

Wilcox County. Alabama

LANDMARKS • PLACES TO VISIT • THINGS TO DO

Antioch Baptist Church Hwy 41 S., Camden, AL 36726

(GPS Coordinates: N31.9643307, W-87.3296967)

Telephone: (334) 682-4776

Antioch Baptist Church, which opened in 1885, is one of the oldest African-American churches in Wilcox County. It sits on a rise on the outskirts of Camden, in the heart of Alabama's Black belt region. The church has served the spiritual needs of the community for many generations. In the 1960's, it became the crossroads of the Civil Rights Movement.

Beck-Bryant-Talbot Home River Bluff Drive, Camden, AL 36726

(GPS coordinates 32.045417,W87.335306) Telephone (334) 887-3007

Located beside Highway 28 near the Canton Bend community in Wilcox County.

<http://www.wilcoxareachamber.com/2012/02/25/beck-bryant-talbot-home/>

This home, known as "River Bluff House," was built around 1847 for William King Beck, a nephew of William Rufus King, Vice-President of the United States. River Bluff House is a large Greek Revival Cottage with a recessed porch supported by octagonal columns. The roof, extending over the veranda, was characteristic of a number of mid-19th century plantation houses that once existed across south central Alabama.

Beck-Creswell Home 508 Broad Street, Camden, AL 36726 *Drive by only.*

(GPS coordinates N32.003972, W87.300222)

Located at the intersection of Bridgeport Road and Broad Street at Camden, AL.

<http://www.wilcoxareachamber.com/2012/02/25/beck-creswell-home/>

"The Beck Place", as it has been known in Camden for many years, is a two-story frame house with balcony over the front porch. The Wilcox County Courthouse has record of the land purchase by Thomas Dunn from Martin Van Buren, then President of the United States, of the forty acres of land described as NE 1/4 of NE 1/2 of Section 19, Range 8 East, Township 12 North, Wilcox, County, Alabama. Thomas Dunn gave certain lands to churches, Masonic Lodge, Court House and others in order that the town could be established.

Beck / Miller Law Office Planters Street, Camden, AL 36726

(GPS coordinates N31.992000, W87.289222)

Located at downtown Camden on the corner of Planters Street / Water Street.

<http://www.wilcoxareachamber.com/2012/02/27/governor-benjamin-meek-miller-law-office/>

Located in Camden's downtown historic district served as the law office for Colonel Franklin King Beck. Colonel Beck, who commanded the 23rd Alabama Infantry, held General U.S. Grant's Union troops at bay for 12 hours with a single regiment at the Battle of Big Black Ridge (Mississippi). A year later, on October 12, 1864, Colonel Beck was mortally wounded at the Battle of Resaca, Georgia. After the turn of the century, the building became the law office of Joseph Neely Miller and his younger brother, Benjamin Meek Miller (Governor of Alabama from 1931-1935), and in later years, William Joel Bonner. This building is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a contributing property to the Wilcox County Courthouse Historic District. It was acquired by the Wilcox Historical Society in 1995, and with the assistance of a grant from the Alabama Historical Commission, was restored to completion in 1999.

Bessie W. Munden Recreational Park 194 Bessie Munden Rd, Camden, AL 36726

(GPS coordinates: N31° 59'40. 78", W87° 20'25. 707") Telephone: (334) 412-2818

<http://www.bessiewundenrecreationalpark.com>

The Bessie W. Munden Recreational Park was founded in 1959 and it is owned and operated by Bessie W. Munden Recreational Park, Inc. (BWMRP, Inc.). Located on the outskirts of Camden, Alabama in Wilcox County it is a public park, serving all citizens, with a special emphasis on the youth of the county. The park bears the distinction of being one of Alabama's oldest historically black parks, with a legacy that includes some thirty years of continuous operation as a vital community asset.

Bethea-Strother-Stewart Home 55-61 Alabama 28, Camden, AL 36726

(GPS coordinates N32.053917, W87.349639) *Located in the Canton Bend area west of Camden on Highway 28. This is a private residence-drive by only.*

<http://www.wilcoxareachamber.com/2012/02/25/bethea-strother-stewart-home/>

This home, also known as "Pleasant Ridge", is the classic example of modified Georgian architecture. The federal style house is the only brick antebellum home in Wilcox County & is registered on National Historic Register.

Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center 209 Claiborne Street, Camden, AL 36726

www.blackbelttreasures.com (334) 682-9878

Celebrating fine and heritage arts, crafts, literature, food and music from Alabama's 19-county Black Belt Region! Whether you shop in the gallery, watch artists work at the annual Hog Wild for Art or Patchwork Festivals, or learn to paint, weave, quilt, or sculpt in an art class – Immerse yourself in the history, culture, and talent of our region and 'take home a treasure from Alabama's Black Belt. At Black Belt Treasures, every single item is hand crafted or written by artisans in the Alabama Black Belt region. Through their creativity, our artists keep alive the cultural heritage of the Black Belt region. Through the purchase of these unique works of art, customers help to preserve these crafts, and help to make possible classes to pass these skills on to future generations.

Camden Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church –

209 Broad Street, Camden, AL 36726 Telephone: (334) 682-4307

(GPS coordinates N31.994528, W87.293444)

<http://www.wilcoxareachamber.com/2012/02/25/camden-associate-reformed-presbyterian-church/>

The Camden Associate Reformed Presbyterian congregation was organized in September 1890 in the parlor of the William Joel Bonner home. This building was purchased soon after. Benjamin Meek Miller, Governor of Alabama, 1831-1835, was an original trustee and deacon.

Canton Bend United Methodist Church Hwy 28 West, 4 miles NW of Camden

(GPS Coordinates: N32.056528, W87.350556) Telephone: (334) 682-4478

<http://www.camdenumc.com/canton-bend-umc.html>

This small frame building, which houses the Canton Bend Methodist Church, is situated adjacent to the old Canton Cemetery, within site of an earlier church, the Canton Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The grave of Ann Smith, wife of Duncan C. Smith, the first Wilcox County Circuit Clerk, is the oldest in the cemetery and bears a date of 1823. Mr. Smith gave the land to the cemetery several years after the death of his wife. His descendants Percy and Ervin Smith donated the surrounding property for the present church in 1910.

Dale Masonic Lodge Intersection of Broad Street and Clifton Street

(GPS Coordinates: N31.99344, W-87.291283)

The Dale Masonic Lodge organized at Dale Town (later Prairie Bluff) in 1827. When the town declined in the 1840s, members voted to move the lodge to Camden. The Dale Masonic Lodge building that's shown was built circa 1848. Union troops camped in this building while passing through Camden in 1865. In 1936, the building was photographed and recorded in the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS). In 1939, it was recorded by the pioneer female photographer, Frances Benjamin Johnston, in the Carnegie Survey of the Architecture of the South (CSAS).

Dry Fork Plantation County Road 13, Camden, AL 36726

(GPS Coordinates N31.901444, W87.360778) *drive by only.*

CR 13 approximately 1/4 mile east of the intersection of CR 13/Hwy 21 at Coy, AL.

<http://www.wilcoxareachamber.com/2012/02/25/dry-fork/>

Dry Fork was approved for inclusion into the National Register of Historic Places in 1998 and was placed on the registry in 1999. It is one of the oldest documented homes still standing in Wilcox County and is a fine example of late Federal style double-pile house form containing examples of folk versions of Federal style woodwork.

First Presbyterian Church 204-216 Broad Street, Camden, AL 36726

(GPS coordinates N31.994056, W87.292389)

Located at 203 Broad Street in Camden, AL. Telephone (334) 682-5253

<http://www.wilcoxareachamber.com/2012/02/25/first-presbyterian-church/>

This church congregation was organized in 1845. The original church building was erected in 1856. It burned on September 17, 1869 and the present building was constructed in the mid-1880s. The sanctuary was again refurbished in August 2003 by removing the carpet and refinishing the original heart pine flooring, refinishing the original wooden shutters, and adding light fixtures and sconces to enhance the natural beauty of the sanctuary.

Gaines Ridge Alabama 10, Camden, AL 36726

(GPS coordinates N31.990028, W87.258139) Telephone: (334) 682-9707

Located beside Highway 10 approximately two miles east of Camden, AL.

<http://www.wilcoxareachamber.com/2012/02/25/gainesridge/>

The home was acquired in 1898 by the family of the current owner and was a family residence until 1985 when it became Gaines Ridge Dinner Club. Gaines Ridge also has its share of ghost stories. It is included on the Alabama's Ghost Trail. It is currently owned by Betty Kennedy who operates Gaines Ridge Dinner Club on the premises.

Gee's Bend Ferry 1001 Earl Hilliard Road, Camden, AL 36726

(GPS Coordinates: N31.982883, W-87.285675)

Telephone: (334) 682-4334

Website: www.geesbendferry.com

During the Civil Rights Movement, black residents of Gee's Bend began taking the ferry to the county seat at Camden to try and register to vote. Local authorities reacted by eliminating ferry service in 1962.

Gee's Bend Quilt Collective PO Box 68, Boykin, AL 36723

(GPS Coordinates: N32.062374, W-87.307826)

Telephone: (334) 573-2323

Website: <http://www.quiltsofgeesbend.com/>

The women of Gee's Bend have developed a distinctive, bold, and sophisticated quilting style based on traditional American and African American quilts.

Gee's Bend Welcome Center CR 29, Gee's Bend, AL 36723

(GPS Coordinates: N32.087359, W-87.306291)

Telephone: (334) 573-0020

Stop and visit with a couple of Gees Bend quilters, get a few quilting tips, maybe a demonstration, showcase your piece or find Gees Bend mini quilt display. Other Gees Bend artist may be on site with their wonderful works.

Horn-Jones-Sadler Law Office Water Street, Camden, AL 36726

(GPS coordinates N31.991689, W87.288957)

Located downtown Camden, AL across the street from the old Wilcox County Courthouse at the intersection of Court Street and Water Street.

<http://www.wilcoxareachamber.com/2012/02/25/horn-jones-sadler-law-office/>

This building is included in Camden's Wilcox County Courthouse Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places. During the late 1800s, this was the law office of General Richard C. Jones, who also served as a brigadier general in the State Militia, a member of the State Senate, President of the University of Alabama (1890-1897), and a member of the 1901 Alabama Constitutional Convention.

Liberty Hall Alabama 221, Camden, AL 36726
(GPS Coordinates N31.972806, W87.335167)

<http://www.wilcoxareachamber.com/2012/02/25/harris-home/>

It was 1845 when the McDowells moved into the mansion, which a daughter-in-law, Julia Tait McDowell, was to call "Liberty Hall". Julia originated the name to signify the open house of hospitality of the McDowell family. With its two round and two square columns, Liberty Hall is a strikingly individual example of antebellum architecture. After 132 years of continual ownership by the McDowell family, a great-great granddaughter of John Robert, Lt. Colonel retired U. S. Air Force, Ms. Sara N. Harris, is the present owner. **Drive by only.**

Liddell-Burford Home 403-413 Alabama 28, Camden, AL 36726
(GPS coordinates N31.999556, W87.298417) *Broad Street at Camden, AL.*

<http://www.wilcoxareachamber.com/2012/02/25/liddell-burford-home/>
Arthur Pendleton Bagby, who served two terms as Governor of Alabama (1837 and 1839) and later as a U. S. Senator, moved to Camden in 1853. He contracted with Henry F. Cook to build a home "befitting a man of position". Bagby could not make the payments and the property was sold at public auction to Thomas King Beck to satisfy Mr. Cook's lien. This two-story house features square box columns, a hallmark of Cook, and has supporting timbers, which are secured by mortised joints and wooden pegs. The floors are 6-inch pine.

McWilliams-Cook Home 402 Clifton Street, Camden, AL 36726
(GPS coordinates N31.992583, W87.298667)
*Located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Clifton Street and Sterrett Street in Camden, AL. **Drive by only.***

<http://www.wilcoxareachamber.com/2012/02/25/mcwilliams-cook-home/>
Inspired by the works of architect Samuel Sloan, this outstanding example of antebellum eclecticism was built in 1851 for Judge David W. Sterrett, lawyer, planter, and trustee of the Wilcox Female Institute. In 1870, the home was sold to Richard Ervin McWilliams and wife Amelia Lindsay Coate. This home has been in the McWilliams family for seven generations. It is listed on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.

Moore Academy 16149 Alabama 10, Pine Apple, AL 36768
(GPS coordinates N31.867083, W86.989806) *HWY 10 in Pine Apple, AL.*

<http://www.wilcoxareachamber.com/2012/02/27/moore-academy/>
John Trotwood Moore, who was an author, archeologist, and poet, founded Moore Academy in 1882. Moore Academy was widely acclaimed as one of the preeminent educational facilities in Alabama until its closing in 1989. The buildings and grounds were donated to the Moore Academy Alumni Association, Inc. in 1994 and restoration began in 1995.

Pine Hill Depot Museum Oak Grove St., Pine Hill, AL 36769
(GPS Coordinates: N31.9899006, W-87.5905609)

The railroad started running through Pine Hill, AL in 1888. Pine Hill's original depot was destroyed in 1896 when a train jumped track and crashed into the building. A new depot was built in 1905 where it is now used as a museum to preserve the history of Pine Hill and surrounding communities.

Robert's Cabin Downtown Pine Apple, Pine Apple, AL 36768
(GPS Coordinates: N31.8231297, W-86.8355408)
Telephone: (251) 746-2520

In the early 1860's, Thomas Henry Roberts build this log cabin at Mount Hope in east Wilcox County using yellow pine logs from his property. The logs are hand-hewn, dovetailed and double mortised, and the corners reinforced with wooden pegs. The cabin served as a place for the Roberts children to play and for community get-togethers. In 2007, the Roberts family donated the cabin to the town of Pine Apple.

Roland Cooper State Park 285 Deer Run Dr., Camden, AL 36726
(GPS Coordinates: N32.0553575, W-87.2454236)
Telephone: (334) 682-4838

Website: www.alapark.com/RolandCooper/
Roland Cooper State Park has 6 two-bedroom cabins (one cabin is Handicap Accessible) that are completely furnished, including stove, refrigerator, dishes, cooking utensils, silverware, washcloths, linens, central heat/air, TV and barbeque grills.

Snow Hill Institute Snow Hill Institute Rd., Pine Apple, AL 36768
(GPS coordinates N32.020556, W87.032722)
Located in Wilcox County near Snow Hill, AL Telephone: (251) 746-2222

<http://www.wilcoxareachamber.com/2012/02/27/snow-hill-institute/>
It was initially built as an African American school by the Tuskegee University graduate, Dr. William J. Edwards, in 1893. At the time of their peak, they had 27 buildings, mostly built by students who were pursuing careers in the building trade. The Snow Hill Institute served as a private school for African Americans until Dr. Edward's 1924 retirement. After this, the school was picked up by the state and operated as a public institution. It operated until 1973, when the Wilcox County school system was finally desegregated.

Wakefield Plantation 7660-8040 Freedom Farm Road, Pine Apple, AL 36768
(GPS Coordinates: N31.998389, W86.962167) **-drive by only.**
In Furman on CR 59 approximately 0.4 miles south of the intersection of CR 59 and Hwy 21.

<http://www.wilcoxareachamber.com/2012/02/27/wakefield-plantation/>
This beautiful antebellum home, located in the Furman community, is built in a one-of-a-kind Steamboat Gothic style. The nearly 6,000 sq. ft. of living area consists of 12 rooms and 12 fireplaces, and unique porches on all sides. It was named "Wakefield" by the Gully family, which owned the home from its construction in the 1840's until it was sold to Dr. E.G. Burson in 1943. This home is included in the Furman Historic District that is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

White Columns 1534-1942 County Road 23, Camden, AL 36726
(GPS coordinates N31.960806, W87.359833) **Drive by only.**
Located south of the Possum Bend community on Wilcox CR 23 approximately 1.8 miles south of the intersection of Wilcox CR 23 and State Hwy 10.

<http://www.wilcoxareachamber.com/2012/02/27/starr-home/>
Also known as the Tair-Starr Home and is a nationally known Wilcox plantation home. Built by Major Felix Tait for his family home during the late 1850s. It is believed that Alexander Bragg was the architect-carpenter hired by Major Tait. Materials used in the construction came from the plantation. During the 1960's, the home was included as one of the stops on the Alabama Tourist Guide. Featured in numerous national magazines and books concerning the architecture or history of the ante-bellum Alabama Black Belt in 1976, White Columns was added to the Alabama Register of Historic Landmarks.

Wilcox Female Institute 301 Broad Street, Camden, AL 36726
(GPS Coordinates N31.994667, W87.294250) *Located at the corner of Broad and Fail Streets in Camden, AL* Telephone: (334) 682-4929

<http://www.wilcoxareachamber.com/2012/02/27/wilcox-female-institute/>
The first school in Camden was built on the site of a block of brick stores now owned by Mrs. C. B. Jones' heirs. Afterwards this school was closed and the Wilcox Female Institute was built and chartered. Later it was used as the county high school. This Institute was built about 1845. Mr. James Asbury Tait, a distinguished citizen of Wilcox County, showed great interest in the erection of the building. The bricks were made by slave labour. The wealthy planters of this section subscribed money for the erection of the building so that their daughters might enjoy the privileges of a boarding school nearer home, instead of sending them to Virginia or the Carolinas. In 1850 the Wilcox Female Institute was incorporated. It was one of the first schools of its kind in the South. The building was deeded to the Wilcox Historical Society in 1974 and today it serves as the headquarters of this group. The Historic American Buildings Survey recorded the Wilcox Female Institute and it was added to the National Register of Historic Places on April 3, 1975. The building is available to rent for weddings and receptions.

Wilcox County Courthouse 102 Broad Street, Camden, AL 36726
(GPS coordinates: N31.991167, W87.289250) *Located at downtown Camden, AL.* Telephone: (334) 682-4126

<http://www.wilcoxareachamber.com/2012/02/27/wilcox-county-courthouse/>
The Wilcox County Courthouse was built in 1858 by Alexander J. Bragg, brother of the builder of the Bragg-Mitchell home in Mobile. The Greek Revival structure is known architecturally for its four massive Doric columns and balustrade wrought iron steps leading to the second floor central doorway. It is one of only six antebellum courthouses still in use in the South and one of four in the state. The Wilcox County Library is located on the second floor of the Wilcox County Courthouse. It is well known for its extensive genealogical records.

Youpon Plantation 2710 County Road 19, Camden, AL 36726
(GPS Coordinates: N32.033472, W87.368361)
*Located in Canton Bend **drive by only.***

<http://www.wilcoxareachamber.com/2012/02/27/matthews-tait-rutherford-home/>
This historic antebellum home is one of the finest examples of neoclassical architecture in Alabama. A northerner, William T. Matthews who came to Camden by way of Haiti, built the home. Construction began in 1840 using a design by George Lynch, a local architect. It took five years to complete using both local and foreign artisans. The home was originally surrounded by Youpon Shrubs from which derived its name. Sliding interior doors and plantation windows make it possible to convert the entire first floor into a dance floor.

• LIBRARY AND WEBSITES •

Wilcox County Public Library 100 Broad Street, Camden, AL 36726
Telephone: (334) 682-4355 <https://wilcox.biblionix.com>
<https://www.facebook.com/wilcoxcolib>
Hours Monday: 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Wednesday-Thursday: 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Wilcox County Chamber of Commerce
1001 Earl Hilliard Rd., Camden, AL 36726
(334) 682-4929
www.wilcoxareachamber.com/

• EMERGENCY CONTACTS (always dial 911 in case of emergency) •

Alcoholic Beverage Control Board (334) 682-4485
American Red Cross (334) 682-9610
Camden Fire Dept. (334) 682-9084
County Contact Information (334) 682-9112
Dept. of Public Safety (334) 682-5110

Pine Apple Volunteer Fire Dept. (334) 525-0118
Pine Hill Police Department (334) 963-4351
Town of Pine Hill (334) 963-4351
Wilcox County Sheriff Department (334) 682-5568
Wilcox County Emergency Management (334) 682-4558

J Paul Jones Hospital (334) 682-4131
Pine Apple Rural Health Center (251) 746-2197

Wilcox Co. Emergency Management Agency (334) 682-4843
Wilcox County Jail (334) 682-9367

• **LODGING** •

American Inn 39 Camden Bypass (334) 682-4555
Chilatchee Creek Campground Alberta, AL 36726 (334) 573-2562

Miller's Ferry Campground Miller's Ferry, AL (334) 682-4191
Southern Inn 40 Camden Bypass (334) 682-4148

DINING OPPORTUNITIES

AD's Country Store
8347 Highway 41 S
Coy, AL 36435
(334) 337-4621

East Pearl Chinese
15 Claiborne St.
Camden, AL 36726
(334) 682-2121

Jackson's Fried Chicken
231 Claiborne St.
Camden, AL 36276
(334) 682-9809

Larry's Drive In
5 Camden Bypass
Camden, AL 36726
(334) 682-4069

Old School Truck Stop
13051 Highway 10 W
Pine Hill, AL 36769
(334) 963-4307

Blue Spoon Cooking Company
211 Claiborne St.
Camden, AL 36726
(334) 337-5503

Gaines Ridge Dinner Club
933 Highway 10 East
Camden, AL 36726
(334) 682-9707

Joe's BBQ
20 Hwy 41 N.
Camden, AL 36726
(334) 682-9616

Maness' Family Restaurant
4833 Broad St.
Pine Hill, AL 36769
(334) 963-4441

Piggly Wiggly Deli
12 Camden Bypass
Camden, AL 36726
(334) 682-5332

Dallas Soul Food
224 Claiborne St.
Camden, AL 36726
(334) 682-4222

Hunter's Run Pub & Grill
43 Camden Bypass
Camden, AL 36726
(334) 682-5037

Keisha's Snack Shack
13181 County Rd. 29
Gees Bend. AL 36720
(334) 573-2007

Miss. Kitty's Restaurant
55 Highway 41 N
Camden, AL 36726
(334) 682-4665

QV's Deli
51 Highway 41 N
Camden, AL 36726
(334) 682-9555