

Petersburg

Written by Mark Williams

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Petersburg

Petersburg was a major tobacco inspection station at the confluence of the Broad and Savannah River in the Georgia Piedmont. The town was established in 1786 and became a boom town. Within a few years it was the second largest town in the state. The town's demise was heralded by the rise of cotton agriculture and the concomitant decline in tobacco agriculture in Georgia. By 1837 the town was extinct.

Petersburg, Georgia began as a tobacco inspection port on the Savannah River in 1786. It quickly grew to be the one of the largest towns in interior Georgia. By 1837 it was nearly abandoned. Now Petersburg is a ghost town, partially submerged under the waters of Lake Clark Hill [Strom Thurmond] (Elliott 1995). Historian E. Merton Coulter wrote a book on the history of Petersburg and its people, which was published in 1966. Archaeologist Rita Folse Elliott conducted her M.A. thesis research at Petersburg in 1988. Hers was an interdisciplinary study that combined history, geography, and underwater archaeology to create a better interpretation of the town and its tangible remains.

Click [Petersburg](#) for a table of Petersburg's landowners, compiled by Rita Folse Elliott (1988)

and adapted for the web by Daniel T. Elliott (2006).

Selected Bibliography

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