



751

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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

## 1. Name of Property

**historic name** Pleasant Valley Historic District  
**other names/site number** N/A

## 2. Location

**street & number** Roughly bounded by CSX rail line on the W, Crandall city limits on the N and land lot lines on the E and S  
**city, town** Crandall (X) **vicinity of**  
**county** Murray **code** GA 213  
**state** Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 30705

( ) not for publication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:

#### Contributing

#### Noncontributing

<b>buildings</b>	13	48
<b>sites</b>	13	0
<b>structures</b>	9	7
<b>objects</b>	0	0
<b>total</b>	35	55

**Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:** N/A

**Name of previous listing:** N/A

**Name of related multiple property listing:** N/A

---

#### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

---

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

W. Ray Luce  
Signature of certifying official

6-26-09  
Date

W. Ray Luce  
Historic Preservation Division Director  
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

\_\_\_\_\_

determined eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_

determined not eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_

removed from the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_

other, explain:

\_\_\_\_\_

see continuation sheet

Lisbeth...  
Keeper of the National Register

9/24/09  
Date

---

## 6. Function or Use

---

### Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
DOMESTIC: secondary structure  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding  
TRANSPORTATION: rail-related  
TRANSPORTATION: road-related

### Current Functions:

DOMESTIC: single dwelling  
DOMESTIC: secondary structure  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding  
TRANSPORTATION: rail-related  
TRANSPORTATION: road-related

---

## 7. Description

---

### Architectural Classification:

OTHER: Folk Victorian  
OTHER: Central Hallway  
OTHER: I-House  
OTHER: Ranch House

### Materials:

**foundation** STONE  
**walls** WOOD: weatherboard  
METAL  
SYNTHETICS: vinyl  
**roof** ASPHALT  
**other** N/A

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

#### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Pleasant Valley Historic District is a historic rural, agricultural area located in a valley in the north Georgia mountains. The three main roads in the district are Loughridge Road, which runs east-west through the lower half of the district, Crandall-Ellijay Road, which runs through the eastern portion of the district, and the Old Federal Road, which is part of the western boundary of the district. The western boundary of the district is the CSX rail line and includes a historic 1908 railroad overpass. Another historic structure in the district is the 1922 Mill Creek Bridge. The district is comprised of

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

---

historic farmhouses and farmsteads. The Bates-Loughridge Farm has a c.1836 log house, built by Julius Bates, with later additions including a second floor built c.1870 when the Loughridge family purchased the land. The farm also has a c.1880 barn, a c.1880 smokehouse, a 1950s wellhouse, and a 1950 farm office building. The T.R. Bates-Loughridge Farm has a 1882 Folk Victorian-style one-and-a-half-story, frame Central Hallway-type house, a 1950 concrete-block tenant house, and a c.1940 barn. The Plemons-O'Neal Farm has a c.1919 frame I-House, a 1945 smokehouse, and a 1945 barn. The Loughridge Family Farm has a 1951 Ranch house that replaced the earlier 1903 farmhouse, a few noncontributing agricultural buildings, and historic agricultural fields. The remaining historic resources in the district are the historic agricultural fields. There are noncontributing modern houses and a number of noncontributing poultry houses, sheds, and other modern outbuildings that do not detract from the historic character of the district, and in fact, represent the continuation of agricultural production in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

FULL DESCRIPTION

**NOTE: The following description was written by Gretchen Brock, National Register Coordinator, Historic Preservation Division and based on "Pleasant Valley Historic District" Historic District Information Form, November 18, 2005, William Blankenship, consultant. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

The Pleasant Valley Historic District is located approximately one and one-half miles south of the town of Crandall and encompasses most of a valley in Murray County in the north Georgia mountains. Pleasant Valley is a distinctive place in the north Georgia mountains because it remains an intact historic agricultural landscape. The area immediately north and south of the district has modern development and overgrown, unused agricultural fields and woods. With the increase in residential and commercial development in the north Georgia mountains, there are very few intact valleys historically used for agriculture that retain their historic agricultural characteristics.

The western boundary of the district is defined by the Louisville and Nashville Railroad (now CSX Railroad) and the Old Federal Road; the northern boundary roughly follows the city limits of Crandall and legal property lines; the eastern boundary is legal property lines and generally follows the lower topographic lines; and the southern boundary is a legal property line and land lot line.

The Pleasant Valley Historic District is characterized by open, agricultural fields with tree lines generally demarcating property lines. There are historic farmhouses and agricultural buildings spaced far apart along the three roads in the district, Loughridge Road, Crandall-Ellijay Road, and Old Federal Road (three contributing structures). Loughridge Road runs east-west through the lower half of the district from the western boundary (the rail line) to its intersection with Crandall-Ellijay Road on the eastern district boundary. Crandall-Ellijay Road runs south from the town of Crandall through the eastern part of the district and continues south along the edge of the Chattahoochee National Forest in this part of the state. An intact portion of the Old Federal Road crosses the southwest portion of the district. The roads retain their rural low-traffic appearance with narrow lanes and no shoulders with grass to the edge of the pavement. The historic qualities of the roads,

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

---

seamlessly integrated into the landscape, add to the rural characteristics of the district (photographs 11, 13, and 14).

The **Louisville and Nashville Railroad overpass** (now CSX Railroad) was constructed in 1908 (one contributing structure). The need for the overpass became evident only a few years after the original grade of the rail-bed was laid and it was found that the grade going into Crandall was too steep for rail traffic. As a result, a bridge was constructed with a roadbed laid underneath for traffic to pass east-west onto Loughridge Road. Before the overpass was completed, those traveling by Loughridge Road (then called Union Road) traveled north-south on the Old Federal Road. Another reason for the construction of the overpass was to prevent livestock from access to the L & N Railroad tracks. The overpass is constructed of steel-reinforced concrete that forms a barrel vault tunnel that allows one lane of traffic to pass underneath the rail line (photographs 1 and 2). The distance from the west to east end of the tunnel is 35 feet.

The historic **Mill Creek Bridge** (one contributing structure) is located directly east of the railroad overpass on Loughridge Road. The one-lane bridge was constructed in 1922 and is a rare, early example of a steel encased stringer bridge (photograph 6). Only 13 examples of the design were identified in the state by the Georgia Department of Transportation in the Georgia Historic Bridge Survey (1997) and the Mill Creek Bridge is the oldest extant example. The bridge is 14.2 feet wide and is 50 feet long. The bridge spans the Mill Creek, which runs northeast-southwest in the northwest portion of the district, and replaced an earlier wood bridge. The bridge is an early version of the rolled beam design and is finished with a concrete deck and plain balustrades.

Between the overpass and the bridge is a noncontributing house and agricultural fields (photograph 3)(one noncontributing building and one contributing site).

The **Loughridge Family Farm** is located at 590 Loughridge Road. The 77-acre farm includes a contributing 1951 Ranch house, which replaced the earlier 1903 farmhouse, and three noncontributing outbuildings. The red brick Ranch house was constructed in 1951 by James Colquitt Loughridge (1925-1983) shortly after his marriage to Nell Ruth Davis. The house has a side-gable roof with a projecting front-gable entrance. The house has some Colonial Revival-style details, including a broken pediment over the front entrance, a classical door surround, and a round vent in the front projecting gable. The windows are grouped six-over-six windows and there is a Chicago-style window for the living room. A brick garage addition was added to the left side of the house in the 1960s. There are two noncontributing structures on the property: a modern pole barn (1998) located approximately 300 feet south of the main house and a modern lean-to used for implement storage built on the southernmost edge of the property in 2003. The one noncontributing building on the property is a modern utility shed (1965) located approximately 150 feet south of the house. The house is surrounded by a wood picket fence and there is modern wire fencing enclosing agricultural fields. Mature hardwood trees are located near the house and the surrounding land is open agricultural fields (agricultural fields are counted as one contributing site).

The **Bates-Loughridge House and Farm** is located at 699 Loughridge Road. The five-acre lot includes a contributing c.1836 log house with c.1870 additions, four contributing outbuildings, and

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

---

one noncontributing structure (photographs 7 and 18). The five-acre house lot was subdivided from the larger Loughridge Family Farm land holdings in 1985, which remain in agricultural use surrounding the house lot (agricultural fields are counted as one contributing site). The Bates-Loughridge House was constructed c.1836 by Julius Bates as a two-room log house. The house was enlarged c.1870 with a second half-story and additional rooms to form a one-and-a-half story Central Hallway-type house. The house is three bays with a symmetrical façade, two central internal chimneys, a side-gable roof, and a one-story porch supported by wood posts. The first floor has paired nine-over-nine double-hung sash windows and the half-story has six-over-six double-hung sash windows. The entrance door is flanked by sidelights. Modern aluminum and vinyl siding cover the original weatherboard siding. A later modern garage addition is connected to the house by a one-room hyphen. A historic c.1880 barn and c.1880 smokehouse are located west of the house (two contributing buildings). The large barn has a steeply pitched gable roof, wood siding, and stone piers. The smokehouse is a square wood building with vertical wood plank siding that rests on stone piers. The current farm office was built in 1950 and was originally used as a house (one contributing building). The frame building has a front-gable roof, one window, and a front porch. A contributing c.1950 well house is also located on the property (one contributing structure). The landscaping around the house is informal with ornamental shrubs and plantings and mature trees. The area between the main house and the outbuildings retains the characteristics of a landscape of work. The noncontributing structure is a 1980s pole barn built on the adjacent lot to the west. The large lot in the center of the district is also associated with this house and remains in agricultural use (one contributing site).

East of the Bates-Loughridge House lot is a 34-acre farm lot that is used by the Loughridge family today for raising poultry. This modern poultry complex has eight noncontributing poultry houses, three noncontributing utility/storage buildings, three noncontributing equipment sheds, and one noncontributing pole barn (14 noncontributing buildings and one noncontributing structure) (photograph 8). The buildings are generally modern steel-frame buildings with metal sheathing. The poultry houses are long metal buildings that measure 40 by 500 feet. This property has a total of 14 noncontributing buildings and one noncontributing structure. Another portion of the historic Bates-Loughridge Farm is the 46 ½-acre lot located directly to the east. This lot remains as open pasture land with a heavily wooded area (historically and currently) located along the east side of the lot.

Located at 1363 Loughridge Road, the **Stephen C. Loughridge property** consists of a nonhistoric 1998 house and barn (two noncontributing buildings) (photograph 11, right).

The 160-acre **T.R. Bates-Loughridge House and Farm** is located at 3124 Crandall-Ellijay Road and is a farm complex with a historic farmhouse, outbuildings, and agricultural fields (photographs 21-23). The Folk Victorian-style, one-and-a-half-story, frame house was built c.1882. The house is a Central Hallway-type house with a side-gable roof and a one-story wrap-around porch with turned posts. The half-story has a projecting balcony that has a front-gable roof, turned posts, and jigsaw balustrade. The house retains its historic weatherboard siding, exterior gable-end chimneys, and six-over-six and one-over-one double-hung sash windows. The central entrance has a transom and sidelights. The landscaping immediately surrounding the house is informally planted with ornamental trees and shrubs and mature hardwoods. There is a historic concrete flower pit/planter in the front yard. Next

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

---

to the house are two historic outbuildings: a well and pump house and a front-gable shed/storage building (photograph 23). Directly across Crandall-Ellijay Road from the farmhouse is a c.1940 barn. The frame, transverse-crib barn has a half-story loft with a rectangular vent in the front gable, weatherboard siding, and a metal roof (photograph 32). South of the main farm complex on the east side of Crandall-Ellijay Road is a c.1950 tenant house. The one-story, Central-Hallway house is constructed on concrete block and probably replaced an earlier wood tenant house. The house has a shed roof porch supported by wood posts and an interior chimney. This farm complex has four contributing buildings (house, tenant house, barn, and shed) and two contributing structures (well/pumphouse and flower pit).

The **Clinton C. Keith Farm** is located in the southwest corner of the district on the east side of the Old Federal Road. Historically, the farm was 160 acres and encompassed approximately three-fourths of the southern boundary of the district. The Clinton C. Keith House is located in the extreme southwestern corner of the district and is separated from its associated agricultural fields by the Old Federal Road (photograph 4). The c.1900 two-story house was originally constructed as an I-House and was later enlarged with a two-story addition and a one-story ell to the back of the original I-House (probably in the 1920s). The house today resembles a two-story Georgian House with a steeply pitched gable roof covering the original I-House and the addition. The rear one-story ell has a gable roof. There is a hip-roof dormer in the attic story of the house. The house has a symmetrical façade, three-over-one sash windows, and a full-width front porch supported by square posts. Today, this parcel is 37 acres and is a fenced pasture lot for grazing cattle. A c.1920 structure remains on the property, which served as a cattle feed lot and auction facility (photograph 27). The structure is constructed on a wood frame with an expansive interior covered with a flat roof. Poles buried in the ground support the middle areas of the roof and there are remnants of several fences used as chutes for guiding cattle. There are three noncontributing sheds and one noncontributing lean-to on the property (total resources: one contributing building, one contributing structure, one contributing site, three noncontributing buildings, and one noncontributing structure).

Directly west of the present-day Keith farm lot is a 93-acre lot that was once part of the larger farm. The property retains its open agricultural fields and is currently used to raise poultry. There are six modern poultry houses on the property (one contributing site and six noncontributing buildings).

North of the Keith Farm are parcels that were subdivided from the larger historic farm. The lots are deep with modern houses constructed on the front of the lots near the road and agricultural fields at the rear of the lots. There is a noncontributing modern house, located at 193 Old Federal Road, on the parcel at the corner of Loughridge and Old Federal roads. The next parcel south has one noncontributing house. The parcel directly north of the Keith Farm, located at 5242 Old Federal Road, has two noncontributing houses. (Total resources for this section of the district: four contributing sites and four noncontributing buildings).

The **Plemons-O'Neal House and Farm** is located in the southeastern corner of the district and comprises a historic farmhouse and outbuildings on 44 acres of land (photograph 10). The property was originally purchased by John K. Plemons in 1872 and remained in the Plemons family until 1910. The Plemons and the succeeding owner, George Washington Phillips, resided elsewhere and

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

---

farmed the property. Circa 1910, the W.P. O'Neal family purchased the property and constructed an I-House. The frame house has weatherboard siding, one exterior end chimney (the other was torn down), three-over-one wood sash windows, and a shed roof porch with square wood posts. Three dormers were added in 1950 and an addition was added to the rear in 1960. There are two contributing outbuildings. The 1945 wood frame smokehouse has an front-gable roof and weatherboard siding covered with tarpaper. The 1945 barn has a front-gable roof and vertical board siding. There is a noncontributing garage that was constructed in 1998 (three contributing buildings and one noncontributing building).

The **Westfield-Adair-Plemons Farm** is located in the northwest corner of the district. Historically this 162-acre lot was part of large land holdings by the various families that farmed Pleasant Valley. The property today is open agricultural fields and there is a modern farmstead on the property that was constructed between 1991 and 1998 (one contributing site and seven noncontributing buildings: one house, two barns, two sheds, a garage, and a shop). A three-acre parcel was subdivided from this property and one noncontributing house was constructed in 1998.

The **McDonald-Logan-Phillips Farm** is located in the northeast corner of the district and presently consists of three separate parcels totaling 189.58 acres. The property was historically farmed by various families that farmed Pleasant Valley. Today, the land is still in agricultural use and there is a nonhistoric farmstead on the property with a farmhouse, five sheds, and two pole barns. A contributing tenant house, nonhistoric barn, and nonhistoric shed remain on the farm on the west side of Crandall-Ellijay Road (photograph 16) (total resources for farm: one contributing building, three contributing sites, eight noncontributing buildings and two noncontributing structures).

The overall the district retains a high degree of historic integrity with historic farmhouses, outbuildings, and agricultural fields. Modern, noncontributing farmhouses and outbuildings do not detract from the overall sense of time and place and represent the rare continued use of the valley for agricultural purposes.



---

**8. Statement of Significance**

---

**Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:**

nationally       statewide       locally

**Applicable National Register Criteria:**

A       B       C       D

**Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):**  N/A

A       B       C       D       E       F       G

**Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):**

AGRICULTURE  
ARCHITECTURE  
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  
TRANSPORTATION

**Period of Significance:**

1837-1959

**Significant Dates:**

1837—ownership of Pleasant Valley by David Westfield, settlement of Pleasant Valley, and construction of a road connecting Murray and Gilmer counties (now the Crandall-Ellijay Road)

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

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

N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

---

**Statement of significance (areas of significance)**

Historic development in Pleasant Valley began in 1832 with the Cherokee Land Lottery that opened the area to white settlement. David Westfield (1786-1865) purchased several land lots in the area from the original owners and by 1837, owned 2,800 acres of land including Pleasant Valley. Westfield built a road to connect Murray and Gilmer counties and the present-day Crandall-Ellijay Road follows the 1830s road. In 1839, Westfield sold 2,400 acres to brothers John and Julius Bates and by 1840, there were three major farms within the valley, the John Bates farm, the Julius Bates farm, and the William McDonald farm. By 1850, two additional families, the Edward Adair family and the Benjamin Loughridge family, also built farms in the valley, and the main crops grown during this time were wheat, corn, oats, potatoes, and livestock. After the Civil War, the area continued to be farmed by members of the founding families, and cotton was added as a cash crop due to high cotton prices. The railroad did not arrive in the area until 1904 and the nearby towns of Eton, Crandall, and Chatsworth were founded. Pleasant Valley remained a rural, agricultural area through the 20<sup>th</sup> century. During the 1930s, Pleasant Valley farmers, along with the rest of the South, began new agricultural practices such as crop rotation and diversification. By the 1950s, the trend turned to livestock and poultry production. The area remains in agricultural use today and many of the farms are still owned by members of the original families. The historic district is eligible for listing in the National Register at the state level of significance as a rare, intact farming community in an undeveloped valley in the north Georgia mountains.

The Pleasant Valley Historic District is significant in the area of agriculture for its intact, historic farmsteads and land use patterns associated with the historic agricultural practices that have remained since the early 1800s to the present day. As documented in *Tilling the Earth: Georgia's Historic Agricultural Heritage, A Context*, significant elements of historic agricultural resources in Georgia are extant historic farmhouses, one or more agricultural outbuildings or ancillary structures, and an identifiable agricultural landscape. The Pleasant Valley Historic District retains all three of these elements on a large scale. The historic farmsteads in the district retain their historic houses and outbuildings and in many cases their historic landscapes of work. The district as a whole is an identifiable agricultural landscape that has changed very little from the period of significance and, in fact, is still used for agriculture today. Farmsteads in the district are separated from each other by fence lines or hedgerows, as are fields within farmsteads to separate for different agricultural uses. Land in the district is characterized by cleared open agricultural fields used for crops and pasture as it was during the historic period. Houses and outbuildings are clustered together in each farmstead with the exception of tenant houses, which traditionally were situated on their own farm lot such as the tenant house on the T.R. Bates-Loughridge Farm.

The district is significant in the area of architecture for its intact collection of historic houses and agricultural-related outbuildings that represent common house and outbuilding types and styles found in rural Georgia from the early 19<sup>th</sup> through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The four main farmhouses in the district are representative of the types of houses built on rural farmsteads in Georgia. The Bates-Loughridge House is the oldest house in the district and is a c.1836 log house with later 1870s additions. Log houses are among the earliest types of houses built on the Georgia frontier and were often expanded, updated, and modernized as family wealth increased. The T.R. Bates-Loughridge

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

---

House is a one-and-a-half-story Central Hallway-type house. As documented in *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*, a Central Hallway-type house was commonly built throughout Georgia during the 19<sup>th</sup> century through the 1930s and was most commonly built in the 1840s through the 1890s. There are two early 20<sup>th</sup>-century I-Houses in the district: the c.1900 Clinton C. Keith House and the c.1910 Plemons-O'Neal House. As stated in *Georgia's Living Places*, I-Houses appeared sporadically in Georgia throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century and were mostly built in the Piedmont and Upper Coastal Plain. The I-Houses in Pleasant Valley are good and intact examples of the late use of this house type in the north Georgia mountains. The Loughridge Family House is an excellent and intact example of Georgia's most recent historic house type—the Ranch House. The mid-20<sup>th</sup> century phenomenon of Ranch houses replacing earlier house types on farmsteads appears to be consistent throughout the state, although not as yet formally documented. In the case of the Loughridge Family Farm, a 1951 Ranch house replaced the 1903 farmhouse originally built by members of the family.

Historic outbuildings in the Pleasant Valley Historic District are representative of the types of outbuildings built on Georgia's farms from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century as documented in *Tilling the Earth: Georgia's Historic Agricultural Heritage, A Context*. Barns, sheds, and smokehouses are the most common types of outbuildings found on Georgia farms. In the historic district, the Bates-Loughridge Farm, T.R. Bates-Loughridge Farm, and the Plemons-O'Neal Farm all retain historic outbuildings. The c.1880 smokehouse on the Bates-Loughridge Farm is a good and intact example of a late 19<sup>th</sup>-century smokehouse in Georgia with its one-story, square form and vertical wood-plank siding. A later smokehouse is located on the Plemons-O'Neal Farm. This smokehouse was built in 1945 and retains its square form with front-gable roof. There are two good examples of transverse crib-type barns in the district: the c.1880 barn at the Bates-Loughridge Farm and the c.1940 barn at the T.R. Bates-Loughridge Farm. The T.R. Bates-Loughridge barn is located across the street from the farmhouse and is an excellent intact example of a transverse crib barn with its half-story hay loft, weatherboard siding, and metal roof. Other outbuildings in the district are good examples of mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century farm offices and tenant houses.

Rural farmhouses in Georgia may or may not display stylistic features popular during the time of their construction. In the Pleasant Valley Historic District, the c.1882 T.R. Bates-Loughridge House has Folk Victorian-style details, a style that was extremely popular in the state from the 1870s through the 1910s, and the 1951 Loughridge Family Ranch House has some Colonial Revival-style details, Georgia's most popular architectural style from the 1890s through the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The district is significant in the area of exploration/settlement for its direct association with the early settlement of north Georgia and Murray County. In addition, a portion of the Federal Road, one of the first public works projects initiated by the federal government, is included in the district. Northeast Georgia including Pleasant Valley was opened to white settlement with the 1832 Cherokee Land Lottery. David Westfield purchased several land lots in the Pleasant Valley area, consolidating land holdings in the valley, and built a road through the valley connecting Murray and Gilmer counties. The district is also significant for the intact portion of the Federal Road that crosses the southwest portion of the district. In 1805, the Treaty of Tellico enabled the federal government to build roads through land owned by the Cherokee and Creek tribes in the Southeast. The portion of the Federal

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

---

Road through Pleasant Valley is part of the road alignment that went through Cherokee lands from present-day Athens in Clarke County northwest through Hall and Jackson counties to Murray County where the road splits and heads west to Nashville, Tennessee, and north to Knoxville, Tennessee.

The Pleasant Valley Historic District is significant in the area of transportation for its historic railroad overpass, bridge, and road system. The 1908 Louisville and Nashville Railroad overpass was constructed to lessen the grade of the rail line coming into Crandall and to allow for east-west traffic to cross under the rail-bed through a tunnel. The overpass retains its historic design and steel-reinforced concrete construction. The district is also significant for the historic Mill Creek Bridge, which is the oldest extant example of a steel encased stringer bridge left in the state. The one-lane bridge was built in 1922 and is one of only 13 of these once-common bridges left in Georgia. The district is also significant for its historic and intact road system. The three main roads in the district, Loughridge Road, Crandall-Elijay Road, and Old Federal Road, retain their rural low-traffic appearance with narrow lanes and no shoulders with grass to the edge of the pavement. The historic qualities of the roads, seamlessly integrated into the landscape, add to the rural characteristics of the district and these types of roads are quickly becoming a rarity in the state.

**National Register Criteria**

The Pleasant Valley Historic District meets National Register Criteria A and C in the areas of agriculture and architecture for its excellent and intact collection of farm houses, outbuildings, and agricultural fields that represent farming practices in valleys in the north Georgia mountains. The district is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A in the areas of exploration/settlement and transportation for its intact collection of historic resources that represent early farming settlements and rural transportation corridors in the north Georgia mountains.

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

**Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins in 1837 with the consolidation of lands previously distributed through the Cherokee Land Lottery (1832) by David Westfield and the subsequent white settlement of Pleasant Valley for agricultural purposes and for the construction of a road connecting Murray and Gilmer counties (now the present-day Crandall-Elijay Road). The period of significance ends at the end of the historic period, 1959 for the continued use of Pleasant Valley as a rural agricultural area.

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

The contributing buildings in the district date from the district's period of significance and retain their historic integrity. The noncontributing buildings were constructed after the period of significance or have lost their historic integrity from nonhistoric alterations. All buildings were evaluated by members

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

---

of the Georgia Historic Preservation Division's Survey and National Register staff in April 2007, and contributing or noncontributing status was determined according to the criteria of the Georgia Historic Preservation Division.

In addition, contributing and noncontributing resources are outlined in Section 7 above. For the purposes of this agriculturally significant nomination, properties that retained their historic, open, agricultural fields, the fields were counted as one contributing site per current lot as indicated on the attached map.

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

**NOTE: The following developmental history was written by William Blankenship, Fort Mountain Preservation Services, "Pleasant Valley Historic District, *Historic District Information Form*, November 8, 2005. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

**Native American Occupation**

When Hernando DeSoto and his group passed through Georgia in 1540, the Cherokees were in control of Murray County and most of present-day North Georgia. The Cherokees warred chiefly with Creek groups for control of the area periodically; however, at the time of DeSoto's purported visit to Murray County in 1540, the Cherokees were in firm control of the area and remained in control in varying degrees until 1832, when President Andrew Jackson essentially ignored a ruling by the United States Supreme Court and wrested the land from Native-American groups.

DeSoto, according to local and state histories, met with native leaders at a place called "Guaxule" near or on the Coosawattee River. At this time, the Cherokees had a firm control of lands in the area, including present-day Murray County, but had only recently defeated the Creek groups and pushed them into central and south Georgia. Later, this would cause trouble for both Creek and Cherokee alike.

When Georgia was colonized in 1732, traders immediately began to gauge methods of creating an economic system based on trading merchandise with Native-American groups. Eventually, this trade had to be halted; interaction between Creeks, Cherokees, and whites was causing some unpleasantness throughout the colony.

One negative effect, so far as the colonial government was concerned, was the establishment of alliances between Creeks and whites, and Cherokees and whites. Another was the establishment of a rising upper-middle class taking place among the Cherokees, as Cherokees began to take on the trappings of whites, acquiring large tracts of land (a very rare, if unheard of practice among Native-American groups prior to this era) and setting up large cash-crop farms. This occurred in Murray County, particularly near present-day Spring Place, where James Vann (a half-white, half-Cherokee farmer and entrepreneur) claimed hundreds of acres of land as part of his farm.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

---

The alliances were an ongoing problem, one which culminated in the choosing of sides during the American War for Independence. Native-American groups began to ally themselves with different sides during the conflict, with most groups coming down on the side of the British government. The British government enticed the Native-American groups with promises that white designs to possess Indian territory would not take place under a British government; some groups, especially those associated with Creek groups were more than ready to lend their support to the British in reaction to perceived overtures by a Georgia government seemingly unwilling or unable to stem the tide of white settlement into the deep interior of north, central, and south Georgia.

Once there were alliances, perceived or otherwise, the clock began ticking for the Cherokee and Creek groups present in Georgia. Moreover, once the Americans won the War for Independence, they almost immediately turned their attention toward lands that were still prohibited for white settlement. Whites in the eastern part of the state began to seek ways to circumvent the regulations set by the new Georgia State Assembly.

One method in which to circumvent the rules was to outright purchase the property from the Native-American groups themselves. This method was treading in the gray area of laws concerning white settlement, but the practice was prevalent. In Murray County, several white families gained land in this way, and cemented their status in the area by marrying into Cherokee families. This was common in the southern sections of Murray County in a town called Carters.

The name of the first such white settler in the Pleasant Valley area is unknown. In Spring Place, whites were commonly found, living under the semi-feudal rule of James Vann, who was known to openly shoot and otherwise kill those who crossed him or other Cherokees in the area. There was a Moravian Mission established near Spring Place as well. In 1819, President James Monroe stayed overnight in Spring Place, at the Vann House, and later inspected the mission grounds. Monroe's party was suitably impressed, but did nothing to relieve Cherokee claims that whites in the area were abusive.

This state of affairs existed for the next several years. In 1832, with the Georgia Assembly intent on taking the remainder of Native-American lands in Georgia, and President Jackson refusing to enforce the ruling issued by the U.S. Supreme Court regarding protections of the Cherokees, the Georgia Assembly enacted a lottery, the last to take place in Georgia, for the distribution of land.

### **White Settlement and Development**

The 1832 Cherokee Land Lottery effected the 1013<sup>th</sup> Militia District. The 1013<sup>th</sup> was not a formal district at this time, but it was part of the 9<sup>th</sup> Land District, and there were Cherokees living on the land lots that make up present-day Pleasant Valley along Mill Creek, in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Land Lots, specifically. By the time of the lottery, the area later named Pleasant Valley had a white presence as well; it has been reported in local histories that the area near where the CSX Corporation Railroad

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

---

Overpass was constructed in 1908 was the site of a stagecoach stop on the Old Federal Road. Records of property ownership prior to the lottery have not been located, although local sources state that whites lived on the property.

If this was the case at the time of the lottery, that whites were living on the parcels associated with the proposed district, they would have found themselves trespassing on the properties the day after the land lottery. While there is no evidence stating their presence in Pleasant Valley, this did occur in other sections of Murray County. Given that the whites living in the area were more or less prohibited from living on the parcels prior to the lottery, there was little legal recourse those persons could take. Immediately after the lottery, winners of the parcels began sending letters, representatives, and sometimes even themselves to their newly chosen parcels, informing those living on the parcels that they either had to vacate the property, pay rent, or, in some cases, purchase the properties from the lottery drawers.

Some drawers, regardless of whether or not someone was already living on the properties drawn, immediately sold their won properties. This was the case in every land lot associated with Pleasant Valley in the historic district.

By 1833, in addition to the stagecoach stop located on the Old Federal Road, Pleasant Valley had a post office. A man named Nelson Dickinson operated the post; there are no other mentions of Dickinson in Murray County histories. The post office, according to *Murray County Heritage*, was located on the Federal Road, near the southwestern corner of the historic district, in a log building (no longer extant).

One of the first persons to purchase property from a drawer in the Cherokee Land Lottery was David Westfield (1786-1865). Westfield purchased several entire parcels in the first three years after the lottery. By 1837, Westfield owned 2,800 acres of land.

Westfield did not merely sit on the land, waiting for buyers—he made improvements. One improvement he made was the construction of an improved road that would connect Murray and Gilmer counties. The modern day Crandall-Ellijay Road is set on the same path as the Westfield Road.

In 1839, Westfield began selling parcels of his land holdings. Deeds do not record the reason for these sales, nor do extant tax records. It does not appear that Westfield was in any financial trouble that would necessitate his selling off large pieces of property. In 1840, Westfield was living in the section of Murray County which became Whitfield County in 1851. It is possible that Westfield chose to divest himself of his holdings because he did not care to supervise the land any longer.

Another early resident, and the possibly the first to farm Pleasant Valley, was William McDonald. McDonald came to Murray County c.1837 by way of Green County, Tennessee. His family owned land in Greene County, near Belvidere. While McDonald made his residence a few miles south of his Pleasant Valley property, he owned at least 200 acres in the historic district. By 1839, there are no recorded residents of the area. In 1838, the Cherokee Removal occurred; remaining Cherokees

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

---

were deported from the area at that time by federal agents. It is unknown, too, why the 1013<sup>th</sup> Militia District was named for William McDonald rather than David Westfield. Possibly the reason lies in the fact that by 1850, when the 1013<sup>th</sup> district was formed as a separate district, Westfield no longer had substantial holdings in the area, while McDonald, while not the predominant property holder in the area, had certainly been there for quite a long time.

A case could be made however, that had McDonald had competitors for the district's naming, John and Julius Bates could have been in contention for the honor. John and Julius Bates arrived in Pleasant Valley in 1839 and purchased large amounts of David Westfield's property. In fact, Julius Bates purchased the bulk of it, some 2,400 acres of the 2,800 owned by Westfield.

The Bates came from South Carolina by way of Hall County, Georgia. John Bates was known as "General Bates"; he had been commissioned a Major-General of Volunteers during the Indian Wars of the late 1820s and early 1830s. In Hall County, General Bates made a name for himself by serving as the Hall County Ordinary, from c.1817-c.1837, but in 1838, he and his brother decided to try their luck in Murray County. He purchased 160 acres from David Westfield (Land Lot 20) and with his brother, Julius, built a small cabin on present-day Loughridge Road. The two brothers set up housekeeping in their new dogtrot cabin and immediately set out to wrest a living from the Pleasant Valley soil.

By 1840, there were three major farms within the proposed district boundaries: the John Bates Farm, the Julius Bates Farm, and the William McDonald Farm. It would be fascinating to see how the three farmers fared by the 1840 Agricultural Census; however, that census does not list individual farm production. Furthermore, Murray County at the time of the 1840 enumeration was nearly four times larger than it would be ten years later, and any records collected for 1840 must not be compared to later figures. The 1840 *Compendium of the Sixth Census* states that while Murray County was deficient in comparison with longer settled areas of Georgia in the areas of manufactures of cast iron, fuels, lead, and gold, it was particularly suited to agriculture (see attachment 1, figure 1).

Murray County had respectable results relative to other counties, although it had only been a county for seven years at the time of the census. Allowances have to be made for several factors, including years of farming missed due to issues involving the Cherokee Indian Removal (several local men traveled the Trail of Tears as guards, then returned later). Time was also lost in the clearing of fields for agricultural production. Moreover, the figure 1 chart only involves livestock production. Crop yields are addressed in figure 2 (see attachment 1, figure 2). After only a few years of serious production, Murray County was producing nearly 1% of the total corn grown in the state and was higher than many other counties in livestock production.

The population of Pleasant Valley did not grow appreciably in the years between 1840 and 1850. A few smaller farms appeared, mostly on the outskirts of the current historic district, and most of those in the southern section. A small settlement was established northeast of Pleasant Valley; a man named Hassler started a flour mill along Mill Creek that operated for nearly 100 years. However, Pleasant Valley did not measure a large amount of growth due to the large tracts of land that made up the area. Three families owned several hundred acres of property each. Julius Bates later sold



National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

---

off a good portion of the timberland that existed on the side of Grassy Mountain and other property that now lies on the west side of the present-day railroad tracks (outside of the district). By the 1840s, the area that comprises the proposed nomination was set, amounting to approximately 900-1,000 acres.

There were a couple of new arrivals in the area—David Westfield still owned a small (by his earlier standard) amount of land in the valley, and in 1847 he sold a plot measuring 160 acres to Edward Adair. Adair owned large amounts of property in the neighboring Tenth Land District, and was a very prosperous farmer, even for Pleasant Valley standards. In 1850, he would state his net worth at over \$10,000; in 1860, his net worth had nearly tripled.

Another arrival was the Loughridge family, which arrived in the 1013<sup>th</sup> District in 1839. Most of the land owned by the Loughridges was centered just north of present-day Eton, but by 1845, Benjamin Loughridge began buying small parcels in Pleasant Valley. By 1850, Loughridge owned 715 acres, most of which were south of the present-day historic district boundaries and not utilized for agriculture. Loughridge did own 150 acres within the present-day historic district that were highly productive.

By 1850, there were six major farms in Pleasant Valley. Members of the Loughridge family owned two of the farms, which amounted to 180 acres of cultivated land. The Bates family owned two farms, which amounted to 500 acres. The McDonald Farm had 20 acres under cultivation, while the Adair Farm had about 100 acres cultivated. Crop yields were much higher in 1850 than in 1840—there had been ten years to consolidate holdings, clear lands, purchase equipment and livestock, and purchase slaves.

As farmers in the area became more affluent, garnered more land, and needed to develop the land for agriculture, there arose a perceived need for slaves. Murray County was never what could be termed a large slave-holding society; in 1850, there were a total of 1,930 slaves in Murray County—one of the lowest totals in all of Georgia. About 60 of these slaves were residents of Pleasant Valley. Most of the aforementioned Edward Adair's value was based not in his extensive land holdings but in the fact that he had the highest number of slaves in this part of the county—a total of eight slaves in 1850. David Westfield, who still owned small parcels in the district, but lived in Whitfield County, owned 28 slaves in 1860, making him one of the richest men in this part of Georgia in that year. William McDonald owned one female slave, and the Bates family owned seven, all of them associated with Rice Ross Bates, a second generation Pleasant Valley resident—and overseer of all Bates family farm operations.

So, due in part to slave labor, as well as white labor—landowners were not above hiring help and even hosting tenant farmers—the 1850 Agricultural Census was able to report a much higher yield of crops than in the previous census (see attachment 1, figures 3 and 4).

Again, like 1840 figures, the numbers do not tell the entire story. First, there was relatively little land cleared for agriculture in Pleasant Valley in 1850. Of the approximate 950 acres in the area, approximately 35 percent of the land was cleared for agriculture, or cultivated in the period

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

---

immediately preceding the census schedule count. Moreover, one must take into account the relative size of the area nominated for designation versus the total size of acreage planted in Murray County in 1850 (attachment 1, figure 5).

From the information provided in the 1850 Agricultural Census, Pleasant Valley produced a large amount of the county's crops in 1850. Less than one percent of Murray County's total planted acreage was found in Pleasant Valley in 1850; however, a full five percent of the wheat in the county was produced on that less-than-one percent of cultivated acreage.

### **Pleasant Valley Development—1860-1900**

By 1850, the Pleasant Valley area had been developing for eighteen years. During this time, development centered primarily on clearing and preparing fields for cultivation. The main crops were wheat, corn, oats, and potatoes. Several other crops were produced, but not on the scale of these primary crops. Wheat and corn were staples of agricultural production throughout the state of Georgia. In 1840, cotton was an important crop, but its production did not even approach the prevalence of corn production used for human and livestock use.

Potatoes were also used in this fashion—for human and livestock consumption—as were oats, though the primary use for oats was for animal fodder. Wheat was exclusively used for human consumption and was ground into flour at local mills. Pleasant Valley was particularly suited for the growing of wheat—thousands of years of erosion originating in the eastern range of the Cohutta Mountains had deposited very fertile soil in Pleasant Valley—soil in the region is much darker in color than the normal red clay found in other regions of the state. Two varieties of wheat were produced, one grown in spring and summer, and one grown in fall.

Farmers on the land in Pleasant Valley stayed on the land, for the most part. There were those who practiced other professions in addition to farming—members of the Bates and Loughridge families were noted local politicians during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, but these other professions were fleeting interests; the real job of property owners in Pleasant Valley was to farm.

By 1850, with a large chunk of the land in Pleasant Valley improved for farming, there arose a problem with land distribution, and its roots were in the tendency of farm families to produce a large amount of children. This problem has afflicted many societies. In England, and other European nations, the problem of estate inheritance had been a troubling issue for several hundred years—what would usually happen in cases where a finite amount of property owned by a given person, that must eventually be passed on to the man's children, is that the eldest son would receive either all or the bulk of the property. Younger sons would go into the military, or marry into other land-rich families. The youngest and unluckiest of the sons and daughters would sometimes find themselves cloistered away in convents or monasteries.

The six largest farms in Pleasant Valley, operated by four families, had had a multitude of children working the land for the previous two decades, and by 1850, these children were reaching their majorities. The result was a transformation of property boundaries in the area, the disappearance of

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

---

family names in Pleasant Valley, and an exodus to other parts of the country. Furthermore, it meant a massive effort to cultivate the remaining acreage in the Pleasant Valley district.

The cultivation of the remaining Pleasant Valley district acreage over a 10-year period is described in agricultural census schedules. Comparing the schedules from 1850 to 1860 shows that in 1860, 870 acres were planted for crop production, an increase of 520 acres, or 60 percent from the 350 acre total in 1850. The reason for this is simple; there were a lot more people working the land in the intervening years between census enumerations.

In 1850, within the six major farms in the area, there were about 44 persons in the district, not counting slaves and tenant farmers, who were of an age sufficient to be productive in the cultivation of crops. This was an increase of 23 persons, or nearly 50 percent enumerated in the 1840 census, not counting children too young to work the fields, slaves, and laborers. By 1860, there were upward of 72 persons of working age, and two dozen more on the verge of being of age.

The John Bates family makes for a good example of families in the district. John Bates and his wife, Barbary, produced ten children. It is unknown how many of these children lived to be adults, but for the purposes of illustration, we only need know the destiny of one, that of Rice Ross Bates, born in 1821. Rice Ross Bates was the youngest son of John Bates (most of Bates' children were grown and on their own by the time John Bates moved to Pleasant Valley), and as the youngest son (he would have been 16 years of age when he came to the area), he would have been on the land the longest, and by extension, the most logical choice to inherit the land when his father either died or became too infirm to work the farm. This is exactly what happened, too. John Bates was riding his horse when it threw him against a fence post and killed him. R.R. Bates immediately inherited the bulk of John Bates' estate, including the farmland, which amounted to 565 acres at John Bates' death in 1862. However, Bates had already been working this land since 1850 and already owned the land in spirit, if not in name.

R.R. Bates married in the early 1840s—he and his wife then produced ten children from 1843 to 1855. His first two children were killed or died as a result of the Civil War. His remaining children were all deeded property in Pleasant Valley upon reaching their majorities, with each child receiving an average of 80 acres (R.R. Bates retained a large tract until his death in the 1920s). Some of the children sold their tracts, others farmed the reduced parcels for the rest of their lives; however, in all cases, there was never a communal sharing of resources between any of the children. By 1900, either through marriage into other families, or land sales, the Bates family was barely a presence in Pleasant Valley.

This occurred with most of the old-line families in Pleasant Valley. The Loughridge family was an exception—while other families were willing to sell their properties, the Loughridge family emerged from the Civil War with enough capital to purchase properties being sold by the other families. The Loughridges were the only old-line family in Pleasant Valley that actually substantially increased their land holdings, going from approximately 100 acres in 1850 to over 700 acres by 1874. The McDonald family held on to its holdings in the valley well into the 1870s, then abruptly disappears from area records by 1890.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

---

This land inheritance phenomenon wreaked havoc with property boundaries, which were seemingly changing constantly. At one point in the 1870s, there were up to 20 farms operating in Pleasant Valley at any given time. It was the Loughridge family who emerged as the leading landholders in Pleasant Valley after the Civil War.

Murray County's economy lay in ruins following the war. Cotton prices as well as prices for staple crops were severely depressed. Credit was nearly impossible to procure. Taxes were one resulting problem—though very few properties or parcels were ever foreclosed on in Pleasant Valley. As in so many other southern areas, cotton proved to be the savior and curse of Pleasant Valley. Cotton had not had a very established presence in Pleasant Valley over the past 34 years, although it was popular as a crop in southern sections of Murray County. For one thing, cotton was very labor intensive to produce. Second, it was very expensive to plant; one could plant a 40-acre plot of corn for as cheap as ten acres of cotton, due largely to the price of cottonseed. Third, there was no cotton gin within miles of Pleasant Valley. And finally, cotton is a very destructive crop to soil quality, which is something farmers would be confronted with constantly in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1860, there was one bale of cotton produced in the entire 1013<sup>th</sup> Militia District, and it had not even been produced in Pleasant Valley. By 1870, however, with cotton prices edging marginally upward, cotton began to be planted by area farmers. The Loughridge family was the first in the area to plant the crop. Not very much was planted—only four acres producing two bales, each weighing 450 ginned pounds were planted, but it was enough in the hard times as a cash crop to avoid real financial trouble, and even allowed the Loughridge family (headed by James George Alexander Loughridge) to begin to buy property from their neighbors. Other farmers experimented with cotton; almost tentatively it seems from researching the production. John O'Neill, an Irish immigrant farming on the very outskirts of the western edge of the district, produced two bales, and R.R. Bates produced one bale. In all, the 1013<sup>th</sup> District produced eight bales of cotton by July 1870.

Other crops were not neglected, however. Cotton was strictly an extra cash crop in 1870, and even extending into the 1880s. The main product of Pleasant Valley continued to be corn production. Agricultural records of the era record 3,350 bushels of corn grown in Pleasant Valley in 1870, a marked decrease probably due to falling corn prices (corn production was down substantially statewide from 1860 totals). There were increases in garden items. Beans and other legumes were widely planted throughout the valley. Hay production increased from 1860 to 1870 by 26 tons in Pleasant Valley. Wheat production was cut in half from 1860 to 1870, to almost 1850 levels.

Livestock production in the area underwent a large increase. Horses and mules increased by 40 percent. Oxen, little used in Pleasant Valley since the 1830s, appeared in the valley. Cattle production increased with both meat and dairy cattle. Swine, which had been on a downward trend in 1860, made a complete comeback, though this proved temporary; pig production in Pleasant Valley steadily decreased over the next 20 years. The one exception was sheep—for an unknown reason, sheep all but ceased being any sort of presence in Pleasant Valley, and Murray County, for that matter.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

---

Throughout the 1870s property boundaries continued to shift. By 1874, the Loughridge family (headed now by James George Alexander Loughridge) owned an additional 700 acres of property, much of it in Pleasant Valley. One purchase the Loughridges made during this period was the property that included the Julius Bates House. Loughridge immediately embarked on a major rehabilitation of the home, adding a second floor and sheathing the entire structure with wood clapboards and modern windows. When the remodeling was complete, the house had taken on the appearance it retains today. J.G.A. Loughridge also constructed a house on the eastern edge of the district, which served as his home. Loughridge's elderly mother and one of his sisters lived in the Julius Bates House.

Other families, the most notable of which was the Plemons family, moved into the area and bought property. The Plemons' were from Gilmer County, near Ellijay, and were successful farmers there. They continued their success in Pleasant Valley, though they stuck mainly to crops other than cotton. The Keith Family entered the area from the west. C.C. Keith purchased a large tract from the Bates family in the 1880s. By 1880, Pleasant Valley parcel maps would have closely resembled modern-day parcel maps.

By 1880, Pleasant Valley was also beginning to fully recover from the effects of the Civil War and Reconstruction. Cotton production was firmly entrenched in the area, though not on the scale that other areas in Murray County were. In 1880, Pleasant Valley produced 20 ginned bales of the crop, even while yields in other crops increased. Corn production rebounded by 1880, exceeding 14,000 bushels; the first time production exceeded 1860 levels. Livestock production decreased to nearly negligible levels in the 1880 agricultural schedules.

The 1880s and 1890s marked a period of stasis in Pleasant Valley. Property was not changing hands as often as in previous eras. By far the largest landowner in the valley was J.G.A. Loughridge. There were other large farms in the area (at least by today's standards), but all paled in comparison to the Loughridge properties. Loughridge depended on a variety of sources to farm the properties. He entrusted family members to tenant parcels—it is unknown whether he received a rent fee for these properties. He did retain ownership of the land, however, and would remain the area's largest landowner until his death. Another method Loughridge employed was the sharecropper system. There were at least two instances of this occurring on the property at any given time from 1880 to 1910. In all cases, the tenants were African Americans.

It was during this period that the town of Dunn formed c.1890 (outside of the district). Dunn was named for the builder of a post office and store immediately south of the southwest corner of the historic district, and C.C. Keith, resident of Pleasant Valley, operated the post office and store for the extent of their operation. A school and church were located at the site as well, and for a time, the name of Pleasant Valley became nearly interchangeable with Dunn; however, no one living in or near Pleasant Valley consistently referred to Pleasant Valley in this manner. In 1905, Dunn ceased to exist.

### **Pleasant Valley in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

---

Remarkably, little is documented about Pleasant Valley in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, so it is nearly impossible to arrange a chronological picture of the area's development. There are but snips and pieces of the story present in official records, and local secondary sources are all but impossible to locate.

The reason for the dearth in information is that for decades following the announcement of the construction of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad tracks along its western border, Pleasant Valley more or less ceased to exist as anything more than a system of fields and a few widely spaced residences and structures.

Before the coming of the railroad, Pleasant Valley was referred to in a manner that evokes the feeling that the area was a community. There were few that would have termed the area a town or city, but in general, the feeling was that Pleasant Valley was a distinct entity, with a separate and distinct personality both among those who lived in the valley and those who lived in other sections of the county.

This ended with the announcement of the coming of the railroad. In this section of Murray County, at least three towns owe their very existence to the placement of the rails. Chatsworth, Eton, and Crandall were created *after* the announcement. The town of Eton was much like Pleasant Valley prior to the railroad—a series of field systems. Crandall was a flat spot on a reduced plateau, farmed in some places (such as areas around Summerhour Church), and Chatsworth was a long slope covered with trees descending toward Holly Creek.

The railroad changed all this. Chatsworth and Eton were formed first, and for the same reason; there was money to be made if a group of landowners could convince people to create a town. No sooner were surveyors finished planning the L&N tracks than a group of investors purchased large tracts of land south of Pleasant Valley and hired a surveyor of their own to design the layout of a new town. This town ended up being the town of Eton. Crandall developed somewhat differently, but along the same lines as Eton.

C.C. Keith was one of the main investors in the Eton establishment, and he purchased lots in the new town, intent on building his future there. The Dunn post office immediately closed, as did Keith's store. Some Pleasant Valley residents welcomed new towns springing up nearby. Prior to 1905, Dalton was the nearest railroad depot, and farmers had to travel over miles of rough roads to deliver their crops. With the establishment of nearby towns, the railroad would pass along the western boundary of the valley.

There were subtle changes for residents in Pleasant Valley with the establishment of new towns. For 70 years, Pleasant Valley had been the only well-known, established community in this part of Murray County. The valley had appeared on maps since the 1840s. Following the arrival of the railroad and the establishment of Crandall, Eton, and Chatsworth, Pleasant Valley residents began to identify themselves more with towns than with the valley. The center of Pleasant Valley lay exactly between Crandall and Eton; eventually, the northern half of the district, north of Loughridge Road associated itself with Crandall, with points south identifying with Eton.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

---

Pleasant Valley thus remained for the next 25 to 30 years. Old faces died off—the Loughridge family produced a new generation just as dedicated to maintaining the valley as the previous one. New faces arrived in the area. George Washington Phillips came to the area just after 1910 from northeast Georgia, and quickly purchased at least two large parcels—one was the old McDonald Farm. Phillips quickly became a noted presence in the valley. He was quick to donate land for churches and schools (he had extensive landholdings in Crandall), and was a founding member of the Limestone Conservation District. He built a large house in Crandall (no longer extant) and lived there until his death in 1937. His descendants still own the farm he purchased in 1914.

However, Pleasant Valley as an identifiable community remained in flux until the 1930s. Local mentions of Pleasant Valley in the *Chatsworth Times* dating from 1918 through 1930 give a sense of this situation; two correspondents regularly reported news to the *Times*. Both were from Pleasant Valley, and each reported happenings from the section of Pleasant Valley they lived in—the news being dependent on whether they lived closer to Eton or Crandall.

It took a crisis of sorts to bring Pleasant Valley back to a sort of unification; the soil in Pleasant Valley was dying, and rapidly becoming unsuitable for farming. Eighty years of cotton growing was taking a toll on the soil, depleting it of nutrients quicker than they could be replenished.

It was at this point that Pleasant Valley once again became an active community, apart from farming. The first step farmers in the area took was to contact the state agricultural offices in search of solutions. After these efforts were deemed unsuccessful, local farmers applied to the federal government for assistance. The Agricultural Adjustment Act, part of the New Deal's farm bill, later helped arrest some of the harmful effects of soil depletion in the area by encouraging farmers to diversify crops, rotate fields, and rely less on cotton production.

Cotton was a vicious cycle, not only in Pleasant Valley, but throughout the southern United States. Cotton prices fluctuated wildly—during flush times in the cotton markets, farmers could expect a handsome return on a crop, but prices which looked good at planting time could plunge in a matter of days, usually around the time of the first blooms, and farmers would be left with a crop that was nearly worthless. As a result, farmers were forced to increase crop yields in an effort to break even for the next year. One particular rough time for cotton farmers in Murray County occurred in 1918. Farmers planted their crop at a time when the federal government was fairly begging for more cotton—international supplies had dwindled to almost nothing due to effects of World War I. Hundreds of thousands of mobilized soldiers needed products made of cotton—blankets, uniforms, etc., and cotton farmers responded by planting huge amounts of the crop. Just before the war ended, cotton prices plunged to around 2 to 3 cents per pound in anticipation of the war's end and the reopening of international cotton markets. Farmers were caught in the middle, with brokers refusing to up the market price, and the federal government refusing to enact price floors on the year's production. Farmers who were not put out of business were forced the following year to make up the difference by planting a larger crop, thus forcing the price even lower.

In the 1930s, New Deal administrators understood the problem, both from an economic and physical viewpoint. They understood that cotton production should be discouraged at a certain point and took

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

---

what steps were necessary to help stabilize cotton markets. They also encouraged farmers to diversify by creating crop reserves, especially in corn. In Pleasant Valley, crop production began to turn once more to the old staples of corn and wheat and a new imported crop—soybeans. Through crop rotation and nutrient replenishment programs such as nitrogen replacement, the valley soil recovered. Also, in the 1930s, several Pleasant Valley farmers formed the Limestone Conservation District, which was dedicated to new farm production advances and education of young people in the science of farming. By the 1950s, it was common for young men in Pleasant Valley to take advanced degrees in the agricultural science programs at state universities.

According to local newspaper articles, a pattern of forsaking cotton for other cash crops developed throughout the 1940s and 1950s. By the late 1950s, the trend had turned toward livestock and poultry production, though row crop production has never ceased in the area. In the 1960s, poultry operations began to flourish and have ever since. The largest agricultural operations in the valley are now related to the poultry industry, although there are no known processing plants in Murray County. The poultry operations are scientifically operated, producing the most yield possible with time and money invested.

Pleasant Valley continues to contribute to the agricultural life of Murray County and northwest Georgia, as it has since 1832. Though agricultural science has advanced greatly since 1832, the progenitors of the families still present in Pleasant Valley would recognize the fruits of their labors—while techniques have changed in the past 170 years, the landscape has not, which is testimony to the continued use of the valley for agriculture.



---

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

---

Blankenship, William. "Pleasant Valley Historic District." Historic District Information Form, November 18, 2005. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division. *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*. 1991.

Hayes, John. *New Georgia Encyclopedia*. "Federal Road."  
<http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.com/nge/Article.jsp?id=h-801&hl=y> (accessed June 4, 2009).

Messick, Denise P., J.W. Joseph, and Natalie P. Adams. *Tilling the Earth: Georgia's Historic Agricultural Heritage A Context*. Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 2001.

**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): N/A**

---

## 10. Geographical Data

---

**Acreage of Property**      Approximately 905 acres.

### UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A)	16	707654	3860450
B)	16	707783	3857623
C)	16	705114	3857526
D)	16	705909	3859869

### Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary is indicated on the attached district map drawn with a heavy black line, drawn to scale. Generally, the district is bounded on the west by the CSX railroad, on the south by historic Land Lot and property lines, topography, and the boundary between lowland fields and upland woods, and on the north by historic property lines and topography.

### Boundary Justification

The proposed boundary encompasses the land historically associated with agriculture in Pleasant Valley and generally follows current legal boundaries.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

**State Historic Preservation Office**

**name/title** Gretchen A. Brock/National Register Coordinator  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**mailing address** 34 Peachtree Street, Suite 1600  
**city or town** Atlanta      **state** Georgia      **zip code** 30303  
**telephone** (404) 656-2840      **date** June 4, 2009  
**e-mail** gretchen.brock@dnr.state.ga.us

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

**name/title** William Blankenship  
**organization** Fort Mountain Preservation Services  
**mailing address** 307 Cardinal Drive  
**city or town** Woodstock      **state** Georgia      **zip code** 30188  
**telephone** (678) 357-1723  
**e-mail** fortmtn@mindspring.com

- ( ) **property owner**  
(X) **consultant**  
( ) **regional development center preservation planner**  
( ) **other:**

**Property Owner or Contact Information**

**name (property owner or contact person)** Tim Howard  
**organization (if applicable)** Whitfield-Murray Historical Society  
**mailing address** 329 Highway 225 South  
**city or town** Chatsworth      **state** Georgia      **zip code** 30705  
**e-mail (optional)** N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

---

**Name of Property:** Pleasant Valley Historic District  
**City or Vicinity:** Crandall vicinity  
**County:** Murray  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** April 2007

**Description of Photograph(s):**

Number of photographs: 33

1. View of railroad overpass, intersection of Old Federal and Loughridge roads; photographer facing northwest.
2. View of railroad overpass/tunnel, Loughridge Road; photographer facing northwest.
3. Noncontributing house, Loughridge Road; photographer facing northeast.
4. Clinton C. Keith House, Old Federal Road; photographer facing north.
5. Agricultural fields, Clinton C. Keith Farm; photographer facing northeast.
6. Bridge over Mill Creek, Loughridge Road; photographer facing west.
7. Bates-Loughridge House, 699 Loughridge Road; photographer facing northwest.
8. Noncontributing poultry houses, Loughridge Road; photographer facing northwest.
9. Agricultural fields and noncontributing poultry houses, Loughridge Road; photographer facing west.
10. Plemons-O'Neal House and Farm, Loughridge Road; photographer facing southwest.
11. View of Loughridge Road; photographer facing west.
12. View of Crandall-Ellijay Road; photographer facing northwest.
13. View of agricultural fields near the intersection of Loughridge and Crandall-Ellijay roads; photographer facing southwest.
14. View of Crandall-Ellijay Road; photographer facing northwest.
15. View of Crandall-Ellijay Road; photographer facing north.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

---

16. View of McDonald-Logan-Phillips Farm, Crandall-Ellijay Road; photographer facing northwest.
17. View of Clinton C. Keith Farm, Old Federal Road; photographer facing northeast.
18. Bates-Loughridge House, 699 Loughridge Road; photographer facing north.
19. McDonald-Logan-Phillips Farm, 3550 Crandall-Ellijay Road; photographer facing northwest.
20. View of agricultural fields, Crandall-Ellijay Road; photographer facing northwest.
21. T.R. Bates-Loughridge House and Farm, Crandall-Ellijay Road; photographer facing northwest.
22. T.R. Bates-Loughridge House and Farm, Crandall-Ellijay Road; photographer facing north.
23. T.R. Bates-Loughridge House and Farm, Crandall-Ellijay Road; photographer facing northeast.
24. View from on top of railroad overpass; photographer facing southeast.
25. View of Crandall-Ellijay Road; photographer facing northwest.
26. View of Plemons-O'Neal House and Farm from Crandall-Ellijay Road; photographer facing southwest.
27. View of Clinton C. Keith Farm; photographer facing northeast.
28. View of Crandall-Ellijay Road; photographer facing northwest.
29. View of Loughridge Road from the top of the railroad overpass; photographer facing east.
30. View of Clinton C. Keith Farm; photographer facing northeast.
31. Noncontributing poultry houses, Loughridge Road; photographer facing northwest.
32. View of T.R. Bates-Loughridge House and Farm, Crandall-Ellijay Road; photographer facing north.
33. View of Mill Creek on Crandall-Ellijay Road; photographer facing northwest.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

ATTACHMENT 1: Pleasant Valley Historic District, Murray County, Georgia

Figure 1: information from *1840 Compendium of the Sixth Census*

	<b>Horses &amp; Mules</b>	<b>Cattle</b>	<b>Sheep</b>	<b>Swine</b>
<b>Murray Co.</b>	1,373	5,538	1,156	12,899
<b>Georgia</b>	157,540	884,414	267,107	1,457,755
<b>%</b>	0.08	0.06	0.04	0.08

Figure 2: information from *1840 Compendium of the Sixth Census*

	<b>Wheat</b>	<b>Oats</b>	<b>Indian Corn</b>	<b>Wool (lbs.)</b>	<b>Potatoes</b>	<b>Hay</b>	<b>Cotton (lbs.)</b>
<b>Murray County</b>	10,568	10,654	174,790	2,254	5,450	0	9,875
<b>Georgia</b>	1,801,830	1,610,030	20.9 mil.	371,303	1.2 mil	16,969	163.3 mil.
<b>%</b>	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.06	0.05	0	0.006

Figure 3: information from the *1850 Agricultural Schedule*

	<b>Horses &amp; Mules</b>	<b>Cattle</b>	<b>Sheep</b>	<b>Swine</b>
<b>Pleasant Valley</b>	41	113	132	645
<b>Murray County</b>	3152	9864	6910	29864
<b>%</b>	1.3	1.1	2.1	2.2

ATTACHMENT 1 (continued): Pleasant Valley Historic District, Murray County, Georgia

Figure 4: information from the *1850 Agricultural Census*

	<b>Wheat</b>	<b>Corn</b>	<b>Oats</b>	<b>Cotton (450 lbs.)</b>	<b>Potatoes</b>
<b>Pleasant Valley</b>	520	10350	1345	1	665
<b>Murray County</b>	19596	518475	56588	159	79467
<b>%</b>	5.0	2.1	2.4	.62	.84

Figure 5: information from the *1850 Agricultural Census*

	<b>Total Acreage</b>	<b>Planted Acreage</b>
<b>Pleasant Valley</b>	950 (approx.)	350 (approx.)
<b>Murray County</b>	214,572	51,102
<b>%</b>	.44	.68