



# Athens Welcome Center

Church-Waddel-Brumby House  
Circa 1820

## *A note from Jeanne M. Strong*

*Designer & C-W-B Committee member*

I want to invite everyone to downtown Athens to visit the Church-Waddel-Brumby House Museum, which serves as the Athens Welcome Center. The Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation has the responsibility for maintaining this historic resource, one of Athens' earliest homes providing a glimpse of what life looked like in the 1820s. I am telling you about this wonderful treasure because I am proud of what we have accomplished in the house where Dr. Moses Waddel resided during the 1820s, while president of the University of Georgia (then called Franklin College).

Inside, you will discover the floor coverings, wall coverings, and furnishings that were available and appropriate during President Waddel's tenure at UGA. Most of the funding for furnishings has been raised by the C-W-B House Restoration Committee, under its *First Floor First* campaign. There have also been gifts of furniture and accessories and the Committee has purchased pieces from dealers and auctions. We have many goals for the completion of the interior restoration and I want to tell you about one of only a few pieces left to acquire to complete the *First Floor First* restoration phase.



*Example of a c. 1820 Girandole convex mirror. A similar one would be appropriate for the house.*

The Church-Waddel-Brumby House needs an 1820 to 1830 American circular Girandole convex mirror. It was a very desirable piece during the late Federal period as such mirrors were often used to increase lighting in the pre-electric period. The convex mirror reflected candle light with very interesting results. Once acquired, the Girandole mirror will hang over our beautiful Brumby sideboard and complete the furnishing of the C-W-B Dining Room.

You could be our hero! I am asking for anyone who has access to a Girandole mirror, or who has interest in acquiring or locating one, to please contact us. I am including an image of a Girandole mirror, one similar to which would be considered appropriate for the house. We invite your help and expertise to assist us in completing the interior restoration of the Church-Waddel-Brumby House, particularly the *First Floor First* phase. As we move toward completion of this first phase, we are anxious to begin planning for the Second Floor restoration. Please contact Laura Straehla ([lstraehla@charter.net](mailto:lstraehla@charter.net)) or Jeanne Strong ([jeannestrong@hotmail.com](mailto:jeannestrong@hotmail.com)) for more information.



*A Girandole mirror is needed over the Brumby sideboard in the Church-Waddel-Brumby House Dining Room*

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C-W-B Committee Members: Laura Straehla, Jeanne Strong, Jill Reed, & John Waters • C-W-B Director: Evelyn Reese

## *Church-Waddel-Brumby House is Recipient of Watson-Brown Foundation Grant*



*In June, the Athens Welcome Center received a \$2400 grant from the Watson-Brown Foundation to purchase and install period locks for the first floor doors. Members of the committee display the check.*

We are pleased to announce that the Church-Waddel-Brumby House Museum was awarded a \$2,400 grant from the Watson Brown Foundation Junior Board of Trustees. This unusual grant program is managed by the best and brightest high school students from the Athens Chapter area. The grant program seeks out and funds historic preservation projects in Georgia that have an emphasis on education and will preserve the past for future generations.

The funds will be used for the acquisition of antique, period-appropriate hardware for the doors on the First Floor of the Church-Waddel-Brumby House. The first of four wrought iron locks has just recently been installed. Once complete, the project will bring our visitors within tangible reach of period-appropriate details, thus furthering the educational mission of our house museum. The historic locks will be the perfect complement to our fine grain-painted doors on the First Floor.



*Athens-Clarke County Locksmith, Bob Wells,  
checks for level placement during installation  
of the 'new' antique lock on the front door.*

We extend our sincerest thanks to the Watson-Brown Foundation Junior Board of Trustees for their generous grant award, which brings our *First Floor First* initiative even closer to completion. Please stop by to see our progress!

## *An Introduction: Evelyn Reece, Director & Curator, Athens Welcome Center / Church-Waddel-Brumby House*



A native of New Orleans, Ms Reece came to Athens to study historic preservation in 1990. She holds a Masters of Historic Preservation from UGA, a BAS in Cultural Resource Management and Office Administration, and an Associates Degree in Construction Technology. Before moving to Athens, she worked for several architecture and design firms in Louisiana and was later selected to produce drawings for the Historic American Engineering Record, first in Pittsburgh and later leading an international team of architects and historians in Birmingham, Alabama. For six years she served as Preservation Planner for Athens-Clarke County, administering the local government's preservation programs. Since 2006, she has run her own consulting business and was the preservation consultant for Lancaster and McKillip's historic property on Milledge Avenue and the Howell Cobb House on N. Pope Street.

Two years ago Evelyn and her husband Greg finished restoring their c.1825 Plantation Plain home in the neighboring 'village' of Lexington. She has a particular affinity for the Federal Period and the Plantation Plain house type and sees it as an honor to serve in her new capacity with the Church-Waddel-Brumby House Museum.

## *Athens House Museum Partnership Produces New Holiday Event*

For one weekend only, December 5-6, 2009, the Athens Historic House Museum Association will present the "Christmas Spirits Holiday Tour," a special holiday-themed version of the *Museum Mile* historic house museum tour. Short, live-theatre vignettes by the Rose of Athens Theatre company will be presented at the T.R.R. Cobb House and Ware-Lyndon House. Refreshments and other exciting surprises will be in store at the Church-Waddell-Brumby House and Taylor-Grady House as part of the tour. Save the date for this magical and educational event, sure to delight children and adults alike. For more information, contact the Athens Welcome Center at 706-353-1820.

*'Christmas Spirits' a theatrical vignette by Rose of Athens Theatre, as performed at the Ware-Lyndon House. The C-W-B will host its Holiday Open House from 10-5 pm (FREE) on Saturday, Dec. 5th. A special ticketed event will be held on Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon. Call 706-353-1820 for additional details.*



## *Church-Waddell- Brumby House Featured in National Publication!*

Textiles in the Church-Waddell-Brumby House Museum's Parlor and Dining Room were recently featured in the fall 2009 issue of *Old House Interiors: Early Homes*. Photographs of our carpets, chair covers, and green "crumb cloth," were featured in an article on the historical uses of textiles written by the manufacturer of the carpets, Thistle Hill Weavers of New York. These carpets, as well as chair covers & other textiles, were specifically chosen for the house museum by our interiors consultant Jeanne Strong and the House Restoration Sub Committee to reflect historically appropriate and available styles, patterns & colors of our period of interpretation of 1820 – 1829, the tenure of Dr. Moses Waddell. The carpets were funded by the Athens-Clarke County Mayor & Commission via SPLOST while the chair covers & other textiles were funded by private donations such as yours. This feature article can be read in its entirety via a link on our website at [www.athenswelcomecenter.com](http://www.athenswelcomecenter.com). We are thrilled that documented research and the careful attention to detail underscoring the restoration of Church-Waddell-Brumby House Museum has garnered such accolades, and it is with great pride that we share this recent success with you, the supporters of the restoration project.



*These photographs of the C-W-B Parlor and Dining Room were featured in the fall issue of Old House Interiors: Early Homes*