



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. Do 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 Mount Pleasant Historic District
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Georgia State Route 51
city, town Homer (x) vicinity of
county Banks code 011
state Georgia code GA zip code

(N/A) not for publication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	10	10
sites	1	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	11	10

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources along the Old Federal Road in Georgia's Banks and Franklin Counties, c.1805-1946

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
Signature of certifying official

10/07/96
Date

Mark R. Edwards
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

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Edson A. Ball 11-7-96

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 _____

Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwellings
RELIGION/religious facility/church
COMMERCE/store

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwellings
RELIGION/religious facility/church

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER/Georgian Cottage
OTHER/I-House

Materials:

foundation brick and concrete
walls wood/clapboard
roof tin
other brick

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Mount Pleasant Historic District is a historic rural linear community composed of farm complexes and community resources along the Old Federal Road. The farm complexes consist of farmhouses, associated outbuildings, and surrounding agricultural fields. The houses and outbuildings were constructed from c. 1874 into the 1940s. The farmhouses include a c. 1890 I-house type house, a c. 1900 central hallway house, and a c. 1916 Georgian cottage type house. Remaining historic outbuildings include several barns. The most prominent community building is the Mount Pleasant Methodist Church, a front-gabled, wood-framed building constructed in 1892. The adjacent community cemetery was begun in 1829. Other community resources in the district include a c. 1935 store/service station and a small front-gabled, wood-framed building used as a voting place.

The Gillespie-Shannon House is a two-story, wood-framed house originally constructed in 1874 and later enlarged. The original house was a saddlebag type house, one-story with a central chimney and side-gabled roof. In 1890, an I-house was added to one end of the original house, forming an I-house with rear ell. The I-house is a two-story, one-room-deep house with front shed porch and one exterior end stone chimney. On the interior, the hall-parlor floor plan of the front section and the saddlebag floor plan of the rear section are both intact. Walls and ceilings are covered with original wide boards. No agricultural outbuildings remain on the property.

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The Newt Garrison House is a pyramidal tin-roofed house with painted drop siding (replacement) and a centered shed dormer with three small windows. There are two brick chimneys, one of which is connected to a new raised hearth fireplace while the other no longer functions. A drop shed front porch extends across the entire front facade and wraps around the left side. Porch supports are simple square replacement posts.

The present owners altered the rear of the house by enclosing the porch that formerly ran the full length of the rear facade. The interior arrangement has been altered as well, so that today the original central hallway is not evident.

The walk from the drive is composed of stones from the original porch piers, which have been replaced.

The house is situated on a hill, has a curving driveway, four large boxwoods and several large oak trees, four of which are at least four feet in diameter. The property now consists of 60 acres.

The Goss Pruitt House is a one story, clapboard gabled ell cottage. The front porch of the house has collapsed. A tin roof covers the house and features wide boxed eaves. The gable front section is three rooms deep. The first two rooms have back-to-back stone fireplaces, from which the hearthstones have been vandalized. There is a closet between these rooms. The rear room is sagging and part of the wall between it and the middle room is missing. The wing section contains a hall and living room with a fireplace, which is flanked by narrow 4/4 sash windows. There is a small shed room off the back of the wing, but there is no interior access to this room. An L-shaped porch is situated between the two rear gabled extensions. This porch and the shed room are in very poor condition.

Interior walls and ceilings are covered with 4" boards. Floors are narrow wooden boards, now covered with hay that has been stored in the house. Doors throughout the house are four panel and six horizontal panel. All the sashes are missing and boarded except for the two in the living room and a replacement window in the shed room. Exterior window trim is simple but distinctive for the area, with a large spline projecting beyond each head.

The house is fenced off from the surrounding pasture and field. There are several large trees in the yard - a 3' diameter oak, two large walnut trees, and three other large oaks.

Mount Pleasant Church is a white clapboard gable-front building with an 1941 addition on the left as well as an addition to the rear,

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constructed in 1973-74. The tin roof is steeply pitched. The two gable-front entry porches have battered columns on capped stone piers. The double exterior doors were added during the mid-1970s, as were the 6/6 sashes with pale gold/marbleized panes. The eaves overhang deeply and are boxed with cornice returns. The foundation has been enclosed with painted cinder blocks.

Inside, the ceilings have been lowered but the original 10" to 12" boards remain on the walls. The pews were made from wood from the third church by three residents of nearby farms along the Old Federal Road, a Mr. Brown, Melvin Shannon, and William Harvey Chambers. Shannon, a carpenter, made the pattern for the channel rail. There was an exterior door behind the pulpit before the rear classrooms were added. Carpeting was laid over the 6" wide wood floors in 1962.

The church sits back well off the road in a clearing in a low area. A long drive separates the old section of the cemetery from the new. The old section features house tombs and graves dating to the late 18th century. Jedediah Garrison, a Revolutionary War veteran, is buried here. This oldest section is on a hill to the right of the drive.

The commercial building is a gas station/general store dating from around 1935. It was run by Bob Presley until 1956, then by John Ayers. The building has been used as rental property (housing) for many years and appears structurally sound. The building still conveys its significance as a commercial building.

The voting place is a wood-framed gabled front building clad with weatherboard. A nonhistoric shed was added to the east side of the buildings. The building has a central chimney and metal roof.

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):

ARCHITECTURE
AGRICULTURE
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance:

c. 1829-1946

Significant Dates:

c. 1829
c. 1890
c. 1892
c. 1900
c. 1916
c. 1935

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Unknown

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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)

Architecture

The Mount Pleasant Historic District is significant in architecture for its historic farmhouses, outbuildings, and community buildings. The houses represent the types of houses constructed as rural Georgia farmhouses in the late-19th early-20th centuries. The outbuildings are examples of early 20th-century agricultural outbuildings built on small farms in north Georgia. The church, store, and voting place are representative of late-19th and early-20th century community resources.

Agriculture

The district is significant in agriculture for its small farm complexes typically found in north Georgia and along this portion of the Old Federal Road. The majority of farms in the area were small subsistence farms, raising crops and livestock to sustain the families who lived there. Crops included corn, oats, wheat, and vegetables. Cotton was grown as a cash crop, but only on a small scale.

Community Planning and Development

The district is significant in community planning and development for its development as a historic rural linear community. Mount Pleasant Methodist Church was founded around 1800, and the community grew up around it. Several church buildings were built and used before the existing building was constructed in 1892. A camp meeting ground was also established at the current church site and was used into the 1910s. The community developed in a linear pattern along the Old Federal Road in close proximity to the church and cemetery. The remaining historic voting place and store are resources that also served the community's needs.

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National Register Criteria

The Mount Pleasant District meets National Register Criteria A and C by being representative of early settlement and development of a small community along the Old Federal Road. It is also important for the vernacular architecture of its buildings, typical of communities along the Old Federal Road.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

The period of significance for the Mount Pleasant Historic District begins in 1829 with the development of the community cemetery and ends in 1946, the end of the historic period.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The contributing buildings and cemetery were constructed within the period of significance and maintain integrity. The ten noncontributing resources were either constructed after 1946, the end of the historic period, or have lost historic integrity.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

Mount Pleasant began in the late 1770s with the founding of a church near the site of the present Mount Pleasant Church building, which is the fourth structure to house the church. It is significant that this area was thus explored and settled well before the Old Federal Road was established, for in the late 1770s the road was only an Indian trail. The founders and earliest members of the church included members of the Chambers, Garrison, Gillespie, Meaders and Wilmot families. A simple log structure was built in 1780 and was soon replaced by a larger church, also constructed of log. The third Mount Pleasant Church was built around 1820 and was also utilized as a school for area children. It was replaced by the present structure in 1892.

A community named Mount Pleasant grew up around the church and has always been very closely associated with the church. The community included a store, a cotton gin, and a school; however, none of the earliest buildings survive today. Mount Pleasant never had its own post office, a fact which suggests that this community was smaller than others along the Old Federal Road. Due to the loss of a number

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of residential structures in the area, the Mount Pleasant Historic District does not give the impression of the type of closely-knit small community that once existed. Nevertheless the surviving houses and church are representative of the Mount Pleasant community.

The first decade of this century was the high point for the Mount Pleasant community. However, the eventual arrival of the boll weevil drastically curtailed cotton production and the Depression further hindered efforts to make a living from the land in this area. As a result many residents of the Mount Pleasant area were forced to depart. However, the church has remained a viable part of the community and has a regular membership among a number of residents along the Old Federal Road.

The Newt Garrison House was built in 1916 by Newt (1874-1955) and Bessie Ariail Garrison (b. 1889). The farm was considered to be a poor one since the Garrisons had no tenants. The Garrisons were closely associated with Mount Pleasant Church.

The construction date and builder of the Pruitt House is not known, but it has been known as the Pruitt House due to the occupancy of the Pruitt family. Goss Pruitt and his wife Ida Poole Pruitt lived there until 1919. Ida Pruitt was a tenant in the house when she died.

Other tenants in the house were John and Ida Cochran, who had owned the Cochran house down the road for 30 years, and Bryson Brown. During the time the Cochrans lived in the house, the farm consisted of 159 acres. Florence Carlin Presley was the last person to live in the house before its abandonment in 1980.

The house is now owned by George Brown and his sister, Catheryn Shannon. It is presently used to store hay; they were planning to tear the house down because of complaints from area residents concerning its poor condition, but are reconsidering what to do with the house.

The Mount Pleasant congregation was originally housed in a small log structure built in 1780 on a hill across from the present site. A second log building with a fireplace was then built and used until the congregation outgrew it. A third log building, also used as a public school for many years, was built and used until 1888.

The present building was begun in 1888 and completed in 1892 when it was ceiled. It was built on land given by John Wilmot, land that had been the site of many summer camp meetings. A large wooden arbor and numerous cabins were built near the church for continuing the summer camp meetings. None of the cabins currently exist.

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Two classrooms were added to the church in 1941. In 1962 the building was remodeled and new flooring was installed. In 1973-1974, a wing was added, doors and windows were replaced, the sanctuary ceiling was lowered, the sanctuary floor carpeted, and the interior refinished.

David Garrison, licensed to preach in 1806, was a local preacher for more than ten years from the Grove Circuit, which bordered the Indian Nation. Many of the cemetery's grave markers, including some very old house tombs, date from the late 18th century. There is a Revolutionary War soldier's marker on Jedediah Gillespie's grave.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Aerial photos, from University of Georgia collections:
Banks County 1938, 1940, 1942, 1951, 1956, 1980

Photographs: Taken April-May, 1985 by Sybil A. Bowers

Historic maps, from University of Georgia collections:

1818 Georgia map, includes roads
1829 Georgia map, includes roads
1836 A New Map of Georgia with its Roads and Distances
1846 A New Map of Georgia with its Roads and Distances
1860 County Map of Georgia and Alabama
1883 Georgia State Gazetteer map
1894 Post Route map
1909 Map of Banks County
1916 Department of Agriculture map of the State of Georgia

Interviews, Roger McConnell by Sybil A. Bowers

10 December 1984, 17 April 1985, 24 April 1985, 1 May 1985,
15 May 1985, 22 May 1985, and 29 May 1985

Interviews, Roger McConnell by Susan Casey

January 1990 and October 1990.

National Register Nomination for Homer, Georgia, written
September, 1984

Road maps, GMAPDC collections:

1972, Banks County

Sherwood, Adiel. Gazetteer of the State of Georgia 1827, 1860

Georgia State Gazetteers, 1879-80, 1881-82, 1886

USGS topographic maps, 1967:

Homer quadrangle

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 # N/A
- () recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # N/A

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Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office**
- Other State Agency**
- Federal agency**
- Local government**
- University**
- Other, Specify Repository:**
Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

Banks County DNR Survey # 71 - Mt. Pleasant Church

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 237 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 276400~~35~~ Northing 3806100~~020~~
B) Zone 17 Easting 277420~~05~~ Northing 3805790~~575~~
C) Zone 17 Easting 276300~~25~~ Northing 3804900~~840~~
D) Zone 17 Easting 275990~~10~~ Northing 3805750~~4505~~
E) Zone 17 Easting 250420~~25~~ Northing 3805460~~4690~~
F) Zone 17 Easting 276120~~340~~ Northing 3806100~~5390~~
G) Zone 17 Easting 276120~~340~~ Northing 3806010

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the property is indicated as a solid black line drawn to scale on the accompanying National Register Boundary map. This map is based on the current county tax maps which are drawn to a scale of 1"=660'. These maps are the largest scale maps available for this rural area.

Boundary Justification

Boundaries were determined using topography and include historic structures and visual representation of historic acreage. The boundary consists of current existing legal boundaries and topographical features, such as tree lines and agricultural fields, that are associated with the Mount Pleasant community.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Preservation Planner
organization Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center
street & number Post Office Box 1720
city or town Gainesville **state** Georgia **zip code** 30503
telephone 404-536-3431 **date** Completed - Fall, 1990

name/title John Kissane
organization Private Consultant
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city or town Gainesville **state** Georgia **zip code** 30501
telephone (770) 535-1430 **date** Completed - November 1990

Reviewed and Edited by:

name/title Amy Pallante/National Register Specialist
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street & number 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 651-6033 **date** August 1996

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Photographs

Name of Property: Mount Pleasant District
City or Vicinity: Homer
County: Banks
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: March 9, 1994

Note: Photography was field checked in July, 1996; photographs still convey an accurate representation of the property.

Description of Photograph(s):

- Photo 1 of 8 Mount Pleasant Church and Cemetery; photographer facing southeast.
- Photo 2 of 8 Newt Garrison House; photographer facing southeast.
- Photo 3 of 8 Streetscape of Georgia S.R. 51 east of its intersection with Georgia S.R. 184; photographer facing east.
- Photo 4 of 8 Historic house along Georgia S.R. 51; photographer facing east.
- Photo 5 of 8 Agricultural fields; photographer facing east.
- Photo 6 of 8 Voting place; photographer facing southwest.
- Photo 7 of 8 Gillespie-Shannon House; photographer facing east.
- Photo 8 of 8 Front facade of Gillespie-Shannon House; photographer facing north.

National Register Boundary
Mount Pleasant Historic District
Near Homer, Banks Co., GA.
Scale: 1"=660'
Source: Banks Co. Tax Map 16 and 26
Date: 1984
Key: The nominated district is marked by a heavy black line.

