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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name THORNTON AVENUE/MURRAY HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT  
other names/site number

**2. Location**

street & number Thornton Avenue; Valley Dr.; Ridge St., between  
Franklin and West Crawford Streets.  
city, town Dalton (N/A) vicinity of  
county Whitfield code GA 313  
state Georgia code GA zip code 30722

(N/A) not for publication

**3. Classification**

**Ownership of Property:**

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

**Category of Property**

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property:**

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	99	42
sites	1	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	100	42

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

**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

4/7/92  
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

Albany Byers 6/4/92

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:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling  
RELIGION/religious facility  
RELIGION/church-related residence  
FUNERARY/cemetery

### Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling  
RELIGION/religious facility  
FUNERARY/cemetery  
COMMERCE/TRADE/business  
RECREATION and CULTURE/museum

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

NO STYLE  
MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival  
LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne  
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Georgian Revival  
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/  
Bungalow/Craftsman

### Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	brick; wood
roof	asphalt shingles
other	varied

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The proposed Thornton Avenue/Murray Hill historic district lies in the central region of the city limits of Dalton, Georgia, west of the Dalton Commercial Historic District (NR, 1988). Dalton is located in the southwestern portion of Whitfield County, which is situated in the northwestern corner of Georgia bounded by Tennessee to the north, Murray County to the east, Gordon County to the south, and Catoosa and Gordon Counties to the west.

Within this proposed district, the principal highway is U.S. Highway 41 (Thornton Avenue), which serves as a boundary. The principal streets include: Crawford Street, Cuyler Street, Emory Street, Franklin Street, Ridge Street, Thornton Avenue, and Valley Drive.

The district is a relatively intact neighborhood, consisting mainly of residential structures, with one religious building, one religious building adaptively used as a commercial structure, and a cemetery.

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The structures date from the mid-19th century to the mid-20th century. The houses architecturally range from regionally interpreted high style homes of brick masonry, and mortise-and-tenon construction along Thornton Avenue, to balloon-frame, brick-veneered construction in the Murray Hill area of the district.

The natural terrain consists of a level plateau along the Thornton Avenue corridor, with gentle rolling hills throughout the remainder of the proposed district.

The district may be divided into several sections. The eastern portion of the district along Thornton Avenue is one of the earliest areas of development within the district. The majority of these homes are two or more stories and constructed of timber or brick. The Murray Hill area, directly to the west of Thornton Avenue, consists mainly of balloon-frame and brick-veneered dwellings of one and two stories. The west boundary of the proposed district is within the town's oldest cemetery which also contains a Confederate soldiers burial ground.

The district depicts two general patterns of development. The Thornton Avenue corridor opened as a wagon path en route to Chatsworth and Spring Place, as well as to Ross' Landing in Chattanooga. The earliest remaining home on the avenue was built in 1848. Subsequent development has occurred contiguously, subdividing the original large tracts. As the district proceeds west, the terrain becomes more hilly. The Murray Hill area was developed in 1937 as a modern in-town suburb by the local Acme Lumber and Supply Company. The original plats show the various names for the development west of Thornton Avenue, including: Emery Subdivision, Williamsburg Subdivision, and Hamilton Heights, as well as Murray Hill. The lots in the Murray Hill area are generally rectangular parcels accessed by bisecting streets. The Murray Hill development proceeds west until it reaches Ridge Street. At this point, the town cemetery breaks the pattern of residential development. West Hill Cemetery contains grave sites dating from the middle of the nineteenth century. Due to the military action in and around Dalton during the Civil War, a Confederate burying ground is located within West Hill Cemetery.

Generally, houses sit close to the road on the east side of Thornton Avenue due to the expansion of the street to a five-lane thoroughfare as U.S. Highway 41. The character of the eastern side of Thornton Avenue has been altered to a commercial strip interspersed with a few remaining architecturally significant structures. One surviving group of these historic houses has been included in the district. More of the western portion of Thornton Avenue has retained its residential character. The houses along the western side of the street have maintained their original positioning as verified by the

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intact retaining walls delineating the properties from the side walk. The back yards of the homes along Thornton Avenue are usually larger with adjacent outbuildings, ranging from garages to garden sheds. Over the years, a few of the lots have been subdivided to allow for new construction. In the Murray Hill area, the houses generally have smaller lots with the homes sitting approximately in the center. These houses have a less diverse array of outbuildings, being limited usually to detached garages. The density of the district is fairly uniform. Few undeveloped lots exist within the district's boundaries.

The religious buildings within the Thornton Avenue/Murray Hill District include a large, non-historic Methodist church (built 1952), the earlier church's historic parsonage, now used as a gift shop, and a non-historic Jewish synagogue (1947). The Methodist church's setting is primarily focused to the main thoroughfare, Thornton Avenue. The Jewish synagogue, Temple Bethel, built 1946-1947, occupies the lot in the rear of the Methodist church aligned with Valley Drive. Both places of worship incorporate parking with landscaping being primarily limited to the foundations of the respective buildings.

Adaptively reused residential structures are the only commercial buildings contained within the proposed district. Generally, they retain their domestic or residential characteristics as viewed from the main roads, with screened rear parking at both the M. M. Jack Home Place and at Davies Jewelry Store (the former parsonage).

The structures within the Thornton Avenue/Murray Hill Historic District illustrate local interpretations of architectural styles popular in America and Georgia from 1840 to World War II (1941). In addition to numerous "high style" buildings, the district also illustrates important common vernacular housing types.

The proposed district has a few excellent examples of the Early Classical Revival and the Greek Revival styles which were popular in Georgia prior to the Civil War and the later Neo-classical Revival Style. The earlier houses are characterized by frame construction (heavy timbers with mortise-and-tenon joints and hand-hewn sills) with classical porticos, and symmetrical features; most have a transom and side lights around the front entry. The Blunt House (photo 6), (individually listed on the National Register) at 506 S. Thornton Avenue, an example of Early Classical Revival, exhibits these features in a two-story, two rooms-over-two rooms central hall plan house with later additions. The Blunt House departs from many Southern houses in its chimneys. Instead of exterior end chimneys which directed the heat away from the house, the builder, Ainsworth Emery Blunt from New Hampshire, built his home with two interior end chimneys. The M. M. Jack House at 405 S. Thornton Avenue is a one-story central hall Greek

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Revival Cottage which displays good examples of intact architectural moldings on the exterior and interior. The Bivings House at 501 S. Thornton Avenue is an example of Neo-classical Revival architecture, since it was designed and built several decades after the height of the earlier Greek Revival movement. Built in the early 1870's, the house has a two-story full facade portico with chamfered posts and a typical double-pile central hall plan.

The district displays several homes built during the Victorian era. These buildings generally have asymmetrical massing, multi-gabled roofs, and were built with balloon-frame construction.

Two of the best examples of Queen Anne architecture in Dalton are built of brick: the Hamilton-Bethel House (photo 2) at 622 S. Thornton Avenue and the Felker House (photo 8) at 400 S. Thornton Avenue. Popularized by the spread of architectural pattern books, this picturesque style was popular in Georgia during the late nineteenth century and into the first decade of the twentieth century. The main features of the style are the irregular massed plan, decoratively sawn and mass-produced woodwork applied on the interior and exterior, and the common use of stained glass. The Italianate style, characterized by arched windows and heavy cornice brackets, can be seen in only one example in the proposed district, the McCutchen-Boring House (photo 7) at 404 S. Thornton Avenue. This home was also constructed of brick.

During the first quarter of the twentieth century, there were many historical revival styles of architecture that swept through America. Several good examples of the Colonial Revival design, which was very popular throughout much of the eastern United States as well as in Dalton, can be seen in several houses along Thornton Avenue and in the Murray Hill area. Rectangular massing, classical details, and symmetry characterize the Colonial Revival style. The Hamilton-Johnson House (photo 4) at 600 S. Thornton Avenue is one example and others are found on Kenilworth Court in Murray Hill. Some of the latter are also examples of the Federal Revival Style, also popular then.

The Mediterranean Revival style is exemplified at the Davies Jewelry Store (photo 9) at 112 S. Thornton Avenue, built originally to be the Methodist Parsonage. The English Vernacular Revival style was also a very popular in Dalton during the 1920's. The opening of the Murray Hill subdivision in 1937 capitalized on this popular trend and many good examples of English Vernacular Revival designs can be seen in the proposed district. Of the numerous homes displaying this style throughout the area and on Thornton Avenue, the Hamilton-Percy House at 618 S. Thornton Avenue is one of the best examples. The Craftsman style, popularized by the Greene Brothers in California and spread throughout the United States at the beginning of the twentieth

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century, can be seen at 606 S. Thornton Avenue and on West Crawford Street, and elsewhere.

The Thornton Avenue/Murray Hill district also has examples of vernacular housing types. On W. Crawford Street, there are examples of common, gabled ell Folk Victorian type houses (photos 15 and 16), some with Craftsman porches. Other common house types are also located along West Crawford Street where there is an example of a Queen Anne Cottage. Standard bungalow-type houses, with brick apron walls and piers, line the W. Crawford Street corridor as well. These vernacular forms are commonly found throughout Georgia's small towns and communities.

Buildings constructed after World War II (1941-1945) In Dalton continue to illustrate the evolution of residential architecture. Non-historic ranch style homes are interspersed among the older homes in the Murray Hill area. Changes to the houses in the district include the upgrading of many of the houses and the addition of newer houses within the established neighborhoods.

Throughout the proposed Thornton Avenue/Murray Hill District, the streets and lots are lined with mature trees, including: magnolias, dogwoods, red maples, crepe myrtles, and oaks. The streets along Thornton and West Crawford are bordered by sidewalks. The Thornton Avenue lots are bounded by retaining walls. Historically many yards had fences; today few fences exist. Lots are defined by side and rear hedges. Houses have foundation plantings, ornamental shrubs and trees, flower beds, and grassy yards; a few of the homes have shrubs and plantings delineating the front and side boundary lines.

The single most important landscape feature in the proposed Thornton Avenue/Murray Hill Historic District is West Hill Cemetery. The cemetery is located at the westernmost boundary of the proposed district. Historically, the cemetery has two parts: the town cemetery and the Confederate cemetery. The town portion of the cemetery was laid out to correspond with the natural terrain. Family plots are defined by ornamental fences and retaining walls. Several Victorian sculptures serve as grave markers within the grassy, rolling hills. The earliest currently surviving inscription found on a marked grave in the cemetery is dated 1844. The Confederate burying ground is characterized by long, straight rows of markers running parallel with Ridge Street. The boundary line is delineated by a simple, arched iron fence. The roads within the cemetery alternate between asphalt paving and dirt-lined avenues. There is an historic cemetery office, formerly a chapel, built of stone, located in the cemetery.

The district's archaeological potential is unknown, but is presumed to exist due to the close proximity of Civil War encampments and

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parade grounds all around and within the proposed district. Artifacts have been uncovered from the property of the Blunt House, confirming its use as a military hospital.

The enclosed map indicates historic and non-historic properties. Modern intrusions have occurred primarily along the eastern side of Thornton Avenue.

The boundaries of this district include: to the east, South Thornton Avenue (U.S. Highway 41) excluding several modern intrusions on the eastern side of the street; to the west, West Hill Cemetery's historic area, including the Confederate burying ground; to the south, Franklin Street where it bisects Thornton Avenue; and to the north, West Crawford Street to Ridge Street.

The boundary was determined because the properties beyond the boundaries along Thornton Avenue to the north and south have been altered, diminishing their original historic appearance. Houses have also been removed for new construction. To the east of Thornton Avenue, the boundaries are adjacent to the downtown commercial district. The area beyond the western boundary is the modern cemetery and later residential developments.

The Murray Hill area (the most recent part of the district) was created and developed over the last sixty years; the proposed boundaries reflect what is believed to be that part of the growth and development which occurred in the area until approximately 1941, that is during the historic period.



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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**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  
COMMUNITY PLANNING

**Period of Significance:**

1846-1941

**Significant Dates:**

n/a

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

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

Lipham, Rev. Charles M. (1880-1964)

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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 Thornton Avenue/Murray Hill historic district is significant as Dalton's oldest and largest documented residential neighborhood representing more than 100 years of residential development in the community. In terms of architecture, the district is significant because it includes a number of houses which exemplify and are significant examples of some of the leading architectural styles during the century represented by this district. Along Thornton Avenue are two- and three-story houses in the Queen Anne Style, the Italianate, and several showing Early Classical Revival and Greek Revival influences. These are among the oldest, largest, and most stylish historic houses in Dalton. In the 1930s subdivisions, the houses are brick and frame, one and two story, reflecting the revival styles popular in the 1930s, Georgian and Colonial most predominantly. The district also includes many examples of important historic house types. These vernacular house types include gabled ell, folk Victorian houses and bungalows. They represent typical modest historic house types in historic neighborhoods of the period all across Georgia. The district includes a very rare cemetery office/chapel out of native stone and the non-historic Temple Bethel (1947), a Jewish synagogue. While trained architects no doubt worked in this area, the one identified is the Rev. Charles M. Lipham, a Methodist minister who designed the Methodist church's parsonage. The district is also significant in community planning because of the three small subdivisions planned and sold in the 1930s. This was the most prevalent community planning in that era and reflects one builder's work in the midst of the depression to add more middle class residential housing. It is also significant because the major thoroughfares, Thornton Avenue, Valley Drive, and Ridge Street, were all originally laid out as part of the 1846-1847 plan for the city by Captain Edward White. This grid pattern still survives and interacts well with the more recent subdivisions.

**National Register Criteria**

The Thornton Avenue/Murray Hill Historic District meets National Register Criterion A for its association with events which have made a contribution to the broad patterns of American history. This is exemplified by the growth of this area as a residential neighborhood from antebellum farms along roads to modern subdivisions. From the earliest residences facing Thornton Road, to the late 19th century's large homes which on the divided estates became stately homes of some of the wealthiest people in town, the road, a major highway through

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town, became the axis for the growth of this neighborhood. In the 1930s, as more and more middle class families arose, the need for housing and the increase in the use of the automobile brought forth the need to subdivide even further the land within this district, creating three subdivisions in the Murray Hill area. All of these settlement patterns follow in the tradition of American community planning efforts for the continued use of the land at an even great density.

The district also meets criterion C because it embodies distinct characteristics of type, period, work of high artistic quality, etc. There are several homes in this district which are fine examples of their style. The Ainsworth Blunt House is a fine example of the Early Classical Revival Style house with its portio and central hall plan. The M. M. Jack House is a good example of a Greek Revival style cottage. The Queen Anne style of the late 19th century is reflected in two very fine homes, the Hamilton-Bethel House and the Felker House, both resting in stately fashion along Thornton Avenue. The McCutchen-Boring House is a very excellent, almost textbook example of the Italianate style. The districts reflection of the myriad styles and types of American architecture continues with many good examples of the twentieth century's period revival styles include those of the Colonial Revival and the English Vernacular. While all of the above are reflections of identified styles, there are many other good examples within the district of good house types, such as the Folk Victorian. All in all the district reflects a great wealth of houses which are the works of architects, master craftsmen, pattern book followers, and others, to create a mixture of American architecture.

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

**Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance is from the planning and founding of Dalton (1846) until the end of the historic period (1941), which just happens to be almost a century. This century covers the entire historic spectrum of this district.

**Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

Contributing properties are houses and other buildings and landscape features built prior to 1941 which have retained integrity. Noncontributing properties are houses and buildings built after 1941.

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

The Thornton Avenue/Murray Hill Historic District is located in Dalton, a county seat town, in Whitfield County, in the northwestern most part of Georgia.

The northwest part of what is now Georgia was the last region to be officially settled by the state. In the early 19th century it had been the home of the Cherokee Indians. Slowly but surely, Georgia worked toward removing the Indians from within the state's official boundaries. In 1828, Georgia extended criminal jurisdiction over the area that would become Dalton. A land survey was completed in 1831. Registration for the land and gold lottery was held in the spring of 1832. Then the Cherokee Land Lottery was set for October 22, 1832. Citizens from across the state of Georgia, who had qualified and registered, were eligible to win lots of either one hundred and sixty (160) acres or forty (40) acres (these latter tracts were called gold lots due to the belief that they contained large portions of gold). Following the lottery, the area, still inhabited by the Cherokee, was opened for white settlement to the lottery winners or those to whom they sold their winning draws and the area developed steadily. The town of Cross Plains (as Dalton was first known), originally founded in 1837, served as a trading center for both the Cherokees and early white settlers. The Cherokee Indians were finally removed or banished from their lands after the Treaty of 1835 and the forced removal known as the Trail of Tears, 1838-1839.

The population of the town soon steadily increased after the plans of the Western and Atlantic Railroad were announced in 1847. The 1852 depot (contained within the Dalton Commercial National Register District) is the remaining architectural resource of this important event influencing the expansion of Dalton. The railroad accessed all points between Atlanta and Chattanooga. The railroad began operation in 1850. Dalton served as a main terminal for this railroad line. It also was the point where the East Tennessee Railroad diverged for Knoxville and Virginia. The city limits were a circle radiating from the depot, encompassing one mile in diameter. The proposed Thornton Avenue/Murray Hill historic district lies within this early designation of the city's populated areas. The railroad provided an essential service to the rising industrial and agricultural city.

The rich agricultural lands surrounding Dalton attracted numerous farmers to the region. An increase in settlement during the antebellum period brought about the need to establish a new county; Whitfield County was formed in 1851 from Murray and Gordon counties. Initial development in the proposed district began during the 1840's

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when the citizens of Dalton began to construct residences, churches, and a public burial ground in the area. Some of Dalton's earliest families included the Allens, Barretts, Bittings, Bivings, Blunts, Cannons, Cobbs, Emerys, Felkers, Hamiltons, Hardwicks, Hawthornes, Hills, Huffs, McCutchens, Morris, Selvidges, Thorntons, Tylers, and the Waughs.

A New England real estate syndicate bought up land in and around Cross Plains and sent Captain Edward White to lay out a town to encircle the Depot Square (land which had been deeded to the state by Mark Thornton in 1846). White envisioned the new town (later named Dalton) as an industrial center so he made the two main avenues wide and long (Thornton Avenue being one). At this time, the primary residential development lined the area directly north of the downtown commercial district along the railroad.

In 1847, when Cross Plains' name was changed to Dalton, and the town was incorporated, using White's plan with a one mile in diameter circular city limits with the depot as its center, Thornton Avenue was part of a strict gridiron plan (a feature commonplace to Georgia's nineteenth century cities). The streets immediately to the west were Jones Street (now Valley Drive) and Ridge Street. The area's residential development was not extensive at this time. In December, 1851 Dalton became the county seat of Whitfield County. The only house within the proposed district from this early period is the Ainsworth E. Blunt House built in 1848 for the first mayor and postmaster of the newly incorporated town. The house is now owned by the Whitfield-Murray Historical Society and open as a house museum.

Dalton population figures through the years are as follow:  
in 1890, 12,916; in 1900, 14,509; in 1910, 15,934; in 1920, 16,897; in 1930, 20,808; in 1940, 26,105; in 1950, 34,432; in 1960, 42,109; in 1970, 55,108; in 1980, 20,548; in 1988 the census estimate was 21,420.

When the Confederate States of America formed in February, 1861, Georgia entered as a Confederate state. While two of Whitfield County's three delegates voted against secession, the county raised and supported several Confederate regiments. During the Civil War, Dalton's citizens suffered numerous losses since the area was amidst several active battle sites. Homes along Thornton Avenue served as hospitals and camp sites for both Union and Confederate forces. General Hill was headquartered at a home on Thornton Avenue as well. It is reported that few buildings were left standing in Dalton after Federal occupation ceased; only those used as headquarters, hospitals, or commissaries by one or both armies were unharmed. Military activity within the proposed district consisted of a grand review of the Confederate army that was stationed in and around Dalton by General Joseph E. Johnston. The reviewing stand was erected on Ridge

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Street at West Hill Cemetery. All 40,000 artillery, calvary, and infantry troops marched by for inspection. The 1865 Confederate Engineers map shows the progress of development within the proposed Thornton Avenue/Murray Hill historic district.

During the Civil War, most of the downtown and adjacent areas suffered from fires and other destruction. This primed the move to Thornton Avenue following the war. Residential growth moved from the area surrounding downtown (Selvidge and Morris Street) and the railroads to the Thornton Avenue corridor soon after the Civil War (1861-1865). One of the first homes built after the war in the proposed district was that for C. D. McCutchen in 1867 (now 404 S. Thornton Ave.). In the 1870's, the land on the fringe of the downtown area began to be settled on and ultimately subdivided at the turn of the century. Two remaining built resources from the 1870's, the M. M. Jack Home Place and the Bivings House, show Dalton's reliance upon past architectural style. Both are good local examples of the continued use of classical architecture, the former of the Greek Revival and the latter of the Neo-classical styles following the Civil War. The subdivision of this area of town between 1870-1920 served as an enticement for wealthy bankers and mill owners (e.g. George and Henry Hamilton, respectively) to purchase land to build their homes in this new, fashionable area.

The area, once large tracts of land with few scattered homes with adjoining farm lands, became the most influential spot in which to build. The move to Victorian architecture began in the 1870's to the 1890's with several fine examples being constructed by the McCutchens (1867), R.I. Peak (the Hamilton-Bethel Home, 1889), and the Felkers. These early leaders of Dalton dominated industry, banking, and medicine, respectively. Construction continuously occurred along the avenue as witnessed by comparing the 1908 city map to the 1925 Sanborn Fire Insurance map. Building generally occurred on open lots that had previously been incorporated into the original home sites along the avenue. By 1925, the Thornton Avenue corridor had reached a relative saturation point. Since 1940, many homes have been demolished due to commercial development.

The presence of Temple Bethel within this neighborhood, although a non-historic structure, reflects the presence of the Jewish community within Dalton. In 1880, Mr. Hirsch who opened the first florist shop in Dalton, was recorded as the first Jew in the area. Soon after, the Lovemans moved to Dalton. Their son, Robert, was the famous Georgia poet who wrote the lyrics to the first state song. Around 1900, Mr. Herman Fox moved to Dalton and did much humanitarian work for the city. From these early families, and a general growth in the Jewish population during Dalton's prosperous period, the present synagogue found its firm religious backing.

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The first automobile owned by a local Daltonian arrived in 1903. The Oldsmobile belonged to H. L. Smith who resided at 508 S. Thornton Avenue. This advancement in transportation soon made paved roads a necessity for Dalton. The citizens demanded more than one brick-paved street within the city boundaries. This, along with many other social improvements, were occurring during the first decade of the twentieth century. Modern lighting, water, and sewer plants were functioning for the residents of Dalton prior to 1915.

Industry played an enormous role in the development of Dalton as a leading city in northwest Georgia and to the region as a whole. Many of the leading manufacturing companies of Dalton had contributed to the social well-being of the area since the 1880s. The wealthy owners chose prime residential sites along the prestigious Thornton Avenue. The numerous high-style homes built during this period throughout the Thornton Avenue/Murray Hill historic district can be attributed to this fact. In the December 12, 1924 issue of the Atlanta Journal, Harlee Branch listed the prime attributes of Dalton, including the following industries: Crown Cotton Mills, 50,000 spindles, manufacturing duck; Dalton Hosiery Mills, manufacturing 750 dozen pairs of silk hose a day and shipping a large part of its output to Cuba and South America; Duane Chair Company, which shipped its products to Chicago and other western furniture centers; Dalton Brick and Tile Company, which manufactured shale face brick and building tile; four big lumber manufacturing concerns, Farrar Lumber Company, Cherokee Manufacturing Company, Brooker Lumber Company and Acme Lumber Company (which developed the Murray Hill subdivision development); Smith Tent and Awning Manufacturing Company; two ice plants; Barrett, Denton, and Lynn Company, flour mills; and the A. J. Showalter Company, commercial printers, binders and publishers; Manly Jail Works; also in Dalton were three foundries and machine shops, two marble and granite works, two cotton gins, three steam laundries, two bottling works, and the American Thread Company. This impressive list of industries operated and prospered in Dalton up until the Great Depression (1929-1941).

While not all factories survived the Depression, a new industry developed that would change the pattern of industry in Dalton. A local Dalton farm girl, Catherine Evans, sold a hand-tufted bedspread around 1900. From this beginning, women from all backgrounds participated in this "cottage" industry. This industry carried numerous families through an incredibly desperate period.

Following the Great Depression, industry resumed at a rapid rate and Dalton was soon known as "The Chenille Capital of the World" (a precursor of the later carpet industry). Mechanization, which had developed in Dalton in the 1920's and 1930's, gave the owners of these

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manufacturing operations the means and determination to build their private homes along the prestigious Thornton Avenue.

Professionals and managers of the textile plants possibly could have been among the first to settle in the newly developed Murray Hill area as its development coincided with that of Dalton's textile and carpet industry. The Acme Lumber and Supply Company, owned by W.H. Lumpkin, initially developed the houses within the Murray Hill area. The lumber supply business opened in 1927 under the ownership of S.R. Brenton, but was sold to Lumpkin in 1928. The original plant was located on North Thornton Avenue. The company prided itself on having every material necessary for constructing homes or businesses. They also offered house plans as well as the building materials.

In 1936 and 1937, W. H. Lumpkin and the Acme Lumber Company bought tracts of land west of Thornton Avenue in what was then known as the "Red Clay Hill" from various owners. Each of the areas were surveyed as part of a greater whole and were named Williamsburg, Emory (now Emory), Murray Hill, Hamilton Heights, and Fairview. The lots became available to the general public in 1937. An advertisement in the September 2, 1937 edition of the Dalton Citizen carried the following wording:

Drive Through the New, Beautiful Murray Hill Division  
New Homes Going up Rapidly---Restricted Residences  
Will grow fast...Every city convenience, three minutes walk  
from center of city.

Acme Lumber Company

Following its subdivision, the area began to be more densely populated, and eventually Mr. Lumpkin renamed the entire area "Murray Hill." Most of the homes were built by Acme Lumber, and if unable to be sold, they were rented until they could be sold.

The buildings in this well-preserved historic district tell the story of the development and growth of a primarily agricultural and railroad town into a strong industrial city. The district shows the development of two residential neighborhoods long associated with many of the citizens who actively participated in the development and growth of Dalton. A visit to the historic cemetery reminds us of the many citizens who played an important role in the development of Dalton as well as the Thornton Avenue/Murray Hill Historic District.



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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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McMahon, Lisa (consultant). "Thornton Avenue/Murray Hill Historic District." Historic Property Information Form, October 13, 1990. On file at the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

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 Blunt House 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
- (X) Other, Specify Repository: The Crown Gardens and Archives operated by the Whitfield-Murray Historical Society, Inc., contains a great deal more information about this area than found in this nomination. Also, several other historic districts have been listed on the National Register from Dalton, all of which contain information concerning the history of this community.

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):N/A

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** approx. 110 acres.

**UTM References**

- A) Zone 16 Easting 685480 Northing 3849360
- B) Zone 16 E 685670 N 3849000
- C) Zone 16 E 685530 N 3848400
- D) Zone 16 E 685170 N 3848740
- E) Zone 16 E 684770 N 3849040
- F) Zone 16 E 685040 N 3849360

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is all the historic properties within the designated areas cited above. It is essentially one quadrant of the city with other historic properties nearby in other quadrants. The boundary is marked on the enclosed planning map, the only legible map showing property boundary lines. It includes historic residential properties along Thornton Avenue, the historic portion of the city cemetery, and the subdivided land between them which forms the Thornton Avenue/Murray Hill neighborhood.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property includes all the eligible historic properties in this northern portion of the southwest quadrant of the city of Dalton. This was the only area studied for this district. Other properties have already been nominated in other quadrants and future historic districts may yet be nominated south of this one. This was the largest, manageable historic district possible from this particular area.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**name/title** Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian  
**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** April 6, 1992

(HPS form version 10-29-91)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Photographs

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**Name of Property:** Thornton Ave./Murray Hill Historic District  
**City or Vicinity:** Dalton  
**County:** Whitfield  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** September, 1991

**Description of Photograph(s):**

- 1 of 33. Southeastern edge of the district, one historic building (700 S. Thornton Ave.) just south of Franklin St., photographer facing west.
- 2 of 33. Southeastern edge of the district, one historic building just south of Franklin St., and Hamilton-Bethel House (622 S. Thornton Ave.) just north of Franklin St., photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of 33. Mann-Boyd House (614 S. Thornton Ave.) on west side of South Thornton Ave., between Franklin and Emory Streets, photographer facing northwest.
- 4 of 33. Hamilton-Johnson House (600 S. Thornton Ave.) on west side of South Thornton Ave., at intersection of Emory St., photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 33. Smith-Rodkin House (508 S. Thornton Ave.) just south of the Blunt House, South Thornton Ave., photographer facing northwest.
- 6 of 33. Ainsworth E. Blunt House (NR) (506 S. Thornton Ave.), west side of South Thornton Ave., photographer facing northwest.
- 7 of 33. McCutchen-Boring House (404 S. Thornton Ave.), an Italianate style house just north of Church St., west side of South Thornton Ave., photographer facing northwest.
- 8 of 33. Felker House (400 S. Thornton Ave.), a Queen Anne Style house near Church St. intersection, west side of South Thornton Ave., photographer facing west.
- 9 of 33. Davies Jewelry Store, former Methodist Parsonage, 112 South Thornton Ave. at W. Cuyler St., photographer facing northwest.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
**Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

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10 of 33. House on south side of W. Cuyler St. facing Valley Dr.,  
photographer facing southwest.

11 of 33. House at northwest corner of intersection of West Cuyler St.  
and Valley Dr., photographer facing northwest.

12 of 33. West side of Lynn Street, photographer facing southwest.

13 of 33. West Hill Cemetery, older section, north east quadrant, just  
past Wilkins St., photographer facing southwest.

14 of 33. Northern edge of district along Ridge St., just south of  
West Crawford St., photographer looking northwest.

15 of 33. Northern edge of district, the south side of West Crawford  
St., photographer looking southwest.

16 of 33. Northern edge of district, south side of West Crawford St.,  
near intersection of Valley Dr., photographer looking southwest.

17 of 33. Northwest corner, intersection of Murray Hill St. and Valley  
Dr., photographer facing northwest.

18 of 33. Southwest corner, intersection of Murray Hill St. and Valley  
Dr., photographer facing southwest.

19 of 33. North side of Williamsburg St., at Valley Dr., photographer  
facing northwest.

20 of 33. Apartment building (502 Valley Dr.), west side of Valley  
Dr., photographer facing west.

21 of 33. Temple Bethel (1947), east side of Valley Dr., at Church  
St., photographer facing northeast.

22 of 33. House at northwest corner of Valley Dr. and Emory St.,  
photographer facing southwest.

23 of 33. 600 and 604 Kenilworth Court, photographer facing north.

24 of 33. Fairview Dr., photographer facing northwest.

25 of 33. Fairview Dr., photographer facing southwest.

26 of 33. Williamsburg St., at Fairview Dr., photographer facing  
northeast.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Photographs**

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27 of 33. Fairview Dr, northwest corner intersection with Williamsburg, photographer facing northwest.

28 of 33. Intersection of Fairview Dr. and Williamsburg St., photographer facing west.

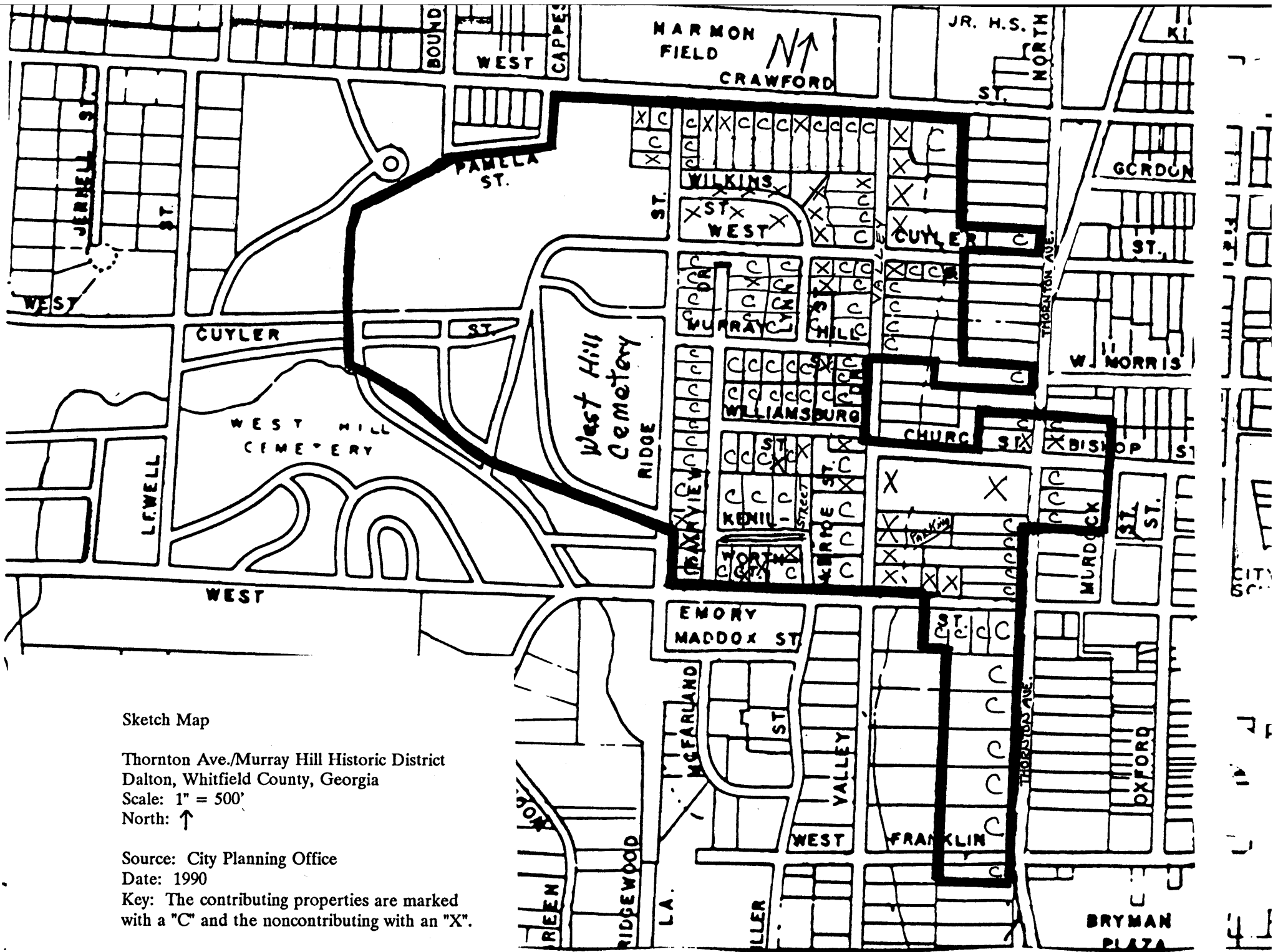
29 of 33. Northwest corner, intersection of Lynn St., and Murray Hill, photographer facing west/southwest.

30 of 33. Northwest corner, intersection of Lynn St., and Murray Hill, photographer facing northwest.

31 of 33. West Hill Cemetery, oldest portion, between W. Cuyler and Murray Hill, looking toward Ridge St., photographer facing east.

32 of 33. Chapel/office, West Hill Cemetery, photographer facing southwest.

33 of 33. West Hill Cemetery, old section, south of Murray Hill, photographer facing south.



Sketch Map

Thornton Ave./Murray Hill Historic District  
Dalton, Whitfield County, Georgia

Scale: 1" = 500'

North: ↑

Source: City Planning Office

Date: 1990

Key: The contributing properties are marked  
with a "C" and the noncontributing with an "X".

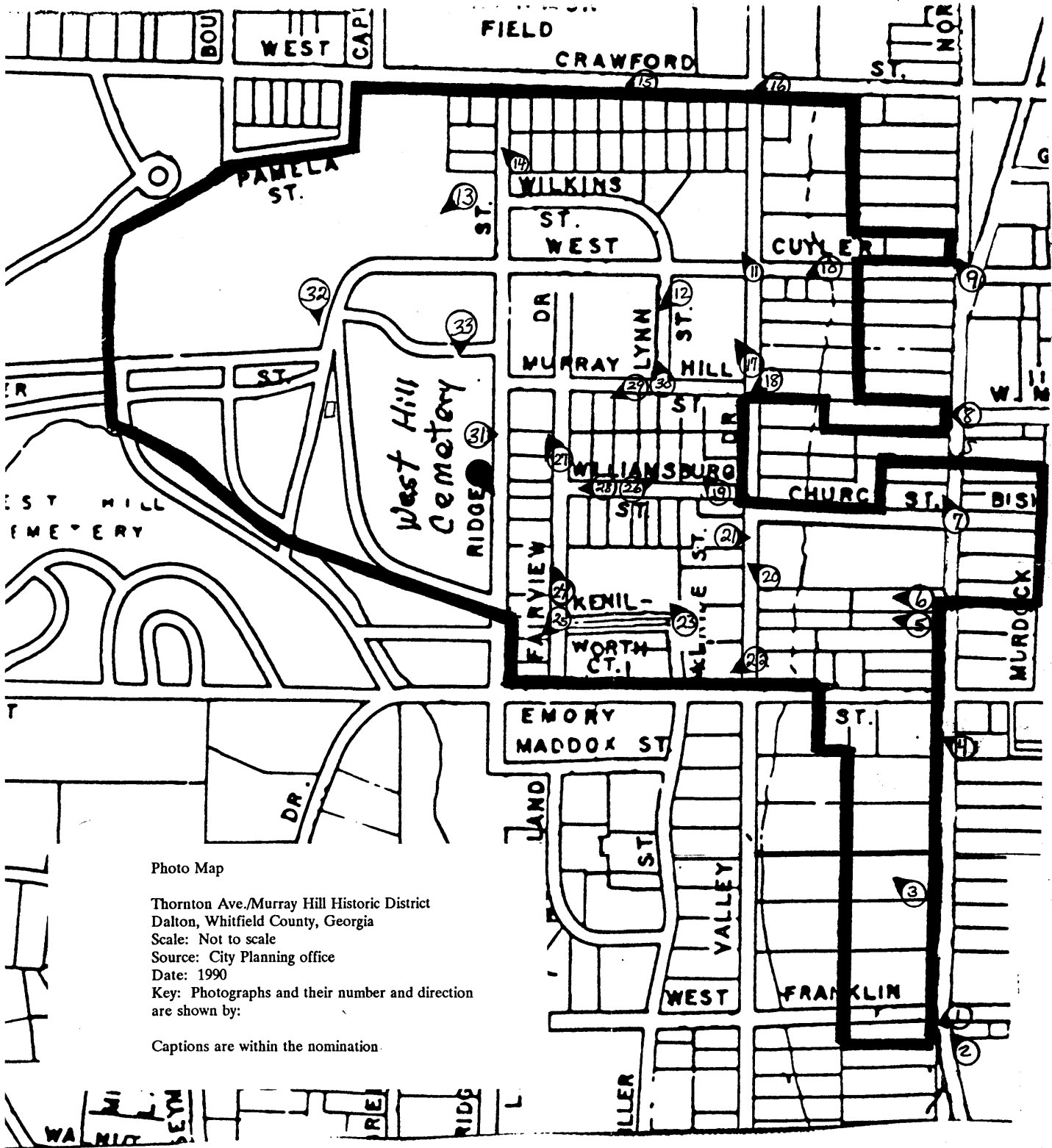


Photo Map

Thornton Ave./Murray Hill Historic District  
 Dalton, Whitfield County, Georgia

Scale: Not to scale

Source: City Planning office

Date: 1990

Key: Photographs and their number and direction are shown by:

Captions are within the nomination.