



**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.

Richard Cloves  
Signature of certifying official

1-5-00  
Date

~~6~~ W. Ray Luce  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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

Edson H. Beall 2/10/00

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  
INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility  
RELIGION/religious facility  
EDUCATION/school  
FUNERARY/cemetery  
COMMERCE/TRADE/department store  
COMMERCE/TRADE/general store  
LANDSCAPE/natural feature  
TRANSPORTATION/rail-related  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding

### Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
RELIGION/religious facility  
SOCIAL/meeting hall  
FUNERARY/cemetery  
GOVERNMENT/post office  
LANDSCAPE/natural landscape  
TRANSPORTATION/rail-related  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding  
VACANT/NOT IN USE

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival  
LATE VICTORIAN/Folk Victorian  
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/Craftsman

### Materials:

**foundation** Brick, stone, and concrete  
**walls** wood and vinyl  
**roof** metal and asphalt  
**other** n/a

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Boneville Historic District is an unincorporated rural community located near the center of McDuffie County approximately five miles southeast of Thomson, the county seat. The district encompasses residential, commercial, industrial, and community landmark buildings; a historic mill pond/recreational lake; and the Georgia Railroad tracks. The Georgia Railroad alignment runs

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parallel to Boneville Road (see Attachment 1). The center of the Boneville community is "sandwiched" between US Highway 78 and the Georgia Railroad. A mill pond is located in the far southeastern corner of the district.

The remaining historic residences, constructed from the late 19th century into the mid-20th century, are primarily located on large lots oriented towards Boneville Road and the Georgia Railroad, completed through Boneville in 1837. The historic residences are predominately one-story, wood-framed buildings with little stylistic elements. The architectural types represented within the district include central hallway, Georgian cottage, double-pen cottage, gabled ell cottage, pyramid cottage, bungalow, and Georgian House. The historic residence/Resource 3 located north of the intersection of Boneville Road and Georgia Railroad is a representative example of the types of historic residences located within the district. The central hallway-type cottage is a one-story building constructed in 1880 and features a steeply pitched, gable-end roof; centrally located front door flanked by four-over-four double-hung windows; and one exterior, gable-end chimney (see photo 3).

The historic residence/Resource 11 located on Boneville Road is another representative example of the architectural types represented within the district. The gabled ell cottage was built c.1880 and features a front-projecting gable, a gable-end roof, weatherboard exterior wall cladding, one exterior and one interior chimney, and brick foundation piers. Folk Victorian-style detailing, consisting of decorative shingles, is located in the gable of the front-projecting gable (see photo 15).

The only two-story residence is the Smith-Hunt-Doughty House/Resource 8 located west of the intersection of Boneville Road and the Georgia Railroad. The Georgian House-type residence is one of a few buildings within the district that dominates the landscape. The two-story, wood-framed residence was constructed in 1881 and then remodeled c.1920. It is the only residence within the district oriented towards the Boneville Mill Pond/Camellia Lake. The residence features a gable-end roof; two interior chimneys; a two-story, full-width front portico with a cantilevered second-story porch in the central bay (c.1920 addition); a one-story side porch added to the northern elevation (c.1920 addition); symmetrical front facade with a centrally located main door with sidelights; and a one-story wing (historically functioned as the kitchen) added to the southern elevation in 1910 (see photo 5). The house was originally oriented towards the railroad tracks, but the addition of the two-story portico c.1920 changed the front facade from the northern elevation to the eastern elevation (towards the mill pond).

The two remaining historic commercial resources include a c.1910 wood-framed store, the Lavigno Store (Resource 13), located along Boneville Road and a brick, one-story commercial building/Resource 10. The Lavigno Store is a one-story, wood-framed, gable-front, one-room building with a centrally located front door (see photo 13). The second store now functions as the U.S. Post Office and features masonry construction with a parapet roof, Folk Victorian-style detailing

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consisting of a corbel table of decorative brickwork along the cornice, symmetrical front facade with a centrally located main entrance with a Colonial Revival-style broken triangular pediment added during the 1970s (see photo 14).

The community landmark buildings include the Boneville Mill, the Boneville United Methodist Church and Cemetery, and Boneville School. The Boneville Mill/Resource 20 was constructed c.1845 and is still standing, but in very poor condition. The mill is a two-story, ten-bay, side-gable building with a cupola. The building features a raised-seam metal roof, weatherboard wall cladding, post-and-beam structural system (comprised of hand-hewn vertical posts and horizontal beams mortised together), and tall stone piers and foundation walls. Intact interior features include the mill wheel, gears, and granite machine housing. The mill stones are located within the building but not in the original locations (see photos 7-12).

The Boneville United Methodist Church/Resource 18, located between Boneville Road and US Highway 78, was built in 1902. The one-story, gable-front church features a steeply-pitched roof, boxed eaves, cornice returns, symmetrical front and side elevations, and a centrally located main entrance with long, narrow four-over-four double-hung windows located on either side of the main entrance (see photo 19). The side elevations are divided into three bays with three windows located along the east elevation and two windows and an entrance (original) along the west elevation. A modern addition with artificial siding has been added to the rear elevation. The cemetery is located just west of the church. The cemetery contains several hundred burials with common and very decorative markers, cast-iron fencing, and stone curbing (see photo 20).

The Boneville School/Resource 17 is situated on the same property as the Boneville United Methodist Church and Cemetery. The one-room, gable-front school was built in 1903 and features a raised-seam metal roof, boxed eaves, weatherboard wall cladding, a centrally located main door, paired six-over-six windows, and brick foundation piers (see photo 21).

The historic landscaping encompasses curvilinear roads, railroad tracks, large rectangular lots, open fields, a stone fence, remains of a mill race, and a mill pond (also known as Camellia Lake). The community is planned along the Georgia Railroad with large, rectangular lots. The buildings are situated near the center of the lots with mature hardwood trees, foundation plantings, and grassed yards. Open fields are located along the edges of the district and feature pasture land and wooded lots. The mill pond/Camellia Lake is a natural feature that provided water to run the wheel of the Boneville Mill. During the 1930s, the mill pond/Camellia Lake functioned as a recreational spot with a bath house and gazebo called Camellia Lake. Remains of the bath house and gazebo are located on the north side of the mill pond.

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Boneville has remained a small town in a largely rural area of McDuffie County. There has been little modern development within or outside of the National Register boundary.

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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 AND DEVELOPMENT  
INDUSTRY  
EDUCATION  
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance:**

c.1845-1935

**Significant Dates:**

c.1845                      Boneville Mill established.  
Mid-1800s to 1935      Construction of the buildings within the district

**Significant Person(s):**

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation:**

n/a

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

Unknown.

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### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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#### **Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The Boneville Historic District encompasses the historic residential, commercial, industrial, and community landmark resources associated with the development of a small rural community in McDuffie County, Georgia. The district is significant in the areas of architecture, community planning and development, industry, education, entertainment/recreation, and landscape architecture at the local level of significance.

The Boneville Historic District is significant in the area of architecture for its excellent collection of residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings. Construction of the buildings in Boneville began during the mid-19th century; however, most of the remaining historic buildings date from the late 19th century to the early 20th century. The two oldest remaining buildings within the district date from c.1845 (Boneville Mill/Resource 20) and 1873 (the Rock Lavigno House/Resource 2). The significant architectural types represented within the district include Georgian cottage, central hallway, gabled ell cottage, double-pen cottage, pyramid cottage, bungalow, and Georgian House, as defined in the *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Setting* context.

The Rock Lavigno House/Resource 2, constructed in 1873, is the oldest remaining residence located within the district. The house is an excellent example of the Georgian cottage. The character-defining features include its steeply pitched, side-gable roof; gable-end chimneys; weatherboard cladding; full-width shed porch; and a centrally located main entrance which opens into a central hallway with two rooms on either side of the hallway (see photo 17). Houses of this type were built in almost all periods of Georgia's history, well into the 20th century, but the greatest concentration is between 1850 and 1890.

The central hallway type is one of the most commonly found architectural types within the district. Resource 15, located on Boneville Road, is an excellent representative example of the central hallway-type cottage within the district. The character-defining features of the c.1880 residence include its steeply pitched, gable-end roof with chimneys; weatherboard cladding; full-width front porch; nine-over-nine double-hung windows; centrally located main entrance with side lights; and the main entrance opens into a central hallway with a room located on either side of the hallway (see photo 18). Another excellent example of the central hallway type within the district is the c.1880 residence, Resource 3, located north of the intersection of Boneville Road and the Georgia Railroad. Resource 3 features the same character-defining features as Resource 15 (see photo 3). The type seems to be fairly evenly distributed across the state, appearing mainly on average-sized farmsteads and on principal residential streets in Georgia's towns and cities. Most examples were built between 1830 and 1930, with clusters occurring in the periods 1840 to 1860 and 1870 to 1890.



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Another significant architectural type represented within the district is the pyramid cottage. Resource 12 is an excellent representative example of this type. The character-defining features of Resource 12 include its square massing, pyramidal roof with center chimney, and integral front porch (see Attachment 2). Most pyramid cottages were built between 1910 and 1930. The type seems to have been more popular in the regions between the Fall Line and the Coast, in rural sections, and on the fringes of towns in Georgia.

The gabled ell cottage is well represented within the district. Resource 11, constructed c.1880, is an excellent representative example of a gabled ell cottage located within the district. The character-defining features include its front-projecting gable, gable-end central massing, weatherboard cladding, four-over-four double-hung windows, and centrally located front door (see photo 15). Fairly evenly distributed across Georgia, the gabled ell cottage was popular in both rural and urban areas and in both modest and well-to-do neighborhoods. Its period of greatest popularity was 1875 to 1915.

The Smith-Hunt-Doughty House/Resource 8 is the only historic two-story residence within the district. The residence, built c.1881, is an excellent example of the Georgian House type. The character-defining features of the residence include its two-story height, gable-end roof with two interior chimneys, and a centrally located main entrance which opens into a central hallway with two rooms located on either side of both one- and two-story central hallways (see photo 5). Although the two-story house is less numerous than the one-story cottage, particularly in rural settings, it too was popular from the first decades of the 19th century well into the 20th century. Most examples of the type, however, were built in the periods 1850 to 1860 and 1900 to 1930, chiefly in the larger towns and cities. The historic landscaping associated with the Smith-Hunt Doughty House/Resource 8 includes an unusual low stone retaining wall located along Boneville Road (see photo 6).

The two remaining commercial resources include a c.1910 wood-framed building, the Lavigno Store/Resource 9, and a brick one-story building/Resource 10, now functioning as the Boneville US Post Office. The Lavigno Store/Resource 9 is a good representative example of the type of store found in Georgia's rural towns. The character-defining features of the store include its one-story height, gable-front roof, board-and-batten exterior cladding, centrally located main entrance opening into one open room (see photo 13). Once common, small wooden commercial buildings are increasingly rare in Georgia. The second historic store, Resource 10, is a good example of a brick store representing the Folk Victorian style. The character-defining features of the building include its one-story height, flat roof with parapet and brick coping, decorative corbel table, decorative brick arches over the windows and main door (see photo 14). The Colonial Revival-style door surround was added during the 1970s.

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The community landmark buildings include the Boneville United Methodist Church and Cemetery, Boneville School, and Boneville Mill. The Boneville United Methodist Church/Resource 18 is a good example of the type of church found in Georgia's small rural towns. The character-defining features of the church includes its gable-front roof; cornice returns; long, narrow, four-over-four double-hung windows, and centrally located main entrance with double wooden doors (see photo 19). The historic cemetery is located adjacent (to the west) of the church. Burials in the cemetery date to the mid-19th century, and the cemetery features cast-iron fencing and stone curbing (see photo 18). Also located on the same property with the church and cemetery is the Boneville School/Resource 17. The school is a good example of the type of school found in Georgia's small rural towns. The character-defining features of the school include its gable-front roof, weatherboard cladding, and centrally located main entrance opening into one large room (see photo 17).

The Boneville Mill/Resource 20 is in poor condition; however, is still a good example of a manufacturing mill in rural Georgia. The remaining character-defining features of the mill include its two-story height; long rectangular massing with a gable-end roof and cupola; weatherboard cladding; post-and-beam structural system featuring hand-hewn vertical posts and horizontal beams mortised together; and stone foundations and retaining walls. Many of the significant interior features, such as the mill wheel, granite machine housing, and gears have remained intact (see photos 7 to 12). The mill's raceway is dry and overgrown. The Boneville Mill is a unusually large and relatively old wood-framed mill building still extant in Georgia. According to the Georgia Historic Resources Survey, only 17 out of 47,764 properties were identified as wood-framed mills constructed from 1840 to 1850. Even though the Boneville Mill has lost some historic fabric, it retains more of its historic materials than most of the other identified mills.

The district is significant in the area of community planning and development for its significant development of the community as a railroad strip town, as defined in the *Georgia Community Development and Morphology of Community Types* context written by Dr. Darlene Roth in 1989. The railroad strip development is the most common railroad community form found in Georgia. In this model, the main road(s) run parallel to the railroad tracks. The most distinguishing feature is that the tracks run right down the middle of the town. There are few grade crossings; they usually occur at the edges of the community. The Boneville Historic District is an excellent example of this type of community plan. The Georgia Railroad tracks run down the center of the community. Boneville Road runs parallel along the tracks until the road forks north and south at the far eastern edge of the Boneville community (see Attachment 1, National Register Map, and USGS Topographic Map).

The district is significant in the area of industry for the significant activities that took place at the Boneville Mill. Boneville Mill, also known as the Boneville Factory, was constructed c.1845 and was used in the manufacturing of "cards" or "carders," which were used for the "carding" of cotton and wool. The process of "carding" consisted of the cleaning and untangling the wool or cotton before

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the materials were put through the spinning process. The mill was sold in 1872 and the function of the mill changed. The mill no longer was used for the manufacturing of "cards" but for the manufacturing of flour, meal, and shoes. The mill was sold in 1877 and operated as a saw and grist mill. The mill continued to change hands over the years, but remained in production as a grist mill. The mill was damaged during a flood in 1941 and has remained vacant since that time. The mill played a highly significant role in the founding and early growth of Boneville. The mill provided employment for many of the early residents of Boneville.

The district is significant in the area of education for the community's establishment of the Boneville School. In 1903, land was donated for the construction of a school to educate the children of Boneville. The Boneville School was constructed in 1903 and functioned as a rural school until 1926. During mid-1890s to the early 1930s, education in Georgia was changing. Multi-story schools replaced small one-story schools in the cities but the one-story, one-room schools were still being constructed in the rural areas of Georgia. Larger schools were being constructed in Georgia's larger towns and county seats to accommodate the growing number of families moving from the rural area to the city during the late 1920s and early 1930s. Also during this period, Georgia's school systems actively participated in the consolidation of the numerous rural schools into centralized, larger schools located in urban areas. In McDuffie County, school consolidation began in 1921 and ended in 1933. It was during this trend in 1926 that the rural Boneville School was closed and the students traveled to the consolidated school in Thomson, the county seat of McDuffie County. The one-room school is a disappearing and threatened resource in Georgia; the Boneville School is a significant resource in Boneville as well as in the state. According to the Georgia Historic Resources Survey, less than one percent (61 out of 47,674 properties) of the state's surveyed properties were identified as one-room schools.

The district is significant in the area of entertainment/recreation for the function of the Smith-Hunt-Doughty House/Resource 8 as the Dixie Inn and Tea Room, and the inn's association to the Boneville Mill Pond, also known as Camellia Lake. When Clyde Forrest Hunt owned the Smith-Hunt-Doughty House/Resource 8 during the early 20th century, he used his house as an inn named Dixie Inn. Hunt was associated with the Knox Hotel in Thomson (the Knox Hotel is a contributing building within the Thomson Commercial Historic District listed June 9, 1989). When the Knox Hotel was full, the overflow of guests were sent to the Dixie Inn. Tourists would travel from Thomson as well as Augusta to stay at the Dixie Inn. Hunt renamed the mill pond from Boneville Mill Pond to Camellia Lake and constructed a bath house and gazebo to create a resort-like environment. The remains of the bath house and gazebo are still discernible on the north side of Camellia Lake.

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#### National Register Criteria

The Boneville Historic District is eligible under National Register Criterion A for its development of a resort area associated with the Smith-Hunt-Doughty House/Dixie Inn, intact railroad strip community plan, industrial development, and educational history. The district is eligible under National Register Criterion C for its excellent collection of residential, commercial, industrial, and community landmark buildings.

#### Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

#### Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Boneville Historic District begins in c.1845 with the construction of the Boneville Mill and ends in 1935, the date of the last historic building was constructed within the district.

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

The 23 contributing resources encompass 19 historic dwellings; 3 historic structures consisting of the intact railroad-strip plan, a historic stone retaining wall associated with the Smith-Hunt-Doughty House, and the Georgia Railroad tracks; and 1 site consisting of the Boneville Mill Pond/Camellia Lake. The 1 noncontributing resource consists of a building that was built before 1935, but has lost historic integrity due to alterations.

#### Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

**\*\*Note: The following history was prepared by John A. Kissane, "Boneville Historic District," Historic District Information Form, August 1997. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

Located near the center of McDuffie County, approximately five miles southeast of the county seat community of Thomson, Boneville has existed as a named location since as early as the 1840s and owes its existence to the establishment of the "Boneville Factory" in approximately 1845. McDuffie County was originally within the Georgia Colony's St. Paul Parish, and in 1777 part of this parish became Richmond County. In 1790, Richmond County was divided to create Columbia County, and by the middle of the next century the growth of Thomson initiated discussion of the possible formation of a new county. Such a need was expressed because of the considerable distance

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between Thomson and Appling, the county seat of Columbia County. On 18 October 1870, McDuffie County was formally created by an act of the Georgia legislature and Thomson was established as the county seat.

Details concerning establishment of the Boneville Mill (the common name of the building, though it was originally known as Boneville Factory) remain somewhat uncertain. The generally accepted story among present and former residents of the community is that the mill was begun prior to the Civil War by John B. Bones of Augusta and a man with the last name Brown. The first use of the structure was the manufacture of implements known as "cards" or "carders," which were used for the "carding" of cotton and wool, a processing step completed prior to the spinning of these materials. According to George White's *Statistics of the State of Georgia* (1849), there was "one wool carding establishment" in Columbia County in 1849, and it is quite possible that this facility was at Boneville (or "Bonesville," as the community was first known and appears on early maps; one theory as to why the 's' was dropped is that the town was frequently being confused with the Lamar County town Barnesville). The Georgia Railroad was completed through what was then Columbia County in 1837, providing a convenient means of transportation, and census records indicate that John Bones lived in Richmond County, in Augusta's 2nd ward, in the 1850s and 1860s. So, on all accounts, a mid- to late-1840s date for the mill building seems reasonable.

The Boneville Manufacturing Company was chartered by a group of 34 Columbia County businessmen in 1864, and the facility was capitalized at \$500,000 for the manufacture of cotton carders. The charter states that \$100,000 cash was raised for this undertaking. It is likely that activities at the mill came to a halt at some point during the Civil War, and in any case the property was sold by J. R. Wilson (one of the original charter-holders) to James S. Shields on 1 January 1870. The Boneville Manufacturing Company was reorganized and refinanced in April of 1872, the new owners including James S. Shields, James L. Shields, E. A. Shields, John G. Colwell, and J. J. Morris. No longer intended to manufacture cotton and wool cards, the new company stated its purpose as being "to manufacture flour, meal and shoes and dispose of the same." The newly reorganized Boneville Manufacturing Company apparently had difficulties, for in July of 1872 John G. Colwell withdrew from the company and in December of 1872 the company was dissolved. James S. and E. A. Shields and J. J. Morris purchased the mill and "mill houses" and the "store house and mercantile business." The entire mill property (then 56 acres) was sold by James S. Shields to George P. Stovall for \$4,000 in 1877. Stovall operated the property as a saw and grist mill, and after just four years sold the property (on 1 January 1881) to William Shepherd Smith and his son William Wesley Smith for \$2,000 plus the Smith Mill property on Maddox Creek. The Smith-Hunt-Doughty House was probably constructed in 1881 or within a year or two thereafter.

Simeon D. Granade was significant property owner in the Boneville vicinity during the mid-19th century, and in July of 1873 he sold 50 acres of land adjacent to the Georgia Railroad to Rock

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Lavigno. The oldest residential property standing in Boneville today is the ca. 1873 Rock Lavigno House, which presently vacant remains in the Lavigno family to this day. The Lavignos have played an especially important role in Boneville's history. Rock Lavigno, who came to the United States from Italy, eventually owned approximately 100 acres and raised a variety of crops on his land. He utilized the railroad for the transport of items such as cantaloupes, watermelons and other produce; buyers would come to Boneville to bid on these items and ship them away in vented railroad cars. The family also operated Lavigno Mercantile Company in a small commercial building near where the Boneville Post Office now stands, and Rock Lavigno's son Lawson was postmaster at Boneville for thirty-six years. The Lavigno farm included a syrup mill that was utilized by many people in the Boneville community. The present owner of the property is Bill Lavigno of Dearing, who was a conductor with the Georgia Railroad for several decades while living at Boneville.

As a community, Boneville was apparently well enough established by 1881 to necessitate the founding of Boneville United Methodist Church. Mrs. Wesley Smith was one of the key individuals involved with getting the church established. Land for a church building was donated 1902 by M. W. Fuller and his daughter, Bessie Fuller Rogers. Work on the church was started immediately and George W. Simons and Joe DeMedicis served as contractors. Many men in the community donated labor for the building's construction and their wives cooked meals during the project. In 1960 it was determined that Sunday school rooms were needed, and the following year five Sunday school rooms and a recreation hall were added to the rear of the original church building at a cost of \$6,000.

William Shepherd Smith, who also operated a second mill near Wrightsboro on Maddox Creek, was recognized in McDuffie County as an especially proficient builder and also made furniture. He apparently built the Smith-Hunt-Doughty House with the assistance of a brother, and some accounts have it that the pair constructed a nearly identical dwelling northeast of Thomson on Cobham Road. Smith operated the mill primarily as a cotton mill during his period of ownership. Smith's son, William Wesley Smith, apparently operated the mill for a time after his father.

In 1903 land for the Boneville School was donated to the Trustees of Boneville Schools by Mrs. Bessie Rogers. The small building was soon constructed and functioned as a rural school until 1926, when children from the area began attending Thomson schools. The school building has been used by the Boneville Home Demonstration Club since 1960, when the McDuffie County Board of Education deeded the property to this organization. The building is now the property of the Boneville United Methodist Church.

In September of 1903 the mill property was sold by William Wesley Smith to the Thomson Investment Company. The mill was used primarily as a grist mill while owned by Thomson Investment Company, producing corn meal. Although the year is not known, it was during the first two decades of the 20th century that the Smith-Hunt-Doughty House was first utilized as the "Dixie

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Inn and Tea Room." Clyde Forrest (C. F.) Hunt was the primary shareholder in the Thomson Investment Company and was apparently behind the development of the house into an inn. This operation was associated with the Knox Hotel in Thomson, and when the Knox Hotel was fully occupied additional guests would be sent to Boneville to stay at the Dixie Inn. Willie Belle Lavigno, wife of Lawson Lavigno, managed the Dixie Inn during the late 1920s. The mill pond, which Hunt named "Camellia Lake," was supplemented with a bath house and gazebo, and the site became a popular recreational attraction and picnic spot for people in Thomson, Augusta, and the surrounding area. Many people arrived at Boneville via the railroad, and the combined operation of the Dixie Inn and Camellia Lake took on the air of a resort for a time.

In 1936, the mill property was sold by Thomson Investment Company to C. F. Hunt. For the next several years, Hunt continued to operate the mill which he had named "Camellia Lake Mill" after the numerous camellia plants he had established on the property. Hunt's large nursery also included azaleas, tea olives, and a variety of bulbs (some of these plants are still visible on the property today). The mill was utilized to grind corn and wheat during the late 1930s, these products being sold in flour sacks designed by Hunt's daughter, Dorothy Hunt Doughty, and bearing the name "Camellia Mill." C. F. Hunt died in 1940, and in 1941 a disastrous flood put the mill out of commission. The mill pond rose rapidly and broke through the road that separated it from the mill site and water rushed downhill toward the mill. Though the road was soon replaced, the mill never again functioned.

During drought conditions in 1985, the city of Thomson briefly used the Boneville Mill pond to supplement the city water supply. The old raceway was altered during this work and has resulted in continued flooding of the mill whenever the pond rises above a certain level.

Boneville has not thrived since Hunt's death and the loss of the mill as a viable industry and source of employment for the community. Passenger train service in the community ended in the 1950s, certainly another set-back. Nevertheless, all but two of the dwellings that make up the historic district are presently occupied, most are in good repair and retain historic integrity, and the Boneville Post Office continues to function. The Smith-Hunt-Doughty House has been unoccupied for approximately thirty years but has been stabilized, and there are hopes that it will be utilized for a worthwhile purpose in the near future.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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- Lavigno, William W. II. Former resident of the Boneville community. Interviews, 13 February and 21 March, 1997.
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- Majette, Mary Ellen Wilson. *Mary Ellen: Growing Up in the South, 1897-1924*. Privately printed memoir. 1994.
- McCommons, Leila Boswell, and Clara Elizabeth Stovall, compilers. *History of McDuffie County, Georgia*. Sponsored by the Ida Evans Eve chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. Thomson, Georgia. 1930. (Reprinted 1988 by Boyd Publishing Company, Tignall, Georgia.)
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- McDuffie County Tax Records.
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- Moore, Patricia. President of the Columbia County Historical Society. Interview, 18 March 1997.
- Roth, Darlene R. "Georgia Community Development and Morphology of Community Types." 1989.
- Thorne, Betty Jean. Resident of the Boneville community. Interview, 13 February 1997.
- White, George. *Statistics of the State of Georgia*. Savannah: W. Thorne Williams. 1849.



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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section 9--Major Bibliographic References**

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Zachary, Mary. Owner of the Boneville Mill, mill pond and former inn property. Interview, 23 February 1997.

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

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested**
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued  
date issued:**
- previously listed in the National Register**
- 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:**

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

**Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): MF245 to MF261**

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreege of Property**                      Approximately 80 acres.

**UTM References**

A)	Zone 17	Easting 366860	Northing 3700040
B)	Zone 17	Easting 366860	Northing 3699800
C)	Zone 17	Easting 366420	Northing 3699600
D)	Zone 17	Easting 365620	Northing 3700380
E)	Zone 17	Easting 365700	Northing 3700440

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary for the Boneville Historic District is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached USGS topographical map and the attached National Register Map.

**Boundary Justification**

The National Register boundary for the Boneville Historic District includes the contiguous resources associated with the development of the Boneville community.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**State Historic Preservation Office**

**name/title** Amy Pallante/National Register Specialist  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**street & number** 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303  
**telephone** (404) 656-2840 **date** November 1999

**Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable)**                      ( ) not applicable

**name/title** John A. Kissane/Historic Preservation consultant  
**organization**  
**street and number** 310 Three Oaks Drive  
**city or town** Athens **state** Georgia **zip code** 30607  
**telephone** (706) 613-7307

**consultant**  
 **regional development center preservation planner**  
 **other:**

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Photographs**

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**Name of Property:** Boneville Historic District  
**City or Vicinity:** Boneville  
**County:** McDuffie  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** December 1997

**Description of Photograph(s):**

- 1 of 22 View of Boneville Mill Pond/Camellia Lake; photographer facing east.
- 2 of 22 View of Boneville Street and Central of Railroad tracks; photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of 22 View of Resource 3; photographer facing northwest.
- 4 of 22 View of Boneville Road and Central of Railroad tracks; photographer facing southwest.
- 5 of 22 View of the Smith-Hunt-Doughty House/Dixie Inn; photographer facing southwest.
- 6 of 22 Detail view of the stone retaining wall associated with the Smith-Hunt-Doughty House/Dixie Inn; photographer facing west.
- 7 of 22 View of the Boneville Mill; photographer facing northwest.
- 8 of 22 Detail view of the post-and-beam structural system of the Boneville Mill; photographer facing north.
- 9 of 22 Detail of intact water wheel; photographer facing west.
- 10 of 22 Detail view of the stone piers; photographer facing north.
- 11 of 22 Interior view; photographer facing southeast.
- 12 of 22 Interior view; photographer facing southwest.
- 13 of 22 View of the Lavigno Store/Resource 9; photographer facing west.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### Photographs

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- 14 of 22 View of Resource 10; photographer facing west.
- 15 of 22 View of Resource 11; photographer facing west.
- 16 of 22 View of Boneville Road and Central of Railroad tracks; photographer facing west.
- 17 of 22 View of the Rock Lavigno House/Resource 2; photographer facing north.
- 18 of 22 View of Resource 15; photographer facing west.
- 19 of 22 View of Boneville United Methodist Church/Resource 18 and Cemetery/Resource 19; photographer facing west.
- 20 of 22 Detail view of the Boneville Cemetery/Resource 19; photographer facing northwest.
- 21 of 22 View of Boneville School/Resource 17; photographer facing northwest.
- 22 of 22 View of Resource 3; photographer facing northwest.

ATTACHMENT 1  
Boneville Historic District  
Boneville, McDuffie County, Georgia  
Scanned photograph of aerial view of Boneville

National Register District area



ATTACHMENT 2  
Boneville Historic District  
Boneville, McDuffie County, Georgia  
Scanned photograph of Resource 12



**NATIONAL REGISTER MAP**  
Boneville Historic District  
Boneville, McDuffie County, Georgia  
Scale: 1" = 200'

- = Contributing resource
- = Noncontributing resource
- 2 = Resource number
- ⊙ = Photo direction and number
- = National Register boundary

