

PH0002887

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia
COUNTY: Fulton
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAY 2 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Roswell Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
See Section 7

CITY OR TOWN:
Roswell

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
5th Andrew Young

STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Fulton CODE: 121

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PUBLIC ACQUISITION: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered			
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments <u>Multiple Uses</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Multiple Owners

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Roswell

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Fulton County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Atlanta

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County

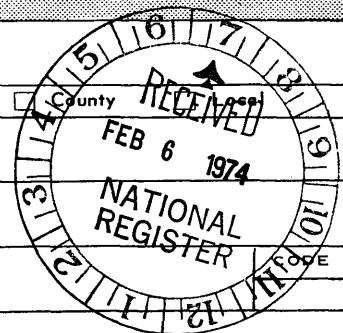
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Roswell Historic District lies east and west of Mimosa Boulevard and north of Barrington Hall which sits on the highest point in the area. It is essentially that area chosen and laid out by Roswell and Barrington King in the 1830's and developed into an important textile manufacturing community, important portions of which survive essentially intact. Boundaries of the district are as follows: beginning at the intersection of King Street and south Atlanta Street, west on King to Barrington Drive, north to and then west on Marietta Street, north following rear property lines of Bulloch Hall and then east following rear property lines of houses on north side of Bulloch Avenue; then north following rear property lines of houses on west side of Mimosa Boulevard beyond Great Oaks; east on Oak Street to include property of First Presbyterian Church Cemetery, and then back to Atlanta Street; continue south to and then east on Maple Drive to Elm Street; south on Elm to Sloan Street and then east to include rear property lines of houses on north side of Sloan Street including the Old Town Cemetery property; then south to south bank of Big Creek; follow creek bank west to a point parallel to Mill Street; follow property lines on to south side of Mill Street to rear property line of the Old Brick Apartments on Sloan Street and to the rear and side property lines of the Old Stores on Atlanta Street to the intersection of Marietta and Atlanta Street, then south on Atlanta to King Street.

Structures in the district are either of brick or frame, most are in the late-Georgian neo-classical style. The Kings and other original Roswell colonists were assisted by a builder-architect, Willis Ball, who came from Connecticut. They conceived a village which features what Frederick Nichols calls an "unrivalled group of temple houses [with] a functional, convenient plan within the strict framework of classical form." Authoritatively Nichols says Barrington Hall, Bulloch Hall and Mimosa Hall are "all superb examples of the temple house with a full pediment, the ultimate of the whole movement." Together with these three houses, a number of other distinguished structures survive to comprise a district with very real integrity as a 19th century planned manufacturing village developed around a town square. (For further details on individual structures refer to the inventory on the facing page.)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1837-1973**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>History</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Twenty miles north of Atlanta on a bluff above the Chattahoochee River is a well preserved village planned and begun by Roswell and Barrington King in the late 1830's on the newly opened North Georgia frontier. Streets, houses, a town square, industries, a store, churches and cemeteries were carefully located taking advantage of the natural topography as it was found. Big Creek provided water power for a cotton factory and a woolen mill which supported a New England village-like way of life with well-sited and exceptional well-designed Greek Revival style homes of mill-owners and neat smaller homes of mill employees, all within walking distance of a Presbyterian Church.

When the town was incorporated in 1854, the Act read as follows:

The Village at and around the factory buildings of the Roswell Manufacturing Company in the County of Cobb.....embracing an area of one mile in every direction from the Presbyterian Church in said Village, be and the same is hereby incorporated by the name and style of the Town of Roswell.

Seven families from Coastal Georgia led by Roswell King and his son Barrington had come to the area as the Indians were removed in 1837, '38 and '39. Sometime during those years the heads of these families erected a cotton factory which was incorporated as the Roswell Manufacturing Company. They built housing for the mill operators first, and then began to construct their own houses, a church and an academy. Most of what they built survives as they built it. Except for the mill complex, most of which was destroyed by fire in 1864 and again in 1929, everything is very much as it was with only minor intrusions and ordinary alterations. Sixteen different elements constitute the major features of the district. All are east and west of Mimosa Boulevard and north of Barrington Hall with which the following annotated list begins.

1. Barrington Hall: Marietta Street and Mimosa Boulevard; 1842. Located on about six acres across from the town square, Barrington Hall is an essential component of the original planned community and is an outstanding example of the Greek Revival temple form house with columns on three sides. Built by Willis Ball, a Connecticut carpenter, for Barrington King, it still remains in the King family. In 1905 Teddy Roosevelt, then President of the United States, was entertained here

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mitchell, William R., Jr., A Plan to Preserve Roswell's Historical Character, City of Roswell, 1973.
 Nichols, Frederick Doveton, Early Architecture of Georgia, University of North Carolina Press, 1957.

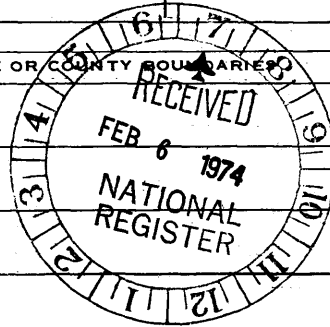
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	34°	01.	07 "	84°	22.	04 "			
NE	34°	01.	07 "	84°	21.	19 "			
SE	34°	00.	42 "	84°	21.	19 "			
SW	34°	00.	42 "	84°	22.	04 "			

NO UTM
of

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 120 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
William R. Mitchell, Jr., Director, Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION: Historic Preservation Section, Dept. Natural Resources DATE: May 10, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
270 Washington St., S.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Mary Gregory Jewett

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date May 10, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

A. Purcell
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/2/74

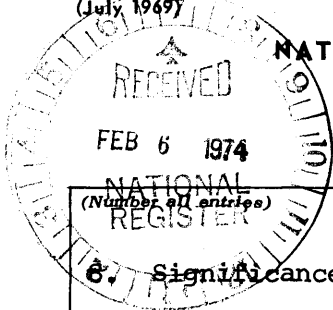
ATTEST:
W. J. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 5.1.74

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6. Significance - 2

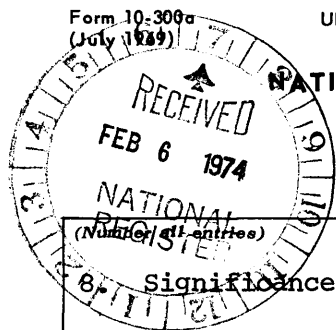
by Evelyn King Baker, a bridesmaid at his parents' wedding in 1853. Miss Katherine Baker Simpson, present mistress of the Hall, and sister Evelyn officially opened the house to visitors on July 29, 1948. It has remained accessible to the public ever since. If Governor Carter's Georgia Heritage Trust program is successful, Barrington Hall will continue to be accessible as a state-owned historic house museum. Few places in America have its historical integrity; its preservation is essential in maintaining Roswell's historical character. Placed on the National Register of Historic Places, 1971.

2. Town Square: bounded by Atlanta, Marietta and Sloan Streets and Mimosa Boulevard. This open space has been a fundamental element of the town plan as laid out by Roswell King. It serves as a connector between the older residential section and the business and mill sections beyond Atlanta Street. The square was landscaped and historical markers were added under a joint W.P.A.-Roswell Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy project in 1939-40. The historical markers placed by the U.D.C. commemorate Roswell King and the other six founding families of Roswell. Often the site of outdoor art shows and craft displays, the square continues to provide a scenic open space, the function it was originally designed to perform. It is the Boston Common of this most southern of New England villages.
3. Bulloch Hall: Bulloch Avenue; circa 1840. A vital element of original old Roswell, Bulloch Hall is one of Georgia's few examples of the full temple form Greek Revival house with pedimented portico. Built by Willis Ball, builder of Barrington Hall, for Major James S. Bulloch, one of Roswell's earliest settlers. Here Bulloch's daughter, Mittie, ^{MARtha} married Theodore Roosevelt, Sr. in 1853. The marriage produced Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., 26th U.S. President. President Roosevelt visited Bulloch Hall in the fall of 1905 when the home belonged to Mrs. J. B. Wing. Falling into disrepair over the years, Bulloch Hall has now been restored by Historic Roswell, Inc., Richard S. Myrick, President. Placed on the National Register of Historic Places, 1971.
4. Mimosa or Phoenix Hall: Bulloch Avenue; completed 1847; Greek Revival with pedimented portico, brick stuccoed and scored to resemble stone. The first house built on the site in 1842 burned the night of its housewarming. In 1869 the house was purchased by the Hansell family. In 1917 Neel Reid, one of Atlanta's most gifted architects, purchased and restored Mimosa Hall and also designed the courtyard and grounds. The house has been back in the Hansell family for some time and is presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. C. Edward Hansell. Mimosa Hall has been fortunate in having owners who have appreciated and maintained its beauty and significance since it was built.

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8. Significance - 3

5. Holly Hill: Mimosa Boulevard; built between 1842 and 1847; raised cottage with columned porticoes on front and rear facades. Barrington King built Holly Hill as a summer house for Robert A. Lewis, a Savannah cotton broker. As a raised cottage it is a coastal version of Greek Revival architecture. This, like Mimosa Hall, is private restoration at its best. When the Robert Summervilles purchased Holly Hill, it had become a slum which with great effort they carefully restored. Along with a few of the other sites, it ranks highest in establishing Roswell's historical character.

6. Primrose Cottage: Mimosa Boulevard; circa 1839; two-story with hip roof, reminiscent of New England Greek Revival style houses with its one-story Classic portico. An unusual handturned Rosemary Pine fence separates the house from the street. This fence is said to have been made by a Mr. Minhinett, an Englishman brought by Roswell King to help in building the town. The cottage built for Mrs. Eliza King Hand, widowed daughter of Roswell King, was the first permanent residence completed in Roswell; it is now owned and being restored by the Charles King family. The handsome trees gracing the yard are a valuable asset to the neighborhood. In point of time this "cottage" was a first and it too is the sort of residential preservation on which Roswell is dependent if its historical character is to survive.

7. Mimosa Boulevard Houses: Several houses located across the street from Primrose Cottage are significant. Although not antebellum or especially distinguished individually, they contribute to the district as compatible later additions to the original Mimosa Boulevard neighborhood laid out by the Kings.

8. Great Oaks: Mimosa Boulevard; 1842; two-story with pediment in roof line and Classic portico. Built of locally fired bricks, Great Oaks was originally the home of the Reverend Nathaniel A. Pratt, minister of the Presbyterian Church. During the Civil War, Federal troops used the home as their headquarters. It has been occupied continuously by Pratt's descendants and since 1946 has been the home of Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Rushin. (Mrs. Rushin is the great, great granddaughter of Roswell King and the great granddaughter of the Reverend Nathaniel A. Pratt). Great Oaks - like Bulloch Hall, Barrington Hall, Primrose Cottage and the other original residences - is an integral part of the distinguished Roswell architectural scene.

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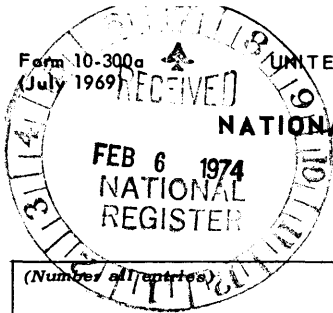
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9. Presbyterian Church and Cemetery: Mimosa Boulevard; 1840; simple temple form, Greek Revival style with four fluted Doric columns forming a portico and short square steeple. Designed and built by Mr. Willis Ball who also was responsible for Bulloch and Barrington Halls. The Church was organized in 1839 in Primrose Cottage across the street. The Reverend Nathaniel A. Pratt, the first minister, served here until his death in 1878. (He was Roswell King's son-in-law.) The Church was not only the religious center of Roswell, but also the official center of the town, so designated in 1854 when the town was incorporated. In 1864 a Federal hospital was established here by Sherman's troops. About 1915 the Roosevelt family made a gift of money to the church. This gift enabled the church to purchase colored glass windows, remove the original clear glass panes from the old sashes and take down the original window blinds. Recently a challenge grant was made to the Church for the restoration of the windows of their original appearance and the addition of outside shutters with old-type hardware. This restoration work was done under the direction of William R. Mitchell, Jr., of the Georgia Historical Commission. Except for the south wing, added in 1952, the Church now looks inside and out much as it did originally. Many religious and historic relics are included among the documents and photographs housed in the Church's history room. The importance of this building in the Town's history, community life, historical character and appearance is primary. (It should be noted that Roswell's first school - the Academy - was built on Church property directly north of the Church. The Church operated the Academy until the late 1870's at which time it was deeded over to the town. The town grammar school presently occupies the site. A picture of the old Academy, which was of brick with a Greek Revival style portico, may be seen in the Church history room.)

The Cemetery is 300 yards to the rear of the Church on the east side of Atlanta Street. It was set off and first used as a cemetery in 1841. Many outstanding citizens of early Roswell were thereafter buried here; among them Barrington King whose epitaph reads as follows: "To the Memory of Barrington King First Settler of Roswell and President of the Roswell Factories. He was born in Darien, Georgia, March 9th A.D., 1798. Died in Roswell, Georgia, January 17th A.D., 1866."

10. Roswell Stores: Atlanta Street; circa 1839 to the early 1900's. This group of buildings, on the east side of the town square, became the center of commercial activities from a few years after Roswell was founded. The earliest structure, made of bricks and axe-hewn timbers, was built about 1840 and served as the commissary for the Roswell Manufacturing Company. It features unusual decorative brick work, similar examples of which are found on the Old Bricks and other historic structures in Roswell. Other stores were built south along the block as Roswell's



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8. Significance - 5

business activities grew. Except for the Bank of Fulton County, the entire group of old Roswell stores are being restored and renovated by Historic Roswell, Inc., which will lease some 16 spaces as shops. These shops will offer antiques, gifts, arts and crafts, books and other appropriate items. This entire little historical "shopping center", made up of the restored Roswell stores, will be a perfect demonstration of the sort of historic preservation being practiced successfully by old towns throughout the country. The old buildings will be saved to play a lively economic role in present day community life. The town's historical character will be enhanced and the old town square area will receive "a shot in the arm". (Across from these stores on the street which closes off the northern end of the square are several businesses in old structures which have been used commercially for many years. One is presently an antique store.)

11. The Old Bricks: Sloan Street; circa 1840. These buildings originally housed workers at the Roswell Mills. Constructed in two units, the building closest to Atlanta Street has four units and entrances and the other has six. The roof line of the larger building terraces, at pilasters which separate the units, to fit the slope of the land. Interesting brick work in the cornices of both buildings is similar to that occurring in the Old Commissary and Old Mill buildings. Another architectural feature worth noting on both buildings is a wooden detail which appears at the point where the wooden shed roof attaches to the main body of the brick apartments. This feature also appears on five houses in the "Factory Hill" area. Although not "the first apartment building in the United States" as has sometimes been written, they are still being used as apartments and thus may be one of the oldest apartment complexes still in continuous use.

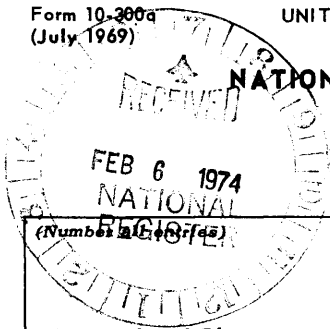
12. Southern Mills Building: Mill Street; 1882. This is one of the last surviving operational parts of the Roswell Manufacturing Company, chartered in 1839. After the original mill complex was burned during the Civil War, it was rebuilt but was burned again in 1929 when struck by lightning. This structure survived because it was separate from the main complex up stream. It has an interesting Victorian cupola and the date 1882 in wood over the entrance.

13. Old Mill: off Mill Street on Big Creek, circa 1840. A two-story brick building which is late Georgian in style and is the last surviving physical remains of the original 1839 Roswell Manufacturing Company. Its brick cornice with the suggestion of classical influence is like similar

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features on the Old Commissary Building and the Old Bricks. This similarity helps establish the early dates of each building's construction - soon after 1839 when the mill began operating. Picturesquely nestled in a wooded area on the banks of Big Creek, and not in active use, the Old Mill is an authentic reminder of those days when the Roswell Manufacturing Company was the primary business venture in the city. Although built as part of a factory complex, it is architecturally distinguished and would lend itself very readily for some adaptive use. (One of the very real components of Roswell's historical character, the Old Mill Building should be preserved along with more obviously historic places such as the Old Bricks and the Old Commissary - its exact historical contemporaries.)

14. Mill Ruins and Dam: on Big Creek; 1839-1929. The City of Roswell without the Roswell Manufacturing Company would never have been, for the Mill located here - seen now only as ruins - supported the town. Roswell King, discovering the site and realizing its suitability for manufacturing, set about establishing both a town and a cotton mill - each to benefit the other. The Mills became important assets to Georgia and eventually the Confederacy, which is why General Sherman destroyed the operations in July, 1864. Yet they were rebuilt nearby and have continued in operation. Foundations, some high brick walls and large metal machinery are in evidence and the dam which harnessed the needed water power is beautifully intact. (The natural setting of the Mill Ruins - rapids, a waterfall and lush vegetation - would make an impressive park area, emphasizing both historical and natural assets.)

15. The Old Cemetery: east end of Sloan Street overlooking Big Creek. This is the original old town cemetery. A tall monument marks the grave of Roswell King. James S. Bulloch of Bulloch Hall and John Dunwoody of Mimosa Hall are also buried here. (Although somewhat isolated from the town which those buried here built, this is a site which should never be overlooked for its fundamental connections with Roswell's ongoing heritage.)

16. Factory Hill Houses: Mill, Millview, Sloan and Vickery Streets; antebellum. The houses in this section of Roswell were built as residences for workers at the Roswell Mills. At least 15 houses are of an identifiable style or age. A modified New England like salt box style is seen in a number of these houses. Five of these houses have central chimneys as they would in New England, and each of these have the wooden detail mentioned in the discussion of the Old Brick apartments. Such details as

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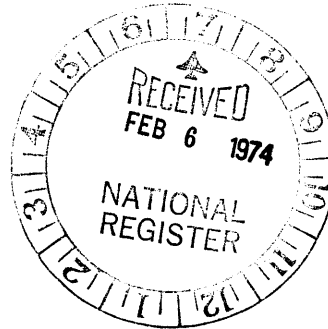
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these and the way the brick cornices are developed on the Old Commissary Building, the Old Mill and Old Bricks emphasizes the unified architectural characteristics which may be identified in Roswell as part of its fundamental antebellum character. The Factory Hill Houses possess fundamental requirements as components of a historic district - similarity in age, style and material; and a unifying relationship with the natural surroundings.

The sum total of the 16 historic features listed and discussed is Historic Roswell. It is not confined to any one street or area, is partly a matter of topography since much of what Roswell King and his associates knew as Roswell in the 1830's still exists today in the lay of the land, and is partly a matter of the initial town plan. A comprehensive look at Roswell reveals that enough of its original historical and architectural integrity survives for a major portion of the Downtown area to qualify for the National Register as a nationally significant district.



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