

## ***Small Historic Towns across America.***

as presented by Mr. Stadt's on-line Freedom Project Education U.S. History classes in the Fall and Winter of 2014. You can learn more about our classes by visiting us at: [www.fpeusa.org](http://www.fpeusa.org)

### **Cumming, Georgia**

#### **Brief History of Cumming, Georgia.**

Cumming was established in 1833. It was formed from two 40 acre lots that were a part of the Georgia State Land Lottery. Cumming was named after Colonel William Cumming. A post office was established in 1834 and people became interested.



Justices from the Inferior Court divided the land into smaller pieces and started selling them to people. The Georgia State Legislature made the Town of Cumming into the City of Cumming in 1834.

During the 1830's through the 1840's, the city prospered because of the gold mining industry but the gold rush in California in 1849 slowed the economy for the little city. Cumming was not burned during the Civil War in Sherman's March to the Sea because he did not come through there but the county courthouse was destroyed in a fire anyway and wasn't rebuilt until 1905.

In 1956, Buford Dam was built along the Chattahoochee River. This created a man-made lake called Lake Sidney Lanier. Lake Lanier supplies Cumming with a lot of revenue from tourist who enjoy boating on this large lake. Lake Lanier also supplies drinking water for Atlanta, Ga. The population of Cumming is 189,340.

#### **Location and Driving Directions from the closest major U.S. Airport(s).**

From Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport take the I-85 N ramp to I-20/I-75 N/ Atlanta and follow signs for I-75N/I-20/I-85 N/ Atlanta. Then keep left to stay on I-85 N and take exit 87 for Ga-400 N toward Buckhead/Cumming. You will stay on GA-400 N for about 6 miles then continue onto Ga-400 N/ US-19 N for 24 miles. Then you will need to take the Buford exit and follow signs to Cumming.

#### **Who was President when this town was founded? And, what was the political environment in America at that time.**



Andrew Jackson, who was a Democrat, was the President of the United States in 1833 when the City of Cumming was founded. The Nullification Crisis was on-going at the time of the establishment of Cumming, GA. The Nullification Crisis was a crisis created by South Carolina's 1832 Ordinance of Nullification. There were only 24 states in the United States in 1833.

## **Oldest businesses/largest businesses today.**

The post office was established in 1834. Goodson Drugs is a drugstore that has been in the same spot on the town square since it was founded in 1959. The drug store has been run by the same family since it opened. One of the largest employers in Cumming today is the school system because Cumming is in the 6th fastest growing county in America based on the U.S. Census Bureau. One of the other large businesses in Cumming is the Tyson chicken facility. Since Cumming started as a rural agricultural community, chicken farms are plentiful. Tyson Foods is one of the longest running businesses.

## **City Government**

The City of Cumming has a city hall in the middle of the small city. The city has recently remodeled the courthouse next door to the city hall. The city hall contains many antiques and museums to view. The City of Cumming has a mayor and city council. The mayor is Mayor H. Ford Gravitt. Mayor Gravitt has been the Mayor of Cumming since 1970.

## **Historic attractions in the area. Festivals and Events.**

The Cumming Country Fair and Festival is held in October every year at the Cumming Fair grounds. The Rodeo comes in August and after the fair in October. The city has an annual 4th of July steam engine parade every year and also several fun Christmas parades in December. In December the City of Cumming lines the streets with Christmas lights and offers Christmas festivities at the Cumming Fair grounds. The city also hold the Taste of Forsyth in April at the fairgrounds. This is when a bunch of restaurants from around Cumming come together and let thousands of people come together to try their food.

## **Where can I stay if I visit Cumming?**

If you decide to visit I recommend visiting the Shady Grove Campsites or the Legacy Lodge at Lanier Islands Water Park. Shady Grove Campsite is located on Lake Lanier in a part of the lake called Young Deer. It's a beautiful view on the lake and you are close to the water park and marines in the area. The picture below is of the Legacy Lodge at Lanier Islands.



## **Why would I want to visit this historic small town?**

The City of Cumming has a lot of historic and fun places to visit including the old Cumming Schoolhouse which has been turned into a theatre that shows community plays and concerts. It also has a restaurant and museum. Lake Lanier has several marinas around the lake that have many restaurants and shops. They also have boats and jet skis that are available for rent. Lake Lanier Islands is a major water park on the lake that has several activities to do. There are also several islands on the lake that are fun to stop at and explore. The Lake is the best place to visit.



## **Links you may wish to visit.**

[www.cityofcumming.net](http://www.cityofcumming.net)

[www.cummingfair.net](http://www.cummingfair.net)

[www.forsythcounty.com](http://www.forsythcounty.com)

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