



# The Old Atlanta Prison Farm

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA  
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Jacob C. Brewer | Freshman Composition | Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> 2020

## Overview

- A relic from the past quietly stowed away in the middle of a booming metropolis, An artifact of Americas Justice system and the in the deep souths Historic prison system. The Atlanta Prison farm was an experiment starting in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century with a very blurry past and uncertain history. One of the most interesting and well-kept secrets of Atlanta's past can be found just north of Ellenwood, GA. This is The "old" Atlanta Prison farm.



## Early History

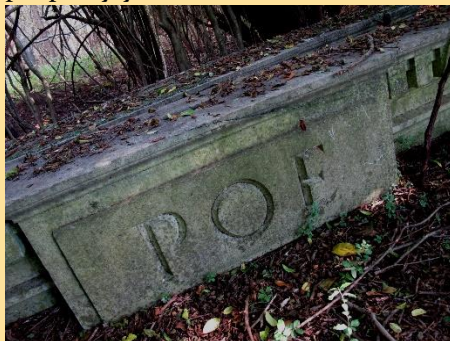
During the height of the civil war The Atlanta council proposed buying the massive piece of property the Prison sits on roughly 150 acres which was originally supposed to be used as a cemetery, the resolution to do so never passed. The following year the field played a large role in the deadly battle of Atlanta. In the years following the deadly battlefield passed back into the hands of private ownership. Until the federal government purchased the land to build a POW camp in 1917 which also fell through until the Federal Penitentiary in Atlanta purchased the property in 1918 and build under the leadership of first warden "Pet Fry". Fry named the experiment "The honor farm" as the idea was there would be no armed guards or barbed wire fencing to keep low risk prisoners from escaping. Instead the guards would be experts in agriculture.

## Hay Day

Over the years the small honor experiment Grew in numbers and production and the farm had crops on all of the land which had now grown to over 300 acers, the Prisoners loved the farm as they were able to learn new skills and we able to grow enough crops and milk to sustain themselves and send crops back to the main penitentiary. The prime time of the prison was around 1950, after that the history begins to get shady, the City of Atlanta purchased the property and federal prison operations stopped.

## Final Days

1. After the city of Atlanta purchased the property all federal prisoners were moved out and replaced with state prisoners, and as history shows us state run prisons are ran much poorly than federal institutions. Farming on the property ceased and many complaints were filed for poor health conditions with prisoners. Soon after in 1966 the prison was closed. Since then the property has shifted from government hands to private landowners several times. Fires and mother nature have taken their toll on the ruins, but the main structures still stand and can be seen today. The city of Atlanta has recently purchased the property and has stopped all people from coming and seeing the property, to do so is now trespassing. If you care to take the risk of going to jail or running into the rumored Ghost that inhabit the property you can visit the site at any time. 1402 Key Rd, ATL, GA, 30316.



## Credits,

[https://assets.atlasobscura.com/media/WisiZilsInVwbG9hZHMvcGxhY2VfaW1hZ2VzL2U2YmMoYTBiLTlmMGMtNGE3YSihMjl5LTY2MDQyZmQ2ZTAwNGJhZjg5MmZhMjE4YTcxNzA2NF9GQl9JTUdfMTUyNzE4MzMzMjUxNi5qcGciXSxbInAiLCJoaHVtYiIsIngzOTA-IIosWyJwliwiY29udmVydClisliixdWFsaXR5IDgxIC1hdXRvLW9yaWVudCjdXQ/FB\\_IMG\\_1527183322516.jpg](https://assets.atlasobscura.com/media/WisiZilsInVwbG9hZHMvcGxhY2VfaW1hZ2VzL2U2YmMoYTBiLTlmMGMtNGE3YSihMjl5LTY2MDQyZmQ2ZTAwNGJhZjg5MmZhMjE4YTcxNzA2NF9GQl9JTUdfMTUyNzE4MzMzMjUxNi5qcGciXSxbInAiLCJoaHVtYiIsIngzOTA-IIosWyJwliwiY29udmVydClisliixdWFsaXR5IDgxIC1hdXRvLW9yaWVudCjdXQ/FB_IMG_1527183322516.jpg)

[https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fmedium.com%2Fabout-south%2Fweird-south-archive-materials-on-the-old-atlanta-prison-farm-7f8b28a78781&psig=AOvVaw3\\_G4b1EEafEYJuReEJ6dnC&ust=1603716411038000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=oCAIQjRxqFwoTCPjftbDjz-wCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAe](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fmedium.com%2Fabout-south%2Fweird-south-archive-materials-on-the-old-atlanta-prison-farm-7f8b28a78781&psig=AOvVaw3_G4b1EEafEYJuReEJ6dnC&ust=1603716411038000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=oCAIQjRxqFwoTCPjftbDjz-wCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAe)

[https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/v1/55fc4boee4b04ab751ba4acb/1547044427013-VNC77IIQJ04XPRB4CAIR/ke17ZwdGBToddI8pDm48kDnk5isiE9\\_D16zF8NgdJQN7gQa3H78H3Yotxjaiv\\_ofDoOvxcdMmMKkDsyUqMSsMWxHk725yiiHCCLfrh8O1z5QPOohDlaIeljMHgDF5CVIOqpeNLcl8oNK65\\_fV7SiUSONsxCSA1nzol8o-1K9JDJ4UMzJe8-WeGS6skV5SdxowEDNxB2oP8TJubhDalhwg/Save+The+Old+Atlanta+Prison+Farm%3A+Blog?format=250ow](https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/v1/55fc4boee4b04ab751ba4acb/1547044427013-VNC77IIQJ04XPRB4CAIR/ke17ZwdGBToddI8pDm48kDnk5isiE9_D16zF8NgdJQN7gQa3H78H3Yotxjaiv_ofDoOvxcdMmMKkDsyUqMSsMWxHk725yiiHCCLfrh8O1z5QPOohDlaIeljMHgDF5CVIOqpeNLcl8oNK65_fV7SiUSONsxCSA1nzol8o-1K9JDJ4UMzJe8-WeGS6skV5SdxowEDNxB2oP8TJubhDalhwg/Save+The+Old+Atlanta+Prison+Farm%3A+Blog?format=250ow)

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.savetheoldatlantaprisonfarm.org%2F&psig=AOvVaw3ai4fLn98avZzMrnooJiat&ust=1603766941197000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=oCAMQjBiqFwoTCLD3p8ifoewCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAD>



[https://assets.atlasobscura.com/media/W1siZiIsInVwbG9hZHMvcGxhY2VfaW1hZ2VzL2U2YmMoYTBiLTlmMGMtNGE3YS1hMjI5LTY2MDQyZmQ2ZTAwNGJhZjg5MmZhMjE4YTcxNzA2NF9GQl9JTUdfMTUyNzE4MzMyMjUxNi5qcGciXSxbInAiLCJoaHVtYiIsIngzOTA-IlosWyJwliwiY29udmVydCIsliixdWFsaXR5IDgxIC1hdXRvLW9yaWVudCJdXQ/FB\\_IMG\\_1527183322516.jpg](https://assets.atlasobscura.com/media/W1siZiIsInVwbG9hZHMvcGxhY2VfaW1hZ2VzL2U2YmMoYTBiLTlmMGMtNGE3YS1hMjI5LTY2MDQyZmQ2ZTAwNGJhZjg5MmZhMjE4YTcxNzA2NF9GQl9JTUdfMTUyNzE4MzMyMjUxNi5qcGciXSxbInAiLCJoaHVtYiIsIngzOTA-IlosWyJwliwiY29udmVydCIsliixdWFsaXR5IDgxIC1hdXRvLW9yaWVudCJdXQ/FB_IMG_1527183322516.jpg)

[https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fmedium.com%2Fabout-south%2Fweird-south-archive-materials-on-the-old-atlanta-prison-farm-7f8b28a78781&psig=AOvVaw3\\_G4b1EEafEYJuReEJ6dnC&ust=1603716411038000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=oCAIQjRxqFwoTCPjftbDjz-wCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAE](https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=https%3A%2F%2Fmedium.com%2Fabout-south%2Fweird-south-archive-materials-on-the-old-atlanta-prison-farm-7f8b28a78781&psig=AOvVaw3_G4b1EEafEYJuReEJ6dnC&ust=1603716411038000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=oCAIQjRxqFwoTCPjftbDjz-wCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAE)

[https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/v1/55fc4boee4bo4ab751ba4acb/1547044427013-VNC77IIQJ04XPRB4CAIR/ke17ZwdGBToddI8pDm48kDnk5isiE9\\_D16zF8NgdJON7gQa3H78H3Yotxjaiv\\_ofDoOvxcdMmMKkDsyUqMSsMWxHk725yiiHCCLfrh8O1z5QPOohDIalelJMHgDF5CVIOqpeNLcJ8oNK65\\_fV7S1USONsxCsSA1nzoI8o-1K9JDJ4UMzle8-WeGS6skV5SdxowEDNx82oP8TJubhDalhwg/Save+The+Old+Atlanta+Prison+Farm%3A+Blog?format=2500w](https://images.squarespace-cdn.com/content/v1/55fc4boee4bo4ab751ba4acb/1547044427013-VNC77IIQJ04XPRB4CAIR/ke17ZwdGBToddI8pDm48kDnk5isiE9_D16zF8NgdJON7gQa3H78H3Yotxjaiv_ofDoOvxcdMmMKkDsyUqMSsMWxHk725yiiHCCLfrh8O1z5QPOohDIalelJMHgDF5CVIOqpeNLcJ8oNK65_fV7S1USONsxCsSA1nzoI8o-1K9JDJ4UMzle8-WeGS6skV5SdxowEDNx82oP8TJubhDalhwg/Save+The+Old+Atlanta+Prison+Farm%3A+Blog?format=2500w)

<https://www.google.com/url?sa=i&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.savetheoldatlantaprisonfarm.org%2F&psig=AOvVaw3ai4fLn98avZzMrnooJiat&ust=1603766941197000&source=images&cd=vfe&ved=oCAMQjBiqFwoTCLD3p8ifoewCFQAAAAAdAAAAABAD>







