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NATIONAL  
REGISTER

**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 Greenville Historic District  
other names/site number

**2. Location**

street & number An area roughly bounded by Gresham St. and the cemetery to the north, Talbotton and Gaston Sts. to the east, Baldwin and Bottom Sts. to the south, and Martin Rd. and the intersection of LaGrange and Terrell Sts. to the west.  
city, town Greenville (n/a) vicinity of  
county Meriwether code GA 199  
state Georgia code GA zip code 30222

(n/a) not for publication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	209	103
sites	2	0
structures	2	0
objects	0	0
total	213	103

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 3  
Meriwether County Courthouse, Jail, and the Burwell O. Hill House  
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.

Elizabeth A. Lyon  
Signature of certifying official

2/7/90  
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer,  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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

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**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register Entered in the  
National Register
- ( ) determined eligible for the National Register
- ( ) determined not eligible for the National Register
- ( ) removed from the National Register
- ( ) other, explain:
- ( ) see continuation sheet

Mark J. Baker 16 March 1990

for  
Signature, Keeper of the National Register      Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC:single dwelling  
COMMERCE:business  
RELIGION:religious structure  
FUNERARY:cemetery  
GOVERNMENT:courthouse, correctional facility  
TRANSPORTATION:rail related

### Current Functions:

DOMESTIC:single dwelling  
COMMERCE:business  
RELIGION:religious structure  
FUNERARY:cemetery  
GOVERNMENT:courthouse, government office

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

Mid-19th Century Revival:Greek Revival, Gothic Revival  
Late Victorian:Queen Anne, Italianate, Second Empire  
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals:Colonial Revival, Classical Revival  
Late 19th and 20th Century American Movements:Bungalow

### Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	wood, brick
roof	asphalt, metal
other	cast-iron

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Greenville is located in the central portion of Meriwether County. The county is located in the west central Piedmont region of Georgia. The Greenville Historic District consists of the contiguous intact historic development of the city of Greenville and includes residential, commercial, religious, and public buildings and the city cemetery. The county-seat town plan that was laid out in 1828 with a central courthouse square remains intact. Commercial blocks with one- and two-story attached brick commercial buildings dating from the mid-19th to the early 20th century surround the courthouse square at the center of town. The county jail, several churches, a library, and a city gymnasium also remain in the downtown area. The 1907 depot is located southwest of the commercial area along the Central of Georgia Railroad line. The surrounding residential areas to the west, south, and east of the downtown consist for the most part of one- and two-story, wood-framed houses constructed from the 1830s through the 1930s and represent a range of architectural designs from vernacular to high style. Included are three intact historic black neighborhoods, mostly one-story, frame houses, along with neighborhood churches. A former historic warehouse area was located south of the town center.

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Generally, houses sit close to the road with small well defined front yards and larger back yards and outbuildings. Over the years a few large lots have been subdivided to allow for new construction. On the outskirts of town, houses sit close to the road but are surrounded by fields and outbuildings. Many of the early buildings are situated on knolls. Houses in the black districts follow the same pattern, but are more densely situated. The west portion of the district is more developed than the area east of Talbotton Street.

Residential structures are either wood frame or brick. Commercial buildings are mostly brick. Early buildings were of heavy timber frame construction while late forms included balloon frame and brick load bearing wall construction. The structures within the district illustrate local interpretations of architectural styles popular in America and Georgia from 1830-1939. In addition to the numerous "high style" buildings, the district also illustrates several important vernacular housing types.

The district contains examples of the Greek Revival style both in the two-story form and the one-story cottage design. These houses are of heavy timber construction with mortise-and-tenon joints and hand-hewn sills with classical porticos, symmetrical features, and exterior end chimneys (photograph 40). The Gaston House is an example of a Greek Revival cottage with classical porticos, front door sidelights and transom, four rooms, and a central hall plan.

The district displays several styles popular during the Victorian era. These balloon frame buildings have asymmetrical roofs and massing. Two of the best examples of the Gothic Revival style are the Peavy-McLaughlin house and the Monroe Davidson house. The main features of this style are the three pointed gables and decorative gingerbread woodwork. The Second Empire style, characterized by the mansard roof can be seen on the Lovejoy House on Methodist Hill (photograph 50). The two-story red brick Meriwether County Jail (photograph 53) is an example of the Italian Villa style with its tower and arched openings. The building originally served as a combination jail and jailer's dwelling and is now used for county offices.

Many of the one-story brick commercial buildings can be described as a type of vernacular commercial and utilitarian style with decorative brick work and arched openings. Commercial buildings on south and east court square have decorative pressed metal cornices and cast-iron columns typical of Victorian era commercial buildings. A 1950s Williamsburg style building is along north court square (photograph 57). In 1980, several commercial buildings on west court square burned and are now vacant lots.

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In 1920, the Greenville Banking Company built a two-story building on the southwest corner of the square. This tan brick building features classical detailing with brick pilasters, a Greek key patterned cornice, and a pedimented doorway. The building is currently used for offices.

The c. 1880s Park-Culpepper Law office is located on the northeast corner of the square (photograph 57). This red brick, one-story building has a steep-pitched, tin-shingled roof topped with ornamental iron work. Other features include bracketed cornices, and decorative facade brickwork.

An early 20th century tan and red brick livery stable is located on the west side of the square. The front facade faces Williams Street and is classical in design.

Another important red brick Victorian era building is the Greenville Methodist Church (photograph 44) built in 1896 with one tower and pointed arched windows. The 1892 Springfield Baptist Church on Baptist Hill is a two-story frame Gothic style building with two towers (photograph 12). Greenville has several examples of the Queen Anne style with several of the following features: towers or gazebos; asymmetrical massing, bargeboards, fishscale shingles, windows of various shapes, and wrap-around porches. The Stacy Presbyterian Church (photograph 45), the McMakin-Jarrell House on Talbotton Street, and the Ledford House on Gaston Street are examples of this style.

The district also includes a significant number of "Decorated Vernacular Victorian" cottages. This type of building is illustrated by decorative porch spindle work and commonly an L-shaped layout (photograph 4, 46, 49). Examples of vernacular housing types are also found within the black neighborhoods (photographs 15-24). On Railroad Street there are two section houses which were built for railroad workers around 1900 (photograph 13). These two board-and-batten sided houses have a central chimney and two front doors. There are also a few examples of shotgun houses on Methodist Hill.

At the turn-of-the-century the Neoclassical and other historical revival styles became popular in Greenville. The 1903 Meriwether County Courthouse (photograph 60) is a three-story Classical Revival red brick building with a dome and four classical limestone porticos. A 1910 house known as The Terraces (photograph 7) is also an example of this style.

The 1907 depot is an example of the Colonial Revival style and served as both the passenger and freight depot. Design features include corner quoins, a dentil string course, pedimented pavilions,

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and limestone window lintels. The structure is faced with tan-colored lime brick and pointed with red-colored cement mortar (photograph 27).

The Atkinson-Gilbert house (photograph 6) illustrates the Tudor style by its overlapping gables and half-timbered facade. A few examples of the bungalow style can also be seen within the district such as the Greenville Library (photograph 54). Identifying features include wide eaves and exposed wood rafters. The building is also an Aladdin mail-order home and was formerly used as a women's club.

Greenville's industrial area is located along Depot Street east of the railroad tracks, however, all historic industrial buildings have been destroyed. Several metal warehouses dating from the 1950s and a water tower are all that remain.

The Greenville City Cemetery is located in the northeast section of the city. Representing the largest open public landscaped area within the district, the cemetery is an example of a typical mid-19th century design which created a park-like atmosphere. The grounds contain wrought-iron fences, retaining walls, sculptured monuments, and obelisks. The cemetery was laid out in a grid plan with family plots defined by fences and walls (photograph 48). A historic black cemetery is located in the northern portion of Methodist Hill. A dirt road leads to several primitive slab gravestones covered with kudzu (photograph 51).

Major streets have sidewalks and are lined with trees. Houses have small front yards with lots defined by side and rear hedges. Most houses have foundation plantings, ornamental shrubs and trees, flower beds and grass yards. Storm shelters or pits are common outbuildings found throughout the community. In the black neighborhoods, some front yards are swept dirt and many have small gardens. There are also several vacant lots in these neighborhoods.

**NONCONTRIBUTING PROPERTIES**

Noncontributing properties in the district include a few scattered non-historic or extensively altered houses and post-1940 commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings that could not be drawn out of the boundaries.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**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):**

architecture  
black history  
commerce  
community planning and development  
politics and government  
transportation

**Period of Significance:**

1828-1939

**Significant Dates:**

1828

**Significant Person(s):**

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation:**

n/a

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

Architects: J. W. Golucke, courthouse; W. A. Steed, Burwell O. Hill House; R. L. Jones, jail.  
Builders: Elbert Wimbish, George Lovejoy, Hall Warner, Upshaw Lundy, R. D. Cole, R. S. Parham.

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**Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:**

**Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The Greenville Historic District is significant as the historic commercial, residential, public, and religious development of the small, west-central Georgia city of Greenville.

**ARCHITECTURE**

In the area of architecture, the district is significant for its collection of commercial, residential, public, and religious buildings constructed from the 1830s through the 1930s and that represent the variety of architectural styles and types that were prevalent during this period. The city's major public buildings such as the county courthouse, the county jail, library, and gymnasium remain intact. Examples of the Greek Revival style can be found in the Gaston House and the Pinkston-Moss House. These structures possess a symmetrical design and classical porticos. The Gothic Revival style is seen in the Monroe Davidson House with its three pointed front gables and decorative woodwork. The district contains several examples of the Queen Anne style with several of the following features: towers or gazebos; asymmetrical massing, bargeboards, fishscale shingles, windows of various shapes, and wrap-around porches. Greenville also contains a wide variety of "Decorated Vernacular Victorian" buildings. This type of design often has an L-shaped plan, decorated porch spindlework, and gable ornamentation. The district contains examples of folk type housing including saddlebag, shotgun, and railroad section houses. Examples of Italianate can be seen in many of the commercial buildings surrounding the square with arched windows and patterned brick work. The Greenville Historic District also provides good examples of the blending of two different architectural styles. Several homes were built during the late Victorian era and possess the multigabled, asymmetrical massing. However, they also reflect the influence of the Neoclassical Revival style, which was popular on a national scale, after its introduction at the 1893 Columbian Exposition. These influences can be seen by symmetrical front porches with pediments, and some with classical columns. An example of this combination is seen in the Griggs House located on LaGrange Street. The district represents the work of craftsman, master builders, and architects. In 1903, architect J. W. Golucke designed the Meriwether County Courthouse. The courthouse is the most impressive public building within the district, located in the middle of the town square. This brick and stone structure illustrates the Classical Revival style with four pedimented porticos, a large dome and a cupola topped by a statue of Justice. The Italian Villa style jail was

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designed by architect R. L. Jones in 1896. The form of the building is asymmetrical with well defined rectangular blocks at various heights. The district also contains an Aladdin mail-order home. Currently used by the Greenville Library, this early 20th century bungalow style building features a low-pitched roof with exposed rafters. The Greenville Historic District is an intact county seat community and is significant in architecture because the buildings reflect interpretation of styles popular in America from the early nineteenth through the early twentieth century.

**COMMERCE**

The district is significant in the area of commerce for containing the city's historic central business district. The city of Greenville is important as the center of commerce and functioned as the service center and agricultural market for the community and surrounding rural countryside. The city's retail and service businesses provided goods for this population. The majority of buildings housed a variety of stores, offices, and other places of business that provided day-to-day commercial activities including retailing, banking, and transportation for the residents of Greenville. Professional services were also provided for the city since it serves as the county seat of Meriwether County. The city's commercial establishments continue to be retail, professional, and service oriented and have filled the needs of the community for over 100 years.

**COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

In terms of community planning and development, the district is significant for its intact county-seat town plan laid out in 1828, and its representation of the development of the community with commercial and residential areas and an adjoining community cemetery. The district is significant as an early Piedmont planned town which includes a grid layout with major avenues and a public square. In the tradition of planned towns in Georgia, this plan is similar to the Savannah plan. In 1828, surveyor Joseph Crockett laid out the town consisting of 20 blocks with a central court square. The grid is designed with three streets emanating from all four sides of the courthouse square. The original plan is slightly modified on the east where the steep terrain makes a grid plan difficult to implement. The effect of this plan creates a monumental vista up LaGrange St. to the courthouse and a circular traffic pattern around the square. In addition to the central courthouse lot, the original Greenville plan had lots reserved for a jail, an academy, three churches, and a graveyard. The Greenville grid plan is a good example of an intact planned community using a modified version of the "Savannah-type" plan.

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ETHNIC HERITAGE/BLACK HISTORY

In the area of black history, the district is significant for its unusual number of intact black resources represented by three historically black neighborhoods which housed the city's majority black population. Methodist Hill, Baldwin Hill, and Baptist Hill are three areas of small, one-story, framed buildings within the district and represent the pattern of development in black neighborhoods. Within these communities were also churches, schools, and businesses which served the needs of the black residents. This type of dense enclave found within a larger historic district is an aspect of a community's heritage which is often disappearing because of modern day urban renewal. Also significant to black history are two historic black churches--Brinson Chapel AME and Springfield Baptist Church--both located in the Baptist Hill neighborhood. These churches are community landmarks that not only served the religious needs of the area but also served as important social and educational facilities. Much of Greenville's historic housing stock illustrates the work of several local black carpenters who made a significant contribution to the rebuilding of the city after the 1893 cyclone. The location, design, and pattern of development of all these resources provides a perspective on the lifestyles of blacks during the 19th and early 20th century.

POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Greenville is significant in politics and government as the county seat of Meriwether County. Established in 1827, Greenville has provided a central location for the county's government, historically the most powerful form of local government in rural Georgia. The courthouse and the county jail represent important institutions within the county's government. The 1936 gymnasium is one of the few major buildings built in Greenville during the 1930s and reflects the economic stimulation that the Works Progress Administration (WPA) program provided during the Depression. The courthouse and the jail represent the county level of government and its day-to-day operations in the community.

TRANSPORTATION

Greenville is significant in transportation for the important role the railroad played with the community. By 1895, Greenville had its first rail connection, a narrow gauge extension of the Rome-Columbus line of the North and South Railroad which later became the Central of Georgia Railroad Company. At this point, Greenville used the narrow gauge line for freight transportation only, shipping cotton, peaches, and

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wheat to market. In 1906, in order to allow for passenger travel, the tracks were widened to a standard gauge and the line was extended to Newnan and Atlanta. In 1907, a Colonial Revival style passenger depot was built to replace the freight depot. This depot operated as the center of transportation for the community until 1969. The depot represents the role that the railroad played in the historical development of Greenville. Its location, and that of the railroad right-of-way, show how the railroad was typically "grafted onto" an otherwise planned county seat in Georgia.

Archaeology potential

The Oakfuskee Indian trail runs through Greenville on what is now known as Georgia Highway 109. This path was the main branch of the Upper Creek trading route from the Savannah River to the Creek Indians. Beginning in present Augusta, Georgia, it led through Greenville to Oakfuskee Town, an early Upper Creek center on the Tallapoosa River in Alabama. White traders began using this trail in the early 1700s. Eventually the path was used as a leading stage road. Although archaeology of the Greenville district has not been investigated, archaeology potential is inferred because of the district's age and pattern of development.

**National Register Criteria**

These areas of significance support this district's eligibility under National Register Criteria A and C.

This district meets National Register Criteria A as it is associated with the events making a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The Greenville Historic District reflects a great deal of the panorama of American life and especially Southern life. The commercial buildings, dating from the late 19th century, are concentrated around three sides of the town square and reflect the variety of needs in a growing community. These historic buildings are all arranged according to the town plan and once housed general stores, dry goods merchants, specialty shops, etc. all needed in day-to-day life by its citizens. The various residential areas all reflect different socio-economic levels of the community and illustrate the lifestyles of its citizens. The district is considered on a statewide level of significance for containing an unusually high number of intact black resources. The Greenville Historic District reflects the variety of needs of a growing community starting from the mid-19th century and spanning over 100 years.

The Greenville Historic District meets National Register Criteria C because of its architectural significance. The historic district

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contains a significant variety of architectural styles most notably from the Greek Revival and Victorian periods. Examples can be found to illustrate the Greek Revival, Queen Anne, Italianate, Gothic Revival, Classical and Colonial Revival, and Bungalow styles which all represent important architectural periods and which are characteristic of historic residential, industrial, and business districts in small Georgia cities. These styles also describe Greenville's architectural history. In 1893 a cyclone destroyed much of the city and most of the community was rebuilt. Consequently, the predominant architectural styles are from the late Victorian era. The district also represents a planned community with significant features remaining today including the public square and the major avenues of the original grid layout.

**Criteria Consideration - A**

The Greenville Historic District contains a variety of architecturally significant churches. They remain an integral part of the district and also contribute to the broad patterns of the town's development. These churches are typical of many church structures built in a prosperous small Georgia city during the 19th and early 20th century.

**Criteria Consideration - C**

The Greenville City Cemetery and an unnamed black cemetery are integral parts of this historic district. Established in the early 19th century, the city cemetery is located in the northeast section of the city. The area derives its primary significance from its distinctive design features, as seen in the use of cast-iron ornamental fences and carved headstones. These landscaping features were typical of southern cemeteries. The historic black cemetery on Methodist Hill is minimally landscaped with simple, slab headstones.

**Period of significance (justification, if applicable)**

1828 - town plan established  
1939 - 50 year cut-off period

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**Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanatory notes)**

All principal historic buildings were included in the resource count. Ancillary buildings were not included because of their size and scale. Vacant lots were not included in the resource count.

Contributing

209 buildings  
2 sites (two cemeteries)  
2 structures (town plan, railroad right-of-way)

Noncontributing

103 buildings

**Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)**

The early history of Greenville, Georgia reflects the beginning of the national westward expansion. In 1827, Meriwether County was created from the eastern part of Troup County. A site near the center of the Meriwether was chosen for the county seat and named Greenville in honor of Revolutionary War hero, General Nathanael Greene.

The city of Greenville was created on Land Lot 185 in the 8th district. This site was chosen despite objections that it had hills on three sides and passage would be difficult through Walnut Creek Swamp. In 1828, town surveyor, Joseph Crockett, laid out a grid town plan consisting of 20 blocks with a central courthouse. This plan is based on the Savannah block design, with one road leading to the central square and two side roads off to each side. The plan included lots for a jail, courthouse, academy, churches, and a graveyard.

The fertile land of the county attracted farmers from other parts of Georgia, especially from Wilkes County. Some of Greenville's earliest residents were the Terrells, Renders, Warners, Robertsons, Hills, and Ectors. Many of the early settlers built log homes and constructed more formal buildings once they were established.

By 1832, Greenville was well on its way to becoming a thriving community. A contractor named Hitchcock was commissioned to build a two-story brick courthouse. Frame stores, stables, warehouses, a jail and churches grew up around the courthouse. Greenville Academy, the first school, was founded and housed in the Masonic building located where the present high school now stands. This building was later

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moved to Methodist Hill and has been altered so that it is no longer a contributing building.

In 1851, when Greenville was incorporated, a circle was drawn one-half mile from the court square to serve as the city limits. Prior to the Civil War, Greenville was an agricultural community with an economy based on cotton and slavery. One slave, Elbert Wimbish, was known as the master builder who constructed Twin Oaks and the Gaston House. In addition to merchants, farmers, and teachers, Greenville had several doctors and dentists such as, Dr. Terrell, Dr. Wimbish, and Dr. Reese. Lawyers and judges included Hiram Warner, J. W. Park, Obediah Warner, the Hall brothers and James Russell. At this time, the nearest railroad was at Hogansville, 17 miles away. Major streets, such as LaGrange Street, were lined with one- and two-story white frame houses with classical porticos.

During the Civil War, Greenville citizens enlisted in several different Confederate regiments. After the fall of Fort Tyler at West Point, General Wilson's Union Cavalry roamed through Greenville on their way to Macon demanding food and destroying property.

After the Civil War, slaves were freed and several black neighborhoods grew up in and around Greenville. Methodist Hill was created in 1868 when 15 acres of land was deeded by the Adams family to create a black church. Methodist Hill covers original town lots #95, 96, 97, 98, 99. Among the early black families living there were the Lovejoys who were carpenters. Academy Hill was another black neighborhood that developed southeast of court square, where the high school now stands. Only a few of these historic buildings are left standing. The largest black neighborhood is Baptist Hill. It consists of three long streets running parallel to the railroad tracks. East of the railroad track is a small black area called Baldwin Hill. Other early black communities are Durham Hill located east of Greenville and Freedman Hill located northwest of the city. These areas have many modern intrusions which separate them from the historic district.

Greenville has always had a large black population. According to the 1870 Census, 65% of the population of Greenville was black. The majority of blacks worked as farm hands. The census lists other black professions: Geo. Lovejoy, a carpenter; Edmond Bell, a carpenter; Robert Eaton, a cabinet maker; Rusell Rubin, a blacksmith; Jack Terrell, a tanyard hand; Blout Strozier, a well digger. Black women were listed in the census as "home makers" or domestic servants. Historically, the majority of blacks in Greenville owned their own residences.

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According to the 1881-1882 Ga. State Gazetteer & Business Directory, Greenville had four churches, three schools, one weekly newspaper and a population of about 700. Cotton was listed as the chief export. The directory also listed Greenville as having six dry goods stores, seven grocers, two drug stores, five physicians, and five attorneys.

In 1880, a public school system was created in Meriwether County. The public school term lasted four months so that the children could work in the fields during harvest and planting season. There were 49 white teachers in the county and 16 black teachers in the county. The first school was located in the Masonic Institute on College Hill. In 1910 when a new high school was constructed, the Masonic building was moved to Methodist Hill to be used as a school for black children. Later, Rosenwald School was also built in Methodist Hill for blacks, but it has been demolished. Greenville High on Academy Hill burned in 1944 and a new building was built in the 1950s. Today, there are no historic buildings associated with education.

By 1893, Greenville had a courthouse, jail, school, bank, three churches for whites and two churches for blacks. It had a population of 1200 and 150 houses. Greenville had a large cotton gin and shipped 10,000 bales of cotton annually. There was a buggy and wagon factory, a jewelry store, millinery, five bar rooms, a hotel, and a livery stable. Unfortunately, on March 3, 1893 a cyclone destroyed most of Greenville. Out of 150 homes in Greenville, 74 were leveled to the ground, 64 were beyond repair, and 10 were left standing in fairly good condition. The commercial area was devastated; so was the courthouse, jail, newspaper office, post office, and school. In the black community, 33 houses were destroyed.

Shortly thereafter, a relief effort was organized to begin rebuilding Greenville. New commercial buildings were constructed of brick with pressed metal cornices, plate glass windows and cast-iron support columns. On the east side of the square, some commercial structures were built with rusticated concrete facades.

Post-cyclone homes reflect the late Victorian fashion for ornamental woodwork. A local builder, Frank Ledbetter constructed several homes in Greenville. Storm shelters or pits also became a popular outbuilding in Greenville. However, the actual rebuilding of Greenville was mostly the work of black carpenters. Elbert Wimbish, a slave and master builder, constructed the Gaston House. George Lovejoy, another black builder, constructed the Second Empire style Lovejoy house in Methodist Hill. This is an important example of high style design built for and used by a black family. Hall Warner from Academy Hill was a well known black builder who graduated from

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Tuskegee Institute. He constructed the bungalow style building next to the Methodist Church. Upshaw Lundy was another well known black builder from Baptist Hill. He constructed the Burwell O. Hill House. The Ector family from Baptist Hill were well known stone and brick masons.

During the late 19th century, citizens of Greenville made several unsuccessful attempts to connect the city to the railway network. The nearest railroad was 17 miles away at Hogansville. The Macon & Birmingham railroad refused to attempt a line to Greenville claiming that it was "impossible to scale the ridges surrounding the town." However, by 1895, Greenville had its first rail connection, a narrow gauge extension of the Rome-Columbus line of the North & South Railroad Co. In 1895, this company became part of the Central of Georgia Railroad Co. In 1906, the tracks were widened from narrow gauge to standard gauge to allow for passenger travel and the line was extended to Newnan and Atlanta. In 1907, a Colonial Revival style railroad depot was constructed replacing an earlier freight depot. This depot operated as the center of transportation in Greenville until 1969 and has been vacant since that time.

An industrial area grew up along Depot Street east of the railroad tracks. The 1898 Sanborn map shows the Hill Brothers Ginnery as being near the tracks. The 1913 Sanborn map illustrates that, in addition to the ginnery, a large new industry had developed on Depot Street called the Greenville Cotton Oil & Mfg. Co. These industrial buildings no longer exist. Warehouses from the 1950s and a water tower are all that remain of this industrial area.

In 1903, ten years after the cyclone had damaged the original courthouse, Meriwether County built a new Classical Revival style courthouse. It was designed by architect J. W. Golucke who built many Georgia courthouses during this era. In 1976, the Meriwether County Courthouse burned but was immediately restored.

R. D. Cole Company from Newnan constructed several revival styles cottages in the 1930s. W. A. Steed transformed the Burwell Hill house from its original Queen Anne style to the Neoclassical style in 1909. An early 20th century bungalow style Aladdin mail-order house, formerly a women's club, is now used as the Greenville Library.

In the early years of the 20th century, Greenville got its first telephone. The McGrey Co. of Atlanta installed electric lights around the same time. Until 1928, when the system was taken over by Georgia Power Co., the lights of Greenville were turned off at midnight. According to the Sanborn Map of 1926, there were no paved roads in Greenville, but there was a municipal water system.

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**Section 8**

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Between 1910 and 1920, the countryside around Greenville was full of sharecroppers and cotton was the foundation of the economy until the boll weevil put an end to the cotton era in the 1930s.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt often traveled through Greenville on his way to Warm Springs. The 1936 gymnasium, built by R. S. Parham, is an example of one of Roosevelt's New Deal programs built with WPA funds. In the 1940s, to develop agriculture, peaches were planted as a cash crop.

During the 1950s, a Williamsburg style county building was constructed on the north side of the square. In 1980, several commercial buildings on the west side of the square burned and are now vacant lots.

Greenville has maintained its status as a small town. The population of Greenville was 850 in 1898, 1000 in 1913, 800 in 1926, 672 in 1930. Today the population is around 1230 and 65% are black. Richmond Hill from Greenville was elected mayor in the 1970s and was the first black mayor in Georgia.

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## **9. Major Bibliographic References**

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Van Buren, Maurie. "Historic District Information Form - Greenville"  
1988. On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

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

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** approximately 250 acres

**UTM References**

- A) Zone 16 Easting 712490 Northing 3656260
- B) Zone 16 Easting 713820 Northing 3657340
- C) Zone 16 Easting 714460 Northing 3656690
- D) Zone 16 Easting 713390 Northing 3655160

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The National Register District is located within the city of Greenville. The district boundary is indicated by a heavy black line on the district sketch map.

**Boundary Justification**

The Greenville Historic District includes the most concentrated area of intact historic residential, commercial, and industrial buildings associated with the growth and development of Greenville from its founding in 1828 to 1939. West of this district is pasture land; to the north, commercial intrusions; to the east, modern industry and to the south, rural landscape.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**name/title** Lisa Raflo, National Register Researcher  
**organization** Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**street & number** 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334  
**telephone** 404-656-2840 **date** 2/5/90

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs  
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 1

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Greenville Historic District  
Greenville, Meriwether County, Georgia  
Photographer: James R. Lockhart  
Negative: Filed with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
Date photographed: April 1989

- 1 of 60: Northwest section of the Greenville town square; photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 60: North side of LaGrange Street at the Newnan Street intersection; photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of 60: Streetscape view of LaGrange Street and bridge over railroad tracks; photographer facing west.
- 4 of 60: Decorated Vernacular Victorian style house along LaGrange Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 60: Griggs House on LaGrange Street; photographer facing west.
- 6 of 60: Tudor style Atkinson-Gilbert house; photographer facing west.
- 7 of 60: "The Terraces" designed using a Neoclassical style, 1910; photographer facing northwest.
- 8 of 60: New construction on former site of Hiram Hill house; photographer facing northwest.
- 9 of 60: Streetscape view of intersection at LaGrange and Terrell Street; photographer facing west.
- 10 of 60: Decorated Vernacular Victorian style house along Terrell Street, east of LaGrange; photographer facing west.
- 11 of 60: R. D. Hill Funeral Home on Baptist Hill; photographer facing north.
- 12 of 60: Springfield Baptist Church on Baptist Hill, 1892; photographer facing northwest.
- 13 of 60: Baptist Hill Railroad section houses, c. 1900; photographer facing northeast.
- 14 of 60: Brinson Chapel AME Church, 1912, on Baptist Hill; photographer facing northwest.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs  
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 2

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- 15 of 60: Streetscape view of Render Street on Baptist Hill; photographer facing north.
- 16 of 60: Streetscape view of Render Street on Baptist Hill; photographer facing northeast.
- 17 of 60: Streetscape view of Render Street on Baptist Hill; photographer facing north.
- 18 of 60: Streetscape view of Fine Street on Baptist Hill; photographer facing north.
- 19 of 60: Streetscape view of Fine Street on Baptist Hill; photographer facing north.
- 20 of 60: Streetscape view along Fine Street on Baptist Hill; photographer facing north.
- 21 of 60: Streetscape view along Hill Street on Baptist Hill; photographer facing northwest.
- 22 of 60: Streetscape view along Hill Street on Baptist Hill; photographer facing north.
- 23 of 60: Streetscape view along Hill Street on Baptist Hill; photographer facing southwest.
- 24 of 60: Streetscape view along Martin Road on Baptist Hill; photographer facing north.
- 25 of 60: Intersection of Hill and Railroad Street, view behind Springfield Baptist Church; photographer facing northeast.
- 26 of 60: Streetscape view of intersection of Terrell Street and the railroad tracks; photographer facing east.
- 27 of 60: Greenville Railroad Depot; photographer facing northwest.
- 28 of 60: General store located at the intersection of Terrell and Newnan Street; photographer facing north.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs  
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 3

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29 of 60: Streetscape view of Terrell Street east of the railroad tracks; photographer facing east.

30 of 60: Streetscape view of Depot Street at the Terrell Street intersection; photographer facing northwest.

31 of 60: c. 1950s warehouse on Depot Street south of Freeman Street; photographer facing west.

32 of 60: Warehouse on Depot Street south of Freeman Street; photographer facing northeast.

33 of 60: Streetscape view of Eglin Street, west of Depot Street, on Baldwin Hill; photographer facing north.

34 of 60: Streetscape view of Eglin at intersection of Baldwin Street on Baldwin Hill; photographer facing north.

35 of 60: Streetscape view of Depot Street at intersection of Baldwin Street on Baldwin Hill; photographer facing north.

36 of 60: Streetscape view along Talbotton Street at the Depot Street intersection; photographer facing northwest.

37 of 60: Streetscape view of Talbotton Street south of the courthouse square; photographer facing north.

38 of 60: Streetscape view of Talbotton Street south of Freeman Street; photographer facing northeast.

39 of 60: Warehouse area at the intersection of Talbotton and Freeman Street; photographer facing west.

40 of 60: Greek Revival style cottage on the northeast corner of Talbotton and Church Street; photographer facing northeast.

41 of 60: Terrell House located on the southeast corner of Talbotton Street and Terrell Street; photographer facing northeast.

42 of 60: Streetscape view of Talbotton Street at the intersection of College Street; photographer facing northwest.

43 of 60: Southeast section of the town square; photographer facing southeast.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs  
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 4

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- 44 of 60: Greenville Methodist Church 1896, northeast section of the town square, photographer facing northeast.
- 45 of 60: Stacy Presbyterian Church, 1894, southwest corner of Park Street and Griffin Street; photographer facing southeast.
- 46 of 60: Streetscape view of Griffin Street east of Park Street; photographer facing northeast.
- 47 of 60: Streetscape view of Griffin Street at the intersection of Gaston Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 48 of 60: Greenville City Cemetery, north of Griffin Street and east of Gaston Street; photographer facing northeast.
- 49 of 60: Streetscape view of Revil Street, west of Gaston Street; photographer facing west.
- 50 of 60: Lovejoy House on Gaston Street north of Revil Street on Methodist Hill; photographer facing northeast.
- 51 of 60: Black cemetery on Methodist Hill north of Lovejoy Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 52 of 60: Streetscape view of Lovejoy Street west of Gaston Street on Methodist Hill; photographer facing southwest.
- 53 of 60: Former Greenville County jail, 1896, northeast corner of Talbotton Street and Revil Street; photographer facing northeast.
- 54 of 60: Greenville Library, southeast corner of Newnan Road and Revil Street; photographer facing north.
- 55 of 60: Streetscape view of Newnan Street, north of Revil Street; photographer facing northeast.
- 56 of 60: Streetscape view of south court square and the Greenville County Courthouse; photographer facing southeast.
- 57 of 60: Streetscape view of north court square, the fire bell and the 1880 Park-Culpepper law office (in background); photographer facing northeast.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs  
Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page 5

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58 of 60: 1936 WPA city gymnasium on Newnan Road north of the town square; photographer facing east.

59 of 60: Streetscape view along Newnan Road, north of Revil Street; photographer facing northwest.

60 of 60: Greenville County Courthouse; photographer facing northeast.

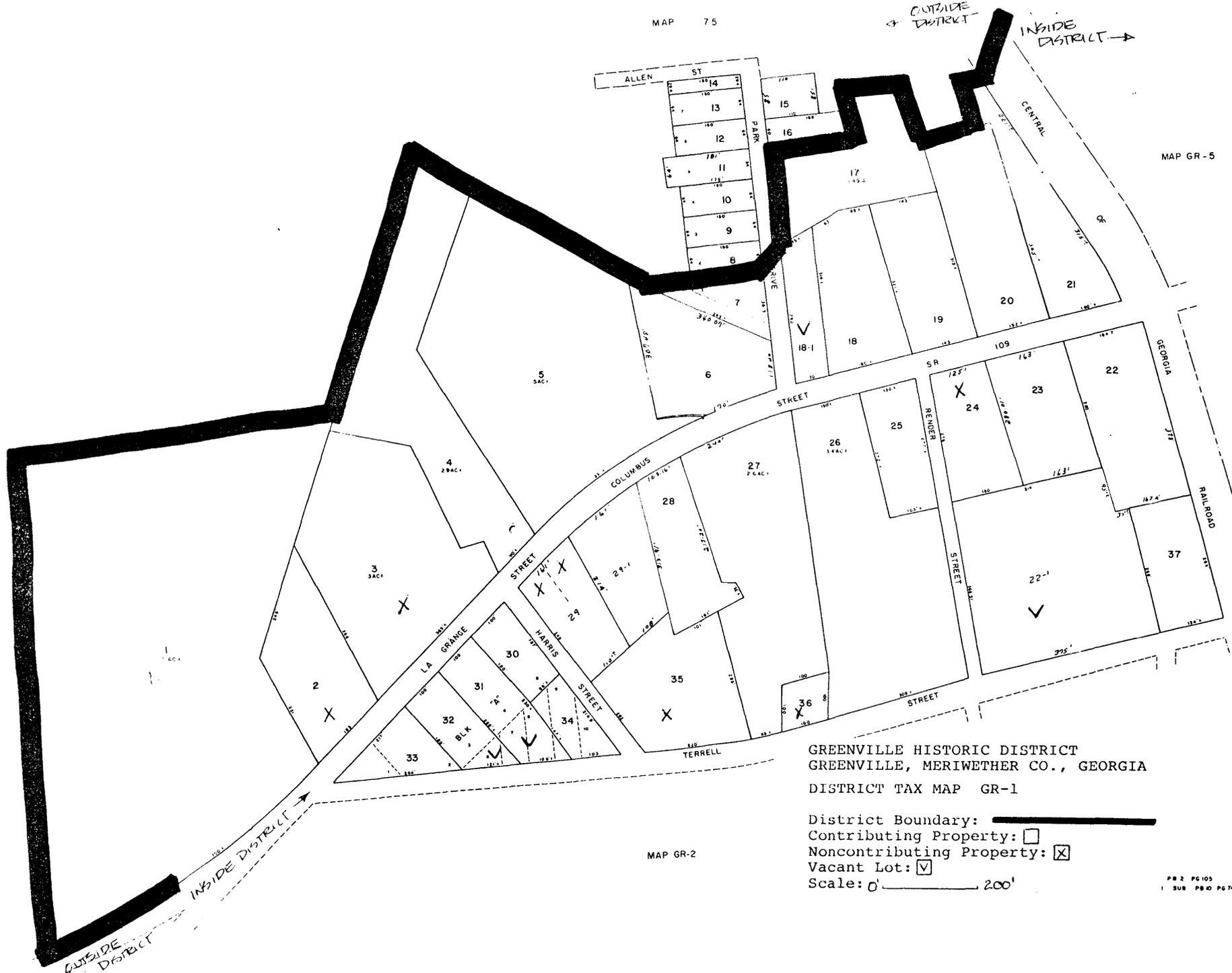
MAP 75

OUTSIDE DISTRICT  
INSIDE DISTRICT

MAP GR-5

MAP GR-6

P 75



GREENVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 GREENVILLE, MERIWETHER CO., GEORGIA  
 DISTRICT TAX MAP GR-1

District Boundary: **—————**  
 Contributing Property:   
 Noncontributing Property:   
 Vacant Lot:   
 Scale: 0' ————— 200'

MAP GR-2

PG 2 PG 105  
1 308 PG 0 748

GREENVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
GREENVILLE, MERIWETHER CO., GEORGIA

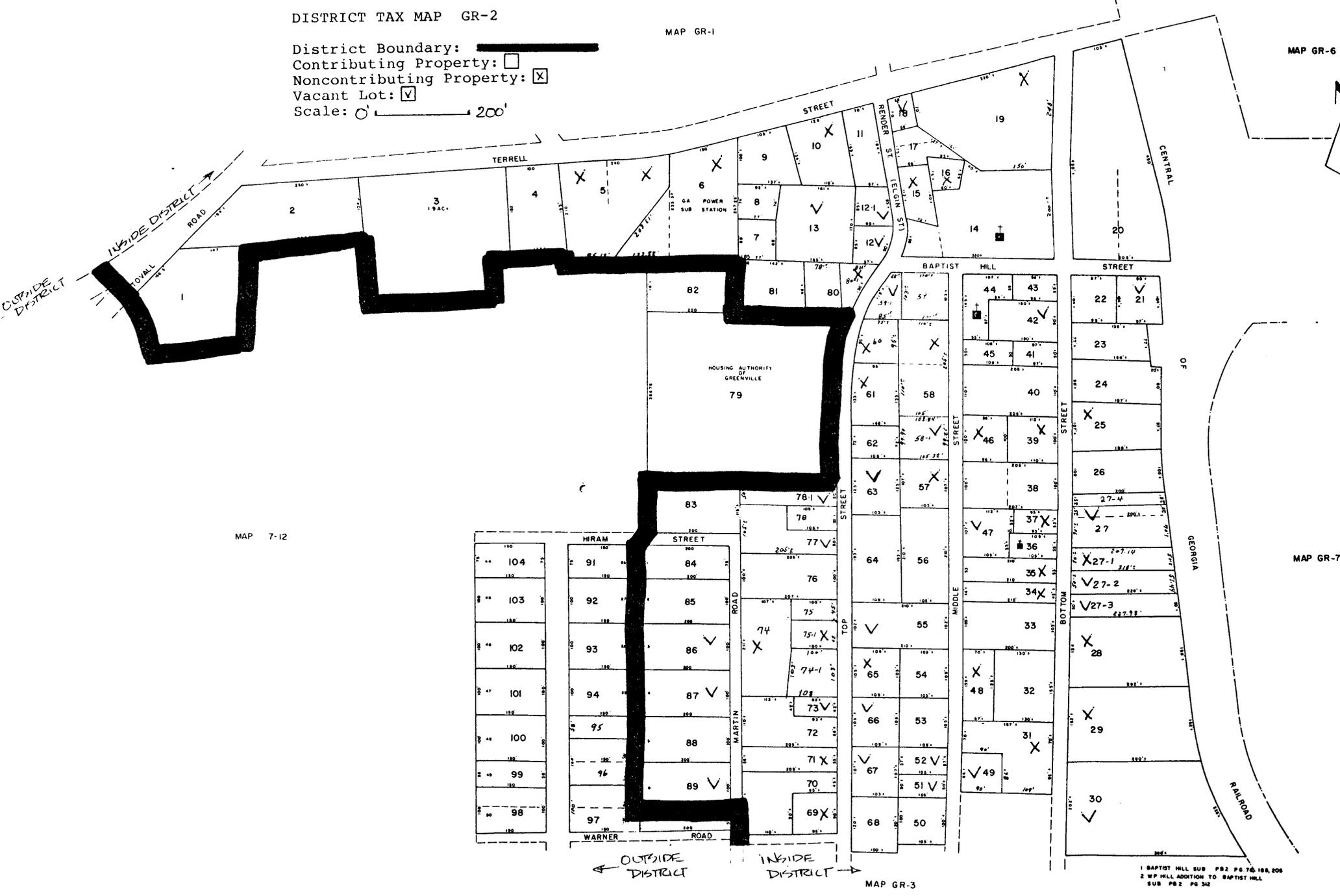
DISTRICT TAX MAP GR-2

MAP GR-1

District Boundary:   
 Contributing Property:   
 Noncontributing Property:   
 Vacant Lot:   
 Scale:  200'

MAP GR-6

OUTSIDE DISTRICT  
INSIDE DISTRICT  
ROAD



MAP 7-12

MAP GR-7

← OUTSIDE DISTRICT      INSIDE DISTRICT →

MAP GR-3

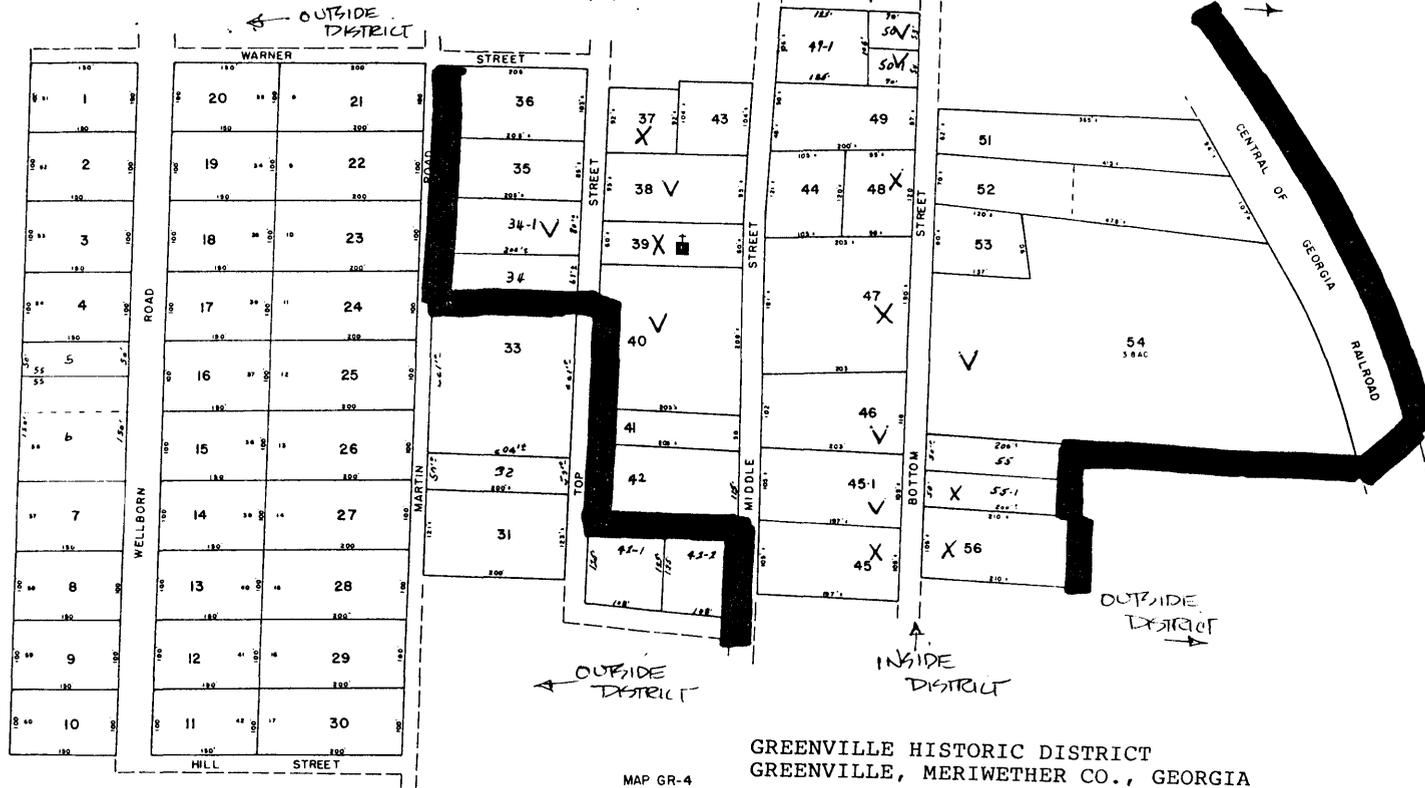
1 BAPTIST HILL SUB PR2 PG 76, 100, 206  
 2 WF HILL ADDITION TO BAPTIST HILL  
 SUB PR2 PG 342

LEGEND



MAP GR-2

MAP 7-12



MAP 7-7

MAP GR-4

GREENVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 GREENVILLE, MERIWETHER CO., GEORGIA

DISTRICT TAX MAP GR-3

District Boundary:

Contributing Property:

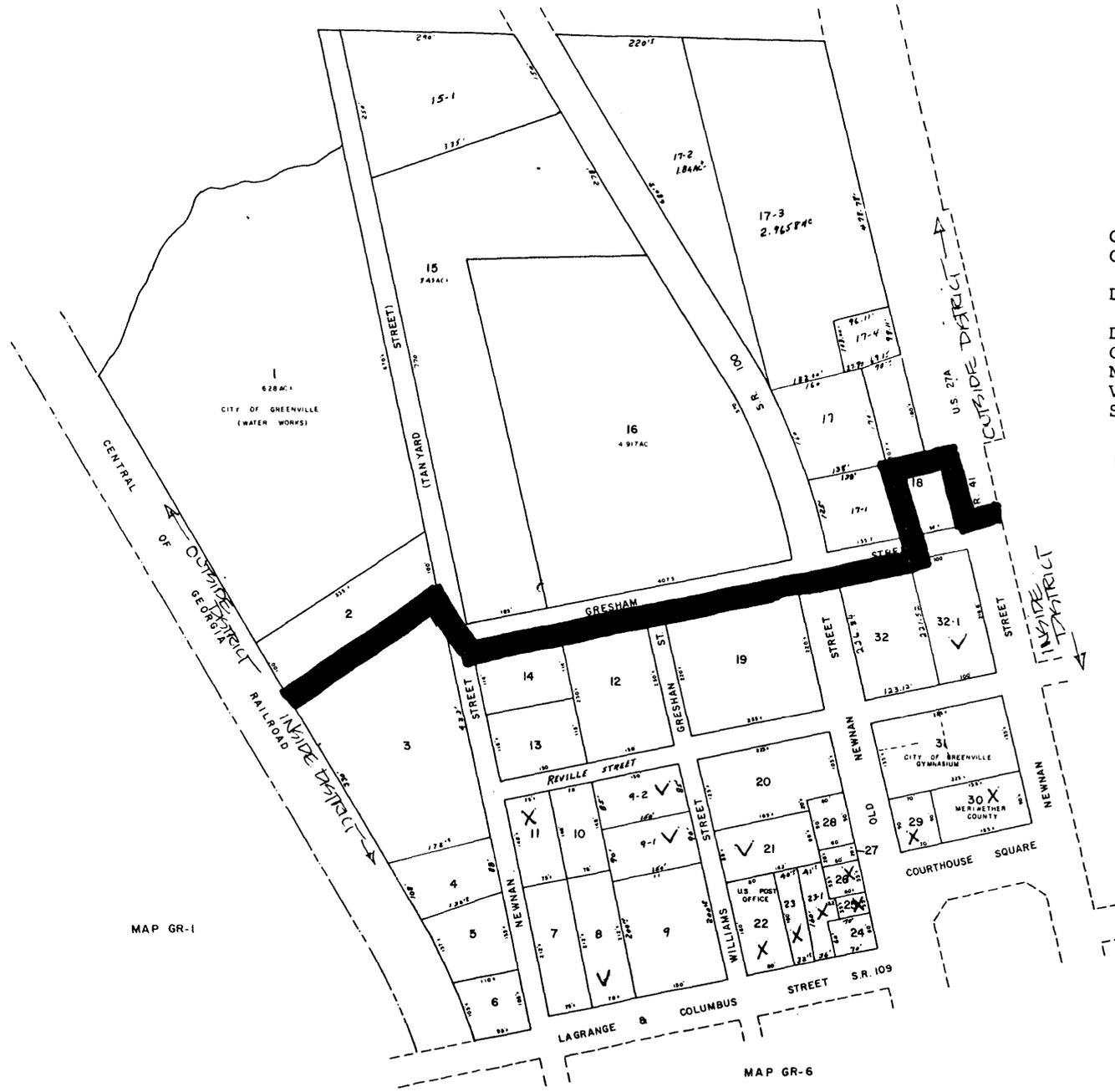
Noncontributing Property:

Vacant Lot:

Scale: 200'

1 BAPTIST HILL PB 3 PG 76, 188, 205  
 2 WP HILL ADDITION TO BAPTIST HILL PB 2 PG 312





GREENVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
GREENVILLE, MERIWETHER CO., GEORGIA

DISTRICT TAX MAP GR-5

District Boundary: **\_\_\_\_\_**  
 Contributing Property:   
 Noncontributing Property:   
 Vacant Lot:   
 Scale: 0' \_\_\_\_\_ 200'

MAP GR-8

MAP GR-1

MAP GR-6

MAP GR-5

MAP GR-8



GREENVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 GREENVILLE, MERIWETHER CO., GEORGIA

DISTRICT TAX MAP GR-6  
 District Boundary:   
 Contributing Property:   
 Noncontributing Property:   
 Vacant Lot:   
 Scale: 0'  200'

MAP GR-9

MAP GR-1

MAP GR-7



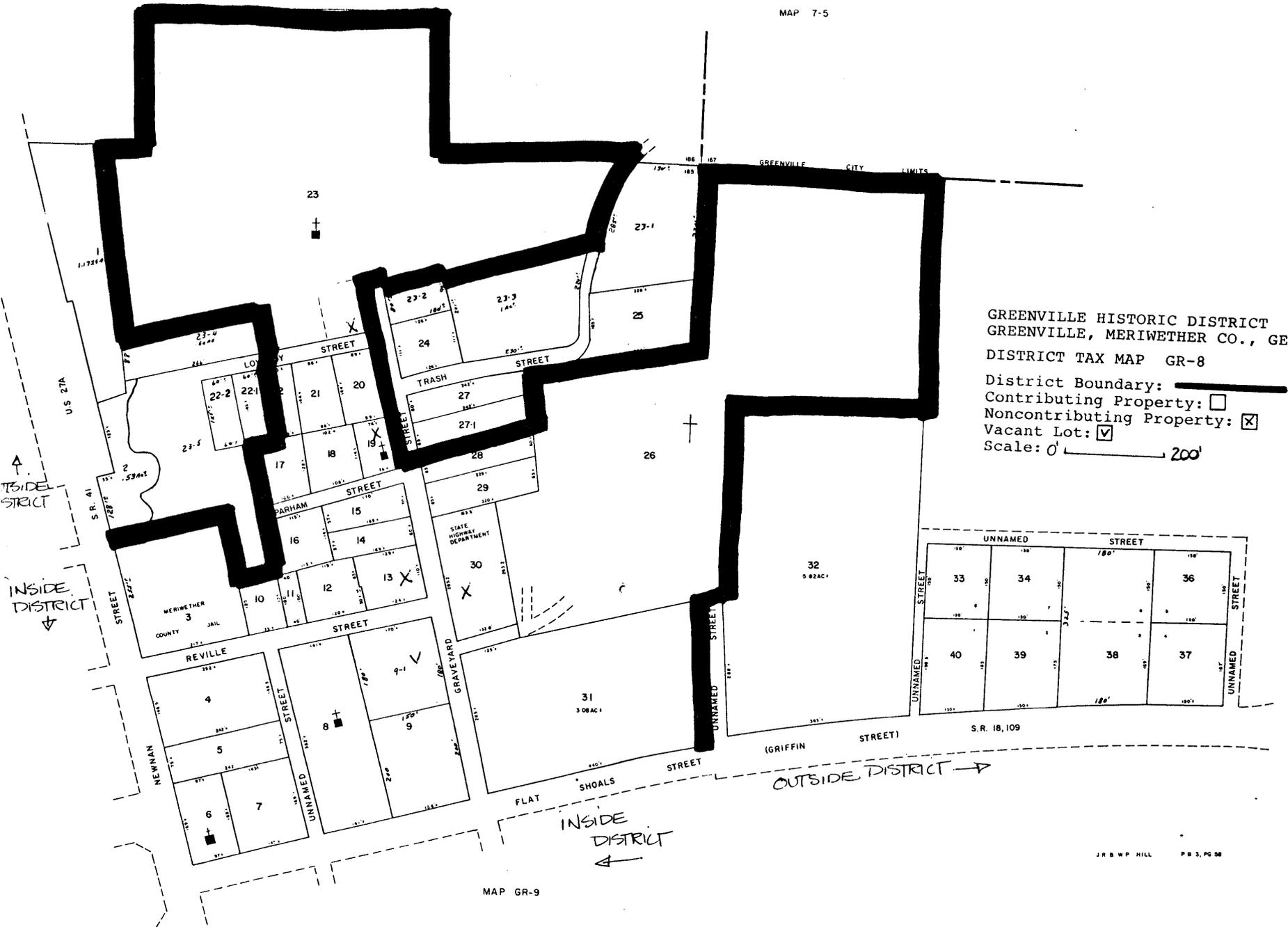
GREENVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
GREENVILLE, MERIWETHER CO., GEORGIA

DISTRICT TAX MAP GR-7

District Boundary:   
 Contributing Property:   
 Noncontributing Property:   
 Vacant Lot:   
 Scale: 0' \_\_\_\_\_ 200'



HUNNICOTT & ASSOCIATES, INC. <small>LAND SURVEYORS &amp; ENGINEERS</small>	PROPERTY OWNERSHIP MAP	LAND LOT, AREA	PHOTOS	REVISIONS	SHEET
	MERIWETHER COUNTY GEORGIA	LAND DISTRICT	89-1-34	DATE REV. BY	G

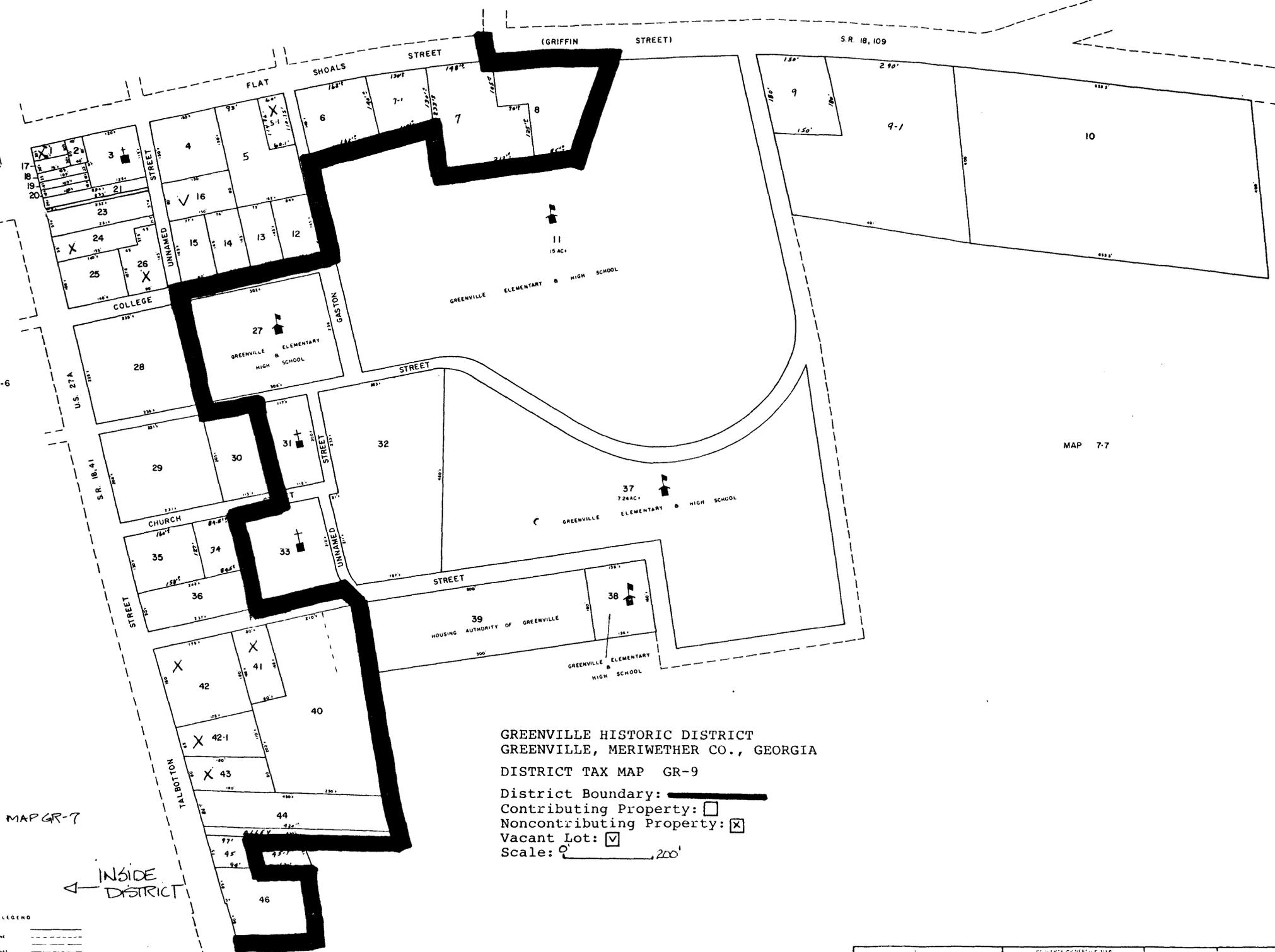


GREENVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
GREENVILLE, MERIWETHER CO., GEORGIA  
DISTRICT TAX MAP GR-8

District Boundary:   
Contributing Property:   
Noncontributing Property:   
Vacant Lot:   
Scale: 0' 200'

MAP GR-9

J. R. & W. P. HILL P. B. 3, PG. 58



GREENVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 GREENVILLE, MERIWETHER CO., GEORGIA  
 DISTRICT TAX MAP GR-9

District Boundary:   
 Contributing Property:   
 Noncontributing Property:   
 Vacant Lot:   
 Scale: 0' 200'

MAP GR-7  
 ← INSIDE DISTRICT

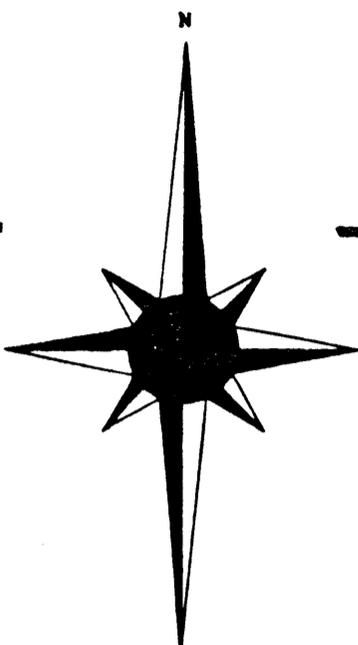
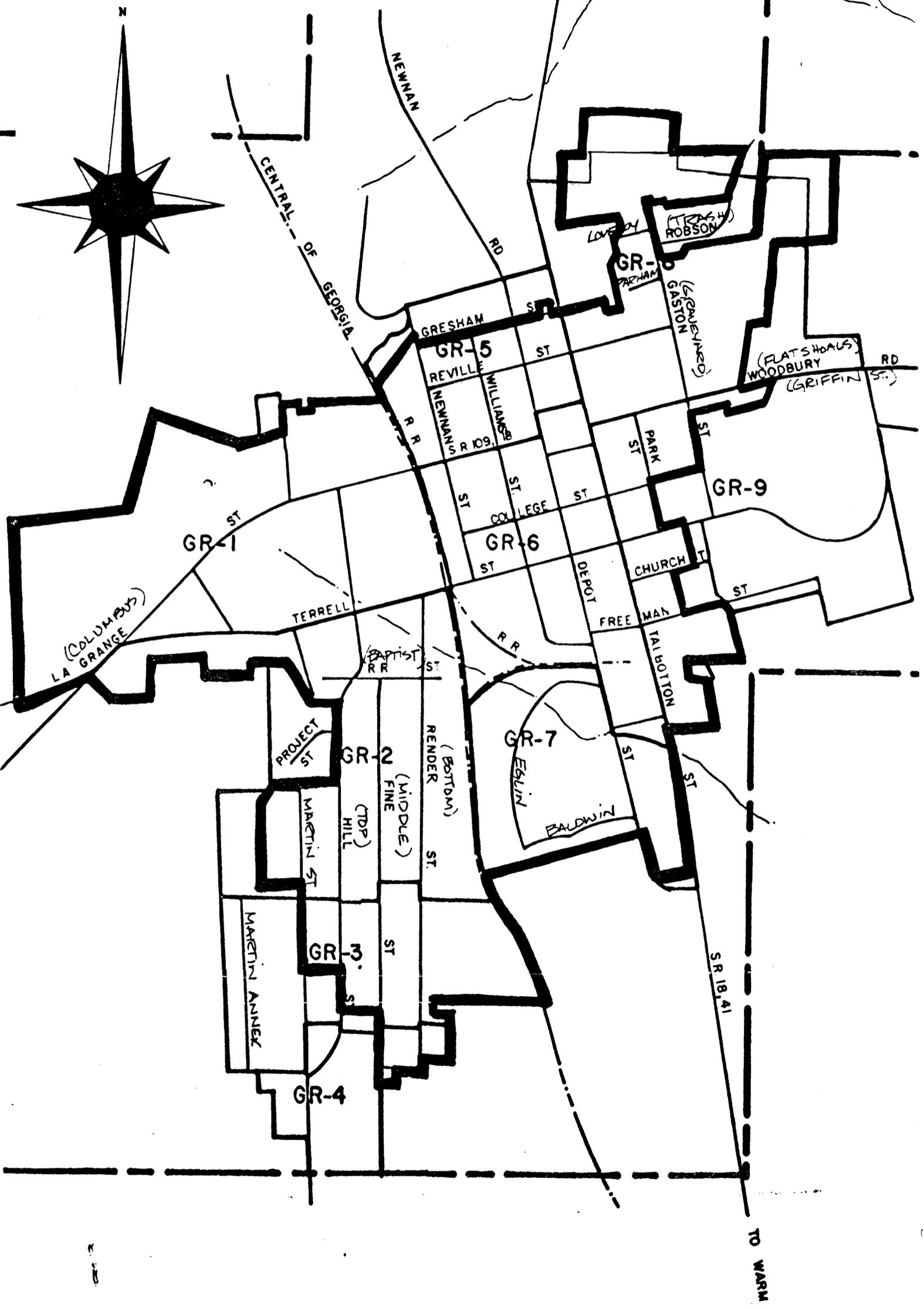
LEGEND  
 --- UNIMPROVED LOT  
 --- LINED LINE  
 --- LOT OR AREA

GREENVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
GREENVILLE, MERIWETHER COUNTY

DISTRICT BOUNDARY MAP

Scale: 0' \_\_\_\_\_ 600'

For exact boundary, see attached  
district tax maps.

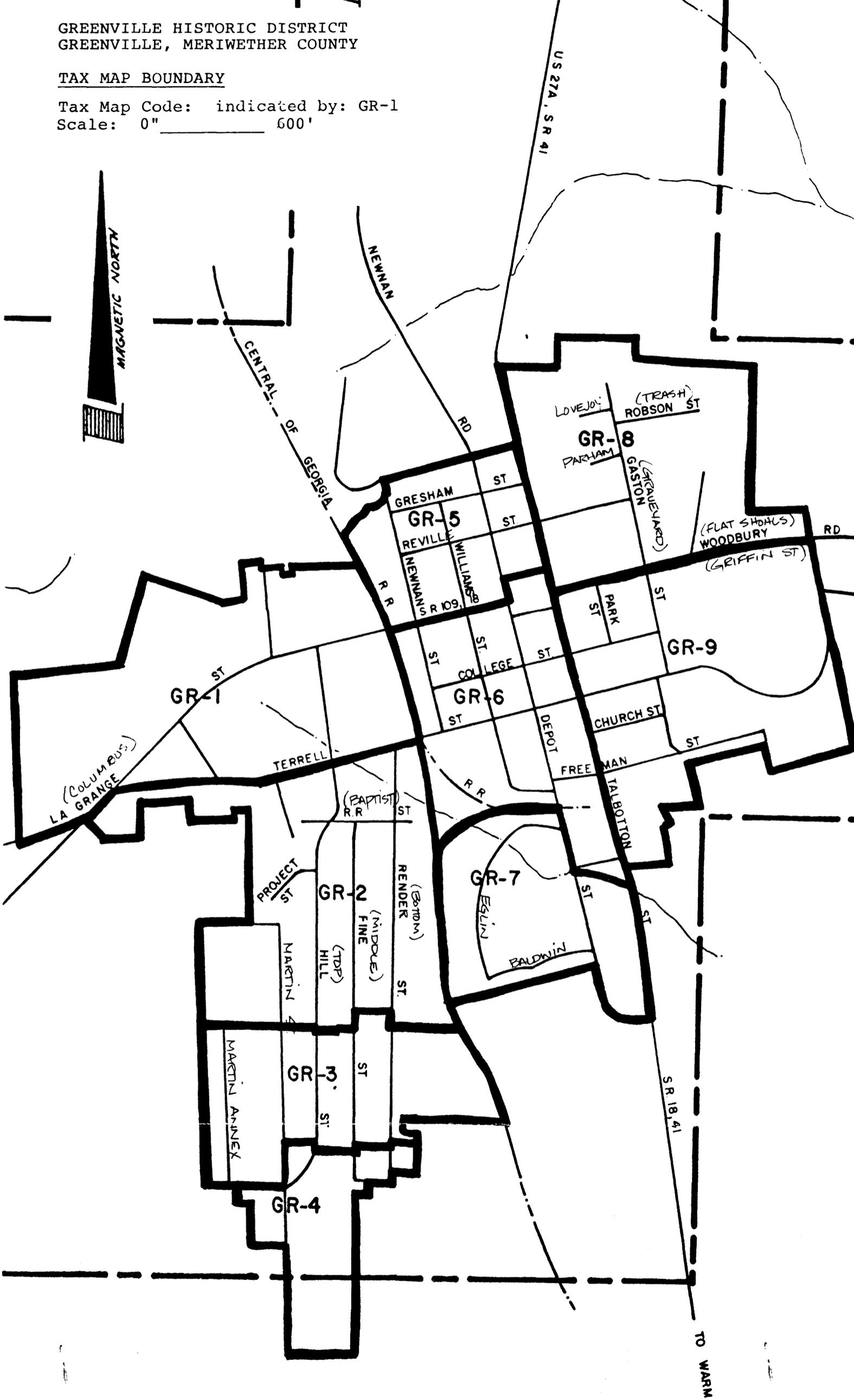


TO WARM

GREENVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
GREENVILLE, MERIWETHER COUNTY

TAX MAP BOUNDARY

Tax Map Code: indicated by: GR-1  
Scale: 0" \_\_\_\_\_ 600'



Greenville Historic District  
Greenville, Meriwether County,  
Georgia

Photo Identification Map

Scale: none

Photographs: indicated by 

