

# HISTORY

Our renovated town hall and community center was originally the Mercantile Building, constructed sometime in the 1890's. Woolsey, earlier known as Woolseyville, was incorporated on December 16, 1893. At that time, Woolsey was a larger municipality resting along the railroad line where Highway 92 is currently located. Trains from the Atlanta-Hawkinsville Railroad Company carried cotton, peaches, and other crops north to Atlanta. A flagpole and Master Gardeners' beautification project exist where the depot once stood.

The town is proud to have been able to restore the old Mercantile Building to a modern, functioning Town Hall and Community Center, while preserving much of its rich history and beauty.



The Town of Woolsey would like to recognize and extend our sincere appreciation to the following individuals and companies for their contributions toward the renovation and completion of our Town Hall and Community Center.

- Ms. Josephine Ballard
- Pam Laggis - Interior Designer
- Bob Barnard - Barnard Construction
- Cony Mason - Woolsey Station Antiques
- Randy Helton and Fred Able - Jimco Construction
- Scott Keaton - KLS Landscaping
- Mickey and Tammy Harp - Harp's Farm Market & Nursery
- Larry Bailey - Concrete Supply
- Fayette County Historical Society
- Darla Gilson - Quilting
- Stacey and Jameson Collins
- Larry Banks
- SFC Ronald Stubbs
- Larry Stubbs
- Megan Brown - Graphic Design

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## Town Hall & Community Center

## Woolsey, Georgia

DEDICATED TO THE TOWNSPEOPLE OF WOOLSEY

INCORPORATED DECEMBER 16, 1893



## BUILDING EXTERIOR

Not part of the initial structure, five windows now adorn the north facing side of the building. Before, there were only two windows at the front and one at the back. The white wood siding on this side of the building was preserved, in the overall effort to maintain the integrity of the original building. What were once pine foundation beams are now reused as landscaping timbers. The “Woolsey, Georgia” sign on the building’s front is a reproduction of the original sign, which was lost several years ago to either a storm or a souvenir hunter!

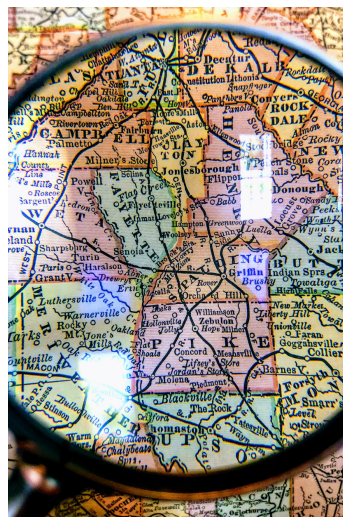
The front porch has been rebuilt to accurately represent the original porch, where it’s said kids would play marbles. Inside there’s a jar atop the bin with a few of those marbles that were discovered during renovation.

## BUILDING INTERIOR

Standing in the front entryway, on your left you will see photographs of the building pre-renovation and on your right are photos that were taken during construction. Original wood still covers the foyer walls, the right main wall, and the ceiling and can also be found in the office, bathrooms, and additional design features. The shelves, running the length of the building, are original shelving from the store and the trim throughout the building is also original recovered wood.

As you walk along the left, back, and then right side of the interior, please notice the following:

- Original receipts and documents from the store and other local businesses.
- Peeking through an original window frame, which was located at the rear of the building, is a gravestone rubbing of the Reverend I.G. Woolsey, MD, for whom the town is named. Photos include Rev. Woolsey, his wife, Clemanza Reagan Woolsey, and other family members.



## BUILDING INTERIOR CON'T

- Take a gaze at the photo of two friends enjoying a casual day on our front porch in the late 1930's. Could that RC Cola thermometer behind them be the same one next to the picture? You bet!
- Next, there is a map of the railroad lines which ran through Georgia. Look closely and you'll find Woolsey. A candle lantern is displayed, with both red and green internal lenses, similar to those used at the Woolsey railroad station.
- In the back left corner of the building there is an office with restored wood and roof metal walls. A small kitchen and storage closet are in the back, right of the Community Center.
- On the back wall is a long desk. This was a counter in the Mercantile. It has been restored and is now where the Woolsey Town Council sit during monthly meetings. The first town council meeting was held here on September 10, 2018.
- Above the desk is a reproduction of the U.S. flag from 1893, the year Woolsey was founded. With only 44 stars the territories of Utah (1896), Oklahoma (1907), Arizona (1912), New Mexico (1912), Alaska (1959), and Hawaii (1959) had not yet been admitted into the Union.
- Continuing around the building, on the north wall, the large bin, found in the store, is believed to have displayed produce, grain, or hardware nails.
- Atop the bin is an old typewriter that was used to create train tickets at the depot across the street. Next to the typewriter is the cornerstone from the Woolsey School, once located where the fire station now stands.
- The old stove heater was the sole heat source for the building. Word has it the marble games moved inside on chilly days.
- Back at the front of the building is a shadow box displaying items found in the building during renovation. Sorry, no smoking allowed in the building!