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OMB No. 1024-0018

OCT 11 1996

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION**

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 Hamilton Historic District  
other names/site number

**2. Location**

street & number Georgia State Route 51  
city, town Carnesville (x) vicinity of  
county Franklin code 119  
state Georgia code GA zip code 30521

(N/A) not for publication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	13	3
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	13	3

**Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0**

**Name of related multiple property listing:** Historic Resources along the Old Federal Road in Georgia's Banks and Franklin Counties, c.1805-1946.

**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.

Mark R. Edwards  
Signature of certifying official

10/07/96  
Date

Mark R. Edwards  
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

Edson A. Beall 11-7-96

Entered in the  
National Register

( ) 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 dwellings  
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuildings

### **Current Functions:**

DOMESTIC/single dwellings  
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuildings  
VACANT/storage

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## **7. Description**

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### **Architectural Classification:**

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/Craftsman  
OTHER/Central Hallway  
OTHER/Plantation Plain

### **Materials:**

**foundation** brick  
**walls** wood/weatherboard, wood/log  
**roof** metal  
**other** brick, fieldstone

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

The Hamilton District consists of three houses and ten associated outbuildings. The two older houses were built in the late 1850s or early 1860s; one is a Plantation Plain type house and the other is a Central Hallway type house with a rear ell extension. The third house is a late 1920s residence illustrative of much later architectural styling (Craftsman) and yet demonstrates the same utilization of local materials and craftsmanship as the earlier two. The outbuildings also contribute to the overall setting of the district, which is situated in an area of rolling hills with cleared building sites surrounded by land in agricultural use and hardwood forest.

The Brawner-Hamilton House is a Plantation Plain type house with an attached kitchen (a rear ell), a metal roof, two end chimneys (one brick, one brick mixed with stone) and a front drop porch which has been widened from 7 to 10 feet and extended along the right side. The original house appears to have been a small log house with pegged joints and whole tree sills. Canted 6" wide by 10" high logs are visible upstairs. To the left of this original portion there is a step-down addition with a parlor and shed room on the first floor and another room upstairs. Canted logs are also visible in this portion of the upstairs. The house has been sided with vinyl.

The front facade of the house has two doors, placed symmetrically. The left door has two vertical panels while the right one has six horizontal panels. There are three 9/6 windows between the doors and ten 1" flush boards on the wall, even with the window and door heads.

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There are a lot of names and dates written in pencil on these boards, among them "C.E. Hamilton Nov. 22, 1868 Dec. 1903" and "W.F. Hamilton Sept. 1902". Other windows on this front section are 9/6, with some replacements, except for a 4/4 window on the left side, in the shed room. There are two horizontal fixed pane windows in the space above the front porch roof. On both ends of the second story there are narrow 4/4 windows flush with both sides of the chimneys. These are in very poor shape and need to be closed to the weather. The three front rooms and the shed room of this part have wide painted boards on all the walls and ceilings. The two end rooms have chair rails and fireplaces, and the mantle in the left end room is higher and has more molding. Ceilings are 9'. The stairs are located in the small middle front room. The staircase is a very narrow and shallow dogleg. The right side of the second story has 12" boards on the floor and 10" boards on the ceiling sloping, and knee walls. There is a partition of wide boards with two wide openings to the right of the stairs. The left side steps down and has three walls ceiled and no ceiling. The round rafters have 1" x 6" lathing. There is a ridge board in the roof on this side.

There is a two room rear ell coming off the right back of the original house. This section has narrow beaded boards on the walls and ceilings. All floors are wooden, some of these are covered with linoleum. Most doors are four panel. A bath has been added to this part by the Kennedys.

Four outbuildings are remain on the property. One of the buildings is a c. 1920 storage shed originally used to store the family's Model T car. Another outbuilding is a log structure with a door opening on the side. It was used as a storage shed for tools and other items. There are several large hardwoods on the property, including water oaks, in the yard.

The Robert Hamilton House is a one-story weatherboard Central Hallway type house with a rear ell covered by a metal roof. There are two end chimneys. The one on the right is brick and has an unreadable date near the top. The left chimney is made of fieldstone topped with brick. The front two rooms, hall and kitchen have painted 6" wide boards on the floors, walls, and ceilings. All of the windows in the three rooms are 9/6 and all of the doors are four panel except for two old batten doors in the kitchen which were originally exterior doors. Ceilings are 9 feet.

The hall opens onto a narrow shed room, which was originally a porch. The room behind the kitchen has 2" tongue-and-groove on the walls and ceilings and a stove flue. A shed addition has been added on the left rear off the kitchen and back room. There is a bath in this shed. A small entryway has been added off the back room.

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The house is in quite poor condition, although the roof appears secure. The floor in the back two rooms is largely rotted out, the back entry is falling in, and the front porch, originally hip roofed, now shed roofed, is deteriorating. Several of the windows are deteriorating as well.

There are two outbuildings near the house. The hired hand's house, which is sided with vertical boards, is in need of considerable attention. The barn, however, appears to be in reasonably good condition.

The yard has four large pecan trees and two large boxwoods, all of which were present in the 1930s. There are four large water oaks in the front yard and a three-foot diameter oak behind the house.

The Alice Hamilton House is a one-story, three-bay weatherboard, side-gable Craftsman style bungalow. It has exposed rafters on the front and decorative supports on the gable ends.

The front two rooms have 3" natural dark boards on the walls and ceilings and 3" heart pine floors. The windows are replacement 1/1 and trim is square cut boards.

A stair has been added in the hall to the second floor. The original stair was in what is now the laundry room, behind the new bathroom. The kitchen sits off the back of the house and has 3" and 6" boards on the walls. Linoleum, cabinets, and a rough ceiling have been added. The fireplace is original.

The house originally had a large porch across the front instead of the present stoop. The side porch has been replaced and extended. Exterior doors are replacements.

There are several hardwood trees on the property. Also present are three outbuildings, built during Alice Hamilton's lifetime, utilizing trees on the property. These include a small clapboard gable-front building as well as a small saddle notched gable-front log shed. This building is ceiled and its logs are cants with approximately 3" spaces between them. The ceiling height is 7' and there is a small loft door. A wood shelter on the property has saddle notches in the center partition and the right end. The sills are about 10" high and 12" wide. The tin roof is on irregular lathing on 2 x 4s, 4' on center. Beyond the fence to the left of the yard, there is an open hall, four stall or crib barn with rough lock notched joints. The cribs are closed on all sides and open only into the hall. The partitions for the crib have saddle notches. One end has a shed addition that extends beyond the main part and shows separate saddle notches.

**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):**

AGRICULTURE  
ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance:**

c. 1860-1964

**Significant Dates:**

c. 1860  
c. 1929

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

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

Unknown.

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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)**

Agriculture

The Hamilton Historic District is significant in the area of agriculture as a group of small farms typically found in north Georgia and along this portion of the Old Federal Road. The majority of farms in the area were small subsistence farms, raising crops and livestock to sustain the families who lived there. Crops included corn, oats, wheat, and vegetables. Cotton was grown as a cash crop, but only on a small scale. Asa Brawner (b. 1830), who built the Brawner-Hamilton House, was a doctor, ordained minister, postmaster of the nearby community of Walnut Hill, and state representative for Franklin County. In 1870, Brawner sold his property to Cyrus Hamilton (1805-1884), who accumulated a large amount of land and became a prosperous farmer. Hamilton's son Robert (1841-1924) lived in the Robert Hamilton House and farmed. Robert's daughter Alice received a parcel of land after her father's death in 1924 and constructed the house and outbuildings. The Hamiltons also served as postmaster of Walnut Hill.

Architecture

The Hamilton Historic District is significant in the area of architecture due to the fact that it contains two mid-19th century houses that are fine examples of the simple, utilitarian residential structures built along the Old Federal Road during that period: Plantation Plain and Central Hallway. A late 1920s Craftsman style bungalow is also an important part of the district, giving an indication of the changing sensibilities in design of that era, but it still exhibits local materials and craftsmanship. The many outbuildings in the district are good examples of such structures built during the 19th and early-20th centuries.

**National Register Criteria**

The Hamilton Historic District meets National Register Criteria A and C as a fine example of an Old Federal Road settlement composed of mid-19th and early 20th Century farmhouses and outbuildings. Local craftsmanship and the use of local materials are evident in these early buildings. The district is one of the smaller settlements along the Old Federal Road and is important as an example of a group of small farms associated with the Hamilton family.

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**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

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

The period of significance for the Hamilton Historic District begins in 1860, the construction of the earliest house, and ends in 1946, the end of the historic period.

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

The three buildings and ten outbuildings within the district were constructed within the period of significance and maintain integrity. The three noncontributing resources either were constructed after 1946 or have lost historic integrity.

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

The Hamilton Historic District is a small enclave closely associated with the Hamilton family. The historic district has always been limited to the three houses that are still standing. Although the Hamiltons were also associated with Walnut Hill the settlement is off on its own and the three houses are situated in close proximity to one another.

Brawner-Kennedy-Hamilton House

Asa W. Brawner (b.1830) lived in this house for many years. His father was John Brawner, who arrived from Elbert County, Georgia just before 1800. His mother was Patsy Bellamy, who was born in Franklin County in 1800 and was the daughter of Revolutionary War veteran, Richard Bellamy. Asa Brawner was a medical doctor, an ordained Baptist minister, clerk of the Tugalo Baptist Association, and a man of considerable importance in the community.

During the Civil War, Dr. Brawner was Franklin County's representative to the Georgia General Assembly. He was also in the Georgia State Guard and was assigned to stay in the area and care for residents and the many young soldiers returning from the war. He was postmaster of the Walnut Hill Post Office for many years.

Dr. Brawner married Harriett Wiley and they had three young children at the time of Harriett's death. Brawner subsequently married Mattie Darraugh and shortly after their marriage, around 1870, the couple moved to Texas.



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At this time the house became the property of Cyrus Hamilton (1805-1884) who is generally considered to have moved to the area around 1872 from South Carolina with his family. However, "C.E. Hamilton Nov. 22, 1862 Dec. 1903" is written on the porch. He became postmaster for Walnut Hill.

Hamilton bought more land and became a large property owner. His land included some of the Mitchell land (the same family that donated the land for Indian Creek Church). One of Hamilton's daughters married William S. Payne.

Cyrus Hamilton passed the house to his only son, Robert, but Robert never lived here. He passed the house to his son, Cyrus Earle, (1870-1958). Earle lived here for about 40 years before he sold the property to Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Kennedy in 1941. Earle's wife, Lily (1880-1964), told Moselle Kennedy that she and Earle had added the two story addition on the left front, but the left room upstairs has "W.A. Jones 1885" written on the front wall. Mrs. Kennedy still lives in the house with her daughter, Virginia.

Robert Hamilton House

Cyrus Hamilton's only son, Robert (1841-1924), and Robert's wife moved from South Carolina with Cyrus. They moved into a house, known as the Robert Hamilton House now, which was fairly new when they arrived in the 1860s. (It is not known who built this house or exactly when it was constructed.) There was a small store with a post office right on the corner of Federal Road and Hamilton Road, but it is no longer standing. Robert farmed and was postmaster for many years. Robert's grandson still owns the house which has remained basically unchanged. The house has been rented, but is now vacant, in bad shape, and used to store soybeans.

Alice Hamilton House

Alice Hamilton was the granddaughter of Cyrus Hamilton and the daughter of Robert Hamilton. After her mother's death she kept house for her father and helped operate the post office at Walnut Hill. After Robert Hamilton's death in 1924 his farm was divided. The oldest son got the home place and Alice received the land across the road. In a few years Alice built the house described here and the post office was there for many years. Alice had the outbuildings built using timber from her land and old fashioned log construction was used. Some of these buildings are still standing. Alice was married (her only marriage) for a about a year when she was in her eighties.

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## **9. Major Bibliographic References**

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Aerial photos, from University of Georgia collections:  
Franklin County 1938, 1951, 1956, 1967, 1980

Photographs: Taken April-May, 1985 by Sybil A. Bowers and October,  
1990 by John Kissane

Historic maps, from University of Georgia collections:

- 1818 Georgia map, includes roads
- 1829 Georgia map, includes roads
- 1836 A New Map of Georgia with its Roads and Distances
- 1846 A New Map of Georgia with its Roads and Distances
- 1860 County Map of Georgia and Alabama
- 1883 Georgia State Gazetteer map
- 1894 Post Route map
- 1909 USDA Soils Map of Franklin County
- 1910 Map of Franklin County
- 1916 Department of Agriculture map of the State of Georgia

Historic photos: contact prints, Vanishing Georgia Collection,  
property of Franklin County Historical Society

Interviews, Roger McConnell by Sybil A. Bowers  
10 December 1984, 17 April 1985, 24 April 1985, 1 May 1985,  
15 May 1985, 22 May 1985, 29 May 1985

Interviews, Roger McConnell by Susan Casey  
January 1990 and October 1990

National Register Nomination for Homer, Georgia, written  
September, 1984

Road maps, GMAPDC collections:  
1967, Franklin County

Sherwood, Adiel. Gazetteer of the State of Georgia 1827, 1860

Georgia State Gazetteers, 1879-80, 1881-82, 1886

USGS topographic maps, 1967:  
Ashland quadrangle

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

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

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**Primary location of additional data:**

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

**Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):**

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreeage of Property** Approximately 25 acres.

**UTM References**

A) Zone 17 Easting 285920 Northing 3803220  
B) Zone 17 Easting 285920 Northing 3803120  
C) Zone 17 Easting 285680 Northing 3803140  
D) Zone 17 Easting 285660 Northing 3802870  
E) Zone 17 Easting 285520 Northing 3802880  
F) Zone 17 Easting 285500 Northing 3803260

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the property is indicated as a solid black line drawn to scale on the accompanying National Register Boundary map. This map is based on the current county tax maps which are drawn to a scale of 1"=600'. These maps are the largest scale maps available for this rural area.

**Boundary Justification**

Boundaries are based upon the concentration of historic resources and historic and family associations. The area to the east is a large expanse of farm land. This district is separated from the Walnut Hill district to the west by visual barriers.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**name/title** Preservation Planner  
**organization** Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center  
**street & number** Post Office Box 1720  
**city or town** Gainesville **state** Georgia **zip code** 30503  
**telephone** 404-536-3431 **date** Completed - Fall, 1990

**name/title** John Kissane  
**organization** Private Consultant  
**street & number** 682 Ridgewood Avenue  
**city or town** Gainesville **state** Georgia **zip code** 30501  
**telephone** (770) 535-1430 **date** Completed - November 1990

**Reviewed and Edited by:**

**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) 651-6033 **date** August 1996

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Photographs

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**Name of Property:** Hamilton Historic District  
**City or Vicinity:** Carnesville  
**County:** Franklin  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** March 9, 1994

**Note:** Photography was field checked in July, 1996; photographs still convey an accurate representation of the property.

**Description of Photograph(s):**

Photo 1 of 3 Brawner-Hamilton House; photographer facing east.

Photo 2 of 3 Robert Hamilton House; photographer facing southeast.

Photo 3 of 3 Alice Hamilton House; photographer facing northeast.

**National Register Boundary**

Hamilton Historic District

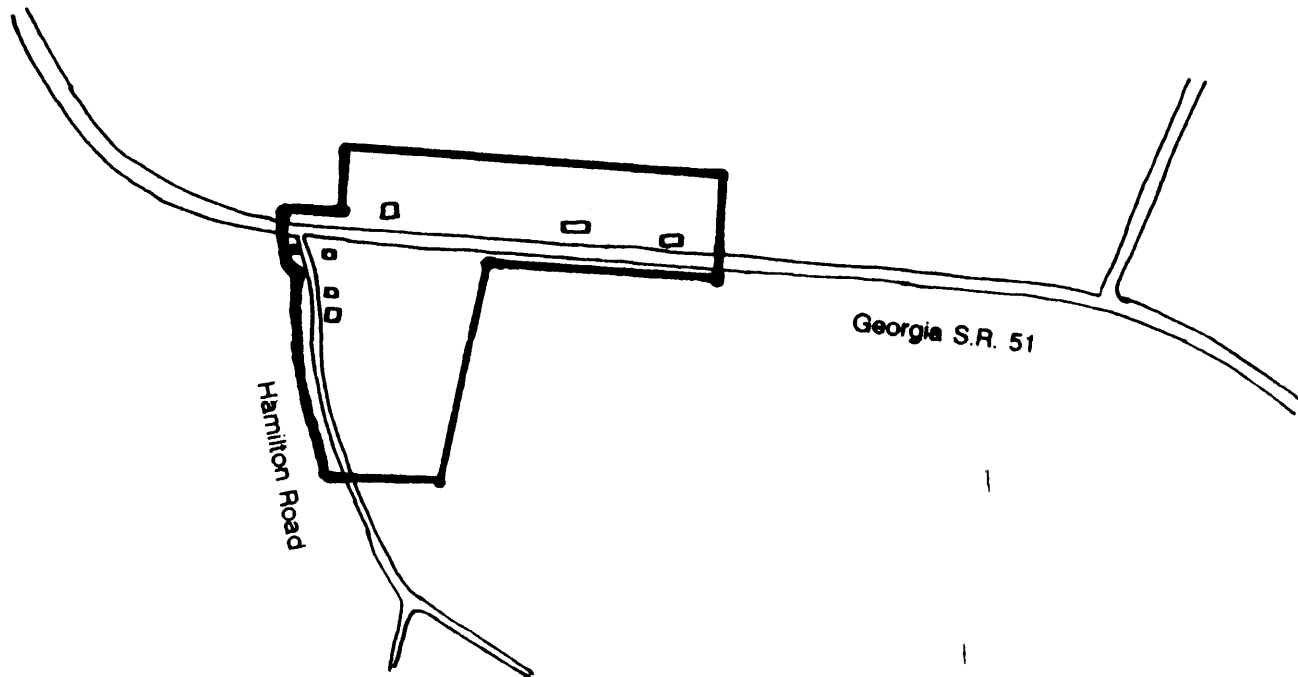
Near Carnesville, Franklin Co., GA.

Scale: 1"=660'

Source: Franklin Co. Tax Map 12

Date: 1989

Key: The nominated district is marked by a heavy black line.








**Site Plan and Photo Key**  
Hamilton Historic District  
Near Carnesville, Franklin Co., GA.  
Not to scale  
Source: Sponsor  
Date: 1996



National Register Boundary

Georgia S.R. 51

Hamilton Road

-  Contributing Primary Buildings
-  Non-contributing Primary Buildings
-  Non-contributing Outbuildings
-  Contributing Outbuildings
-  Photo Direction and Number

