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Fall historic walking tours announced

The Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation (ACHF) announces its fall 2018 Athens Heritage Walks series. The historic walking tours, now in their tenth season, are a series of guided tours highlighting historic Athens’ neighborhoods and places. The walks began in 2009 to celebrate Athens’ designation as one of the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Dozen Distinctive Destinations. The walks were so popular that the Foundation now holds them annually.

Tour guides are local volunteers with a love for Athens and a special place in their hearts for the places they take you. Each guide is familiar with neighborhood architectural styles, historical context and interesting characters who once lived there, and in some cases still do. This expertise creates a unique experience for each tour.

This year’s series features seven tours, starting on October 7 and ending on November 11.

1. **Sunday, October 7, 2018 at 2pm**
   Castalia Avenue Historic District
   Neighborhood resident Missy Brandt Wilson will lead a tour of one of Athens’ newest local historic districts, whose well-preserved homes date from the mid-1930s. Designed for the middle-class resident, these charming homes reflect Tudor, Craftsman and Contemporary Ranch architectural styles.

2. **Sunday, October 14, 2018 at 2pm**
   Brooklyn Cemetery
   Activist and community volunteer Linda Davis and fellow volunteer Meriwether Rhodes will co-lead a tour of the historic Brooklyn Cemetery. It was established by the Bethlehem Cemetery Society in 1882 and is the oldest African American burial ground on the west side. Neglected and overgrown for many years, a group of community volunteers are working to restore the grounds and document the history of those buried there.

3. **Saturday, October 20, 2018 at 2pm**
   Milledge Circle Historic District
   Longtime Milledge Circle resident and historic preservation professor John Waters will lead a tour of this quintessential Five Points neighborhood. Milledge Circle was
developed between 1890 and 1940 and features architectural variations of a number of styles including Colonial Revival, Craftsman, Mediterranean Revival and Prairie. The area features seven houses designed by noted Athens architect, Fred Orr, as well as one house designed by a widely recognized female architect, Leila Ross Wilburn.

4. Sunday, October 21, 2018 at 2pm
   Mill Village in the Boulevard National Register District
   Resident Mary Conley will lead a tour of the neighborhood next to the former Southern Manufacturing Company textile mill, which was built in 1902. The area developed with mill houses for the company’s workers, with unique housing styles such as the shotgun and saddlebag. The old mill buildings are being redeveloped, and the once industrial area is undergoing a renaissance.

5. Sunday, October 28, 2018 at 2pm
   West Hancock Avenue National Register District
   Local activist Fred Smith, Sr. will lead a tour of the West Hancock Avenue National Register District—a historic urban black neighborhood where a broad spectrum of Athens’ black citizens lived. Among its better known residents was educator Annie Mack Burney (1884-1963), whose father John Mack was also a teacher, and Dr. Donarell Green (1908-1980), a physician who operated the Susan Medical Center.

6. Sunday, November 4, 2018 at 2pm
   Beech Haven
   Family member Lucy Rowland and Oconee Rivers Greenway Commission Chair Nat Kuykendall will co-lead a tour of the Rowland property on the Middle Oconee River, a unique future public amenity. Charles and Effie Rowland purchased the property in 1909 and constructed a summer house and many unique landscape features from found stone and timber milled on the property. The house and landscape are considered to be one of the best examples of the Arts and Crafts style in Georgia. Unfortunately, this tour is already full. In the event a second tour date is added, it will be announce on the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation Facebook page and website.

7. Sunday, November 11, 2018 at 2pm
   Oconee Hill Cemetery National Register District
   Local historian Charlotte Thomas Marshall will lead a tour of the beautiful monuments in the historic Oconee Hill Cemetery, which memorializes a cross-section of Athenians historic and contemporary. The cemetery’s tombstones are rich in detail and symbolism, and the tour will include an explanation of the funerary art as well as the history of the Athens’ families that are buried there.

Most of the tours last approximately two hours. Tickets are $12 for ACHF members and $15 for non-members. There will be no charge for the Beech Haven tour, although donations are gladly accepted. To register, visit achfonline.org or call 706-353-1801.

Founded in 1967, the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to be a proactive force in developing community-wide understanding of the value of historic buildings, neighborhoods, and heritage. For more information on these and other events, visit www.achfonline.org.