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Tour Highlights

Commissioned by Samuel Pugh Hamilton "the Lord of Lafayette Square" in 1871, the Hamilton mansion was completed by Christmas of 1873. From its beginnings, the Hamilton House was the talk of the town as the entertainment haven for Savannah's high society and the fashionable people of the world visiting Savannah. In the late 19th century Savannah's 400 and royalty from abroad vied for invitations to Hamilton House. The first building in Savannah to have electric lighting, it is reported that Savannah's citizenry stood in dark of night in Lafayette Square taking bets that the building would explode upon activation of electricity in the formal parlor.

The 20th century owner, Ole' Doc Turner, continued his care for mankind's needs through his selfless generosity and helping to preserve nature's balance with his electric car. He considered gas engine automobiles were polluting the environment.

The Historic Savannah Foundation – which began their efforts saving the Isaiah Davenport House – purchased the Lafayette Place mansion from the Catholic Diocese of Savannah, sparing the Savannah treasure from the wrecking ball.

The early 21st century scandalous book by John Berendt – "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" chronicling the rapscallion attorney Joe Odom's antics -- place the "Victorian Lady" mansion squarely in the annals of history that makes the Hamilton-Turner Inn unforgettable.

19th Century and Hamilton-Turner Inn's architectural tidbits:

- The mansion's architecture features a tin roof with skylights. The tin roof is credited with saving the mansion from the high winds and whirling embers of the catastrophic 1898 Savannah fire.
- Originally, the mansion was equipped with speaking pipes to communicate throughout the 4 stories.
- The brick walls on the basement level foundation are 24 inches thick.
- The Second French Empire windows and interior room doors (with curved tops) are 12 feet tall.
- Originally the mansion had 6 family bedrooms. Today the plush bed and breakfast has 12 guestrooms in the mansion and 4 accommodations in the courtyard carriage house.
- The house was one of the first in the city to have an indoor privy.
- Uniquely, the luxury inn is family friendly and is equipped with a wheelchair lift with handicap compliant accommodation.
- Lafayette Square was the first Savannah square to have electricity. In 1889, Brush Electric Light & Power Company was awarded the contract to light the streets of Savannah. President of the firm, Hamilton is quoted in newspaper accounts as saying "Savannah will be one of the best lighted cities in the South." Today it truly is.
- Mr. Hamilton was instrumental in the establishment of the first artesian wells for Savannah now known as the "old water works of Savannah."
- Disrespectful loafers who sat on the wooden park square railings were fined \$1.00 and jailed overnight.
- Men who used obscene language in the presence of ladies were fined \$5.00.

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Architecturally Notable Park Mansion, Savannah Family-friendly historic hotel, Luxury Inn & Romantic Bed and Breakfast
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