

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF GAINESVILLE
SUMTER COUNTY, ALABAMA

Name: Main (Yankee) Street Historic District

Location: Bordered on the North by the back property lines of the lots facing the north side of Main (Yankee) Street; on the East by a line running on the west side of the unnamed street to a point on the north side of Washington Street; South by the north side of Washington Street and on the West by the east side of School Street.

Acreage: Approximately 6½ acres

Verbal Boundary Description: See attached map.

UTM: A. 16/392140/3632004
B. 16/392100/3631900
C. 16/391940/3631940
D. 16/391980/3632080

Description:

The Main (Yankee) Street Historic District is located on the south bank of the Tombigbee River within the original town plan of Gainesville. This district consists of five wood frame/clapboard residential buildings which face Main Street (originally known as Yankee Street) and are located at the intersection of Lafayette Street, which is no longer open, and Main Street. The district is bordered on the east by Sumter Street, which is no longer open, on the south by Washington, now partially open, and on the west by School Street which is no longer open. These five buildings, three of which are bordered by 19th century picket fences, constitute the last existing group of original dwellings that were situated on the northern boundary of Gainesville along the south bank of the river. Four of the houses display an avoidance to the use of the "central hall" plan favored in Alabama architecture during the mid-19th century and instead reveal the use of a "two-room" plan and double-front entrances, prevalent in Gainesville architecture. The houses, all built between 1832 and 1850, display elements of either Greek Revival or the Federal period, and one -- the Russell-Woodruff-Turrentine House -- is also possibly the oldest surviving example of the "two-room" interior plan that is characteristic of the architecture of Gainesville.

The Falls House and the Howard-Goodloe-Bolton House are adjacent Greek Revival buildings that approximate each other in form and arrangement, although the facade treatments differ. Of these two houses, the Howard-Goodloe-Bolton House is least altered retaining, among other elements, the original shutters and louvered blinds that protect the transoms above the two parallel front doors. With its little altered interior, it is one of the best remaining examples of the characteristic Gainesville preference for the "two-room" plan across the front. The Lewis-Jones-Field House combines two elements of the town's antebellum architecture: the "two-room" plan and the elongated Greek Revival facade with inset portico.

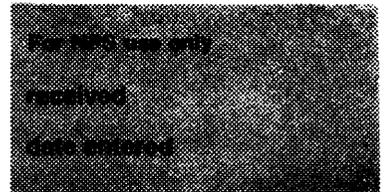
The buildings were altered by varying degrees during the late 19th and early 20th century. However, these alterations have not radically changed the original antebellum fabric of the buildings. The buildings are in various conditions and two are endangered by deterioration caused by neglect.

Statement of Significance:

Criterion C - Architecture: The Main (Yankee) Street Historic District is significant as an excellent collection of the architectural styles and designs found within the antebellum town of Gainesville. The houses within the district display elements of Greek Revival and Federal Period along with the "two-room" interior plan that is a characteristic prevalent in Gainesville architecture. The district contains the last remaining group of original houses, which includes the home of Col. Moses Lewis, the founder of Gainesville, located along Main, or Yankee, Street, which is the northern boundary of the original town.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

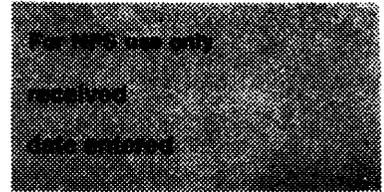
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Main (Yankee) Street Historic District:

- 1) Russell-Woodruff-Turrentine House (S side of Main Street between Church and School Streets) ca. 1835-1840; 1½ stories. Rectangular main block with high gable roof and full length inset front porch supported by four fluted Doric columns; flush boarding on facade. Entire structure raised on brick piers, with exposed brick walled cellar beneath ell. Characteristic Gainesville plan (two rooms across front, separate entrances), two interior chimneys (now removed); Federal-type trims and woodwork including "cross and Bible" type doors. Originally, ell much longer, terminating in breezeway and kitchen, removed in early 20th century.
- 2) Lewis-Jones-Fields House (N side Main Street between School and Lafayette Streets) c. 1840-1850; 1 story. As originally constructed two-room four-bay central block with advanced one-bay pedimented end pavilions; inset three-bay porch or loggia at front, with fluted Doric columns; facade of end pavilions embellished with pilasters; continuous entablature at front and sides; shed addition across rear replacing earlier porches. Interior: typical Gainesville two-room plan with separate front entrances and connecting inside door; two large rooms in each, pavilion roof pre-dates 1920 (probably c. 1900); tall hipped roof with subordinate cross-gables over end bays as well as middle bay of porch.
- 3) Lewis-Long House (N side Main Street, east of Sumter Street) c. 1835-1840; 2 stories. Symmetrical five-bay facade with shallow hipped roof; formerly, two interior end chimneys. One-story late 19th century porch across front (no evidence of earlier porch). Center-hall plan with single room to each side (room on west side opens into ell room through double-leaf doorway); small shed room behind ell chamber. Two-tiered porch formerly across rear, terminating at reentrant angle of ell extension; porch later enclosed although retaining stair linking upper and lower tiers. Notable woodwork inside (door and window surrounds, staircase, mantelpieces); also unusual number of early closets evidently installed when house was built or shortly thereafter. Frame rectangular two-room gabled "office" joined to east side of house by enclosed passage from former rear porch.
- 4) Falls House (S side of Main Street E of Howard-Goodloe-Bolton House) c. 1840-1850; 1½ stories. Main block approximately 36' x 36', with ell at SE rear; pedimented gable end turned towards street, with modified Palladian (triple) window in tympanum; corner pilasters with entablature at front and sides. Originally a small central portico enframing double entrance doors (corresponding pilasters remain). Interior follows plan characteristic of several early Gainesville structures. Later alterations include 20th century full-length bungalow-type porch, glassed doors and modern sashing, partial asbestos siding at rear.

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- 5) Howard-Goodloe-Bolton House (SE corner of Main Street and Lafayette) c. 1840-1850; 1½ stories. Main block approximately 34'6" x 34'6", plus front porch and ell at SE rear. Gable end faces street and breaks into tetrastyle Doric portico with broad triangular pediment; paneled corner pilasters, entablature continued along each side. Ell originally flanked on both sides by porches. Late 19th-century porch extension and three-bay hipped-roof addition to west side. Interior plan: two rooms at front with flanking parallel doors, instead of central doorway and bisecting passage; smaller rooms directly behind, with central passage between; interior chimneys. Modifications to original structure include removal of back-most portion of ell as well as porch along east side; enclosure of porch on west side of ell.

CO.
RIVER



SCALE 1" = 100'
 DATE OF MAP 5/28/76 DATE OF PHOTOGRAPHY 5/77

