

## Statesboro Blues

Written by bluesever

Tuesday, 23 August 2011 19:46 - Last Updated Friday, 13 March 2015 16:12

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## Statesboro Blues

Gregg Allman gave his brother Duane the Taj Mahal album as well as a bottle of medicine for his cold. The next time Gregg saw him, Duane had emptied the bottle, washed the label off, and was using it to play slide guitar.

**Duane Allman** started playing **Statesboro Blues** after hearing the version by Taj Mahal. **Taj Mahal** made a *"wonderful modernized version"* on his eponymous 1968 debut album.

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There are really two "Statesboro Blues" (blueses): first by Blind Willie McTell, second by Allman Brothers Band.



## Blind Willie McTell

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**Blind Willie McTell** originally conceived and recorded his song in the 1920s in the prewar solo style. The title refers to the town of Statesboro, Georgia. Because of the song, rumor had it that McTell was born in Statesboro; he was, in fact, born in Thomson, Georgia, though in an interview he called Statesboro *"my real home."*

In Statesboro you can go see the building where Willie McTell wrote this song. It's the Hattie Holloway cabin located behind the Statesboro Inn.



### Blind Willie McTell's Cabin

McTell made the first recording of the song on Victor, on October 17, 1928. The eight sides he recorded for Victor, including "Statesboro Blues," were described as *"superb examples of storytelling in music, coupled with dazzling guitar work."*

McTell learned how to play the guitar during his teens. He soon became a street performer around several Georgia cities. Although he never produced a major hit record, McTell's recording career was prolific, recording for different labels under different names all throughout the 1920s and 30s, often with other people. In 1940, he was recorded by John Lomax for the Library of Congress's folk song archive.

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Duane Allman