

PRESERVING THE PAST

WITHOUT federal preservation laws, much about the Leake Site would remain unknown and this trail wouldn't exist.

Before this road (Highway 61/113) was widened in 2007, federal law required the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to identify, evaluate, and mitigate the damage or other adverse effects that road construction would have on the Leake Site.

Archaeologists working for GDOT discovered that the Leake Site was larger and more important than previously known. This triggered more work to recover the information that might be lost due to the road construction.

Recognizing an important cultural resource, the City of Cartersville and Bartow County had already begun to purchase land at the Leake Site in order to protect and preserve it.

Federal, state, tribal and local government continue to work together to preserve the Leake Site.



In 1940, a new road was built directly over one of the mounds at the Leake Site. Before 1966, archaeological sites were usually not protected from this kind of damage.

Although sites may still be damaged today, there are more laws protecting them and research is usually done to preserve important data, if not the actual site.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

You may not have heard of this act, but it has helped to preserve Bartow County's rich history, as well as the cultural heritage of our entire country.

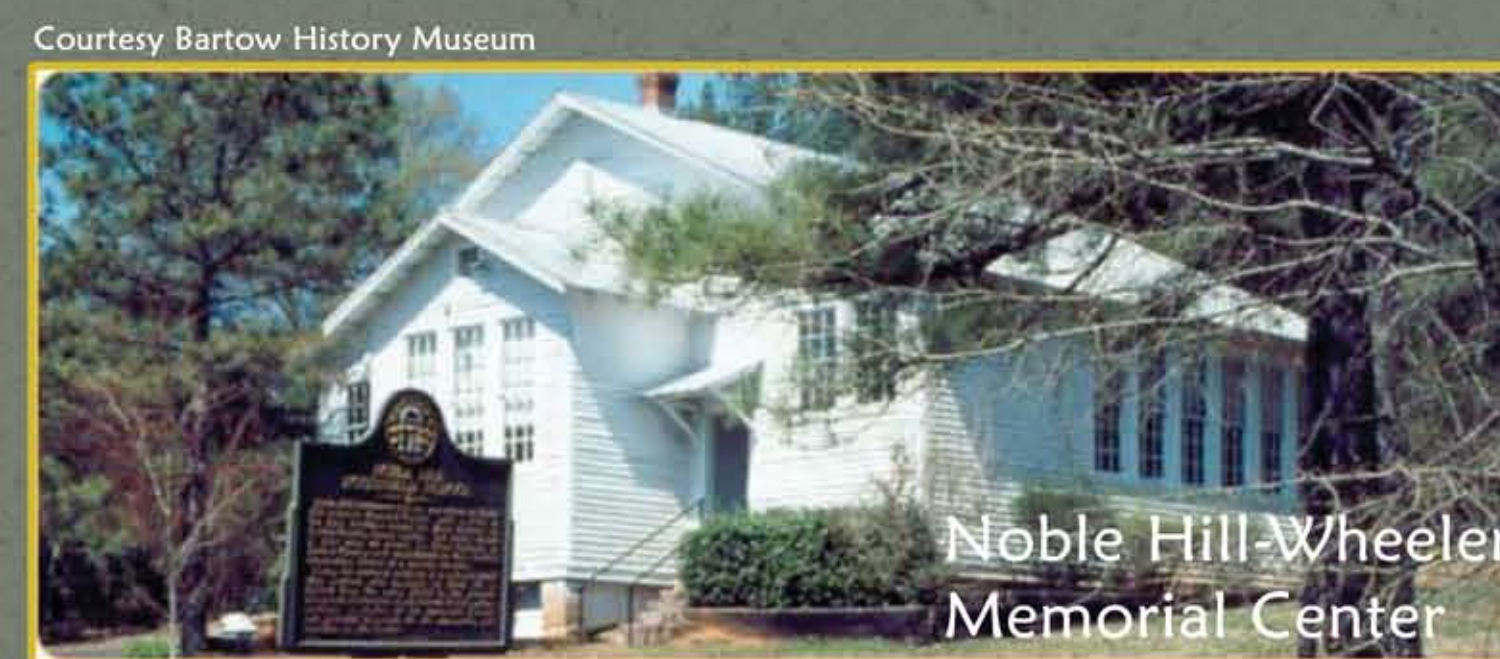
Section 106 is one of the important parts of this act. Under this section, the effects which any federally-funded project, such as road construction, might have on a historic property must be identified, evaluated, and mitigated (meaning any adverse effects need to be kept to a minimum).

The act also identified different kinds of historic properties such as districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects. For example, you are standing in two historic properties, the Leake Site and the Etowah Valley Historic District.

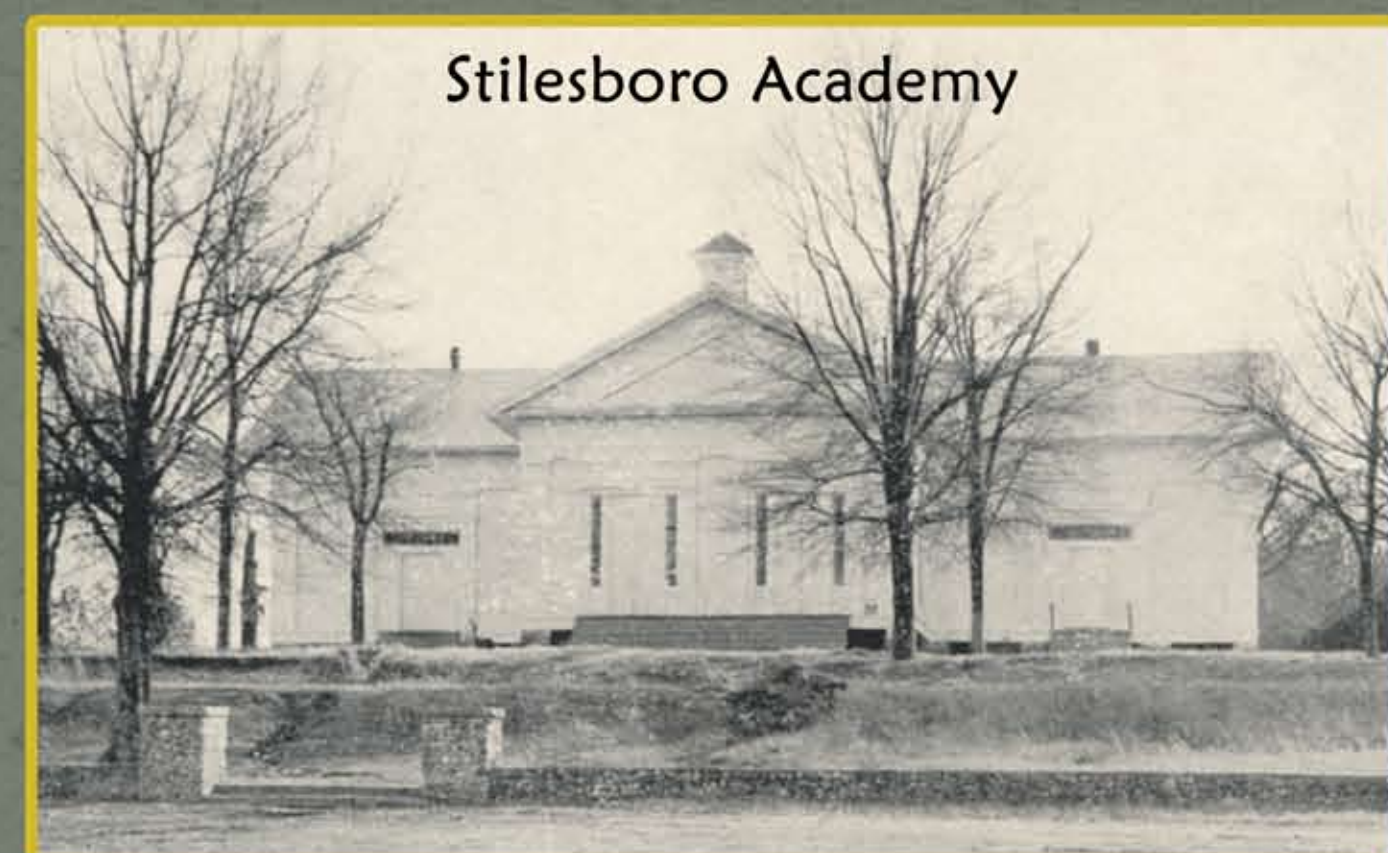
Pictured here are just a few local historic properties that have been protected by federal, state, and local preservation efforts. Recognize any?



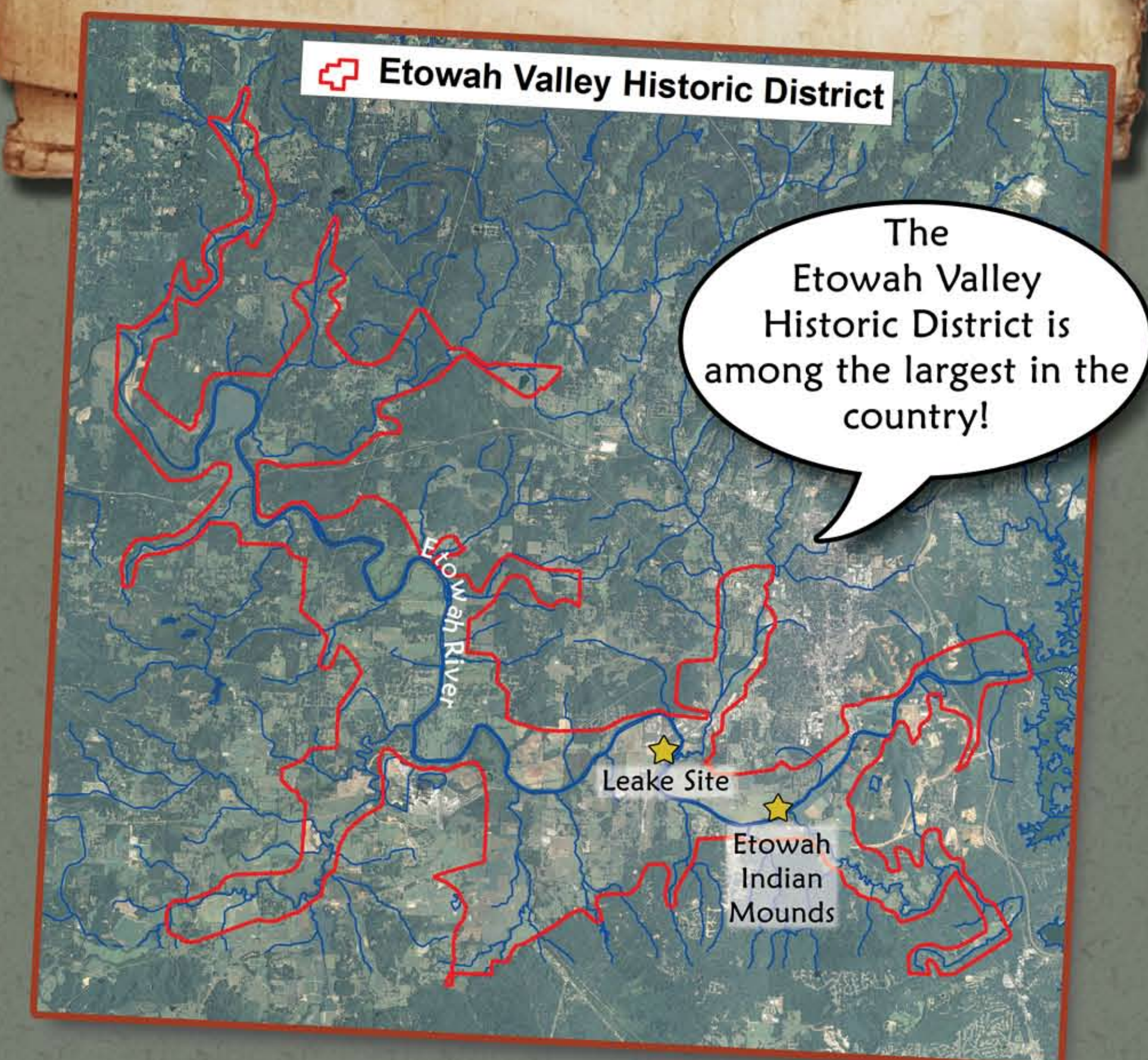
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