

Timeline of *The Battle of Atlanta* Cyclorama painting

- **November–December 1885** Field studies at site of 1864 Battle of Atlanta by American Panorama Company of Milwaukee.
- **June 1886** First copy of *The Battle of Atlanta*, painted by 20 mainly German artists in Milwaukee at a cost of about \$40,000, opens in Minneapolis; moves to Indianapolis in May 1888. Owners declare bankruptcy August 1890.
- **February 1887** Second copy of *The Battle of Atlanta* opens in Detroit. This “twin” copy no longer exists; last reported in Baltimore, 1899.
- **May 1889** In Indianapolis promoter Paul Atkinson purchases *The Battle of Atlanta* and moves it to Chattanooga.
- **February 1892** Atkinson moves *The Battle of Atlanta* to Atlanta where it is displayed in a wooden building on Edgewood Avenue. In a prime early example of promotional spin, newspaper ad proclaims it the “only Confederate victory ever painted.” The display is a financial failure. Roof on building falls in.
- **August 1893** Ernest Woodruff buys painting at fire sale price and then immediately resells to George V. Gress and Charles Northen for a small profit. Repairs on painting proceed. *The Battle of Atlanta* then is moved to a new wooden structure in Grant Park (located on Cherokee Avenue near the Augusta Avenue park entrance) but business still falters, in part due to competition with new nickelodeon theaters.
- **March 1898** Gress donates the painting to the City of Atlanta on condition that building and painting be repaired.
- **February 1908** Locomotive *Texas* donated to the City of Atlanta. Put on outdoor display in Grant Park in 1911; placed inside new Cyclorama building in 1927.
- **October 1921** New “fireproof” building in Grant Park (which becomes the painting’s home for the next nine decades) dedicated. Six-foot-wide vertical slice removed from painting to fit it into this building.
- **1934–1936** Works Progress Administration (WPA) restoration team creates new diorama foreground with 128 plaster figures and repaints portions of the painting. Clark Gable figure added in 1940, after “Gone With the Wind” star visits cyclorama.
- **1959–1977** Deteriorating conditions prompt intense debate over future of Cyclorama. City considers two new sites downtown or construction of a new building in Grant Park.
- **March 1977** Atlanta City Council votes to keep Cyclorama in its 1921 building due to cost considerations. Mayor Maynard Jackson appoints committee to study options.
- **1979–1982** Cyclorama building closed while conservation team led by Gustav Berger treats the painting in situ and adds new diorama surface. Extensive renovations to building, including new ground level entrance and revolving seating. Total cost: about \$11 million.
- **September 2011** Mayor Kasim Reed forms Atlanta Cyclorama Task Force to study conservation issues and economic viability at Grant Park and other possible sites.
- **July 2014** Mayor Reed announces move of *The Battle of Atlanta*, locomotive *Texas*, and related artifacts to Atlanta History Center. 75-year license agreement signed in December.
- **July 2015–February 2017** Detailed preparations to ready *The Battle of Atlanta* painting for move to the Lloyd and Mary Ann Whitaker Cyclorama Building (which broke ground in December 2015) on the Atlanta History Center’s 33-acre Buckhead campus.
- **December 2015** The *Texas* locomotive moved to the North Carolina Transportation Museum for complete restoration.
- **February 2017** Scrolled onto two 45-foot-tall steel spindles, the painting is moved from Grant Park to the Atlanta History Center, where a complete restoration will proceed by spring.
- **Fall 2018** Projected public opening date for the Lloyd and Mary Ann Whitaker Cyclorama Building at the Atlanta History Center.