

Georgia Historical Society app allows iPhone users to view and find markers across the state

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By Chuck Mobley

The venerable Georgia Historical Society has jumped on the vanguard of the digital era with a new iPhone app that delivers a veritable font of information about the state's historical markers with just the touch of a finger.

The Georgia Historical Marker Application is free and available at the iTunes App Store, said Will Hanley, the coordinator of the marker program.

There are some 2,000 individual historical markers across the state, and "well over 1,000" of those are already loaded in the database, with the rest to be eventually added, said Hanley.

In downtown Savannah alone, he added, there are more than 100 markers.

The app, developed by Smack Dab Studios of Savannah, is based on GPS coordinates. It enables iPhone or iPad users to view markers that are close to their exact location in map or list view.

It also delivers directions from their current location to the marker, and allows them to email marker details to their friends. Once the app opens, its background is designed to resemble old parchment paper, said Hanley.

"This application is entirely unique and new to the history market," said Hannah Byrne, the owner and chief creative officer of Smack Dab Studios. "We are proud to have partnered with GHS on such an exciting technology."

Founded in 1839, the GHS has administered the state's marker program since 1998. Its new app "is just one of the many ways GHS hopes to make history more accessible to the general public," said W. Todd Groce, president and CEO of the GHS.

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