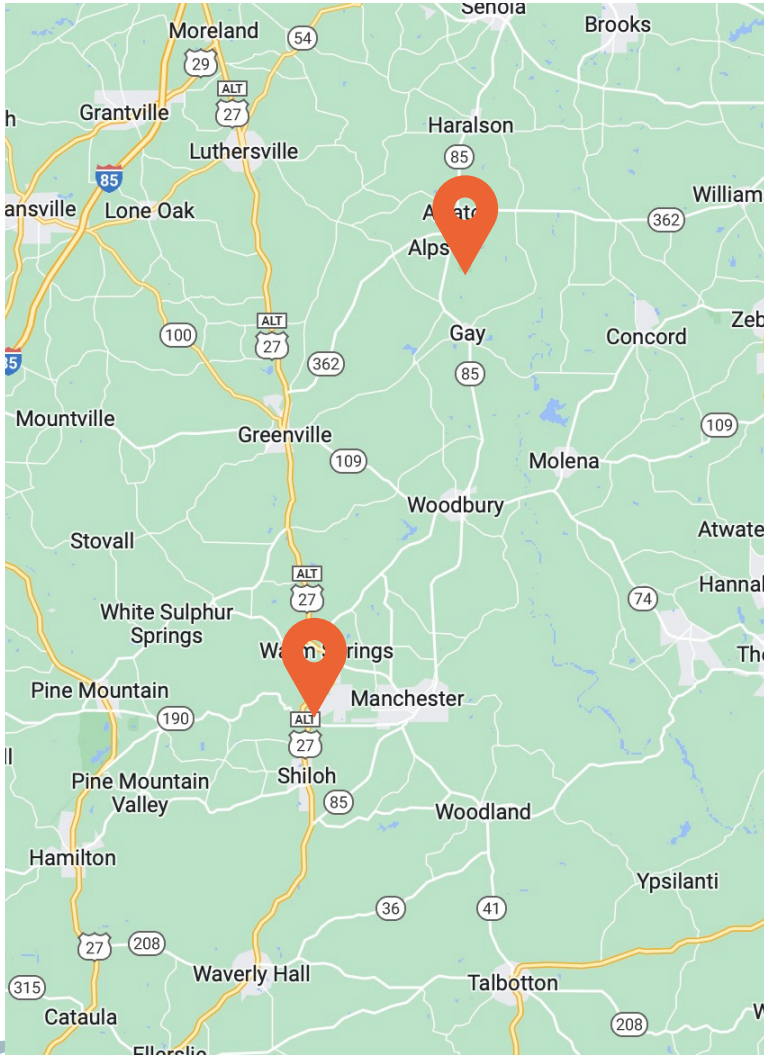


# PHILBET'S WORLD

Growing up, Philbet Lawson's whole world is Alvaton, Warm Springs, and the 25-mile stretch of road that connects them.



## Alvaton, GA

Alvaton was founded in the early 1900s and named after Alva Pinkston McCrary, whose father was a local physician and farmer. The town owes its existence to the expansion of the Atlanta, Birmingham and Atlantic Railroad, a 240-mile run from Montezuma, Georgia to Birmingham, Alabama. Residents of Alvaton saw their first post office in 1908. (Author Jeffrey Dale Lofton's great-grandfather was postmaster.) Three years later, the Georgia Assembly incorporated Alvaton as an official town, a rural outpost where railroad jobs were its economic mainstay,

Alvaton did not prosper over time, however, and its "town" status was dissolved in 1995. It still exists today as an unincorporated community in Meriwether County at the crossroads of Griffin Highway and Millarden Road. There is no current population data for the place where Griffin and Millarden meet; it has not been included in the United States Census counts for a very long time.

A one-stoptlight town? Nope, not even. Alvaton has one roadside flashing caution light, with plans for no more.



## Warm Springs, GA

Picturesque, Victorian-era Warm Springs is best known as the home of Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Little White House. The town is nestled among rolling hills and is famous for its geothermal-heated, believed-to-be-curative waters. Completed in 1933, just prior to FDR's inauguration, The Little White House is a cottage really, surrounded by pine trees in the southern end of town and was Roosevelt's getaway during his four terms as President of the United States. As many of us know, he contracted polio in 1921 at the age of 39 and found soaking in the area's mineral waters therapeutic for his paralyzed legs. The FDR Memorial Museum in Warm Springs is imbued, in part, with Roosevelt's deep commitment to helping people with disabilities.

If Warm Springs is on your travel itinerary and you want a literal taste of Southern Hospitality, try Bulloch House, a meat-and-three restaurant widely known for their buffets featuring fried chicken, fried green tomatoes, and coconut cake. For lighter fare, try their Lightnin' Bugs Bakery and Cafe.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt died unexpectedly in one of The Little White House's six rooms in 1945. The menu of his last meal and the collar of his beloved Scottish Terrier, Fala, are on display in the cottage. Fala, a news media sensation for much of his life, outlived Roosevelt by seven years and is buried near his humans (Franklin and Eleanor) at Springwood, the Roosevelt estate that overlooks the Hudson River.