



**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.

Elizabeth A. Lyon  
Signature of certifying official

4/28/93  
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon  
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~~

entered in the National Register  
Debra Byer

6/10/93

( ) 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

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

GOVERNMENT/county courthouse  
COMMERCE/TRADE/other: county seat  
COMMERCE/TRADE/department store  
COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store  
TRANSPORTATION/road-related(vehicular)  
TRANSPORTATION/rail-related  
DOMESTIC/hotel  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/storage  
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/waterworks  
COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution  
COMMERCE/TRADE/newspaper  
GOVERNMENT/correctional facility  
GOVERNMENT/post office  
DEFENSE/arms storage  
SOCIAL/meeting hall

### Current Functions:

GOVERNMENT/county courthouse  
COMMERCE/TRADE/other: county seat  
COMMERCE/TRADE/other: retail  
COMMERCE/TRADE/professional  
COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store  
COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution  
COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant  
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/waterworks  
AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE/storage

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Commercial  
Style  
MID-19TH CENTURY/other: vernacular Victorian  
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Classical Revival  
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/  
Craftsman

### Materials:

<b>foundation</b>	BRICK
<b>walls</b>	BRICK STUCCO CONCRETE BLOCK
	FRAME
<b>roof</b>	ASPHALT METAL/Tin
<b>other</b>	CAST IRON STOREFRONT COLUMNS

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**Description of present and historic physical appearance:**

The Waynesboro Commercial Historic District is located at the center of the county seat community of Waynesboro. It is roughly bounded by 8th Street on the north, Commerce Street on the east, Barron Street to the south, and Shadrack Street on the west.

The district is that area north of the courthouse square to East 8th Street and extending south past East 6th Street to Barron Street. It takes in the courthouse square and portions of each of the six blocks surrounding the courthouse, as well as an extension north to East 8th Street and south to Barron St. The majority of contributing buildings are brick one and two-story commercial buildings dating from the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Along East 6th Street and north of it, the buildings (with the exception of the courthouse and Annex) are part of continuous rows of commercial storefronts typical of the period of development. The resources located to the south of these are independent commercial structures interspersed among historic residences or parking lots and nonhistoric buildings which have replaced historic structures. There are also brick and wooden warehouses, a metal water tower, a small, brick jail, all in the southeast part of the district, and a boulder with a historic bronze marker honoring the visit of President George Washington on the southwest edge of the district. South of this commercial core and transitional area is a historic, single-family neighborhood.

The heart of the downtown is the intersection of East 6th and South Liberty Streets, located at the southwest corner of the courthouse. Liberty Street constitutes the main street of Waynesboro and is lined with contiguous storefronts for two blocks on the west side north to East 8th Street and for one block on the east side to East 7th Street. East 6th Street too is lined with commercial storefronts opposite the courthouse and for one block west of Liberty. The storefronts continue east of the courthouse for part of the next block. Away from the intersection of 6th and Liberty, the dense commercial development is gradually replaced by neighborhoods of single-family houses or dispersed commercial and industrial development.

South Liberty Street, which runs at a southeasterly to northwesterly diagonal, is the original main street of Waynesboro and probably follows the route of the historic Quaker Road established in 1769. 7th and 8th Streets are cross streets which were part of Waynesboro's 1783 town plan. (7th Street was originally named Whitaker and 8th was Joel.) The blocks which surround the intersection of Liberty and 7th Streets were all part of the original town grid plan. Each of these blocks has a slightly different history in the development of downtown Waynesboro.

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The block to the southwest saw some of the earliest commercial development in Waynesboro, pre-dating the 1880s, in the form of contiguous storefront buildings. Some resources date from c. 1912-21 and were part of a second phase of commercial development in this block. The block to the southeast of the intersection experienced more gradual commercial development which replaced earlier residential structures. Some resources date from c. 1901-12 and helped solidify the row of commercial buildings on this block. The block to the northwest owes its development to the R. C. Neely Company which built a commercial empire here from the early 1900s into the 1920s; several resources were part of this development. The U.S. Post Office (now The Waynesboro Bank), at the northernmost edge of the district at the southwest corner of 8th and Liberty, replaced a residence when it was built in 1931. The Burke County Museum, 536 S. Liberty, just south of the courthouse square, was originally a private residence, but has been a museum for over thirty years.

The areas behind the northern arm of the historic district, that is the back of the lots facing South Liberty Street, are parking lots along Shadrack and Myrick Streets with a few nonhistoric buildings. The block to the northeast of the 7th and Liberty Streets intersection was residential prior to World War II and has since been commercially developed such that none of the existing buildings on the block are historic. Bordering the district to the north (north of 8th Street) and outside of this commercial historic district is a historic residential neighborhood which includes a historic church on the northeast corner of 8th and Liberty.

Today's district represents a period of growth in downtown Waynesboro which occurred in the early part of the 20th century and from which the majority of Waynesboro's extant commercial historic buildings date. From the row of shops along 7th Street built in the 1880s to the Waynesboro Bank built as a U.S. Post Office in 1931, this district has played an important role in Waynesboro's commercial development.

Structures have been classified as contributing or noncontributing based upon their date of construction and their architectural integrity. All contributing buildings in this district were built prior to 1941 and retain the integrity of their facades.

Since the mid-19th century, Waynesboro has boasted a commercial core area focused on the courthouse and the intersection of 6th and Liberty. The changes which have occurred to this district have been directly related to the gradual growth and expansion of the downtown beyond its original limits of the lots facing the square. Blocks north of 7th Street and south of 6th Street were originally developed as residences which were gradually replaced by commercial buildings. A fire in the 1960s resulted in the loss of several historic buildings

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along both sides of Liberty Street, just northwest of the Courthouse Square. More recently in the late 1960s and 1970s, a number of historic commercial buildings have undergone facade alterations resulting in a loss of integrity. Many of the noncontributing buildings along South Liberty as well as on other streets adjacent to this district have undergone such alterations.

ARCHITECTURAL PATTERNS

The area being nominated contains 40 contributing resources in all including two structures, the water tower and the town plan, and one object, a commemorative marker. Structures have been classified as contributing or noncontributing based upon their date of construction and their architectural integrity. All contributing buildings in this district were built prior to 1941 and retain the integrity of their facades. In addition to these, there are several commercial buildings whose facades and exteriors have been altered so that they are not currently considered contributing. Eight nonhistoric commercial buildings have been built along Liberty Street from 6th to 7th Streets in an area destroyed by fire.

The majority of Waynesboro's existing commercial architecture falls into one of two building types common in American towns and cities from the 1850s to the 1950s, the one and two-part commercial block types. The two-part commercial block building is characterized by a facade which is visually divided into two zones: a single-story street level "public zone" and a single-story upper level "private zone".

These commercial buildings typically have masonry walls and display architectural detailing typical of small towns in the mid 19th to early 20th centuries, details such as decorative cornices with brackets, brick corbeling and dentils, patterned brickwork and frieze paneling, arched windows in two-story examples, parapet walls, and transom windows and columns on the lower storefront.

While the majority of the Waynesboro's downtown buildings can be characterized as modestly detailed falling into the above categories, the southern portion of the commercial area does boast a number of significant commercial and institutional landmark structures including the Burke County Courthouse and Annex, the Anthony Wayne Hotel, the Melrose Hotel, the commercial building on the southeast corner of 6th and Liberty Streets as well as the one-room jail, the steel water tower, and the original Neely Bonded Cotton Warehouse.

The area surrounding the courthouse has undergone changes over the years and several of the buildings have been altered, but it still

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retains a high degree of integrity as Waynesboro's historic central business district. The view from the Courthouse Square today is still one of historic proportions. One building facing the courthouse has a facade which has been altered significantly, but, as a corner building whose side faces the courthouse, this unaltered east facade retains its integrity and contributes to the intact historic nature of the Square. The setting of the Courthouse Square is retained as well with the street dimensions being similar to original proportions.

The district being nominated contains some of Waynesboro's most interesting commercial or landmark architecture, some of which is an exception to the above descriptions and some just a more elaborate interpretation than most.

Most notable is the Burke County Courthouse (National Register, 1980) and the Annex, dating from 1857 and 1939 respectively. The courthouse is one of only four built in the 1850s in Georgia that still retains its original use. It is a two-story, red brick, square-massed structure that combines the classical detailing of an entablature featuring garlands with Victorian-era commercial touches such as brick corbeling and mild Italianate window trims. The original structure had steps much as they are today but no tower. The steps were removed in a renovation completed in the late 1800s and the tower added. During the most recent renovation in the 1980s, the steps were returned to their original configuration. The Annex, built in 1939, is a restrained, two-story, red brick Neoclassical structure facing 6th Street and located behind the courthouse. The space occupied by the Annex has been the site over the years of several other city and county administration buildings.

Two of the more interesting buildings in Waynesboro are the Anthony Wayne Hotel and the Melrose Hotel, both located on 6th Street. Both buildings replaced earlier hotels that were located on the same sites. The Anthony Wayne was predated by the Planter's Hotel built as early as 1858. The Melrose was predated by the Glass Hotel which was a converted dwelling dating from the 1890s. The presence of the railroad made these hotels popular spots for traveling salesman, or "drummers" as they were called.

The Anthony Wayne, originally called the Arlington Hotel, predates an 1882 article in The True Citizen. Its original owner was Major W.A. Wilkins whose son-in-law, Mr. Jones, superintended the construction. It is a two-story, ell-shaped, red brick structure occupying the southwest corner of the intersection of 6th and Myrick. It was stuccoed in the 1920s by its new owner, Mr. Chance. Its facade is actually fairly plain, but, by its sheer massiveness, it is an imposing structure on the Courthouse Square. The northeast corner of the building housed the hotel office and boasts the most decorative

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portion. A tiled awning supported on curved wooden brackets marks the inset corner porch. Four square vernacular columns surround the porch. The double-door entrance with transom light and modest entablature surrounds is flanked by triplet, double-hung sash windows with Craftsman, multi/1 sashes. Originally the hotel provided 6th Street storefront space on its first floor with hotel rooms above. The building is currently vacant.

The Melrose Hotel, located just east of the Square on 6th Street, was built c. 1901-07. It is a two-story, ell-shaped, red brick building divided into two parts: the western portion is a long, setback running parallel to 6th with several storefronts on the first floor and a second floor distinguished by an iron railing balcony; the second story houses hotel rooms. The eastern portion runs perpendicular to 6th and sits closer to the street. It held the hotel office and boasts an arcaded first floor entrance patio with cast-iron columns. The entire first floor facade has a rusticated appearance. All the windows in the building are segmentally arched. The hotel is presently vacant though several of the storefronts are occupied.

One of the more stylistic commercial structures stands on the southeast corner of 6th and Liberty. The 6th Street facade of this building has a one-part, commercial block appearance with a row of three cast-iron, arched storefronts facing the courthouse. Some alterations have been made. The corner is now an open service station. At one time this portion of the building served as a showroom for a car dealer with plate glass windows. The building predates the 1885 Sanborn Map, but it is impossible to tell how the original corner portion of the structure appeared. Despite the obtrusive nature of the service station, the building retains its integrity due to the fact that the cornice and parapet portion has been preserved in its original form. The rear of the building is an added bonus as it displays significant architectural detailing as well. A photograph from the Georgia Archives' Vanishing Georgia collection shows the eastern end of the facade before the building next to it was constructed; an alley on this side housed several storefronts as well.

Also included in the district are the small one-room jail, c. 1901-10, and the steel water tower, c. 1907, both located behind the Anthony Wayne Hotel on Myrick Street.

The Neely Bonded Cotton Warehouses located on Myrick are an important part of the district as they are directly related to the agricultural and industrial roots (railroad) of Waynesboro. In addition the Neely family was extremely important to the growth and economy of Waynesboro in the 20th century. The original brick warehouse built c.1923 has five divisions, readily visible from the aerial tax maps. Each of these divisions has a unique hip type roof structure constructed by



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Italian workers. The ceiling is a slightly vaulted hip shape with a wooden truss system composed of 2'x 6' beams arranged in repeating diamond patterns supporting a plank ceiling. The two wooden warehouses were built in c.1940.

**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  
COMMERCE  
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

**Period of Significance:**

1783-1941

**Significant Dates:**

1783  
1851-54  
1880-1910

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

D.B. Plump  
Mr. Jones  
James A. Wetmore (U.S. Architect)  
R. C. Neely

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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)**

The Waynesboro Commercial Historic District is significant as the historic central business district or "downtown" of the community featuring a variety of historic commercial buildings and landmarks in their historic downtown environment.

The Waynesboro Commercial Historic District is significant in politics and government because the town was founded as the county seat of Burke County and contains the courthouse dating from 1856 located on the original square set aside for governmental use in the 1783 town plan. The courthouse has remained the seat of all government activity ever since its creation.

The district is significant in community planning and development because of its intact gridiron city plan, a characteristic of Georgia county seats. Waynesboro has served as the center of county government since the late 18th century. Its designation in 1777 most likely resulted from its role as an important transportation crossroads in the area (it was not at the geographic of the original Burke County). Waynesboro's location was already well-equipped to serve the region with roads leading to Augusta and Savannah, and the Quaker Road providing access to more interior regions of Georgia. The town plan has remained intact since its creation and is still in use today.

The district is significant in commerce for its many commercial buildings that represent its role as the commercial center of the community and the county. Despite the 1777 designation as county seat, Waynesboro's growth was slow until the mid-1800s when a thriving agricultural industry based on cotton and the arrival of the railroad (1851) spurred Waynesboro's development as the commercial center of the county. Railroad lines which linked the town to Augusta and Savannah, and later Atlanta, secured the town's role as an important commercial link between the rural county's agricultural concerns and these regional metropolitan markets. Sanborn Maps from the early 1900s illustrate how important agriculture was to the development of Waynesboro and vice versa. Pictured on these maps are numerous cotton yards and cotton-based businesses located downtown and along the railroads. The commercial significant today is evidenced by the numerous remaining historic commercial buildings and warehouses within this district representing all sorts of commercial ventures as one would expect in a county seat town and one which remains the only "big town" in the county.

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The district is significant in architecture because the majority of the buildings in the district, with the exception of the 1850s Burke County Courthouse, were built from 1880 to 1925 and reflect the style and type of commercial architecture which was so prominent in Georgia's towns and cities during this period. Predominating in Waynesboro's downtown are one- and two-story brick structures aligned contiguously with only their storefronts displayed. This characterization is particularly true of those along Liberty Street, north of 6th, and along 6th Street. South of 6th Street, buildings tend to stand independently. Stylistic elements include decorative cornices with brackets, brick corbeling and dentils, patterned brickwork and frieze paneling, arched windows in two-story examples, parapet walls, and transom windows and cast-iron columns on the lower storefronts. The district is also architecturally significant for its landmark buildings including the courthouse and post office built in the Georgian Revival style popular in the 1920s when it was designed, and for its warehouses which are characteristically utilitarian in design. The historic water tower is also a typical design for towns in Georgia and a common feature in communities.

The district's architectural significance also encompasses two historic houses and a monument. The house on the west side of Liberty St. is a one-story, frame Georgian Cottage type house with a pyramidal roof and retains its original front full-length front porch facing the main street. It is a good example of this type of turn-of-the-century type house that once flourished within a block of the courthouse. The other house, now a museum, is a one-story, frame, antebellum cottage which retains its original interior chimneys, shutters, and mantels. It is one of the few remaining antebellum cottages in the city and due to its integrity is an excellent example of the workmanship of its era. The monument is a large boulder with a bronze plaque affixed which commemorates the visit of President George Washington to the city in the 1790s. It rests in a prominent location along Liberty Street, a block from the courthouse, and is a local landmark.

The area of Waynesboro's commercial district surrounding the courthouse contains many of the city's most interesting commercial structures as well as the heart and oldest section of the district. The variety of buildings in the district represent a cross-section of historic functions and architectural styles and provide physical evidence of Waynesboro's role in the political, agricultural, industrial and commercial history of Burke County and the State of Georgia.

Today, Waynesboro's past roll in government and commerce as well as transportation and agriculture is represented by the buildings and

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roads which comprise this district. The courthouse and Annex and the surrounding commercial buildings illustrate Waynesboro's historic as well as present role as the political and commercial center of Burke County. Agriculture which played such an important role in Burke County's economy is evidenced in the district by Neely's Bonded Cotton Warehouses. An important part of this agricultural economy was the transportation link provided by Waynesboro through its road system, inherited from a period predating Waynesboro's establishment, and its railroad network. The road system is still evident in the district. The early establishment of two large hotels in Waynesboro, the Melrose and the Anthony Wayne, further testify to its importance as a crossroads.

**National Register Criteria**

The Waynesboro Historic Commercial District is significant under National Register Criteria A as the commercial and governmental center of Burke County and as the site of an early transportation network contributing to the settlement of the region and state and the later agricultural development of the county. It is under these areas that the district represents the broad patterns of American history. The town plan of Waynesboro, laid out in 1783, is still intact. It is an example of a frontier settlement, designated from its inception as the county seat, which is still serving the same purpose today. It was the forerunner of many other towns in Georgia as the state expanded to its western and northern boundary. The town served as a hub of governmental, commercial, and social activities for the entire county, and was once one of the state's largest and most productive counties in the antebellum period when cotton was king. The town is also a good example of the railroad's effect on a town after the Civil War. The railroad here gave the town a new surge of prosperity and most of the remaining historic buildings owe their existence from this new rebirth of the town.

The Waynesboro Historic Commercial District is significant under National Register Criteria C not only for displaying commercial architecture clearly representative of late 19th and early 20th century American towns and cities but also for several distinctive architectural landmarks. These landmarks reflect important details of craftsmanship and can be seen in numerous commercial storefronts and warehouses as well as in the Burke County Courthouse (1857), the house

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that is the Burke County Museum, the U.S. Post Office (1931), as well as the water tank/tower (1907).

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

**Period of significance (justification, if applicable)**

The period of significance for the Waynesboro Commercial District is from 1783, when the town was established and the plan laid out, to 1941, when the latest additions to the district were built, Neely's two wooden cotton warehouses. Though no buildings remain dating back to 1783, the plan of the town was established at this time and continues to influence its growth.

**Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)**

COUNTY ESTABLISHMENT AND EARLY TOWN DEVELOPMENT: 1758-1820

Burke County, which was part of the Headright area of Georgia, was originally laid out as St. George Parish in 1758. Parishes were established by the Royal provincial government but with no self-governing powers and no central location of authority. All legal proceedings and records were in Savannah during the colonial period. In 1777 the Georgia constitution changed the parishes to counties, and on February 5, 1777 St. George Parish was renamed and redesignated as Burke County, named for Edmund Burke, an English spokesman for American liberty. The act of 1777 provided only vague mandates for the political organization of the new counties and establishment of their county seats. It specified that county commissioners were to be appointed by the General assembly and "a courthouse and jail to be erected at public expense in each county, where the present convention or future legislation shall point out and direct." [Sears, p.56.]

On July 31, 1783 an act was passed authorizing the laying out of three towns, Augusta, Washington and "Waynesborough", named for General Anthony Wayne, whom Gen. Nathanael Greene placed in charge of the troops in Georgia toward the latter part of the war. The site chosen for the town was south of Augusta on a "reserve of public land" left over from colonial days when the British set aside tracts of land for future towns. The legislature appointed five commissioners (Thomas Lewis, Sr., Thomas Lewis, Jr., John Duhart, Edward Telfair, and

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Colonel John Jones) to lay out the town of 2000 acres and authorized them to sell 200 one-acre lots, the proceeds from which were to pay for public buildings.

There is some discrepancy as to when the first courthouse and jail were built in Waynesboro. A jail was located on McIntosh Creek prior to the time of the Revolutionary War; the Battle of Burke Jail was fought there. According to Robert Jordan and Gregg Puster in Courthouses in Georgia, the first courthouse in Burke County was a log cabin built in 1773, and the first to be in Waynesboro was a wooden structure built c.1777. A 1780 map of South Carolina and part of Georgia shows a "New Court House" at what appears to be the present site of Waynesboro and an "Old Court House" south of Waynesboro on the road to Savannah near Lambert. Information dating from 1786 record statements concerning the lack of both a jail and courthouse; minutes from 1791 indicate that by this time a courthouse had been built but no jail.

In 1791 George Washington spent the night in Waynesboro and his personal travel notes do not mention a courthouse:

...a small place, but the seat of the court of Burke County ...six or eight small houses is all it contains, an attempt is making (without much apparent effect) to establish an academy as is the case in all the counties.  
[Sears, p. 62.]

Perhaps a courthouse was built in Waynesboro prior to 1783 but was destroyed somehow and not rebuilt until the early 1790s. It is known that the Burke Academy in Waynesboro was first established in 1794, and the first post office that same year.

The plan of Waynesboro is described by Sears as a variation of the "Augusta" type plan which is dependent upon a wide important street, "typically a holdover from an earlier settlement." According to Hillhouse, the site for Waynesboro was the juncture of the Quaker Road (which joined the road to Savannah in Waynesboro) and the old road to Augusta. Both of these roads were established before the creation of Burke County-- the Quaker Road in 1769 and the Augusta Road in 1741 as a connection between John Rae's cowpen, on Brier Creek near Waynesboro, and Augusta. Sear also states that the main street (Liberty) appears to have originally been a highway with a settlement built along it. The original plan of the town appears to have incorporated both of these routes, Liberty following the Quaker Road and Peace (or 6th) the old Augusta Road (now the McBean Road). Sears describes the plan as follows:

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The two main streets, Pease [sic] and Liberty, cross each other at the center of town. They are ninety-six feet wide; all other streets are sixty feet wide. Lots A, B, C, D were public lots set within a block with the courthouse located on one. [Sears, p. 60.]

The early history of Waynesboro is one of slow growth and dependence upon the fortunes of the county as a whole which revolved around agriculture. Before the invention of the cotton gin in 1793, Burke County agriculture was diversified; though cotton was grown, it was superseded in importance by livestock and other crops. By the turn-of-the-century, however, the cotton gin had been perfected, and cotton began to emerge as the major cash crop of the county.

From 1800 to 1820, farming underwent a transformation in Burke County. The most successful cotton farmers began to buy out less successful farmers as well as purchase the farms of those who sought a better living westward. The result was a gradual shift to larger farms and plantations. In population this change meant an increase in the black (primarily slaves) population of the county, from 2403 in 1790 to 5904 in 1820, and a decrease in the white population, from 7064 in 1790 to 5673 in 1820.

On December 12, 1812 Waynesboro became an incorporated town. Its growth and progress are difficult to trace as there are no census figures for this period and many of the courthouse records were destroyed in a fire in 1825. The following descriptions compiled for the period by Hillhouse are somewhat helpful though not guaranteed to be 100% accurate.

Morse in 1797 reported: 'It contains about 40 dwelling houses, and stands within two miles of Brier Creek, which cleared of obstructions, ... will be navigable for boats carrying 500 bushels of corn, ten miles above Waynesborough. The superior and inferior courts are held in this town, and there also is an academy.' John Melish in 1806 noted 'Waynesborough is built principally on one street, ... it contains 220 inhabitants, of whom about one-half are slaves.' Worcester in 1818 reported 'it contains a courthouse, a jail, an academy, 2 houses of public worship, ... and about 50 dwelling houses.' [pp. 289-90]

These descriptions would seem to imply that the town grew little over the 20 years.

A map of Georgia from 1818 indicates that Waynesboro continued to be an important crossroads. In addition to the Quaker Road, the old



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Augusta Road and the road to Savannah, there were by 1818 direct routes to Louisville and on to Milledgeville (both early state capitols), and to Millen, as well as other branch roads near Waynesboro.

EARLY GROWTH AND THE WAR: 1820-1865

Throughout the antebellum period, Waynesboro was the only incorporated town in the county. The 1820 census lists 26 heads of families for Waynesboro. The courthouse was destroyed by fire in 1825 but was apparently immediately rebuilt as Sherwood's 1827 Gazetteer lists a courthouse as well as a "Jail, Academy, houses of worship for Methodists and Presbyterians, 25 dwellings, 6 stores and 7 offices and shops." In addition, the Gazetteer states that the stage from Savannah to Augusta passed through Waynesboro though it was nine miles west of the direct route.

The original spelling of "Waynesborough" was shortened to "Waynesboro" sometime between 1835 and 1840. It was during this time that Burke Academy was renamed the Waynesboro Academy-- perhaps the first use of the new spelling.

One of the most important factors in the town's growth was the coming of the railroad. In 1838 a charter was granted to the Augusta and Waynesboro Railroad Company (later the Augusta and Savannah Railroad). An 1847 map of Georgia shows the "Proposed Waynesboro RR" going from Millen, located to the south of Waynesboro, north to Augusta. By 1851 the branch from Millen to Waynesboro was completed extending just beyond the eastern edge of the developing commercial district, linking Waynesboro with Savannah via the Central Railroad at Millen. The depot was located on 6th Street between Perry Street and the tracks, three blocks from the courthouse. In 1854 the branch was completed to Augusta significantly increasing activity in Waynesboro and prompting rapid growth of the town.

From 1850 to 1870 the town's population grew from 196 to 843. The first newspaper was established in 1858, the Waynesboro News. It lasted about ten years under varying ownership. An advertisement for the Planter's Hotel appears in 1858. The hotel was owned and operated by William U. Sturges and was located on 6th Street, opposite the courthouse.

In 1856 the courthouse burned once again but was soon replaced by the existing structure which was built by D.B. Plump in 1857. According to I.W. Avery's History of the State of Georgia, a newspaper called the Expositor was started in Waynesboro in 1866. In 1880 it was

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consolidated with the Herald, started in 1878, and became the Waynesboro Herald and Expositor under the control of R.O. Lovett.

The 1860 Gazetteer provides little information about Waynesboro and still lists the town as having a "CH [courthouse], Jail, houses of worship for Presbyterians and Methodists, 25 dwellings, 6 stores, and seven offices and shops." The description is unchanged since 1827 and so is most likely not accurate. We can assume from the known existence at the time of the courthouse, railroad, newspaper and at least one hotel that Waynesboro must have had a significant commercial and professional district.

Population statistics from 1850 and 1860 show a steadily increasing slave population in Waynesboro. In 1850, 109 of 196 residents were slaves, and, in 1860, 156 of 307 residents were slaves. Both census years indicate one free black living in the town. Hillhouse states that in the towns of Burke County the slaves were almost exclusively domestic servants and skilled craftsman.

Perhaps the greatest influence the Civil War had on Burke County, and thus Waynesboro, was forcing a shift in agricultural practices from a plantation system to a system of tenant farming and sharecropping, though cotton remained the predominant cash crop along with corn. It is interesting to note that by 1874, according to Hillhouse, blacks owned a total of 338,769 acres of farmland in Georgia.

Waynesboro's population was significantly affected by the Civil War. In 1860 approximately 50% of Waynesboro's population was black; by 1870 this percentage had increased to 75%, 637 of a total 843. Many of these freedmen were skilled craftsman who had migrated from rural farms to the town where they could practice their skills as carpenters, masons, blacksmiths, barbers and trained domestics. The large number of blacks in Waynesboro is clearly reflected in later Sanborn Maps which throughout the years list a number of black schools, churches and social halls. Unfortunately, black businesses are not given the same attention, and so it is difficult to know where these were located. The breakdown of blacks and whites is not given in the Census again until 1940 at which time there are 2169 blacks and 1624 whites. Clearly, the antebellum plantation economy of Burke County had a significant impact on Waynesboro's later development.

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Late 19th-Century Boom: 1865-1901

Burke County's population grew by just a little over 500 between 1860 and 1870, and this growth can be entirely accounted for by growth in Waynesboro which went from a population of 307 in 1860 to 843 in 1870.

In the late 1860s, a drainage system was completed in Waynesboro which alleviated a hazard created by a string of malaria-infested ponds located in and around the downtown. Two men, Dr. Edward J. Carter and Dr. A.G. Whitehead, were instrumental in the completion of the system.

With the change in the agricultural system and subsequent failure of many farmers, partially due to the increased cost of labor, there was a migration to Waynesboro, as well as to other towns in Burke County, not only of free blacks but of whites as well. The following is a comment by a Waynesboro reporter in 1884:

One result of the Civil War has been to cause many of the best citizens to lease out their farms and move into town for the better security of their families, and the enjoyment of religious and educational privileges. This has given an abnormal impetus to the growth of Waynesboro, it must be confessed, at the expense of the rural districts. [Hillhouse, p. 148.]

Beginning in the early 1880s, several sources provide detailed information about Waynesboro. The 1881-82 Shole's Gazetteer describes Waynesboro as follows:

Has a population of 1,000, Western Union Telegraph and Southern Express offices, Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian churches, white, and two Baptist and two Methodist churches, colored. Four schools, two for white and two for colored people. McIntosh creek furnishes power to operate cotton gins and grist mill. Several steam cotton gins in the neighborhood. Ships annually 12,000 bales of cotton. Augusta, 36 miles distant, is the nearest banking town.... Cotton, wool, hides, and fruits are the principal shipments. Mail daily. Mrs. Mary L. Mitchell, P.M.

The Gazetteer also lists a large number and variety of businesses and professionals:

2 carriage makers	5 physicians
2 jewelers	2 dentists
13 general stores	1 harnessmaker

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9 attorneys	4 teachers
2 grist mills	2 druggists
1 barber	1 shoemaker

and lists the names of the county clerk, county coroner, sheriff, county surveyor, county ordinary, county treasurer, county tax receiver and tax collector.

The True Citizen, a weekly newspaper still published today, was established in 1882 by the Sullivan Brothers. Subscription rates were \$2.00/yr. An article in the June 2, 1882 edition, written by a correspondent from the Savannah News, provides the following description of Waynesboro:

We have seldom, in our forty years experience of somewhat varied and extensive travel, visited a town that has so pleasantly impressed us as this. The attitude of the location is about the same as that of Macon.... The wide, clean streets, abundant shade, and pure air and water, combined with the perfect system of drainage, which maintains not only within the corporate limits but throughout its distant surroundings, renders it one of the most salubrious and healthful of localities. As we remember the place some twenty years since, it is in perfect contrast to its then somewhat dilapidated and unprogressive condition.... It...is now one of the most progressive of our inland towns.

The plan of the town is comprehensive, covering a very considerable area, thus securing to each inhabitant space for gardens and proper ventilation.... We have been struck with the sensible style of building of the stores, which, of one-story, run through from one street to another, and are high and airy, low ceilings appearing to be a thing of the past.... A new and handsome hotel has been erected, thanks to the energy and enterprise of Major W.A. Wilkins, where a clean bed, a well appointed table, abundant good cheer, and polite attention and care are assured under the auspices of his son-in-law, Mr. Jones, who, as we understand, superintended its construction.... We would be glad indeed could Waynesboro and its model hotel and proprietor prove typical of the future as to our inland towns of the State.

Quite a glowing description and recommendation from probably a rather tough Savannah critic.

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The first Sanborn Map of Waynesboro was published in March of 1885. It shows a commercial district focused on the Courthouse Square with a few outlying commercial structures and a considerable number of dwellings built in and around the downtown. Of particular note are the two-story Arlington Hotel (still extant), the county offices replaced by the present site of the Courthouse Annex, and the 30,000 gallon cistern located just behind the hotel on the site where the water tower now stands.

A number of buildings standing today in Waynesboro are present on this 1885 Sanborn Map. The courthouse and those buildings just to the south of it including the hotel all appear to be the same structures as those pictured on the Sanborn. Also present on the map are buildings along almost the entire west side of Liberty from 6th to 7th Street; most of these, however, appear to have been replaced at a later time. Other buildings were apparently built c. 1885-90, replacing earlier structures slated to be torn down according to the 1885 Sanborn. Also appearing on the map are buildings just north of the courthouse along Court Street. It is difficult to determine if these today are the same as the ones present in 1885. Though the 1885 buildings are two-story versus the present one-story buildings, the existing buildings may, at the least, incorporate parts of the earlier buildings.

Sanborn Maps from 1890, 1895 and 1901 show gradual change taking place in the downtown. From 1885 to 1890, the western side of Liberty Street north to 7th became fully developed with one-story commercial structures. The first bank downtown appears on the 1895 Sanborn in the Arlington Hotel. This was probably the Bank of Waynesboro which, established in 1889, still survives today as First Union. Also indicated on the 1895 Sanborn are a number of "negro dwellings" along Myrick near the downtown. A "negro restaurant" is located on Myrick across from the courthouse, but none of these are known to survive today.

By the 1901 Sanborn a number of changes have taken place. A second bank office is situated on the east side of Liberty along with several other businesses. This side of Liberty, north of the courthouse, however, still has only free-standing commercial buildings interspersed with private residences. The bank was probably the Citizens Bank of Waynesboro, established c. 1890-1900. A row of one-story commercial structures have been established on the northeast corners of 6th and Shadrack and 6th and Myrick as well as on 7th Street (what is known today as "Old Waynesborough") behind the Liberty Street buildings. The presence of three large cotton yards (along 6th from Shadrack almost to Liberty, in the block north of 6th west of Liberty, and the northern half of the block north of the courthouse) clearly indicates the importance of cotton to the Waynesboro economy.

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Also present was the Glass Hotel, a converted dwelling, on the current site of the Melrose Hotel. The 30,000 gallon cistern is no longer present.

By 1901 Waynesboro's population was 2030, twice that of 1880; Waynesboro had had a railroad for half a century, a population of 1000+ for 20 years or more, an established bank for a decade, and at least one hotel since the 1850s. The Waynesboro Grocery Company was organized in 1898 by ten local merchants and was managed by W.C. Hillhouse. It was a wholesale firm which dealt with merchants in and beyond Burke County and was quite successful. Waynesboro by the turn-of-the-century was obviously a thriving community.

EARLY 20TH CENTURY PROGRESS: 1901-1930

The first decade of the 20th century saw significant progress in Waynesboro. In 1905 the First National Bank of Waynesboro was chartered. It, like the Bank of Waynesboro, survived the Depression of the 1930s.

The first automobile owner in Waynesboro was W.A. Wilkins, Jr. in 1905. By 1907 water mains had been laid, and a 100,000 gallon capacity steel water tank (which survives) was erected on Myrick Street behind the hotel. Electric lighting was apparently available as the Waynesboro Electric Light and Water Works appears on the Sanborn Map. The R.C. Neely Company began to exert what would become considerable influence by acquiring the block north of 7th Street and west of Liberty and building a large general store there. By 1912 the Neely Co. had added a wagon and carriage shop to their block and a number of other small businesses had opened on 7th Street. All the Neely stores on Liberty were two-story at this time.

The 1912 Sanborn specifically mentions that public lights were electric and that the streets were "practically level, unpaved." A number of black churches and the Haven Normal Academy and Social Benevolent Hall for blacks appear on the outskirts of the downtown (outside of the nominated district). The Savannah and Atlanta Railroad makes its first appearance as the Brinson Railroad (apparently built c. 1907-12) running across the northern edge of town.

The Brinson Railroad was completed through Burke to Waynesboro in 1911 by promoter and builder George Mills Brinson of Emanuel County. It ran from Savannah to Camak where it connected with the Georgia Railroad which ran from Augusta to Atlanta. The railroad later became known as the Savannah before becoming the Savannah and Atlanta in 1915, which is how it appears on the 1921 Sanborn.

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A number of resources existing today were built c. 1900-10. The Melrose Hotel was built before 1907 by the owner, Mr. Corker, and named for his wife. The jail, or "lock up", was built during this time adjacent to the water tower. In addition were built the new, two-story armory (just south of the courthouse on the corner) on Liberty, a "carriage repository" on 6th Street, and a commercial building across the street, all of which survive.

Perhaps the most significant change in the appearance of the downtown was the commercial development of the east side of Liberty Street between Court Street and 7th. By 1912, with the exception of one dwelling (where the alley and parking is now), the street stood wall to wall with primarily two-story commercial buildings. Four bank offices were now located downtown; none are identified though two are in the locations of the existing First Union and First National Banks. Of course, another significant change was the addition of the Melrose Hotel and the office space it provided.

The Central of Georgia Railroad was an important transportation link making it possible for Waynesboro to act as a trade and manufacturing center; the employment and income generated as a result of the railroad obviously provided the base upon which the commercial downtown thrived. The following list, from the 1912 Sanborn Map, of industries located along the railroad is telling of the importance the railroad played in the economy of Waynesboro.

American Agricultural Chemical Co., Fertilizer  
Warehouse  
P.L. Corker Cotton Gin  
P.L. Corker Storage Warehouse Co.  
Herrington & Fulcher, General Store, &c  
Neely Lumber Yard  
Southern Cotton Oil Co., Ginnery, &c  
Standard Oil Co.  
Waynesboro Cotton Oil Co., Branch  
Waynesboro Coca-Cola Bottling Works  
Waynesboro Electric Light & Water Works  
Waynesboro Ice and Fuel Co.  
W.A. Wilkins Cotton Dealer

No industries are listed as yet along the newly arrived Brinson Railroad.

By 1921 Peace, Whitaker and Joel Streets had been renamed 6th, 7th, and 8th Streets; streets were still unpaved. The first movie house was established by the Neely Co. on its block on Liberty Street. The city

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had been divided into three wards, and the Brinson Railroad had become the Savannah & Atlanta Railroad.

The major development in the downtown occurred in the blocks immediately west of Liberty: along the south side of 6th, along Shadrack north of 6th, and in the Neely block where two additional buildings were erected. In addition, one resource on the west side of Liberty St. was built as a garage, and another, filling in the alley to the west of the Arlington Hotel, was built for stores and office space. The five-bay, one-story brick building opposite the courthouse on Myrick was erected. The Arlington Hotel had become an apartment house and also housed the Chamber of Commerce and The True Citizen. The large store on the southeast corner of 6th and Liberty is shown as vacant--perhaps a sign of the times, and a Buick dealership has moved into the old armory building. The First National Bank is located next to the Melrose Hotel.

Throughout the first two decades of the 20th century, Waynesboro grew steadily. Its population rose from a little over 2000 in 1900 to 3311 in 1920. The downtown continued to expand physically, filling in gaps of earlier years, and business appeared to be booming, especially cotton. By 1920 there were 12 banks in Waynesboro, the most ever. The number of industries listed by the Sanborn maps nearly doubles from 1912 to 1921, and the influence of the newly arrived Savannah & Atlanta Railroad is clearly evident as seven of the new industries are located on or near its right-of-way. Eleven new industries were located along the Central of Georgia Railroad. Though these businesses are outside the boundaries of the commercial district, their existence and success are obviously important to the growth and prosperity of the downtown.

The arrival of the boll weevil in 1920-21 had a devastating impact on Waynesboro and Burke County. Many farmers and businessmen went bankrupt. Though some farmers attempted a shift to crops other than cotton, most continued to try to succeed with cotton. By 1933 the effects of the Depression were being felt as well, and 10 of the 12 banks existing in 1920 had been liquidated. The only two to survive were, as mentioned earlier, the Bank of Waynesboro and the First National Bank of Waynesboro. The total number of businesses and industries listed on the Sanborn Maps decreased by about one-third from 1921 to 1930. Waynesboro's population continued to grow from 3311 in 1920 to 3922 in 1930, but few new buildings were constructed downtown, though three miles of roads were paved with asphalt. One of the few exceptions, oddly enough, was the construction of Neely's Bonded Cotton Warehouses on Myrick Street.



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It is interesting to note the continued presence of black schools, churches and social halls; where as before the black resources seemed spread out around Waynesboro, by 1930 they appear to be concentrated to the northwest of the downtown. No indication is given on the Sanborns of black businesses, though given the large population of blacks, there must have been some. A number of smaller businesses existed along Myrick and Shadrack and perhaps some of these were black-owned. None of these are identified as being within the present nomination.

1930 TO THE PRESENT

Since 1930 downtown Waynesboro has had some significant changes, though only a few buildings were erected during the 1930s. In 1931 the Post Office on the corner of 8th and Liberty was built. James A. Wetmore was the Acting Supervising Architect. In 1939 the Courthouse Annex was built as a WPA project. In 1940 Neely added two frame warehouses along Myrick Street.

The most significant alterations to the physical character of the downtown occurred in the 1960s. It was during this period that many store owners were remodeling such that today the historic characteristics of many Liberty Street buildings north of 6th Street have been obscured. Also, two fires in the 1960s destroyed the historic buildings across from Court Street on Liberty and north of Court Street where the First National Bank now stands. These fires created a gap in the historic district compounded by the facade alterations.

The only prominent building missing from this southern area is the Masonic Temple, built c. 1912-21, and replaced by the Hardee's in the early 1980s. Also gone are two buildings along Myrick, south of 6th, one of which was the Sanders Wagon Works in the early part of the 20th century. The Haven Normal Academy, which was located to the southeast of Neely's warehouses, disappeared sometime between 1921 and 1930. Other than these changes and the tragic loss of the Carter-Munnerlyn House on South Liberty, the area is largely intact and retains a strong sense of its thriving history, due largely to the continued existence of the two hotels which clearly tell of a prosperous history.

DISTRICT EVOLUTION

When Burke County was created in 1777, Waynesboro was yet to be established, but several important roads passed through the future site. A map dating from 1780 of South Carolina and part of Georgia shows the Old Quaker Road, one of the oldest in Georgia built in 1769,

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connecting to the Savannah Road and intersecting with the Old Augusta Road (identifiable by Rae's Bridge) at the approximate site of Waynesboro. Indicated at the intersection of these three roads is a "New Court House". The map indicates that an "Old Court House" was located farther south on the Savannah Road near Lambert.

The existence of these three roads surely played an important part in the siting of Waynesboro. The plan for Waynesboro, laid out in 1783, designated the intersection of Peace (now 6th) and Liberty Streets as the location of the Courthouse Square and three other public lots. It is difficult to determine with certainty if any of the original roads passing through Waynesboro correspond to the present Liberty and Peace Streets. Joan Niles Sears (in The First one Hundred Years of Town Planning in Georgia) mentions that "the main street seems to have been a highway with a settlement built along it," and Albert M. Hillhouse (in A History of Burke County, Georgia, 1777-1950) states that "the site... was at the juncture of the Quaker Road and the important road to Augusta." Given the present orientations of the streets, the logical conclusion is that Liberty Street follows the original route of the Quaker Road, which passed through at a NW-SE diagonal, and that 6th Street follows the route of the original Augusta Road which started at the juncture with the Quaker Road and headed out in a northeasterly direction. By 1818 the road to Louisville was built which connects to the Old Augusta Road and is 6th Street. Today these roads form the basis of the downtown commercial area.

The plan of 1783 designated four blocks as public lots. Only one of these was ever developed for public use and that is Lot C, which became the courthouse square. The date of construction of the first courthouse in Waynesboro is unknown though it is suspected that it was built sometime during the 1780s (possibly earlier if the 1780 map is to be believed). This courthouse burned in 1825 and was replaced by a structure which likewise burned in 1856. The current courthouse was built in 1857 on the same site as the earlier structures.

Early commercial development tended to focus around the Courthouse Square and along Liberty Street up to 7th Street (originally Whitaker Street) and along 6th Street (originally Peace Street) to Shadrack. Though there were scattered commercial buildings beyond these limits, the bulk of commercial activity remained around the courthouse until the coming of the railroad in 1851. With the establishment of the railroad three to four blocks to the east of the courthouse, warehouses and other agricultural and industrial type facilities began to locate along the railroad, but retail and professional services remained situated near the courthouse. The coming of the railroad resulted in significant growth in Waynesboro leading to a more

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substantial commercial district, including several hotels on 6th Street within walking distance of the depot, also located on 6th.

It was not until the early 20th century, during the first decade, that commercial development spread north of 7th Street on Liberty to its present boundary of 8th Street, but only on the west side. The block on the east side remained residential until after World War II. Commercial growth also occurred during this period along Shadrack Street behind the Liberty Street buildings and south of 6th along Liberty and Myrick.

Today's commercial district clearly reflects Waynesboro's beginnings. The layout of the downtown is virtually unchanged with Liberty and 6th Street still accommodating the majority of commercial structures. The original hierarchy of streets is maintained as well. Liberty and 6th, which were laid out with 90 foot widths versus 60 foot for all other streets, are still the prominent thoroughfares [with widths of 80 to 100 feet]. The courthouse continues to function as the focal point of the commercial area though it may not be the geographical center. Perhaps most significantly, the intersection of Liberty and 6th continues to be the crossroads for those historic routes which helped shape Waynesboro: the Quaker Road (North Liberty Street), the Old Augusta Road (East 6th Street), the road to Savannah and to Millen (South Liberty Street), and the road to Louisville (West 6th Street).

This district represents the earliest commercial area of Waynesboro. Where as the blocks north of 7th Street were originally residential, the majority of the lots facing the courthouse have, with few exceptions, been commercial back to the early 1800s. The block east of the courthouse initially had some residential development but by 1910 was commercial as it is today. Myrick Street south of 6th had a number of small dwellings until after World War II. These were sandwiched between Neely's Warehouse and Sanders' Wagon Works. Today the area is parking. The majority of the buildings around the courthouse square, however, date to the late 1800s or turn-of-the-century and represent the evolution of commercial development in Waynesboro.

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Amy Canine Kissane, Jaeger/Pyburn, Inc., Gainesville, GA prepared the Historic Property Information Form, as revised, dated June 26, 1991, revised Sept. 1991. There were initially two forms, one for the Waynesboro Commercial District and the other for the Liberty-7th Streets Commercial District. These two applications have been combined for this nomination. This consultant prepared both the description and the historical narrative which are based on the following extensive bibliography:

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Baldwin, Neil H. and Hillhouse, A.M. An Intelligent Student's Guide to Burke County History. Published by the authors, Waynesboro, GA, 1956.

Burke County Historical Association. The Historical Walking Tour of Waynesboro. Waynesboro, GA: Chalker Publishing Co., Inc.

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General Highway Maps, Burke County Georgia. Prepared by the State Highway Department of Georgia, 1952, 1960, 1964, 1970, and 1987.

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Jordan, Robert H. and Puster, Gregg J. Courthouses in Georgia, 1825-1983. Norcross, GA: The Harrison Company, Publishers, 1984.

Longstreth, Richard. The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture. Building Watchers Series. Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1987.

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Smith, George Gillman, D.D. The Story of Georgia and the Georgia People, 1732 to 1860. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1968. (Reprint of 1900 edition.)

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Thematic National Register Nomination - County Courthouses in Georgia. (Copy in the Office of Historic Preservation, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, GA) Listed 1980.

The True Citizen, Waynesboro, Georgia, Volume 1, 1882.

Waynesboro City Directory, 1919.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS): ( ) N/A

- ( ) preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67)  
has been requested
- (x) previously listed in the National Register (courthouse only)
- ( ) previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ( ) designated a National Historic Landmark
- ( ) recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- ( ) recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- (x) State historic preservation office
- ( ) Other State Agency
- ( ) Federal agency
- ( ) Local government
- ( ) University
- ( ) Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

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## **10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** approximately 9 acres

### **UTM References**

A) Zone Easting Northing

NOTE: No UTM References are given because the U.S.G.S. topographic map which covers this area (Waynesboro Quadrangle, 7.5 Minute) was last revised in 1950 and does not carry the necessary coordinate references.

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries of the Waynesboro Commercial Historic District are shown as a solid black line on the accompanying Waynesboro United States Geological Survey map; and as a solid black line on the accompanying Burke County tax maps (sheets W-6, W-7, W-10, W-11), and as a solid black line on the accompanying Waynesboro Commercial Historic District sketch map.

### **Boundary Justification**

The district consists of those historic resources that form the commercial heart of the city of Waynesboro. The district features only the commercial properties surrounding the courthouse and does not extend into the solely residential areas nearby, many of which are also potentially eligible. The district includes several noncontributing properties in order to tie it together and because they occupy historic commercial spaces which have only recently been compromised by metal facades or other changes. This relatively high number of noncontributing properties was included because the replacement buildings retain the historic setbacks and storefront locations, and because several facades do have the potential of being restored to a historic appearance. The overall effect is that the historic downtown or central business district is intact around the square and for several blocks therefrom and the original grid pattern of the town plan is intact. Several historic houses were included because they were cut-off from potential residential historic districts and had also been used for commercial purposes for many decades. The historic monument was included because it is within the right-of-way but the modern gas station adjacent to it is not included.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**name/title** Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian, based on the original versions dated 1991 by Amy Canine Kissane, Jaeger/Pyburn, Inc. Gainesville, GA.

**organization** Office of Historic Preservation, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

**street & number** 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462

**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334

**telephone** 404-656-2840 **date** March 31, 1993

(HPS form version 3-30-90)



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National Park Service

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Photographs

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**Name of Property:** Waynesboro Commercial Historic District  
**City or Vicinity:** Waynesboro, Georgia  
**County:** Burke  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** June, 1992

**Description of Photograph(s):**

1 of 19: Original U.S. Post Office (now Waynesboro Bank), southwest corner of 8th St. and Liberty, photographer facing southwest.

2 of 19: West side of South Liberty St., photographer facing southwest.

3 of 19: East side of South Liberty, south of 7th St., photographer facing southeast.

4 of 19: South side of E. 7th St., west of South Liberty, photographer facing southwest.

5 of 19: West side of South Liberty, south of 7th St., photographer facing northwest.

6 of 19: West side of South Liberty, across from Court St., photographer facing southwest.

7 of 19: North side of Court St., photographer facing east.

8 of 19: South side of East 6th St., photographer facing southwest.

9 of 19: Northeast corner of Myrick and E. 6th St., photographer facing northeast.

10 of 19: North side of E. 6th St., Melrose Hotel in foreground, photographer facing west.

11 of 19: Base of water tower, looking toward south Myrick St. and Neely Company, photographer facing southeast.

12 of 19: Water Tower, east side of Myrick St., photographer facing northwest.

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National Park Service

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Photographs

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13 of 19: Warehouse at south end of Myrick St., photographer facing southeast.

14 of 19: Southern end of S. Liberty St., photographer facing northwest.

15 of 19: Looking toward Burke County Courthouse along S. Liberty St., with Burke County Museum in foreground, photographer facing north.

16 of 19: Commemorative boulder marking visit of President George Washington in 1790s, photographer facing west.

17 of 19: View along S. Liberty St. looking toward courthouse, photographer facing northeast.

18 of 19: Burke County Courthouse, photographer facing northeast.

19 of 19: South side of E. 6th St., across from courthouse square, with Anthony Wayne Hotel at far left, photographer facing southeast.