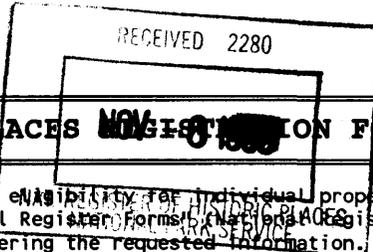


Resub



97-334

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Gillespie-Selden Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Located in a residential area southwest of downtown Cordele immediately north of US 280/SR 30. The district is roughly bounded by CXS Railroad and 13th Avenue on the north, 11th Street on the east, 16th Avenue on the south, and 15th Street on the west.

city, town Cordele (N/A) vicinity of
county Crisp code GA 081
state Georgia code GA zip code 31015

(N/A) not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	87	37
sites	1	0
structures	2	0
objects	0	0
total	90	37

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Mark R. Edwards
Signature of certifying official

10/29/98
Date

Mark R. Edwards
State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Ma J. M. [Signature] 12/21/98

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

for _____
Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling
COMMERCE/business
EDUCATION/school
EDUCATION/education-related
RELIGION/religious facility
HEALTH CARE/hospital
TRANSPORTATION/rail-related

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling
COMMERCE/business
RELIGION/religious facility
TRANSPORTATION/rail-related
OTHER/day-care services

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Craftsman
OTHER/Folk Victorian
OTHER/saddlebag
OTHER/pyramid cottage
OTHER/shotgun
OTHER/double shotgun
OTHER/central hallway
OTHER/gable ell
OTHER/bungalow
OTHER/Georgian cottage
OTHER/American Foursquare
OTHER/Queen Anne cottage

Materials:

foundation brick, wood
walls brick, wood, concrete block, stucco
roof standing seam metal, asphalt shingles
other stone

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Gillespie-Selden Historic District is located in a small historically African-American neighborhood in southwest Cordele, the seat of Crisp County (the neighborhood remains African-American today). The Gillespie-Selden Historic District is situated within a neighborhood arranged in a grid pattern with alleys running through the center of the blocks. Several lines of the CSX Railroad run through the northern end of the district. The lots are narrow and generally run north to south with a few corner lots running east to

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

west. Historically, the neighborhood was densely developed with various resources such as lodges, churches, a hospital, school, corner stores, and residences. Today, the neighborhood remains densely developed retaining most of its historic resources.

The majority of the buildings are one-story wood-framed residences featuring uniform setbacks from the streets (see photos 9 and 10). Several of the residences incorporate two lots; the residence is situated on one lot and the yard extends to the adjacent lot. The historic residences were built during the late 19th and early 20th centuries and feature minimal stylistic detailing. Larger brick residences and educational buildings are concentrated near the Gillespie-Selden Institute.

The Gillespie-Selden Institute, located at the corner of 15th Avenue and 12th Street, includes a complex of buildings consisting of the President's Home, Founder's Home (Dr. Clark's House), girls' dormitory, Gillespie Memorial Hospital, Administration Building, and Selden Cottage. The President's Home, built c.1925, is located next to the girls' dormitory and is a two-story brick building with Craftsman-style detailing (see photo 2). The Founder's Home, also known as Dr. Clark's House, is a Colonial Revival-style house built c.1941 and located on 15th Avenue near St. Paul Presbyterian Church (see photo 5). The girls' dormitory is a three-story brick building with Colonial Revival-style features built in 1929. This building was one of the first brick buildings constructed on the campus (see photo 4). The Gillespie Memorial Hospital is a one-story brick building with a center gable built in 1937 with Colonial Revival-style features (see photo 6). The Administration Building, built in 1937, is a two-story brick building featuring a center tower with Colonial Revival style detailing (see photo 1). Selden Cottage, which served as a nursing school, is a two-story brick building constructed in 1949.

The historically African-American churches, built during the early 20th century, are located at or near the intersections of major streets within the neighborhood. The churches are situated on small lots and do not have cemeteries. The churches include St. Paul Presbyterian Church built c.1900, Allen Temple African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church built c.1912, Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church built in 1915, and Gesthsemene Missionary Baptist Church built in 1936. These churches are among the largest buildings within the district. Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church is the only church that does not feature a front tower. The front-gable wood-framed church features a small cupola, a rear cross gable, cornice returns, small fixed decorative windows, paired vertical two-over-two double-hung windows, and two main entrances with double doors (see photo 16). Gesthsemene Missionary Baptist Church is a gable-front building with two front towers. The building is constructed with ornamental

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

concrete block featuring a broken ashler face. The Allen Temple AME Church is a large stuccoed cross-gable building with two front towers. The main entrances are located at the base of each tower (see photo 7). St. Paul Presbyterian Church is a brick gable-front building featuring a side tower. The building features Gothic Revival-style tracery windows, pointed arch door surround, and lancet fanlight over the front double doors (see photo 3).

Historically, the neighborhood included several corner stores; however, many have been lost. The corner store located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 280/16th Avenue and 14th Street is representative of the type of corner store remaining within the district. The one-story gable-front building features a large store-front window, off-center main entrance, and open interior space (see photo 8).

The landscaping within the district consists of a historically open field located on Block 130 Land Lot 237 at the intersection of U.S. Highway 280/16th Avenue and 13th Street, mature hardwoods lining the streets, grass yards with foundation plantings, and the houses with uniform setbacks (see photos 9 and 10). The open lot was historically used as a site for tent revivals during the summer months by traveling ministers (see Attachment 1). The open lots adjacent to and behind the Administration Building of the Gillespie-Selden Institute were historically used as recreational fields and continue to be used as recreational fields.

During the last three decades, the Gillespie-Selden neighborhood has lost some of its historic building stock. The nonhistoric development surrounding the district includes public housing, mobile homes, ranch homes, storage facilities, and stores. The smaller area of the neighborhood included within the district encompasses the most intact concentration of surviving historic resources associated with the Gillespie-Selden neighborhood. The resources include representative examples of all the major types of buildings that ever existed in the area, including houses, corner stores, and churches as well as the landmark Gillespie-Selden Institute.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

ETHNIC HERITAGE: AFRICAN-AMERICAN
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
RELIGION
EDUCATION
MEDICINE
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance:

c.1890-1949

Significant Dates:

- c.1890 - Earliest houses built in the neighborhood.
- c.1902 - Founding of the Gillespie Normal School by Dr. and Mrs. Augustus Clark.
- c.1933 - The merge of Gillespie Normal School with the Selden Institute in Brunswick, Georgia.
- 1949 - Construction on Selden Cottage.

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Unknown.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Gillespie-Selden Historic District is located southwest of downtown Cordele in Crisp County, Georgia. The district includes an African-American residential neighborhood, the Gillespie-Selden Institute, a few commercial buildings, and several African-American churches. The district is significant in ethnic heritage: African-American, community planning and development, religion, education, medicine, and architecture.

Gillespie-Selden Historic District is significant in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: African American and community planning and development as a good representative example of a historically urban African-American residential neighborhood in Georgia. The district encompasses historic African-American resources built following the settlement of Cordele in 1888. Even though Cordele did not have zoning ordinances dictating where whites and blacks could settle within the city, such as in Atlanta, Augusta, and some other larger cities in Georgia, the settlement of the town was influenced by the accepted "Jim Crow" segregation practices of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. According to the *African-American Historic Places and Culture: A preservation Resource Guide for Georgia*: "Starting in the 1890s, 'Jim Crow' laws provided legal sanction for the increasing segregation of blacks from whites..." Since African-Americans could not settle in established white communities, they were forced to build their own communities which included schools, churches, stores, hospitals, and other institutions.

In Cordele, as well as in many other urban cities and rural towns in Georgia, geography was a significant force in determining community planning. Even though a city-wide grid pattern of streets was established, the Gillespie-Selden Historic District area was considered undesirable land for settlement by whites since it was located at the bottom of a hill and adjacent to the railroad tracks. The area suffered from a lack of breezes and loud noises associated with the railroad. Gunboat Hill, a white residential neighborhood on the hill just south of the Gillespie-Selden Historic District (south of 17th Avenue), developed during the same period as Gillespie-Selden neighborhood. The white residents of Gunboat Hill were removed from the problems of living at the bottom of the hill. This pattern is typical of Georgia communities in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

A significant force in the development of the Gillespie-Selden Historic District was accessibility to housing and social and cultural institutions. According to the *African-American Historic Places and Culture* resource guide, the lack of accessibility to white institutions by the "Jim Crow" practices "led to the establishment of strong black social and cultural institutions, like lodges, fraternal organizations, and schools, and to the founding of black-owned and operated businesses, which along with churches, formed the nucleus of Georgia's growing black neighborhoods and communities." The Gillespie-Selden district, with its community landmark buildings representing schools, churches, a hospital, and stores, surrounded by housing, is an excellent example of this development pattern.

The district is significant in the areas of religion, education, and medicine for the its association with St. Paul Presbyterian Church and the church's role in establishing educational and medical institutions within the Gillespie-Selden neighborhood. To understand the overall significance of this historically African-American historic district, it is essential to understand the important role of the church in African-American communities. In *An Era of Progress and Promise 1863-1910: The Religious, Moral, and Educational Development of the American Negro Since His Emancipation*, the author explains that the most important and significant contribution to the African-American community was the construction of churches by those living within the communities. He continues to explain that one main reason why African-American churches were the main focus and were able to provide for those living within African-American communities was because "There was far more toleration for the Negro church than for any other Negro organization. In this way the church came to have a very large place in the life of the Negro people. It became and has remained the key to the higher progress of the masses."

Within the Gillespie-Selden Historic District, the outreach missionary role of Dr. Augustus S. Clark (1874-1959) and of St. Paul Presbyterian Church is significant to the development of the neighborhood. Dr. Clark completed his theological training at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania in 1897; he was sent by the Presbyterian National Board of Missions to Cordele in 1898 as a missionary to help the struggling Portis Memorial Presbyterian Church. During that same year, a loan was secured from the Board of the Church Erection Fund of the General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church for the construction of a new church building to be named St. Paul Presbyterian Church.

In 1902, Dr. Clark and his wife, Anna, realized that there were less than adequate educational institutions for African-Americans to attend in Cordele as well as in the entire southwest region of the state. Dr. Clark taught elementary-level and Sunday-school classes in the

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

basement of St. Paul Presbyterian Church but found that he needed more space. Dr. Clark made an appeal to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church for funds to build a school in Cordele. By 1904, enough money had been donated by white members of northern Presbyterian churches, especially the Gillespie family of Pittsburgh, that three buildings of the school complex were constructed. In honor of the Gillespie family, Dr. Clark named the school the Gillespie Normal School. During its operating years, the institute included the school, a hospital, a nursing school, boarding houses/dorms, and recreational facilities, of which all but the boys' dormitory survive today. In 1933, the school merged with the Selden Institute in Brunswick and the name was changed from Gillespie Normal School to Gillespie-Selden Institute. During the 1940s, the Gillespie-Selden Institute was the only black accredited high school in Cordele. The school drew its students from not just Cordele but the entire eastern seaboard below New York. The school was closed in 1956 due to a city-wide consolidation of the school system. The Gillespie-Selden Institute exemplifies the type of private often church-related schools for African-Americans established in Georgia during a period of time when support for public schools for blacks was weak.

Along with establishing a school for African-Americans, providing health care was an important part of the Clarks' mission work. The nearest hospital available to African-Americans living in Cordele was in Atlanta. In 1925, financial assistance for a hospital was secured from Charles Helm, a white member of a northern Presbyterian church. The Charles Helm Hospital was opened on the second floor of one of the academic buildings of the institute. The hospital was staffed by white and African-American doctors and African-American women training to be nurses. In 1937, the Gillespie Hospital was constructed and named for Mr. William Gillespie, who donated the needed funds to build a larger hospital building. The Gillespie Hospital maintained 25 beds and a full staff of doctors and nurses. An accredited nursing school was organized in 1943 at the hospital and graduated 20 African-American students that same year. Gillespie Memorial Hospital represents the social and legal segregation of blacks and whites in Georgia during the late 19th and early 20th centuries and shows how African-American communities established self-supporting institutions. It is one of a very few documented historic African-American hospitals remaining in Georgia.

The district is significant in the area of architecture for its good representative examples of late 19th- and early 20th-century residential, commercial, and community landmark resources. The majority of the historic residences are one-story wood-framed buildings. The few two-story historic residences are concentrated near the Gillespie-Selden Institute. The architectural types of

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

historic residences represented within the district include central hallway, gable ell, saddlebag, pyramid cottage, Georgian cottage, Queen Anne cottage, bungalow, and American Foursquare, as defined in *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*. The central hallway, Georgian cottage, shotgun, double shotgun, and gable ell were architectural types popular in Georgia during the mid-to late 19th century. These architectural types were constructed in both rural and urban setting and are associated with the laboring class. Many of the early settlers into the Gillespie-Selden neighborhood were laborers working for the railroad. Good examples of these architectural types within the neighborhood include the gable ell cottage located on 14th Avenue (see photo 12), the central hallway cottage on 15th Avenue (see photo 18), and the double shotgun cottage on 13th Street (see photo 19).

The saddlebag, pyramid cottage, bungalow, Queen Anne cottage, and American Foursquare architectural types were popular in mostly urban areas of Georgia during the late 19th to early 20th century. The mixture of types associated with the laboring class (saddlebag and pyramid cottage) and middle class (bungalow, Queen Anne, and American Four Square) represents the mixture of laboring- and middle-class African-Americans settling in the Gillespie-Selden neighborhood during the late 19th and early 20th century. Since the emerging African-American middle class could not locate in established white middle-class neighborhoods due to segregation, they settled in existing working-class African-American neighborhoods. Good examples of these architectural types within the neighborhood include the pyramid cottages on 12th Street (see photo 11), the bungalows on 14th Street (see photo 14), the American Foursquare house on 15th Avenue (see photo 5). Since African-Americans did not have the opportunity to settle in white neighborhoods due to segregation, the housing stock within the district represents the blend of African-American laborers and professionals.

The architectural styles of historic residences represented within the district include Colonial Revival, Folk Victorian, and Craftsman, as defined in *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*. Dr. Clark's House, also known as the Founder's House, is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style (see photo 5). The character defining features of the American Foursquare-type house include a hipped roof with overhanging eaves, paired six-over-six double-hung windows, and one-story full-width front porch. Decorative shingles are located along the second story and clapboard cladding is located along the first story. The Colonial Revival style was very popular in Georgia for a long period, from the 1890s through the 1940s and beyond. The Craftsman style is well represented within the district; the style is primarily found on bungalow-type homes.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

Excellent examples are located along 15th Avenue (see photos 9 and 15). The character-defining features include a low-pitched roof, shed dormer, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails, and battered porch columns set on masonry piers. The Craftsman Style was the most popular early 20th-century style in Georgia. Craftsman houses were built across the state in rural, small town, and urban settings from the 1910s through the 1930s.

A few commercial resources remain within the district. The corner store intersection of U.S. Highway 280/16th Avenue and 14th Street is representative of the stores remaining within the district (see photo 8). The character-defining features of the store include its location on a corner, long narrow form, gable-front roof with exposed rafter tails, and large display window. Other extant examples include the corner store located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 280/16th Avenue at 14th Street. The character-defining features of the brick building include its location on a corner, overall square massing with hipped roof, large display windows, and front entrance with double door oriented towards the corner.

The community landmark resources include several excellent examples of churches, buildings associated with the Gillespie-Selden Institute, and an open lot historically used as the site of church revivals. There are four historic churches included within the district: St. Paul Presbyterian Church built c.1900 (see photo 3), Allen Temple AME Church built c.1912 (see photo 7), Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church built in 1915 (see photo 16), and Gesthsemane Missionary Baptist Church built in 1936. As defined in the *Historic Black Resources: A Handbook For the Identification, Documentation, and Evaluation of Historic African-American Properties in Georgia*, historic urban African-American churches have different characteristics than rural examples. Unlike rural churches, urban churches are physically larger, situated on smaller lots, and do not feature cemeteries. The above mentioned churches are among the largest buildings within the district and are situated at or near major intersections. The churches share several character-defining features, such as twin and single towers, gable-front and cross-gable forms, and large open interior spaces.

The remaining extant buildings associated with the Gillespie-Selden Institute include the girls' dormitory, built in 1929; Gillespie Memorial Hospital, built in 1937; Administration Building, built in 1937; and Selden Cottage, built in 1949. These buildings are excellent examples of community landmark buildings found within historically African-American neighborhoods. The Colonial Revival style of the Founder's House is carried to the other institute buildings. The girls' dormitory is an excellent example of the

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

Colonial Revival style. The character-defining features of the brick three-story building include an overall symmetry, gable-end roof with one-bay side dependencies, wide overhanging eaves with modillions, cornice trim, quoins, six-over-six double hung windows, and decorative window surrounds on the row of first-floor windows (see photo 4). Gillespie Memorial Hospital is also an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style. The character-defining features of the one-story brick building include an overall symmetry, a hipped roof with a center pedimented front-projecting gable, decorative swags separated by a round ornament, and a main entrance framed by a fanlight, sidelights, and pilasters (see photo 6). The Administration Building is a good example of a building with Colonial Revival elements. The character-defining features on the brick two-story building include an irregularly shaped form, three-story front tower, belt courses, round windows, and keystones (see photo 1). One of the last buildings to be constructed within the Gillespie-Selden complex was Selden Cottage, the nursing school. The building is very plain and does not represent any architectural style; however, is it an excellent example of the Georgian house type.

The open lot located on Block 130 Land Lot 237 is significant as a site used by traveling minister for tent revivals during the summer months. The lot is "sandwiched" between two churches, Allen Temple AME Church and Gethsemane Missionary Baptist Church, and located one block from St. Paul Presbyterian Church. The land has remained open and is occasionally used for flea markets.

National Register Criteria

The Gillespie-Selden Historic District is eligible under National Register Criterion A for its association to the Gillespie-Selden Institute and the development of the African-American neighborhood. The district is also eligible under National Register Criterion C for its good representative examples of the types and styles of residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings and for the open lot used for tent revivals.

The district retains a relatively high level of integrity, especially when looked at in relation to other urban African-American National Register districts in Georgia. The district area encompasses representative examples of many of the major resource types within a concentrated area. These resource types include a goodly number of residences and churches, corner stores, a school complex with recreational fields, and a hospital. The large open space located near the intersection of U.S. Highway 280/16th Avenue is the site of past tent revivals and has retained in integrity since there has been no development of the land. The open land just west and south of the

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

Gillespie-Selden Institute was historically used as recreational fields and is still used as recreational fields today.

The district includes relatively few vacant lots. Approximately four of the vacant lots are the site of corner stores; the lots are located at the intersections of 13th Street and 14th Avenue, 11th Street and the alley just north, U.S. Highway 280/16th Avenue and 14th Street, and U.S. Highway 280/16th Avenue and 12th Street. The vacant lot located at the corner of 13th Street and 15th Street is the site of an African-American lodge. The remaining few vacant lots (approximately eight) once featured residences. Unlike other urban African-American neighborhoods, this district has not suffered from the common practice of "bulldozing" lots and leaving them vacant. Even with the vacant lots, the overall historic fabric of the neighborhood has remained intact.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

The Gillespie-Selden Historic District is eligible under Criterion Consideration A for its religious properties deriving their primary significance from their historical importance.

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the construction of the buildings within the neighborhood c.1890 and ends in 1949. The period of significance is extended to 1949 since that was the year that Selden Cottage, which housed a nursing school associated with the Gillespie-Selden Institute and Gillespie Hospital, was completed.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The 90 contributing resources encompass 87 contributing buildings which were constructed within the period of significance and maintain integrity; 1 site which consists of an open field located in Block 130 Land Lot 137; and 2 structures which consist of the intact historic grid pattern of streets and alleys and the CSX Railroad tracks. The 37 noncontributing resources were either constructed after 1949 or have lost historic integrity due to alterations and additions. The noncontributing resources include public housing developments, mobile homes, and ranch homes.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

The Gillespie-Selden Historic District is located southwest of downtown Cordele in Crisp County, Georgia. The plantation of Governor Joseph E. Brown was originally located on the site of Cordele in 1864.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

Sometime after the Civil War, H.C. Bagley, president of the Americus Investment Company, acquired the Brown Plantation. In 1887, the Savannah, Americus, and Montgomery Railway, financed by the Americus Investment Company, built a railroad route through the Brown Plantation. A year later, the Americus Investment Company surveyed the Brown Plantation and nearby land to develop a 200-acre settlement. Later, the settlement would be named Cordele.

During the early 1890s, Cordele experienced rapid and widespread growth due to the great success of the railroad. The area associated with the Gillespie-Selden Historic District developed during this period as a result of the railroad line passing through the most northern section of the district. The early African-Americans who settled in the neighborhood worked for the railroad and established a community to provide for their needs.

The Gillespie-Selden Institute, located on the corner of 15th Avenue and 12th Street, was founded by Dr. Augustus S. Clark and his wife, Anna Clark in 1902. The school was originally named Gillespie Normal School in recognition of the Gillespie family of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, whose financial gift made the school possible. The Clarks met the Gillespies during a Presbyterian conference in South Carolina. The Gillespies wanted to sponsor a Presbyterian school and decided to support the Clarks' goal of establishing an institute for African-Americans in Cordele. With the financial gift, the Clarks were able to build a school and support a boarding program. Students from the eastern section of the United States, such as New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida, attended the school. Some of the students worked as laborers in the rail yards to attend the institute. Gillespie-Selden Institute originally consisted of two wood-framed buildings, a faculty of three teachers, and an enrollment of 28 students.

A second school for African-Americans opened along with Gillespie-Selden Institute in Cordele. The Holsey Normal and Industrial Institute was founded in Lumber City in 1890 and moved to Cordele in 1902. However, the school suffered financial difficulties and closed shortly after its move to Cordele.

In 1925, a hospital was financially secured with a gift of \$1,000. At that time, the nearest hospital for African-Americans was located 160 miles away from the Cordele area. The first nurse was Mrs. Eula Burke Johnson, a graduate of the Gillespie Normal School. The hospital was located on the second floor of one of the early wood-framed buildings and consisted of two beds and one operating room. Local doctors, white and African-American, were on the staff. The Charles Helm Hospital, named for the benefactor who donated the financial gift,

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

also functioned as a nursing training school. The nurses trained in patient care at the hospital and attending classes at the Gillespie-Selden Institute. In 1937, a 25-bed hospital was constructed near the Gillespie-Selden Institute and named Gillespie Hospital for William Gillespie, who donated the funds needed to build the hospital. The hospital, in cooperation with the state nursing service and under the direction of Nurse Johnson, held weekly clinics for midwives who cared for over 50% of all maternity cases in this area of the state. In 1949, a separate nursing college, Selden Cottage, was constructed to house the nursing program.

In response to the growth of the Gillespie Normal School, the school merged with its sister school, the Selden Institute of Brunswick, Georgia, in 1933 and was renamed the Gillespie-Selden Institute. The school consisted of the Principal's home, a girls' dormitory, two rented homes to accommodate boys, a hospital, and an administration building. A vocational building contained classrooms for home economics, manual arts, and agriculture.

In 1942, the city of Cordele took over all responsibility for grades one through five and Gillespie-Selden maintained the junior and senior high programs. The institute was officially closed in 1956. Today, the institute is used to provide day-care and community outreach to those living in the nearby community.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Cordele-Crisp County Historical Society, Inc. Crisp County's History in Pictures and Stories. Atlanta: Wolf Associates, 1978.

"Gillespie-Selden Institute: The History of Gillespie-Selden Institute from 1902-1956." Southeastern News 5 August 1987, p. 5.

Bryant, Stella Gray. "Gillespie-Selden Historic District," Historic District Information Form, 8 August 1995. On file at the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, with supplemental information.

Hartshorn W. N., ed. An Era of Progress and Promise 1863-1910: The Religious, Moral, and Educational Development of the American Negro Since His Emancipation. Boston: The Priscilla Publishing Co., 1910.

Eaddy, Mary Ann, Donna Fuller, Carole Griffith, and Elizabeth Rosser. African-American Historic Places and Culture: A Preservation Resource Guide for Georgia. Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 1993.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (x) N/A

- () preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- () previously listed in the National Register
- () previously determined eligible by the National Register
- () designated a National Historic Landmark
- () recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- () recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- (x) State historic preservation office
- () Other State Agency
- () Federal agency
- () Local government
- () University
- () Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

Cp-313 through Cp-324

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 42 acres

UTM References

- A) Zone 17 Easting 236420 Northing 3540100
- B) Zone 17 Easting 236410 Northing 3539550
- C) Zone 17 Easting 235900 Northing 3539560
- D) Zone 17 Easting 235040 Northing 3540900

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Gillespie-Selden Historic District is drawn to scale with a heavy black line on the attached tax map.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Gillespie-Selden Historic District encompasses the contiguous historic resources located within the neighborhood associated with the Gillespie-Selden Institute.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Stella Gray Bryant/Preservation Planner
organization Middle Flint Regional Development Center
street & number 228 West Lamar Street
city or town Americus **state** Georgia **zip code** 31709
telephone (912) 931-2909 **date** August 1995

name/title Amy Pallante/National Register Specialist
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** October 1998

(HPS form version 10-29-91)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property: Gillespie-Selden Historic District
City or Vicinity: Cordele
County: Crisp
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: December, 1995

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 19 Administration building of the Gillespie-Selden Institute; photographer facing southwest.
- 2 of 19 President's House of the Gillespie-Selden Institute; photographer facing southeast.
- 3 of 19 St. Paul Presbyterian Church (located directly across from the Gillespie-Selden Institute); photographer facing northeast.
- 4 of 19 Girls' Dormitory of the Gillespie-Selden Institute; photographer facing southwest.
- 5 of 19 Two-story Craftsman residence located on 15th Avenue (across from the Gillespie-Selden Institute); photographer facing northeast.
- 6 of 19 Gillespie Memorial Hospital; photographer facing north.
- 7 of 19 Allen Temple AME Church; photographer facing northeast.
- 8 of 19 Corner of 16th Avenue @ 14th Street; photographer facing northeast.
- 9 of 19 Craftsman bungalow located on the corner of 15th Avenue @ 14th Street; photographer facing southwest.
- 10 of 19 Corner of 15th Avenue and 14th Street; photographer facing southeast.
- 11 of 19 Corner of 15th Avenue and 13th Street; photographer facing wouthwest.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

- 12 of 19 Corner of 14th Street @ 14 Avenue; photographer facing west.
- 13 of 19 Corner of 14th Avenue @ 13th Street; photographer facing southeast.
- 14 of 19 View of 14th Avenue streetscape; photographer facing east.
- 15 of 19 View of 13th Avenue streetscape; photographer facing northeast.
- 16 of 19 Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church; photographer facing southwest.
- 17 of 19 View of 12th streetscape; photographer facing northeast.
- 18 of 19 View of central hallway-type house; photographer facing northeast.
- 19 of 19 View of double shotgun-type house; photographer facing southeast.

Attachment 1
Gillespie-Selden Historic District
Cordele, Crisp County, Georgia
Source: 1926 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

