

# Georgia State Prison



**GEORGIA**  
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

## MISSION

The Georgia Department of Corrections protects the public by operating safe and secure facilities through the development of professional staff and effective offender management.

**Timothy C. Ward**, Commissioner  
**Ahmed Holt**, Assistant Commissioner Facilities Division

Built in 1936 to house juveniles, Georgia State Prison (GSP), formerly Georgia Industrial Institute, was purchased by the state in 1937 for approximately 1.3 million dollars. At one time, GSP was considered a Hi-Max facility, responsible for housing the most dangerous offenders in the state. The mission of the facility now, is to ensure public safety by effectively operating a safe and secure facility while housing medium-security general population, mental health and problematic male adult offenders incarcerated in the Georgia prison system.

## HISTORY

- On July 23, 1978, Correctional Officer Dan Harrison was killed in the line of duty during a riot referred to as Bloody Sunday
- Officer Harrison was killed while attempting to aid a fellow Officer
- A bronze statue was erected and placed in the rotunda of GSP in his memory
- On May 29, 2013, the Department dedicated a memorial plaque outside Roberts Chapel at GDC headquarters in memory of officers killed in the line of duty
- Officer Harrison's name is one of the 27 that appear on the plaque

## PROPERTY

- Opened 1937, renovated 1979
- Houses over 1,500 special-mission adult male felons
- Approximately 9,800 acres of land
- 4,500 acres in cultivation
- Large percentage of the state's vegetable, beef, pork, and dairy products consumed in the state's facilities are produced on the GSP reservation
- Staff housing on property
- Offender cemetery on property

## HOUSING

- Nine buildings containing four, three-tiered cell blocks with single cells
- One building with four dormitories that are two-tiered cell blocks with single cells

INFORMATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

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# CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

- In January 1938, the electric chair was moved to GSP in Reidsville
- First execution took place on May 6, 1938 and the last was October 16, 1964
- From 1924 to 1964, there were a total of 415 executions: 162 in Milledgeville & 253 in Reidsville
- First woman to be executed was Lena Baker
- Supreme Court suspended all executions in the United States from 1964 to 1976
- In June 1980, the electric chair was moved to the Georgia Diagnostic Classification Prison (GDGP) in Jackson, and executions resumed; no longer taking place at GSP
- In 2001, the Supreme Court ruled the use of the electric chair violated the state constitution's ban on cruel and unusual punishment

## INMATE WORK DETAILS

- Contract with Evans County
- Georgia Correctional Industries detail
- Grounds and outside maintenance
- Mobile construction
- Outside maintenance
- Fire Station

## ACCREDITATION

### AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

- First prison in the United States to receive accreditation for health care delivery services

### AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION

- First prison in the state to receive accreditation for meeting the requirements set forth by the ACA for Adult Correctional Facilities

## PROGRAMMING

### ACADEMIC

- General Equivalency Diploma
- Adult Basic Education
- Literacy Remedial Reading

### COUNSELING

- Motivation for Change
- Reentry Skills Building
- Matrix Early Recovery Skills
- Matrix Relapse Prevention
- Thinking for a Change
- Moral Reconation Therapy
- Family Violence
- Lifer's Group
- Sex Offender Psycho Educational Program

## CAREER, TECHNICAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION

- Ashland University
- Custodial Maintenance
- Building Maintenance
- Kitchen Helper
- Food Prep
- Laundry
- Warehouse/Store Clerk
- General Clerk
- Chaplaincy/Education
- Law Library/Library
- Welding
- Sheet Metal Worker
- Electrician Helper
- Plumber Helper
- Construction Worker I
- Painter I & II
- Groundskeeper
- Barber
- Carpenter Apprentice
- Career Guidance Technician
- Fire Fighter I
- Pipe Fitter
- Small Engine Mechanic
- Auto Detailing
- Food Service-Baker
- Forklift Operator
- Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC)
- Horticulture
- Recreation Aide
- Beekeeping