

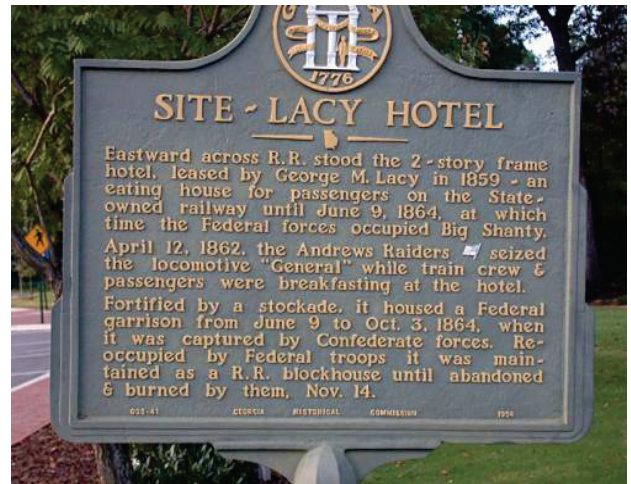
Historical Marker Project

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The following paper was prepared under the direction of Dr. Jennifer Dickey at Kennesaw State University for an Introduction to Public History course.

The Lacy Hotel is a primary example of a historical marker from the Georgia Historical Commission that can both educate people and illustrate a historical event from the Civil War. This marker is also fascinating because visitors can overlook the hotel's significance since it is no longer a standing building but is now a historical memory in Kennesaw, Georgia.

Melissa Scharffenberg, an investigator at CACI International in Kennesaw, Georgia, wrote about the Lacy Hotel in her thesis for her Master of Arts degree from Georgia State

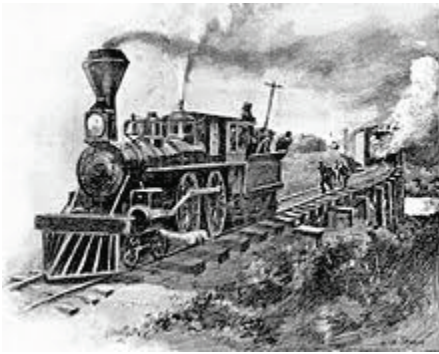


University. She delves into the history of the hotel and the role it played in the Big Shanty area during the Civil War. The history of the Lacy Hotel began on November 2, 1858. Lemuel Kendrick, who was a railroad contractor as well as the wealthiest citizen of Big Shanty, was the first proprietor of the Lacy Hotel. Kendrick then passed the management of the hotel to George Lacy.

George Lacy operated the Lacy Hotel from 1859 to 1864, the year General William Tecumseh Sherman burned it down during his March to the Sea. Lacy was known to employ "colored servants" to work at the hotel. According to Scharffenberg, Lacy was not listed on the 1860 list owning any slaves so it is most

likely that the servants were enslaved people who were hired out to Lacy by their masters. The hotel was able to provide services for the travelers visiting Big Shanty.

The most well-known story associated with the Lacy Hotel involves the Great Locomotive Chase that took place during the Civil War. The hotel was a popular stop for traveling troops. Merchants as well as civilians used the locomotives. It functioned as an eating-house for railway workers, and among its clientele were the



train crew and passengers of the famous *General* who were busy eating and socializing when Andrew's Raiders stole the *General* locomotive on April 12, 1862.

The marker accurately portrays the story of the locomotive chase that involved the Lacy Hotel. The historical marker for the Lacy hotel is conveniently located to the left of the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive history. It is also one of four historical markers lining that side of the railroad and all of the markers are able to tell the story of Andrew's Raiders and Big Shanty. The Lacy Hotel plays a vital part in illustrating Big Shanty's history during the Civil War and even though the building is gone the Lacy Hotel, which was an important business in the community, is memorialized with this historical marker.

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