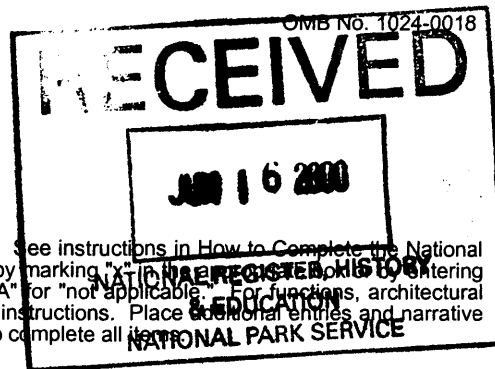


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box. For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name City of Alachua Downtown Historic District

other names/site number /AL3780

2. Location

street & number VARIOUS N/A not for publication

city or town ALACHUA N/A vicinity

state FLORIDA code FL county ALACHUA code 001 zip code 32615& 16

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility 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 does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

James Snyder Matthews 6/8/2000
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Florida State Historic Preservation Officer, Division of Historical Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) _____

Edson A. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action 7-14-00

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
102	51	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
102	51	total

Name of related multiple property listings
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic-single dwelling
- Religion-religious facility
- Commerce/Trade-store
- Commerce/Trade-financial institution
- Commerce/Trade-restaurant
- Social-clubhouse

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic-single dwelling
- Religion-religious facility
- Commerce/Trade-store
- Commerce/Trade-financial institution
- Commerce/Trade-restaurant
- Social-clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Other/Frame vernacular; Late Victorian/Queen Anne
- Late 19th & 20th century revivals/Colonial Revival
- Late 19th & Early 20th century movements/Bungalow

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation Brick
- walls Weatherboard
- Brick
- roof Asbestos
- other Wood
- Vinyl

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) 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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Community Planning and Development

Period of Significance

1898-1949

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property Approximately 49 acres

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	3	5	5	2	9	0	3	2	9	6	4	6	0
	Zone	Easting	Northing												
2	1	7	3	5	5	7	2	0	3	2	9	6	4	7	0

3	1	7	3	5	5	7	4	0	3	2	9	6	0	3	0
	Zone	Easting	Northing												
4	1	7	3	5	5	2	9	0	3	2	9	6	0	2	0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Murray D. Laurie, Consultant; Gary V. Goodwin, Historic Preservation Planner

organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date June, 2000

street & number R.A. Gray Building, 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (850) 487-2333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

**CITY OF ALACHUA DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
Alachua, Alachua County, Florida**

Summary

The City of Alachua Downtown Historic District is an area that includes all or parts of 26 blocks with a mix of residential and commercial buildings as well as several churches and woman's clubhouses. The period of significance is from 1898 to 1949. The district consists of 102 contributing buildings and 51 noncontributing buildings. The northern boundary is US 441, a divided highway, and the southern boundary is NW 142 Avenue. The district extends approximately three blocks on either side of Main Street, where the city's historic downtown is located.

Setting

The district is at the center of the larger City of Alachua, which includes more than 40 square miles. The City of Alachua is located in northwest Alachua County, 15 miles from Gainesville, the county seat. The area that encompasses the City of Alachua is characterized by a gently rolling landscape with a few lakes and sinkholes. Once densely covered by forests of yellow pine, oak hammocks, and giant cypress trees, most of the land has been cleared for cultivation. US 441, which parallels the old Savannah, Florida & Western railroad tracks, is a major divided highway connecting Alachua to High Springs to the west and to Gainesville to the southeast. Many new businesses were built on this corridor. In the 1960s, an interstate highway was built just west of Alachua, passing through what was open farmland. At the Alachua exit of Interstate 75, a cluster of hotels, restaurants, service stations, and other businesses developed in the ensuing decades. Because of its favorable location, Alachua has attracted a number of large industrial plants and research complexes to the less developed areas within the larger city limits.

There are very few vacant lots within the district, but a number of homes are on large parcels that take up as much as half a block. Landscaping is varied, informal, with many large shade trees—oak, pine, hickory, magnolia, pecan, and other native species. All streets within the district are paved with asphalt. The only paved sidewalks are along Main Street and NW 140 Street. Noncontributing houses, those built after 1950, are in scale with the older houses and have the same setbacks.

Present and Original Appearance

The Alachua Downtown Historic District is set within a north-south, east-west grid of streets platted late in the nineteenth and early in the twentieth century. US 441, north of the district, parallels the route of the SF&W railroad that precipitated the creation of the town in the mid-1880s. Two more sets of railroad tracks, one of which is still in use, cut through the town six blocks south of the SF&W tracks. Main Street, which forms the core of the district, linked these two rail centers that were once marked by depots and freight stations, now no longer standing. Historic photographs taken early in the twentieth century show an unpaved Main Street and fences surrounding residential lots. As the center of an agricultural region, Alachua catered to the needs of farmers and their families.

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**CITY OF ALACHUA DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
Alachua, Alachua County, Florida**

The brick and frame stores and fine homes built by Alachua's early merchants still stand along Main Street. Three churches, City Hall, and a new library are located on NW 140 Street, one block west, and single-family residences line the neighboring streets and avenues (Sanborn maps, 1912, 1924). Due to shifting business patterns, Main Street became depressed by the 1960s and 1970s, but has undergone a strong resurgence in the last decade. Today, a curving street with flowering pear trees, brick crosswalks, and other urban amenities marks a two-block section of Main Street, between NW 150 Avenue and NW 148 Place (Photo #1). Many of the older stores have been rehabilitated. There is no formal landscaping on NW 140 Street, but there are sidewalks on either side of this wide thoroughfare. The residential streets are all paved, but do not have curbs or sidewalks.

Alachua's two historic bank buildings still stand on Main Street. The Bank of Alachua (Photo #15), constructed of rusticated concrete block has been rehabilitated into a lawyer's office, and the original First National Bank of Alachua [14850 Main Street] is a home decorating shop (Photo #1). A former clothing store is an insurance office and book store; Robart's Funeral Parlor and the old post office have been converted to a restaurant [14940 Main Street]; and Sealey's dry goods emporium has been divided into a variety of offices (Photos #16, 17, 18). Despite changing uses, the exterior details of many of the early twentieth century commercial buildings—the decorative brick parapets, recessed doorways, original display windows—have been preserved. Cast iron pilasters can still be seen on the front of two stores (Photo #18). However, the facades of some of the older buildings have been altered so much that their original architectural features have been obscured. Stores on Main Street that contribute to the district are each set directly on the front sidewalk and many have awnings. Some are connected, sharing common walls, such as the five stores at the south end of Main Street that share a common curved metal awning and the repeated semi-circular windows on each facade (Photo #18). Alachua's stores have adapted well over the years to a variety of uses. One exception, is the Enneis Motor Company which remains a large automotive supply company on south Main Street (Photo #19). The few noncontributing commercial structures within the district built less than fifty years ago are compatible in size and scale (Photo #20) and do not appear to intrude on the historic character of the district.

The Alachua Woman's Club building was constructed of native limestone during the Depression (Photo #23). This monument to the energy and community activism of the women of Alachua is a notable local landmark and was designed by Gainesville architect Sanford Goin.

Three of the historic homes on Main Street are elegant Queen Anne houses (Photos #3, 4, 5), but most of the contributing residences within the district are modest bungalows or wood frame vernacular structures (Photos #6, 10, 13). All contributing residences are set back from lot lines and are surrounded by mature landscaping and shaded with large trees. The older and newer homes in the residential neighborhoods blend with no sharp contrasts. Most noncontributing homes, those less than fifty years old, were built as infill rather than as a result of intense development (Photo #14). Very few residences in truly dilapidated condition were observed, and

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**CITY OF ALACHUA DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
Alachua, Alachua County, Florida**

there were signs of home improvement and rehabilitation of historic houses. The principal north-south residential streets in the district, NW 144 Street and NW 142 Terrace present an eclectic mix of home styles, materials, and adaptations to time and changing fashion. Some outstanding examples are the Enneis house [14630 NW 144 street], a neo-Dutch Colonial residence built in 1930 (Photo #11), the Waters bungalow [14617 Main Street] (Photo #6), and the Eddy house [14414 NW 142 Terrace] with its interesting front gable treatment (Photo #8).

The Church of Christ [14421 NW 145 Avenue], built in 1921, is located deep in the residential neighborhood (Photo #22). Once called Church Street because the Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian churches are located there, NW 140 Street (CR 235/241) parallels Main Street and is a broad thoroughfare with a mix of residences and professional buildings, some of them in converted houses. The Alachua City Hall and the new library are on this thoroughfare, which has traditionally been an important link to communities to the north and south. Several imposing houses built early in the century indicate that it rivaled Main Street as a desirable place to live. The oldest church in town, the Alachua United Methodist Church [14805 NW 140 Street], built in 1912, is a stately blend of neo-Gothic and Romanesque styles, with its crenellated bell tower and rounded windows set with beautiful stained glass windows (Photo #21). The Presbyterian Church, built in 1952 of concrete block, replaced an earlier wooden structure, and the Baptist congregation built a newer and larger church in recent years on the site of their old brick structure. Both of these are noncontributing structures.

A few older homes are interspersed with newer residences in the two blocks east of NW 140 Street that are part of the City of Alachua Downtown Historic District. Alachua's historic building stock was found to possess a significant degree of integrity. The majority of the contributing buildings in the district still serve their original function. While some of the buildings that originally served as residential structures have been converted to offices or for other commercial uses, their adaptive use has retained the basic integrity of their original appearance. There are no reported archaeological resources within the historic district. The vacant sites where several train depots and freight stations once stood have been paved over or completely cleared and do not appear likely to yield information about the activities that once took place at these historic sites.

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CITY OF ALACHUA DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
Alachua, Alachua County, Florida

BUILDING LIST

Contributing Buildings

<u>Address</u>	<u>Date Built</u>	<u>Use</u>	<u>Style</u>
<u>140th Street, NW</u>			
14706	c. 1900	Residential	Queen Anne
14707	c. 1900	Residential	Queen Anne
14804	c. 1900	Residential	Queen Anne
14805	c. 1912	Church	Romanesque Revival
14816	c. 1935	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14818	c. 1941	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14818A	c. 1941	Garage	
14825	c. 1929	Commercial	Frame Vernacular
14902	c. 1929	Residential	Colonial Revival
<u>142nd Terrace, NW</u>			
14402	c. 1920	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14410	c. 1930	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14410A	c. 1930	Outbuilding	
14520	c. 1920	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14609	c. 1929	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14707	c. 1947	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14710	c. 1938	Residential	Tudor Revival
14710A	c. 1938	Garage	
14722	c. 1920	Residential	Bungalow
14722A	c. 1920	Garage	
14723	c. 1945	Residential	Bungalow
14801	c. 1939	Residential	Bungalow
14806	c. 1920	Residential	Frame Vernacular
<u>143rd Place, NW</u>			
14502	c. 1927	Residential	Frame Vernacular

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**CITY OF ALACHUA DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
Alachua, Alachua County, Florida**

144th Place, NW

14317	c. 1940	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14409	c. 1929	Residential	Bungalow
14412	c. 1942	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14508	c. 1942	Residential	Frame Vernacular

144th Street, NW

14602	c. 1929	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14611	c. 1935	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14620	c. 1926	Residential	Bungalow
14620A	c. 1926	Outbuilding	
14630	c. 1930	Residential	Dutch Colonial Revival
14630A	c. 1930	Garage	
14708	c. 1920	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14708A	c. 1920	Outbuilding	
14717	c. 1900	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14810	c. 1900	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14906	c. 1915	Residential	Bungalow
14915	c. 1935	Residential	Frame Vernacular

145th Avenue, NW

14206	c. 1930	Residential	Colonial Revival
14206A	c. 1930	Garage	
14323	c. 1937	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14403	c. 1915	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14417	c. 1942	Residential	Bungalow
14421	c. 1928	Residential	Bungalow
14505	c. 1921	Church	Masonry Vernacular

146th Avenue, NW

13917	c. 1920	Residential	Frame Vernacular
13921	c. 1930	Residential	Bungalow
13921A	c. 1930	Garage	
14109	c. 1930	Residential	Frame Vernacular

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CONTINUATION SHEETSection number 7 Page 6CITY OF ALACHUA DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
Alachua, Alachua County, Florida

14204	c. 1910	Residential	Queen Anne
14216	c. 1929	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14319	c. 1929	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14405	c. 1930	Residential	Frame Vernacular

147th Avenue, NW

14013	c. 1925	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14109	c. 1935	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14205	c. 1935	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14304	c. 1920	Residential	Frame Vernacular

148th Place, NW

13903	c. 1920	Residential	Frame Vernacular
13903A	c. 1920	Outbuilding	
14203	c. 1935	Commercial	Metal Vernacular
14209	c. 1900	Residential	Colonial Revival
14308	c. 1928	Residential	Bungalow
14404	c. 1915	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14416	c. 1915	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14712	c. 1929	Residential	Bungalow

150th Avenue, NW

14115	c. 1935	Residential	Frame Vernacular
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Main Street

14310	c. 1900	Social	Frame Vernacular
14320	c. 1900	Commercial	Masonry Vernacular
14507	c. 1900	Commercial	Romanesque Revival
14515	c. 1900	Commercial	Masonry Vernacular
14520	c. 1900	Commercial	Romanesque Revival
14521	c. 1900	Commercial	Romanesque Revival
14525	c. 1900	Commercial	Romanesque Revival
14545	c. 1900	Commercial	Romanesque Revival
14565	c. 1938	Social	Masonry Vernacular

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**CITY OF ALACHUA DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
Alachua, Alachua County, Florida**

14603	c. 1901	Residential	Queen Anne
14603A	c. 1920	Garage	
14616	c. 1900	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14617	c. 1900	Residential	Bungalow
14705	c. 1910	Residential	Queen Anne
14705A	c. 1920	Garage	
14706	c. 1904	Commercial	Masonry Vernacular
14712	c. 1900	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14713	c. 1898	Residential	Queen Anne
14713A	c. 1920	Garage	
14720	c. 1920	Residential	Frame Vernacular
14721	c. 1948	Commercial	Frame Vernacular
14822	c. 1900	Commercial	Masonry Vernacular
14823	c. 1900	Commercial	Masonry Vernacular
14827	c. 1900	Commercial	Masonry Vernacular
14838	c. 1900	Commercial	Masonry Vernacular
14839	c. 1900	Commercial	Masonry Vernacular
14856	c. 1909	Commercial	Masonry Vernacular
14862	c. 1909	Commercial	Romanesque Revival
14874	c. 1910	Commercial	Masonry Vernacular
14906	c. 1900	Commercial	Masonry Vernacular
14920	c. 1900	Commercial	Masonry Vernacular
14925	c. 1898	Commercial	Masonry Vernacular
14933	c. 1898	Commercial	Masonry Vernacular
14940	c. 1900	Commercial	Masonry Vernacular
15005	c. 1923	Commercial	Masonry Vernacular

Noncontributing Buildings

Address

140 Street, NW

14722
14805A
14900

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**CITY OF ALACHUA DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
Alachua, Alachua County, Florida**

142nd Terrace, NW

14504
14507
14515
14608
14907

144th Place, NW

14309
14310
14316
14321
14324

144th Street, NW

14616
14621
14705
14709
14713
14903

145th Avenue, NW

14101
14101A
14212
14306
14310
14311
14322

146th Avenue, NW

14005

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**CITY OF ALACHUA DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
Alachua, Alachua County, Florida**

14203
14217
14222

147th Avenue, NW

14108-14110
14206
14211-14217
14307
14316
14324

148th Place, NW

14040
14200
14315

150th Avenue, NW

14003

Main Street

14600
14801
14804
14814
14815
14830
14844
14850
14911
14950-14952
14960

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section number 8 Page 1

**CITY OF ALACHUA DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
Alachua, Alachua County, Florida**

Summary

The City of Alachua Downtown Historic District is significant at the local level under Criterion A and Criterion C for community planning and development and architecture. Alachua's collection of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial buildings and period houses reflects the growth and development of this center of commerce for the surrounding agricultural region between 1898 and 1949. The work of master masons and builders is reflected in the extant buildings as well as the skill of carpenters who built many of the frame and masonry vernacular structures.

Historic Context

When Florida became a United States territory in 1821, white settlers from states north of the border began to claim land in the 1820s. The Bellamy Road, authorized by Congress in 1824 as the first federal highway project in Florida, passed near this area as it stretched from St. Augustine to Pensacola. The Bellamy Road, which closely followed the pathways created by early native peoples and the Spanish who ruled Florida for more than three centuries, crossed the Santa Fe River over the natural land bridge and linked the remote inland heart of Florida to both the Gulf and Atlantic coasts.

Members of the Dell family were among the local pioneers of the territorial period. The first settlement, located about a mile northeast of the present site of the City of Alachua, was called Dell's CourtHouse; it was established as a post office in 1831. The name was changed to Newnansville in 1837, in honor of Indian fighter Daniel Newnan, under whom three of the Dell brothers had served. The history of Newnansville, which became the first county seat of Alachua County, has been extensively researched, including the Newnansville Town Site (NR 1974). The frontier village, located at the junction of the east-west Bellamy Road and the north-south road between Lake City and Micanopy, became a military post and a refuge for scattered farm families when their lives were threatened by roaming Indians during the Seminole Wars in the 1830s and early 1840s. When peace came to the area, more settlers poured into Florida, and Newnansville, as the county seat, became a busy center of business and politics. Many of the early land grants were recorded in the wood frame courthouse. The Methodist congregation outgrew its log cabin and built a new church with a steeple and classical facade in the 1850s. The town cemetery was laid out beside this church. The rich soil, gentle climate and other natural advantages drew cotton planters as well as small farmers, and agricultural pursuits flourished.

Newnansville would have continued to grow had it not been for the routing of the Florida Railroad many miles to the south as it linked the state's coasts, running from Fernandina on the Atlantic to Cedar Key on the Gulf of Mexico. Bypassed by the cross-state railroad, Newnansville lost out to the new town of Gainesville, created about fifteen miles to the south in the 1850s, which became the new seat of government for Alachua County in 1854.

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**CITY OF ALACHUA DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT
Alachua, Alachua County, Florida**

Historic Significance

With the loss of its status as the county seat, Newnansville was further diminished in the early 1880s when the Savannah, Florida and Western Railroad's tracks were laid a mile and a half to the south. The SF&W depot (located about where the First National Bank of Alachua is now located) became a magnet for commerce in the area, and farmers were drawn there to sell their crops or ship them to far-off markets. Gradually the businesses in Newnansville moved to the new town of Alachua pronounced A-la-chu-way. The Newnansville post office was discontinued and re-established at Alachua in 1887, an official signal that the new town had replaced the old one. Many pioneer families like the Dells followed the trend and had new homes built in Alachua.

Streets were laid out (but not paved for many years) and lots were platted in Alachua. The first eight-block plat was recorded in 1887, George Tompsett laid out what is most of the historic district in 1896, and Clarks Second Addition was recorded in 1915. Other small platted sections of the town were recorded in the Alachua County courthouse in the following decades. The first school house was built on Main Street (on the site of the present AllTel building) and the Methodists and Baptists held their first church services in this building. In 1897 the Methodists built a new church on the site of the present building, and in the 1890s a new brick school building was constructed in Alachua on a four-acre plot of land north of the historic district which is the site of the present Alachua Elementary School.

In 1890, the *Gainesville Daily Sun* reported that Mrs. Bart Stephens was opening a millinery store and T. H. Cato had moved his beef market from Newnansville to Alachua. By 1903 other railroads, the Jacksonville and Southwestern and the Atlantic Coast Line (which had absorbed the SF&W), had established depots. Growing cotton was the main occupation in the agrarian community, and the town now had a weekly newspaper, two physicians and three druggists, a Baptist and a Methodist church, a public school, and three hotels. At least a dozen merchants erected fine brick stores, most with decorative brickwork adorning their handsome parapets and elegantly arched doors and windows with more brickwork elaboration. Similar brickwork can be seen on extant buildings constructed at about the same time in the nearby towns of High Springs and Newberry. (One of the master masons may have been J. T. Mizell, who built the Methodist Church in 1912.) The merchants of Alachua built fine homes for their families close to their stores, proudly advertising their success and prosperity, and establishing their role as community leaders.

In April of 1905, Alachua was incorporated. That same year the *Gainesville Daily Sun* reported that the Diamond Ice Company planned to build a plant with a 20-ton capacity in Alachua, and the Bank of Alachua had erected a handsome new fireproof building. The town now had a population of more than a thousand. More progress in the form of a city-owned electric plant and water works came to Alachua in 1913. Proceeds from these utilities would form the financial base of the City of Alachua government for many years.

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The buildings shown on the 1912 and 1924 Sanborn maps, old photographs, business directories, and interviews with local historians reveal the details of life in this vital small city serving the surrounding farming communities. There were several cotton gins processing this valuable cash crop. They ran night and day to keep up with the inflow of cotton. Packing sheds where produce was boxed and crated for shipment, along with several sawmills and a gristmill, were serviced by the three railroad lines that passed through town. An unpaved but tree-shaded Main Street featured brick stores offering a variety of merchandise, four churches, a cluster of brick school buildings, an ice plant and cold storage facility, and several small hotels. There was a pool hall, but no saloons.

Alachua was not a tourist town. Nevertheless, on Saturday, when the farm families came to town to sell their crops and to shop, the tempo of life picked up and traffic swelled as wagons and trucks lined up at the packinghouses and cotton gins. Lines lengthened at the two banks and the barber shops, porches were crowded with visiting friends and relatives, and cash drawers filled up in all the general stores and shops along Main Street. The devastation caused by the boll weevil infestation of the cotton crop around 1919-1920 attest to the wisdom of diversified farming. However, many small farmers, black and white, lost their farms during this time, and either went to work for others or moved away. Those who planted vegetables or raised hogs, chickens, and cattle survived, and the value of farmland increased. Tobacco was first planted in the mid-1920s and became an important cash crop. The general population did not rise in the 1920s and few new homes were built, but stores in town continued to do a steady, if modest, business.

Alachua weathered the Depression years better than many other parts of Florida, which were affected by the collapse of the real estate boom. In 1930, a large packing shed was built to handle the cucumber, corn, lettuce, watermelon and other crops produced on local farms. As many as 60 to 70 people were employed at this facility, which also acted to assure quality control. The Bank of Alachua closed in January of 1931, never to reopen, but astute management kept the First National Bank in business. It moved in 1975 from its Main Street location to a larger bank building a block away, where it continues to serve the community. When W. F. Duke's lumber mill burned in 1931, the company relocated on a site just east of town. Ford dealer William Enneis catered to the motorists driving through Alachua on the Dixie Highway by installing two gasoline pumps and offering auto repairs and service. Several other service stations appeared, replacing community landmarks, such as Mr. Barnett's livery stable behind the bank and Mr. Mott's blacksmith shop.

Federal relief funds brought some road improvements during the Depression years, and the Alachua Woman's Club building was constructed in 1938 with the aid of the WPA; both projects provided jobs for unemployed men. The 1940s brought prosperity and higher prices for agricultural products. In addition, good paying jobs became available at Camp Blanding located at Starke in Bradford County. There were few houses or stores built during the war years due to shortage of materials. Just as Alachua missed the building boom of the 1920s, so did it miss the post-war building boom. Many men who had joined the service did not return to Alachua after the war; farming had lost its luster as new jobs opened elsewhere. The end of the railroad era brought an

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increase in highway traffic. By the 1940s traffic on the Dixie Highway down Alachua's Main Street shifted to US 441, which bypassed the old downtown shopping center, the core of the historic district. When Interstate 75 was built in the 1960s west of downtown, it also had an impact on downtown Alachua, for it made it easier for people to drive to Gainesville to shop. Modern industrial plants and shopping and service centers have been established in Alachua in recent decades.

Architectural Context

The historic architectural resources of Alachua make up a small percentage of the total buildings within the larger city limits, but they form the historic heart of Alachua. They are the product of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries and are closely associated with the development of north central Florida and Alachua County. The majority of the buildings exhibit vernacular designs, although a significant percentage was classified as representing various identifiable architectural styles. Most were built as single family residences, with commercial, religious, and clubhouses being the only other historic functions evident in the district. Some homes and shops were built in the last years of the nineteenth century, but the greatest boom in building took place in Alachua in the first two decades of the twentieth century. There were several sawmills in town and other building supplies for the brick stores and frame homes could be brought in by rail. Two more railroads passed through Alachua, several blocks south of the SF&W line, which had become part of the Plant System.

Residential Buildings

Frame Vernacular is the dominant style for houses in Alachua; a style based on tradition rather than architectural form (Photos #8, 9, 13). Builders and carpenters, many of them self-taught, often constructed Frame Vernacular buildings from memory, using available resources that were affordable and familiar to the community. Frame Vernacular buildings did not represent major stylistic trends, but sometimes components of "high style" were applied to facades or porches. In Alachua, as elsewhere in Florida, Frame Vernacular houses were one or two stories in height, constructed of the plentiful native yellow pine using the balloon frame structural system. This popular building technology adapts readily to additions and alterations as a family grows, needs a larger kitchen, builds an indoor bathroom, accommodates an aging parent, or adds central heat or air conditioning. The structures are mounted on masonry piers, mostly of brick, and have a single front or side gable or intersecting and cross gable roofs. Horizontal drop siding or weatherboard is the most widely used exterior wall surface, and roofing materials may be composition shingles or the more traditional standing seam metal roofing. Some resemble the farmhouses that dot the countryside; others are simple cottages for the working man. E. E. Bell, a local builder and contractor whose skill is shown in the quality of his own home [14707 NW 140 Street], was a master of the Frame Vernacular style.

Queen Anne was one of the most popular residential styles in the United States between 1880 and 1910. This most elaborate house type is represented in Alachua by such examples as the Williams-LeRoy house [14603

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Main Street], the Pierce-Bishop house [14713 Main Street], and the Mizell-Stephens house [14705 Main Street] (Photos #3, 4, 5). Here we see the steeply pitched, irregularly shaped roof lines and asymmetrical facades, as well as the free use of bay windows, patterned shingles, turned balusters, and decorative woodwork that mark this late Victorian era style made popular by English architects and inappropriately named for the early seventeenth-century British monarch. The Williams-LeRoy house is complete with an elaborate tower, and a gazebo with a conical roof embellishes one corner of the front verandah of the Pierce-Bishop house. The Mizell-Stephens house has a classical portico as a focal point for its broad, wraparound porch. The interior details of woodwork, fireplace surrounds and mantles and the generous size of the rooms in these homes are in keeping with the elaboration on the exterior. Other houses in Alachua are more modestly defined by this exuberant style, with gingerbread trim, bay windows, brackets on porches, or cut shingles in the front gable.

Colonial Revival, the more symmetrical style, drew its inspiration from a rebirth of interest in the early English and Dutch houses built during the nation's colonial period, is represented by larger homes such as the Williams-Harrison house [14209 NW 148 Place] and the Enneis house with their classical, formal entrances and balanced windows (Photos #11, 12). Several smaller homes with these characteristics indicate the enduring popularity of this style.

Craftsman Bungalow, was introduced in this country in the 1890s by California architects, and found a ready market in Florida early in the twentieth century. Its low-pitched roof, wide unenclosed eaves, often accented with knee brackets, and thick sloping porch columns set on brick piers, were in marked contrast to older styles and gave builders and homeowners a fresh new look at a modest price. Most were unpretentious and in harmony with any landscape or site size. The porch was an integral part of the Bungalow design, and with the increasingly important role of the automobile in domestic life, the carport became an element of the house design rather than an afterthought. Bungalow plans appeared in newspapers, magazines, and pattern books, and houses in the popular house style could even be ordered in pre-fabricated packages. A Bungalow could be large, such as the David Walker house, or more modest in size such as the Carl Williams house [14801 NW 142 Terrace] (Photos #6, 10). Numerous small wood frame Bungalows in Alachua reveal the versatility and flexibility of this informal and practical style (Photo #24).

Architectural Significance

The open front porch is still the norm on most of the houses in Alachua. Some have been enclosed or screened, but this inviting feature has endured longer than in many older neighborhoods. Porches serve an important function in creating a feeling of welcome and, at the same time, separation from the world outside. In most of the yards, garages and storage sheds in a variety of materials were noted. Some of these are contributing structures. Several homes have swimming pools, while a few have old barns, which might once have sheltered a horse or a cow. Fencing, in a variety of materials, can be seen, but it is more likely to enclose side and rear yards and is used for privacy, rather than to exclude roaming livestock.

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Commercial Buildings

Most of the extant older commercial buildings in Alachua are of brick, with two built of cast concrete block—the Bank of Alachua [14706 Main Street] and the old garage (the original home of Enneis Motor Company) on the corner of Main Street and NW 150 Avenue). These masonry vernacular structures are rectangular in shape and face Main Street with no setbacks (Photo #15). Two of the stores, Harvest Thyme Cafe [14822 Main Street] and Garden Gazebo [14874 Main Street], have decorative cast iron pilasters incorporated into the design of the front facade. Rooflines and flat parapets of the historic stores in Alachua are distinguished by richly textured brickwork in a variety of patterns, many in excellent condition. Arched and rounded windows and doorways with basket-handle detailing, recessed panels, and denticulated cornices add interest and dimension (Photo #18). In recent years, decorative canvas awnings have been installed by some storeowners, carrying on the tradition established early in the century. On Main Street, there are three contributing two-story commercial buildings and about twenty-five one-story structures. The Enneis Motor Company [14320 Main Street], located south of the railroad tracks was built originally as a cotton warehouse, converted to a Ford agency and service center by William Enneis in 1925 (Photo #19). None of the original railroad depots, which existed mostly for the benefit of agricultural activities, is extant. Most noncontributing commercial buildings, such as the AllTell building on Main Street, conform in scale to the rest of the historic district (Photo #20).

Alachua Churches and Clubhouses

There are two historic churches in the district, the Methodist Church, built in 1912, whose congregation dates its founding to the 1820s in Newnansville, and the Church of Christ, built in 1921 (Photos #21, 22). The Methodist Church, built by J. T. Mizell, has a Gothic tower with crenellated roofline and rounded Romanesque windows inset with very fine stained glass windows. The fellowship hall and educational buildings, built in recent years, are set back on the site and do not intrude on the impact or historical character of this impressive house of worship. The Church of Christ has a stuccoed exterior with a 1934 addition of rusticated cast concrete blocks.

Alachua has several spaces within the district devoted to meeting places for organizations. The most prominent is the Alachua Woman's Club (Photo #23). The Woman's Club was founded in 1912 to work for the benefit of the Alachua School. Members met in homes or church buildings until 1938 when, thanks to federal funds made available during the Depression, a beautiful clubhouse was built of native limestone on land owned by the club on Main Street. It is almost certain that Gainesville architect Sanford Goin was the architect, for he designed a very similar stone building in Newberry during this period. The triple arched facade, fine detailing inside and out, superior masonry work and excellent proportions of this building are noteworthy. Masonic Lodge #26 meets on the second floor of the historic Williams Building [14507 Main Street], and down Main Street, south of the railroad tracks, is the home of VFW Post 9229 [14213 Main Street], which holds regular bingo games in the small frame vernacular clubhouse that was once a tearoom.

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The City of Alachua Downtown Historic District conveys a sense of historic and architectural cohesiveness through its design, setting, materials, workmanship, and associations to the growth and development of the city, and later intrusions and noncontributing buildings have not diminished the district's ability to communicate a sense of historic significance.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the City of Alachua Downtown Historic District is shown as a dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "City of Alachua Downtown Historic District."

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the properties within an area in central Alachua that retain integrity and are associated with the functioning of Alachua as a commercial center for an agricultural region of northwestern Alachua County. The boundary excludes, where possible, properties that have lost integrity and/or have no significance.

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1. City of Alachua Historic District
2. Alachua County, Florida
3. Murray D. Laurie
4. June-July, 1999
5. Murray D. Laurie
6. North end of Main Street, facing north
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6. South end of Main Street, facing north
7. 2 of 24

6. Williams-Leroy House, 14603 Main Street, facing east
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6. Mizell-Stephens House, 14705 Main Street, facing east
7. 4 of 24

6. Pierce-Bishop, 14713 Main Street, facing east
7. 5 of 24

6. David Walker House-Alachua Stained Glass, 14617 Main Street, facing east
7. 6 of 24

6. Bell-Rist House, 14707 NW 140 Street, facing east
7. 7 of 24

6. Eddy House, 14410 NW 142 Terrace, facing west
7. 8 of 24

6. Dell-Dansby House, 14810 NW 144 Street, facing west
7. 9 of 24

6. Carl Williams House, 14801 NW 142 Terrace, facing east
7. 10 of 24

6. Enneis House, 14630 NW 144 Street, facing west
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6. Williams-Harrison House, 14209 NW 148 Place, facing south

7. 12 of 24

6. Frame vernacular house, 14412 NW 144 Place, facing north

7. 13 of 24

6. Noncontributing house, 14212 NW 145 Avenue, facing north

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6. Bank of Alachua, 14706 Main Street, facing west

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6. Conestoga Restaurant, 14920 Main Street, facing north

7. 16 of 24

6. Allstate Office; Gift Shop, 14924 and 14933 Main Street, facing west

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6. Oldest brick stores, 14507-14545 Main Street, facing southeast

7. 18 of 24

6. Enneis Motor Company, 14320 Main Street, facing east

7. 19 of 24

6. Noncontributing commercial building, AllTel, 14600 Main Street, facing west

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6. First Methodist Church, 14805 NW 140 Street, facing east

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6. Church of Christ, 14505 NW 145 Avenue, facing south

7. 22 of 24

6. Alachua Womans Club, 14565 Main Street, facing east

7. 23 of 24

6. Frame Bungalow, 14421 NW 145 Avenue, facing south

7. 24 of 24