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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JUN 20 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 Houston, George S., Historic District
other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number various - see continuation sheet NA not for publication
city, town Athens NA vicinity
state Alabama code AL county Limestone code 083 zip code 35611

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>112</u>	<u>17</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ objects
		<u>112</u>	<u>17</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

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 request for determination of eligibility 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 does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 6/15/89
Signature of certifying official Date
Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State or Federal agency and bureau

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 and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

[Signature] 7/20/89
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic: single dwelling
Religion: religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic: single dwelling
Religion: religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Federal
Bungalow
20th Century Revivals

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
walls weatherboard
brick
roof asphalt
other concrete
synthetic

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The George S. Houston Historic District is an irregular-shaped residential district located north of Athens's historic commercial area. The 43-acre district has a grid iron plan with the main streets running north and south. The district is roughly bounded on the west by Houston Street, on the north by 2nd Avenue, on the east by Jefferson Street, and on the south by Washington Street. The district boundaries were delineated to incorporate the strongest concentration of historic buildings associated with the district.

The historic district consists primarily of residential buildings and one Methodist Church. The 113 contributing buildings within the historic district were built within three distinct periods of development between 1830 through 1939. The buildings are representative of the building styles popular in small Alabama towns during these periods.

Five houses in the historic district were built in the 1830s through the 1850s. These large, antebellum homes were built by the town's early political and civic leaders on large tracks of land located along the northwest edge of the original 1818 town limits. Inventory numbers 5 and 96 are fine examples of the Federal style. Inventory number 102 is a Greek Revival house that was remodeled in c. 1868 to reflect the popular Italianate style. Inventory numbers 69 and 12 are early houses that were dramatically altered in the early twentieth century to reflect popular twentieth-century styles.

During the period between the Civil War through the early 1900s the district experienced moderate house construction. There are approximately 20 buildings remaining from this period. Most all of these houses are local interpretations of late Queen Anne style architecture. The prominent feature exhibited in these houses is a hipped or end gabled roof with an intersecting gabled roof. This is seen in inventory numbers 26, 41, 44, 45, 48, 49, 50, 58, 61, 105, 112, 113, and 120. Another prominent feature is the use of the Palladian window. It is first employed in the gable of inventory number 113 built in 1872 and is repeated in inventory numbers 103 and 105. Inventory number 120 is the best example to illustrate the decorative use of turned spindles in the porch balustrade and frieze. Although the houses from this period were constructed throughout the district, there is a dominant number located along Jefferson Street.

The final and most prolific building period in the district occurred between 1908 through 1939. It was during this brief thirty-year period that the majority of the buildings within the district were erected for the town's growing middle-class

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population. The largest and most ornate houses built during this period were the American foursquare such as inventory numbers 1, 42, 43, 51, 97, and 107. Most of these houses were built south of Pryor Street.

After 1908 the vast Pryor property located north of Pryor Street was subdivided into small lots for the Fairview subdivision. The houses erected on these lots include examples of architectural styles popular for middle-class dwellings in the early twentieth century such as the bungalow, Tudor Revival cottage, and Colonial Revival cottage. Example of the bungalow include inventory numbers 3, 17, 19, 60, 72, 109; inventory numbers 37, 70, 104, 122 illustrate examples of the Tudor Revival style; and the Colonial Revival cottage style can be seen in inventory numbers 16, 53, 80, 86.

Within the historical district there are 6 contributing outbuildings associated with the residential district. These contributing outbuildings include such buildings as servant's quarters, kitchens, garage, and office. These outbuildings are located to the rear of the main house of inventory numbers 12, 17, 79, 96, 102, and 105.

The only nonresidential building in the historic district is the First Methodist Church, inventory number 124. The church is a brick Neoclassical building constructed in 1925. Inventory number 100 was originally constructed as a hospital, but later was converted into apartments.

There are 17 noncontributing buildings located in the historic district. Most of these buildings were built after the period of significance. Although these buildings are noncontributing, they maintain the same scale and set backs as the historic buildings. Four of the noncontributing buildings are historic buildings that have experienced unsympathetic alterations that compromise the historic integrity. Many of the historic contributing buildings have experienced modernization such as synthetic siding, porch enclosures, and new roof materials. These alterations do not affect the integrity of the district.

COUNT

Contributing:	105 - domestic buildings
	1 - church
	6 - outbuildings
	1 - previously listed on the National Register (#5)
	113 - total
Noncontributing:	13 - new construction
	4 - no integrity
	17 - total

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#2 - LOCATION - continued

Location:

The George S. Houston Historic District is roughly bounded on the north by the back lots of 2nd Avenue; on the east by the back lots of North Jefferson Street; on the south by the back lots of West Washington Street; and on the west by the back lots of Houston Street.

Inclusive Street Address:

502 West Washington Street

100 106 109 South Houston Street

101 601 North Houston Street

401 410 West Market Street

311 406 West Hobbs Street

100 410 West Bryan Street

200 410 West Pryor Street

309 510 First Street

107 604 North Madison Street

207 605 North Jefferson Street

300 311 North Marion Street

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CONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

1. 502 West Washington
c. 1912; foursquare; 2 1/2 stories; brick; low-hipped roof; front and side dormer gables; one-story, full length brick porch; modern carport addition on west side; (original owner Cliff Miller whose family had a lumber business and the first ice plant in Athens); [contact sheet 3, negative 23]
2. 106 South Houston
c. 1927; bungalow; one story; frame with clapboard siding; brick foundation; hipped roof with projecting gables; recessed front porch with brick piers; (original owner Ashbury McWilliams, president of local bank); [contact sheet 4, negative 7].
3. 109 South Houston
c. 1927; bungalow; frame, covered in vinyl siding; one story; front gabled roof; attached front porch with brick piers; overhanging eaves and exposed roof rafters; (original owner Ben Jaffe, immigrant from Lithuania who became one of the area's most successful merchants for over 60 years); [contact sheet 3, negative 21, 22]
5. 101 North Houston (Houston Memorial Library)
c. 1830s; Federal style; two stories; frame covered with clapboard; end gabled roof; two-storied pedimental entrance portico supported by four square columns, which includes a second story balcony; nine over nine sash windows; main entrance has ruby-toned transom, identical door located on second story; (early owner George S. Houston, first democratic governor elected after Civil War (1874), signaled end of reconstruction; served in U.S. Congress, U.S. Senate); [contact sheet 8, negatives 4, and 5]; (individually listed on the National Register 05/15/86).
6. 104 North Houston (Sadler Apartments)
c. 1900; extensively remodeled in 1930s; two-story; brick veneered in 1930s; side gabled roof; two gabled dormer windows; five bays; central doorway with transom and side lights; converted into four apartments in 1930s; (original owner unknown, owned by Raymond Sadler in 1930s); [contact sheet 1, negative 8].

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7. 105 North Houston
c. 1937; Neoclassical; two stories; frame; side gabled roof; end chimneys; full length, two-story portico with flat roof and supported by six slender columns; five-bay facade; central doorway with side lights and transom topped with pediment; extensively remodeled in 1984; (original owner Price W. Hendricks, owner of Athens Lumber Co.); [contact sheet 4, negative 14-16].
9. 109 North Houston
c. 1939; Colonial Revival; two stories; frame; end gabled roof; symmetrical facade; main entrance centrally located with sidelights; second story has slight overhang; no porch; (original owner Kelly Bitting, automobile dealer); [contact sheet 4, negative 19].
11. 206 North Houston
c. 1936; bungalow; one story; framed; low hipped roof; attached front porch with front gable; (built by Chambers Lumber Co., original owner Benton Sanders Turrentine who served as county circuit clerk); [contact sheet 3, negative 9].
12. 207 North Houston
c. 1821; extensively remodeled in 1919; bungalow additions; brick veneered; one story; end gabled roof; gabled dormer; recessed porch with gabled pediment; overhanging eaves; (original owner Joshua Martin, first governor of Alabama to officiate from the new capitol building in Montgomery in 1846); [contact sheet 4, negative 21-23].
- 12a. Outbuilding; frame; one story; one pen; end gabled roof; recessed porch; believed to have been removed from original house in 1919; served as servants' quarters; [contact sheet 4, negative 23].
14. 210 North Houston
c. 1919; one story; frame; end gabled roof; front dormer gable; attached porch with flat roof and supported by short columns on piers; (original owners Anna Malone Chew and Sally Mat Malone, no known occupation); [contact sheet 3, negative 11].
16. 303 North Houston
c. 1940; Colonial Revival; one and one half stories; brick; side gabled roof; small entrance porch supported by twin columns; two dormers; side porch supported by twin columns; (original owner George Johnson, attorney); [contact sheet 5, negative 2].

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17. 305 North Houston
c. 1935; bungalow; one and one half stories; brick; side gabled roof; front gabled dormer with two three-part windows; recessed porch with concrete supports on brick piers; (original owner W. A. Caughran, Gulf distributor); [contact sheet 5, negative 3, 5].
- 17a. Outbuilding; c. 1890; served as servant's quarter for previous building located on site; one story; frame; single pen; side gabled roof; [contact sheet 5, negative 4].
18. 307 North Houston
c. 1912; bungalow; one and one half stories; frame covered in vinyl siding; side gabled roof; recessed porch with brick piers; front gabled dormer; (originally owned by M. M. Fry, unknown occupation); [contact sheet 5, negative 6].
19. 401 North Houston
c. 1921; bungalow; one story; frame covered with aluminum siding; side gable; attached front gabled porch with concrete supports on brick piers; (original owner John McDonald who owned Athens Bakery); [contact sheet 5, negative 7].
20. 403 North Houston
c. 1930; bungalow; one story; frame covered in asbestos siding; brick foundation; low hipped roof; small central dormer window with attic vent; recessed porch caused by extended room; unusual circular balustrade; (original owner O. M. Edmonson, local merchant); [contact sheet 5, negative 8].
22. 405 North Houston
c. 1915, bungalow; one story; frame covered with aluminum siding; front gabled roof; small pediment entrance porch; (original owner Walker Richardson); [contact sheet 5, negative 9].
23. 406 North Houston
c. 1920; bungalow; one story; frame covered in vinyl siding; front gabled roof; attached porch with front gabled roof supported by columns on brick piers; (original owner Dr. William Booth, physician); [contact sheet 3, negative 9].
24. 407 North Houston
c. 1919; bungalow; one and one half stories; frame covered with asbestos; side gabled roof; small shed roof dormer; recessed porch supported by wood piers; (original owner John McFarland, founder of Limestone Drug Store); [contact sheet 5, negative 19].

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25. 409 North Houston
c. 1920; one story; frame covered with vinyl; side gabled roof with intersecting front gable; attached front porch with flat roof supported by wood posts on brick piers; (original owner L. A. Methvin, chiropractor); [contact sheet 5, negative 11].
26. 411 North Houston
c. 1908; one story; irregular plan; frame covered with aluminum siding; cross gabled roof; c. 1930s wraparound porch has flat roof supported by columns on brick piers; (original owner Colonel Gains Smith, veteran of the Mexican and Civil wars); [contact sheet 5, negative 12].
27. 501 North Houston
c. 1920; bungalow; one story; frame; front gabled roof; overhanging eaves with brackets; recessed porch; modern metal porch supports; (built by T. E. Gilbert, druggist and land speculator); [contact sheet 9, negative 1].
28. 503 North Houston
c. 1920; bungalow; one story; frame; gabled front roof; hipped roof porch with modern metal supports; porch partially enclosed; (original owner Manion Mitchell, Gilbert Drug Co.); [contact sheet 9, negative 2].
29. 505 North Houston
c. 1925, bungalow, one story; frame covered with vinyl siding; front gabled roof; recessed porch with wood supports; (original owner M. Danderson, supervisor of the Fulton Cotton Mill); [contact sheet 9, negative 3].
30. 507 North Houston
c. 1922; bungalow; one story; frame covered in vinyl; front gabled roof; recessed porch; modern iron supports; (original owner Ewell Smith, salesman); [contact sheet 9, negative 4].
33. 513 North Houston
c. 1939; cottage; one story; frame covered with vinyl siding; end gabled roof with highly pitched front cross gable; brick chimney located on front; small recessed entrance porch on corner; modern metal railing; (original owner Misses Lena and Sophie Wells); [contact sheet 9, negative 6].

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34. 601 North Houston
c. 1915; one and one half stories; frame, covered with vinyl;
irregular plan; cross gabled roof with prominent front gable; shed
roof porch supported with wood posts; (original owner J. W. Chambers,
local contractor who built many churches in Athens); [contact sheet 9,
negative 9].
35. 401 West Market
c. 1878; extensively altered in mid-twentieth century; one and one
half stories; frame covered in vinyl siding; irregular plan; cross
gabled roof; gabled dormer over front entrance; small pedimental
entrance porch; main entrance has side lights and transom; (original
owner W. B. Russell, local merchant); [contact sheet 3, negative 24;
contact sheet 4, negative 1, 2].
36. 403 and 405 West Market
c. 1930; duplex; one story; brick; end gabled roof; two front gabled
entrance porches, with modern metal supports; (built for rental);
[contact sheet 4, negative 3].
37. 404 West Market
c. 1931; Tudor Revival cottage; one and one half stories; brick;
steeply pitched cross gabled roof; small recessed gabled entrance
porch; side porch glassed in by present owners; (original owner
George Feagin, chief engineer of Lewisburg and Northern branch of the
L&N railroad); [contact sheet 1, negative 4; contact sheet 8,
negative 25].
38. 406 West Market
c. 1919; bungalow; one and one half stories; brick; side gabled roof;
shed dormer; front gabled porch (screened) with brick piers; (original
owner Roy Smith, owner of Athens's first telephone company);
[contact sheet 1, negative 5].
39. 407 West Market
c. 1925; Colonial Revival; two stories; frame, covered with vinyl
siding; side gabled roof; two storied side porch has been enclosed;
asymmetrical entrance with pedimental entrance porch; (original owner
Sam Bowmen, local merchant); [contact sheet 4, negatives 4, 5].
41. 410 West Market
c. 1900; Victorian; two stories; irregular plan with projecting bay;
frame; hipped roof with cross gables; decorative barge board on gable
ends; one story gabled entrance porch; one story curved side porch -
(screened); (originally owned by Roy Smith, owner of Athens first
telephone company); [contact sheet 1, negatives 6, 7].

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42. 311 West Hobbs
c. 1916; four square; two and one half stories; brick; low pitched hipped roof; gabled dormer; attached one story front porch with central pediment; one story side sun porch; decorative ceramic tile inset in brick; (built by Birmingham architect Bem Price, built for Rosa Clay); [contact sheet 5, negative 33; contact sheet 8, negative 21].
43. 402 West Hobbs
c. 1916; four square; two stories; brick; low hipped roof; hipped dormers on sides and front; one story full length porch supported by brick piers; side porch; overhanging roofs with decorative brackets; decorative geometric designs inlaid in brick; (original owner William Malone, attorney); [contact sheet 1, negative 12; contact sheet 8, negative 18].
44. 406 1/2 West Hobbs
pre 1919; one story; frame covered with vinyl siding; L-shaped; cross gabled roof; 1930s porch has flat roof with brick piers; [contact sheet 1, negative 11].
45. 100 West Bryan
c. 1906; Victorian; two stories; frame covered with asbestos shingles; irregular plan with projecting bay with gabled pediment; one-story front porch with spindle posts; (original owner Oliver Hansen, contractor); [contact sheet 7, negative 6].
46. 405 West Bryan
c. 1920; bungalow; one and one half stories; frame, partially covered with perma-stone; side gabled roof with a front gabled porch supported by wood posts; overhanging eaves with decorative brackets; (original owner U. G. White, merchant); [contact sheet 5, negative 29].
47. 406 West Bryan
c. 1923; bungalow; one story; frame with brick veneer; side gabled roof; protecting cross gable; side entrance; recessed side entrance porch supported by wood posts on brick piers; overhanging eaves with decorative brackets; (original owner Claude Hayden, horticulturist for L&N railroad); [contact sheet 3, negative 20].
48. 410 West Bryan
c. 1880; moved to this location in 1919; Victorian; one story; brick; cross gabled roof; recessed porch (screened); metal sun shades over windows; [contact sheet 3, negative 12, 13].

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49. 200 West Pryor
c. 1908; Victorian; two stories; frame covered with aluminum siding; irregular plan; hipped roof; cross gables; one story wraparound porch (screened); (original owner B. T. Coffman, owner of local furniture store); [contact sheet 3, negative 4].
50. 202 West Pryor
c. 1902, Victorian; moved from other end of lot to face Pryor Street in 1935; one story; frame; irregular plan; hipped roof with cross gable and dormers; wrap around flat roof porch supported by slender columns; main entrance has side lights and transom; windows have either rounded or flat transoms; (original owner Thomas Cowan, attorney and later associate justice on the Alabama Supreme Court); [contact sheet 3, negatives 2, 3].
51. 400 West Pryor
c. 1918; four square; two stories; frame; low hipped roof; side and front dormers; one story front porch with flat roof supported by posts; similar side porch; (original owner Henry Evens, occupation unknown); [contact sheet 3, negatives 16, 17].
53. 405 West Pryor
c. 1920s; Colonial Revival cottage; one story; frame; side gabled roof; attached front pedimental porch with barrel-vault supported by twin columns; overhanging eaves with decorative brackets; (original owner Claude Hayden for rental); [contact sheet 5, negative 24].
54. 406 West Pryor
c. 1924; bungalow; one story; frame; cross gabled roof; front porch has side gabled roof supported with brick piers; large modern rear addition; (original owner Dennis Looney, merchant); [contact sheet 3, negative 15].
55. 407 West Pryor
c. 1935; bungalow; one story; frame; side gabled roof; attached front gabled porch supported with brick piers; overhanging eaves with decorative brackets; (original owner Claude Hayden for rental); [contact sheet 5, negative 23].
56. 409 West Pryor
c. 1920; bungalow; one and one half stories; frame; end gabled roof; dominant gabled dormer; recessed porch supported by wood posts on brick piers; overhanging eaves with exposed rafters; (early owner Steele McGrew, newspaper publisher); [contact sheet 5, negative 22].

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57. 410 West Pryor
c. 1928; bungalow; one story; frame covered in beaded weatherboard; low hipped roof with intersecting cross gables; full length front porch with flat roof supported by brick piers with decorative banding and stone insets; (original owner B. C. Boston, ginner); [contact sheet 3, negative 14].
58. 309 First
c. 1918; Victorian; one story; frame; irregular plan; hipped roof with cross gables; full-length one-story flat roofed porch; (original owner T. E. Gilbert for rental); [contact sheet 5, negative 20].
59. 311 First
c. 1910; bungalow; one and one half stories; frame, covered with asbestos shingles; high hipped roof with side and front shed roof dormers; full-length hipped roof porch supported by wood posts on brick piers; (original owner T. E. Gilbert); [contact sheet 10, negatives 33, 34].
60. 401 First
c. 1913; bungalow; one and one half stories; brick; crossed gabled roof; side gable front porch supported by brick piers; overhanging eaves with decorative brackets; (original owner Dr. Charles King, physician); [contact sheet 5, negatives 16, 19].
61. 403 First
c. 1905; Victorian; one and one half stories; frame covered with aluminum siding; irregular plan; hipped roof with cross gables; full-length front porch with flat roof; oak door with beveled glass; (original owner Johnson, contractor); [contact sheet 5, negative 15].
62. 407 First
c. 1920; Colonial Revival cottage; one and one half stories; frame covered with aluminum siding; side gabled roof with front gabled projection; small gabled entrance portico; (original owner unknown); [contact sheet 5, negative 14].
63. 411 First
c. 1920s; bungalow; one and one half stories; frame; end gabled roof; prominent front gabled porch supported by short double columns on brick piers; small front shed dormers; (original owner Walton, merchant); [contact sheet 5, negative 13].

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64. 505 First
c. 1917; bungalow; one and one half stories; frame covered in vinyl siding; hipped roof; large hipped roof dormers on sides and front; full-length front porch with hipped roof (screened); 1938 rear addition; modern carport addition on side; (original owner Onis McMeans for investment); [contact sheet 10, negatives 30--32].
65. 507 First
c. 1918, one story; frame covered in vinyl siding; L-shaped plan; cross gabled roof; attached front porch supported by wood posts on brick piers; (original owner Alvis Carter, contractor); [contact sheet 35, negatives 35, 36].
66. 508 First
c. 1936; bungalow; one story; frame covered in vinyl siding; end gabled roof; dominant front gabled porch supported by wood posts on brick piers; (original owner N. R. Nichols, owner of bottling company); [contact sheet 10, negative 30 - 32].
67. 510 First
c. 1917; bungalow; one and one half stories; frame; front gabled roof with side cross gable; recessed porch; overhanging eaves with decorative brackets; (original owner and resident Onis McMeans, contractor); [contact sheet 10, negatives 39-42].
68. 107 North Madison
c. 1920; bungalow; two and one half stories; brick; side gabled roof; front gabled dormer; full-length flat wraparound porch has roof and supported by brick piers; (original owner Ethel Garth); [contact sheet 5, negative 34].
69. 111 North Madison
c. 1850; Greek Revival; moved from southeast corner of the lot in 1919; two stories; frame; end gabled roof; two-story pedimental entrance porch supported by two double columns; entrance door has side lights and transom, identical doorway on second floor opening onto balcony; during move in 1919 the building was extensively altered: exterior end chimneys were placed inside, elaborate interior plaster was added, rear addition was added, and interior stair hall was altered; (original owner Samuel Tanner, first Mayor of Athens; owner during move was Lankin Hightower, merchant); [contact sheet 6, negatives 32-34].

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70. 200 North Madison
c. 1929; Tudor Revival cottage; one and one half stories; cross gable roof; recessed entrance porch highlighted by stone keystone; side porch (glassed); (original owner Mrs. Wallace); [contact sheet 1, negative 13].
71. 202 North Madison
c. 1929; bungalow; one and one half stories; brick; side gabled roof; dominant gabled dormer; recessed front porch supported by brick piers; (original owner Miss Crutcher, librarian); [contact sheet 1, negative 14].
72. 204 North Madison
c. 1929; bungalow; one and one half stories; brick; side gabled roof; front gabled dormer; recessed front porch supported by brick piers; (original owner Dr. Crutcher as rental property); [contact sheet 1, negative 15].
73. 205 North Madison
c. 1900s; one and one half stories; frame; dominant front gabled roof with cross gables; recessed front porch supported by brick piers; (original owner is unknown); [contact sheet 5, negative 32].
74. 206 North Madison
c. 1930; bungalow; one story; brick; front clipped gabled roof; recessed porch, supported by brick piers; overhanging eaves, decorative brackets; identical to inventory number 75; (originally built as rental); [contact sheet 1, negative 16].
75. 208 North Madison
c. 1930; bungalow; one story; brick; front clipped gabled roof; recessed porch supported by brick piers; overhanging eaves, decorative brackets; identical to inventory number 74; (originally built as rental); [contact sheet 1, negative 17].
76. 209 North Madison
c. 1920; bungalow; one and one half stories; side gabled roof; front gabled dormer; recessed porch supported by brick piers; (original owner Illoe Holt, merchant); [contact sheet 5, negative 31].
77. 210 North Madison
c. 1928; bungalow; one story; side gabled roof; brick; triple arched windows on front; recessed entrance; from Celotex Corporation pattern book, owner saw model on display in Chicago; (original owner David Rosenau, attorney); [contact sheet 1, negatives 18, 19].

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78. 211 North Madison
c. 1895, Victorian; two stories; frame; front gabled roof; recessed porch with arched colonnade; limestone chimney; (original owner Mr. Ingrum, occupation unknown); [contact sheet 5, negative 30].
79. 301 North Madison
c. 1923; foursquare; two stories; brick; low hipped roof; one-story entrance porch with hipped roof supported by brick piers; identical porch located on side; main entrance door has sidelights; (original owner Carl Richter, merchant); [contact sheet 5, negatives 26, 27].
- 79a. Outbuilding; garage; c. 1920s; one story; brick; hipped roof; original double garage doors; [contact sheet 5, negative 28].
82. 400 North Madison
c. 1935; bungalow; one and one half stories; brick; end gabled roof; recessed porch supported by brick piers; (original owner Henderson Legg, sheriff, circuit court judge); [contact sheet 1, negative 22].
84. 404 North Madison
c. 1930s; one story; frame covered with vinyl siding; end gabled roof with parallel double cross gable projections; recess porch located between two projections; modern metal porch supports; (original owner Benton Fusch, businessman); [contact sheet 1, negative 24].
85. 405 North Madison
c. 1936; apartment building; two stories; brick; double front gabled roof; two entrances on front and one on each side; each entrance has one-story pedimental entrance porch; (built by U. G. White for rental); [contact sheet 5, negative 21].
86. 406 North Madison
c. 1940; Colonial Revival; one and one half story; frame covered with vinyl siding; steeply pitched end gabled roof; two gabled dormers; projecting gabled entrance; (original owner Dr. Hill, dentist); [contact sheet 1, negative 25].
87. 500 North Madison
c. 1915; bungalow; one and one half story; frame with vinyl covering; hipped roof; front gabled dormer; recessed porch with modern metal supports on brick piers; (original owner Thomas Gilbert, owner of drug store); [contact sheet 2, negatives 1, 2].

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88. 504 North Madison
c. 1924; bungalow; one story; frame covered with vinyl siding;
low hipped roof; central chimney; (original owner Binford,
occupation unknown); [contact sheet 2, negative 3].
89. 506 1/2 North Madison
c. 1915; bungalow; one story; frame covered with vinyl; low
hipped roof; projecting front bay; recessed porch, modern metal
supports; (original owner Louis Grasse, merchant); [contact
sheet 2, negative 4].
90. 508 North Madison
c. 1925; bungalow; one and one half stories; frame with vinyl siding;
shed porch supported with brick piers; gabled dormer; (original owner
Baker Crutcher for rental); [contact sheet 2, negative 5].
91. 510 North Madison
c. 1925; bungalow; one story; frame; end gabled roof; full-length
front porch with flat roof; modern metal posts; (built for rental);
[contact sheet 2, negative 6].
92. 512 North Madison
c. 1917; bungalow; one story; frame; end gabled roof; recessed porch
with modern metal posts; (original owner unknown); [contact sheet 2,
negative 7].
93. 514 North Madison
c. 1924; bungalow; one story; frame; front gable with side cross
gable; front porch with gabled roof supported by wood posts on piers;
(original owner Kenner, businessman); [contact sheet 2, negative 8].
94. 600 North Madison
c. 1926; Colonial Revival; one and one half stories; frame covered
with aluminum; cross gambrel roof; bay window on second-story front;
full-length front porch with flat roof wood posts; (original owner
W. E. Willis, contractor); [contact sheet 2, negatives 9, 10].
95. 604 North Madison
c. 1923; bungalow; one and one half stories; frame covered with vinyl;
end gabled roof; large gabled dormer; recessed porch supported by
brick piers; (original owner Buck Hargrove, carpenter); [contact sheet
2, negative 11].

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Continuation Sheet

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96. 207 North Jefferson
c. 1845; Federal style; two stories; frame; end gabled roof; full height pedimental portico supported by four columns; main entrance has side lights and transom; identical second-story entrance leading onto balcony; (original owner James Craig, merchant; early owner William Hine, public servant, merchant); [contact sheet 6, negatives 2-8].
- 96a. Outbuilding; c. 1845; believed to be original kitchen; one story; single pen; frame; end gabled roof; overhanging recessed porch; [contact sheet 6, negative 7].
97. 301 North Jefferson
c. 1919; foursquare; two stories; brick; low hipped roof; shed roof dormer; one-story entrance porch supported by brick piers, porch supports second-floor balcony; one-story sleeping porch on side; Italianate decorative elements include overhanging eaves with exposed rafters and large paired brackets; (original owner P. W. Hendricks, one of the promoters of the Fairview subdivision); [contact sheet 6, negatives 9, 10].
98. 305 North Jefferson
c. 1913; Colonial Revival; one and one half stories; frame; irregular plan; steeply pitch hipped roof; gabled dormer with triple window; elaborate one-story wraparound porch supported with paired Ionic columns, wraparound corner of house; several projecting bays; (original owner Wyche Crutcher, owner of drug store); [contact sheet 6, negatives 11, 12].
100. 311 North Jefferson
c. 1925; Spanish Revival; one story; stone; end gabled roof with parallel front gable projections; recessed porch located between two projections, porch supported by arched loggia (screened); entrance located through arched entrance opening; red tiled roof; (original owner rented property to Dr. Powers to serve as a hospital); [contact sheet 6, negatives 13, 14].
101. 400 North Jefferson
c. 1935; hospital building, (now apartment building); two stories with full basement; brick; flat roof with parapet roof line; 9 bays, central projecting entrance bay; main entrance has transom; (original owner Dr. Powers, building served as first hospital in Limestone County); [contact sheet 3, negative 1].

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Section number 7 Page 15 cont.

102. 405 North Jefferson
c. 1836, remodeled in 1868; originally Greek Revival, remodeled in Italianate style; two stories; frame; low hipped roof; cupola with flat roof and arched windows; two storied, full-length front porch supported by arched colonnade; main entrance has side lights and transom, identical entrance located on second floor; cast-iron balcony; large decorative brackets around cornice and cupola; (original owner James Murrah, merchant; during remodeling owned by Luke Pryor, attorney, U.S. Senator); [contact sheet 6, negatives 15-19].
- 102a. Outbuilding; c. 1850s and c.1868; law office; one story; frame; single pen; front gabled roof; elaborate cast-iron porch; (served as Pryor's law office); [contact sheet 6, negative 15].
103. 408 North Jefferson
c. 1902; Queen Anne; two and one half stories; frame; irregular plan; steeply pitched roof with intersecting cross gables; Palladian window located in front gable; projecting bay on side; overhanging second floor; main entrance has side lights and transom; small pedimental entrance porch; (original owner Mrs. Peebles, widowed daughter of Luke Pryor); [contact sheet 2, negatives 23, 24].
104. 409 North Jefferson
c. 1932; Tudor Revival cottage; one story; brick; cross gabled roof; asymmetrical entrance; projecting gabled entrance with arched openings; recessed porch on side with arched opening; (original owner Ben Jaffe, merchant); [contact sheet 6, negative 20].
105. 411 North Jefferson
c. 1908; Colonial Revival; two stories; frame; hipped roof with side and front dormers; front dormer has Palladian window; one storied, full-length porch with wooden posts and balustrade; balcony above porch with identical balustrade; two bay windows on first floor; projecting bay in second story; (original owner T. E. Gilbert, owner of drug store); [contact sheet 6, negatives 23-24; contact sheet 8, negative 14].
- 105a. Outbuilding; c. 1908; possibly original servants' quarters; one story; frame; end gabled roof; single pen; [contact sheet 6, negative 23].

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 16 cont.

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107. 500 North Jefferson
c. 1920; Mediterranean Revival; two stories; first story brick, second story stuccoed; low pitched hip roof; low shed roofed dormer; symmetrical facade; main entrance centrally located, recessed arched entrance decorated with concrete quoins; one-story side porch with arched windows; arch garden entrance on other side; cast-iron grill located on second story center window; (original owner Charles Sarver, businessman who served as mayor and postmaster) [contact sheet 2, negatives 19, 20].
108. 501 North Jefferson
c. 1909; Colonial Revival; one and one half stories; frame; high pitched hip roof with gabled dormers on sides on front; one-story wraparound porch supported by doubled Coronation columns, and topped with pediment over entrance; (original owner Charles Sarver, businessman and one-time mayor and postmaster, later built number 107); [contact sheet 6, negative 24, 25].
109. 504 North Jefferson
c. 1932; bungalow; one and one half stories; frame with half timbered stucco; front clipped gabled roof, with multiple cross gables; small pedimental entrance over front stoop; side porch supported with brick piers; overhanging eaves with exposed rafters and decorative brackets; (original owner Lamont Whitthurst, occupation unknown); [contact sheet 2, negatives 18, 19].
110. 507 North Jefferson
c. 1920; vernacular; one story; frame; high pitched hip roof with cross gables; attached one-story full-length porch with flat roof supported by wood posts and with balustrade; carved entrance door with stained glass transom; (original owner First Christian Church, serves as parsonage); [contact sheet 6, negative 26]
111. 510 North Jefferson
c. 1928; Colonial Revival; two stories; frame; end gabled roof; three-bay facade with main entrance centrally located; small arched porch; arched transom over entrance door; 12 over 12 windows; (original owner Kinzer, merchant); contact sheet 2, negative 16].
112. 511 North Jefferson
c. 1905; Victorian; one and one half stories; frame; high hipped roof with cross gables; gabled dormer on front; projecting bay with gabled roof on front; one-story full-length porch supported with 1930s brick piers; entrance door has side lights and transom; (original owner Mary Crutcher); [contact sheet 6, negative 27].

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113. 512 North Jefferson
c. 1872; Victorian; moved from other end of lot to face North Jefferson in 1919; one and one half stories; end gabled roof; large front cross gable with pointed Palladian window; one-story full-length porch added in 1930s, supported by brick piers; (original owner R. A. McClellan, attorney, historian); [contact sheet 2, negative 15].
114. 514 North Jefferson
c. 1926; bungalow; one and one half stories; brick; side gabled roof; front gabled dormer; full-length porch with brick piers; (original owner William Crutcher, builder) [contact sheet 2, negative 14].
116. 516 North Jefferson
c. 1922; bungalow; one and one half stories; frame covered with aluminum siding; side gabled roof; dominant front gabled dormer; recessed front porch supported by wood posts and balustrade; (original owner Clarence White, owner of hardware store); [contact sheet 2, negative 13].
118. 518 North Jefferson
c. pre-1920; Victorian; one story; frame covered in aluminum siding; high pitched hip roof with multiple cross gables; wraparound porch supported by slender columns; (original owner G. M. Coffman, occupation unknown); [contact sheet 6, negative 29, 30]
119. 605 North Jefferson
c. 1910s; bungalow; one and one half stories, frame; dominant front gabled roof; recessed front porch supported by brick piers; overhanging eaves with decorative brackets; (original owner Alexander Clem, businessman); [contact sheet 6, negative 31].
120. 300 North Marion
c. 1902; Victorian; two stories; frame; low hipped roof; steeper hipped roof over projecting bay; one-story entrance porch with central pediment supported by turned columns; small balcony on second floor has spindled frieze; main entrance has side lights and transom; (original owner First Presbyterian Church, served as manse until 1940s); [contact sheet 7, negative 1].
121. 304 North Marion
c. 1900; Victorian; one story; frame covered with vinyl siding; irregular L-shaped plan; cross gabled roof; center tower with steep hipped roof; front porch has 1930s brick piers; (original owner First Christian Church until 1906, then owned by Thomas Kennemer, merchant); [contact sheet 7, negative 2].

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Section number 7 Page 18 cont.

122. 309 North Marion
c. 1934; Tudor Revival cottage; one and one half stories; brick; end gabled roof with prominent front intersecting gable; chimney located on front; small vaulted entrance porch; paneled door; recessed side porch with arched openings; small crescent attic openings; (original owner Leslie Nelson, businessman); [contact sheet 7, negative 3].
123. 311 North Marion
c. 1920; Colonial Revival duplex; moved to site from Jefferson; one story; side gabled roof; brick veneer; full-length porch with cross hatched balustrade above porch; three gabled dormers; two entrance doors; (originally owned by Pine Rogers, merchant); [contact sheet 7, negatives 4, 5].
124. Hobbs at corner of Jefferson
First Methodist Church; c. 1925; Neoclassic Revival; two stories; raised basement; brick; low hipped roof surmounted by a dome with a small belfry; full height pedimented entrance portico supported by four masonry columns, pediment has bull's-eye window and dental molding; triple entrance doors with pediments; 1956 rear addition; [contact sheet 3, negative 7].

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NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDINGS

4. 100 South Houston
post World War II; Colonial Revival apartment house; two stories;
brick; low hipped roof; small entrance portico on each side; modern
cast-iron railing and balcony; [contact sheet 4, negative 8].
8. 107 North Houston
c. 1950; Colonial Revival; two stories; brick; end gabled roof;
central entrance topped with transom and arched lenti; [contact
sheet 4, negative 17].
10. 204 North Houston
1957; Ranch; one story; frame with asbestos siding; side
gabled roof; [contact sheet 3, negative 18, 19].
13. 208 North Jefferson
c. 1912; bungalow; one story; front gabled roof; frame with
brick veneer; front porch removed; metal railings; (original
owner J. Tilman, mill owner); [contact sheet 3, negative 10].
15. 301 North Houston
c. 1969; Ranch; one story; brick; side gabled roof; [contact
sheet 5, negative 1].
21. 404 North Houston
c. 1950s; Ranch; one story; brick; cross gabled roof; [contact
sheet 3, negative 18].
31. 509 North Houston
c. 1921; bungalow; one and one half stories; stone with brick
veneer; side gabled roof; recessed entrance porch; carport
addition; (original owner Ralph Laubenthal, owner of lumber
company); [contact sheet 9, negative 5].
32. 511 North Houston
c. 1942; one story; frame covered with aluminum siding; cross
gabled roofs; recessed porch with modern metal supports; modern
carport with metal supports; [contact sheet 9, negative 6].
40. 409 West Market
c. 1940; Classical Revival; two stories; brick; side gabled roof;
full height pedimental entrance porch added in 1987; broken pediment
over entrance door; [contact sheet 4, negative 6].

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52. 402 West Pryor
c. 1958; Colonial Revival cottage; one story; frame; front gabled roof; small pedimental entrance portico; (built as rental); [contact sheet 9, negative 10].
80. 302 North Madison
c. 1941; Colonial Revival; one story; frame covered with aluminum siding; end gabled roof; two dormers; projecting pedimental entrance; [contact sheet 1, negative 25].
81. 303 North Madison
c. 1955; Ranch; one story; brick; end gabled roof; [contact sheet 5, negative 25].
83. 402 North Madison
c. 1955; Ranch; one story; frame; side gabled roof; [contact sheet 1, negative 23].
99. 310 North Jefferson
c. 1945; Neoclassical Revival; two stories, brick; low pitch hipped roof; small entrance portico; side recessed porch; Greek key motif; [contact sheet 3, negative 5].
106. 412 North Jefferson
c. 1964; Ranch; one story; brick; end gable roof; dormers; recessed entrance porch supported by columns; [contact sheet 2, negatives 21, 22].
115. 515 North Jefferson
c. 1910; drastically altered: originally one story, present owners added a second floor and altered roof configuration; original porch replaced with non-compatible posts; [contact sheet 6, negative 28].
117. 518 North Jefferson
c. 1946; cottage; one story; frame; end gabled roof; projections with front gabled roofs; recessed porch; [contact sheet 2, negative 12].

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) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1830-1939

Significant Dates

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

various

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Criterion C: Architecture

The George S. Houston Historic District is a residential neighborhood locally significant for its fine collection of middle-class domestic buildings that represent architectural styles that were popular from the 1830s through 1939. The diverse district includes several examples of antebellum residences in the Federal and Italianate styles. The district has a number of modest Queen Anne residences built in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. But the district primarily consists of early twentieth century popular middle-class architectural styles, such as the American foursquare, bungalow, Tudor Revival cottage, and Colonial Revival cottage. The district is more representative of the smaller middle-class residences than the neighboring Robert Beaty Historic District (NRHP 08/30/84).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Axford, Faye and Edwards, Christine. The Lure and Lore of Limestone County, Alabama. Tuscaloosa, Alabama: Portals Press, 1978.

Gamble, Robert. The Alabama Catalog. Tuscaloosa, Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1987.

Limestone Democrat

Alabama Courier

Limestone County Courthouse Records

Limestone County Tax Records

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register (#5)
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # AL-341 (#5); AL-304 (#101)
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 43 acres

UTM References

A

1	6
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5	0	2	6	3	0
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3	8	5	1	7	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

1	6
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5	0	2	3	9	0
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3	8	5	0	9	4	0
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B

1	6
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5	0	2	7	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	8	5	1	3	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

D

1	6
---	---

5	0	2	2	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	8	5	0	9	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

E. 1 6 / 5 0 2 3 2 0 / 3 8 5 1 7 2 0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the George S. Houston Historic District is shown as the highlighted red line on the accompanying map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the George S. Houston Historic District includes the strongest concentration of historic resources associated with the Houston Street and Fairview neighborhood.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

and Steven Kay/Reviewer

name/title Mildred W. Caudle/Division Head, Humanities & Social Sciences, Athens State College;

organization City of Athens / Alabama Historical Com. date December 1988

street & number 28 Sandra Lane telephone 205 232-2975 or 232-1802

city or town Athens state Alabama zip code 35611

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HISTORICAL SUMMARY

In 1818, Robert Beaty, John Carriel, and others purchased 160 acres of land surrounding a large spring to be the site of a new town. The area was divided into lots, and a large square was appropriated for public buildings. A solicitation notice announcing the land for sale appeared in the "Athens Republic," a Huntsville newspaper. The town was incorporated on November 17, 1818.

Beaty believed that because Athens was situated in the center of newly created Limestone County, the new town would make an ideal location for the county seat. In order to make the town even more appealing as the county seat, the founders offered to contribute \$8,000 for the building of a courthouse if the seat of justice should locate in Athens. On December 3, 1819, Athens became the county seat of Limestone County.

After the cession of land to the United States in 1817, the area quickly developed. Settlers representing almost every profession and trade began to migrate to Athens. A log courthouse was soon erected in the center of the square which stood on a low hill in this primarily flat area. A log schoolhouse was erected and log residences and businesses soon sprang up. The town grew rapidly, and by 1826 a nice little village developed around the square.

Only a few blocks constitute the first corporate limits, bounded by West Street (now Houston), North Street (now Hobbs), East and South Streets. The northwest edge of the original town limits is incorporated in the southern section of the George S. Houston Historic District.

As the population and economy grew, the log structures were soon replaced by brick and frame buildings. Within the narrow confines of the original boundary of Athens are now found most of the city's extant antebellum houses, which are situated on large lots to accommodate gardens and livestock. The southern section of the George S. Houston Historic District has several examples of the early residences of Athens. Inventory numbers 5, 12, 69, 96, and 102 are examples of the antebellum homes located within the district.

Political opportunities and the convenience to educational, religious, and social institutions in the growing county seat caused many who owned plantations in outlying areas to build substantial houses in town. The town also drew a large number of professional people, particularly attorneys, into its midst. One of these was Joshua Martin, whose c. 1821 house stands in the historic district (inventory number 12, extensively remodeled in 1919). Martin later became the first governor of Alabama to officiate from the new capitol building in Montgomery. George S. Houston's home is also located in the historic district (inventory number 5, and also individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places 05/15/86). When Houston purchased

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Section number 8 Page 2

the house in 1845, he was serving in the U.S. Congress. He would later serve as the first Democratic governor after the Civil War, and as a member of the U.S. Senate at the time of his death in 1879. Other attorneys whose homes are in the district were: R. A. McClellan, (inventory number 113), who practiced with his brother, Thomas Nicholas McClellan.

By 1850 the little town of Athens was enjoying great prosperity and had become a distinct part of the plantation life in the Tennessee Valley. Planters began "planting more cotton to buy more land to plant more cotton." Consequently, there was a large increase of slave labor in the area; an indication of growing wealth.

But all signs of prosperity were soon cut short by the Civil War. Athens' economy was based on cotton, which required many field hands for profitable production. After the Civil War, local planters had great difficulty finding enough labor to cultivate even a third of their large holdings. Also, after years of cotton production the soil soon became depleted of essential nutrients. Athens was forced to import the basic foodstuffs and even hay from other places. Local newspaper editors repeatedly begged farmers to stop planting every acre in cotton and raise their own necessary items. It soon became clear that it was necessary for Athens, as well as the entire county, to diversify its agriculture production and seek new cash products to boost the economy.

One solution was to promote the land surrounding Athens as an ideal location for small produce farmers to settle. Hector Davis Lane, a resident of Athens, served as State Commissioner of Agriculture in the late nineteenth century. Lane sent a train into the Midwest on the effort to attract settlers from that area into Limestone and surrounding counties. During the 1870s through the 1890s there was an increase of new settlers to Athens from the Midwestern states of Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, Wisconsin, as well as other places such as Germany.

The success of the effort was told in the "Limestone Democrat" in June 1903 when it was reported that A. J. Keys (inventory number 41), who was one of these settlers, had brought into the office a ten-pound cabbage, and had many more in the patch. In a promotional booklet of 1912, which contains letters from a number of those who came to the county from the Midwest, is found a good example in that of F. R. Engelbert, written in 1909: he stated that he had come several years before to the county and saw that "it improves steadily. We have telephones, free delivery of mail, graded roads, fine churches and school houses, live stock, mills, houses and shops. Land is steadily advancing in value. . . Improved cultivation is producing larger crops. Cotton and corn are the main ones, but small grain and hay growing, with dairying, horse and hog raising, is coming to the front. . . We have as good water as can be found anywhere. This is a good place to live."

Claude Hayden, (inventory number 47), was sent by the L&N Railroad to improve the agricultural and horticultural interests of the county. He advocated the growing of

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cash crops such as cantaloupe that could be shipped by rail. He planted the oak trees which still flourish on Houston Street, and began the Athens Nursery Company, one of the finest in the south and the forerunner of a large nursery industry in Limestone County.

Diversifying agriculture was not the only economic development in Athens during the early twentieth century. E. C. Gordon, a New Decatur promoter who lived in Athens, proposed in 1895 that a cotton mill be built in the town. The Fulton Cotton Mill was completed about 1900, and brought a number of workers into the city who took up residency in Athens. A picture of the mill is included in the promotional booklet of the county, printed in 1912, which states that at the time the mill manufactured lace curtains exclusively. Another mill, the Athens Planing Mill, reported at the end of 1910 that the next year would be a record-breaking one for the building.

The family of Franklin Pierce Miller (inventory number 1) came about 1900 and started the Miller Lumber Company, then about 1908 they established the first ice factory in the county, which employed several people. A. J. Keys, who had earlier set up a planing mill by the Big Springs in Athens, wrote in 1912 that "I at no time have regretted coming here, and I have accumulated more since I have been here than all my previous life. . ."

Keys further states that in 1912 Athens had about 3000 inhabitants. If true, this shows some 1200 increase in that two-year period over the 1910 census, which shows that Athens' population was 1,715 in 1910, as compared to 1,010 on 1900, according to the Limestone Democrat newspaper on April 13, 1911. For the county as a whole, the "Alabama Courier" newspaper reported on November 16, 1910, that the population had increased by 4,500 over the 1900 census.

In 1910, it was announced that the L&N Railroad would double track its line from Calera to Athens and would build a new double track line from Athens to Brentwood, Tennessee. The increase facility for moving products in and out of the county improved its financial resources. Before the end of the next decade, two major highways crossed at Athens: the Bee Line - Highway 31, and the Lee Line - Highway 72. The location of Athens on these two transportation lines assured the city's prosperity well into the twentieth century.

The George S. Houston Historic District also grew during the first decades of the twentieth century. It was during this period that most of the houses in the district were constructed. As the need for more housing increased in Athens, the large lots associated with the antebellum plantation homes were subdivided into residential lots. The Fairview subdivision, located in the northern half of the district, was plotted in 1909. In the next three decades the neighborhood developed into a middle-class residential neighborhood.

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The increase of housing in Athens during this period is seen in local newspaper accounts of the period. A newspaper article dated September 1985 describes how Athens is experiencing growing pains. There was not a vacant house and "30 families want to move at once. . . Messrs. Malone and Hendricks are turning out brick by the million. Most of them will be used in this town. . ." In February 1905, the "Alabama Courier" stated that the Hendricks Brothers, had "caused to be used more bricks and mortar than any men who ever lived in Athens, to them more than to any one or two individuals, is the town indebted for substantial growth and attractive appearance." Examples of residences built by Malone and Hendricks are seen in inventory numbers 48 and 97.

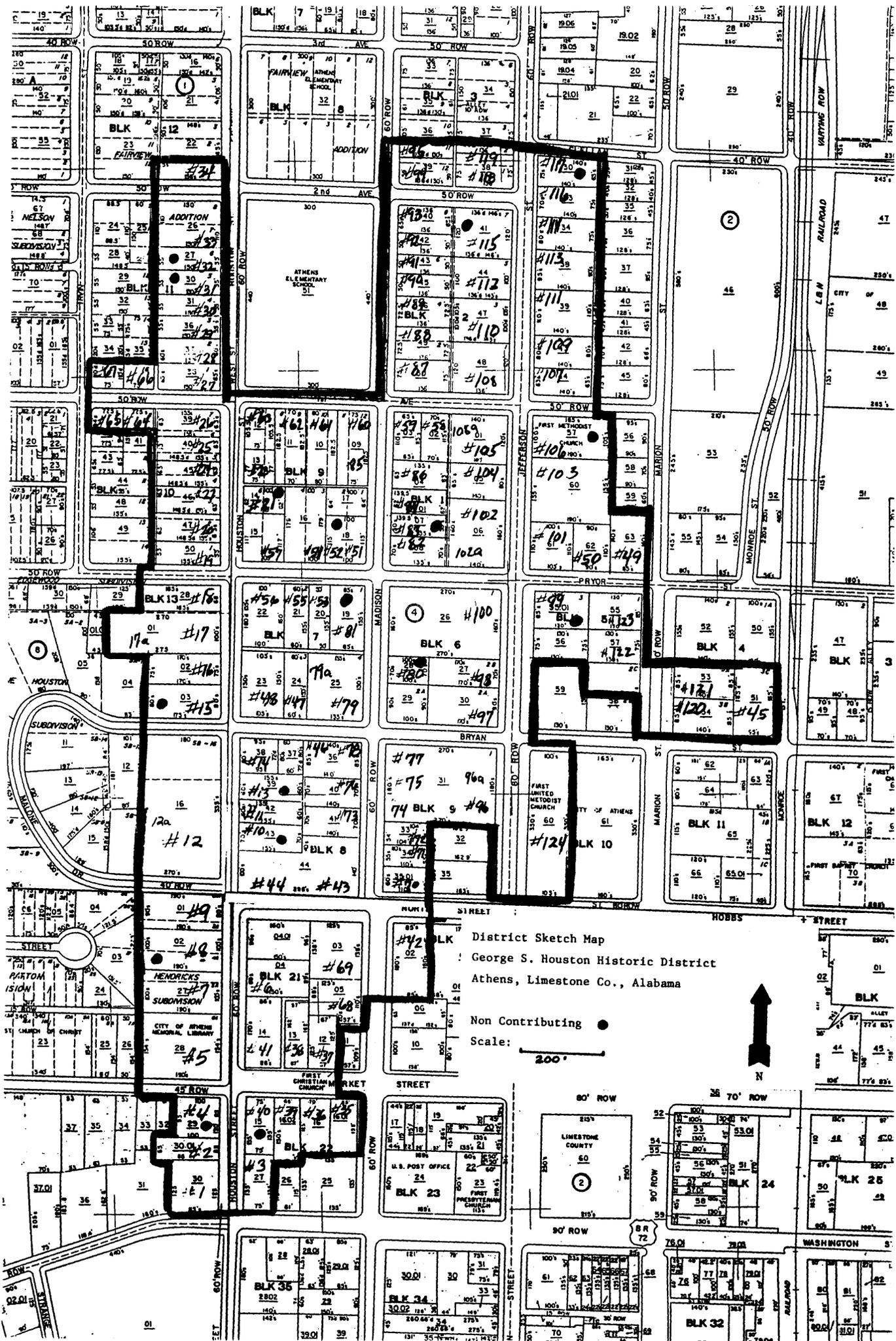
The George S. Houston Historic District continued to contain the homes of Athens' most prominent citizens. The houses of at least two of the most renowned physicians in Athens are in the district. Among them are those of Dr. A. D. Powers (inventory number 100 and 101), who built the first hospital in the county; and of Dr. J. O. Belue (inventory number 1), who practiced for some seventy years before his death, as well as Dr. Booth (inventory number 23).

A number of houses in the district belonged to the town's leading merchants from its earliest days. Among these are Samual Tanner (inventory number 69), merchant and first mayor of Athens; Sam Bowen (inventory number 39), a leading merchant; and Ben Jaffe (inventory numbers 34 and 104), and Jacob Markowitz (inventory number 45), two leading merchants. There are numerous houses in the district built by artisans, particularly one erected by the master builder of the early twentieth century, J. W. Chambers (inventory number 34), whose imposing structures are seen in the First United Methodist and First Christian churches, the present courthouse, the Masonic Hall, and many of the residences in the district.

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graphs Page 1

Information in items 2-5 is the same for all photographs.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2) Athens, Alabama | No. 9 |
| 3) Carl Hunter | 1) Sarver House, 501 N. Jefferson Street |
| 4) December 1987 | George S. Houston Historic District |
| 5) Alabama Historical Commission | 6) Main facade, facing east, inv. #108 |
| No. 1 | No. 10 |
| 1) Houston Street | 1) Crutcher House, 305 N. Jefferson St. |
| George S. Houston Historic District | George S. Houston Historic District |
| 6) Street scene looking north | 6) Main facade, looking east, inv. #98 |
| No. 2 | No. 11 |
| 1) Madison Street | 1) Clay House, 311 West Hobbs Street |
| George S. Houston Historic District | George S. Houston Historic District |
| 6) Street scene looking north | 6) Main facade, looking north, inv. #42 |
| No. 3 | No. 12 |
| 1) Houston House, 101 North Houston Street | 1) Malone House, 402 West Hobbs Street |
| George S. Houston Historic District | George S. Houston Historic District |
| 6) Main facade, looking west, inv. #5 | 6) Main facade, looking south, inv. #43 |
| No. 4 | No. 13 |
| 1) Craig House, 207 N. Jefferson Street | 1) Sarver House, 500 N. Jefferson Street |
| George S. Houston Historic District | George S. Houston Historic District |
| 6) Main facade, looking east, inv. #96 | 6) Main facade, looking west, inv. #107 |
| No. 5 | No. 14 |
| 1) Tanner House, 111 N. Madison Street | 1) Feagin House, 404 West Market Street |
| George S. Houston Historic District | George S. Houston Historic District |
| 6) Main facade, looking east, inv. #69 | 6) Main facade, looking south, inv. #37 |
| No. 6 | No. 15 |
| 1) Murrah House, 405 N. Jefferson Street | 1) Martin House, 207 N. Houston Street |
| George S. Houston Historic District | George S. Houston Historic District |
| 6) Main facade, looking east, inv. #102 | 6) Main facade, looking east, inv. #12 |
| No. 7 | No. 16 |
| 1) Peebles House, 408 N. Jefferson Street | 1) Kitchen behind 207 N. Jefferson St. |
| George S. Houston Historic District | George S. Houston Historic District |
| 6) Main facade, facing west, inv. #103 | 6) Main facade, looking east, inv. #96a |
| No. 8 | No. 17 |
| 1) Gilbert House, 411 N. Jefferson Street | 1) Law office behind 405 North Jefferson |
| George S. Houston Historic District | George S. Houston Historic District |
| 6) Main facade, facing east, inv. #105 | 6) Main facade, looking east, inv. #102 |



District Sketch Map
 George S. Houston Historic District
 Athens, Limestone Co., Alabama

Non Contributing ●
 Scale: 200'

