

4.06 ORIGIN OF GOLD LOTS IN GEORGIA

In 1828 gold was first discovered just a few miles south of what became Dahlonega, the county seat of Lumpkin County.

The place was called Auraria by John Calhoun of South Carolina, who owned the Calhoun Mine. This mine alone yielded \$20,000,000 in gold between 1829 and 1839. A United States Mint was built in Dahlonega because of this great production, and the American Historical Association has recognized now that the first Big Gold Rush in America was in Georgia . . . not California.

On December 21, 1830, by Act of the Legislature, the state surveyed the whole Cherokee area into four sections and further subdivided these sections into land districts nine miles square as nearly as practicable. The districts, in turn, were divided into land lots 40 chains square or 160 acres in area on December 24, 1831, by Act of the Legislature, under the title MINES, certain specific land districts were designated by number, to be divided into 40 acre lots, 20 chains square, called The title of the Act reads: "To lay out the gold region..."

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Sections and Districts:

1st Section	5 districts (1-2-3-4-5)	40 acre gold
	5 districts (6-7-8-9-10)	160 acre land
	5 districts (11-12-13-14-15)	40 acre gold
	4 districts (16-17-18-19)	160 acre land
2nd Section	3 districts (1-2-3)	40 acre gold
	11 districts (4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14)	160 acre land
	5 districts (15-16-17-18-19)	40 acre gold
	1 district (20)	160 acre land
	1 district (21)	40 acre gold
	6 districts (22-23-24-25-26-27)	160 acre land
3rd Section	4 districts (1-2-3-4)	40 acre gold
	12 districts (5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15-16)	160 acre land
	5 districts (17-18-19-20-21)	40 acre gold
	7 districts (22-23-24-25-26-27-28)	160 acre land
4th Section	3 districts (1-2-3)	40 acre gold
	12 districts (4-5-6-7-8-9-10-11-12-13-14-15)	160 acre land
	2 districts (16-17)	40 acre gold
	2 districts (18-19)	160 acre land
93 districts (60 land; 33 gold)		

—From Surveyor-General Department,
Secretary of State, GA.

It is supposed that a geological study was made of such areas which could be deemed gold bearing. However, this does not appear in the Act of 1831, except in the title as above.