

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED FEB 14 1979

DATE ENTERED MAR 30 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC South Main Street Historic District

AND/OR COMMON
Same

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER South Main Street, Harden Hill Road,
and Water Street

CITY, TOWN Watkinsville VICINITY OF _____
STATE Georgia CODE 13 COUNTY Oconee CODE 219

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Tenth - Rep. Doug Barnard

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 Ownership [see continuation sheet]

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN _____ STATE _____
VICINITY OF _____

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Superior Court

STREET & NUMBER
Clarke County Courthouse and Oconee County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN Athens and Watkinsville STATE Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic Structures Field Survey: Oconee County, Georgia

DATE 1976
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN Atlanta STATE Georgia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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 South Main Street Historic District encompasses a nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century residential area of Watkinsville. The district is a half-mile long and incorporates thirty-eight structures. It includes buildings and grounds on both sides of South Main Street from the Central of Georgia Railroad tracks on the south to the intersection with Georgia Highway 15, and on the west side of South Main Street from Georgia Highway 15 to a point just below the intersection with School Street on the north, as well as on both sides of short stretches of Hardin Hill Road and Water Street to the west of South Main Street. The buildings in the district represent the various architectural styles of the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Included are examples of Greek Revival, Plantation Plain (the "I" house), Gothic Revival, Queen Anne, Eastlake, Victorian Eclectic and Bungalow. Although primarily residential in character, the district includes a church. All the buildings are set on landscaped grounds dating from the late-nineteenth century.

South Main Street is a common thread running through this historic district. South Main Street is a moderately wide thoroughfare edged by grassy borders and, on the west side, a paved sidewalk. The street is shaded more or less uniformly by trees set not in regular rows but in irregular lines and clumps. Running off South Main Street on either side and at more or less regular intervals are driveways and front walks, and broad lawns with trees and shrubs. Set back from the street, although not along a uniform building line, are the houses and other structures of the district. Within the district, taking the buildings and grounds together as a whole, a sense of uniformity prevails, yet significant differences in situation, landscaping and architectural style enliven the scene.

The northern end of the South Main Street Historic District is, in a sense, the "center" of the district -- a center of attention, a focal point. This area contains the largest and most elaborate Victorian buildings of the district; it also contains some of the most modest and the oldest houses in town.

Most prominent among the buildings in this vicinity is the Methodist Church (W-6-32)(photographed), a clapboarded frame structure, Victorian Gothic in style, featuring a gable roof with an entrance porch, an entranceway, and a tower along one side, dating from 1893. The church achieves prominence through an effective combination of its size, its Victorian Gothic design, its corner location, and its situation on a slight rise.

South of the church, separated from it by an expanse of lawn, is the A.W. Ashford House (W-6-44)(photographed), the finest example of Victorian architecture in the district. The A.W. Ashford House is a Queen Anne design

[continued]

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input 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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Community Development
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1840 - c. 1920s BUILDER/ARCHITECT Various

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The South Main Street Historic District of Watkinsville, Georgia, is a nineteenth-century and early-twentieth-century residential neighborhood in a small county seat in Georgia and is of significance in terms of architecture, landscape architecture and community development. The name "South Main Street Historic District" has been selected for this nomination due to the fact that this street is the major thoroughfare in the nominated area and that it was around this street that a residential area developed during the late-nineteenth century, causing the name of the street to be changed from the Broad Street Extension to South Main, thus indicating a measure of pride in the newly-developed area.

The houses in the district represent the major domestic architectural styles and periods of the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries; included are examples of log cabin, Greek Revival, Plantation Plain, Gothic Revival, Victorian Eclectic, Queen Anne, and Bungalow. Furthermore, these houses are typical in terms of range, scale, size, materials and quality of design of houses found in such county towns.

All of the buildings in the district are situated in a landscape of trees, shrubs and grass which derives from the late-nineteenth-century domestic landscaping practices. Except for the matured quality of the landscape, the street scenes in the district have changed very little since the 1920s and illustrate over-all community appearance characteristic of the turn-of-the-century era. It is of note that the landscaping was done on a local basis, by local people, rather than by any imported personage or under any grand scale.

The land where Watkinsville and Oconee County are situated was opened for settlement in 1784 after Georgia's first post-Revolutionary War Indian land cession. Settlement of the area began shortly thereafter. Concentration in the area of Watkinsville did not take place until the town was established as the county seat of newly-formed Clarke County in 1801 and the courthouse and other public buildings laid out in 1802. Incorporated in 1806, its city limits were set in 1822 as a half-mile radius from the courthouse, thus making it one of Georgia's round towns.

[continued]

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clarke County deeds (include Oconee County until 1875)

Personal inspections by Patricia Irvin Cooper.

Hynds, Ernest. Antebellum Athens and Clarke County, Georgia. Athens, Ga.: University of Georgia Press, 1974.

[continued]

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Est. 35

QUADRANGLE NAME Watkinsville

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A

1,7	27,7	15,0	3,7	4,9	3,4,0
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B

1,7	27,7	3,7,0	3,7	4,9	2,0,0
-----	------	-------	-----	-----	-------

C

1,7	27,7	3,6,0	3,7	4,8	6,2,0
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D

1,7	27,7	1,4,0	3,7	4,8	4,6,0
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E

1,7	27,6	9,8,0	3,7	4,9	2,3,0
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F

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G

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H

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary is described by a heavy black line on the attached map entitled "South Main Street Historic District."

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Description by Richard Cloues, architectural historian, His. Pres. Section

Significance by Patricia I. Cooper, consultant, for Oconee County Heritage Foundation,

ORGANIZATION and Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., historian, H.P.S.

DATE

Historic Preservation Sec., Ga. Dept. of Natural Resources

January, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

270 Washington St., S.W.

404/656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Atlanta

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 2/10/79

TITLE

Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

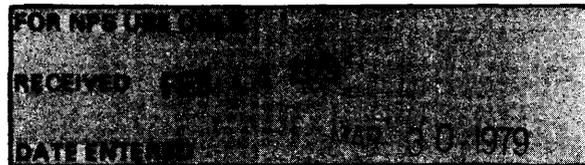
ATTEST: *[Signature]*
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 2.30.79

DATE 2/29/79

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

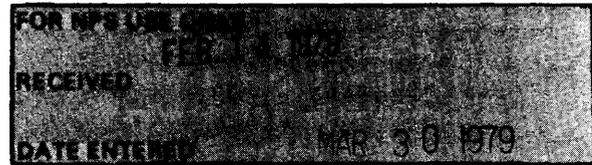


CONTINUATION SHEET Property Owners ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2

<u>Property Owner</u>	<u>Property #</u>	<u>Address (all Watkinsville, Ga. 30677 unless otherwise noted)</u>
Aycock, Mrs. T.R. ✓	W-6-52	P.O. Box 204
Ashford, Helen (Mrs. G. Frank) ✓	W-6-33	(no post office box)
Ashford, John W. ✓	W-6-43 & W-6-44	P.O. Box 7664, San Francisco, Calif. 94120
Berry, Arthur ✓	W-6-37	P.O. Box 36
Butler, Helen A. ✓	W-6-45	P.O. Box 727
Cosgrove, Mr. and Mrs. William B. ✓	W-6-42	P.O. Box 74
Cowart, Mrs. Jean N. ✓	W-6-38	P.O. Box 445
Downs, H.O., Sr. ✓	W-13-55	P.O. Box 25
Duggan, A.I. ✓	W-7-7	P.O. Box 82
Elder, Mrs. Evie, estate of Jack ✓	W-6-7	no post office box
Fitzpatrick, T.E. ✓	W-6-51	P.O. Box 233
Harden, Carolyn B. ✓	W-7-8	P.O. Box 192
Hunter, Fannie, estate c/o Magnolia Cross ✓	W-13-52	no post office box
Langford, Jeannette c/o Mrs. J.F. Harris ✓	W-6-11	Route 1, Box 7
McRee, Geraldine (Mrs. Wm. Gerald) ✓	W-6-36	P.O. Box 85
Murray, W.L. ✓	W-6-12	320 Mayfield Dr., Monroe, Ga. 30655
Murrow Brothers (Charles H. and Joe D. Murrow) ✓	W-6-41	Farmington, Ga. 30638

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CONTINUATION SHEET Property Owners ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 3

Nash, Mrs. Marion ✓	W-13-51	no post office box
Nicholson, Mrs. R.M. ✓	W-6-39	no post office box
Porterfield, Marion O. ✓	W-6-9	P.O. Box 104
Puryear, Mr. and Mrs. W.C., Jr. ✓	W-13-54 & W-13-53	P.O. Box 327
Saxon, Frances, <u>etal.</u> ✓	W-13-34	325 E. Paces Ferry Rd., N.E. Atlanta, Ga. 30305
Self, W.H. ✓	W-5-47	Route 1, Box 71
Smith, F.C. ✓	W-7-9	no post office box
Stowe, Charles W. ✓ <i>FAA Historic to owner by Patrick Stowe</i>	W-6-34	P.O. Box 1194, Seneca, S.C. 29678
Veale, Kathryne ✓	W-8-2	P.O. Box 226
Veale, T.T. Powell ✓	W-8-1	P.O. Box 213
Veale, William H. ✓	W-8-4	P.O. Box 64
Ward Enterprises, Inc. ✓	W-13-48, W-13-49 & W-13-50	P.O. Box 165
Watkinsville Methodist Church ✓ Watkinsville Methodist Parsonage	W-6-32 & W-6-35	Watkinsville Meth. Church c/o T.Z. Veale, Jr.
Weatherford, Mr. and Mrs. L.E. ✓	W-8-3	P.O. Box 46
Wellman, Mary and Peter B. ✓	W-7-6	no post office box
Willoughby, Clara ✓	W-6-10	P.O. Box 62
Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. James E. ✓	W-7-5	no post office box

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

featuring irregular, medieval-inspired massing with cross gables, dormers, towers and turrets, and Neoclassical detailing including Tuscan columns, pediments, and modillioned cornices. It was built by carpenter/contractor ✓ Nathaniel Richardson in 1893. The house now stands on landscaped grounds of a late-nineteenth-century character, that stretch from South Main Street in front to Hardin Hill Road in back. In the front yard, the trees, shrubs and grass are highlighted by a small wooden pavillion. Adjacent to the A.W. Ashford House is a large, two-stoned, gable-roofed house with a tall, two-story portico attached to the front (W-6-42)(photographed). Although reminiscent of early-nineteenth-century houses, this house seems to be the result of extensive remodeling or reconstruction in the early-twentieth century; it may in fact be entirely a twentieth-century building. It stands fronting a sweeping semi-circular driveway and a broad front yard landscaped like its neighbors, with trees, shrubs, and grass.

Set back almost behind the A.W. Ashford House and the church is another turn-of-the-century building, a one-and-a-half-story house with a steep hip roof and a continuous cross gable with a porch running across the front (W-6-45)(photographed). This house may date from an earlier era and may have been remodeled during the period of Victorian building around it.

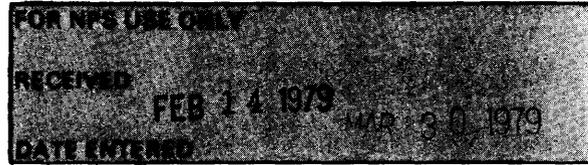
North of the church, above Hardin Hill Road, stands another Queen Anne-style house fronting South Main Street (W-6-12)(photographed). Much less elaborate than the A.W. Ashford House, this house features a primary pyramidal roof, irregular massing, a chamfered two-story bay under a projecting front gable, and a wrap-around front porch. The grounds are sympathetically landscaped and are bounded by a cast-iron fence. Immediately south of this house, on the corner of the South Main Street and Hardin Hill Road, is a vacant lot currently being used for parking. North of the house stands the northernmost house in the district, a small one-story, turn-of-the-century cottage with Eastlake detailing in the cross gables (W-6-7)(photographed).

Set back from this Victorian frontage along South Main Street, but still in the vicinity of the church, are some of the oldest houses in Watkinsville. These modest structures are clustered around the intersection of Hardin Hill Road and Water Street. Preeminent among them in terms of age is the "Miss Sally Edge" house on Water Street (W-5-47)(photographed). As it stands today, this house is a one-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed structure with two exterior end chimneys and a shed across the back. The house was built in two distinct

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

sections, however. The southern end is a log cabin, consisting of a single room, a loft, a corner stairway, and a fireplace with a Federal mantel, probably dating from c. 1820. The log cabin was originally sheathed with beaded clapboards. The northern end, consisting of a central stair hall and another room, this one with a Greek Revival mantel, was apparently added in the 1840s. The shed-roofed addition running across the back of the house may have been built at this time as well, or subsequently. The front porch and the small front gable appear to be late-nineteenth-century additions. Preeminent among these older houses in terms of design and situation is a small Greek Revival house on Hardin Hill Road at the head of Water Street (W-6-33)(photographed). Although its massing is uncharacteristically irregular (and may result from additions and alterations), the house has a fine centered front doorway on its north facade which looks down Water Street from the rise of ground along Hardin Hill Road upon which the house is located. Four small cottage-type residences, ranging from the early-nineteenth century to the early-twentieth century, fill out the remainder of this section of the historic district (W-6-9, W-6-10, W-6-11 and W-6-34).

At the intersection of South Main Street, Barnett Shoals Road and Georgia Highway 15, the historic district turns a corner toward the southwest along South Main Street. There are no outstanding buildings at this point in the district; the two buildings on lot number W-6-41 are twentieth-century cottages. Landscaping, however, provides continuity between the upper and lower sections of the district. Trees, shrubbery, and lawns effectively maintain the sense of the district and provide a contrast to the highway intersections and commercial buildings across the street.

The southern end of the South Main Street Historic District is characterized by uniformity of buildings and grounds. Here, too, the district expands to include both sides of South Main Street. This part of the district constitutes a modest nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century residential avenue. Various architectural styles and periods are represented by individual buildings set in a matured turn-of-the-century landscape.

The earliest house in the southern part of the district may be the Haygood House (W-6-35)(photographed), in the middle of this part of the district. The Haygood House is a two-story, hip-roofed, clapboarded frame structure with exterior end chimneys which dates from the Greek Revival era. It was considerably remodeled in the 1920s; paired and tripled windows and stick brackets under the eaves are the most obvious signs of this remodeling. Other early buildings include two Plantation Plain houses along the west side of South

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

Main Street; the one at lot number W-13-54 (photographed) has interior end chimneys and a one-story, late-nineteenth-century front porch, and that at lot number W-13-50 (photographed) has exterior end chimneys, a two-story, late-nineteenth-century front porch, and a location close to the street which shows off its characteristic profile to good advantage. Across the street, a tall, narrow house on lot W-7-9 may also belong to this type of building. There are no pure examples of Greek Revival architecture in this part of the district.

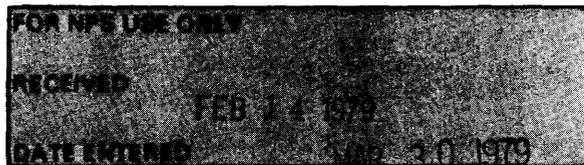
The second half of the nineteenth century is represented by several Victorian Gothic cottages in the southern end of the district. One is located southwest of the intersection of Jackson and South Main streets (W-13-34)(photographed). It is a one-story, T-shaped house with additions and alterations. The front facade, facing Jackson Street, is three bays wide and features a tall, steep gable over the front door and a pair of chimneys rising through the main roof on either side of the gable. Small painted windows infilled with louvers are placed in the front and side gables. The whole house is clapboarded. A larger house with Victorian Gothic trim stands on lot W-8-3. Two stories high with a simple gable roof, it features a central dormer with a pointed, louvered opening and a finial on the ridge. The Duggan House (W-7-7) (photographed), built in the 1880s, and a small board-and-batten cottage (W-13-49), with an addition on the front, are lesser examples of this style. Two substantial Victorian houses also stand in this area. One has a broad jerkinhead roof which faces South Main Street (W-6-37); the other is irregularly massed under a high hip roof and has a chamfered bay under a projecting front gable (W-8-1). The former has been altered -- windows rearranged, new siding installed -- while the latter is more nearly intact.

There are six similar houses dating from the turn of the century in the southern end of the district. Two are on the west side of South Main Street (W-13-48 and W-13-51)(both photographed), and four are on the east side (W-8-4, W-7-6, W-6-52 and W-6-51)(all photographed except W-6-52). All are one-story, clapboard frame structures with parallel gabled end sections; the gables are oriented toward the street, and offset so that one gable is projected and one recessed, and they are connected by a central ridged section and a front porch. Differences among them are confined to the front porches and window and trim details. Front porches are of two general types: turned Victorian stickwork (W-13-48, W-8-4, W-6-51, W-6-52) and Neoclassical (W-7-6, W-13-51). There are as many different louvered gable window treatments as there are houses. The

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 5

house at W-13-34 has full round louvered windows in the gables; that at W-13-51 has half-round louvered windows; that at W-6-52 has triangular-pointed rectangular openings; that at W-9-6 has diamond-shaped louvered windows; that at W-8-4 has triangular louvered openings in the peaks of the gables; and that at W-6-51 has none. There are other minor differences in soffit and fascia boards of cornices and in corner boards.

The twentieth century is represented by the Bungalow or Craftsman style. The best example is on lot number W-6-39 (photographed). This house is one and a half stories high with a gable roof paralleling the street. A shed roof over the front porch is supported by the usual square-sectioned tapered columns on masonry piers. An open gable dormer also fronts the house. The composition is completed by paired front windows with long, narrow panes in the upper sash. A lesser example of the style sits on lot number W-8-2 (photographed).

Beyond the boundaries of the South Main Street Historic District, the character of architecture and landscaping changes considerably. To the south, that part of South Main Street which is paralleled by the railroad tracks is also bordered by a row of post-World War II tract houses. To the west, the building lots become larger and gradually blend with the open countryside. To the east, the district is bordered by non-conforming residential properties and commercial buildings of recent vintage (the latter especially around the intersection of South Main Street, Barnett Shoals Road, and Georgia Highway 15). To the north is the commercial and civic center of Watkinsville.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 6

INTRUSIONS AND NON-CONTRIBUTING PROPERTIES

There are very few intrusions/non-contributing properties in the South Main Street Historic District. Those are:

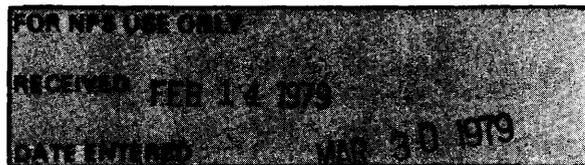
(W-6-38) One-story brick ranch house, c. 1960s.

(W-13-55) One-story brick ranch house, c. 1960s.

Even these "intrusions" are more accurately described as "non-contributing properties" since, while they do not add to the district, they do not significantly detract from it either, primarily because of situation, scale, and landscaping.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 2

Watkinsville's establishment as the county seat for Clarke County in 1801 has been mixed with legends. One says that the University of Georgia was not established in the town because of the presence of taverns, considered a bad influence on the students. In actuality, the commissioners had decided five months prior to the selection of the townsite to have the University at another nearby location, later to be called Athens.

Normally, the county seat is the largest county town, but in the case of Athens and Watkinsville, the former quickly outstripped the latter in population, as well as in prestigious and influential citizens. By the 1840s and 1850s, there was a clamor for Athens to be the county seat, but it was not until 1871 that the issue was resolved by making Athens the county seat. In 1875, Clarke County was divided into Clarke and Oconee, with Athens remaining the county seat for Clarke and Watkinsville once again becoming a county seat, this time for newly-formed Oconee County.

During the same period, Watkinsville's city limits were expanded, beginning in 1876, to a one-mile radius from the courthouse. Later, an 1891 act put them at a one-half-mile radius, but the center of town was moved from the courthouse to the intersection of the Scull Shoals Road and Farmington Road, at the Johnson-McRee Store. The local people had the option of extending them to one mile in a referendum, which was done, as the city limits today are in a one-mile radius from this intersection.

Watkinsville's livelihood in the early-nineteenth century came not only from its being a courthouse town, where everyone had to come for certain of life's necessities -- marriage, death, taxes, jury duty, filing deeds, and other public services -- but it was also a hub for agricultural trade where cotton farmers and planters brought their produce. Roads from other nearby county seats like Greensboro and Madison converged here and proceeded north to Athens and (after 1821) Gainesville. These roads brought even more commerce and travel to the town. By 1849, the town was said by George White to have, besides the courthouse and jail, two each of churches, schools, taverns, and stores, as well as three groceries, one billiard room, one carpenter, one tailor, two blacksmiths, two tanyards, two wagonmakers, one saddler, two shoe shops, two lawyers, one doctor and one minister, all within a population of 240. Athens, the rival town, had a population of 3,000 by then, due to its ties to roads, major rivers where textile mills were located, the railroad, and to the university, which brought in wealthy planters to better educate their children.

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The area of South Main Street began to develop in the middle to late ante-bellum period as a residential area in contrast to the commercial and political sections of the north and northeast sides of town. At least three well-known local families had substantial tracts of land in the area now known as South Main, with their homes there as well. It is impossible presently to determine how many homes were in this area until the building boom of the 1880s, but probably five or so. One of the most important homes that still survives is the Greene Haygood House (W-6-35). Greene Haygood purchased a 17-1/2-acre tract of land there in 1839, shortly before the birth of his son, Atticus G. Haygood (1839-1896), later bishop of the Methodist Church. Greene Haygood was the busiest lawyer in the courthouse in the 1840s and in 1844 added a 400-acre tract of land to his original purchase (from the Ligons) that was apparently a farm that spread west of South Main. He retained ownership of the house and town land even after he and his family moved in 1852 to Atlanta, where he died in 1862. The house was a traditional Plantation Plain style before being altered in the twentieth century.

The site of the Methodist Church was the prominent location of the home of Asa M. Jackson, Ordinary (probate officer) of the county for its first 45 years (1801-1846), and whose family continued to be involved in courthouse affairs. The Jackson home was destroyed to make way for the Methodist church in 1892-93.

The Hutchinson family is said to have owned a large tract of land south of the 17-1/2 acres of the Haygood family and two homes in that area of town show stylistic influence from the antebellum period. W-13-54 (the Hutchinson-Puryear House) and W-13-50 (Dr. Ward's home today) show very late Plantation Plain styling. It was during this period that the area became a residential area for the men actively involved in the town's affairs and who lived and worked only a short distance away.

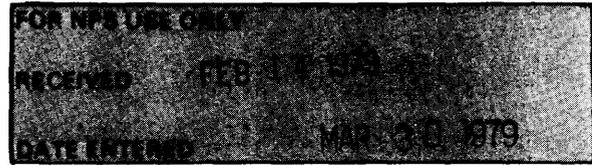
After the Civil War and Reconstruction, Watkinsville, as most Southern towns, struggled to regain her economic stability. This was especially necessary after the loss of forced labor in the form of slavery, which had been one of the primary elements of plantation cotton farming. Share-cropping or tenant farming developed and other evidences of modern times arrived with the railroad.

The development of South Main Street as a Southern extension of the town of Watkinsville was solidified when the Macon and Northern branch of the Central of Georgia Railroad arrived c. 1888 from Madison. This linked Watkinsville, and

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specifically the lower end of South Main Street, with Madison, and later with Athens to the northeast. The finishing of the railroad was met with a celebration similar to a July Fourth festivity with a large barbecue and speeches.

The arrival of the railroad brought a new burst of building to the town, in the commercial areas, as well as in residential sites. The town was shortly to see the addition of steam cotton gins, a planing mill, bobbin and gristmills, carriage and buggy shops, and a livery stable. The South Main Street residential area began to be filled more and more with the homes of the men who were adding to the commercial ventures of the city. The railroad and its depot (which has now been moved to another part of the county) aided in the definition of what is now the South Main Street district. By causing larger markets to develop in town, and thus more jobs, the railroad brought people to the South Main Street area. They filled in with houses many of the formerly vacant lots. This growth made it into a solid residential area, although then, as now, the southern end began to trail off into country places and farms, as opposed to remaining a tight residential neighborhood. Most of the homes remaining in this area date from after the 1888 advent of the railroad. The railroad possibly brought the realignment of the streets, due to the railroad's curve as it moved around the east side of town. In 1893, when the Methodist church was being built, the road now known as Hardin Mill Road was called the "Old Madison Road," having obviously been the main route to the nearby county seat of Madison. South Main was called the "Broad Street Extension," indicating that the area was thought of as being just that. The later title of "South Main", although meaning much the same, sounded better.

The railroad also defined the rear property lines on the east side of the district due to the curve in the road. Thus, the building boom brought on by the railroad, as shown in the town's commercial history, was reflected in the domestic structures that began to fill in the spaces along South Main. These homes were again those of the townspeople who had to go only a short distance to their places of employment.

Although it is difficult to discern who was living where at any given decade due to inadequate records and the fact that deeds do not necessarily mention houses and the building dates of the structures in the area can vary tremendously, it is still worth summarizing some examples of dwellings and their occupants for the period 1880-1920 to show the type of area that South Main had become.

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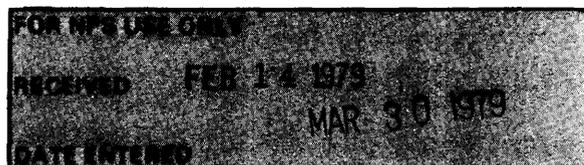
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<u>Tax Parcel #</u>	<u>Description</u>
W-13-48	Home of Weyman I. Dooly, who collected and distributed mail brought in by the train. He also broke in horses for wagon- and buggy-pulling.
W-8-3	Built around 1895 for John Calvin Johnson, son-in-law of Asa M. Jackson, long-time County Ordinary, and himself a courthouse employee.
W-6-39	Built around 1920 from patterns for Robert Nicholson, county attorney and later a state representative.
W-8-4	Home of Diamond Veale, a farmer, undertaker and merchant.
W-7-7	Built in the 1880s for David Richardson, a physician.
W-7-9	Built for Starr Smith, also a physician.
W-6-51	Built for James Jackson, son of Asa M. Jackson, also a courthouse employee.
W-6-7	The Courtney Elder Cottage, built for A.C. "Courtney" Elder, who ran a buggy shop in the latter decades of the nineteenth century and later worked on autos. The home is still owned by his family.
W-6-12	Built around 1891 for a local physician named Bryan.
W-6-44	The A.W. Ashford House was built in 1893 for a major merchant in town, having built a large store on the east side of Main Street, which is still standing. The family owned Palliser's book, <u>New Cottage Homes</u> (1887) and obviously used ideas from this for the house, as well as for the church they sponsored.
W-6-32	The Watkinsville Methodist Church was also built in 1893 in honor of Louisa Booth Ashford, mother of A.W. and others, and paid for by her brothers and sons. Nat Richardson is said to be the contractor for both the Ashford House and the Methodist church. These two are perhaps the finest architectural items in the South Main Street district and reflect the prominence of the Ashford family within the town.

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W-6-7, These are said to have been built by a Mr. Mauldin, who has also been
W-13-50, identified as one of the builders for some of the homes, having been
W-13-54 said to have done the Courtney Elder House (W-6-7) and the Ward
 (W-13-50) and Puryear (W-13-54) houses.

Thus, South Main Street of Watkinsville is today, as it has been for nearly a century, a reflection of the growth and the inhabitants of this county seat, which in various waves of development, moved in this direction. First, with the homes of a few of the antebellum town leaders, some with attached farms, and later as the railroad gave definition to the area with its depot at the end, made the area more becoming as a residential neighborhood for the expanding town. It was here that local citizens, primarily those involved in the town's financial, cultural and political affairs, could live side by side in homes reflecting the various architectural styles of the era, with nothing being too big, too fancy, or too costly, in much the spirit of many American county seats.

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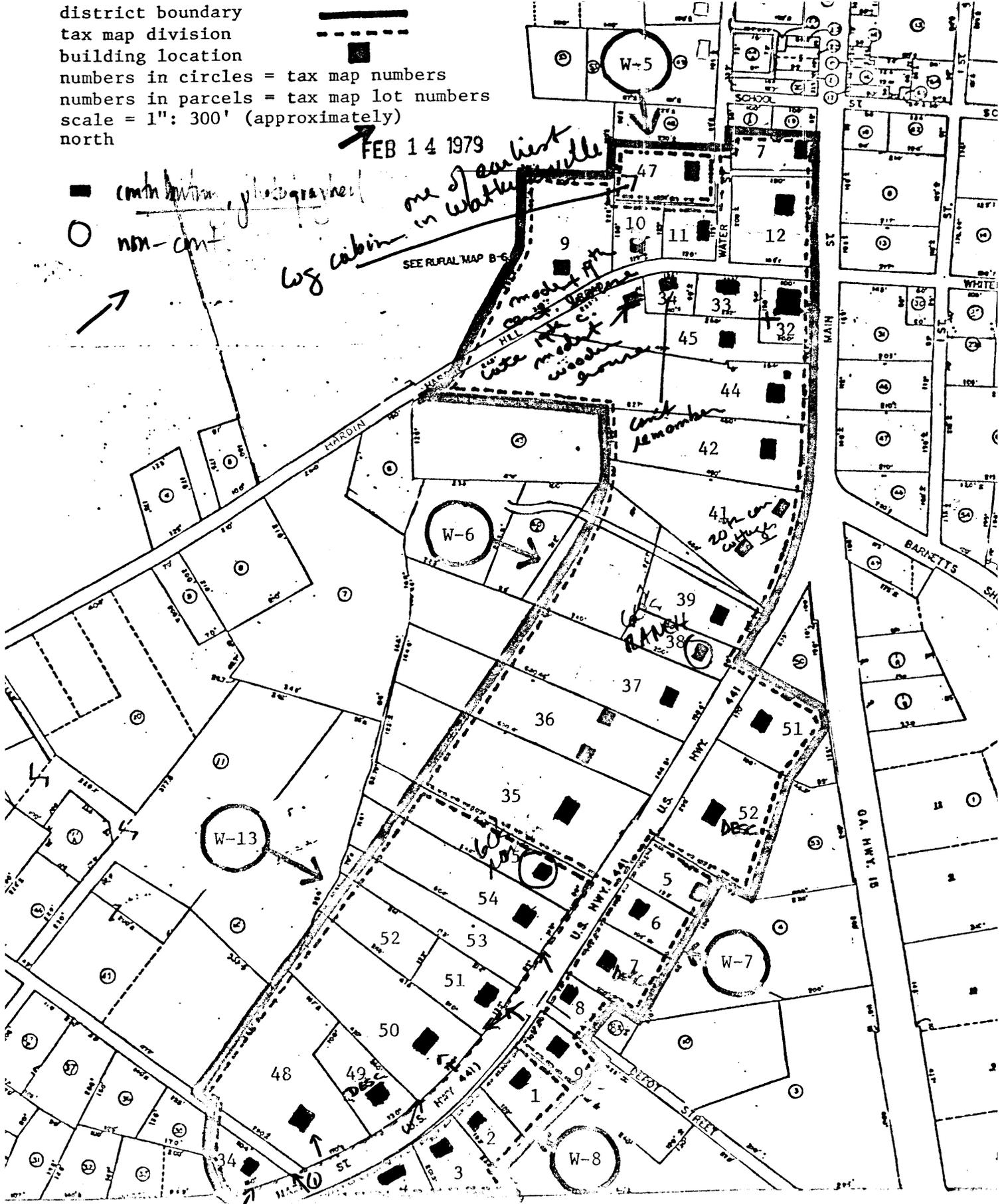
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district boundary
 tax map division
 building location
 numbers in circles = tax map numbers
 numbers in parcels = tax map lot numbers
 scale = 1" : 300' (approximately)
 north

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log cabin in water
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CENTRAL OF GEORGIA RAILROAD

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