The Kennesaw House

1860s

1890s

The Kennesaw House is one of Marietta's oldest buildings. It was built in 1845 as a cotton warehouse, and was not yet known as the Kennesaw House. Dix Fletcher purchased the cotton warehouse in 1855, and after remodeling it, opened the Fletcher House Hotel.

During the early years of the Civil War, the hotel was used as a Confederate hospital and a morgue. In addition, Andrews' Raiders stayed in a second floor room on the evening prior to their theft of the steam engine, "The General."
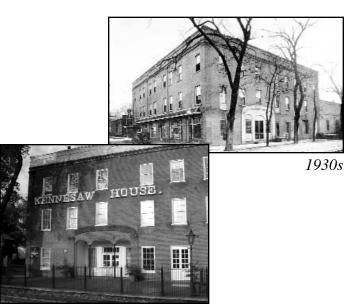
As the war was nearing its end in July of 1864, the Union Army took over the building, and when General Sherman came through town on his "March to the Sea," he did not burn the Fletcher House. It is believed that Sherman spared the hotel because Dix Fletcher was a Mason and because his son-in-law, Henry Cole, was a Yankee spy. However,

the fourth floor did catch fire as ashes from other burning buildings blew onto the roof, and the fourth floor was not rebuilt.

After repairs to the Fletcher House were completed in 1867, Dix Fletcher reopened the hotel, and renamed it the Kennesaw House. The Kennesaw House remained a hotel until the 1920s, when the first floor was converted to retail shops, leaving the hotel on the second and third floors.

In 1979, the building was gutted, and converted into an office complex. Various businesses and restaurants occupied the building for the next 14 years, until the Downtown Marietta Development Authority purchased the building. Then, under the direction of Marietta City Councilman Dan Cox, the second and third floors were completely renovated to house the Marietta Museum of History on the second floor and offices on the third.

1930s

2002