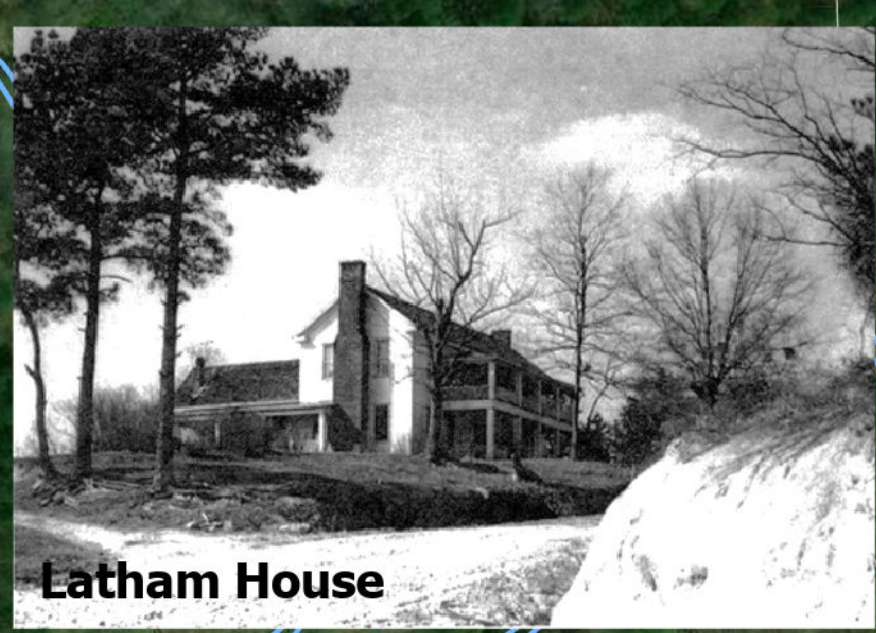
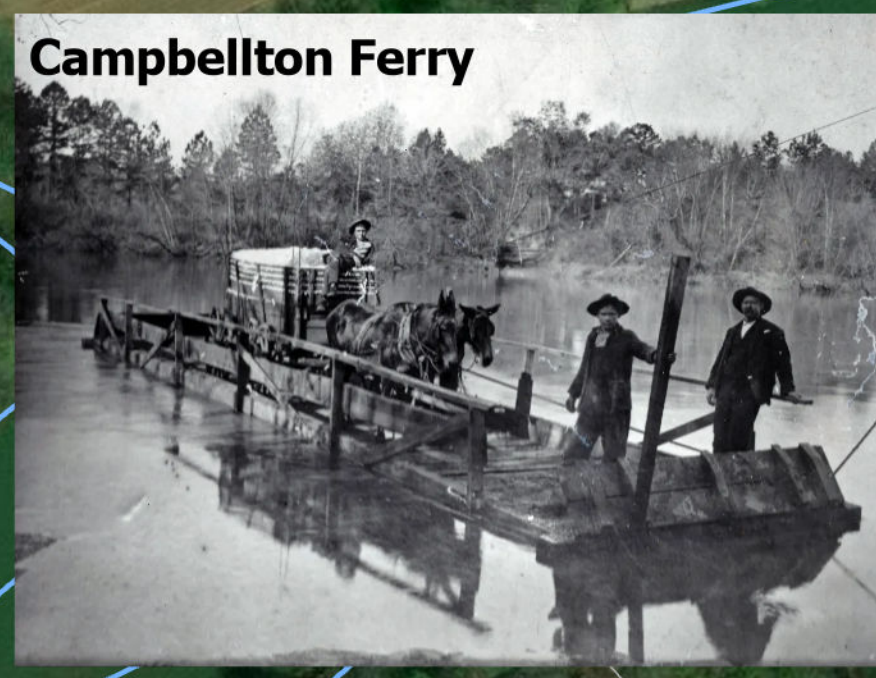


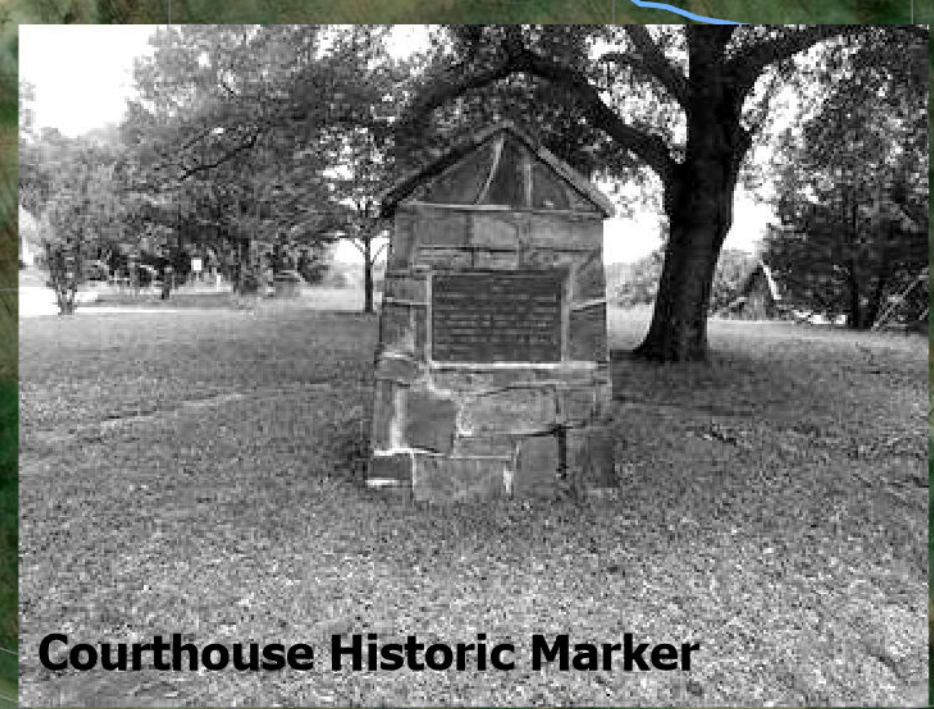
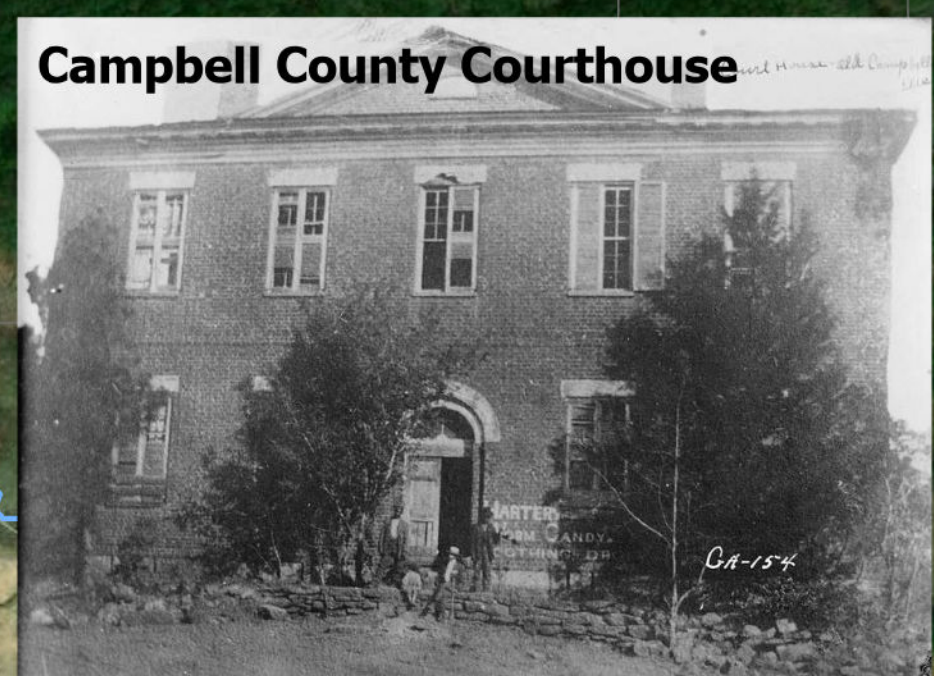
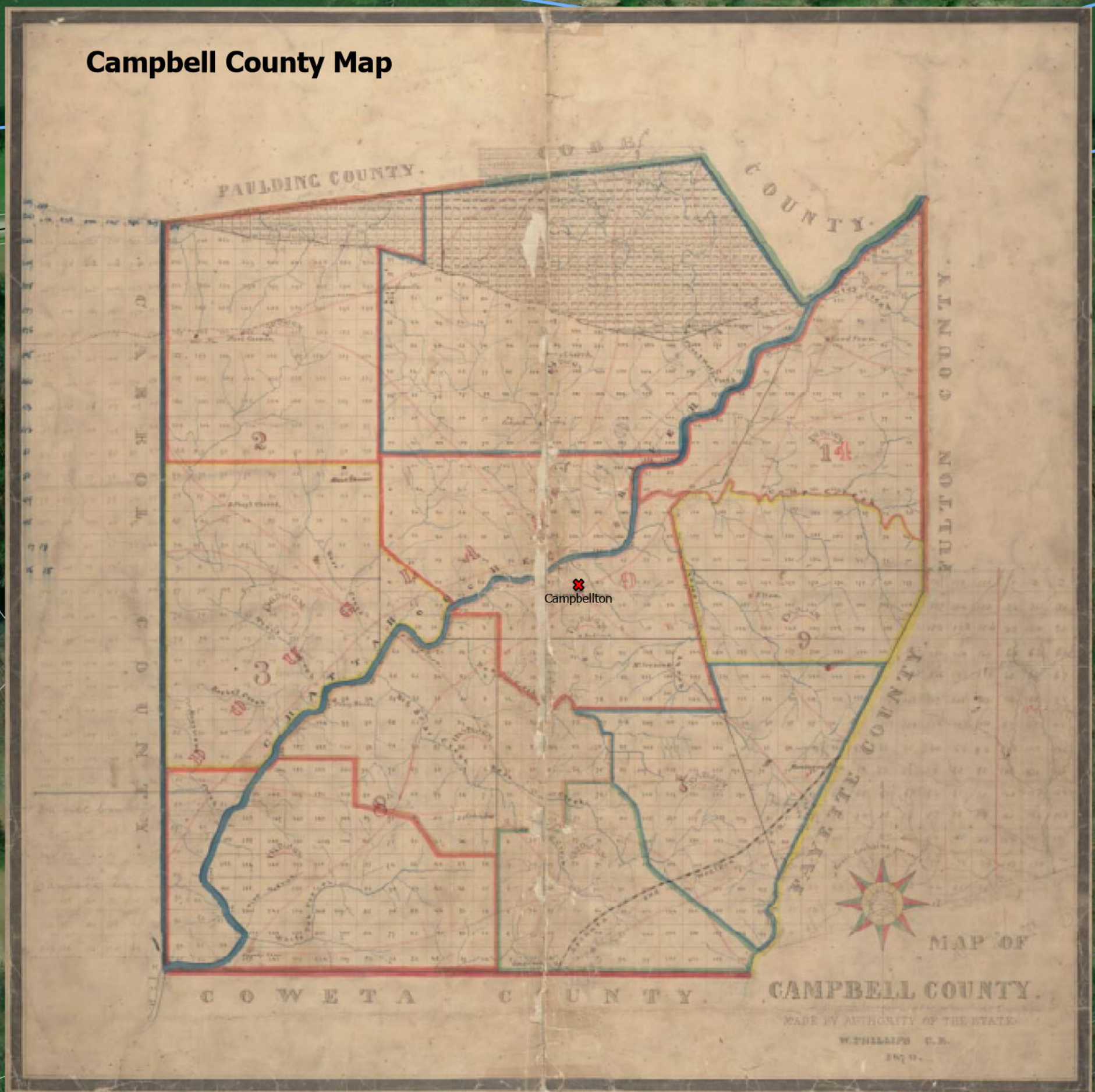
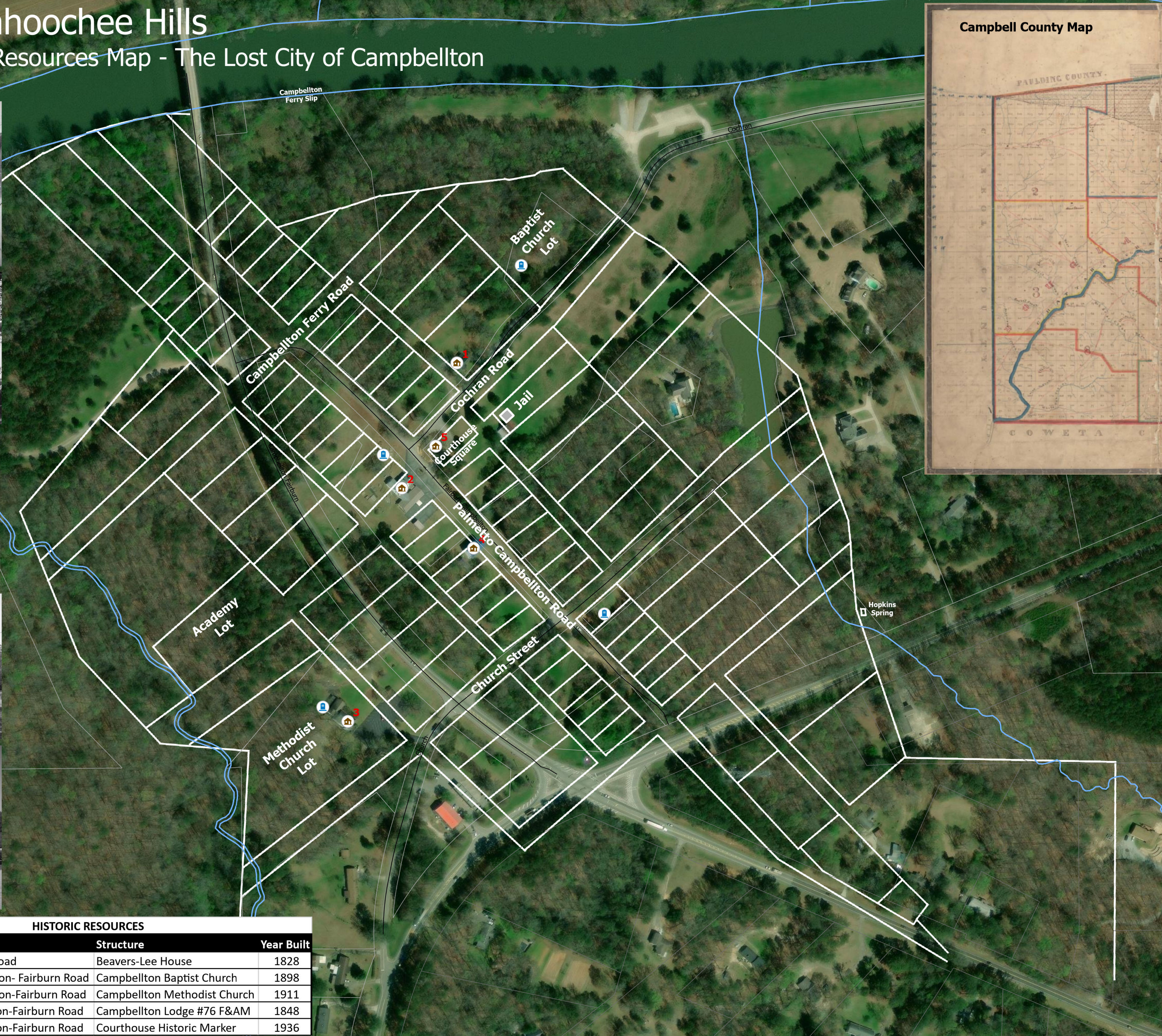


# Chattahoochee Hills

## Historic Resources Map - The Lost City of Campbellton

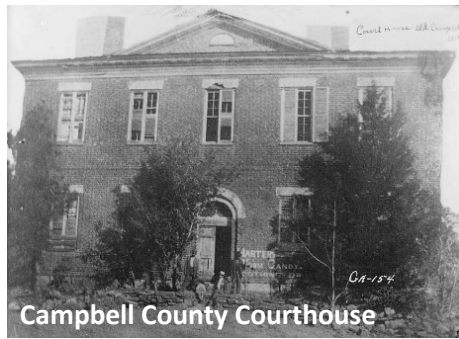


- Legend
- Streets
- Streams
- ▭ Parcel Base
- ▭ FC - Tax Parcels 2022
- 🏠 Historic Places
- Cemeteries - Categories
- 🏛 Church Cemetery
- 🌳 Community Cemetery
- 👤 Family Cemetery
- 🪦 Primitive Cemetery



HISTORIC RESOURCES			
Map ID#	Address	Structure	Year Built
1	8655 Cochran Road	Beavers-Lee House	1828
2	8660 Campbellton- Fairburn Road	Campbellton Baptist Church	1898
3	8650 Campbellton-Fairburn Road	Campbellton Methodist Church	1911
4	7676 Campbellton-Fairburn Road	Campbellton Lodge #76 F&AM	1848
5	8659 Campbellton-Fairburn Road	Courthouse Historic Marker	1936

## The Lost City of Campbellton



*Old Campbellton, upon its eminence overlooking the Chattahoochee with its brick courthouse, masonic hall, academy, and ante-bellum homes gleaming through the avenues of magnolia, myrtle, or cedar, were doomed.*

*Most of the old families drifted off to other places, including the newer railroad towns of Fairburn and Palmetto. Weeds rioted and choked neglected flower gardens. Rows of comfortable homes, once housing a population of some 1,200, fell into decay. The Masonic Lodge Hall was deserted.*

*For two decades the red brick courthouse stood dark and silent the habitation of owls, bats, and ghostly memories of better days, until it was mercifully dismantled. The names upon mossy tombstones in the Methodist churchyard and the old Baptist cemetery are the only remainder of the once flourishing and beautiful town, the site of which, since 1932, has been in Fulton County.*

### So, how did Campbellton, the proud County Seat of Campbell County, just disappear?

Colonel Duncan G. Campbell is the namesake of Campbell County. Campbell's claim to fame stems in part from his involvement in the negotiations of the Treaty of Indian Springs, which saw the Creek Nation give up some of its territory, including the area that would eventually become Campbell County.



Judge Walter T. Colquitt, one of the first settlers in the area, had hoped to establish the county seat for Campbell County on his land at Pumpkintown (across the river from Campbellton in now Douglas County), eight miles south down the river. However, another judge, Francis Irwin, offered his eight acres of undeveloped land [along the river] as well as free lots for potential residents and builders.

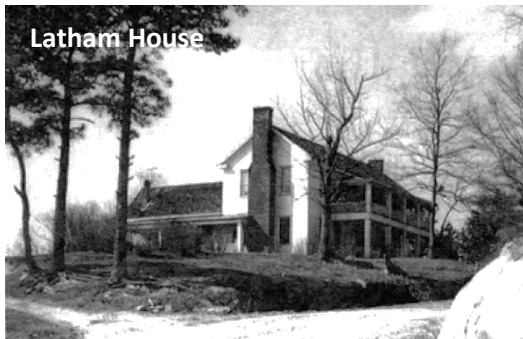


With the development of a judicial system and the appointment of James Black, Jesse Harris, Robert O. Beavers, Thomas Moore, and Littleberry Watts as electoral commissioners and county organizers by 1829, the county government had officially begun to take shape.

Campbellton's lots and streets were surveyed and [ready for development] by 1835. The town would eventually hold numerous residences, a courthouse, a pharmacy and doctor's office, an academy, a hotel, a blacksmith, shops, a lodge hall, and a post office.

Wilbur W. Caldwell explores a Coweta County story in his book *The Courthouse and the Depot: The Architecture of Hope in an Age of Despair*. The story states that in 1830, Samuel Keller relocated from Newnan to Campbellton, "lured by expectations" of steamboats on the Chattahoochee River.

**Yes! Steamboats! Can you imagine?**



History of the Chattahoochee Hills states that although the area's rich loamy soil did contribute to its agricultural success, there were also great expectations for the Chattahoochee to develop into a major shipping and transportation route in the area. However, the river turned out to be shallow and challenging to navigate.

Additionally, Colonel Rueben Thompson is mentioned in Caldwell's account of a Troup County history source as having made one confirmed trip upriver from West Point to Campbellton in 1831. Throughout the second part of the 20th century, there was still hope that the Chattahoochee would become navigable all the way up to Atlanta, but this goal was never realized.

According to most accounts, Campbellton's death sentence resulted from the Atlanta & West Point Railroad's failure to build through the town. Rather, the line passed via Fairburn, Georgia. While the natural ridge at Fairburn is flat and welcoming, many local sources claim the people of Campbellton rejected the train. However, Caldwell claims a cursory glance at the Chattahoochee River's banks reveals some very rugged terrain for railroad building. Therefore, it doesn't appear likely that Campbellton residents' opinions had a significant impact on the Atlanta and West Point Railroad survey.



Nevertheless, Campbellton's loss of the railroad meant a steady demise for the town over the ensuing years, starting in 1870 when residents began to migrate in large numbers to Fairburn, according to Caldwell. According to a local report, Campbellton residents were both moving and destroying their houses. At its height, the town was home to about 1200 people; by 1860, that number had dropped to just 239.

At some point, Campbellton's wooden courthouse was replaced by a brick building. Robert Cook, a local, purchased the structure and demolished it. Using the materials, he constructed a barn on his land near Cedar Grove Road.



There are only a small handful of structures remaining from the glory days of Campbellton. The Campbellton United Methodist Church is the only surviving religious structure of the forgotten town, and while the Baptist church building is not indigenous to the town, the cemetery is. Facing the site of the former town square where the courthouse previously stood stands the current Campbellton Baptist Church, constructed in 1898. The cemetery holds the remains of both Union and Confederate soldiers. The Beavers House, a Greek-style farmhouse that Union forces seized as they crossed the river at Campbellton during the Civil War, is located next to the original Baptist church. The house is located across from the location of the former courthouse and county seat of the once proud Campbell County.

The house is located across from the location of the former courthouse and county seat of the once proud Campbell County.

## CAMPBELL COUNTY, NOW PART OF FULTON, IMPORTANT IN EARLY HISTORY OF GEORGIA



*“Campbellton, now one of state’s “deserted villages,” flourished as county site before the Civil War.... All that is left of Campbellton: Top left, Masonic lodge erected in 1848 and still in use [in 1932 and today!]; below, site of courthouse at Campbellton, now under cultivation. The remains of one of the walls can be seen under the vines. Top right, grave of Cadet Henry F. Latham in the cemetery of the Methodist Church in old Campbellton. [This is the article that stated Cadet Latham’s body was escorted home by fellow cadets, but I’ve been able to disprove that. Newspapers at the time of his death tell how Latham had been home for several days and died in Campbellton. Also, the historian at West Point checked the class records and told me no passes were distributed to class members to make the trip. There was a fund set up for cadets to help pay for the marker.... but no cadet traveled to Atlanta.] Below the marker image is “a remnant of the business section of Campbellton” [per the newspaper]. I’ve seen mentions that the building was Dr. Glover’s office, but I’ve never been able to verify for sure. This building was to the left of the Beavers home (still standing) down the hill a bit.*



Latham House – Photo taken October 4<sup>th</sup>, 1947