

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

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

For NPS use only

received FEB 7 1985

date entered MAR 7 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic North Main Street Historic District

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 600,615,616 N. Main Street; 101, 110 East Water Street; 700 Water Street; 701 Maple Street; 811 North Maple Street NA not for publication

city, town Tuskegee N/A vicinity of Congressional District 3

state Alabama code 01 county Macon code 087

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Rental Prop.

**4. Owner of Property**

name Multiple Private Owners

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Macon County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Tuskegee state Alabama

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1970-present  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery state Alabama

---

## 7. Description

---

**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved date \_\_\_\_\_

---

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

The eight houses in this district are located on the north side of Tuskegee along East Water and North Main Street. The district is separated from the Main Street Historic District (NRHP 3/17/84) by 1½ blocks of modern construction. Originally, the land was the site of only a few affluent homes "in the country," outside of Tuskegee. All of the earliest homes survive, and are set well back from the streets on relatively large lots. Beginning in the 1850s, the original lots were subdivided into lots where additional housing began to appear, creating one of Tuskegee's first residential areas. The houses represent several styles including Federal, Greek Revival, Queen Anne and one early twentieth century vernacular cottage. The original pastoral setting of the area was maintained by the broad spacing of the houses which are separated by large lots with many old trees and shrubs. A sharp curve in Water Street in the middle of the neighborhood, in contrast to the usual street grid pattern adds to the overall picturesque setting creating a park-like atmosphere.

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

BUILDINGS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE NORTH MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT,  
TUSKEGEE, MACON COUNTY, ALABAMA.

1. Callaway House, 811 North Maple Street, 1842: Single story, three bay, double pile Greek Revival house with a hipped roof. The tetrastyle central portico is pedimented and has fluted Roman Doric columns. Above the columns is a complete entablature, the single frieze of which continues around the roofline of the rest of the house. The central doorway has sidelights and transom flanked by narrow fluted pilasters. The interior has much of its original woodwork including the baseboards, doors and one mantel. The central hall ceiling has original wood coffering. The ceiling of one room has an original plaster cornice and a central plaster medallion. Two wings were added on either end of the back of the house ca 1895. Later, the central space between these two wings was enclosed, creating yet another addition.
2. Gibson House, 101 East Water Street, 1850: Originally a single story, three bay, frame Greek Revival cottage with a hipped roof. Across the front was a tetrastyle Carolina porch with four, slightly tapered, square columns resting on brick piers rather than on the porch floor. The central double door entry has Asher Benjamin patterned sidelights and transom. A later two bay addition was constructed on the east side of the house creating an extra room at the end of the original porch as well as another entry from the porch into the house proper. A single exterior chimney flanks either end of the house.
3. Sadler House, 110 East Water Street, ca 1895: A two story, Queen Anne, frame house with corner turret, a hipped roof and extended cross gables. An original one story porch that once surrounded two sides of the house has been replaced with two small one story Neoclassical columned porches. The house has been meticulously restored both inside and out. The interior includes all original woodwork, an unusual stairway with a circular landing at the first floor level; original, very early electric light fixtures and all original pine flooring. All windows are original including single panes, diamond glazing and stained glass panels.
4. Wright-Varner-Haygood House, 701 Maple Street, ca 1840: A story-and-a-half frame house with both Greek Revival and Neoclassical features. The central hipped roof is flanked on either side by a cross gable extension. The central entry is recessed between the two flanking extension bays. Across the entire front is a single story porch with slender Tuscan columns and complete entablature with a flat roof above. A recent large dormer window is located in the hipped roof between the end extension bays. This house appears to have been extensively altered from its original condition.
5. Hamilton House, 700 Water Street, ca 1842: A frame two story three bay house, probably Federal in style originally. The building, however, appears to have been renovated on more than one occasion between the mid-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Of the Federal period, only certain woodwork elements and a single, central second floor window with fanlight seem to have survived. On the interior, the mantels and doors reflect the influence of the Greek Revival. On the exterior, a single story, flat roofed Queen Anne style porch encircling three sides of the

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

house was obviously added at the turn of the century. Likewise, the interior stairway was probably altered ca 1900. The house has a pedimented gable roof with two interior chimneys.

6. Drakeford House, 616 North Main Street, 1890: A very eclectic house, typical of the Late Victorian period. The mass of the house is Queen Anne in style with a corner shingled turret, a gable roof with cross gable extensions and a single story porch curving around two sides of the house. Certain elements of the house, however, suggest the much earlier Greek Revival period. The main entry, for example, is Greek Revival in style with sidelights and transom. The porch columnettes are Ionic, and rest on square piers. A small pedimented portico projects rather awkwardly from the curving porch. Several recent additions have been made to the house including a screened second story porch and a first floor solarium.
7. Wadsworth House, 615 North Main Street, ca 1835: A five bay, two story frame house which seems to be in transition between the Federal style and Greek Revival period. The massing of the building is Greek Revival, but much of the architectural detail is Federal. The nine-over-nine windows, for example, are Federal in proportion. The interior woodwork is likewise Federal in design. The hexastyle portico with tapering square columns is, however, a direct attempt at Greek Revival as is the central entry with transom and sidelights flanked by narrow pilasters. Originally, there was a cantilevered second floor balcony directly over the main entry. There was probably a doorway out onto this balcony from the second floor. This doorway, however, may have been converted into a window when the balcony was removed. The interior stairs between the first and second floors may have been altered and reoriented toward the front entry. A former owner reports that the stairs were once oriented toward the back. The house is flanked on either side by two massive exterior chimneys with chimneyheads which are slightly withdrawn from the sides of the gable ends of the house.
8. Carlisle House, 600 North Main Street, ca 1925: Typical of the 1920's period, the house has a hipped roof with gabled dormer over the entry and is a single story, vernacular frame cottage. A former porch on the north end of the house has been enclosed to create a solarium. The remainder of the house has suffered little alteration, and has the original woodwork, assymetrical entry and fenestration.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** ca 1835-1920's      **Builder/Architect** unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Criterion C - Architecture

The eight houses in this district are among Tuskegee's best examples of Federal, Greek Revival and Queen Anne styles, each representing specific phases in the historic development of Tuskegee's residential architecture. The Hamilton House (A5), for example, is a Federal-style house with Queen Anne alterations. The Callaway (A1), Gibson (A2), Wright-Varner-Haygood (A4) and Wadsworth (A7) Houses are all good examples of Greek Revival period variations, while the Sadler (A3) and the Drakeford (A6) Houses are excellent examples of the Queen Anne style. Finally, Tuskegee's early 20th century architecture is illustrated in the Carlisle Home (A8), a one-story frame cottage that dates in the 1920s.

Criterion B

Politics and Government - The North Main Street Historic District is significant for its associations with several 19th century and early 20th century politicians. Prior to the Civil War, Probate Judge W. K. Harris designed and built the ca 1835 Wadsworth Home (7). The house was the first built on North Main Street and is considered the oldest Greek Revival period residence in the area. The 1850 Gibson House (2) was once the home of a 19th century Tuskegee Mayor (Hale), and the Callaway House (1) was purchased by Rev. Sidney Catts around the turn of the century. Catts was best known as a Baptist minister, serving as the pastor of the First Baptist Church while living in Tuskegee. However, he later relocated in Florida and was elected Governor in 1917, serving until 1921.

Education - The North Main Street District is also significant for its associations with two noted educators. The Hamilton House (5) was purchased by the Tuskegee Baptist Association in 1851 for use as the President's Home of the East Alabama Female College. Among the school's first presidents to live in this house was William F. Perry. Perry joined the college as head administrator in 1858, after serving as Alabama's first State Superintendent of Education (1854-58), and remained until 1862. Professor C. J. Callaway occupied the Callaway Home (1) while serving on Tuskegee Institute's agricultural teaching staff in the early 1900s. Callaway also served as Director of the Institute's Extension Services from 1910 to 1929.

Commerce - Finally, the North Main Street District is also significant for its associations with successful local businessmen of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. After the East Alabama Female College closed in the 1870s, William H. Wright purchased the Hamilton House (5). Wright and his brother-in-law, G. W. Campbell, formed a general merchandising business in 1852, and in 1882 opened Tuskegee's first banking establishment. In 1871, Wright and Campbell entered into partnership with

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Owen, Thomas McAdory. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography, 1921 (Vols. I-IV)  
 South Central Alabama Development Commission. Historic Assets - Macon County, AL, 1975.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 7.80 acres

Quadrangle name Tuskegee

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	6
---	---

6	2	2	8	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	5	8	8	7	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
 Zone Easting Northing

B 

1	6
---	---

6	2	2	9	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	5	8	8	6	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	6
---	---

6	2	2	7	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	5	8	8	4	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

D 

1	6
---	---

6	2	2	6	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	5	8	8	4	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

E 

1	6
---	---

6	2	2	6	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	5	8	8	4	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

F 

1	6
---	---

6	2	2	5	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	5	8	8	7	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

G 

1	6
---	---

6	2	2	6	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	5	8	8	8	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

H 

1	6
---	---

6	2	2	6	9	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	5	8	8	8	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See black line (000) on attached sketch map.

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

state	NA	code	county	code
-------	----	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shirley Qualls & Tom Dolan, Historic Resource Coordinators

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date August 30, 1984

street & number 725 Monroe Street

telephone (205) 261-3184

city or town Montgomery

state Alabama 36130

# 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



title State Historic Preservation Officer

date January 29, 1985

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

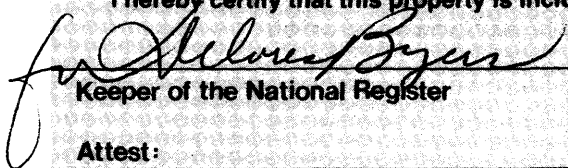
3-7-85

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**

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED.

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

E. T. Varner & Co., and helped rebuild the 1860 Tuskegee Railroad Co. Wright served as treasurer and general manager for this company until 1902. The Drakeford House (6) was occupied by John H. Drakeford, a successful businessman primarily during the early 20th century. The son of Thomas Drakeford, a Tuskegee merchant known as the "oldest and most successful merchant in Macon County," John Drakeford was the founder and president of the City Bank of Tuskegee (established in the early 1900s).

## HISTORICAL SUMMARY

### Tuskegee North Main Street Historic District

Distinguished as a concentrated collection of fine local architectural styles dating from ca 1835 to the early 1920s, Tuskegee's North Main Street Historic District survives as one of Tuskegee's oldest neighborhoods. Originally the site of only a few affluent homes outside of Tuskegee, the lots were subdivided around the 1850s and additional housing appeared; yet the distinguishing character of large spacious lots situated in a park-like atmosphere remain today.

The pre-Civil War residents of the district, for the most part, owned large plantations elsewhere in the county and chose to live close to the educational advantages the city provided. Their homes were designed to display an air of accomplishment indicative of their professional achievements. By the early 1930s, Tuskegee had encompassed the homes of the district into the city limits. Even though over 80 years had passed, the neighborhood still maintained an air of affluence.

The preference for homesteading in this neighborhood is credited to the Harris-Wadsworth family. Probate Judge W. K. Harris designed and built the home which was later inherited by his daughter, Bessie Wadsworth. The home remained in the Harris-Wadsworth family until 1961 when it was sold to its present owner. With the location of this residence, the way was paved for subsequent development in the area.

Prior to the Civil War, Tuskegee was a thriving county seat steadily developing as a cultural and educational center. The early settlers included politicians, doctors, businessmen and educators, many of which were also large landowners. In the 1840s three new homes were constructed in the district, each displaying an air of prosperity indicative of the area's successful cotton-based economy. The 1842 Callaway House was built by Dr. J. W. Hunter, a Tuskegee physician.

In 1851 the Tuskegee Baptist Association purchased the 1842 Hamilton House (5) for the President of the newly incorporated East Alabama Female College (EAFC). Adjacent to the college site, the house was quite picturesque, situated almost center of the Water/Maple Streets curve. During the Gold Rush of the late 1840s, an unknown person shipped a tree to the Hamilton House from California by water around Cape Horn and by rail to Tuskegee, believing it to be a Giant Sequoia. The tree, which is now between 150-200 years old, is recognized as the largest incense cedar tree east of the Mississippi. The Alabama Forestry Service designated it a State Champion Tree in 1974.

By 1860 Tuskegee had two of the 17 colleges recorded in the Federal Census. In 1858 William F. Perry resigned his post as Alabama's first State Superintendent of Education to become president of EAFC. Perry lived in the Hamilton House (5) until 1862, at which time he enlisted in the Confederate Army. In 1865 Perry's military accomplishments gained him the rank of brigadier general.

During the Civil War, the prosperity of Macon County decreased. Although the county was not directly involved in any military action until the latter part of the war, the loss of local manpower, the blockade of southern ports, the disruption of transportation and the general economic collapse of the South, all had serious economic and social repercussions in the county. However, after the war a degree of prosperity returned to Tuskegee. In 1870 the main building of the EAFC burned and the college was closed. The Hamilton House was then purchased by a rising businessman, William H. Wright (1827-ca 1905). In 1882 Wright and his brother-in-law, G. W. Campbell, established one of Tuskegee's first banking establishments. Beginning with a general



## HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Tuskegee North Main Street Historic District

Page 2

merchandising partnership, Wright and Campbell in the 1870s entered into partnership with E. T. Varner and Company and helped rebuild the 1860 Tuskegee Railroad Co. Wright served as treasurer and general manager of this company until 1902.

Another businessman of the period, Thomas C. Drakeford was quickly building another successful general merchandising business. By the late 1890s Drakeford was acclaimed the "oldest and most successful merchant in Macon County." Drakeford's son, John, built the highly ornamental 1890 Drakeford House (6) for his new bride. Shortly afterwards, another Victorian styled house was erected across Water Street (Sadler House - 3).

Around the turn of the century Rev. Sidney Catts, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Tuskegee, purchased the Callaway House (1). Catts, a West Alabama native, later moved to Florida where he became Governor in 1917 and served until 1921. Soon after Catts' departure, Professor J. W. Callaway purchased the house. Callaway was an agriculture instructor at Tuskegee Institute and between 1910-1929 served as head of the Institute's Extension Service Agency.

In 1921 the Veterans Administration Hospital was established on a 290 acre tract of land situated to the left of the Gibson House (2). During this period the Honorable William Varner (State Legislature 1920-26) was serving as Tuskegee's mayor. Varner's wife's aunt, Mrs. George C. Wright, sister of associate Supreme Court Justice (1915-c. 1920) William H. Thomas, occupied the Wright-Varner-Haygood Home (4). The house was willed to the Varners after Mrs. Wright's death and later sold to the Haygoods, the present owners.

The 1920s also brought another construction to the district. Situated on the site of the railroad depot, the Carlisle House (8) illustrates the advent of 20th century vernacular architecture, completing a period of over 80 years of progressive construction.

NORTH MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT  
TUSKEGEE, ALABAMA



Inclusive Street Numbers:

North Main Street	600
	615
	616
Water Street	
East	101
East	110
	700
Maple Street	
	701
North	811

SCALE 1"=200' APPROX.  
NORTH

CONTRIBUTING