-growing things like lettuce - something that would allow us to put the seed in the ground and see things come up. I was seven, which meant that Beth (my sister) was about three. She was going to plant *grits* in her little garden. We laughed at her, about planting grits, and she said, "Well, I'll plant macaroni!"

We walked to Seventh Street School and came home at "big recess" for lunch. There was no lunch-room at school. In the middle of the morning we had "little recess," about fifteen minutes to get out and run around and restroom time, then "big recess" was thirty minutes for lunchtime.

My brother and I had a little wagon and would go up to the ice house on Ninth Street and get a block of ice. They would saw the ice up for us in twenty-five pound and fifty-pound blocks. We had regular customers, and we'd deliver the ice to their homes. That was the way that we made money to put in the Sunday School Easter Offering. I must have been ten and James (my brother) eight.

## **Reminiscences of Mary White Coppage**

(Continued from front cover)

Breakfast would be grits and bacon and eggs and biscuits. I don't remember our ever having toast. We'd have dinner in the middle of the day. That was the big meal of the day - vegetables and a meat of some kind. You didn't buy vegetables at the grocery store. Black women came into town and sold vegetables that they grew in their gardens. We'd say "dinner" and "supper" then. Usually things that were left over from dinner were served for supper . . . it was a lighter meal.

In the afternoon, the cook would put biscuits left over from dinner on the sideboard and cover them with a napkin. We'd be out playing and come in and get a biscuit and stick a hole in the biscuit and fill it with syrup and take it out-of-doors, so that it wouldn't spill in the house.

We didn't have lights on our Christmas tree. We had real candles that clipped on the tree and Mother and Daddy would light the candles on Christmas morning . . . Christmas night we'd go outside and shoot fireworks.

I was about seven years old when we got our first Model T (car). Before that, Daddy rode to work on a bicycle, and my uncle, who lived at Grandma's too, Uncle Archie, rode to work on a bicycle. Of course, anywhere we went, we went on the streetcar, because it went down one side of Broad and up the other side of Broad. We would get on the streetcar in front of the house, get off at the transfer station, at Twelfth and Broad, and catch another car - - depending on where you wanted to go.

On Sunday, of course, there was always Sunday School and church in the morning. Mother would have a picnic supper packed by the time that Daddy got home from work and we'd go somewhere every Sunday afternoon. In the spring we'd go hunt violets and dogwood and honeysuckle; in the summer, we'd go somewhere to swim. We knew several people that had places on a creek somewhere, where we could go swimming. We had a Boy Scout tent that we pitched to use as a dressing room. In the fall, we'd go look for wild muscadines and autumn leaves and then have a picnic supper.

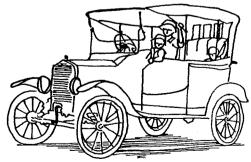
When I was fourteen, we went down the river to Apalachicola on the "John W. Callahan, Jr." It was a sternwheeler, and it pushed a barge that carried lumber and cotton and bees down the river. They would stop at the different landings along the way and load and unload things. It took, about five or six days - that was to go all the way down and back. It took, about twenty passengers and the freight.

My aunt lived in Atlanta, and when we'd go to see her we'd either go in our Model T, which was practically an all-day trip, or we'd go on the train. Of course, the trains were not air-conditioned. The windows stayed open and all of the cinders and smoke from the engine came in the windows.

When I was in high school and college; a lot of travelling road shows would come, you know, to a place like the Springer Opera House. And the ones that I remember the best were the musicals, because I liked those the best.

When I got out of college in 1930, I started teaching school up in Harris County, and my salary was \$75.00 a month - - for nine months. I wasn't paid during the summer, because we didn't teach during the summer.

The generosity of Mary White Coppage's children and grandchildren enabled the Historic Columbus Foundation to add yet another component, this coloring book, <u>A Historic Tour of Our Town, Columbus, Georgia</u>, to the "OUR TOWN" heritage education project. It is with the cooperation of the Muscogee County School District that this coloring book is placed in the hands of all third grade students in the city.



The Model T that belonged to Mary Coppage's parents.