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NAT REGISTER OF HISTORIC PL	ACES
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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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

1. Name of Prope	erty	······	······································	
historic name other names/site		born Historic Dis n/a	trict	
2. Location	····-		······································	
-		Georgia State Ro		at the intersection of Johnson on County, approximately 6 miles
<b>city, town</b> Newl <b>county N</b> ewl <b>state</b> Georgia	ton	<b>code</b> GA 217 <b>zip code</b> 3026	2	(n/a) <b>vicinity of</b>
(n/a) <b>not for publ</b> i	cation			
3. Classification		·····		
Ownership of Pro	operty:		Catego	y of Property:
<ul> <li>(x) private</li> <li>(x) public-local</li> <li>( ) public-state</li> <li>( ) public-federal</li> </ul>			(x) distr ( ) site	cture
Number of Resou	irces within f	Property: <u>C</u>	Contributing	Noncontributing
sites	ctures		78 3 2 0	43 0 4 0
total			83	47

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: n/a Name of previous listing: n/a Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

# 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Signature of certifying official

Mark R. Edwards State Historic Preservation Officer

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

Signature of commenting or other official

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

() entered in the National Register

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

Colson A. Beall 8.6.9

Date

me 22, 1998

Keeper of the National Register

Date

# 6. Function or Use

# **Historic Functions:**

DOMESTIC/single dwelling COMMERCE/general store COMMERCE/warehouse COMMERCE/financial institution GOVERNMENT/post office EDUCATION/school EDUCATION/education-related

# **Current Functions:**

DOMESTIC/single dwelling COMMERCE/general store COMMERCE/warehouse EDUCATION/school TRANSPORTATION/rail-related

# 7. Description

# Architectural Classification:

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate LATE VICTORIAN/Second Empire LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Classical Revival/Neo-Classical Revival LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Tudor Revival **OTHER/Folk Victorian OTHER/Georgian** cottage **OTHER/Georgian** house **OTHER/Queen Anne cottage OTHER/Queen Anne house OTHER/Saddlebag OTHER/Pyramid** cottage **OTHER/Gable Ell cottage OTHER/Central Hallway OTHER/Bungalow OTHER/Double Shotgun OTHER/New South cottage** OTHER/Ranch

# TRANSPORTATION/rail-related TRANSPORTATION/road-related (vehicular)

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Section 7--Description

# Materials:

foundation	brick, stone, and concrete
walls	brick, wood, asbestos, metal,
roof	metal and asphalt
other	n/a

# Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Newborn, Georgia is located in the southeastern section of Newton County in the Piedmont region of the state. The Newborn Historic District encompasses the majority of the residential, commercial, agricultural, and community landmark resources within the city limits of Newborn. The spatial pattern consists of a commercial development located near the center of town and the railroad tracks, historic residences surrounding the commercial development, and agricultural-related buildings, fields, and woodlots surrounding the residences.

Newborn is an example of a crossroads town with a railroad. The town was platted in 1839 by John W. Pitts, an early settler and prominent land owner in Newborn. The plan created square lots of approximately four acres each, divided into a grid pattern and lettered (see attachment 1). These lots were offered free to settlers who would move to Newborn and build. According to a 1901 Newton County Soil Map, development was concentrated around the crossroads intersection of Georgia State Route 142/Main Street and Johnson Street and the railroad tracks. Little of the original grid pattern was developed (see attachment 2). Newborn had its greatest period of development in the decade following the completion of the Middle Georgia and Atlantic Railroad north of the crossroads intersection in 1893. The Middle Georgia and Atlantic Railroad was bought by the Central of Georgia Railroad in 1896. The line remained the Central of Georgia Railroad until the Central of Georgia Railroad was bought by Southern Railway in 1962. Currently, the line is owned by CSX Transportation. The alignment of the Central of Georgia Railroad (the preferred name since the line was under Central of Georgia Railroad's ownership throughout most the developmental history of Newborn) cuts through the historic grid pattern north of the main crossroads intersection of Georgia State Route 142/Main Street and Johnson Street. The railroad bed is built at the same grade as the roads, and the single track splits into two separate tracks from Porter Street to Spring Street.

The one- and two-story buildings located within commercial area at the crossroads intersection were constructed during the late 19th century and early 20th century in the Folk Victorian style with some Italianate-stylistic elements (see photos 1 and 2). The freestanding building located at 107 Johnson

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Street is the only historic wood-framed commercial resource within the district. The one-story gablefront building features a pressed metal roof and weatherboard cladding. Historically, the commercial area of Newborn included several wood-framed stores. However, most of the wood-framed commercial resources were destroyed during a fire in 1925. The attached buildings are located close to the street and feature a parapet roof, brick corbeling, pilasters, and three-bay front facades. The building located on the southwest corner of the intersection, the Childs' General Store, was built in 1870 and recently damaged by fire (see photo 2). The front facade and west wall of the building survived the fire and the building is currently being restored to its original appearance. This is one of the earliest and the only two-story store constructed in Newborn. The first gas station, built c.1930, in Newborn is located within this commercial block. The gas station features a canopy altered with a modern shingle "Mansard" roof with an office and bays located within the center block of the building (see photo 4).

The residential development within the district is divided into two areas: white and African-American. The historically white residential development is located along the grid pattern of streets surrounding the commercial area. The residential area contains an excellent collection of the house types and architectural styles popular in Georgia's towns during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The types represented within this area include Georgian cottage, Georgian House, Queen Anne cottage, Queen Anne house, saddlebag, Pyramid cottage, Gabled Ell cottage, Central Hallway, bungalow, and New South cottage. The houses include one-, two-, and two-and-a half-story buildings constructed of brick or wood situated on large lots. The large lots are informally landscaped with large mature trees and foundation plantings. One of the oldest residences within this area is the John Gay House, a two-story Georgian-type house constructed c.1850. The house features two exterior chimneys on each gable end, symmetrical five-bay front facade, and a central hallway on each floor with two rooms on either side of the hallway (photo 36). The types commonly found within this area include the Georgian cottage (see photo 17), Queen Anne cottage (see photo 16), and New South cottage (see photo 29). The Carter House (see photo 23) and J.T. Pitts House (see photo 37) are representative examples of the Queen Anne-type house, a type not commonly found in Newborn. A few vernacular-type houses are located within this residential area. The Pitts Cook House, located on the site of the Pitts House (burned to the ground several years ago) on Railroad Street, is representative of the type of vernacular housing provided to African-American domestics. The c.1900 saddlebag-type house features an interior central chimney, side-gable roof, shed front porch, and two front entrances opening into two equal-sized rooms (see attachment 3).

Most of the vernacular-type houses within the district are located in the African-American section of Newborn located along the railroad tracts and Timberlake Drive (also locally known as Field Street or Shanty Road) in the far western section of the district. The Aiken-Thomas House is a representative example of the type of vernacular residences located within the African-American section of the

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7--Description

district. The Central Hallway-type house was built c.1900 and features a side-gabled roof, shed front porch, and an interior central hallway with one room on either side of the hallway. A rear porch has been enclosed (see photo 13). Also located within the African-American section of the district, are three Railroad Section houses built by the Middle Georgia & Atlantic Railroad to house workers responsible for the repair and maintenance of the track from Newborn to Shady Dale in Jasper County (see photo 11). These one-story Saddlebag-type houses were constructed in 1890 and feature a central chimney and two front entrances opening into equal-sized rooms.

The styles represented within the district include Greek Revival, Second Empire, Folk Victorian, Italianate, Craftsman, and English Vernacular Revival. The historic residence located at 169 Johnson Street is a rare example of the Second Empire style in Georgia. According to a local historian, the house was originally constructed in 1839 to serve as a girls' dormitory for the Palmyra Institute (no longer standing). In its current form, the house appears to date to the 1880s. This two-and-a-half-story house features a mansard roof with dormers, narrow two-over-two double-hung windows, a front portico, and trabeated front entrance (see photo 25). Overall, the architecture of the historic residences is understated, as is typically found in small communities in Georgia. The Victorian influence is predominant with a few examples of the Romantic, Revival, and Modern styles represented within the district.

The historic community landmark buildings include the Newborn High School (now Newborn Community Center), the Newborn United Methodist Church, and Springfield Baptist Church. The Newborn High School, located along Georgia State Route 142 near the eastern edge of the district. was built in 1923-24 on the site of the original Newborn school, the Palmyra Institute (built 1842, razed 1923). The Newborn High School is a one-story building with a central rectangular block with two front-projecting gables. The building features a stone foundation, brick veneer exterior, six-oversix double-hung windows, a front portico supported by brick columns, and trabeated main entrance in the center block and entrances with transoms (may have originally included sidelights) located in both projecting gables. The building features Craftsman-style elements such as decorative brackets, extended rafter tails, and widely overhanging eaves (see photo 35). The Newborn United Methodist Church, located on Railroad Street just north of the commercial block, was constructed in 1902 and is the third Methodist church located on this site. The side-steeple church features a tall tower with a hipped roof with widely overhanging eaves with modillions and an open lantern with a bell. Also, the tower features a recessed entrance porch with small Doric columns and the original wood double doors (see photo 20). The Springfield Baptist Church, an important historic building within the African-American community, is located off of Georgia State Route 213 near the railroad track in the western section of the district. This building, constructed in 1938, replaced the original 1913 church that was destroyed by a storm in 1933. The gable-front building features a front portico supported by slender columns, double front doors, and a small cupola (see photo 12).

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# Section 7--Description

Several agricultural-related resources are located along the roads radiating from the town's grid pattern. The Nelson's Tenant House, located on Porter Street in the northeastern section of the district, is the only remaining building associated with the Nelson Farm (the Nelson House burned to the ground several years ago). The saddlebag-type house features a center chimney, side-gable roof, shed porch, and two main entrances opening into two equal-sized rooms (see photo 28). It recently has been sheathed in modern plywood-type siding, but its overall form and window and doorway openings are intact. The remains of a pecan orchard are located behind the tenant house. A large peach shed, constructed in 1925, is located on Academy Street in the eastern section of the district. The large wood-framed gable-end building is two stories and features a metal roof with exposed rafter tails, second-floor windows, nine-bay openings along both side elevations, wide board-and-batten siding, and four-bay openings in the gable ends (see photo 30 and attachment 4). The remains of a c.1910 cotton gin are located near the peach shed on Academy. The cotton gin was originally a one-story building that featured a metal roof with corrugated sheet metal exterior cladding (see photo 31). At the time the National Register photograph was taken, the mill was in poor condition and vacant. Since the photograph was taken (June 1997), the building suffered a major fire and the foundation and collapsed corrugated metal walls are all that remain of the mill. The agricultural fields within the district were historically planted primarily in cotton with other small crops. In 1925, farmers diversified their crops by growing peaches, corn, hay, wheat, tobacco, peanuts, and pecans. Crop production was further diversified in the mid-20th century with the raising of livestock on pasture land and harvesting wheat and hay.

Other agricultural-related resources include three warehouses located near the railroad tracks just west and north of the commercial area. The Newborn Fertilizer Warehouse is located just west of the commercial area on Georgia State Route 142/Main Street. The one-story gable-front building, built c.1910, is constructed of concrete with a metal roof (see photo 19). The railroad tracks are located directly behind (north) the building. The other rail-related warehouse, Pitts Warehouse, is located at the intersection of the railroad and Johnson Street north of the commercial block. The one-story gable-front building, built c.1900, is constructed of brick with a metal roof (see photo 3). A small wood-framed warehouse is located directly behind (northwest) of Pitts Warehouse. The building was constructed in the 1890s and is a gable-front building with one large open interior space.

Both the historic white and African-American cemeteries are located adjacent to each other in the southeastern section of the district. Historically, the cemeteries have never been directly associated with a church or with the City of Newborn. One of the settling families, the Pitts Family, donated the land for both cemeteries. The white cemetery features large headstones and marble retaining walls (see photo 34), and the African-American cemetery is very modest with small stone markers (see photo 33).

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Overall the district is intact with commercial development located near the main crossroads intersection of Georgia State Route 142/Main Street and Johnson Street. There has been little new construction within the residential areas of the district. The area outside of the district consists of commercial development along the state route and scattered nonhistoric housing and agricultural fields.

# 8. Statement of Significance

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

() nationally () statewide (x) locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

(x) **A** () **B** (x) **C** () **D** 

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): (x) N/A

()A()B()C()D()E()F()G

# Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

ARCHITECTURE COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT TRANSPORTATION ETHNIC HISTORY: AFRICAN-AMERICAN AGRICULTURE COMMERCE EDUCATION

# Period of Significance:

1839 to 1948

# Significant Dates:

- 1839 Plat of Newborn created; existing street plan laid out.
- 1893 Completing of the Middle Georgia and Atlantic (Central of Georgia Railway).

# Significant Person(s):

n/a

# **Cultural Affiliation:**

n/a

# Architect(s)/Builder(s):

# Unknown

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

# Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Newborn Historic District is an excellent example of a small Georgian town that developed from its initial crossroads intersection plan into a grid pattern of streets with a railroad. The district encompasses residential, commercial, agricultural, and community landmark buildings. The district is significant in the areas of architecture, community planning and development, transportation, ethnic history: African American, agriculture, commerce, and education.

The district is significant in the area of <u>architecture</u> for the excellent examples of residential, commercial, agricultural, and community landmark buildings constructed during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The significant types of historic residences represented within the district include Georgian cottage. Georgian House, Queen Anne cottage, Queen Anne house, saddlebag, Pyramid cottage, Gabled Ell cottage, central hallway, bungalow, double shotgun, and New South cottage, as identified in the Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings context. The Gay House (see photo 36) and the Palmyra Girls' Dormitory (see photo 25) are excellent examples of the Georgian House type. Both houses are more than one story and feature the character-defining central hallway with two rooms on either side of the hallway. This type was popular in Georgia from the first decades of the 19th century well into the 20th century. Most examples of the type, however, were built in the periods 1850 to 1860 and 1900 to 1930, chiefly in the larger towns and cities. The Carter House, built 1910, (see photo 23) and J.T. Pitts House, built 1910, (see photo 37) are excellent examples of the Queen Anne House type. Both residences are two stories and feature the character-defining projecting gables on the front and side elevations with no central hallway. The Queen Anne House type was popular in Georgia during the 1880s and 1890s. Primarily found in larger residential neighborhoods, the examples in Newborn are significant as Queen Anne Houses built in a small rural town. In general, the excellent collection of two-story houses in Newborn is significant since two-story houses are rare in Georgia, especially in a small rural community.

The majority of the historic residences within the district are one-story wood-framed buildings. The Patrick House, built c.1880, (see photo 17) is a good example of the Georgian cottage type. The one-story residence features the character-defining central hallway with two rooms on either side of the hallway. Residences of this type were built in almost all periods of Georgia's history, well into the 20th century, but the greatest concentration is between 1850 and 1890. Most examples are found within the Piedmont region of the state. A common house type within the district is the Queen Anne cottage. The Kiley House, built c.1890, (see photo 26) and the J.H. Childs House, built c.1900, (see photo 16) are excellent examples of the Queen Anne cottage. Both one-story residences feature the character-defining square main mass with projecting gables on the front and side elevations and no

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central hallway. This type was popular in both rural and urban areas as middle-class housing of the late 1880s and 1890s. Other types frequently found within the district include Gabled Ell cottage, New South cottage, bungalow, and Pyramid cottage. These types were popular as middle-class to upper-middle-class housing in both the rural and urban areas of Georgia from the late 1890s into the 1930s.

The historic housing stock located in the African-American section of the district consists of vernacular residences built during the 19th and early 20th century. The most common house type located in the this section of the district is the saddlebag type. Excellent examples of the saddlebag-type houses are located along the Central of Georgia Railroad corridor. This row of three c. 1890 saddlebag-type houses consist of one-story buildings which feature the character-defining central chimney flaked by two equal-sized rooms (see photo 11). Another common type in this residential area is the central hallway-type house. An excellent example of this type is the Aiken-Thomas House, built c.1900. This one-story building features the character-defining central hallway with one room located on either side of the hallway and gable-end chimneys (see photo 13).

Significant architectural styles identified within the district include Greek Revival, Second Empire, Folk Victorian, Italianate, Craftsman, and English Vernacular Revival, as defined in the *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings* context. The Gay House is an excellent example of a c.1840 Georgian House with Greek Revival-style elements. The character-defining features include a trabeated front entrance and symmetrical front facade (see photo 36). According to the *Georgia's Living Places* context: "The Greek Revival style conjures up an image of white columns often associated with Georgia; however, this image conflicts with reality. Only a relatively small number of such houses actually existed in the state and most were found in towns rater than as plantation houses in rural areas." The style was popular in Georgia from the 1840s to the 1860s and is considered to be the first style to appear statewide. The Palmrya Girls' Dormitory is an excellent example of the Second Empire style in Georgia. The character-defining features include the mansard roof with dormer windows, overhanging eaves, projecting front portico, two-over-two double-hung windows, and trabeated front door surround (see photo 25). The style is rare in Georgia and was built mainly in cities during the 1870s and 1880s.

A significant concentration of commercial resources is located at the intersection of Georgia State Route 142/Main Street and Johnson Street. The commercial block consists of a freestanding woodframed store and attached brick buildings consisting of a two-story store and one-story stores. The historic store located at 107 Johnson Street is significant as the only remaining wood-framed store within the district. The character-defining features of the building include its gable-front form, corrugated metal roof, and weatherboard cladding (see photo 1). Wood-framed stores where common throughout Georgia's small towns but very few survive intact today. Most were destroyed

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by fires and then replaced with brick buildings, as was the case in Newborn. The Childs' General Store is the only two-story building within the commercial block. The store, although seriously damaged (now undergoing restoration), retains a significant two-story arcaded front facade (see photo 2). The one-story stores are excellent examples of attached buildings representing the Folk Victorian style. Character-defining features include a parapet roof, decorative brick work in the cornice, pilasters, decorative window crowns, and three-bay front entrances (see photo 1). Another architecturally significant building is the c.1930 gas station located within the commercial block. Although superficially altered with a narrow, modern "Mansard" shingle roof, the intact character-defining features include a canopy with an office and bays located within the center block of the building (see photo 4).

The district is significant architecturally for its collection of agricultural-related resources. The Newborn Fertilizer Warehouse, originally a cotton warehouse, and Pitts Warehouse, originally a cotton warehouse, and Pitts Warehouse, originally a cotton warehouse, and Pitts Warehouse, originally a cotton warehouse, are excellent examples of agricultural warehouses situated near the railroad tracks in a small rural town. Character-defining features include the long rectangular form with one gable-end orientated towards a main road and large bay openings located on all sides (see photos 3 and 19). The Newborn Fertilizer Warehouse is further distinguished by its unusual poured-in-place concrete walls; the Pitts Warehouse by its brick detailing. The large, two-story, wood-framed building located on Academy Street in the northeast section of the district is an excellent and vary rare example of a peach shed. The character-defining features include the long rectangular form, side-gable roof, and large bay openings along the sides and gable ends (see photo 30 and attachment 4).

The district is also significant for its community landmark buildings. The Newborn High School (now Newborn Community Center) is an excellent example of a rural consolidated school built in the Craftsman style. The character-defining features include a rectangular central block with front projecting gables, brick veneer exterior cladding, and fieldstone foundation. The Craftsman-style details include decorative brackets, extended rafter tails, and widely overhanging eaves. Reflecting progressive early 20th-century school design principles, the building is just one story high and features banks of windows for light and ventilation (see photo 35). The Newborn United Methodist Church is an excellent and unusual example of a side-steeple church built in the Italianate style. Character-defining features include a tall bell tower with a hipped roof with widely overhanging eaves with modillions (see photo 20).

The district is significant in the area of <u>community planning and development</u> and <u>transportation</u> as an excellent example of the growth of a small rural crossroads community into a crossroads town with a railroad. Both community types are dependent upon historic transportation features: county roads and railroads. According to Darlene Roth's *Georgia Community Development and Morphology* 

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of Community Types context: "This form [crossroads town with railroad] is similar in every respect to the basic crossroads community...except this version of community has a railroad present. Yet, the railroad is an important part of the physical development or patterning of the layout of the town and usually accounts for the development of a set of railroad related structures--depots, warehouses, freight sidings, service buildings, even backtracks and switching tracts." The existing grid pattern of Newborn was platted in 1839 and the initial development of the town was concentrated near the crossroads intersection of Georgia State Route 142/Main Street and Johnson Street (see attachment 2). The greatest period of development occurred following the completion of the Central of Georgia Railroad through Newborn in 1893; the rail bed itself, crossing through town on a relatively level grade, is a significant transportation-related feature. At the turn of the century, the railroad was the greatest "shaper" of Georgia's towns. As a result of the introduction of the railroad in Newborn, several rail-related buildings, such as Railroad Section housing, a depot (since demolished), and warehouses, were constructed. The Railroad Section housing (see photos 10 and 11) was constructed by the railroad for workers who were responsible for the repair and maintenance of the railroad tracks from Newborn to Shady Dale in Jasper County. The warehouses were built by private companies involved in storing and shipping agricultural products. The railroad also spurred the economic growth of the town and resulted in the construction of more businesses, such as the 1910 Bank of Newborn building, and the in-fill of the original 1839 grid pattern with residential development. The railroad spurred the growth of the agricultural businesses and activities in Newborn by providing better shipping of agricultural-related goods and bringing in needed supplies.

The district is significant in the area of ethnic history: African-American for the historic African-American community located in the northwest section of the district, a historically African-American cemetery located next to the white cemetery in the southeast section of the district, and few tenant houses for African-American workers/domestics within the predominantly white residential development radiating from the crossroads of Georgia State Route 142/Main Street and Johnson Street. The Pitts Cook House, located on the site of the Pitts House on Railroad Street, is an excellent example of the tenant houses built for African-American workers/domestics within the white residential area of the district (see attachment 3). According to Georgia's Historic Black Resources handbook: "Black tenant houses built in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were typically two- or three-room frame buildings with steep gable roofs." Many of these types of tenant houses formerly located within the white residential area have been lost due to deterioration, fire, or demolition. A historically African-American community remains within the northwest section of the district. The African-American community is geographically separated from the white residential community, as was common in the development of many of Georgia's towns. The focus of the community is the Springfield Baptist Church, built 1938. The current church replaced an earlier 1913 Baptist church. The church has had several nonhistoric renovations and is no longer architecturally significant: however, the church is historically significant within the development of the African-

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American community. According to Georgia's *Historic Black Resources* handbook, the church is the most significant community landmark building within an African-American community. The church also helped other institutions, such as schools and mutual aid societies, to developed within the community. The remaining historic residences are located around the Springfield Baptist Church. Many of the residences have been lost due to deterioration. Where once historic buildings stood, mobile homes and ranch houses are now located. The cemetery contains a variety of modest headstones including cut and shaped stone, concrete, and native rock. It is the largest single historic resource in Newborn associated with its African-American residents. The African-American cemetery, remaining tenant houses located within the white residential area, and remaining African-American community with its church and historic residences are significant for documenting the continued presence of African-Americans in the historic district.

The district is significant in the area of agriculture for its remaining intact agricultural-related resources including storage warehouses, peach shed, and cotton gin. The agricultural history of Newborn has changed much over time. Prior to 1850, crops consisted of corn, wheat, peas, oats, sweet potatoes, cotton, hay, and wool. During decades between 1850 to 1920, cotton became the primary crop. It was also during this period that the growth of the economy of Newborn from the production of cotton and the presence of the railroad spurred the construction of the commercial block, residential areas, and agricultural-related warehouses. The production of cotton declined during the early 1920s due to the boll weevil outbreak and continued to decline through the Depression. Several resources remain within the district to reflect this significant period of agricultural development. Cotton warehouses, built at the turn of the century, are located along the Central of Georgia railroad tracks. These warehouses, such as the Pitts and Newborn warehouses, were used to store cotton until it could be shipped on the railroad to other cities. The remains of a cotton gin, built c.1910, is located in the eastern part of the district. The cotton gin was built during the height of cotton production in Newborn and is located just south of the Central of Georgia Railroad tracks. Following the decline of cotton after the 1920s, farmers were forced to diversify their crop productions by growing more peaches, corn, hay, wheat, tobacco, peanuts, and pecans. A large peach shed located near the cotton gin on Academy Street represents this significant period of agricultural development. The peach shed is an excellent example of the diversification and specialization of crop production practiced by the local farmers. The shed was built in 1925 and was used by the peach farmers as a seasonal packing house until the orchards became diseased and were destroyed. The building is now used to store hay. Other agricultural-related resources within the district include the historic agricultural fields and pecan orchards. By the mid-20th century, raising dairy and cattle on pasture land became the primary production.

The district is significant in the area of <u>commerce</u> for the intact historic commercial block located at the crossroads intersection of Georgia State Route 142/Main Street and Johnson Street. The

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earliest store built at the crossroads was the Childs' General Store, a two-story brick building. Constructed c.1870, the store was one of a few commercial resources built at the crossroads intersection prior to the completion of the railroad through Newborn in 1893. The building functioned as a general merchandise store on the main floor and provided office space for medical practices and apartments on the second floor. The development of the commercial block was generated by the completion of the railroad in 1893. The original Newborn Post Office and Drug Store, built 1895, was located in the freestanding, wood-framed, gable-front building on Johnson Street, just north of the crossroads intersection (see photo 1). This was one of the first commercial resource constructed following the completion of the railroad. Other commercial resources built to accommodate the developing economy of Newborn during the early 20th century included the Bank of Newborn, built 1904, and Newborn Supply Company, built c.1900, specializing in general merchandise, building materials, caskets, and farm supplies. The development of the commercial block represents the economic growth brought to Newborn by the railroad.

The district is significant in the area of education for its association with the last remaining building associated with the Palmyra Institute and the intact historic Newborn High School building. When the town was platted in 1839, land was designated for a school. The Palmyra Institute was formed that same year. The original school building was located on the site of the existing historic Newborn High School. During the mid- to late 19th century, Newborn was significant in education as the center of education in the county due to the presence of the Palmyra Institute. The only remaining historic building associated with the institute is a residence located on Johnson Street. This Second Empire-style residence served as a girls' dormitory. In 1859, circulars were printed by the Messenger Job Office in Covington noted the "Board may be had in good families- all things furnished- lights excepted, for \$10.00 per month." The Palmrya Institute functioned as a private school from 1839 until 1908, when it became the Newborn High School. The building functioned as the high school from 1908 until early 1920s when a new high school building was constructed in 1923. The 1923 Newborn High School building was built to replace the older school. The school closed in 1951 due to county consolidation and now functions as a community center. Newborn's remaining educational buildings also document educational practices characteristic of small towns in Georgia, with private schools providing basic education in the 19th century, superseded by new public schools in the early 20th century.

# **National Register Criteria**

The Newborn Historic District is eligible under Criterion A for its development from a small crossroads community into a town with an intact historic grid pattern with a railroad; continuous agricultural development; development of rail-related transportation; development of an African-American community; and development of a commercial and educational services. The district is

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also eligible under Criterion C for its excellent collection of residential, commercial, agricultural, and community landmark buildings as well as for its overall community plan-form.

# Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

# Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Newborn Historic District begins in 1839 with the settling of the community and ends in 1948, the end of the historic period. Even though the construction of the historic residences ended in the early 1930s, the continuous pattern of agricultural diversification and specialization extending into the mid-1940s is significant.

# Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The 83 historic resources within the district which retain integrity encompass 78 historic buildings which include residences, community landmark buildings, commercial resources, and outbuildings that are substantial in size, scale, or importance; 2 structures which include the railroad and intact grid pattern; and 3 sites which include the remaining pecan orchards and African-American and white cemeteries. The 47 noncontributing resources consist of buildings that either were built after 1948 or have undergone extensive alterations causing them to lose integrity; an early 1960 water tower; and silos and feed mills along the railroad tracks.

# Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

NOTE: The following history was prepared by Constance M. Malone, "Newborn Historic District," <u>Historic District Information Form</u>, January 1997. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Newton County, Georgia was created on Christmas Eve, 1821 from lands originally belonging to Jasper, Walton, and Henry counties. Named for Sgt. John Newton, this north-central Georgia county in its earliest days consisted of acres of rolling Piedmont soil covered in woodlands of pine and hardwood trees. Early settlers to the area, who arrived from eastern Georgia, the Carolinas, Virginia, and other eastern states, often made their living as general farmers, producing food for personal and local use.

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The town of Newborn, which was first called Cross Road or Sandtown, was settled c.1819 by Rufus Broome and his wife, Nancy Ann Williams Pitts of Warrenton. At this time it was still part of Jasper County until county delineation changes after 1824 made it part of Newton County. Broome, who became Newborn's first postmaster when the post office was established there in 1824, ran a general store which served area settlers. Nestor and John W. Pitts, two of Mrs. Broome's brothers who were also raised in Warren County and had gone to school in Connecticut, came to live with their sister and brother-in-law and worked as clerks in Mr. Broome's store. In 1828 Nestor Pitts married Martha Elizabeth Anderson Wilburn of Morgan County, and the couple had ten children. Nestor Pitts served the early Newborn community well as a civic leader, becoming one of the founders of Palmyra Institute (demolished in 1923). He was also a successful farmer, and the 1850 census lists him as owning land valued at \$8,800 and owning eight slaves.

John W. Pitts was considered to be a very colorful figure, educated as a lawyer, writer, and promoter. He ultimately bought out Mr. Broome, who moved away to LaGrange, and in 1832 married Sophianesba Barnes of Newton County. By 1839, John W. Pitts had acquired a large amount of land and that year drew out the "Plan of Newborn, Newton Co., Ga. 1839 " from a portion of it. The plan created square lots of approximately four acres each, divided in a grid pattern and lettered. These lots were offered free to settlers who would come in and build. Like his brother, John W. Pitts was also a successful farmer, and in 1850 he, his wife, and their seven children had land valued at \$10,000 and owned twenty-five slaves.

During the Civil War, John W. Pitts was also a Union sympathizer who entertained Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman at his home (which was demolished in the 1950s) as he passed through Newborn on November 19, 1864 on his March to the Sea. In spite of this hospitality, Sherman's men killed all of John W. Pitts' stock and burned his gin prior to leaving town. Sherman reportedly apologized profusely and offered to pay for the damages. John W. Pitts' son, Noel Marcellus Pitts, was the only Civil War casualty from Newborn. Other residents who served included John Webb Gay and his brother William F. Gay, and Olin Pitts, son of Nestor Pitts.

Some of the early residents of Newborn included (in addition to the Pitts): James Madison Finley (m. Mary Ann), a merchant who in 1850 owned land valued at \$3,300 and sixteen slaves; James H.H. Montgomery; Richard F. Harrell; Dr. Edwin Perry; J.C. Bailey and Margaret M. Pitts Bailey; George Washington and Angelina Dickerson; Milledge Gay; John Webb; Mr. Gathwright; John and Edwin Porter; George Loyd; Moses Brightwell (m. Adeline), a farmer who in 1850 owned land valued at \$500 and no slaves; Thomas M. Duke (m. Mary Ann), who in 1850 owned land valued at \$1,900 and 16 slaves; Joshua Parker; and Charles Strong (m. Adaline), a large land owner with land valued at \$20,000 and 71 slaves.

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Many of these earliest residents dedicated themselves to establishing Newborn as a center for education in the county. In 1837 John W. Pitts, Nestor Pitts, James H.H. Montgomery, and Richard Harrell made plans to organize a new academy for the purpose of educating local children. John W. Pitts donated one of the land lots created in his 1839 plan for the school, along with four hundred dollars and his services as a teacher for a year. The Institute, which was subsequently named Palmyra for John W. Pitts' eldest daughter, was formed. By 1842 several local leaders served as Trustees, including Charles Strong, Thomas Burge, James Madison Finley, Richard Harrell, and Nestor Pitts. The new school appears to have quickly become a success, for the 1850 census lists Palmyra as having a single teacher, forty pupils, and as receiving \$940 in public funds and \$10,578 in private funds. By 1860, Palmyra boasted of three teachers: Milton Francis Cheney, Jesse F. Mixon, and Nelson N. Mixon.

Students at the Palmyra Institute resided with Newborn families, who graciously opened their homes to the students until a dormitory could be built. In 1859, circulars were printed by the Messenger Job Office in Covington which read "THE HIGH SCHOOL in the NEW ACADEMY At Newborn, Newton Co., Georgia, E.A. Pratt, A.M. of New York, Principal" and noted that "Board may be had in good families - all things furnished - lights excepted, for \$10.00 per month." The circular went on to tout the educational opportunities available there and assured nervous parents that "The location is noted for healthfulness and the citizens for civility; and all kinds of spirits (except for medicinal purpose) and gambling establishments are excluded by conditional deeds." Advertising continued to appeal to parental concerns, for in 1866, two years after the close of the Civil War, an advertisement in the February 2 *Georgia Enterprise* read "PALMYRA INSTITUTE, NEWBORN, GEORGIA. Parents: Have you lost your property? Give your children - Sons and Daughters - a Fortune which Fire can't consume, nor Robbers steal - A Good Education. J.F. Mixon, Principal." This same advertisement also listed tuition (which was also payable in corn, wheat, or other produce) for the school's offerings of spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, English grammar, ancient languages, and algebra.

Palmyra Institute continued to operate until c.1908-09 when it was converted to Newborn High School, a public school, with H.B. Robertson serving as principal. In 1912, the school was listed as having 115 pupils, and c.1923-27 the old two-story wooden building was replaced with the present Craftsman-style brick building built on the same site. This new building served as a high school until 1951, and it has subsequently become the Newborn Community Center, a capacity in which it continues to meet the social and education needs of local citizens.

In addition to their interest in education, Newborn citizens also professed a deep belief in God and placed religious practice high among their activities and priorities. The first Newborn Methodist Church building, a small log structure, was built c. 1820 following the acquisition of land for \$25.00

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

from Richard Fretwell by Trustees Jackson Harwell, Henry Fady, Washington Isaac Roper, Benjamin Roper, and Wiley Burge. In 1847, John W. Pitts and John A. Broughton deeded a tract of land for the sum of \$50.00 to the Trustees, and a white frame building was constructed near the original building. This building was dedicated by Dr. Longstreet, Dr. Means, and Bishop Andrews of Emory College in Oxford, Georgia, and it served the local congregation for over fifty years. During this time, the first record of church officers, dating to 1891, lists Church Trustees as James Harwell, Judge Manson Glass, Robert Childs, W.F. Gay and John L. Pitts; Church Stewards James M. Harwell, Robert Childs, John L. Pitts, and Charlie Williams; Church Secretary J.J. Duke; and Sunday School Superintendent W.E. Stowe. In 1903, the third and present building was constructed on the site of the 1847 building under the pastorate of S.P. Wiggins. The new building was dedicated by the renowned evangelist Rev. Sam P. Jones. Local history has that Rev. Jones "preached from an arbor immediately adjacent to the new edifice to a crowd of six to eight hundred" and that the "dedicatory service was delayed until a sufficient offering was received to complete the construction costs." The educational annex was added in 1949, and the Fellowship Hall in 1978.

The only other church building built in Newborn is the Springfield Baptist Church, which has served the social and religious needs of the African American community for 83 years. Originally organized by Rev. Frank Harvey at Broughtville in Jasper County in 1872, the church was later moved to Morgan County, and then in 1913 under the leadership of Rev. J.L. Saxon to Newborn. The original church building in Newborn was destroyed by a storm in 1933, and the present building was built in 1938. Rev. L.G. Aikens, one of the greatest pastors of the church, served for 32 years until his death in 1951. He also served as Vice Moderator of the Yellow River Association for 19 years. Since that time, the Springfield Baptist Church has had several notable preachers, and it continues to function as a center point of the lives of many local residents.

In addition to their interest in providing educational and religious opportunities for local citizens, the early Newborn leaders also looked toward serving the practical needs of day-to-day life. Recognizing the benefits of moving agricultural products from farm to market via the growing number of railroad lines being built across the state of Georgia, in January of 1854, Charles Strong, John W. Pitts and others proposed the Eatonton and Covington Railroad be constructed in order to keep the town progressive. This line was never built, however, and it was not until nearly forty years later that the railroad came through Newborn. The line that was finally built was for the Middle Georgia and Machen, which was renamed the Middle Georgia & Atlantic Railroad in October, 1889. The company sought to link Savannah with Atlanta in order to compete with the growing Central of Georgia Railroad. After a series of construction delays, the track began to be laid at Machen in Jasper County (southeast of Newton County) on March 13, 1893. The first train reached Newborn on April 29, and regular service between Eatonton and Newborn began. By January of 1894, construction was completed to Covington and by the following month the connection had been made with the

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Georgia Railroad line, linking the cities to Milledgeville.

The Central of Georgia Railroad ran two trains on this line each day, making stops at Newborn and other small towns in Newton County. This facilitated both travel for local residents and the shipping and receiving of freight. Newborn had a small, wooden depot which was located opposite the Pitts Warehouse, and three Railroad Section houses, including two section hand houses and the foreman's house, were also constructed about this time along the new line. These homes housed workers who were responsible for the repair and maintenance of the line from Newborn to Shady Dale in Jasper County. Ultimately, as happened throughout Georgia, the advent of paved roads, changes in agriculture, and alternative methods of moving freight, all led to the decline of the line. The Newborn station was closed, and while the depot was used for storage for many years, it was ultimately demolished.

As with many small towns throughout Georgia, the presence of the railroad spurred growth and development in the City of Newborn. Mail delivery occurred twice a week until the advent of the railroad, at which point daily delivery was begun. Local businesses already in existence when the railroad opened continued to thrive, and new businesses began to grow. The *Georgia State Directory* from 1876-77 lists the following businesses/businessmen in Newborn, which had a listed population of 300: J.M. Beland, Notary Public and Justice of the Peace; J.R. Duke & Co., general store; the Gay House, E.H. Gay, proprietor; C & J Hudson, boots and shoes; Vincent Jones, boots and shoes; E. Newton, Postmaster and general store; and Prince Pitts, livery stable. In 1881-82, the *Georgia State Gazetteer and Business Directory* listed: Robert Childs, Postmaster; C.M. Burke, shoemaker; Robert Childs and W.C. Bailey, general store; and J.H and J.N. Stanton, carpenters. Finally, in 1886, the *Georgia State Gazetteer* listed J.C. Boyd, sawmill; Robert Childs, Postmaster, general store and sawmill; T.W. Curtis, sawmill; Folds and Henderson, grist mill; J.L. Pitts, general store; and J.H. and J.N. Stanton, mechanics.

It was about this time that Robert Childs, a Civil War Captain, constructed the Childs' General Store in the center of town. Built of brick hand-made on Childs' property, the store served not only Newborn but residents in the adjacent counties as well. Childs operated the store, which was a retail success due largely to the success of the cotton industry at the time, until 1904, when it became Childs and Nelson. From 1906 until 1932 it was operated by Mr. Carter and Mr. Nelson, who had married two of Childs' daughters. In 1932, it was purchased by C.O.H. Perry, who operated it until 1942, selling it to D.R.O. Sams who ran it until its closing in 1970 when the effect of automobiles and supermarkets pulling the market away took its toll. During the years it operated as a general store, the ground floor was divided in half lengthwise, with dry goods, food, tobacco and candy on the west side and hardware and farm supplies on the east. The upstairs was used historically for lodgers and for physicians' and dentists' offices.

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Other businesses began to grow and prosper around this time as well. In 1903, ten years after the railroad line was built, Newborn became home to only the third bank in Newton County, the Bank of Newborn. Chartered on November 19, 1903, the bank was built adjoining the west wall of the Childs' General Store. Mr. Tom Rogers was the first cashier, with Grady Smith being a subsequent cashier. The Bank of Newborn's charter was amended on April 17, 1922, and the bank operated successfully until closed by the reverses of the Great Depression. Other businesses which were present in the mid-1910s, as shown on a copy of a plat between the City and the Central of Georgia Railroad, included J.O. Stanton's Planters' Warehouse (no longer standing), J.W. Pitts' store and livery stable (no longer standing), the post office, Newton Supply Company, and a hotel (no longer standing). In c.1925 there was a great fire which destroyed most of the wooden commercial buildings in the city.

Many of these businesses, as is common in any small rural community, depended on the success of local agriculture for their own success. In the early days of Newborn's history, grain crops such as corn and wheat were important to agricultural development and the sustenance of individual families as they were used to make meal and flour, and the corn was used to feed livestock. The 1850 census lists 812 farms in Newton County producing wheat, corn, peas, oats, sweet potatoes, cotton, hay and wool, Newborn and Newton County, however, came to depend on the cotton industry. Prior to the Civil War, the cotton farms were worked with slave labor, and afterwards with sharecroppers or tenants and day laborers. From the end of Reconstruction until 1921, cotton was the primary crop in Newborn and Newton county, with gins being located in Newborn, Covington, Mansfield, and Starrsville. Cotton production increased as its sale and that of other farm produce was facilitated by the growth and development of the railroad. Production peaked in Newton County in 1920 with the production of 600,00 bales, followed in 1921 with the complete failure of the cotton crop due to the boll weevil. Cotton decline continued through the Depression, when the price of cotton dropped to four cents a pound. While farmers continued to grow cotton on a smaller scale after effective insecticides for the boll weevil were developed in 1925, Newton County and Newborn farmers began to diversify, growing increasing quantities of peaches, corn, hay, wheat, tobacco, peanuts, and pecans. By the mid-twentieth century, livestock production also began to increase county-wide, with the most notable growth in the dairy and cattle industry.

Newborn as a city saw strong growth and change around the turn-of-the-century and in the early years of the twentieth century. The first charter of the Town of Newborn was issued in 1893, and in 1913 a new charter was requested and granted. Also in 1913, Newborn residents received electricity which was initially generated by a local plant owned by Dr. L.J. Pharr and Cliff Childs. The plant was destroyed in 1916 by a fire, at which time the town distributed power supplied by Georgia Power Company. In 1935, when maintenance and repair of the distribution system proved too costly, the town sold the system to Georgia Power Company. Telephone service was implemented in Newborn during the early 20th century and this period also noted great residential growth and

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development as many new homes were constructed during the 1890s and 1910s. Around this time too, Mr. L.P. Duke, while Mayor, had the sidewalks constructed and street trees planted, many of which were lost when Highway 142, leading from Covington through Newborn to Eatonton, was widened and paved in 1924. Shortly after Highway 142 was paved, Mr. W.N. Zeigler, Mayor and the City Council were able to secure state funds to pave the city streets. In 1968 the City Waterworks was installed, and in 1969 natural gas lines were installed to provide that form of power to local residents.

Newborn today still reflects the contributions of many of the events and people who worked together to shape its collective history. A number of the people who live there are descended from the town's early families, or are themselves lifelong residents who have created histories of their own. While some of the buildings which once housed the educational, religious, commercial, and personal interests may be gone, the spirit which inspired them has remained. The Newborn Historic District reflects this heritage.

# 9. Major Bibliographic References

Census Records:

1. Davis, Theodore. *The Complete 1850 Federal Census of Newton County, Georgia*. Oxford Shrine Society, Oxford, Georgia. 1978.

County Historian:

1. Written histories by Mrs. Bertha Wheatley Porter, copies courtesy of Mrs. Jeanette Zeigler.

County Histories:

- 1. Austin, Jeannette Holland. Newton County, Georgia Newspapers 1868-1904: The Georgia Enterprise and the Covington Star. Riverdale, Georgia, 1991.
- 2. Bruno, John I., compiler. *Newton County, Georgia Public School Lists, 1838-1869.* Covington, Georgia, 1993.
- 3. Dixon, Sara Anderson and Mary Jane Dixon. *Newton County, Georgia Cemeteries.* Covington, Georgia, 1968.
- 4. Newton County Historical Society, compiler. *History of Newton County, Georgia*. Covington, Georgia, 1988.
- 5. "The Springfield Missionary Baptist Church History," copy courtesy of Mrs. Jeanette Zeigler.

# Gazetteers:

- 1. Georgia State Directory, 1876-77.
- 2. Georgia State Directory, 1879.
- 3. Georgia State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1881-1882.
- 4. Georgia State Gazetteer, 1886.

# Interviews:

- 1. Mrs. Jeanette Zeigler, by preparer and Gail Miller, summer 1996.
- 2. Mrs. Miriam Chamberlain, by preparer and Gail Miller, summer 1996.
- 3. Mr. T.C. Berry, by preparer, summer 1996.

# Maps:

- 1. Plan of Newborn, Newton Co. Ga. 1839. Copy courtesy of Mrs. Jeanette Zeigler
- 2. Map of Newborn, Georgia 1894, surveyed by Arthur Pew, C.E. Copy courtesy of Mrs. Jeanette Zeigler.
- 3. Newton County Soil Map, U.S.D.A. Bureau of Soils, 1901. University of Georgia Map Room.
- 4. Newton County, Georgia Map, State Highway Board of Georgia, Federal Works Agency, 1940. University of Georgia Map Room.
- 5. United States Geological Survey Map, Mansfield Quadrangle. University of Georgia Map Room.
- 6. General Highway Map, Newton County, Georgia, State Highway Department of Georgia, 1961. Copied from *History of Newton County, Georgia* (see above).
- 7. Georgia Department of Transportation Map, Newton County, 1976. University of Georgia Map Room.
- 8. Plat of property referred to in agreement between the Central of Georgia Railway Company and the Mayor and Council of the Town of Newborn, plat appears c.1916. Copy courtesy of Mrs. Jeanette Zeigler.

Personal/Family Papers:

- 1. "History of the Gay Family," written by Mrs. Julia A. Gay, 1898. Copy courtesy of Mr. T.C. Berry.
- 2. "The Webb and Allied Families consisting of Manuscript of John Webb written in 1870 and The Webb Family." Copy courtesy of Mr. T.C. Berry.

Other:

- 1. Newton County vertical files, The University of Georgia Main Library, Georgia Room.
- 2. Merritt, Carole. Historic Black Resources: A Handbook for the Identification, Documentation, and Evaluation of Historic African-American Properties in Georgia. Georgia Department of Natural Resources/Historic Preservation Division.
- 3. Miller, Gail et al. *Historic Structure Report: Childs' General Store.* Prepared for Mrs. Jeanette Zeigler as part of the requirements for HP685, Building Materials Conservation, The University of Georgia. 1996.
- 4. Williams, Charles. Response to "Newborn National Register of Historic Places Information Form." 1996.
- 5. Zeigler, Jeanette. "Childs' General Store." Historic Property Information Form.

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

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

Primary location of additional data:

(x) State historic preservation office

- () Other State Agency
- () Federal agency
- () Local government
- () University
- () Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): Ne-N-1 thru NE-N-64

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property	Approximately 175 acres
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#### **UTM References**

A)	Zone 17	Easting 250300	Northing 3712420
B)	Zone 17	Easting 250150	Northing 3711120
C)	Zone 17	Easting 248620	Northing 3711900
D)	Zone 17	Easting 248990	Northing 3712380

# **Verbal Boundary Description**

The Newborn Historic District is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached USGS topographical map.

#### **Boundary Justification**

The Newborn Historic District is bounded on the north by historic property lines and a nonhistoric subdivision and on the west by historic property lines and a nonhistoric subdivision. The far western boundary line encompasses the historic African-American community of Newborn. This area, as with some other historically African-American areas within other towns, has been subdivided and recently developed with ranch and mobile homes. However, the spatial development of the African-American area being geographically removed from the white residential development still retains integrity. The noncontributing house located on parcel 15 along Georgia State Route 142/Main Street marks the end of the white residential development and the transition into the African-American residential development. The house is over 50 years old but has lost historic integrity due to alterations and additions; however, the house is still situated within its historic setting on a large lot contiguous to the other historic houses situated on large lots located within the white residential area. The vacant land and nonhistoric ranch and mobile homes are intrusion but the significant geographic transition from the white residential development to the African-American development is still discernible. The district is bounded on the south by agricultural fields and historic property lines, and on the east by historic property lines.

# 11. Form Prepared By

# **State Historic Preservation Office**

name/title Amy Pallante/National Register Specialist organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources street & number 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street city or town Atlanta state Georgia zip code 30303 telephone (404) 656-2840 date June 1998

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable)

() not applicable

name/title Constance M. Malone/Consultant organization Preservation Consulting street and number P.O. Box 491 city or town Lexington state Georgia zip code 30648 telephone (706) 743-3287

(x) consultant

() regional development center preservation planner () other:

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property:	Newborn Historic District
City or Vicinity:	Newborn
County:	Newton
State:	Georgia
Photographer:	James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed:	Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed:	June 1997

# **Description of Photograph(s):**

1 of 37	View of commercial buildings located at the intersection of Georgia State Route
	142/Main Street and Johnson Street; photographer facing south.

- 2 of 37 View of the Childs' General Store; photographer facing southwest.
- 3 of 37 View of the Pitts Warehouse; photographer facing west.
- 4 of 37 View of c.1930 gas station; photographer facing north.
- 5 of 37 View of the intersection Spring Street and Fulton Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 6 of 37 View of Johnson Street; photographer facing northeast.
- 7 of 37 Looking towards Field Street; photographer facing southwest.
- 8 of 37 View of the Nestor Smith House; photographer facing southwest.
- 9 of 37 View of Gable Ell cottage; photographer facing southwest.
- 10 of 37 Rear view of a Section Railroad house; photographer facing northwest.
- 11 of 37 Front views of two Section Railroad houses; photographer facing west.
- 12 of 37 View of Springfield Baptist Church; photographer facing south.

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

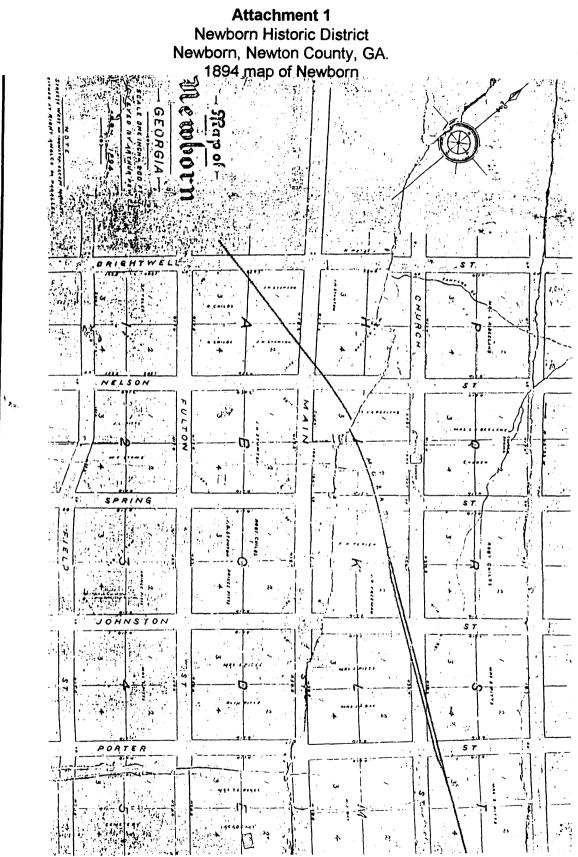
Photographs

13 of 37	View of central hallway-type house; photographer facing southeast.
14 of 37	Historic residence located within the African-American community of the district; photographer facing north.
15 of 37	View of a Georgian cottage; photographer facing southwest.
16 of 37	View of a Queen Anne cottage on Main Street; photographer facing southeast.
17 of 37	View of Georgian cottage; photographer facing south.
18 of 37	View of a New South cottage; photographer facing northeast.
19 of 37	View of the Newborn Fertilizer Company warehouse, originally a cotton warehouse; photographer facing northeast.
20 of 37	View of the Newborn United Methodist Church; photographer facing north.
21 of 37	View of saddlebag-type house; photographer facing southeast.
22 of 37	View of an English Vernacular-style house; photographer facing northeast.
23 of 37	View of a Queen Anne-type house; photographer facing west.
24 of 37	View of Queen Anne cottage and landscaping; photographer facing west.
25 of 37	View of the Palmyra Institute's Girls Dormitory (Second Empire-style house); photographer facing southeast.
26 of 37	View of Queen Anne-type house with Folk Victorian-style elements; photographer facing northeast.
27 of 37	View of Rutlege Road; photographer facing southwest.
28 of 37	View of a saddlebag-type house; photographer facing southwest.
29 of 37	View of a New South cottage; photographer facing south.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

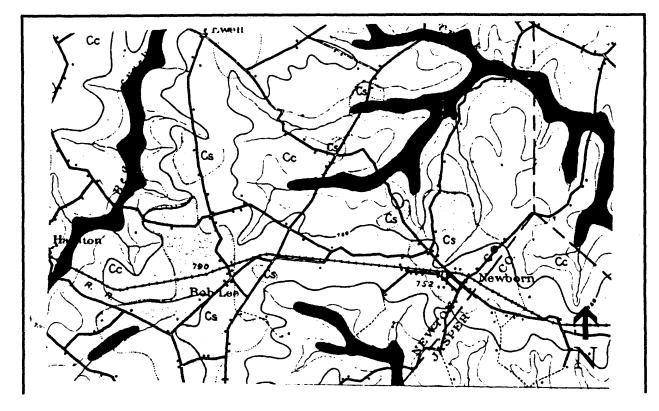
Photographs

- 30 of 37 View of peach shed; photographer facing west.
- 31 of 37 View of cotton gin; photographer facing west.
- 32 of 37 View of Main Street; photographer facing west.
- 33 of 37 View of African-American cemetery; photographer facing southeast.
- 34 of 37 View of white cemetery; photographer facing southwest.
- 35 of 37 View of the Newborn High School building (now community center); photographer facing southwest.
- 36 of 37 View of the John Gay House; photographer facing northeast.
- 37 of 37 View of Queen Anne-type house; photographer facing north.



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Attachment 2 Newborn Historic District Newborn, Newton County, GA. 1901 Soil Conservation Map



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Attachment 3 Newborn Historic District Newborn, Newton County, GA. Photo of Pitts Cook House



#### Attachment 4 Newborn Historic District Newborn, Newton County, GA. Photo of Peach Shed

