

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received JUN 23 1987

date entered DEC 8 1987

DEC 9 1987

1. Name

historic Church Street-Smith Street-Harris Street Historic District

and or common Same

2. Location

street & number Church, Smith, and Harris Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Sandersville

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia

code 013

county Washington

code 303

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple (More than Fifty)

street & number

city, town

N/A vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Washington County Courthouse

city, town Sandersville

state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Structure Field Survey  
Washington County

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1979

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta

state Georgia

## 7. Description

<u>    </u> excellent	<u>    </u> deteriorated	Check one	Check one
<u>X</u> good	<u>    </u> ruins	<u>    </u> unaltered	<u>X</u> original site
<u>    </u> fair	<u>    </u> unexposed	<u>X</u> altered	<u>    </u> moved    date _____

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

### Description

The Church Street-Smith Street-Harris Street Historic District is located in Sandersville, the county seat of Washington County. The district, which is located just to the southeast of the city's business district, encompasses the largest grouping of historic residential structures extant in Sandersville. The great majority of the structures are of frame construction, with some masonry structures which are of 20th-century construction. Architectural styles found in the district range from vernacular Greek Revival of the 1840s to Tudor style houses of the early 1930s.

Located just to the southeast of the Sandersville business district, the Church Street-Smith Street-Harris Street Historic District focuses on a collection of residential structures along the three streets which name the district. In spite of their proximity to the commercial center of the city, the houses in the district are situated on large lots, generally long and narrow in configuration. The houses are placed towards the fronts of the lots, with a reasonable setback from the street. The land encompassed by the district is mostly flat, but some rolling terrain appears, especially along Church Street.

The development of the district is reflected by the architectural character of its resources. This was not a planned subdivision, rather a tract of land which was divided up in a random manner, mainly just after the Civil War. Church Street and Harris Street are the urban ends of roads leading into Sandersville from Riddleville and Tennille, respectively, with Smith Street starting at a junction with Harris and proceeding north into the center of town.

The rather incremental nature of the district's development resulted in a distribution of structures of varying styles and dates of construction throughout the district. The earliest houses, dating from the 1850s, characteristically reflect the dominance of the Greek Revival style in the South. The Hollifield-Batten House at 312 S. Harris Street and the Schub House at 211 S. Harris are vernacular designs, with little attempt being made to emulate the columned grandeur most often associated with this style in Georgia. The Smith-Cummings House, located at 210 S. Smith Street, with its giant order Doric colonnade across its main elevation, is the best local example of the monumental Greek Revival style house of the ante-bellum years. The decade following the Civil War saw relatively little new construction in the district. Curiously, two houses known to date from this period are remarkably similar in form and appearance. Located at 207 and 211 S. Smith Street, they are single-story residences, with nearly pyramidal roofs. The front porches of both are attached to the houses and are not extensions of the roof-line. The last two decades of the 19th century saw a significant increase in building activity in the district. Both the scale and the variety of the houses built during this period increased. The largest specimens are the Albea-Boatright House at 220 E. Church, which represents the enlargement of an earlier house, and the Hollifield-Jordan House at 311 S. Harris. The latter of these is the best specimen of the Queen Anne Style in the district. The other major Queen Anne-style residence in the district is the C.D. Shelnutt House at 308 S. Smith. The Shelnutt House is of brick, which has always been stuccoed. The smaller houses of this period made good use of machined millwork details. The residences at 221 E. Church and 213 and 315 S. Harris all feature exterior detailing which was produced locally at Lang's Variety Works.

JUL 23 1987

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2

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The only non-residential architecture in the district takes the form of the two churches located on South Smith Street. The smaller of the two, the frame Catholic mission church of St. William, is located at the corner of South Smith and Mathis Lane. Originally built in 1877, the church was destroyed by a tornado and largely rebuilt in 1885. The more monumental Sandersville Christian Church, located at the corner of South Smith and West Church, was built between 1900 and 1905 and features a stuccoed brick exterior. Both of the churches are designed in the Gothic Revival style.

The early 20th century is also well represented in the district. Rather modest examples of bungalows are located at 304 E. Church, 317 S. Harris, and 405 S. Smith. Turn-of-the-century classicism is also present in the district with the house at 209 E. Church being perhaps the finest example with its paired columns on the front porch. The George Gilmore House at 316 S. Smith, built in 1925, reflects its builder's engineering background with concrete floors and exterior detailing. The Smith-Mathis House of 1933, located at 305 S. Smith, is the largest specimen of Tudor Revival domestic architecture in the district, and is faced with granite, with the gable ends of the house featuring half-timber work.

Several of the houses in the district retain their historic outbuildings. While many of these outbuildings are relatively small scale structures intended for storage, such as those associated with 225 E. Church, 220 E. Church and 148 E. Church, others are more imposing. 210 S. Smith still retains its original cook's house and barn, while barns also survive associated with 213 E. Church and 148 E. Church. The majority of these outbuildings are believed to have been built between 1870 and 1900.

Boundary Description and Justification

The boundaries for the district have been drawn so as to exclude the non-contributing commercial development along S. Harris Street, as well as the business area situated to the north of the district proposed for nomination. The limits of the district along S. Smith and E. Church Streets were determined by the concentration of historic houses, and the desire to exclude the non-contributory residential development along Mathis Lane, Lynnwood Drive, and Morningside Drive.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

**Specific dates** 1845-1935 **Builder/Architect** Several

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Church Street-Smith Street-Harris Street Historic District is significant in the areas of architecture and community planning and development. It meets National Register Criteria A and C.

In the area of architecture, the district is significant for its collection of 19th- and early 20th-century residences, many of which retain important or unusual outbuildings, and for its two historic churches. These types of historic buildings customarily are found in historic residential neighborhoods in Georgia's smaller cities and towns and especially in its historic county seats like Sandersville. Among these buildings are good examples of vernacular or "small-town" Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Classical Revival, Craftsman/Bungalow, and Tudor Revival styles of architecture. The styles represented in the district are good local interpretations and adaptations of important national styles which prevailed during the district's period of development. They represent these styles in both their overall massing and arrangement and in their use of period details. Most of the district's buildings are built of wood, as is typical in Georgia, although some of the larger homes and the churches are built of native brick. Construction methods range from heavy mortised-and-tenoned wood frames in the mid-19th-century houses to machined-milled "balloon-frame" construction in the later 19th century and early 20th century. The growth of the town of Sandersville as the Washington County seat in the 19th century is reflected by a steady increase in the sophistication of the architectural designs of the houses in the district; the earlier houses are almost all what could be classified as "vernacular" while later houses reflect popular architectural conventions and "high-style" influence. The founding of a local machine millwork shop, Lang's Variety Works, had an important impact upon the architecture of the district in the late 19th century; much of the machined millwork on the late 19th- and early 20th century houses in the district was produced locally by this company, according to patterns which reflected national tastes locally in architectural embellishment. The survival of a large number and a wide variety of historic outbuildings in the district is quite unusual in a residential neighborhood like this and adds to the district's architectural significance. These outbuildings provide a more complete picture of the historic built environment of 19th- and early 20th-century residential neighborhoods than is typically found in other communities.

In the area of community planning and development, the district is significant in that it reflects the continuous development of a residential neighborhood in an incremental manner over a period of nearly 100 years. This typifies an important pattern of 19th-century neighborhood development in Georgia's smaller cities and towns. 19th-century neighborhood development in Georgia towns, especially its county seats, generally followed one of two patterns. Later 18th- and early 19th-century county seats like Sandersville usually were laid out in a gridiron pattern, focused on a

(Continued)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Church Street-Harris Street-Smith Street Historic District Information Form. August, 1985. Prepared by Jo Cumming. (On file at Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources.) See Continuation Sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 105

Quadrangle name Sandersville, GA.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

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

B 

1	7	3	3	1	5	1	0	3	6	4	9	8	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

1	7	3	3	0	5	8	0	3	6	4	9	8	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

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

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

District boundary is described by a heavy black line on the enclosed district map. See also Section 7.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John C. Ferguson, Architectural Historian,  
Richard Cloues, National Register Coordinator

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date November 18, 1987 (resubmission)

street & number 205 Butler St. S.E., Suite 1462 telephone 404-656-2840

city or town Atlanta state Georgia

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Elizabeth A. Lyon*  
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date 11/18/87

(resubmission)

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

*Amy Schlager*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 12/31/87

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

NOV 27 1987

NATIONAL  
REGISTERSection number 8 Page 2

downtown central business district with the courthouse and courthouse square at or near its center. As these communities grew during the 19th century, residential development was accommodated in two ways: either through the expansion of the original gridiron pattern, or by continuous incremental subdivision of formerly outlying lands, especially along major transportation routes. In the 20th century, these two residential development patterns were joined by a third in some communities: planned suburbs, generally developed on a large scale, and built in a relatively short period of time. In Sandersville, growth in the gridiron mode extended north of the central business district, along N. Harris Street (currently being studied for possible National Register nomination), and to the southwest, around the T. J. Elder School (listed in the National Register). To the south and east of downtown, in the vicinity of S. Harris, and E. Church Street, growth and development took place in the incremental mode, along the major transportation arteries connecting Sandersville with communities to the south and east, between 1845 and 1935. It is in this area that the Church-Smith-Harris Street Historic District took form, from the mid-1900s through the early 20th century. Large, outlying landholdings, many of them former farms, were gradually subdivided to create a residential neighborhood. No overall plan guides this development. As a result, the neighborhood today is a heterogeneous collection of mid-and late-19th century and early 20th-century houses, of a variety of sizes, representing a variety of styles, characteristic of this type of historic residential neighborhood in Georgia. Other characteristic plan features include the irregular street pattern dominated by major historic transportation arteries into and out of Sandersville, an irregular combination of major and minor neighborhood streets reflecting the incremental subdivision of various historic tracts of land, and building lots of varying size and shape.

This district also may be significant in the area of social history because of its association with many prominent citizens in Sandersville. Among these are former Superior Court Judge Ben T. Rawlings and former Superior Court and U.S. Circuit Court Judge Beverly D. Evans, II. Byrd Lovett and C. D. Shelnett were prominent businessmen in Sandersville. Sandersville's medical community called the district home; homes of several leading physicians are present in the district. Among them is the house of Horatio N. Hollifield, who also served as the first county school superintendent. As school superintendent, Hollifield was noted for his support of bi-racial education.

National Register Criteria

The district's architectural significance supports National Register eligibility under Criteria "C". Its development as an important type of historic neighborhood in Sandersville and Georgia supports National Register eligibility under Criteria "A".

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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**NOV 27 1987**

**NATIONAL  
REGISTER**

Section number   8   Page   3  

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The Church Street-Smith Street-Harris Street Historic District contains 60 historic contributing properties and 10 noncontributing properties. Noncontributing properties include buildings and structures built after the district's period of significance and former historic buildings and structures which have been radically altered so that their historic character is no longer apparent. Each property in the district contains one principal building (usually a house, but including two churches). Most properties in the district contain one or more outbuildings. Because of the difficulty in documenting exact dates, uses, and integrity levels for these outbuildings, they have not been counted for inventory purposes.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

JUL 23 1987

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   9   Page   2  

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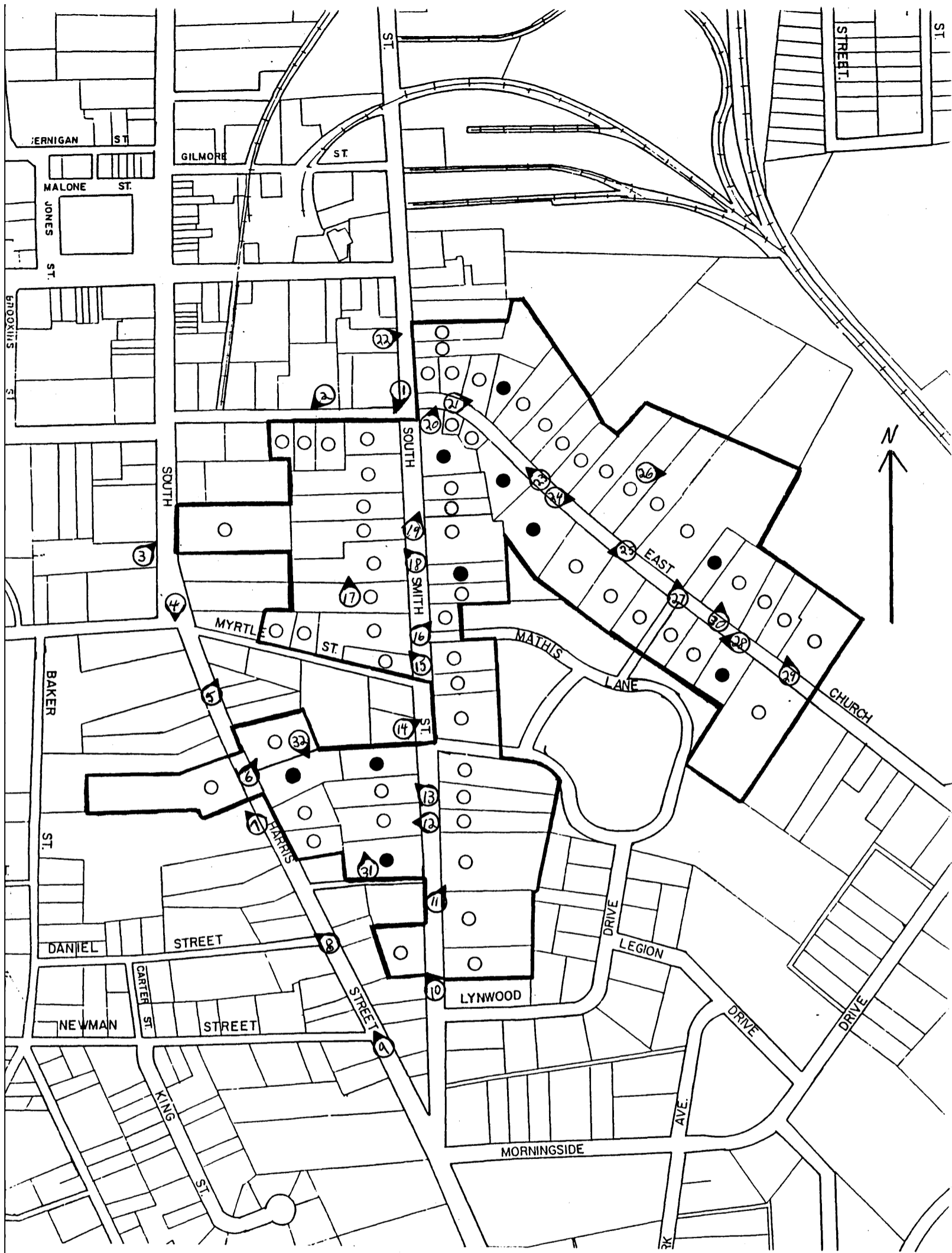
Cummings, Jo. "History of Education in Washington County, Georgia, 1874-1900".  
Educational Specialist Thesis, Georgia College, 1976.

Halterman, Bryan. Washington County Historic Structures Survey, 1979. Filed  
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CHURCH-HARRIS-SMITH STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 SANDERSVILLE, GEORGIA

0-----400 feet

Contributing property - ○

Noncontributing property - ●

District boundary - ———

Photograph location - ⊙

JUL 23 1987