

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received OCT 1 1987

date entered

NOV 10 1987

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

1. Name

historic none

and or common Bainbridge Residential Historic District

2. Location

Washington, Scott, College, Planter, Shotwell,  
street & number Evans Streets, and others

N/A not for publication

city, town Bainbridge N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Decatur code 087

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Several (More than fifty)

street & number

city, town N/A vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Decatur County Courthouse

city, town Bainbridge state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Field Survey:  
title Bainbridge, Decatur County, Georgia has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

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

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The Bainbridge Residential Historic District consists of the intact historic portion of a large residential neighborhood in Bainbridge, a small southwest Georgia city and the county seat of rural Decatur County. This neighborhood is the largest and possibly the only intact historic neighborhood in town. It contains a wide variety of 19th- and early 20th-century house types, styles, and sizes.

The Bainbridge Residential Historic District comprises an irregularly shaped, 125-acre area to the east and south of the city's central business district. The district is situated on flat ground not far from the Flint River, which lies to the northwest of the district. Streets in the district are laid out in an irregular grid pattern. Shotwell Street, running east-west through the middle of the district, is the neighborhood's grandest avenue, bordered by large homes on landscaped lots. In contrast is the narrow, almost alley-like Georgia Avenue in the northeast portion of the district, lined with modest working-class dwellings. While there are no median strips dividing any of the streets, or any public parks in the district, there are a large number of live oaks which provide shade along the majority of the streets in the district. Houses in the district are generally placed close to the front of the property, including houses which are sited on larger than average lots. Fencing is limited to the enclosure of rear yards, with almost no fencing used to enclose the yard space between the houses and the sidewalks.

While the architectural character of the district is predominantly post-1880 in origin, there are two significant early houses which reflect the antebellum development of Bainbridge, a community founded in 1824. The Farrar House at 501 East Evans Street is a simplified Greek Revival style house, two stories in height and one room deep, with a monumental two-story entry porch. The Harrel House at 627 East Planter Street is a single-story, U-shaped house which features square pillars and pilasters on its inset front verandah. Both of these houses are believed to have been built in the 1850s.

The urban development of Bainbridge was most intense at the end of the 19th century and into the early 20th century. This period of development is reflected most vividly in this residential district. While the neighborhoods to the south of the business district had been platted by 1849, there appears to have been almost no large-scale development of this section until well after the Civil War. Starting about 1880, rapid subdivision and development of this land and land to the east of the central business district took place. Between about 1880 and 1930, most of the houses in these areas were built, and the various subdivisions became merged together into one large heterogeneous neighborhood containing a wide variety of houses. Architectural styles represented in the district include Victorian Eclectic with Eastlake and Stick-style detailing, Queen Anne, Neoclassical, Craftsman/Bungalow, Georgian Revival, Dutch Colonial, and American Four square. Wood is the predominant building material, both structurally and decoratively, although some brick and concrete block were used as well. In size the houses range from small cottages to, by local standards at least, large mansions.

One of the architecturally interesting streets in the southwest section of the district is Washington Street, which contains a large collection of pyramidal roofed houses. These one-story frame structures are dominated by their seemingly oversized roofs, with ornamentation limited to turned columns on the front porches. This house type can also be found in the northeast part of the district, on Georgia Avenue, historically a black neighborhood. By way of contrast is Shotwell Street, the main east-west thoroughfare through the middle of the district. The exceptional width of the street as well as the larger than average

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lot sizes are complemented by large private residences. The most flamboyant Queen Anne style house in the district, the residence of H. B. Ehrlich, is located at 632 East Shotwell. It was constructed in 1898. The Mart Harrell House at 519 East Shotwell was built ca. 1905 and is faced with pre-cast concrete blocks designed to simulate quarry-faced stonework. The H. C. Caldwell House at 443 East Shotwell is the finest Dutch Colonial Revival style house in Bainbridge, and includes a matching garage with its own gambrel roof; the Caldwell house and garage were built in 1900. Shotwell Street was also chosen as the location of two of the most prominent churches in Bainbridge. The First Baptist Church at 401 East Shotwell was built in 1917 in a rather Jeffersonian Classical manner complete with a dome modeled after that of Monticello. First United Methodist Church at 300 West Shotwell, constructed in 1908, is an excellent if rather late example of a Romanesque Revival style church with a fine bell tower. Progressive early 20th-century trends in domestic design are also evident in the district. The two-story brick house at 506 East Broughton Street is a good example of an American Foursquare house, with minimal ornamentation. 511 Academy Street is a fine shingled bungalow, with a more monumental bungalow, complete with a half-timbered gable front, located at 447 East Evans.

Contributing/Noncontributing Properties

Contributing properties in the district are relatively intact residential and religious buildings constructed during the district's period of significance. Noncontributing properties consist primarily of buildings (whether residential or otherwise) built in the district since 1930. The major intrusion in the district is a large modern post office at Evans, West, and McNair Streets. A relatively small number of noncontributing properties consist of former historic houses which have been added to and/or altered to the extent that they have lost their identity as historic structures.

Boundary Description and Justification

The boundary of the Bainbridge Residential Historic District was determined on the basis of the greatest concentration of intact historic residences in the city. The district is bounded to the northwest by the city's central business district (a portion of which is being nominated separately as the Bainbridge Commercial Historic District), to the north by a zone of recent commercial development along Calhoun Street, River Road, and the railroad, to the east by an area of mixed nonhistoric commercial and residential development, and to the southeast, south, and southwest by largely nonhistoric residential development.

# 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** 1850-1930      **Builder/Architect** Several

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

### Statement of Significance

In terms of architecture, this district is significant for its fine and varied collection of 19th- and early 20th-century residential architecture. The district contains two of the oldest extant houses in Bainbridge, dating from the 1850s--both of which are excellent examples of their style, type, and period--as well as a wide representation of historic houses from the 1880s to 1930. Represented in this group of houses are local interpretations of many prevailing late 19th- and early 20th-century architectural styles including Victorian Eclectic with Eastlake and Stick-style detailing, Queen Anne, Neoclassical, Craftsman/Bungalow, Georgian Revival, Dutch Colonial, and American Four-square. Extreme variations of most of these styles also are present in the district, from the most simple "carpenter" versions to relatively sophisticated "high-style" examples along Shotwell Street. While each of these styles is characteristic of small-town residential architecture in Georgia, the number of different styles represented and their extreme variations make this district distinctive--indeed unique--in the southern part of the state. Also of note are the significant groupings of historic houses in various parts of the district. For example, there are significant groupings of relatively simple urban cottages with pyramidal roofs along Washington Street and Georgia Avenue. These contrast with the monumental scale and character of the houses along the main east-west street in the district, Shotwell Street, which features large Queen Anne and Colonial Revival-style residences. Good examples of simplified Colonial Revival and Bungalow-style homes are found on Academy Street, which is one of the latter streets in the district to have been created. Also significant architecturally are the two historic churches in the district which illustrate characteristic turn-of-the-century institutional architectural styles. Overall, the Bainbridge Residential Historic District contains the majority of the intact extant historic residences in the city limits.

In terms of community planning and development, this district is significant as a good example of an "evolved" historic neighborhood. This type of historic neighborhood represents one of the two ways--and the most common way--in which most 19th-century neighborhoods in Georgia cities and towns were planned and developed, and it contrasts in virtually every respect with its neighborhood alter ego, the planned subdivision. This district, like others of its kind, grew out of the earlier and more carefully planned origins of the community, as evidenced by the loose extension of the city's original gridiron pattern into this area. Typically, it was located along major transportation arteries into and out of the community. Also typical is the district's relatively orderly but piecemeal development pattern over a relatively long period of time, by numerous land developers who acquired and successively subdivided originally large landholdings. Today this neighborhood retains virtually all the characteristic plan features associated with this important type of historic neighborhood in Georgia: a somewhat irregular overall plan keyed into the community's original plan and transportation network, an overall heterogeneous character, and a wide variety of house types, sizes, styles, and periods. As such, it is a good example of the "evolved" residential neighborhood in Georgia and the largest--and possibly the only--such neighborhood in Bainbridge.

(Continued)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

"Historic District Information Form: Bainbridge Residential Historic District," prepared by Erick Montgomery, on file at the Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 125

Quadrangle name Bainbridge, GA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

116	7312	51010	314	211	91010
Zone	Easting		Northing		

B 

116	7312	51010	314	211	11010
Zone	Easting		Northing		

C 

116	7311	61010	314	210	51210
Zone	Easting		Northing		

D 

116	7311	21610	314	210	91010
Zone	Easting		Northing		

E 

116	7311	21610	314	211	41910
Zone	Easting		Northing		

F 

116	7312	11610	314	212	01510
Zone	Easting		Northing		

G 

Zone	Easting		Northing		

H 

Zone	Easting		Northing		

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary is described by a heavy black line on the attached maps and is 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

## 11. Form Prepared By

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

organization Historic Preservation Section date September 16, 1987

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

city or town Atlanta state Georgia

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon  
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 9/17/87

### For NPS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register Amy Schlager

date 11/5/87

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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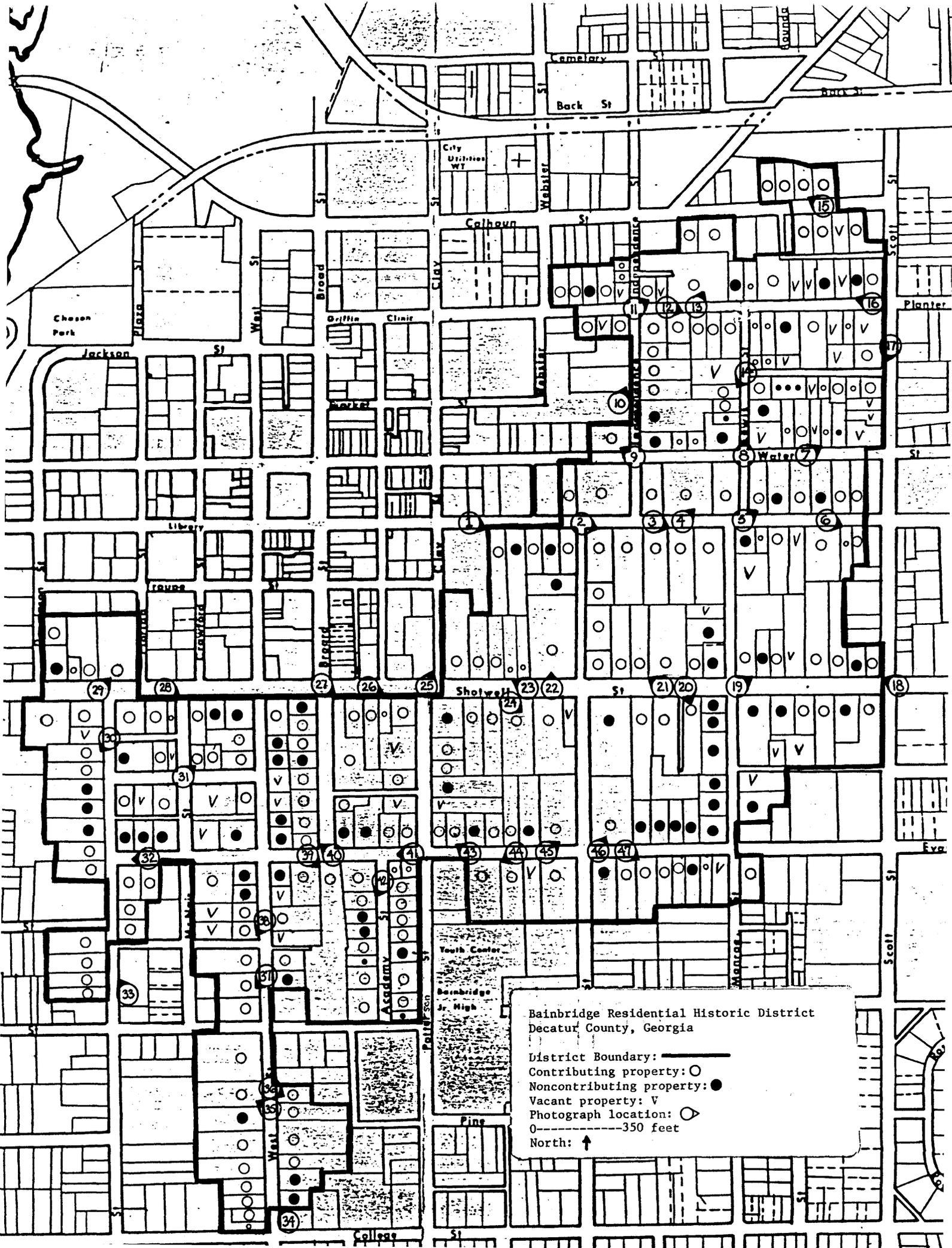
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National Register Criteria

Because of its association with the developmental history of historic neighborhoods in Bainbridge and Georgia, this district meets National Register Criteria A. Because it represents an important type of historic neighborhood, and because of its historic architectural qualities, the district meets National Register Criteria C.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources

197 contributing buildings (houses plus churches)  
1 contributing structure (the overall plan of the district)  
76 noncontributing buildings  
  
274 total resources in district



Bainbridge Residential Historic District  
 Decatur County, Georgia

District Boundary: ————

Contributing property: ○

Noncontributing property: ●

Vacant property: V

Photograph location: ⊙

0-----350 feet

North: ↑