Flemington's History

The plantation owners in the Midway Districts began early to establish summer homes in what they termed “dry lands,” on higher and healthier ground located ten or fifteen miles from the swamps where they had originally settled for the cultivation of rice. These summer villages were called “Retreats.” William Fleming, wishing to establish a summer home and at the same time enjoy the society of his friends, in about 1815 surveyed a tract of unsettled land ten miles west of Midway for a retreat which he named Gravel Hill. Selecting a parcel for himself, he gave the remaining lots to several of his friends.

Among the early settlers were John Ogden, Oliver Stevens, Peter Early Wynn, Major John Bacon, Joseph Norman & William Fleming. According to the Reverend James Stacy, an early historian, there were families living in the vicinity prior to this time including, John Bacon, Simon Fraser, the Reverend Murdock Murphy and the Reverend Andrew Andrews. Both Murphy and Andrews families lived beyond what was known as “The Hill.”

These settlers were members of the Midway Congregational Church and Society and attended services and meetings at Midway although it was a great distance to travel. Many of them returned to their plantations during the winter months. Gradually the summer homes became more permanent. Because of the distance to Midway, occasional worship services were held in a small house used for magistrate court until a log house was built. This was used for both church and school purposes. Later, when a frame building was constructed for church, the log house continued to be used for the school for a time.

The exact date of the organization of the church and society at Gravel Hill is not known. The earliest record found to date is the Record Book of the Church and Society of Gravel Hill’s small bound volume containing minutes of the annual meetings and other data. The first entry is “Subscriptions for building the Church on Gravel Hill” 1832. Four acres of land were given by Simon Fraser on which a frame house of worship was constructed and used for twenty years.

The organization of the church was patterned after the Midway Church and Society of which these people continued to be members until 1865. They attended services at Midway monthly or as often as possible. Gravel Hill church seems to have been a branch rather than a mission of Midway Church.

In 1803 it was voted to change the name of the retreat from Gravel Hill to Flemington in honor of William Fleming, who had settled in the retreat and had given lots to his friends.

1. Flemington City Hall

The City of Flemington was chartered in 1941 by an act of the legislature of the State of Georgia. In accordance with its charter, the city is governed by a duly elected Mayor and six Council members.

After many years of meeting in the social hall of the Flemington Presbyterian Church and storefront space in the World Trade Center on Highway 84, the City purchased this property and renovated the structure at 156 Old Sunbury Road in Flemington. This property has historic significance because it previously served as the original manse for the minister of the Presbyterian Church. In doing the renovations we tried to maintain the original integrity of the building. The renovations took approximately a year to complete and we were able to move into our new City Hall in May of 2005.

In 2006 an open house was given so that all of Flemington’s citizens could come by and meet City officials, shake hands with neighbors and see firsthand the beautiful facility now occupied by Flemington City government.

2. Fraser-Davis House

Built in 1870 by Captain James Bacon Fraser. This is an example of the raised cottage style house with Victorian additions. For many years it was the home of Misses Laura and Lilly Mae Fraser. The Davises purchased the house in 1972 and are still the current owners.

3. Flemington Presbyterian Church

Gravel Hill or Graney’s Hill was settled prior to 1815. The settlement became a summer “retreat” and a church building was erected here in 1832 as a chapel of ease of the Midway Church. The name of the church and community changed to Flemington in 1853 in honor of William Fleming, the first settler. The present church was erected in 1852. In 1866 the church became Presbyterian. It is still an active parish with regular services.
Explore the rich heritage in Historic Flemington

4. Cassels-Miles House

The summer home of Robert Q. Cassels & Alice Gordon-Cassels was built about 1880. The room on the right was added for minister, Dr. Charles C. Carson, who was pastor of the church from 1891-1898. In 1909 the house was sold to L.E. Stafford, Sr. and is now in the Miles family.

5. Luther Quarterman House

The house was built in 1939 for Luther Quarterman, who was a descendant of the original Quarterman family, who were large landowners in the community. A beautiful garden once stood to the right of the house.

6. Jack's Hall

A house was built on this site in 1803 by John Martin. The original two-story house burned in 1872 and the present house was built in 1883 using the original chimney's brick for the foundation. The property has been in the Martin family since 1803. For many years this was the home of Misses Josephine and Eliza Martin.

7. Donald Martin, Sr. House

This house was built for Donald Martin, Sr between 1910 and 1920. He and his wife raised three children in the home. One of his daughters was a well-known artist who tragically lost her life in a plane crash in Paris and his son Donald Martin, Jr. was president of the Minesville Bank, currently known as the Heritage Bank.

8. Marion F. Martin House

Marion F. Martin built this house from lumber milled from his successful lumber business at a cost of $3,700 in 1907. The house now serves as the Thomas L. Carrier Funeral Home.

9. Stag's Store

The exact date this store was built is unknown. It was built by William Bates Trask, originally of Massachusetts. He and Frederick Newson Lyons operated the store and post office. The store was later operated by Peter Fleming Martin, Sr. and Herbert Lowery Stacy, Sr. and is still in the Stacy family.

10. Trask House

This house was built by William B. Trask in the late 1800s near his general store. Later the house and store were purchased by the Martin & Stacy families, who restored them. The house is now used as a flower and gift shop operated by the Stacy Family.

11. Rosebud Plantation

This Victorian Italianate house was built in the late 1880s by Richard Baxter Cassels on his father's plantation. The home remained in the family and was used as a summer home for many years.

12. Peter Fleming Martin House

Built circa 1880's, this house was originally the home of William Wilson Winn, a professor at the Tranquility Institute, an early institution of learning. Peter Fleming Martin purchased and remodeled the home in 1887. The staircase originally faced the front of the house and was later turned to face the back. The home has been continuously owned and occupied by descendants of Mr. Martin.

Please Note:
Some of the sites on this tour are private residences and private property. This is a driving tour ONLY - entrance to these grounds or property is NOT allowed. Please be respectful of the homeowners’ privacy.