

# Hamilton-Turner Inn

"Historically, the Talk of the Town ..." <sup>sm</sup>

330 Abercorn Street on Lafayette Square  
Historic Savannah, GA USA 31401-4636

**Phone:** (912) 233-1833 or

Toll free (888) 448-8849

**Fax:** (912)233-0291

**Proprietor Innkeepers:** Jane and Rob Sales

**Send E-mail** [info@Hamilton-TurnerInn.com](mailto:info@Hamilton-TurnerInn.com)

Visit Web Site [www.Hamilton-TurnerInn.com](http://www.Hamilton-TurnerInn.com)

## Fact Sheet:

Press Contact:

Jane Sales

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**SAVANNAH** – The lavish mansion of socialite businessman extraordinaire Samuel P. Hamilton was built and furnished at a phenomenal cost of \$150,000 in 1873. From its beginnings, the family home of “The Lord of Lafayette Square” has remained *historically, the talk of the town.* <sup>(sm)</sup>

The notable Mid Victorian and Second French Empire architecture of the Hamilton-Turner Inn first drew the Savannah newspaper’s attention during its post-Civil War construction as the preeminent society, family, and gentleman’s mansion. Its family social center legacy continues today with small weddings, discerning family and child-friendly accommodations, quaint 3-bedroom ‘friends-and-family’ clustered carriage house rooms, and prestigious on-the-garden-park Lafayette Square downtown location. Elegant handicap lodging and a wheelchair lift accommodate mobility challenged travelers.

The inn’s web site – [Hamilton-Turnerinn.com](http://Hamilton-Turnerinn.com) – features the mansion’s notoriety as the first building in Savannah with electricity; owner Doc Turner, ecological activist; Historic Savannah Foundation’s merciful capture of the mansion; and the rapscallion resident characters of “Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil.”

Elegantly decorated with treasured estate antiques and over-the-top Victorian pieces, the quiet, pleasurable comforts of the mansion bed and breakfast inn showcase the much-publicized 19<sup>th</sup> century craftsmanship, including original Belgian cut glass chandeliers, carved wainscoting and twelve foot windows and solid panel doors.

Prominently featured by Savannah’s historic district tour companies, the inn is ideally located for an historic district walking vacation.

This urban manor has been featured in the *Esquire*, *Gourmet*, *Fodors*, *Food Network*, *Southern Living*, *Country Discoveries*, *Insider’s Guide to Savannah*, *Concierge.com*, *Northwest Indiana Times*, *Sisterhood of Tea*, *Atlanta City Search*, and *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, the colossal John Berendt novel and Clint Eastwood movie.

## Location

On Lafayette Square in Historic Savannah near Savannah River Street, financial district, main attractions, churches, and Forsyth Park.



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## Rates and Rooms

**Rates:** \$175-350.

Payment types accepted include MasterCard, Visa, AMEX, Discover, and Diner's Club.

**Rooms:** The property has 17 total guest accommodations with private baths, fireplaces, 3 suites and 1 dining/conference room. The types of beds available include King, Queen, and Twin. Two rooms offer double (2) queen beds. Suites feature grand scale whirlpool/Jacuzzi baths and private balconies. Ground level guestrooms feature private street-side entrances.

## Meals

Two culinary chefs host a gourmet or kid-friendly breakfast in a casually elegant proper English pub setting, late afternoon hors d'oeuvres with wine, and bedtime port and sweet savories. Meals are included in rates. Advance request special dietary needs are accommodated by the Inn's two personal chefs.

Types of meals: Garden or dining room full gourmet breakfast, early coffee/tea, and room service. Advance requests may include picnic basket options.

## Amenities

**In Room:** Claw foot tubs with brass ring showers, cable TV, VCR, telephone, turn-down service, hair dryers, iron and ironing board, robes, private balcony and fireplace in room. Dial-up Internet access. Private room baths, Jacuzzi, air conditioning and heat controls.

**On Site:** Fax, copier, video and children's library, family indoor and outdoor games, parlor and dining fireplaces, laundry facility, gift shop, evening hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, bedtime sweets, concierge service, and masseurs services on premises. Resident feline furkid, Fufu. The inn's attentive concierges will gladly make tour and dinner reservations, as well as family-friendly excursions.

## Cancellation Policy

Seven days in advance; \$25 cancellation fee. Disciplined children are very welcome. No pets are permitted.





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## Brief History of the Inn

Lafayette Place, The Latter-day Tara, the Hamilton House, the Turner House, The Hamilton–Turner House or the Hamilton-Turner Inn. No matter how it is known or remembered, this beautiful Victorian Lady is historically, the talk of Savannah.

Originally designated #86 Abercorn Street, the mansion was built for Samuel Pugh Hamilton, fine jeweler, socialite and businessman extraordinaire, his wife, and six children. Completed around Christmas of 1873, following two years of news coverage focusing on its stately construction, the prominent family mansion was built on Lafayette Square near the inspiring St. John the Baptist Cathedral (circa 1873) and across the square from Savannah's most wealthy businessman, Andrew Low. The first building in Savannah to install electricity, the mansion boasts 19<sup>th</sup> Century skylights and talking pipes, a flat tin roof -- credited with saving it from the great Savannah Fire of 1889 -- and masterful craftsmanship of Mid Victorian and Second French Empire architecture.

A genealogical pedigree shows the 42-year-old mansion was the home and office of Dr. Francis Muir Turner, a local osteopath. In 1928 the Turner family turned their house over to the Marine Hospital to use as a nurses' house. Ole Doc Turner could not abide by the noise and smell of the gas cars, and was well known by his neighbors for his electric car which he kept in running order well into World War II. With anticipation to demolish the mansion, The Catholic Diocese of Savannah purchased the building from Dr. Turner's widow. Gaining momentum from salvaging the Isaiah Davenport home, Historic Savannah Foundation negotiated successfully with the Diocese to purchase the mansion, thus sparing it from destruction in the 1960s.

Gilbert DiLucia converted the property to four apartments, giving it a much needed facelift in 1972. Joe Odom's cousin, Ruben Lee "Buzz" Harper purchased the house in 1987. The 117-year-old Hamilton–Turner House becomes the center of controversy due to Joe Odom's management. The controversy involves outrages parties, party goers camping in the yards and in Lafayette Square, and the selling of liquor without a permit. Amid neighborhood humiliation, in 1991, Ruben sold the house to Dr. Charles Hillis and Nancy Hillis. For a short time the house falls into quiet coexistence with its neighbors as an apartment building. Then, John Berendt's book "Midnight in the Garden of Good & Evil" is published, plunging the mansion into controversy when one of its characters, "Mandy"(aka Nancy Hillis), tries to capitalize on the book by converting the basement into a museum and a souvenir shop dedicated to "the book."

The 124-year-old grand dame is given a new lease on life when Charlie and Sue Strickland buy the house from Nancy Hillis in 1997. Their plans to turn the Hamilton-Turner House into a bed & breakfast are met with enthused support from the neighborhood. In February 2003, veteran Innkeepers, Rob & Jane Sales, purchase the Inn. The Sales have returned the mansion inn to its prominence as a socialite family mansion ... with doors open to discerning travelers, including family vacationers, executives, and social events, including weddings, receptions, reunions, and luncheons.

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## Historic Awards

National register, local register and city historical site.

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## Historic Memberships

Historic Savannah Foundation

Georgia Historical Society

[Association of Historic Inns of Savannah](#)

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## Inspected/Ratings

AAA Four Diamond Property (since 2001)

Select Registry member (since 2003)

## Special Discounts

AAA and AARP discounts honored.

Packages: Hip & Historic Savannah Travel & Leisure, Mansion Luxury & Romance, St. Patrick's and Thanksgiving holidays, winter holiday packages, weekday business executive lodging, full house reservations, family vacation packages, and mansion or garden weddings. Gift certificates are available.

## Activities

Weddings & receptions, small meeting room for business or social luncheons, friends and family reunions, and private gardens provide memorable leisure and intimate relaxation. Films, children's reading libraries, and family games (indoor and outdoor) are provided.

Antique shopping, art galleries, bicycling, fishing, golf, heritage festivals, live theater, museums, parks, boutique and mall shopping, sporting events, tennis, golf, deep-sea fishing and tours (garden and historic). The Inn's Tybee Island cottage near the Atlantic Ocean beaches may be reserved for a family beach vacation or honeymoon.

On staff wedding consultants and culinary chefs will assist with weddings, special event planning, business luncheons or retreats.

## Need More Information?

For additional information and more photos please visit [www.Hamilton-TurnerInn.com](http://www.Hamilton-TurnerInn.com) or call the inn at (912) 233-1833 or (888) 448-8849. **Media and photo inquiries** are welcome. E-Mail Address: [Info@Hamilton-TurnerInn.com](mailto:Info@Hamilton-TurnerInn.com)

