

Furs to FACTORIES

9. Historic District Of Reliance



Perched on river banks next to the Hiwassee River and surrounding mountains, this turn-of-the-century farm and trade community provides a glimpse of life in a rural crossroads farm community in the late 1800's. The historic district, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, includes Webb Brothers Store, the L&N Railroad Watchman's House, Hiwassee Church, and Higdon Hotel. The river bottoms here were farmed for centuries before European contact, but after the Cherokee Removal, European-American families moved in to farm the valley. Sarah Reed Vaughn was the "keeper of the mail" and is credited with naming the community "Reliance." In 1890 the railroad came to Reliance and the small mountain crossroads became a whistle stop on the line that linked Knoxville to Atlanta. The Historic Railroad Watchman's House still sits next to the Old Line Railroad tracks and river trestle. It was built in 1898 for the L&N Railroad Watchman whose job was to watch the railroad trestle for burning embers spewed by steam engines and to douse the flames with water. Webb Brothers Store is still there, looking much the same as it did in the early 20th Century. It is open from spring until early winter. The old Higdon Hotel and Hiwassee Union Church are not open to the public but they offer a glimpse into the landscape of a Victorian mountain community. Surrounded by the Cherokee National Forest, the John Muir Trail and Benton MacKaye Trail can be accessed from Reliance. Today, Reliance also includes commercial rafting and fly fishing companies.

Hwy 30/310
Reliance, TN 37369
423-338-2373

www.webbbros.com

Hours: Daily, from sunrise to sunset. Store open spring-fall.