



July 8, 2010
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HAPEVILLE MOVES HISTORIC CHRIST CHURCH

HAPEVILLE, Georgia – moves Historic Christ Church (c.1895)! Hapeville braces for the move of its oldest standing church structure; a critical step in downtown restoration plans. On Saturday, July 10, 2010 at 9 a.m. the Historic Christ Church will be hoisted onto beams and moved to the City's downtown park. The project is a joint effort of the City of Hapeville, the Hapeville Association of Tourism and Trade and the Hapeville Historical Society. Hapeville Mayor Alan Hallman, members of City Council, members of the Hapeville Historical Society, and members of the Historic Christ Church Restoration Committee will be present at the Jess Lucas Park, located at 680 S. Central Avenue, Hapeville, GA. 30354.

Currently, the Historic Christ Church is located at the Depot Complex, right along the railroad tracks to the east side of the Hapeville Depot, on South Central Avenue. The proximity to the railroad tracks have taken their toll overtime and engineers who looked at the building advised that the structure must be moved in order to save it. Movement to the park location away from the noise and vibration from the railroad tracks will ensure that the structure can be enjoyed by future generations.

After the move, to be executed by Roy Bishop Housemovers, has been completed, bids will be taken to restore the church to its original condition. Once renovated, the relocated Christ Church will be operated by the Hapeville Association of Tourism and Trade and will serve as a special exhibits and events facility as an integral part of bringing visitors to the historic downtown. It is expected that the renovations to the Historic Christ Church will be completed in the first quarter of 2011.

About the Depot Complex Restoration Project

A Transportation Efficiency (TE) grant was secured from the Georgia Department of Transportation for the restoration of the historic Hapeville train depot. The depot, originally constructed in 1890, and expanded in 1947, has been the home of the Hapeville Historical Society museum since 1982. The TE grant, along with the City's match, will fund a comprehensive restoration of the building, including updating the electrical, plumbing, and HVAC systems, improving ADA access, and modernizing the exhibition space. A pedestrian plaza will be constructed outside the building on the site currently occupied by the Christ Church and will include planters, seating and water features. It is expected that the plaza renovation will be completed in 2011.



History of Hapeville Christ Church

Hapeville Christ Church is the oldest standing church structure in the City of Hapeville, Georgia. Records from 1889 document the intention to organize Christ Church with Sam Hape (who in 1891 served as Hapeville's 1st mayor and for whom Hapeville is named) as Senior Warden & Treasurer. From 1895 until 1906 the building actually functioned as a church. During the period between 1909 and 1932 the church was used for numerous functions including a classroom space and a private residence. In 1985 the Hapeville Historical Society took an option to purchase the building, and plans were made to restore the Church to match photographs taken of the interior and exterior in the 1890s. Since 1985, the structure has been used extensively by the Historical Society and the community for special programs and activities.

About the Hapeville Association of Tourism and Trade

The Hapeville Association of Tourism & Trade (HATT) Board, comprised of the Mayor and Council of Hapeville, is charged with reinvesting hotel/motel tax dollars into projects and programs that increase tourism and trade opportunities in the City.

About Hapeville

Hapeville is centrally located south of downtown Atlanta between I-75 and I-85 immediately adjacent to Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. With the City government focused on planning for the future, Hapeville has experienced significant revitalization. Notably, the former Ford Motor Co. site is currently being redeveloped by Jacoby Development, Inc., world-class developers of Atlantic Station.

Hapeville is home to the original Dwarf House Chick-fil-A and Wachovia's Processing Center. Quality residential development in Hapeville's various neighborhoods ranges from craftsman style bungalows and Chicago style traditional town homes to loft condos. Hapeville is also a designated Main Street City with a historic downtown featuring a Historic Depot Museum, recently renovated storefront facades, a lively downtown park, and a unique butterfly public art program. Things are taking off in Hapeville! Please visit www.hapeville.org for City news and events.

To learn more about the move of the Historic Christ Church please contact City Councilman, and steering committee member, Richard Murray at 770-789-6940 OR contact Hapeville Historical Society President, Charlotte Rentz at 404-641-5071.

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