

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAR 21 1985

date entered APR 18 1985

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

1. Name

historic Bloomfield Street Historic District

and or common

2. Location

street & number See Continuation Sheet

N/A not for publication

city, town Athens

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia

code 013

county Clarke

code 059

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Owners (More than 50)

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Clarke County Courthouse

city, town Athens

state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

See Continuation Sheet

title See Continuation Sheet

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

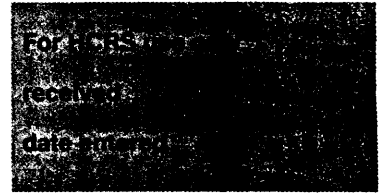
Bloomfield Street Historic District is a densely-developed residential area of Athens dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Bloomfield Street, the principal street in the district, runs approximately north and south through the area, intersected by several other streets which run east and west. Lots in the district are small and predominantly rectangular, and houses are uniformly set back from the street on them. Wood is the principal building material, used both structurally and decoratively, although brick and stucco finishes and detailing are also found among the later houses. Architectural styles represented include modest examples of the Victorian Eclectic, American Foursquare, and Bungalow/Craftsman styles. Tudor Revival detailing is evident in several houses. At the northern end of the district along the east side of Bloomfield Street and scattered elsewhere are the earliest, Victorian Eclectic houses, dating from the 1890s. These wood-framed houses have modest period detailing including gable ends with decorative vents, bay windows, and wrap-around porches. On the west side of Bloomfield Street and in the southern portion of the district which were developed in the 1910s and 1920s are predominantly Bungalow- and Craftsman-style houses interspersed with a few American Foursquare and Tudor Revival - influences structures. Among these are some excellent examples of the Bungalow style with such typical features as low-pitched roofs, front dormers, wide eaves with exposed rafters, a variety of exterior wall treatments, and massive front porches. Along Mell Street in this area are some fine local interpretations of the Craftsman style designed by local architect, Fred Orr. Two small historic wood-framed stores, now converted to residences, are located near the center of the district. Terrain in the district is relatively flat. Landscaping is extensive, consisting of front yards abundantly planted with grass, large shade trees, shrubs, and hedges; some large street trees; and a triangular green near the south edge of the district. A few 1950s apartment buildings are the only intrusions.

## Boundary

The Bloomfield Street Historic District represents the intact portion of a historic in-town neighborhood. To the west is the proposed Milledge Avenue Historic District, which is distinctly different in scale from the Bloomfield Street Historic District. To the east is the University of Georgia campus, and to the north and south are a high concentration of vacant lots, intrusions, and non-residential structures.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Location

Item number

2

Page

2

2. Location

The Bloomfield Street Historic District is located in Athens, Clarke County, Georgia. It consists of an area along Bloomfield Street and along some of the side streets leading off it to the east and west. It is bounded on the north by Peabody Street, on the east by the University of Georgia campus, on the south by Rutherford Street, and on the west by the proposed Milledge Avenue Historic District.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Representation in  
Continuation sheet Existing Surveys Item number 6 Page 2

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6. Representation in Existing Surveys

The Calvin Parr House, located within the district, was individually listed in the National Register on September 9, 1982. This property is also recorded in the Historic American Building Survey.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
<b>Specific dates</b>	1880s - 1930s	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Multiple	

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Bloomfield Street Historic District is historically significant in terms of architecture, landscape architecture, community planning and development, and local history. These areas of significance support the district's National Register eligibility under National Register criteria A, as an example of one type of residential development that occurred in small towns in Georgia in the late 19th and early 20th centuries; B, for its association with industrialist Robert L. Bloomfield who developed a portion of the district; and C, for its typical examples of late 19th and early 20th century architecture and landscape architecture in Georgia.

In terms of architecture, the district is significant for its collection of modest middle-class housing dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The residences in the area document typical building materials and building technologies used in small Georgia towns of the period, and they illustrate how styles of the period, popular nationally, were interpreted for Athens' middle-class by local builders and architects. Victorian Eclectic, American Foursquare, Bungalow, and Craftsman style houses are represented in the district along with a few houses with Tudor Revival and Neoclassical detailing. Of particular note are some of the houses associated with local architects and members of the building trades. The Calvin Parr House at 227 Bloomfield Street (individually listed in the National Register) is an elaborately detailed Victorian Eclectic cottage with sunbursts in its gable ends, a porch with sawnwork trim, and interior wall stenciling unique in the state. 145, 163, and 193 Mell Street are interesting interpretations of the Craftsman style, designed by Fred Orr, a local architect who designed a number of residences in Athens during the early 20th century. In addition, there are a number of fine bungalows in the district, built using a variety of materials and illustrating most of the typical features associated with the Bungalow style.

In terms of landscape architecture, the district is significant for providing an example in Athens of the type of naturalistic landscaping popular nationwide during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Front yards informally landscaped with large shade trees, shrubs, and grass visually flow together to create a park-like setting. Occasional street trees and a small triangular green suggestive of the irregular, landscaped dividers found in planned subdivisions of the period add to the park-like environment.

In terms of community planning and development, the Bloomfield Street district is important for documenting a type of piecemeal development that occurred in certain residential areas of many towns and cities. In addition, the district documents a period of growth and development in Athens' history during which a number of new middle-class residential areas were created to house the town's expanding population. In the late 1880s, Robert L. Bloomfield, a prominent Athens industrialist and landowner, subdivided a portion of the land he owned along the east side of Bloomfield Street, and a few houses were built on the lots. In 1912, his son-in-law, John E. Talmadge, Jr., had the Hall Street area divided into lots.\* The land on the west side of Bloomfield Street was originally used as a cow pasture and as lots for the large houses on Milledge

(Continued)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Brown, David. "Historic District Information Form: Bloomfield Historic District," May 1983, on file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. Based on primary and secondary information.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approximately 30 acres

Quadrangle name Athens West, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	7	2	7	9	9	0	0	3	7	5	8	6	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

1	7	2	7	9	6	0	0	3	7	5	8	0	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

1	7	2	7	9	3	7	0	3	7	5	8	2	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

1	7	2	7	9	4	3	0	3	7	5	8	8	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary, outlined with a heavy black line on the enclosed maps, is described and justified in Section 7.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date 2/27/85

street & number 270 Washington Street, SW

telephone 404/656-2840

city or town Atlanta

state Georgia

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Elizabeth A. Lyon*  
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3/7/85

### For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

4/18/85

*John A. Brown*  
Keeper of the National Register

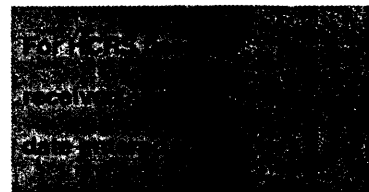
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

8. Significance

Avenue; it was not sold off and subdivided until the 1920s. The south portion of the district was surveyed and subdivided in 1890 but was bought up by one man, John Mell, whose house on Milledge Avenue backed onto this land. It was not built on until 1900-1920. Thus, this area which grew to be a modest middle-class neighborhood was developed piecemeal by a number of individuals. Its growth was stimulated by its location near the Milledge Avenue streetcar line.

In terms of local history, the district is significant for its associations with a group of middle-class citizens of Athens who resided in the neighborhood. The district housed an interesting mix of merchants, tradesmen such as painters and contractors, and, because of its proximity to the University of Georgia campus, a number of professors.

BLOOMFIELD STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Athens, Clarke County, Georgia


DISTRICT MAP


Source: Athens-Clarke Co. Planning  
Commission Map #17 and 18


Date: 1979


North: ↑

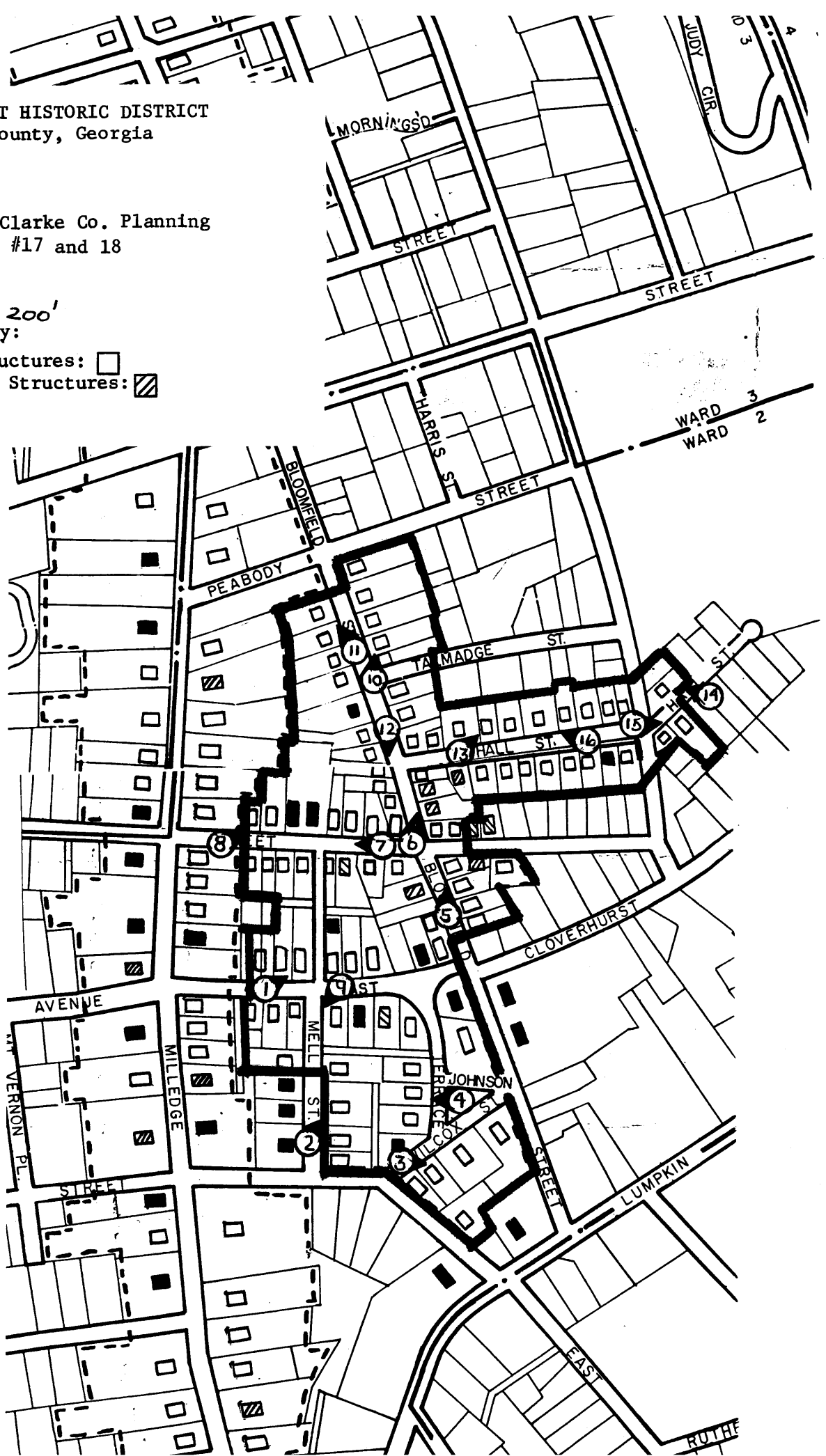
Scale: 0 — 200'

District Boundary: 

Contributing Structures: 

Non-contributing Structures: 

Intrusions: 





United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

JAN 16 1990

Section

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

BLOOMFIELD HISTORIC DISTRICT  
CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Period of Significance

Based on documentation compiled by the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation (the local sponsor of this National Register nomination) in 1983 and updated by the Historic Preservation Section in 1985 just prior to nomination, the Bloomfield Historic District began its development in the mid- to late 1880s with a series of land transactions and subdivisions and was essentially complete by the onset of the Great Depression in 1929-1930. However, some building activity continued in the area into the early 1930s, although at a severely depressed level. By the mid-1930s, historic development of the area was essentially complete, although a few small "in-fill" houses may have been built on vacant lots later in the 1930s.

In consideration of this information, the period of significance for the Bloomfield Historic District should be **1885-1935**. Development of the neighborhood began after 1885 with land purchases and subdivisions; development was essentially complete by the mid-1930s so the 50-year cut-off at the time of the original nomination serves as an appropriate end to the period of significance.

It should be noted that at least two major houses were built on West Rutherford Street just outside the historic district in the early to mid-1940s. Neither of these houses is currently 50 years old, and neither appears to warrant an exception to the 50-year rule for National Register eligibility. However, their National Register eligibility and potential for contributing to this historic district could be reconsidered in a few years. At the same time, other properties in and adjacent to the district could be reassessed for their potential to contribute to the district at that time.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section

JAN 16 1990

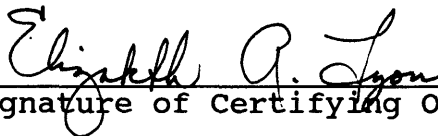
Supplementary Information Form Prepared By

Richard Cloues  
Survey and National Register Unit Manager  
Historic Preservation Section  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
205 Butler Street, Suite 1462  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

404-656-2840

January 5, 1990

State Certification



\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Certifying Official

1/5/90  
Date

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

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

# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

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Bloomfield Street Historic District      Clarke County, GEORGIA

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL

Keeper Amy Federman 3/1/21