

## Second Grade Tour Scope



Watkinsville, originally incorporated as “Big Springs” in 1801, served as the county seat of Clarke County until 1871 when Athens became the county seat. In 1875 Oconee County was established, and Watkinsville became its county seat. Eagle Tavern is one of the earliest surviving structures in Oconee County. Eagle Tavern was built circa 1801 when Watkinsville was a frontier town on the edge of Creek Indian Territories. It served as a local meeting place, a resting place for weary stage coach travelers, a mercantile, and, later, a boarding house. In 1806, the first courthouse was built across the street from Eagle Tavern. Today students can explore their local history and government through tours of Eagle Tavern and the circa 1939 Courthouse including the Board of Commissioners, a courtroom, judge’s chambers, and the Old Jail. The Oconee County Welcome Center staff and volunteers will work with you to coordinate tours and plan a picnic lunch with a visit from one of our local leaders.

At Eagle Tavern, students will compare and contrast their experiences to those of people living in the colonial and early Federal period. Students will use their background knowledge of the colonial period and figures such as James Oglethorpe, Mary Musgrove, and Tomochichi as a jumping off point for discussion. Students will explore economics questions of the period by answering questions such as:

What would the original owners/builders of the Tavern (Josiah Wood and Robert Easley) have given up moving to the frontier?

What did they stand to gain by creating a new business on the frontier? (A: trade with Native Americans, larger tracts of land available, less competition)

In the Eagle Tavern mercantile, student will identify ways in which goods and services are allocated by learning why most items would have been made at home, what types of items would only have been available to buy, and why these items were the “luxury” purchases of the day. Organization and role of local government, laws, and consequences of breaking laws will be discussed throughout a tour of the Oconee County Courthouse and the Old Jail.

**Georgia Social Studies Standards Met:** SS2H1.b, SS2E1, SS2E2, and SS2CG1

