



U-112-9



Washington Avenue, Perry, Ga.



**200** YEARS  
 1824-2024  
 PERRY

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF  
*Bringing Georgia Together.*



# Let's Start At The Beginning...

## THE LITTLE SETTLEMENT OF WATTSVILLE, GEORGIA

In 1822, twenty families were living in log cabins calling their little settlement Wattsville. They made paths and roads that crossed at right angles through thickets of tall pines, waving saplings, and rich undergrowth or red oak to connect with each other and lead back to civilization.

The desirable land soon drew more settlers. Purchasers came not only from surrounding counties but from neighboring Florida, North Carolina and South Carolina.



### THE EARLY YEARS (1824-1912)

The original city limits of Perry formed a rough circle with a half-mile radius from the courthouse square, except for where Big Indian Creek formed a natural boundary for the city.

Perry became the center of business for Houston County. Several small industries grew around Perry including gristmills, sawmills, and cotton gins.

The population stayed relatively small with only 836 people in the 1870 Census. Significant growth would not come to Perry area until the 20th century.

### BUSINESS CENTER (1912-1945)

The City of Perry's historic downtown began to form into its current shape through the 1910s and 1920s. A number of one and two story shops and businesses were built along Carroll Street between Ball Street and Washington Street.

The spread of new technology into rural Houston County facilitated downtown Perry's formation, particularly with the first electric lighting in 1912.

The 1920s and 1930s saw sustained population growth with 1,542 people according to the Census in 1940.

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## THE LITTLE SETTLEMENT OF WATTSVILLE, GEORGIA



### POST-WAR BOOM (1945-1990)

In June 1941, a regional effort succeeded in gaining approval from the U.S. War Department to construct what is now known as Robins Air Force Base.

Between 1940 and 1960, Perry's population quadrupled. I-75 was completed through Perry in 1960s.

In 1990, Perry cemented its status as a center of agriculture for rural south and central Georgia with the Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter. The Georgia National Fair regularly brings in more than half a million people to Perry each October.

### A NEW ERA (1990-2020)

Perry's population started to grow again in the 2000s and 2010s. Officials began investing in the development of the downtown area and community at large.

Perry Parkway was built in the 1990s to draw new development on the outskirts of the city.





# Oliver Hazard Perry

## **OLIVER PERRY'S BEGINNING**

Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry, born in 1785, was part of a navy family dynasty.

## **MILITARY CAREER**

He is most known for his victorious leadership in the War of 1812 and the Battle of Lake Erie in 1813.

## **DECORATED CAREER**

In 1814, he was honored with the Congressional Gold Medal and Thanks of Congress for his service during the War of 1812.

## **LEGACY**

Over 20 U.S. locations are named after Commodore Perry. The City of Perry, Georgia was chartered in December 1824.

CITY HALL

**HISTORIC SITES**  
*Self-Guided Tour*

📍 Please Ensure Location Services Are Enabled!



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[visitperry.com](http://visitperry.com)

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*time*

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[PERRYGATOURS.COM](http://PERRYGATOURS.COM)

*Downtown Tour*  
*Historic Homes Tour*  
*Historic Churches Tour*

Share your trip down Memory Lane with us!



@VISITPERRY



# *Perry Area Historical Society*

## Preserving Perry's rich history and landmarks for future generations...

Nestled next to the Perry Public Library in the former home of Dr. Horace Evans in 1923, you will find the Perry Area Historical Museum. The house displays a uniquely southern charm that has become synonymous with Perry, Georgia. The real treasure, however, is located within the walls of this historic home.

The Perry Area Historical Society was founded in 1981 by passionate citizens who sought to preserve the Perry area's rich history and landmarks for future generations.

Each room within the museum holds a story of Perry's prominent past filled with pictures and artifacts. You will be pleased to discover something new every time you walk through the doors.

**Address** | 901 Northside Drive, Perry, GA 31069

**Phone Number** | 478-224-4442

**Hours of Operation** | Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10 AM - Noon & 2 PM - 4 PM

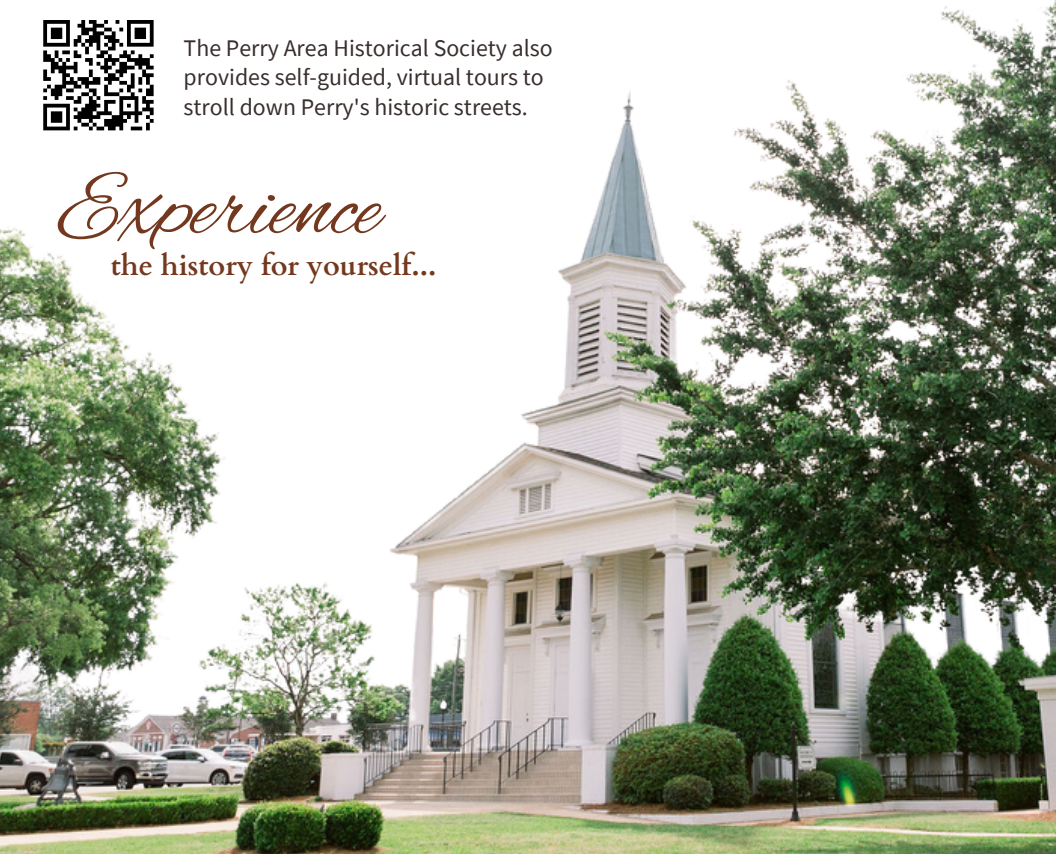
**Website** | [perryhistoricalsociety.org](http://perryhistoricalsociety.org)

## Take a virtual walk through Perry's historic streets...



The Perry Area Historical Society also provides self-guided, virtual tours to stroll down Perry's historic streets.

*Experience*  
the history for yourself...



# Historic Tours Information

## Evergreen Cemetery Tours

Through the beautiful stone archway to Evergreen Cemetery, the serene elegance and natural beauty is the final resting place of many early pioneers of Houston County. This guided tour brings their stories to life.

**Select dates in October 2024. Registration is required.**

## Downtown Walking Tours

Historic Downtown Perry dates back to the early 1900s. This guided walking tour goes behind the scenes to show how Perry's downtown area went from a few one and two-story shops to the premier destination it's known for today

**Select dates in November 2024. Registration is required.**

## Christmas Trolley Tours

The holidays in Perry are always a special time of the year. Enjoy a traditional trolley ride filled with carols, decorations, and history!

**Select dates in December 2024. Registration is required.**

Point your phone  
camera here to  
register!



[www.perry-ga.gov/200](http://www.perry-ga.gov/200)

# STAY in touch!

The City of Perry is proud to offer a variety of ways you can stay in touch with us!

There are several ways to receive relevant and timely information from your local government.



## How we communicate:



### PERRY POINTS

Text message service to ask questions, submit work requests, send a message to staff, and sign up for text alert notifications.

### BEST FOR

Those who like information sent directly to their mobile phone or frequently use text to communicate.



### PERRY PREVIEW

Monthly newsletter sent to your email. Includes occasional e-blasts with information about a particular subject or event.

### BEST FOR

Those who like to receive non-urgent information in their email once a month.



### SOCIAL MEDIA

The City of Perry is on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Find the links in the QR code above.

### BEST FOR

Those who use social media for news and to connect with others.



### INSIDE PERRY PODCAST

Get an inside look at Perry, Georgia's local government. Episodes are short and cover topics you want to know about.

### BEST FOR

Those interested in a casual conversation about Perry's latest happenings and topics.