

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 Property

historic name Starrsville Historic District
other names/site number Old and New Starrsville Historic District

2. Location

street & number The district is located at the intersections of Georgia State Route 213 at Old Starrsville Road and Dixie Road in Newton County.
city, town Starrsville (n/a) vicinity of
county Newton **code** GA 217
state Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 30209

(n/a) not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property:

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property:	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	49	6
sites	6	0
structures	2	0
objects	0	0
total	57	6

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.

Mark R. Edwards _____ 5/18/98
Signature of certifying official Date

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 Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Elson B. Ball 6/26/98

() determined eligible for the National Register _____

() determined not eligible for the National Register _____

() removed from the National Register _____

() other, explain: _____

() see continuation sheet

Ball _____
Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
COMMERCE/speciality store
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field/pasture
AGRICULTURE/storage/warehouse
RELIGION/religious facility
FUNERARY/cemetery
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
AGRICULTURE/storage

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
COMMERCE/speciality store
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field/pasture
AGRICULTURE/storage/warehouse
RELIGIOUS/religious facility
FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival
MID-19TH CENTURY/Gothic Revival
LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Craftsman
OTHER/Folk Victorian
OTHER/Central Hallway cottage
OTHER/Queen Anne cottage
OTHER/Georgian cottage
OTHER/Georgian house
OTHER/New South cottage

Materials:

foundation brick, concrete, and stone.
walls brick and wood.
roof asphalt and metal
other

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Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Starrsville Historic District, located in east Newton County, is a large rural area situated on the high ground between the Alcovy River, Wrights Creek, and West Bear Creek in the Piedmont region of Georgia. Hurricane Creek and Log Branch run through the area as do many smaller unnamed creeks and streams. Lakes and ponds exist along many of these creeks. The rural landscape encompasses historic residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings; historic farmsteads with associated outbuildings and agricultural fields; family cemeteries; railroad; rail-related resources; and intact historic circulation networks. The topography features rolling hills, agricultural fields, sloping hills towards the rivers and creeks, and bottom lands.

The pattern of spatial development consists of buildings clustered around Old and New Starrsville, two areas of development which are located on the high ground between the river and creeks, and farmsteads with associated outbuildings and fields located on roads radiating from the two areas of development. Fields are divided by historic tree and fence lines. The house types represented within the district include Georgian cottage, I-House, Gable Ell cottage, Central Hallway, Queen Anne cottage, New South cottage, and Bungalow, as identified in the *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*. These types were popular in Georgia from the 1830s to the 1930s. A few examples of vernacular buildings remain within the district. Construction materials of the buildings include wood and brick and the height varies from one to two stories. Prior to 1960, numerous tenant houses remained within the district. The tenant houses were located along the roads radiating from the intersection of Old Starrsville and clustered around the intersection of New Starrsville (see attachment 1). Almost all of the tenant houses were torn down in the early 1960s and a new subdivision, Jamestown, was built to provide better housing to those African-Americans living in the tenant houses (see Newton County Tax Map 85).

Historically, the Starrsville area encompassed more agricultural land than what is currently included within the identified National Register boundary. The area outside the current boundary, especially in the northeast section (see Newton County Tax Map 102), has been developed with subdivisions and a modern school. Land use patterns within the district have moderately changed over time. Historically, the vegetation within the district included primarily cotton with lesser amounts of corn, pecans, and fruit. Following the devastation of the boll weevil in the 1920s, farmers diversified their crop production with growing less cotton and more corn, wheat, hay, fruit, pecans, and raising cattle on pasture land. In comparing a 1940 high-altitude aerial photograph (see attachment 2) to the 1990 aerial tax maps for the district, the land use patterns have maintained mostly intact. The fields included in land lot 283, 286 on Newton County Tax Map 85 still reflect the land patterns of the 1940 aerial photograph. The fields and fence lines included in land lot 281, 267, and 268 on Newton County Tax Map 103 still reflect the land patterns of the 1940 aerial photograph. Also, the orchard located in land lot 269 currently appears much like it did in 1940. Throughout the district, historic

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landscape characteristics such as farmsteads, field patterns, fence and tree lines, woodlots, orchards, roads, and railroad track have remained intact (see National Register Boundary Maps).

The Starrsville community originally developed at the crossroads intersection of Georgia State Route 213 at Georgia County Road 507/Dixie Road in 1821 (see photo 5). The buildings in this area, locally known as Old Starrsville, were built during the early to mid-19th century and are clustered near the crossroads intersection. Old Starrsville is characteristic of the type of crossroads community identified in Dr. Darlene R. Roth's 1989 study, *Georgia Community Development and Morphology of Community Types*. The study identified a crossroads community as encompassing domestic dwellings, commercial buildings, church(es), school(s), and other community landmark buildings clustered around an intersection created by two crossroads and located along both roads in the "cross." The Old Starrsville crossroads community historically included residences, commercial buildings, and community landmark buildings.

Historically, the four corners of the crossroads intersection encompassed the Starr Store (and post office), built c.1834; the Laura Skinner Cook House, built c.1905 (see photo 6); the Skinner House, built c. 1905; Doctor John Harlin Conway's medical office, built c.1884; a blacksmith shop, built in the 1880s; the Silas Henry Starr Sr. House, built late 1830s; and a mid-20th-century baseball field located on the southeast corner of the intersection. The only building remaining on one of the corners of the intersection is the Laura Skinner Cook House (Resource 1 on National Register (NR) map 1).

Several resources remain along the roads radiating from the crossroads intersection. Just northwest of the crossroads intersection, two historic residences and an African-American cemetery are located. One residence, the Benton-King-Whatley House (Resource 2 on NR map 1), is a wood-framed Queen Anne-type house built in 1915 (see photo 10) and the other is the Belcher-Moon-Costley House (Resource 3 on NR map 1), a wood-framed I-House with pilasters and Italianate-style brackets located below the overhanging eaves (see photo 11). The Morgan Cemetery (Resource 4 on NR map 1), located just northwest of Old Starrsville on the north side of Georgia State Route 213, is an early 20th-century African-American cemetery. Almost all of the headstones have been removed and relocated to a modern cemetery located outside the National Register boundary; however, the burials have remained. Located south of the crossroads intersection is the Corley-Crowley-Bonner House (Resource 5 on NR map 2). This Queen Anne-type house was built c.1890 and features Folk Victorian elements in the gables (see photo 9). The W.T. Corley House (Resource 6 on NR map 2) and the Epps-Lowry House (Resource 7 on NR map 3) are located east of the crossroads intersection. The Epps-Lowry House, built in 1898, is a Bungalow-type house featuring wood porch supports on brick piers, extended rafter tails, and overhanging eaves (see photo 2). The Maddox-Johnston House (Resource 8 on NR map 1) and Starrsville Methodist Church (Resource 9 on NR map 1) are located north of the crossroads intersection. The Starrsville Methodist Church,

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constructed 1901 in the Gothic Revival style, is a gable-front building with a steeply-pitched center gable, paired towers, lancet windows, pilasters, and brick corbeling (see photo 7). The associated historic cemetery is located directly behind (west) of the church building (see photo 8).

The James Epps House (Resource 10 on NR map 3) and Starr House (Resource 11 on NR map 2), two of the earliest vernacular residential buildings remaining within the district, are located in west of the crossroads intersection of Old Starrsville on Georgia State Route 213. The Starr House, built c.1821, is a double-pen house with a later historic addition (see photo 3). The Starr Family cemetery (Resource 12 on NR map 2) is located directly across (south) Georgia State Route 213 from the Starr House (see photo 4). The Starr family was one of the earliest families to settle near the crossroads intersection and the community is named for the family. The Starr family built the first mercantile store, c.1834, which was historically located on the southwest corner of the crossroads intersection. The building is no longer standing. The James Epps House, built c.1830, is a Central Hallway-type house with weatherboard cladding, six-over-six double-hung windows, and standing seam metal roof (see photo 1). Both houses are located next to each other just southeast of the crossroads intersection on Georgia State Route 213.

Farmsteads with associated outbuildings and agricultural fields and house sites are located on the roads radiating from Old Starrsville. The Epps-Starr-Middlebrooks House (Resource 13 on NR map 2) is located on the far east corner of the district. Along with the house, the Epps family cemetery and a tenant house remain on the property. The agricultural land associated with the Epps-Starr-Middlebrooks House is included within land lot 269. According to the 1940 high-altitude aerial photograph, land lot 269 encompassed woodlots, agricultural fields, and an orchard. The current land use still reflects the 1940 pattern: woodlots, agricultural land now used as pasture land, and an orchard.

The development of Starrsville shifted northwest in 1893 due to the completion of the Middle Georgia and Atlantic Railroad (now Central of Georgia Railway). The railroad alignment was originally planned to pass by the crossroads intersection of Old Starrsville but the final alignment was a mile northwest. The area formed by the intersection of the railroad and Old Starrsville Road is locally known as New Starrsville. New Starrsville is characteristic of the type of cross-rail community identified in Dr. Darlene R. Roth's 1989 study, *Georgia Community Development and Morphology of Community Types*. According to the study: "the cross-rail plan differs from the crossroads type because it was created with the railroad already intact or created simultaneously with the railroad." The initial commercial development that was concentrated around the railroad consisted of a depot, a brick mercantile building (Resource 14 on NR map 3), four wood-framed warehouses (Resource 15 on NR map 3), and two doctor's offices. The mercantile building (see photo 14) and three warehouses remain (see photo 13).

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Residential development is located north and west of the cross-rail intersection. A few historic brick residences are located north of the intersection. The bricks for these residences were made at the Anderson Brickyard, which is located outside the National Register boundary. The Banks-Anderson-Pickens House (Resource 16 on NR map 3) (see photo 15), built c.1900, and the Harwell-Ragsdale-Anderson-Alwes House (Resource 17 on NR map 3) (see photo 21), built c.1900, are located just north of the railroad's intersection with Old Starrsville Road. A wood-framed agricultural barn (see photo 22) associated with the Banks-Anderson-Pickens House is located across (east) the road from the house.

Located on Georgia State Route 213, west of the New Starrsville intersection, are the Belcher-Anderson-Pickens House (Resource 18 on NR map 3) and the Belcher-Dixon Farm (Resource 19 on NR map 3). The Belcher-Anderson-Pickens House was built c.1900 as a one-story Georgian cottage. In 1915, a second story was added (see photo 16). The Belcher-Dixon House, associated outbuildings, and land are excellent examples of characteristic features of a family farm (see National Register Site Plan/Resource 19). The farm pre-dates the arrival of the railroad in New Starrsville but is associated with the settlement of Old Starrsville. The Belcher-Dixon House, constructed c.1847, represents the Georgian-type house built in the Greek Revival style (see photo 17). The Belcher Cemetery is located across Georgia State Route 213 from the residence. The cemetery dates back to 1864 and is still used by the Belcher family. A large transverse barn (see photo 18) is located behind (south) of the residence and approximately 300 acres of the original plantation are still intact (see photo 19). The farm historically produced cotton and currently produces pine and raises cattle.

The Franklin-Hendrix Farm (Resource 20 on NR map 1) is located north of Old Starrsville Road in the outlying area of New Starrsville (see National Register Site Plan/Resource 20). The masonry farmhouse was constructed c.1890 and features Folk Victorian elements, such as brick corbeling along the side elevations, in the front gable, and chimneys. Other architectural features include a truncated hip roof, paired long double-hung windows, and small round decorative windows in the gables (see photo 24, 25, and 26). A long driveway leading to the residence is lined with trees (see photo 23) and a stone retaining wall is located in front of the house (refer to photo 24). The Franklin Cemetery is located directly behind (north) the residence (see photo 27). Two outbuildings, a historic shed/garage and transverse barn, are located northwest of the residence (see photo 28). The remaining agricultural fields associated with the farm are located west of the farmhouse. Historically, the land associated with the house was included within land lot 260. According to the 1940 high-altitude aerial photograph, the land use encompassed woodlots and terraced fields with historic fence lines. Since the 1940s, several lakes and a road have been created on the land.

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The area surrounding the district, which was historically agricultural fields, has been developed with recent subdivisions. The area outside the district is currently being quickly developed with more subdivisions and commercial developments.

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): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

AGRICULTURE
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
ARCHITECTURE
EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT
TRANSPORTATION
ETHNIC HERITAGE: AFRICAN-AMERICAN
COMMERCE

Period of Significance:

1821-1948

Significant Dates:

1821 Development of Old Starrsville.
1893 Completion of the Middle Georgia and Atlantic Railroad (Central of Georgia Railway).
1893 Development of New Starrsville.
Late 1860s Diversification of crops.
Late 1920s Diversification of crops.

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

None

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Unknown.

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Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Starrsville Historic District is a rural district consisting of two related areas of development with historic residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings; historic farmsteads with associated outbuildings and agricultural fields; family cemeteries; railroad; and rail-related resources. The Starrsville Historic District is significant in the areas of agriculture, community planning and development, architecture, exploration and settlement, transportation, ethnic heritage: African-American, and commerce.

The Starrsville Historic District is significant in the area of agriculture for its excellent examples of intact farmsteads with associated outbuildings and agricultural fields representing more than a century of continuous agricultural activity. Prior to the Civil War, cotton was the main cash crop of the farms in Starrsville. Following the Civil War, farms were forced to diversify crop production and grow peaches, strawberries, potatoes, and pecans. Agricultural-related resources remaining within the district that reflect the diversification of crops include a tenant house, a peach shed, and pecan grove located at the intersection of Old Starrsville. Today, the agricultural fields within the district are used as pasture land for the beef cattle and the cultivation of pine trees, soybeans, and wheat. The district is significant for the intact historic field patterns still remaining. The fields included in land lot 283, 286 on Newton County Tax Map 85 still reflect the land patterns of the 1940 aerial photograph. The fields and fence lines included in land lot 281, 267, and 268 on Newton County Tax Map 103 still reflect the land patterns of the 1940 aerial photograph. Also, the orchard located in land lot 269 currently appears much like it did in 1940. Some of the land lots have remained within the same families since 1821, such as the Cook family, land lot 268/tract 26; the Corley family, land lot 268/tract 4; and the Nix family, land lots 280 and 281/tract 9.

The Belcher-Dixon Farm (Resource 19 on NR map 3), located west of New Starrsville along Georgia State Route 213, consists of the Belcher-Dixon House, a c.1847 Georgian cottage built in the Greek Revival style; a family cemetery; a large transverse frame barn; and agricultural fields (see National Register Site Plan/Resource 19). Approximately 300 acres of the original plantation are still intact. In comparing the 1940 high-altitude aerial photograph to Newton County Tax Map 85, which shows an aerial view of the property, the land use patterns have changed little. The area surrounding the farmhouse and outbuildings has continuously been used as fields and the area behind the fields still features woodlots. Cotton was originally grown on the farm but diversification led to the use of fields as pasture land for raising cattle and cultivation of pine trees. The farmhouse, agricultural-related outbuildings, agricultural fields, woodlots, and family cemetery are significant as character-defining components of family-oriented farming in a small rural community in Georgia.

The district is significant in the area of community planning and development for its crossroads intersection of Old Starrsville and cross-rail development of New Starrsville, two important types of

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historic rural communities in Georgia. Starrsville developed as a crossroads community in 1821 with a general store, church, doctor offices, a school, a post office, and residences. The formation of this community type is identified as significant in Georgia in Dr. Darlene R. Roth's 1989 study, *Georgia Community Development and Morphology of Community Types*. The study identified a crossroads community as encompassing domestic dwellings, commercial buildings, church(es), school(s), and other community landmark buildings clustered around an intersection created by two crossroads and located along both roads in the "cross." Later known as Old Starrsville, this settlement is an excellent early 19th-century example of the historic crossroads community in Georgia. Like many older crossroads communities, it has lost some of its individual components (store, blacksmith). However, its overall community form, key community landmarks (church, cemetery), and houses survive.

The development of Starrsville shifted northwest in 1893 due to the completion of the Middle Georgia and Atlantic Railroad (now Central of Georgia Railway). The railroad alignment was originally planned to pass by the crossroads intersection of Georgia State Route 213 and Dixie Road but the final alignment was a mile northwest. Following the completion of the railroad, the 1893 cross-rail intersection was locally called New Starrsville and the 1821 crossroads intersection was locally called Old Starrsville. New Starrsville is characteristic of the type of cross-rail community identified as significant in Georgia in Dr. Darlene R. Roth's 1989 study, *Georgia Community Development and Morphology of Community Types*. According to the study: "the cross-rail plan differs from the crossroads type because it was created with the railroad already intact or created simultaneously with the railroad." The initial commercial development that was concentrated around the railroad consisted of a depot, mercantile business (see photo 14), four warehouses (see photo 13), and two doctor's offices. The mercantile business and three warehouses remain, along with several historic houses. New Starrsville is an excellent late-19th-century example of the historic cross-rail type of community in Georgia with its overall form and virtually all its historic buildings intact.

The district is significant in the area of architecture for its excellent examples of residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings. The type of residences included within the district include Georgian cottage, double-pen, I-House, gable ell cottage, central hallway, Queen Anne cottage, New South cottage, and bungalow, as defined in the *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings* context. The earliest residences built within the district are located near Old Starrsville. The James Epps House (Resource 10 on NR map 2) and Starr House (Resource 11 on NR map 2) are significant as early 19th-century examples of vernacular architecture within the district. The James Epps House, built c. 1830, is a good example of a central hallway-type house with weatherboard cladding, six-over-six double-hung windows, and standing seam metal roof (see photo 1). This type seems to be fairly evenly distributed across the state, appearing mainly on averaged-sized farmsteads and on principal residential streets in Georgia's towns and cities. Most examples were built between 1830 and 1930, with clusters occurring in the periods 1840 to 1860 and

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1870 to 1890. The Starr House, built c. 1821, is a good example of a double-pen house with a later historic addition (see photo 3). Few Georgia double-pen houses remain in their original form. The remaining historic residences located near Old Starrsville were constructed from c.1882 to the late 1910s. The Corley-Crowley-Bonner-Harris House (Resource 5 on NR map 2), located on Dixie Road just south of Old Starrsville, was built c.1890 and is a good example of a Queen Anne-type house. The character-defining features of the house include a square main mass with projecting gables on the front and side elevations and a truncated hipped roof (see photo 9). The Queen Anne type is commonly found in both urban and rural areas as popular middle-class housing of the 1880s and 1890s. The Belcher-Moon-Costley House, one of only three two-story houses (two are contributing and one is noncontributing to the district) within the district (Resource 3 on NR map 1), is located on Georgia State Route 213 just west of Old Starrsville. The house, built c.1882, is an excellent example of a two-story wood-framed I-House with a rear addition. The interior of the house features an intact central hallway floor plan. The I-House type is uncommon in many areas of Georgia, as are two-story houses in general.

New Starrsville is a very rare example of a rural community in Georgia with several intact brick buildings. The historic residences located near New Starrsville were built from c.1847 to the 1930s. The Banks-Anderson-Pickens House (Resource 16 on NR map 3) is an good example of a New South-type. The character-defining features of the brick residence include its central square mass with a truncated hip roof and a front gable projection (see photo 15). The New South-type residence was a very popular house type for middle- and upper-middle-income Georgian between the 1890s and 1920s. The type is found both in urban and rural areas in the state. The Harwell-Ragsdale-Anderson-Alwes House (Resource 17 on NR map 3) is located just north of the Banks-Anderson-Pickens House. The Harwell-Ragsdale-Anderson-Alwes House, built c.1900, is a good example of a New South-type residence. The house is similar to the Banks-Anderson-Pickens House with its central square mass with a truncated hip roof; however, the Harwell-Ragsdale-Anderson-Alwes House features two projecting front gables instead of one (see photo 21). A wood-framed transverse barn associated with the Harwell-Ragsdale-Anderson-Alwes House is located directly across from the house on Old Starrsville Road (see photo 22).

The resources located outside of New Starrsville are farmsteads with related outbuildings and agricultural fields. The Franklin-Hendrix Farm (Resource 20 on NR map 1) with the Franklin-Hendrix House, associated outbuildings, and agricultural fields is located north of New Starrsville on Old Starrsville Road. The brick residence is a good example of a Queen Anne-type residence featuring a central square mass with a truncated hip roof and projecting gables on the front and side elevations (see photos 24-26). An excellent example of a large wood-framed transverse barn is located just north of the farmhouse. The character-defining features of the barn include a center aisle that extends from gable-to-gable and side shed additions. The main entrance to the barn is located in the center aisle. A second wood-framed outbuilding, a shed/garage, is located north of

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the farmhouse. The Belcher-Dixon Farm with the Belcher-Dixon House, built c.1847, with associated outbuildings and agricultural fields (Resource 19 on NR map 3) is located west of New Starrsville on Georgia State Route 213. The farmhouse is an excellent example of a one-story wood-framed Georgian-type residence (see photo 17). The character-defining features include a side-gabled roof, square massing, two interior chimneys, and central hallway with two rooms on either side. Houses 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. An excellent example of a wood-framed transverse barn is located south of the farmhouse. The character-defining features of the barn include a center aisle that extends from gable-to-gable and side shed additions (see photo 18).

The architectural styles identified within the district include Greek Revival, Italianate, Folk Victorian, and Craftsman, as defined in the *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings* context. The Belcher-Dixon House (Resource 19 on NR map 3), constructed c.1847, is an excellent example of the vernacular expression of the Greek Revival style. The character-defining features include a wide plain entablature that encircles the house, pilasters, trabeated front door, and nine-over-nine double-hung windows. The residence does not feature the typical full-width porch supported by columns but a small shed-like portico (see photo 17). By the 1840s, Georgia was completely settled, and the Greek Revival style, used from the 1840s to the 1860s, became the first style to appear statewide.

The Belcher-Moon-Costley House (Resource 3 on NR map 1), built c.1882, is an excellent example of the Italianate style. The character-defining features include overhanging eaves with decorative brackets, wide decorative entablature that encircles the house, pilasters, and two-over-two double-hung windows. Occurring in Georgia immediately preceding the Civil War and through Reconstruction years and competing with the Greek Revival style, the Italianate style was never extremely popular in the state. The appearance of this style in such a rural area is architecturally significant since the style is relatively rare in Georgia and was primarily used in the state's cities during the 1850s and 1870s.

A few residences within the district feature Folk Victorian-style elements. The Folk Victorian style is actually more a way of decorating a house than a precise stylistic category. Decorative details are added to the porch, in the gables, and around the window and door openings. The style was commonly found in both urban and rural parts of the state from the 1870s to the 1910s. The Laura Skinner Cook House (Resource 1 on NR map 1), built c.1905, features machine-turned porch posts (see photo 6) and the Corley-Crowley-Bonner-Harris House (Resource 5 on NR map 2), built c.1890, features gingerbread in the gables (see photo 9).

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The district is architecturally significant for its excellent examples of rural commercial buildings. Originally known as the Franklin Store, the brick store located at the northeast corner of the intersection of Old Starrsville Road and the Central of Georgia Railway was built in the late 1890s. The store is the last remaining historic commercial building within the district. The character-defining features of the building include a high parapet with corbel table located along the top edge of the wall, symmetrical front facade with a centrally located front door with windows on either side of the door, boxed eaves, and a standing seam metal roof (see photo 14). Also significant are the nearby wood-framed side-gabled warehouses, used to store cotton, fertilizer, seed, and potatoes, with their typically utilitarian design and straightforward construction.

The Starrsville Methodist Church is significant as the only remaining historic community landmark building within the district. The Starrsville Methodist Church, constructed 1901 in the Gothic Revival style, is a gable-front building with paired towers, a steeply-pitched center gable, lancet windows, pilasters, and brick corbeling (see photo 7). The associated historic cemetery is located directly behind (west) of the church building (see photo 8). The building is architecturally significant as a good example of a rural brick church built in the Gothic Revival style. According to the Georgia Historic Resources Survey, which represents approximately 40 out of 159 counties, there are 102 rural churches identified at crossroads intersections. Of those, 17 churches represent the Gothic Revival style and only 2, Starrsville Methodist Church and Brooks Methodist Church (c.1900) in Fayette County, are of brick construction.

The district is significant in the area of exploration/settlement because it represents the earliest wave of white settlement in an area just opened for settlement. The area near Starrsville was originally occupied by the Creek Indians. A series of three land cessions took place from 1805 to 1821 between the Creek Indians and the State of Georgia. As a result of the Treaty of Indian Springs in 1821, most of the land that forms Newton County, including the Starrsville area, was transferred from the Creek Indians to the State of Georgia. This land was distributed in a land lottery held in 1821. With the opening of Newton County area in 1821, the first wave of settlers moved into the area to form small rural communities as well as towns. As Starrsville was being settled in 1821, the town of Covington, the county seat, was being formed. Starrsville was the earliest rural community in the land lottery area. (The rural community of Brick Store was established after a land lottery held in 1807 to distribute land acquired from a treaty signed between the Creek Indians and State of Georgia in 1805. At that time, the community of Brick Store was located in Baldwin County. The community of Brick Store was included in the formation of Newton County in 1821).

The land lottery in 1821 brought several early settling families into the Starrsville area from counties in the northeastern portion of Georgia. Some of the earliest families to draw land and settle in the area were the Starr, for whom the community is named, and the Nix, Epps, Maxey, Franklin, and Dabney families. These early settling families formed the earliest settlement at the crossroads

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community of Starrsville, now known as Old Starrsville. The two-room cabin of Silas and Elizabeth Starr, the Starr House (Resource 11 on NR map 2), was one of the first buildings constructed following the settlement of the community in 1821. The house has been enlarged over the years and remains in the Starr family. The Starr cemetery (Resource 12 on NR map 2) contains headstones which date back to the 1830s. Other early family cemeteries include the Belcher, Epps, Nix, and Franklin cemeteries. The community of Starrsville represents a typical early settlement pattern in the Piedmont region of the state.

The district is significant in the area of transportation for its association to the Middle Georgia and Atlantic Railroad (now Central of Georgia Railway). The completion of the railroad through New Starrsville changed the pattern of development in Starrsville. According to Darlene R. Roth's *Georgia Community Development and Morphology of Community Types* context: "Prior to the advent of the automobile, the railroad was the most important shaper of local communities in Georgia as elsewhere in the nation. Because of the railroad, new towns were formed, older towns grew or were passed by." The focus of the community shifted to the north from Old Starrsville to the new cross-rail development of New Starrsville. The completion of the railroad resulted in the initial construction of a depot, four warehouse, and a mercantile store at the cross-rail intersection. The railroad spurred the growth of the agricultural businesses and activities in Starrsville by providing better shipping of agricultural-related goods and bringing in needed supplies.

The district is significant in the area of ethnic heritage: African-American for the remaining tenant house on Benton's Dairy Road and the Morgan Cemetery. The 1850 census indicates that there were as many as 150 slaves in Starrsville. The slaves lived in small houses located near the main houses of the farms. None of these houses remain extant. Following the Civil War, some ex-slave families moved to northern industrial cities and others remained on the same farms working as paid field hands and sharecroppers/tenant farmers. According to the *Historic Black Resources: A Handbook for the Identification, Documentation, and Evaluation of Historic African-American Properties in Georgia* by Carole Merritt, ex-slaves continued to work on the same farms in conditions somewhat similar to before the Civil War. The ex-slaves lived as tenants on the farms paying rent with harvested crops. The crop lien system of credit, which promised future crops for payment on loans, tied many of the ex-slaves/tenant farmers to the farms. According to a 1940 county map, tenant houses were clustered around Old Starrsville Road in New Starrsville and located near the crossroad intersection of Old Starrsville and on the roads radiating out from the intersection (see attachment 1). The last remaining extant tenant house which represents African-American tenant farmers in the historic district is located on Benton's Dairy Road. The African-American Morgan Cemetery is located just northwest of Old Starrsville. The headstones have been relocated to another cemetery located outside the historic district boundary but the burials have not been removed. Perhaps more than any other resource, this cemetery is significant for documenting the presence of African-Americans in the historic district throughout its history.

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The district is significant in the area of commerce for the last remaining extant commercial buildings located in the district. Historically there were several stores located within the district. The first store constructed was the Starr Store in the early 1830s. The store functioned as the first post office and the second story served as a lodge hall. The building was torn down within the last ten years. The highest concentration of commercial resources were located at the intersection of Old Starrsville Road and the railroad tracks in New Starrsville. The Franklin Store and three warehouses are the only remaining commercial resources in New Starrsville. The buildings are significant since they represent the commercial development of the community.

National Register Criteria

The Starrsville Historic District is eligible under Criterion A for its two areas of development, Old and New Starrsville; continuous agricultural development; development of rail-related transportation for the use of shipping goods and passenger travel; and early settlement of the area. The district is also significant under Criterion C for its excellent collection of residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings associated with small rural communities in Georgia.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Starrsville Historic District begins c.1821 with the settling of the early families and construction of the Starr House. The period of significance ends in 1948, the end of the historic period. Even though the construction of the historic residences ended in the early 1930s, the rural community continued its historic association with agricultural practices through various diversifications of agricultural crops.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The 57 historic resources within the district which retain integrity encompass 49 historic buildings which include residences, a community landmark building, commercial resources, and outbuildings that are substantial in size, scale, or importance; 2 structures which include the railroad and system of roads; and 6 sites include the 4 family cemeteries, Dorsey Pond, and the remaining intact field patterns with historic fence and tree lines. Due to the size of the district and limited accessibility of some resources, not all of the smaller contributing outbuildings such as corn cribs, smokehouses, and sheds were counted or marked on the district map. Also, only family cemeteries substantial in size, scale, or importance were counted, although there are several smaller marked and unmarked

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cemeteries located within the district. During the survey for the district, some potential Indian mounds were identified in the far eastern section of the district along the western bank of West Bear Creek; however, there has been no professional archeological survey conducted to determine the level of integrity of the mounds. The 6 noncontributing resources consist of resource constructed after 1948 or which have lost historic integrity.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

Note: The following history was prepared by Mary Jane Dixon and Ronald H. Cook, Jr., "Starrsville Historic District," Historic District Information Form, March 17, 1997. On file at the Historic Preservation division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Starrsville was established in the wooded, gently rolling hills of the Piedmont region of Georgia between the Alcovy River and West Bear Creek. Cherokee and Creek Indians, who found the fertile lands near the creek and river a prime hunting ground, had inhabited this area. Evidence of their presence here is most notable when fields are plowed or earth is moved extensively, sometimes turning up many arrowheads and pieces of pottery. Of particular note are some possible Indian mounds located along the banks of West Bear Creek. While there is no proof, it is speculated that old Indian trails were used for surveyors who established the land lots in the area. These trails may be the basis for some of the roads that wind through the community today. What had been a prime hunting ground for Native Americans would become a fertile land for the pioneering farmers who continued the state's westward expansion.

The Starrsville Community is located approximately six miles southeast of Covington. The area was originally in Walton County and many of the early settlers drew land in the 1820-21 lottery which formally opened this formerly Indian land to white settlement. While most of the fifteen land lots that make up the district were never occupied by those who drew them, some were, most notably lot number 280, drawn by Edward Nix, which remains in his family to this day. Most of the lot drawers were from counties in the northeastern portion of Georgia and in most cases the lots were quickly sold. Some of the earliest families to occupy the area were Starr, Nix, Epps, Maxey, Franklin, and Dabney. The community was named for the Starr family, who settled in the area in 1821. The two-room cabin of Silas and Elizabeth Starr is the oldest structure in Starrsville and is presumed to be built around 1821. Originally built as a small cabin, it has been enlarged and remodeled, and remains in the family to this day. Early pioneers came to their new land, established homes and cleared fields, and began the process of starting businesses, schools, a church, and establishing a community.

From its earliest beginnings, Starrsville was a rural farming community tied to the ups and downs of an agricultural economy and to the evolution of agriculture in this country. Settlers cleared the land, first

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planting crops for their families and establishing patch farms. A blacksmith shop was operated by the Terrell family along Dixie Road north of the crossroads as early as the late 1820's. By the middle part of the 19th century, plantations had developed growing mostly cotton and utilizing slave labor. With the Civil War and the end of slavery, the plantations had to adjust to paid laborers; simultaneously, tenant farming became more prevalent. Many freed slaves continued to live in the area, working on the plantations. Some of their descendants remain in the area today. The continued importance of cotton to the southern economy brought about the need for businesses. A cotton gin was operated in old Starrsville for a number of years by the Epps, Benton, Belcher, and Anderson families. The coming of the railroad in 1893 gave rise to the need for four warehouses which served as fertilizer and seed houses and still stand to this day. Diversification of crops included peaches, strawberries, potatoes, pecan groves, and a scuppernong orchard. Several barns remain from various periods as well. With the coming of the boll weevil in the 1920's and the Depression in the 1930's, farming became increasingly difficult. At least one farm in the district was foreclosed on by an insurance company during this period when the family was not able to make their crop and repay the bank. As the middle of the 20th Century approached, the diversification of farming included dairy cattle, beef cattle, and row crops. By the mid-1970's, cotton was no longer produced and the dairy had closed, replaced by soybeans, beef cattle, and hogs. The increasing growth of the City of Atlanta and Newton County has brought an end to most of the farming in the area. Cotton fields have been replaced with subdivisions, and beef cattle and timber are all that remain of the agriculture which was once the prime basis of the Starrsville economy.

A mercantile business was built on the southwest corner of Georgia State Route 213 and Dixie Road in the early 1830's. An 1834 ledger book found in the store reveals that it was operated by George Leak and John K. Starr. Names of families found in this book include T. G. Dabney, T. I. Bagby, C. Kelly, J. T. Wright, S. H. Starr, Henderson, J. Epps, Nix, I. L. Lane, John E. B. Lyons, Mr. Aycock, Glass, William Heath, R. C. Smith, Mr. Franklin, Hays, and Mr. Estes. One feature of the store was that its second story was used for a lodge hall. The Temperance Union and other organizations met here with both men and women for their debates and other entertainment of the period. The first distribution of mail in 1836 for this section of the county was from the Starr Store and it later became the Starrsville Post Office. The store became the center of the community and other businesses developed nearby including a blacksmith shop and a cotton gin. A doctor's office was established in 1884 for Dr. John Harlin Conway. The store was later operated by S. H. Starr, Sr., S. H. Starr, Jr., and T. A. Starr, C. C. Epps and Company, Benton and Cook, L. H. Cook and Son, Wilson Walton, and Mrs. E. A. King. The store was demolished in 1992.

As the community developed, the need for a place of public worship became evident. As early as the 1820's, the southern corner of land lot 259 was identified in deeds as "church property." Meanwhile,

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one-and-a-half mile north along Dixie Road, Lane's Methodist Church was established. By the 1850's Starrsville Methodist Episcopal Church, South, had been established and the Lane church was discontinued. Anderson Chapel Methodist Church was organized near the west bank of the Alcovy River. At some point it was discontinued and its membership moved to Starrsville. Two acres were given for a church and school by the Starr family and a wooden church was constructed toward the back of the property. In 1901 the existing brick church was constructed. Mr. T. A. "Dolph" Starr, Mr. J. A. Starr, and Mr. Austin served as the building committee. The building is very ornate, both inside and outside, for a rural farming community of that time. It is the only brick church in Newton County from that era which is not in an incorporated area. The front of the church is typical of a type common at that time with two towers, one rising from each side, with one as a steeple and the other as a bell tower. When the Gothic style windows were redone in 1973, the original border of colored glass was reused. When built, the vestibule extended across the front of the church as one room with two doors, one on each side opening into the sanctuary, and the pews were arranged in three sections with two aisles leading down from each door to the pulpit. Later, double doors were cut and the interior rearranged to create a center aisle. One of the more notable figures in Starrsville's history was Young J. Allen, who was attending the Starrsville Boys Academy while living at the home of Silas H. Starr, Sr. and Anne Jane Dabney Starr. He accepted Christ while attending a prayer meeting held under an oak tree behind the church, and after attending Emory College at Oxford, became the first medical missionary to China for the Methodist Church. The church continued to grow in this location and by the early 1890's there appear to have been over 180 members based on the membership roll.

In 1955, a Sunday School building with five rooms was built. In 1975, a Memorial Fellowship Hall was built just behind where the last old school formerly stood. It was expanded in 1979 to include two wings which increased the size of the fellowship hall and added three classrooms. In 1983, after having been on a charge with other churches since its beginning, Starrsville United Methodist Church became a station church with a full time pastor. A brick parsonage was constructed across the road from the church. In 1990, a five-room addition to the Sunday School building was constructed. During the early 1990's, a brick retaining wall, made from old bricks from a warehouse in Covington, was built to extend along the parking lot. At the same time, the Fellowship Hall was bricked, coordinating all structures in brick. In 1996, the sanctuary was extensively refurbished. As the area has grown, the church has grown and offers an active program of children, youth, adult, and music ministries.

Starrsville was for many years an educational center and has been referred to as "the Athens of Newton County." In 1837, the Starrsville Boys Academy was established by Edward Nix, Wilson Conner, John H. Austin, George W. Leak, and John Franklin on land set aside for a church and school. In 1854, Morgan H. Looney, a noted educator, became the teacher for the school. Vice President of the Confederacy Alexander H. Stephens said of Looney, "As an educator [he] has no equal in the south." It is believed that this school was burned during the Civil War. Later, a public school was established

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near the same site with Mr. Summerfield Franklin, Mr. Jim Belcher, and Miss Jennie Anderson serving as teachers during the late 19th Century. In 1887 a school was formed behind the Jim Belcher Home with Mr. Belcher as its teacher. The Belcher School was discontinued and the other school burned in 1898. The church was used for a school and Mrs. Laura Cook's home was also used.

In 1912, another building was constructed in front of the site where the church fellowship hall would later be built. In 1939 the Starrsville Women's Missionary Society sponsored the first hot lunch program in the county system. The lunch was served in the community clubhouse by Mrs. Pearl "Miss Nell" Harwell and Miss Lucille Curtis. This school was discontinued in the 1940's with area children attending school at Mansfield, Heard-Mixon, and Covington. In the late 19th Century and the first half of the 20th Century, black children in the area attended Harwell Hill School and went to Washington Street High School in Covington. In 1956, East Newton School was built one mile north of the original school site as the grade school for black children in the eastern part of the county. In 1971, with integration, East Newton School became an elementary school for all children in the area. It has been expanded and now educates about 600 children a year.

The Civil War had a significant impact on the community of Starrsville. Most of the able-bodied men went to serve in the Confederate Army, leaving the women and children behind. In several cases the women and children were moved closer to the center of the community. This was the case with Mrs. Newt Skinner and Mrs. Curtis Conway and their children. As described in the *Life Story of John Harlan Conway*, Mr. Silas H. Starr, Sr., looked out for the women and children who were left behind. The Conway manuscript vividly describes some of the events that transpired in Starrsville during the war. The village of Starrsville was about 30 miles from Atlanta. He remembers standing beside his mother in the back door of their house and hearing the cannons from Atlanta at night during the fighting there. While Starrsville did not suffer Atlanta's level of devastation, once the war was over, the people – along with the rest of the South – were left to mourn their dead and begin the difficult process of rebuilding their lives and economy.

In 1893, the Middle Georgia and Atlantic Railroad, later sold to the Central of Georgia Railroad, built a railroad through the community. The original plan called for the line to be built by the Starr Store, but the final plan was a mile to the north. A depot was built and the Starrsville Post Office was moved to that location. A small settlement sprang up there consisting of a mercantile business, a depot, four warehouses, and two doctor's offices. Dr. J. C. Anderson had a practice there during the latter part of the 19th Century. Around the turn of the century, Dr. Ragsdale opened a practice there as well. This area was referred to as New Starrsville. Rufus Franklin, whose home was located a mile from the depot, built his mercantile business across the tracks from the depot. He was in business with Charlie Banks whose home was across Old Starrsville Road from the store. The store and Mr. Banks' home were built

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with bricks from the Anderson Brickyard on the Alcovy River near the trestle. The depot was closed c.1931 and demolished in the early 1970's.

Part of the historic flavor of this district comes from the presence of a number of homes that have been preserved. While some have been lost over time, several of these buildings have been carefully restored by current homeowners who appreciate the homes' history and the significance they played in the development of Starrsville. Generally, these homes can be divided into three categories based on their original construction. The first category is pre-Civil War-era homes (1821-1860). Three homes still exist from this period including the Starr House, the oldest house in the district. The Epps House dates from the 1840's and is features transom windows around the front door. The five-room house includes a half-story in the roof. It is currently used as a carpenter's shop. The Belcher-Dixon House was built c.1847 as the home of Archibald and Mary Twilly Durden Belcher in the area that would become known as New Starrsville years later. This original six-room Georgian cottage exemplifies the Greek Revival style in the corner columns and the transom window design. As with many houses of this period it features a central hall design with a stairway to the right of the front door leading to a half story with two rooms. It is currently the residence of Archibald Belcher's great-great-granddaughter Mary Jane Dixon. The house and 300 acres of the original plantation are still intact. While no longer in existence, another house worth noting is the S. H. Starr, Sr. House. The house was built in the late 1830's as the home of Silas H. Starr, Sr., and Anne Jane Dabney Starr. It was similar in design to the Epps House featuring the popular style of a half story in the roof. It was demolished in the 1980's.

The second category of historic homes present is the post-Civil War-era (1865-1890). Two homes remain from this period, both located in Old Starrsville. The Belcher-Moon-Costley House was built c. 1882 as the home of James Monroe and Harriet Rakestraw Belcher. This house has a full two-story section across the front that is one room deep with additional rooms along a one-story section off the back. Its intricate Italianate detailing makes it one of the most ornate houses in Starrsville. It has recently been completely restored. The Skinner-Mann-Hackett House was built in the 1880's as the home of Cliff and Emma Skinner. While less ornate than the Belcher-Costley House, the layout is of the same general design with full two-story section in the front. An unusual feature of this house was the three gable windows along the second floor. The architecture of this home has been extensively changed, and it is currently undergoing a renovation that has significantly altered its appearance. At least two other homes of this general style have existed in Starrsville: the Jim Skinner House, built in the 1880's, demolished in 1994; and the Biggers House, built c.1890, demolished in the 1970's. Of particular note from this period is the Captain S. H. Starr, Jr. House, which was built in the 1880's and demolished in the 1950's. Located in Old Starrsville, this ten-room house was undoubtedly the largest historic home in Starrsville that has ever existed. The two-story section was two rooms deep with a one-story, two-room section off the back. Transom windows surrounded the front door which opened onto a veranda; this veranda extended from the front of the house to its southeast corner and along its side

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to the end of the two-story section. A door opened from the second floor onto a balcony. The house featured extensive gingerbread detailing and was quite ornate, exemplifying the wealth in this rural community.

The largest category of historic houses in this district is the turn-of-the-century-era (1890-1920). Eight homes fall into this category including four in Old Starrsville and four in New Starrsville. In Old Starrsville, the Corley-Crowley-Bonner-Harris House was built around 1890 as the home of Walter T. and Alice Kate Starr Corley. Its Queen Anne influence is typical of the homes of this period. It features a one story design around a central hall with one room extending onto the porch farther than the other side. Ornate detailing along the gables has been preserved and this house recently underwent a major renovation that fully restored its historic flavor. The Epps-Lowry House was built in 1898 as the home of C. C. Jr. and Fannie McDonald Epps. This design features five rooms downstairs with a half-story in the roof. It has been preserved and renovated. The Laura Skinner Cook House was built between 1900 and 1905 as the home of Laura Cook, who had recently been widowed, and her son. This original four-room home with Queen Anne details was patterned after the Belcher-Anderson-Pickens House in New Starrsville. Like other homes of this period, one room extended onto the porch in the front. This house was extensively remodeled and expanded in 1992 resulting in the addition of a half-story bedroom and restoration of the original historic qualities across the front and inside. It is now the home of the great-grandson of the original owner, Michael Cook. The Benton-King-Whatley House was built c.1915 as the home of Grady and Lillian Faulkner Benton. The house conforms to the Queen Anne style and is currently owned by the granddaughter of the original owner Betty Benton Whatley.

In New Starrsville, homes developed near the railroad and were in several cases built with brick from the Anderson Brickyard. The Banks-Anderson-Belcher House was built in the early 1890's across from the Franklin and Banks Store as the home of Charles and M. F. Harwell Banks. This ornate brick home of Queen Anne style features a half story in the roof. It has been well preserved and maintains its historic character. The Franklin House was built in the early 1890's as the replacement of an older wood-frame house that burned. Elaborate in design and exemplifying Queen Anne style, this house is one of the finest old homes of Starrsville. Now known as Starrsville Plantation, it serves as the main house of a large hunting preserve. The Belcher-Anderson-Pickens House was built around 1900 as a one-story, four-room home of Arthur Clifton and Nina Barnes Belcher. Some time around 1915 it was extensively remodeled adding a full second story, as well as, additions on the back corner downstairs. This nine-room wood-frame house has been well preserved through the years. The Harwell-Ragsdale-Anderson-Alwes House was built around 1900. Like most houses of this period, this brick structure features Queen Anne elements with an extended front section on one side. The thirteen houses from the period of 1821-1920 exemplify the evolution of rural residences while also giving insight into life at that time, and are a legacy to be preserved for future generations.

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Since the earliest days, the people of Starrsville have sought to engage in social activities that brought them together, creating a sense of community. The church was the first place of socialization within the community. As they developed, the two stores became a gathering place for the men of the community. The front porch of the Starr Store especially provided this. The Masonic Lodge and the Temperance Union, which met on the second floor of the Starr Store, provided an important social function in the late 19th century. The Hays District Women's Club was formed in 1934 and was a very active organization until it disbanded in 1962. Through their efforts, a clubhouse was built on a lot where a gin house had formally operated. The building contained a stage and also functioned as the meeting place of a community club and 4-H group. It was demolished in the 1970's. The Starrsville United Methodist Church Parsonage is located on the site today.

One of the favorite recreation areas in Newton County in the 1930's was Dorsey's Pond near the Franklin House. People from all areas would travel on weekends to picnic, boat ride, and see the first exotic plants in the area. The pond today is one of many on the Starrsville Plantation, a hunting preserve and former home of the Franklin family, who were one of the earliest families in the area. Another important recreation spot was the Starrsville Ballfield located across from the former Starr Store. During the middle part of the 20th Century, amateur baseball was a major part of rural and small-town life. The baseball field no longer exists.

In a rural farming community such as Starrsville, there is no established town cemetery so churches and families take on the task of establishing cemeteries. The largest of these is the Starrsville Church Cemetery. The oldest marked grave is 1862, but many graves are unmarked. The cemetery is endowed and is maintained by a sub-committee of the trustees of the church. The Starr Family Cemetery dates back to at least the 1830's, but some unmarked graves are likely older. It is located in Old Starrsville near the crossroads across from the Starr-Corley House. Maintained by a family committee, the cemetery's markers were recently refurbished and the cemetery expanded. The Belcher Cemetery dates back to 1862 and is located just west of the center of New Starrsville near the Belcher-Anderson-Pickens House. It is maintained by a family cemetery fund. As with the Starr Family Cemetery, the markers were recently refurbished. All three of these cemeteries are still in use today. Many other family cemeteries were scattered throughout the area and have not been as well maintained. The Epps Cemetery, currently in a state of disrepair, is located near the original Epps home near West Bear Creek. The Franklin Cemetery is located near the Franklin House and is fairly well maintained. The Biggers Cemetery is located about a mile south of the Old Starrsville crossroads and is in fairly good repair. The Maxey Cemetery is located near the Bailey House and is in a state of disrepair. The Dabney Cemetery is located near the warehouses in New Starrsville and is in very poor condition. In the case of both the Nix Cemetery, located southeast of Old Starrsville, and the Morgan Cemetery, located across from the Belcher-Moon-Costley House, the headstones and markers have been moved to other locations. However, there was no attempt, to relocate the bodies.

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Starrsville has evolved from an agricultural community to an increasingly residential area. The greatest growth in population has come since the 1960's with the development of five subdivisions which account for about two-thirds of Starrsville's current population of around 700. All of these subdivisions are located outside the historic district, but exemplify the change and growth this area has experienced. The first of these subdivisions was Jamestown, which was developed as a black community providing new homes with a chance for ownership for people who were tenants in old, poorly maintained homes. It is laid out with two side streets connected by five numbered avenues and originally contained a community playground. With the development of this subdivision many of the older tenant houses in Starrsville were demolished. Jamestown remains Starrsville's largest subdivision with around 65 homes. The second development is Meadow Wood, built in the late 1970's. Its 27 homes are arranged along Georgia State Route 213 and Meadow Wood Drive. In 1989, a 10-home development along Starrsville Road was completed. In 1990, Graystone, a 36-home development, was developed along a horseshoe-shaped street on the site of the demolished Newt Skinner House. In 1993, Starrsville Station was developed near the railroad, northeast of New Starrsville on property formerly owned by the Harwell family, an early family in Starrsville. At present, five homes have been built. Over 50 additional homes have been built in Starrsville since 1960. With the decline of agriculture and the growth of metro Atlanta, Starrsville has become prime residential property.

The gently rolling hills of Starrsville have evolved over the last two centuries from Indian hunting grounds to cotton fields to well maintained lawns. The agriculture that once provided the main sustenance for the community has diminished to pastures and pine plantations. The stores and post office which provided a central hub for the community have long since closed, having been relegated to part of a bygone era. The people who labored to carve out a community from the wilderness and build it into an agricultural center now rest below the soil they once worked. But many of their descendants remain and they, along with many newcomers, have worked hard to preserve Starrsville's heritage. The church continues to grow and thrive and the school educates more children than ever. The train still winds its way through Starrsville daily, harkening back to its significance in the community's development. With each passing year, an increasing number of people call Starrsville home. The village of Starrsville shows signs of a bright and prosperous future.

9. Major Bibliographic References

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History of Newton County.

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Interview of Lenora Belcher Allen by Mary Jane Dixon Spring 1996 and Winter 1997.

Central of Georgia Railway Survey, March 1912, corrected February 1922.

The Covington New, October 28, 1965.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, December 26, 1996.

Newton County Map, 1940.

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Section 9--Major Bibliographic References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): 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:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): n/a

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approximately 1,720 acres.

UTM References

A)	Zone 17	Easting 239060	Northing 3715450
B)	Zone 17	Easting 240700	Northing 3712480
C)	Zone 17	Easting 240440	Northing 3711170
D)	Zone 17	Easting 238390	Northing 3711620
E)	Zone 17	Easting 237440	Northing 3715090
F)	Zone 17	Easting 237360	Northing 3715090

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary for the Starrsville Historic District encompasses the remaining historic residential, commercial, agricultural, and community landmark buildings and historic family cemeteries that are associated with the historical development of Starrsville. The district is bounded on the north by the legal property lines of the historic properties remaining along Georgia State Route 213 and the Franklin Farm property. The land lying to the north of the Franklin barn is not included within the boundary since it has been developed as a hunting preserve with modern buildings and ponds. The district is bounded on the east by the West Bear Creek and on the south by Belcher Road. The district is bounded on the west by the Alcovy River, Jamestown subdivision, Dixie Road and Biggers Cemetery. The cemetery is included within the area of the boundary that extends west just southwest of the intersection of Dixie Road and Bentons Dairy Road. Much of the land surrounding the district has been developed with residential subdivisions and current residential construction is occurring.

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** April 1998**Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable)** not applicable**name/title** Mary Jane Dixon and Ronald H. Cook, Jr.**organization** n/a**street and number** P.O. Box 667**city or town** Covington **state** GA **zip code** 30210**telephone** (770) 786-6218, (770) 385-2530 **consultant** **regional development center preservation planner** **other:** Descendants of early settling families.

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property: Starrsville Historic District
City or Vicinity: Starrsville
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 29 View of the Epps House; photographer facing north.
- 2 of 29 View of the C.C. Epps-Lowry House; photographer facing northeast.
- 3 of 29 View of the Starr House; photographer facing northeast.
- 4 of 29 View of Starr Family Cemetery; photographer facing southwest.
- 5 of 29 View of the Corley-Crowley-Bonner-Harris House; photographer facing northeast.
- 6 of 29 View of the Laura Skinner Cook House; photographer facing southwest.
- 7 of 29 View of the Starrsville Methodist Church; photographer facing north.
- 8 of 29 View of the Starrsville Methodist Church Cemetery; photographer facing northeast.
- 9 of 29 View of the intersection of Georgia State Route 213 and Georgia County Road 507/Dixie Road, locally known as Old Starrsville; photographer facing southeast.
- 10 of 29 View of Benton-King-Whatley House; photographer facing southwest.
- 11 of 29 View of Belcher-Moon-Costley House; photographer facing south.
- 12 of 29 View of rural landscape along Georgia State Route 213, photographer facing northwest.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

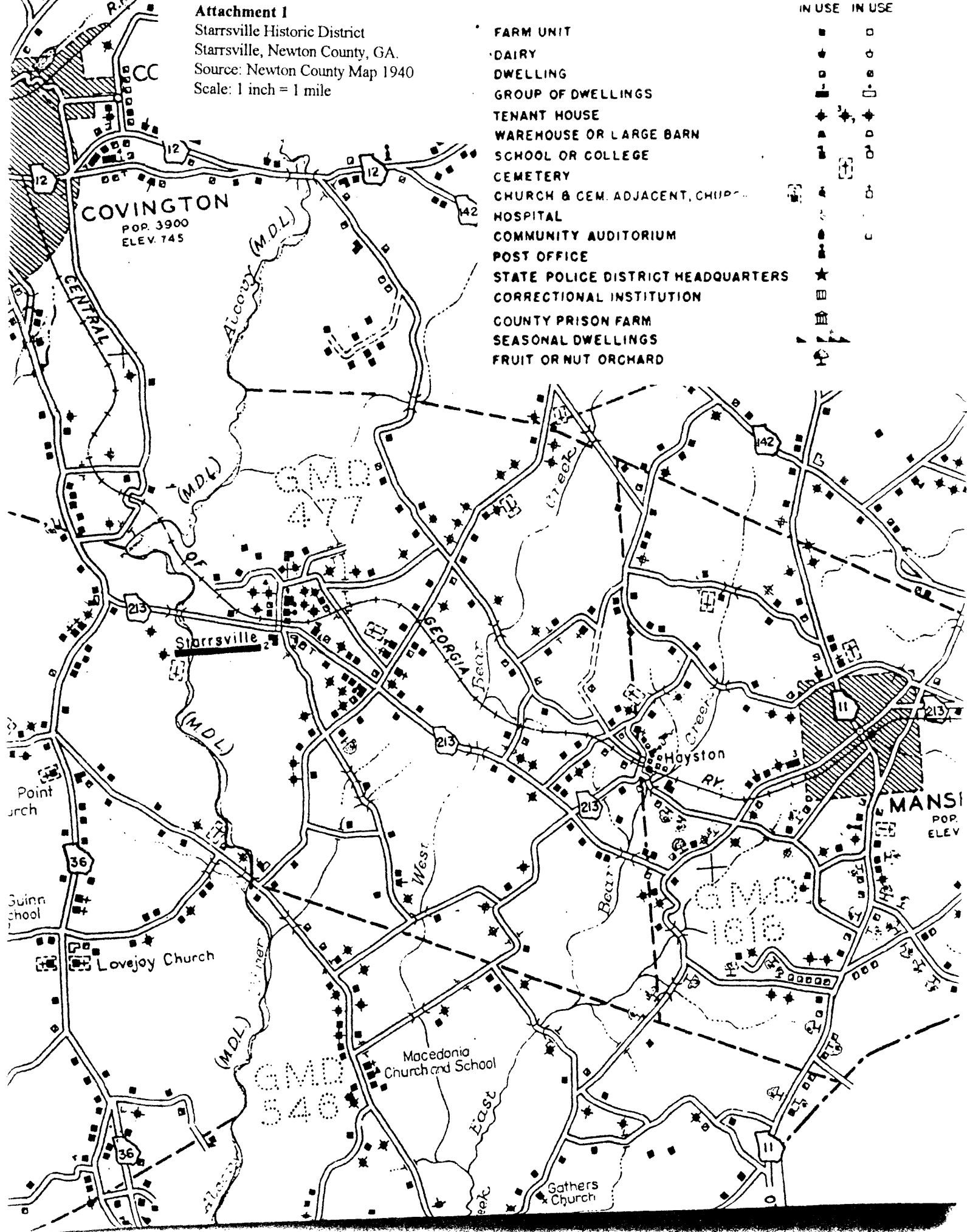
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

- 13 of 29 View of warehouses along the Central of Georgia Railway; photographer facing east.
- 14 of 29 View of the Franklin Store, photographer facing northeast.
- 15 of 29 View of the Banks-Anderson-Belcher House; photographer facing northwest.
- 16 of 29 View of the Belcher-Anderson-Pickens House; photographer facing northwest.
- 17 of 29 View of the Belcher-Dixon House; photographer facing south.
- 18 of 29 View of the barn located south of the Belcher-Dixon House; photographer facing south.
- 19 of 29 View of remaining fields associated with the Belcher-Dixon House; photographer facing southwest.
- 20 of 29 View of the Belcher Family Cemetery; photographer facing southwest.
- 21 of 29 View of the Harwell-Ragsdale-Anderson-Alwes House; photographer facing southwest.
- 22 of 29 View of streetscape of Old Starrsville Road; photographer facing south.
- 23 of 29 View of tree-lined drive to the Franklin-Hendrix House; photographer facing north.
- 24 of 29 View of stone retaining wall and Franklin-Hendrix House; photographer facing northeast.
- 25 of 29 View of the Franklin-Hendrix House; photographer facing northwest.
- 26 of 29 Detail view of front elevation of the Franklin-Hendrix House and landscaping; photographer facing north.
- 27 of 29 View of Franklin Family Cemetery located just behind (north) of the main house; photographer facing northeast.
- 28 of 29 View of historic outbuilding located just northwest of the Franklin-Hendrix House; photographer facing northwest.
- 29 of 29 Field located west of the Franklin-Hendrix House; photographer facing northwest.

Attachment 1
 Starrville Historic District
 Starrville, Newton County, GA.
 Source: Newton County Map 1940
 Scale: 1 inch = 1 mile

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---|--------|
| FARM UNIT | ■ | □ | IN USE |
| DAIRY | ● | ○ | IN USE |
| DWELLING | □ | ◻ | |
| GROUP OF DWELLINGS | ■ | ◻ | |
| TENANT HOUSE | ◆ | ◆ | |
| WAREHOUSE OR LARGE BARN | ■ | □ | |
| SCHOOL OR COLLEGE | ■ | □ | |
| CEMETERY | ■ | □ | |
| CHURCH & CEM. ADJACENT, CHURCH | ■ | □ | |
| HOSPITAL | ■ | □ | |
| COMMUNITY AUDITORIUM | ■ | □ | |
| POST OFFICE | ■ | □ | |
| STATE POLICE DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS | ★ | | |
| CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION | ■ | □ | |
| COUNTY PRISON FARM | ■ | □ | |
| SEASONAL DWELLINGS | ■ | □ | |
| FRUIT OR NUT ORCHARD | ■ | □ | |



Attachment 2
1940 High-Aerial Photograph

949

ATQ12-51



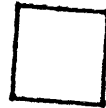
Starrsville Historic District
Starrsville, Newton Co., GA.
Scale: 1'=20,000'

NATIONAL REGISTER SITE PLAN
RESOURCE 19/BELCHER-DIXON FARM
Starrsville Historic District
Starrsville, Newton County, GA.
Not to scale



Georgia State Route 213

family cemetery



Belcher-Dixon House



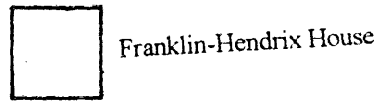
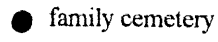
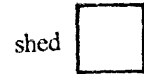
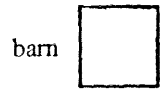
shed



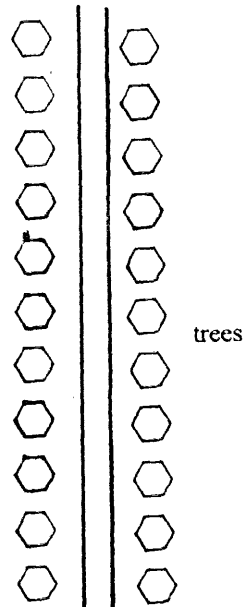
barn

agricultural field

NATIONAL REGISTER SITE PLAN
RESOURCE 20/FRANKLIN-HENDRIX FARM
Starrville Historic District
Starrville, Newton County, GA.
Not to scale



agricultural field



Old Starrville Road