

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Baconton Commercial Historic District Item number Page 2

Walton Street is another brick commercial structure dating from the same period. Also included in the district is a large brick pecan cracking plant and a large brick warehouse (both parallel to the railroad tracks), the old Mullins Hotel, and a house used to provide living quarters for Jackson Supply Company's bookkeepers.

2. Natural terrain, natural landmarks, geographic features:

The Baconton Commercial Historic District is situated on level land adjacent to the railroad tracks which run north and south.

3. Various parts, areas, or sections of the district:

The hotel and bookkeeper's house on Durham Street have a more residential nature than the rest of the district, but are included in it because of commercial significance. Otherwise the district is a relatively homogeneous commercial area.

4. Pattern of land subdivision, including street layout, lot layout, alignment of major highways, field system, etc.; and relationship of this pattern of land subdivision to the natural terrain:

The Baconton Commercial Historic District is basically situated on four streets which form a square. The largest concentration of historic buildings in the district is located along the north side of that square (Walton Street). The lots vary in size, but are generally long and narrow for the brick store buildings, and larger for the warehouse, hotel and bookkeeper's house.

5. Arrangement or placement of buildings and structures on lots within the district; relationship of buildings and structures to one another and to their surroundings; density of development:

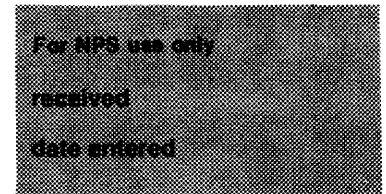
The brick store buildings along Walton and North Railroad Street are built with adjoining walls and share a contiguous sidewalk. Practically all buildings of a commercial or industrial nature in Baconton are located within the boundaries of this historic district, or adjacent to it. The density of the district's development is the highest in Baconton.

6. Architectural characteristics of the district:

Brick is almost exclusively used for all buildings located in the Baconton Commercial Historic District. Most buildings are one-story in height with a few two story structures. Decorative details include brick corbelling,

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet Baconton Commercial Historic District Item number Page 3

arched windows, cast iron store fronts, and sheet metal canopies over sidewalks. All of the buildings can be classified as early twentieth century commercial architecture typical in South Georgia towns. Two exceptions are the hotel and the bookkeeper's house. Both of these buildings are frame and one and one half stories in height.

7. Landscape characteristics of the district:

The Baconton Commercial Historic District, due to its use and purpose, is by nature not extensively landscaped. Walton Street is lined with concrete sidewalks covered with metal awnings on the north side of the street. Grass lawns and shade trees can be found along Railroad Street and Durham Street.

8. Archaeological potential: Unknown

9. Exceptions:

Two non-historic commercial row structures are located in the row of store buildings on the north side of Walton Street. Other non-historic buildings have been excluded from the boundaries of the district.

B. Condition: Fair (Structurally sound but in need of cosmetic repair as well as routine maintenance).

C. Acreage of District: 10 acres (estimated).

D. Number of Properties in District: 12 (approximate).

E. Intrusions and Non-historic Properties: Intrusions and non-historic properties are limited to two modern commercial row buildings on the north side of Walton Street. Other non-contributing buildings have been excluded from the district.

F. Boundaries of District

1. Briefly describe and justify the proposed boundaries of the district:

The boundaries of this district take in all extant building of the historic commercial area of Baconton. They exclude non-historic commercial buildings in the area.

2. Indicate how the area outside the district boundaries is generally different than the area within the district:

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Baconton Commercial Historic District Item number Page 4

The area outside the boundaries contains either non-historic commercial structures or non-commercial development.

- G. Photographs: See photographs 1 - 4.
- H. Maps: See sketch map plus U.S.G.S. topographic map.
- I. UTM References: A. Z16 E770060 N3474690
 B. Z16 E769830 N3474380
 C. Z16 E769990 N3474340
 D. Z16 E769890 N3474720

V. HISTORY OF DISTRICT

A. Summary of Historic Facts

- 1. Original owner or developer of district, if applicable:
Major Robert J. Bacon, Sr. (original landowner)
- 2. Subsequent developers of district, if applicable: Various individuals in business enterprises.
- 3. Original use(s) of district: Commercial business district
- 4. Subsequent use(s) of district: Same
- 5. Architect(s) or engineer(s) associated with the development of the district: Unknown
- 6. Builder(s) or contractor(s) associated with the development of the district: Probably Thomas Jefferson Glausier. W.J. Mullins was also a contractor in town.
- 7. Other artists or craftsmen associated with the development of the district: Unknown
- 8. Date(s) of development: Established, 1869-1870; present buildings erected ca. 1900-1919.

B. Historical Narrative

When the village of Baconton sprang up in 1869-1870 due to the coming of the railroad, places of business were the first buildings to be erected. These first business houses were all wooden structures, and were not as closely clustered as the existing commercial district. Several were located on North

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Baconton Commercial Historic
District Item number

Page 5

Railroad Street, with others located on South Railroad and as far over as the corner of North Church and Walton Streets. A few commercial buildings were also located on the west side of the railroad tracks on Plant Street, but none are now in existence.

Starting in 1902 the present commercial row began to be constructed with the erection of Jackson Supply Company's two-story brick building in the 100 block of Walton Street. This development continued around the block on North and South Railroad Streets. Currently only the stores on the north side of Walton Street and those on Railroad Street remain. The last historic building constructed in the boundaries of the historic district was the Bacon and Jackson Cracking Plant, erected in 1919.

Though no longer standing, the south side of the 100 block of East Walton Street also contained a row of commercial store buildings erected at about the same time as those previously described. Collectively, the entire commercial district contained several mercantile and dry goods stores, a meat market, groceries, two banks, a drug store, a post office, hotel, a barber shop, doctors offices, a barn lot, and facilities for the pecan industry.

The Winchester Hotel on E. Durham Street was built in the 1890's to accommodate travelers through Baconton. Shortly after 1900, the hotel was acquired and enlarged by W.J. Mullins. It remained in existence as a hotel facility until the 1930's. It is now a single family residence. Next door, the Jackson Supply Company built a house as living quarters for its bookkeeper in the early 1900's. It, too, is now a single family residence.

In more recent years several changes have been made to the commercial district. Two newer store buildings were built adjacent to the Jackson Supply Building, and those at the corner of Walton and Peachtree Streets were demolished to make room for a new Post Office, erected in 1963. All of the commercial row buildings which faced Walton Street on its south side were demolished in the mid twentieth century.

The business enterprises of Baconton have changed a great deal in scope since 1870. The needed community services which had always been located in the commercial district became obsolete as the automobile came into universal usage. Baconton residents began to rely more on the larger towns, such as Camilla (10 miles south) and Albany (14 miles north), for their needs. Today, the Baconton Commercial District is partially used in its original capacities but also contains several empty store buildings. The train has not stopped for several years and the train depot was demolished in the 1970's.

