

## • Third 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.

Students will use their background knowledge of Paul Revere, the Revolutionary War, and early U.S. government, to set the stage for exploration of life in the early Federal period as seen at Eagle Tavern. Using items available in the mercantile, students will explore why certain items would be sold while other items were made at home. Through this exploration, students will be able to describe the interdependence of consumers and producers in this time period.

A tour of the Oconee County Courthouse will allow students to explore Our Democratic Heritage on a local level. Tours of the Courthouse including Board of Commissioners, courtroom, judge’s chambers, and the Old Jail show examples of separation of power and levels of local government. Students will examine the roles and responsibilities of local government; identify what areas hold executive, legislative, and judicial power; and the role of the BOC in setting taxes and allocating tax money to meet needs throughout the community.

**Georgia Social Studies Standards Met:** SS3H2.a, SS3CG1, SS3E2, and SS3E3 a, b, &c

