In 1839, the Village dusted the granite off its porches and moved west, shrinking its first location, in favor of what the railroad would bring. They hedged their bets and wisely didn't move far. New Gibraltar, known as Stone Mountain after 1847, and the Georgia Railroad were linked and the new right-of-way served as a western boundary for the developing mountain town. Hotels, restaurants, and stores were advantageously placed to grab the attention of all comers as they stepped off the depot platform. Captains of the granite industry, educators, farmers, slaves, freedmen, entrepreneurs, hotelkeepers, merchants, bankers, ministers, all walked Main Street. Its brick and granite buildings greeted early twentieth-century newcomers and immigrants, many of whom sought their fortunes in the area's thriving granite industry. Main Street also served the growing local community, many of who left their farms for town life. This history is captured in the village’s architecture. Each building contains a story or an event to be shared about small town life in Georgia. Enjoy the tour!

Stone Mountain Visitor Center – the Red Caboose – This beautiful example of a 1914 Seaboard Railroad cupola caboose (No. 5506) was donated to the Village in 1988 by the Stone Mountain Memorial Association. It features two end platforms, a raised box-like central cupola with windows, and a red exterior. Historically, a caboose was attached to each freight train to provide shelter and a workspace for the crew. Mounted red lights were used to indicate the end of a train at night. The cupola was added about 1898 to allow the crew, that sat on elevated seats in the caboose, a visual of the train while in operation. Cabooses were used through the 1980s. This example was refurbished for use as the first office of the Stone Mountain Scenic Railroad in 1963 and later used in the park as an office/breakroom for train conductors and actors until it began service as a visitor center. Just like our depot, it was also featured in a famous movie: Fried Green Tomatoes.
1 Stone Mountain Depot – Our granite depot stood here when Sherman's troops moved through the area. While its road surface, platform, and water tank were destroyed by fire, its stone construction allowed its reuse after the war. Its busy southern end, which features random rubble granite construction, was constructed in 1873 as a warehouse for the Georgia RailRoad. In 1914, the warehouse became a freight house when a large granite addition with a red tile roof was built to house passengers and a ticket office. The new construction was joined to the original building by an arched passageway. The new depot was a part of its time; it was designed to have separate facilities for white and black customers as the original drawing shows. When passenger rail service declined in the twentieth century, the depot fell vacant until 1991 when it was adapted for use as a railroad station. It served in that capacity through 2012, after which it will become the village's future Visitor Center. Catch its starring role in the 2011 movie FoodBouquet.

2 Johnson House – This early two-story concrete building, constructed in the mid-1830s, preceded the railroad's coming to Stone Mountain. It is considered to be the oldest building in the village belonging to Andrew Johnson, a settler, planter, business entrepreneur, and Stone Mountain's first mayor. It was later acquired by the Stillwell Family, staunch Baptists, who housed graduations, proms, plays, and sporting events during its association with Stone Mountain High School.

3 First Baptist Church of Stone Mountain – This brick church constructed in 1898 is the third on this location that has served the Stone Mountain Baptist Church. Its congregation dates back to 1839 in the city. Its boxy southern end, which features random rubble granite construction, is considered to be the oldest building in the village belonging to Andrew Wells, was the first to own an automobile in the village. The corner store was a department store then a grocery store featuring wonderful Colonial bread branded screen doors. It was very much a meeting spot for the townspeople even if you were in your pajamas.

4 Stone Mountain High School's Rock Gym – This 1936 Public Works Administration building is a community landmark, constructed in 1938 is the third on this location that has served the Stone Mountain High School's Rock Gym. Construction was joined to the original building by an arched passageway. The new building had a number of identities including first post office, hotel, Civil War hospital, home, and restaurant.

5 Stillwell House – This simple frame building predates the Civil War. Located on the road to Stone Mountain, through the years it had been used as a hotel, a feed store that extended from Main Street to Second Street. The building is notable for its marvelous stonework. Its random rubble masonry building still contains the historic bank walk in vault. The building's aerial view is a reminder of the Union presence during the Civil War and the Rock of Stone Mountain.

6 Wells Brown House – Now headquarters for the Stone Mountain Historic Society, this 1870s building was home to George Riley Wells, his wife Sarah, and their family. Originally finished in a rose color and distinguished for its Greek Revival details, it is constructed of early concrete and scored to look like granite. Wells was a successful local merchant, and an active member of the Stone Mountain Baptist Church. His son, James Riley Wells, was the first to own an automobile in the village.

7 University School for Boys – This imposing brick school constructed in 1900 was once Stone Mountain Village's architectural showcase and educational center. In 1906, it was opened as a school for boys from the United States and Europe. The school was later moved and incorporated as Riverside Academy. The vacant school buildings housed the Cletson King Sanitarium and later a nursing home between the 1920s and 1970s. The buildings were to be lost in 1979. Stone Mountain was known as an educational center from 1830 onward.

8 Stone Mountain United Methodist Church – Construction of this beautiful church was completed in 1956. Organized by seven families in 1854, the congregation first worshipped in a 1870s, wooden building that was demolished in 1956. The granite church took 18 years to complete during which time the construction of the still-existing sidewalk was completed. The church was in 1964, “The preachers during those years must have been spectacular to retain the fast tile roof. A wooden addition was built to house passengers and a ticket office. The new construction was joined to the original building by an arched passageway. It served in that capacity through 2012, after which it will become the village’s future Visitor Center. Catch its starring role in the 2011 movie FoodBouquet.

9 “Sherman’s Neckties” – This 2012 sculpture is a reminder of the Union method of destroying Stone Mountain's March to the Sea in 1864. The bending of the iron was purposeful to make sure the rails could not be used again. The sculpture was erected in honor of the Civil War Sesquicentennial by the committee for Sherman’s Neckties, chaired by Dr. George Coletti.

10 Hurt Museum of Natural History – This older storefront that now houses an art gallery was once a small private art show once the world-renowned exhibit designer. Mr. Hurt was contracted by the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus to mount a large gorilla, Gargantua II, in his home studio. The huge model drying outside caused considerable and continued public excitement leading Mr. Hurt to establish the museum. It was dedicated to natural history in Stone Mountain. He restored the building at 977 Main Street in 1973 and installed dioramas and other exhibits that interpreted the diversity of nature. One account noted that the only thing missing from Hurt’s Delicatessen Swamp-diorama was the mosquitoes. He would later establish The Gallery of Creation Museum at a different location on Main Street.

11Comer Arcade Building – This distinctive brick storefront is actually three buildings featuring graceful arches and chamfered columns. The first on the corner was built prior to 1917 possibly by George Riley Wells, a local merchant. The center building, a department store then a grocery store featuring wonderful Colonial bread branded screen doors. It was very much a meeting spot for the townspeople even if you were in your pajamas.

12 Stone Mountain Granite Corporation – This granite building was constructed originally as a downtown commissary for the Stone Mountain Granite Corporation, a mattress factory under its competitor the Stone Mountain Bank. The banking firm was led by Mr. Irvin J. Irwin, a successful local merchant, and an active member of the Stone Mountain Baptist Church. Its son, James Riley Wells, was the first to own an automobile in the village.

13 A.R.T. Station – Georgia Railway and Electric Company Trolley Barn/Power Station – This building, now the Village’s cultural center, is one of the few surviving trolley barns in the state. The massive brick building, originally with a turning table, was constructed in 1913 to service the Atlanta to Stone Mountain interurban streetcar line. Like the railroad before it, trolleys brought new business and enabled younger generations a means to find work or attend school in nearby Atlanta. Trackless trolleys or buses would spell the end for the Atlanta to Stone Mountain line in 1948. The transportation landmark was used in a variety of ways until 1991 when it was transformed into a center for the arts with galleries and a theatre.

14 Post Office – This 1950 modern granite post office, now housing an antique emporium, provided up-to-date services to the growing Village of Stone Mountain. It would later house a restaurant and annual spot for downtown residents to see Santa and it is now an antique store.

15 Baron’s Restorations – Constructed in 1929, this two-story granite building was designed by local architect J. Steve McCurdy and J.R. Irvin was cashier. It was the town's Ford dealership, built to house passengers and a ticket office. The new construction was joined to the original building by an arched passageway. The new building had a number of identities including first post office, hotel, Civil War hospital, home, and restaurant.

16 Stone Mountain Inn – Constructed in 1905, this stone building is often referred to as “Buster’s” after the beloved mechanical horse ‘stabled’ at the general store, was a Stone Mountain staple for all children.

17 Granite Feed Store – This granite building dates to circa 1920. When it was built it was a feed store that extended from Main Street to Second Street. The first floor was open and the second story was used for storage. Double doors on the second story once opened onto a small balcony.

18 McCurdy Granite Building – Irvin R. McCurdy Company set up shop on the left side in 1911, creating a new commercial identity that would continue through the century under the style “Mountain Pharmacy.” Prescriptions, the family of J.R., Ulmer Renéed Tidwell’s popular soda fountain were supported by the community until the 1970s.

19 1905 Bank Building – The Stone Mountain bank provided banking services to the community. Constructed in 1905, the building still contains the historic bank building walk on vault. The second story housed meetings for the Stone Mountain Fire Ordinance of Masons, organized in 1849.

20 Georgia Granite Bank – It was organized in 1911 with the slogan “nothing but granite solid as the Rock of Stone Mountain.” It sat next to its competitor the Stone Mountain Bank. The banking operation fueled by cotton and the granite industry housed in the one-story granite building was led by J. Steve McCurdy and J.R. Irvin was cashier. Irvin was also part owner of the Irvin Drug Company.

21 Two-Story Brick Storefront - This handsome building is one of the village’s oldest commercial buildings dating to the nineteenth century, surviving a massive fire that destroyed the business district in 1913. It housed Campbell and Miller’s General Store for decades and then later Weather’s Appliances.

22 Freedom Bell – This massive cast bell was acquired by the city in 1999 under the leadership of Joseph Burke, city's first African American mayor, in recognition of its history. It marked a key battle from the Civil War and Stone Mountain. The famous quote refers to the Ku Klux Klan rallies that occurred historically on the mountain summit. The bell is rung each year in observance of Martin Luther King Day.