

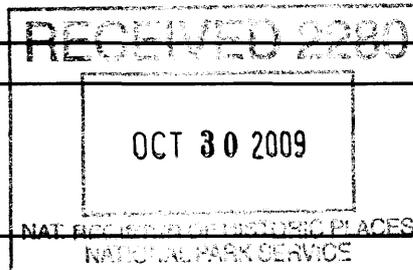
1056

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 Bowdon Historic District
other names/site number N/A



2. Location

street & number Roughly centered along College Street (State Route 166) and Wedowee Street (State Route 100)
city, town Bowdon () **vicinity of**
county Carroll **code** GA 045
state Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 30108

() not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property:

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	255	84
sites	4	1
structures	1	0
objects	0	2
total	260	87

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 3

Name of previous listing: Lowvorn, Dr. James L., House

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.

Richard Crass

Signature of certifying official

10-20-09

Date

Dr. David Crass
Historic Preservation Acting 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

Elson H. Ball 12.8.09

Jan

Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE: business
COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution
COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store
COMMERCE/TRADE: department store
SOCIAL: clubhouse
GOVERNMENT: city hall
GOVERNMENT: post office
EDUCATION: school
RELIGION: religious facility
FUNERARY: cemetery
RECREATION AND CULTURE: sports facility
TRANSPORTATION: road-related

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE: business
COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution
COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store
COMMERCE/TRADE: department store
SOCIAL: clubhouse
GOVERNMENT: city hall
GOVERNMENT: post office
EDUCATION: school
RELIGION: religious facility
FUNERARY: cemetery
RECREATION AND CULTURE: sports facility
TRANSPORTATION: road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne
LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Tudor Revival (English Vernacular Revival)
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman
MODERN MOVEMENT: International Style
MODERN MOVEMENT: Moderne
OTHER: Folk Victorian

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

OTHER: Queen Anne House
OTHER: New South Cottage
OTHER: Gabled-wing Cottage
OTHER: Georgian Cottage
OTHER: English Cottage
OTHER: American Small House
OTHER: Ranch House

Materials:

foundation BRICK
walls WOOD: weatherboard
BRICK
roof ASPHALT
other N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

SUMMARY

The city of Bowdon is located in western Carroll County, approximately 14 miles west of Carrollton, the county seat. The Bowdon Historic District encompasses historic residential, commercial, industrial, and community landmark resources associated with the development of the town. The district is generally centered along College and Wedowee streets, the main east-west and north-south roads through town, respectively. The historic houses in the district date from the late 19th century through the mid-20th century. Architectural styles include Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, Craftsman, Colonial Revival, and English Vernacular Revival. House types include Queen Anne House, New South Cottage, Georgian Cottage, Georgian House, English Cottage, Gabled-wing Cottage, Bungalow, American Small House, and Ranch House. Commercial buildings in the district are located at the intersection of College and Wedowee streets and are generally one- and two-story, attached and freestanding, brick buildings with decorative and corbeled brickwork. There are historic automobile-related buildings, including a historic gas station and auto dealership in the district. Also within the district is the Sewell clothing plant complex, which was established in 1933 by brothers Warren, Robert, and Roy Sewell. The complex includes numerous one-story brick warehouse buildings built in the 1930s and 1940s associated with the clothing company that along with the Sewell plant in nearby Breman became one of the ten largest manufacturers of men's clothing in the country. Historic community landmark buildings include the 1909 Gothic Revival-style Methodist Episcopal Church South, the 1938 Methodist Protestant Church, the 1948 Moderne-style Bowdon City Hall, the 1930s agricultural shop and 1955 gymnasium on the high school campus, and the 1960 International-Style United States Post Office. There are four historic cemeteries in the district.

FULL DESCRIPTION

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

NOTE: The following description was prepared by Lynne S. Miller, Preservation Planner, Chattahoochee-Flint Regional Development Center, and edited by Gretchen Brock, National Register Coordinator, Historic Preservation Division. "Bowdon Historic District," *Historic Property Information Form*, May 13, 2005. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Bowdon is located in western Carroll County, approximately 14 miles west of Carrollton, the county seat, and 63 miles west of Atlanta, the state capitol. The area surrounding Bowdon is relatively rural. The city of Bowdon lies within the Central Uplands physiographic district in the western half of Carroll County, Georgia. The area is characterized by low linear ridges that are 1,300 to 1,500 feet above sea level and are separated by broad, open valleys. The city is located in the Georgia Piedmont, a region of ancient igneous and metamorphic rocks, which were complexly folded and faulted. A major fault, the Brevard Fault Zone, is located along Carroll County's southeastern boundary and forms the structural setting for the Chattahoochee River.

The current city limits of Bowdon is a circle of one-mile radius from the intersection of College Street (State Route 166) and Wedowee Street (State Route 100). Land use distribution patterns within Bowdon are fairly uniform. Commercial buildings are located along the main thoroughfares and the historic downtown area. Churches are located downtown. Residential neighborhoods are located throughout the city. Public buildings such as the police department and city hall are located downtown. The historic Sewell clothing plant is located near city hall and the Trintex plant is located south of the center of town.

Bowdon's residential area is set within a generally flat topography along two principal streets (West College and Wedowee streets) and associated side streets. The residential area also has a cemetery and a schoolyard, which are important open spaces within the community.

Bowdon's downtown commercial area is the historic core of the community, extending along College Street (SR 166) and south along Wedowee Street (SR 100). College Street is generally a flat landscape whereas the stores on Wedowee Street are set along gently sloping terrain. The resulting difference is most visible in the rooflines seen along the streets.

Bowdon's nucleus is a grid of two streets: College Street (SR 166) running east-west through town and Wedowee Street (SR 100) running south from College Street. In 1953, SR 100 was extended northward creating the north-south thoroughfare it is today. The road is named North Carroll Street north of the intersection with SR 166. Bowdon is characterized as a crossroads town with railroad-type community with the town developing at a major transportation crossroad before a rail line arrived. The railroad arrived later in Bowdon than in many Georgia communities with a branch of the Central of Georgia railroad completed in 1910.

The area outside of the district boundaries is modern strip shopping center developments and nonhistoric houses and small subdivisions.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

Commercial and Industrial Buildings

Historic commercial buildings in the district are located at the intersection of College and Wedowee streets and are generally one- and two-story, attached and freestanding, brick buildings with decorative and corbeled brickwork. The commercial buildings in Bowdon are set flush to the lot line with no setbacks. Buildings rebuilt after the 1934 tornado reflect early to mid-20th-century styles and types. The continued prosperity brought about by the opening of Sewell Clothing, a major manufacturing plant, in 1933 served to offset some of the effects of the Great Depression. Today, many of the commercial buildings date to the 1930s and 1940s and earlier buildings exhibit 20th-century stylistic elements from additions and repairs.

The c.1892 Barrow Hardware store, located at 125 West College Street, is a good example of a two-story brick commercial building in Bowdon. The storefront retains its large plate-glass display windows and the second story has segmental-arched windows. The building also has decorative brickwork along the cornice. The store was built for J.W. Barrow, who operated a number of businesses in Bowdon at the turn of the 20th century. The hardware store was the only store in Bowdon that had an elevator. After 1949, the building was used as Scoggins 5 & 10.

The one-story brick building at 131 West College Street is an excellent example of a freestanding store in Bowdon. The building retains its large plate-glass display windows on the front façade and the side façade along Burson Street as well as its historic metal awnings.

The row of one- and one-and-a-half story brick commercial buildings located on the south side of East College Street is an excellent collection of late 19th- and early 20th-century commercial buildings. The buildings all retain their historic storefronts, display windows, transoms, and decorative brickwork (photograph 53). Another historic store is the Bowdon Drug Company (now Bowdon Rexall Drugs) located in the middle of the 100 block of West College Street. The store was built in 1890 for Dr. W.P. Smith, Sr.

The historic Bank of Bowdon is located at 101 West College Street and is an excellent example of a two-story brick commercial building in the district. It was built c.1900 to house the first state chartered bank in Bowdon. The Masonic lodge was housed on the second floor. The two-story building historically had a corner entrance, which was relocated to the College Street façade. The building retains its display windows, one-over-one windows on the second floor, decorative cast-iron columns, and an elaborate cast-iron cornice. In 1926, the building was used for the City Drug Store/Bean Drug Company as well as the local bus station.

Historic automobile-related buildings are within the historic district. There is a historic gas station on East College Street (photograph 52). Built in 1939 as Wessinger's Auto Service, the shop has remained in operation as a service station by the same family until the present. The one-story brick building has a side-gable roof with a projecting front-gable canopy and retains its two garage bays, entrance, and display windows on the front façade.

Located on the corner of West College Street and Johnson Avenue is the 1920s Bowdon Motor

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

Company building (photographs 2, left, and 35, left). The brick building was constructed to face the corner and has a canopy over the front façade. Originally constructed for E.B. Ham as Bowdon's first Ford dealership, it later became Clyde Rowland's Chevrolet dealership. The building retains its display windows and garage bays and is now the Bowdon Tire & Radiator building.

The historic Sewell clothing plant is located in the district to the east of city hall on Commerce Street (photographs 51, 55, 56, and 57). The Bowdon plant opened in 1933 by brothers Warren, Robert, and Roy Sewell as a coat manufacturing plant. Most of the buildings were constructed in 1946, when Warren Sewell assumed the Bowdon plant and renamed it Warren Sewell Clothing Company. Historic buildings in the plant complex are generally large, one-story, brick buildings with few windows, typical of mid-20th-century industrial buildings (photographs 51 and 55). The buildings generally have a parapet roof with the exception of one building with a sawtooth roof (photograph 55, left). There is a historic water tower on the complex property (photograph 57).

The Trintex Company manufacturing plant is located at 500 Wedowee Street (photographs 58 and 59). The complex is located on the site of the former Bowdon Oil and Fertilizer Company, which later became the Textile Rubber Company. In the 1960s, the plant switched to producing molded plastics and rubber and became known as the Trintex Manufacturing plant. Most of the buildings date from the 1960s or had additions and alterations; the complex is considered noncontributing.

Houses

The historic houses in Bowdon include a collection of house types and architectural styles popular during the mid-19th through the mid-20th centuries throughout Georgia. Architectural styles in the district include Queen Anne, Gothic, Folk Victorian, English Vernacular Revival, Craftsman, and Colonial Revival. Common house types include Queen Anne Cottage, New South Cottage, Georgian Cottage, Georgian House, Queen Anne House, Gabled-wing Cottage, English Cottage, Bungalow, American Small House, and Ranch House.

In Bowdon's historic residential area, the public right-of-way is fairly narrow and includes sidewalks and a grass median strip between the sidewalk and the street. Landscaping is generally informal with grassy lawns uninterrupted by fences or walls. The detached, single-family houses are moderately spaced apart with front facades facing the street.

Bowdon's historic houses are generally one to one-and-a-half stories in height with weatherboard and brick commonly used as exterior materials. Roofs are moderately pitched with gable, cross gable, and hip as the most common roof forms. Most of Bowdon's houses have porches that contribute strongly to the historic character of the buildings and streetscapes.

A few houses in Bowdon date to the mid-19th century but the majority of houses date from 1900 to the mid-20th century. The most common house types in the district are early 20th-century bungalows and Georgian cottages with Craftsman-, English Vernacular Revival-, or Colonial Revival-style details (photographs 25, 33, 34, 43, 49, 60, and 64).

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

Located at 113 East College Street, the National Register-listed Dr. James L. Lovvorn House was built in 1890 and is a two-story, frame, Queen Anne-style, Queen Anne-type house (photograph 1, partially obscured by a tree). Plans for the house were obtained from George F. Barber, architect, of Knoxville, Tennessee, who was well known for his mail-order house plans. Two historic outbuildings were listed on the property, a c.1896 brick generator house and a c.1930 brick garage. The property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 19, 1988.

Another excellent example of a Queen Anne-style Queen Anne House is the Bowdon Inn located at 130 West College Street (photograph 2). The two-story frame house has a square tower with a conical roof on the second floor and complex roof. There is a wrap porch on the first floor with decorative sawnwork, balustrade, chamfered wood posts, and decorative brackets. Other Queen Anne-style decorative features are gable trusses, stick work, and fish-scale shingles. The house was built for Dr. Robert Monroe Lovvorn in 1877. In 1905 Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Whatley lived in the house and in the 1920s and 1940s the house was operated as a hotel called the Dobson Hotel. The house became known as the Bowdon Inn when Nathaniel McWhorter, who ran it as a boarding house, owned it.

An excellent example of a c.1870 Gothic Revival-style Gabled-wing House is located at 325 West College Street. The Smith-Whatley-Roop House is a two-story, frame house with a steeply gabled-roof. Gothic Revival-style details also include a flat-roof front porch with decorative jigsawn work and wood posts on brick piers, decorative gable returns, two front-gable-roofed dormers, and segmental-arched window surrounds.

The McDaniel-Whatley House, located at 412 West College Street, is one of the oldest houses in Bowdon and is the only extant building associated with the antebellum Bowdon College (no longer extant). The house was built between 1859 and 1860 by George McDaniel for his brother, Charles A. McDaniel, a distinguished teacher, president of Bowdon College, and later a colonel in the Confederate army. The house was originally built in the Greek Revival style with upper and lower porticos. In the 1870s, a rear kitchen and back porch were added. A c.1909 photograph of the house shows full-length porches on the first and second floors with Folk Victorian-style posts, brackets, and balustrade. A 1934 tornado damaged the house and the house was then updated to the more fashionable Craftsman style. The roof was rebuilt with exposed rafters and the porch was rebuilt as a one-story full-length porch with thick brick posts supporting a hip roof. There was also a second-story sleeping porch in the center bay. The sleeping porch was supported by taller two-story square brick posts topped by small battered wood posts and a front gable roof. The sleeping porch was removed sometime after the mid-1970s (photographs 7 and 8).

The Shelnutt house is located on College View Drive (photograph 15). Although the house is among the oldest houses in Bowdon, it has been moved three times from its historic location and is considered noncontributing. In 1975, the house was moved from its original location to behind the library. In 1988, the house was moved to the Bowdon Inn property and in 2000 the house was moved to its present location and rehabilitated for use as a museum. Judge Nathaniel Shelnutt, who came to Bowdon from Clayton County, Georgia, built the one-story wood dogtrot in 1849.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

An excellent example of the Folk Victorian style in Bowdon is the J.W. and Martha Ellen Lovvorn Barrow House located at 324 West College Street (photograph 5). The 1910 two-story, frame, Georgian house has a full-width porch on each floor with decorative balustrades, chamfered posts, and decorative brackets.

The Mary Elizabeth Dye House, located at 114 Mill Street, was built in 1906 by Mary Dye, a widow with four children (photograph 28, right). Mary Dye worked as a seamstress for Bird Mercantile in Bowdon. The one-story, frame house probably started out as a Queen Anne cottage and later was updated to its current Craftsman bungalow form and style. The house has a wrap porch with projecting front gable with heavy entablature that is supported by square wood posts on brick piers.

Located on the south side of West College Street at Mill Street, the c.1907 Muldrew-Downs House is a good example of a one-and-a-half-story Queen Anne Cottage in the district. The house has a complex multi-gabled roof that has two projecting front gables and a central front-gable dormer. The front façade is asymmetrical with a bay window on the left side and paired windows on the right. Decorative square wood posts support the shed-roof front porch.

The c.1900 Lovvorn-Roop House, located at 210 Wedowee Street, is a good example of a Neoclassical Revival-style Georgian House in the district (photograph 37, right). The large, frame house has a monumental two-story front portico supported by Doric columns and a one-story wrap porch with square posts and a balustrade. There is a nonhistoric belvedere and cupola on top of the house. The house was built for Dr. Robert M. Lovvorn and his wife, who resided in the house with their daughter Mabel and son-in-law W.C. Roop.

An excellent example of an English Vernacular Revival-style English cottage is located at 332 West College Street (photograph 6). The 1939 Dr. and Mrs. W.P. Smith House is a one-and-a-half-story brick house with a steeply pointed multi-gable roof, a chimney with decorative brickwork on the front façade, and arched entrances and windows.

Another excellent example of an English Vernacular Revival-style English cottage is the 1930s Lovvorn House at 329 West College Street. The one-story, brick house has a cross-gable roof, asymmetrical front façade, a front chimney, and a recessed entrance.

The Travis and Ethel Cook House located at 318 West College Street is an excellent example of a Colonial Revival-style Georgian cottage (photograph 4, left). The one-and-a-half-story brick-and-weatherboard house has a symmetrical front façade, two exterior end chimneys, a side-gable roof with three front-gable dormers, and a front flat-roof portico with a heavy entablature supported by Doric columns. The front portico and the side porte cochere each have a decorative balustrade on its roof.

A good example of an American Small House in the district is the Hugh and Virginia Trammell Barrow House located at 328 West College Street. The 1940 one-story, frame house has a compact form, side-gable roof with small projecting front-gabled room and exposed rafters.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

There are a few Ranch Houses located in the district and the Ranch House located at 314 West College Street is a good example (photograph 4, right). The brick house has a long, low form and a shallow-pitched hip roof. There are two excellent examples of Contemporary-style Ranch houses in the district. The house on the 400 block of East College Street has a long, low form with a wide-pitched cross-gabled roof. The Contemporary style is exhibited in the use of uncoursed, roughly squared ashlar and a front-facing window wall with screen (photograph 42). The Contemporary-style house located at 236 McElroy Street has Roman brick, a wide exterior chimney, and various roof levels with intersecting planes (photograph 66). The original open or glassed front entrance has been enclosed but the house still retains its overall form and design.

As typical of the state, two-story houses are uncommon in Bowdon. Two good examples of c.1900 two-story, frame houses are the Folk Victorian-style I-House, located at the western end of the district at 802 West College Avenue (photograph 21), and the Folk Victorian-style Gabled-wing House located in the 700 block of West College Avenue (photograph 19).

Community Landmark Buildings

The historic community landmark buildings in Bowdon are representative of the types and styles of community landmark buildings found in Georgia's small towns.

The 1948 Bowdon City Hall is a good example of the use of the Moderne style in a public building (photograph 50). The Roman brick building has a two-story center block with one-story wings on either side. The building has a two-story recessed center bay that stresses a vertical design with two, two-story square, plain, brick posts and narrow vertical windows. The one-story wings each have one plate-glass window. A one-story annex was added to the right side of the building c.1960.

The 1960 United States Post Office, located on the corner of West College and Mill streets, is a good example of an International Style public building constructed in a small Georgia town (photograph 3). The one-story building features Roman brick, vertical fixed-glass windows, an asymmetrical front façade, a boxy form with intersecting planes, an integral planter, and recessed entrance covered by a shed-roof porch with thin metal poles. The building is currently leased by the United States Postal Service and is still in use today.

The 1938 Bowdon Methodist Protestant Church is located on College View Street (photograph 16). The one-story brick-veneered building has a front-gable roof with a heavy cornice and gable returns. There are square, brick, Doric pilasters on the corners of the building and a central entrance with a projecting surround. The Methodist Protestant congregation was established in Bowdon in 1855. The current building is the third church built for the congregation and was constructed in 1938 after the 1934 tornado destroyed the previous c.1890 frame church. The congregation used the 1938 building until the unification of the various branches of the Methodist church in 1946. The Carroll County Board of Education purchased the building and used it for community events and storage. In 1990, the Bowdon Area Historical Society purchased and rehabilitated the building for use as its meeting place and for community events. A nonhistoric bell tower is located adjacent to the church.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

A cemetery associated with the church is located to the north of the building (photograph 14). Graves of many of Bowdon's early settlers are located in the cemetery including Charles A. McDaniel, president and founder of Bowdon College.

Two churches and a cemetery associated with the Baptist congregation are located on Mill Street at Ellenwood Drive. The Bowdon Baptist Church was originally known as the Eden Baptist Church and was founded in 1835 when the congregation moved away from downtown to the church's current location. In the mid-1800s the church became known as the Bowdon Baptist Church. In 1931 work began on a brick church building to replace the earlier 1894 wood church building (photograph 29, right, contributing). The church was completed in 1933. A two-story, brick educational annex was added to the church in 1950, the steeple was added after 1960, and the front portico was added in 1983. Although there were two additions made to the 1931 church, it still retains its overall historic form and materials and contributes to the district. In 2000, a new church was built next to the 1931 building (photograph 29, left, noncontributing). A historic church cemetery is also located on the property, which contains the graves of many of the early settlers as well as Civil War veterans (photographs 30 and 31).

The Gothic Revival-style Bowdon Methodist Episcopal Church, South is located at 302 Wedowee Street (photograph 37). Charles Luther Cathcart (1883-1951) was the architect and builder of the church. Cathcart was a resident of Bowdon and built many churches and houses in the Atlanta area including Grant Park Baptist Church (1921) in Atlanta, White Oak Hills Baptist Church in Decatur, Mount Harmony Baptist Church in Mableton, and houses in West End, Johnson Estates, and on Moreland Avenue in Atlanta. The 1909 Gothic Revival-style brick church has an asymmetrical front façade with a square bell tower on the left side. The main door into the church is a corner entrance through arched openings in the bell tower. The church has pointed arched stained-glass windows and decorative brickwork on the tower. Additions to the church built in 1916, 1957, and 1962 for Sunday school rooms and a social hall were constructed at the rear of the original building. Behind the church is a large cemetery that served as an early city cemetery (photograph 38). The 1909 building replaced the original 1849 church that was founded by Nathaniel Shelnett, an early settler in Bowdon. Shelnett donated the land for the church and cemetery. Shelnett, his wife, and many early settlers are buried there.

The noncontributing Bowdon High School is located on West College Street and is bounded by College View Street on the east and Bennett Street on the west (photograph 10). The school is located on the site of the former Bowdon Collegiate Institute (no longer extant). The building was constructed in 1959, however extensive remodeling in 2003 changed the historic character of the school and included a new front façade. There is a historic 1955 gymnasium located on the school property (photograph 11). The 1941 stone agricultural building is also located on the school property (photograph 12). The building was constructed as a cooperative effort between the local Future Farmers of America members, the local school board, and the National Youth Administration, a New Deal agency that operated from 1935 to 1943 as part of the Works Progress Administration. Also located on the school property are two nonhistoric school buildings, a stadium, and sports field (photograph 13).

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

Landscaping

The Bowdon Historic District contains landscaping typical of small towns in Georgia. The commercial buildings are generally built to the lot lines and the downtown has sidewalks. Residential areas have grassed lawns with a variety of hardwoods and other trees as well as a range of ornamental yard and foundation plantings (photographs 4, 5, 24, and 32). In general, houses are not uniformly spaced since development in Bowdon is generally along the main crossroads and not in a grid pattern (photographs 40, 41, 44, and 61). Sidewalks are present in some areas (photograph 63 and 68), but most yards blend into the streets (photographs 17, 22, 64, and 67). Along with the three church cemeteries, Bowdon has a city cemetery located at the north end of the district (photograph 69). The cemetery is typical of small city cemeteries in Georgia with a variety of historic and modern grave markers, family plots delineated by stone curbing, and informal plantings.

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):

ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance:

1859-1960

Significant Dates:

1859—date of incorporation

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Barber, George F., architect (Knoxville, TN)
Cathcart, Charles Luther, architect and builder (Bowdon, GA)

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

In the early 19th century, the first settlers in the area that would become Bowdon named the town "Cerro Gordo" (large hill) after the site of a battle won by Carroll County troops during the Mexican-American war. In 1846, the residents sought the help of Alabama congressman Franklin Boudoin to help them establish a post office (the residents were under the belief that the area was in Alabama). In 1848, the community renamed itself Bowdon in honor of the congressman. Bowdon was incorporated in 1859 with a population of 100. After the Civil War, the community prospered with an agricultural-based economy and as the location of the 1857 Bowdon Collegiate Institute (no longer extant), the fifth college chartered in Georgia. In 1910, the Bowdon Railroad, an 18-mile Central of Georgia Railroad branch from Bowdon Junction to Bowdon, opened and brought freight and passenger rail transportation to the city. Bowdon became a center for textile manufacturing in the 1930s and 1950s and many houses in Bowdon were built during this time. The Bowdon Historic District is being nominated at the local level of significance as a good example of a small town in western Georgia.

The Bowdon Historic District is significant in the area of architecture for its excellent examples of historic residential, commercial, industrial, and community landmark buildings representing the common architectural types and styles found throughout Georgia in the late 19th through the mid-20th centuries. Houses in the district reflect the architectural styles and building types common in small Georgia towns as outlined in *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*. Architectural styles include Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, English Vernacular Revival, Craftsman, and Colonial Revival. Common house types include Queen Anne Cottage, New South Cottage, Georgian Cottage, Georgian House, Queen Anne House, Gabled-wing Cottage, English Cottage, Bungalow, American Small House, and Ranch House.

The commercial and industrial buildings in the district represent common types and styles found in small communities throughout Georgia. The commercial buildings are typical early turn-of-the-century buildings with their masonry construction and decorative brickwork. These commercial and industrial buildings evidence the vital role Bowdon played as an important trading area in western Carroll County and as an important textile-manufacturing center in Georgia.

The district is also significant for its collection of community landmark buildings that are good examples of the types and styles of public buildings in small towns throughout Georgia. Extant historic community landmark buildings in Bowdon were built from the mid-19th century through the mid-20th century and include the 1909 Gothic Revival-style Bowdon Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the 1931 Bowdon Baptist Church, the 1938 Bowdon Methodist Protestant Church, and the 1941 stone agricultural building and 1955 gymnasium associated with Bowdon High School. The mid-20th-century community landmark buildings are excellent examples of modern architectural styles including Moderne and International Style. The 1948 Bowdon City Hall is a rare example of the use of the Moderne style in a public building in Georgia, and the 1960 United States Post Office, a good example of an International-Style U.S. post office constructed in a small Georgia town.

The district is significant in the area of commerce because its historic central business district

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

represents the town as a center of commerce in Carroll County and the surrounding rural area and as a major textile-manufacturing center during the mid-20th century. Historic commercial buildings in Bowdon's central business district represent the typical stores, businesses, and automobile-related buildings found in small rural communities in Georgia. The downtown was historically the primary location for the trading, buying and selling of goods, services, and commodities on a local and countywide basis. The historic intact commercial buildings within the historic district are representative of all types of commerce that contributed to the town's economy throughout its history. The one- and two-story, brick, commercial buildings in the downtown are typical of small Georgia towns and represent the mercantile, professional, and banking businesses commonly found in downtowns. The majority of these buildings were built during the early to mid-1900s and contained groceries, drug stores, general stores, and other merchants. Other mid-20th-century businesses in Bowdon centered on the use of the automobile such as gas stations and car dealerships.

Bowdon Historic District is significant in the area of community planning and development as a good example of a crossroads town with railroad. As defined in the statewide context *Georgia Community Development and Morphology of Community Types*, a crossroads town with railroad is a town founded before the railroad, so the primary orientation is not towards the rail line. However the railroad is an important part of the further development of the town and accounts for the later layout and development of commercial, railroad-related, and industrial buildings. The railroad, in the form of a short line of the Central of Georgia Railroad from Bowdon Junction to Bowdon, came much later in the city's history than in other Georgia communities, not arriving until 1910.

National Register Criteria

The Bowdon Historic District is eligible under Criterion A as a good example of a crossroads with railroad-type town in Carroll County and as the center of commerce for the surrounding area. The district is eligible for listing under Criterion C for its contiguous, intact historic resources that are excellent examples of residential, community landmark, industrial, and commercial building types and styles constructed from the mid-19th through the mid-20th centuries.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with 1859, the date of incorporation for the city of Bowdon. By 1859, Bowdon had a population of 100 and the main streets, College and Wedowee streets, were well-established thoroughfares as they are to the present day. The Bowdon Collegiate Institute was founded two years previous to the incorporation, although no building remain that are directly associated with the college.

The period of significance ends with 1960, the date of construction for the International-Style U.S. post office in Bowdon, the last major public building constructed in Bowdon.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The contributing buildings within the historic 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 of the Georgia Historic Preservation Division's Survey and National Register staff on March 29, 2006, and contributing or noncontributing status was determined according to the criteria of the Georgia Historic Preservation Division.

The four contributing sites are the three church cemeteries and the Bowdon city cemetery. The one contributing structure is the historic water tower. The one noncontributing site is the new sports field and the two noncontributing objects are the nonhistoric bell towers, one next to the high school and one next to the Methodist Protestant church.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

NOTE: The developmental history was prepared by Lynne S. Miller, Preservation Planner, Chattahoochee-Flint Regional Development Center, and edited by Gretchen Brock, National Register Coordinator, Historic Preservation Division. "Bowdon Historic District," *Historic Property Information Form*, May 13, 2005. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Carroll County was originally inhabited by the Muskogee Creek tribe. These lands and others were ceded to the federal government in the 1825 Treaty of Indian Springs. The year after, Carroll County was created and Georgia Governor Troup convinced President Adams to renegotiate the Treaty of Indian Springs so as to cede these lands to the state of Georgia.

In November 1827, the Upper Creeks ceded the land where present-day Bowdon is located as an amendment to the 1825 Treaty of Indian Springs, putting Bowdon near the center of the last land in Georgia ceded by the Creek Nation.

Chief William McIntosh, son of a Scottish father and a Native American mother, negotiated the cessions. The Upper Creeks viewed him as a traitor for his role in the cessions and massacred Chief McIntosh at his Chattahoochee River plantation near present-day Whitesburg. The Creek Nation was forced to move westward on the infamous Trail of Tears.

In the 1827 Georgia land lottery, 20 people from 16 Georgia counties purchased the 20 lots that formed present-day Bowdon. Settlers later acquired lots from the original owners and began to establish small farms amidst a dense forest. Among Bowdon's original settlers were Samuel Copeland, Nathaniel Shelnett, John B. McDaniel, Dr. John R. Hood, Alexander Garden, E.G. Womble, and John W. Adamson.

The first settlers in what is now Bowdon named their town "Cerro Gordo", meaning large hill, after the

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

site of a battle won by Carroll County troops against the Mexican General Santa Anna. In 1846, thinking they were residents of Alabama, these settlers sought Alabama Congressman Franklin Welsh Boudoin to help them establish a post office. Later that year, the post office was established and the settlers learned that they were in fact residents of Georgia. In 1848, the community renamed itself Bowdon in honor of the Alabama congressman's work on their behalf.

This isolated settlement was scattered about the countryside and along the McIntosh Indian trail, the major communication and trade route through this part of Georgia. The present State Route 100 roughly follows this trail and is now the main north-south artery through Bowdon (Wedowee Street).

Bowdon's settlers were yeoman farmers. In contrast to the cotton plantation owners to the south, these farmers cultivated grain crops and kept livestock, which ranged freely through the hilly, wooded area. They were subsistence farmers whose mainstays were wheat and corn. These crops grew easily and were less labor intensive than cotton, which was grown only to supplement other crops. Slave labor was not as extensively used as other areas in Georgia, resulting in a pronounced lack of an African-American population in comparison to the adjacent Coastal Plain.

In 1853, the citizens of Bowdon organized and laid out the town around the post office in two streets, each 60-feet wide. Quarter-acre lots were sold to the highest bidders. Bowdon was incorporated in 1859 and during the Civil War, the post office was relocated to the corner of College and Wedowee streets.

Bowdon's original public officials were Gay Upchurch, Thomas Loveless, Nathaniel Shelnett, W.J. Colquitt, and T.B. Beatty. By 1859, the population was around 100. The city had grown to include five stores, two barrooms, and several other shops. A third church, the Bowdon Methodist Protestant Church, began services in 1854.

Beginning in 1858, downtown Bowdon added new streets and the downtown developed into a residential, business, religious, and cultural center with cotton plantations, mill developments, and country stores in the surrounding area. In 1860, a fire destroyed the south side of downtown. A second fire in 1887 destroyed five stores on the north side.

On October 30, 1856, several of Bowdon's influential men formed Bowdon Masonic Lodge #206, Free and Accepted Masons, under Worshipful Master R.M.H. Westbrook. The first frame lodge hall was built in 1859 on the corner of College and Wedowee (no longer extant), with the second being rebuilt there after the 1860 fire destroyed the original frame building (no longer extant).

In 1877, Dr. Robert Monroe Lovvorn, licensed physician and Baptist minister, built the house now known as the Bowdon Inn for his family residence.

Adamson's & Smith's store served as one of many Bowdon businesses formed along Main Street (now College Street) in the late 19th century. In 1888, Dr. James L. Lovvorn opened a drug store and office in his father's original brick building on Main Street. In 1890, Dr. W.P. Smith, Sr., established Bowdon Drug Company to compete with Dr. Lovvorn.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Reverend James Barrow constructed a series of two-story brick buildings that formed downtown's south side. The first, in 1892, was the Barrow Hardware building; this building featured an early elevator and was Carroll County's largest retail hardware store at one time. Reverend Barrow's second building was constructed in 1895 to house W.T. Johnson Home Furnishings.

Education has always been important to the citizens of Bowdon. The first college was opened in 1856 by Reverend Charles A. McDaniel and his friend John Richardson. Classes were held in a frame building (no longer extant) designed and built by local citizens. The college was located at the site of a grove through which General Andrew Jackson's army had reportedly marched on its way to a victorious battle against the Upper Creeks at Horseshoe Bend, Alabama, on the Tallapoosa River. In 1857 the Georgia Legislature chartered the college as the Bowdon Collegiate Institute (no longer extant). It was the fifth college to be chartered in Georgia.

In the years between 1859 and 1900 Bowdon was known primarily as an agricultural town and as the "Athens of West Georgia" due to Bowdon College. Agriculture provided Bowdon's income, while Bowdon College became a leading educational institution in the South.

In 1861, the 141 young men who constituted the military cadets of Bowdon College volunteered *en masse* for Confederate service. They elected the president of their college, Reverend McDaniel, as their captain, and the college was closed as most of the faculty and student body marched off to war. These men became Company B of the famed Cobb's Legion. Of the 141 students who marched off to war, only 11 returned. Charles McDaniel was promoted to colonel, and lost his life at Perryville, Kentucky, in 1862. His body was interred in Harrodsburg, Kentucky, until 1871, when it was disinterred and reburied with public ceremony at the Methodist Protestant Church cemetery.

John Richardson was promoted to major and lost his left leg in the war in 1864. In 1868, Major Richardson was elected president of Bowdon College. The state of Georgia selected Bowdon College as one of five colleges to educate wounded and disabled Confederate soldiers after the war. Over 200 soldiers received their education at Bowdon College. Confederate veterans from the school company held annual reunions at the college, and it was this group that was ultimately responsible for the new two-story brick structure dedicated in 1901 (no longer extant).

After the war, Bowdon's residential community began to develop around Main Street (now College Street). German architect William Grainger built the W. J. Whatley Gothic-style home at 325 West College Street. In 1877, the Neoclassical Revival-style Lovvorn-Roop House, built for Dr. Robert M. Lovvorn and his family, was constructed on Wedowee Street. Reverend Barrow and his wife Mary Ellen built their two-story Folk Victorian-style house (the Barrow House at 324 West College Street) in 1880 on property purchased from Reverend Seaborn Smith, who purchased it from the Creek Indians. The original deed has remained in the Barrow family, who still occupy the residence. Next to his College Street drug store and office, Dr. James L. Lovvorn built his family's two-story Queen Anne-style house along with outhouses and a large water tank between 1890 and 1892. This property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. At his West College Street

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

home, Colonel J.W. Yarbrough began publishing the *Bowdon Intelligence* newspaper (later the *Bowdon Bulletin*) in 1890. Dr. W. P. Smith Sr. and his wife built their brick English Vernacular Revival-style house at 334 West College Street.

In July 1872 the Bowdon College trustees adopted a policy of coeducation, and in 1874, Mary McDaniel, the niece of former college president Charles McDaniel, was the first woman to graduate from a coeducational college in Georgia.

Between 1900 and 1910, the west side of Main Street (now West College Street) grew steadily. In the downtown area, Reverend Barrow owned and operated a general merchandise store and a grocery store on the south side, while J.B. Moore (Bowdon's postmaster at the time) and his sons opened a general merchandise business a couple of buildings away (it burned and was rebuilt in 1910). Several houses were built west of downtown including the Down-Gentry House at 207 West College Street, The Barrow-Agan House at 330 West College, and the Fleming-Wilson House at 400 West College. Residential development began on Carrollton Street (present day East College Street) with the completion of a two-room Georgian cottage with central hallway at 309 East College Street.

In the early 1900s, Bowdon merchant John Word donated a triangle of land for the Bowdon Memorial Park, near where Bowdon's city hall would be constructed in 1948. The park originally provided a cement watering-trough complete with faucet for mules, horses, and fire-dousing water. A log clubhouse was built here in 1922 to house the Bowdon branch of the Federation of Women's Clubs; the clubhouse was Bowdon's first building with a public restroom, and also housed meeting rooms and a kitchen (no longer extant). The Bowdon Garden Club and the Blue Stocking Club were also organized and met at the women's clubhouse.

Dr. James Lovvorn, who had shaped much of Bowdon's development and growth, was instrumental in bringing a rail line to the city. Dr. Lovvorn founded the Bowdon Railway Company and the construction company to build the rail line, Bowdon Construction Company. On Thanksgiving Day in 1910, the Bowdon Railroad (the "Dugan"), an 18-mile Central of Georgia branch running from Bowdon Junction to Bowdon, opened with a ceremony attended by a large crowd, including then-Georgia Governor Hoke Smith. The "Dugan" brought freight and passenger transport to Bowdon and led to the establishment of the Royal Hotel next to the depot and conversion of the Dr. Robert M. Lovvorn House to the Bowdon Inn. Neither hotel nor depot still exists. The rail line was one of the last short-line railroads in the state and ended service in the early 1960s.

Bowdon's economy boomed after the turn of the 20th century, and the population doubled between 1910 and 1920. It was during this decade that new businesses and industries developed that changed the agricultural character of the town.

On downtown's north side the following businesses were established: the Commercial Bank of Bowdon, Merchants and Farmers Bank, L. Copeland Store in the Beck Building became Copeland

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Brothers, and Vance and Griffin Dry Goods in the Whatley Building (later Vance Dry Goods and J.C. Griffin Store). In the late 1920s, next door to the Bowdon Inn, E.B. Ham built a one-story triangular building to locate Bowdon's first Ford dealership. This corner building became Bowdon Auto Sales and then West Georgia Motor Company's "The Chevrolet Place" by 1933. Today the building houses Bowdon Tire and Radiator at 136 West College.

On the south side of downtown, the Palace Theater, Bowdon's first theater/opera hall/general entertainment building, opened and soon began showing Tom Mix and Roy Rogers westerns, cartoons, and newsreels. W.T. Johnson House Furnishings became Auto Supply Company, D.P. Holmes Sr. and Tom Weir groceries opened, and Bowdon Drug Company became a popular gathering spot. The Bean Drug Company moved into the former Bank of Bowdon building on the corner of West College and Wedowee streets. Roop Grocery was established next to the Masonic lodge, before moving to a large City Hall Avenue building in 1932.

Bowdon began improving its infrastructure between 1910 and 1933. The city worked on its water and power systems and welcomed telephone service. In 1912 and 1913, Dr. Robert M. Lovvorn, who was Bowdon's mayor during the time, supervised the construction of six-inch water lines in the city. Bowdon made further improvements to the water system in the 1930s and 1950s. The city's first power plant operated on steam. The plant, which is no longer extant, was located on present day Commerce Street where Sewell Clothing (now Bremen-Bowdon Investment) had its headquarters.

Georgia Power later opened its offices just off City Hall Avenue toward the intersection of College and Wedowee streets. Telephone "Central" originated from the Whatley Building next to the Beck Building on West College; Mrs. Ida Scott served as the operator and lived near her office. Dr. James L. Lovvorn established Bowdon Oil Mill further south on Wedowee Street. Reid and Fullilove Blacksmith and Garage opened on the corner of Commerce Street and Burson Avenue, while Cook and Causey Building Supply opened further down Commerce Street. E. J. Wessinger, Jr., opened an automotive service station at 222 East College Street. Bowdon Bus Service began operation in 1932 at the Bean Drug Company building. The business community expanded to a point where Bowdon merchants formed the Bowdon Commercial Club in 1929.

On West College Street adjacent to downtown, the following structures were constructed, and are still extant: the Cook-Frost Home at 318 West College, the brick Lovvorn cottage at 329 West College, and the Bird Bungalow, built in 1915 and home of Bowdon historian, *Bowdon Bulletin* columnist, and postmistress Mrs. H.M. Bird.

On Carrollton Street (now East College Street), the following homes, among others, were constructed: the Cole House (since torn down and replaced by a parking lot for the Crossroad Academy Alternative School); frame homes with garages built between 1910 and 1919 for Preacher Eason-Myrl Bishop (317 East College), Olin Lipham (325 East College), and Frank Williams (401 East College); bungalows at 427 and 435 East College Street; and the English Vernacular Revival-style C.K. Burroughs House at 461 East College Street.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

On 114 Mill Street off West College, the one-and-a-half-story rambling frame bungalow known as the Mary Elizabeth Dye Home was built. On Wedowee Street, the two-story frame Lovvorn-Roop House was built next to Bowdon Methodist Episcopal Church South.

The Bowdon City School (no longer extant) was built in 1921 on E.C. Burns Sr.'s property next to the Cole House. The Masonic lodge members laid the cornerstone for the school building in December 1921, and classes opened for 300 white students in 1923.

During this period, Bowdon witnessed a 1920 plane crash when a World War I Canadian Curtis bi-plane piloted by C.W. Mayer (the first airplane seen in Bowdon) was forced to land in a cotton patch on Tyus Road south of Bowdon; little if any damage was sustained. The community also survived a 1924 smallpox outbreak that forced residents to be vaccinated while homes, businesses, and other buildings were quarantined.

The years between 1933 and 1953 saw the city become a textile manufacturing center as well as the construction of new governmental buildings. In 1933, brothers Warren, Roy and Robert Sewell opened a clothing manufacturing plant on Commerce Street in Bowdon. The Sewell brothers were born and raised in Bowdon and attended Bowdon College. They opened their first plant in Atlanta in 1926 as the Sewell Manufacturing Company. In 1929, the brothers opened their first clothing manufacturing plant in nearby Bremen in Haralson County. During World War II the plant made shirts for dress uniforms for U.S. soldiers. After the war, the company was divided and Warren Sewell assumed control of the Bowdon plant and Roy Sewell the Bremen plant. The Bowdon plant was renamed the Warren Sewell Clothing Company and textile manufacturing became the economic driving force in Bowdon. The two plants began to manufacture sports coats and together became one of the ten largest manufacturers of men's clothing in the country. The frock coat for President Jimmy Carter's inauguration was made at this clothing plant. The firm is now known as Bremen-Bowdon Investment Company, a woman-owned firm. In recent years, Bremen-Bowdon Investment has changed from being primarily a tailored clothing manufacturer to again becoming a military uniform producer. The plant has produced clothing for virtually all branches of the military, for many military academies, and for military and civilian uniform distributors.

Also during this time, Textile Rubber Company moved from Akron, Ohio, and Whitesburg, Georgia, to purchase the former Bowdon Oil Mill property and later expanded by purchasing the Bowdon Railroad property. Founded by Dr. James Lovvorn, Bowdon Oil Mill was established in 1907, which became the Bowdon Oil and Fertilizer Company in 1916, and produced cotton seed products and fertilizer. In 1939, a large frame building was built on the site of the former oil company in speculation that a manufacturing company would buy or lease the building. In 1942, the Akron, Ohio-based Textile Rubber Company purchased the building to produce rubber handles. During the rubber shortage during World War II, a rubber substitute was used. When rubber became plentiful after the war, the company became the world's largest producer of rubber handle grips. In 1944, the U.S. government underwrote the cost of a new building for Textile Rubber Company at the site. World War II prisoners were transported daily from the Carroll County work farm to construct the building. After D-Day, the government canceled the contract, but the company completed the building using

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

local labor. The growing use of plastics after the war led to a change in production from rubber to plastic grips. In the 1960s, this plant made handle grips for the NASA moon rover.

In 1933, when the U.S. Postal Service entered into a contract with the Bowdon Post Office, then-Bowdon Mayor John H. Barr, Sr., closed part of Wood Alley connecting Wedowee and Commerce streets for the new brick post office building. A new post office replaced the 1933 post office in 1960.

Bowdon's city hall was first located next to the Bowdon Inn (then the Dobson Hotel), and later moved behind the Corner Drug Store/Bank of Bowdon Building on the corner of College and Wedowee streets. In 1948, the two-story Moderne-style city hall building was constructed on what is now City Hall Avenue. This building also served at various points as the home of Bowdon's first public library and a city jail; an annex was added in the 1960s. The Bowdon Fire Department was located on the south side of downtown between a barber shop/beauty salon and Holland's Ladies store.

The residential community expanded further thanks in part to textile manufacturing. The Barrow family built an American Small House at 328 West College, one of Bowdon's first F.H.A.-financed homes. Harvey and Frances Barrow Jackson built their early Ranch-style frame home at 310 West College Street. On East College Street, developers built a frame bungalow at 407 East College Street, a frame bungalow at 419 East College Street, and the English Vernacular Revival-style T.I. Landers, Jr., House at 505 East College.

Changes in the downtown commercial area began in the 1930s with the paving of sidewalks in front of the Auto Supply Building and the paving of College Street in 1933. In 1933, on the north side of West College Street stood the Chevrolet Place, the Bowdon Inn, a café and billiard room, Rainwater Grocery, Digby-Jackson Furniture, Bowdon Hardware, J.C. Griffin, Copeland's, and the Commercial Bank of Bowdon. Behind the Commercial Bank block stood a wheat house, Shoemake Part Manufacturing (no longer extant), and a hardware warehouse. On the opposite side of West College Street stood a garage, Auto Supply, the Palace Theater, a dry cleaners and barber shop, a Ford dealership, Barrow Hardware (later Scoggins 5 & 10), a barber shop/beauty salon, the Bowdon Fire Department, Holland's, Holmes Grocery, the Rexall Store, J.B. Moore and Sons (later bought out by the Rexall Store), Allen 5 and 10, Yates Hardware, Weir Grocery, and Corner Drug. On East College Street, Witt Electric Sales & Service took over Dr. J.L. Lovvorn's building and Dr. Smith had his offices behind the electric store. On one side of Wedowee Street stood a bowling alley, a factory, a soft drink bottling company, the Beck & Barr Barn, Culpepper Milling Company, and Stephenson Service Station (later turned into Armstrong's Fruit Stand). On the other side of Wedowee stood Fuller's (later Bruce Cumbie Merchandise and Barker's), Yates Funeral Home, the post office, and two cotton warehouses.

Notable people associated with Bowdon include Mahavley Lancaster and Colonel L.E. Witt, Jr. "Oracle of the Ages" Mahavley Lancaster, who often traveled Georgia Highway 100 to Bowdon. Ms. Lancaster was a schoolteacher, farmer, lawyer, real estate agent, and fortuneteller. She was the first woman in Georgia to run for political office. When she lost her 1926 Georgia Senate race, a group of Bowdon women went to her home in Franklin in nearby Heard County to console her for her election

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

loss. Ms. Lancaster is famous worldwide for testifying against one of her clients in the famed Coweta County trial, which inspired a book and movie entitled *Murder in Coweta County*. Colonel L. E. Witt, Jr., was a Bowdon citizen who distinguished himself as an ace pilot in WWII. He flew 336 missions, was credited with six kills on Japanese aircraft and the solo sinking of a Japanese destroyer, for which he received the Distinguished Cross, the highest U.S. Air Force honor. Several years before his death in July 2003, Colonel Witt received an Air Force citation recognizing his 336 missions as the most flown by any pilot during WWII. He also taught Colonel Charles Lindberg how to fly U.S. P38 fighter planes, and liked to say: "I taught Charles Lindberg how to fly."

The opening of Sewell Manufacturing Company in 1933 helped stabilize the local economy through the Great Depression and post-World War II years. Bowdon suffered a blow in 1934, however, when a tornado devastated the town. The February storm destroyed 18 homes, blew down power lines, and caused \$500,000 in damage. The town recovered and rebuilt after the storm.

In 1933, the University System of Georgia selected nearby Carrollton over Bowdon to become part of the new state college system. Bowdon College could not compete with the new state-supported system (now West Georgia College and State University in Carroll County), and closed its doors for good in 1936.

With the closing of Bowdon College, Bowdon High School moved into the 1901 brick building left from the defunct college. In the mid-1950s, the 1901 building was demolished after a new high school building was constructed adjacent to the site.

The three Methodist congregations in Bowdon, the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Protestant Church, merged in 1939 to become Bowdon First Methodist Church.

Bowdon's first hospital, the Jubal Watts Memorial Hospital, was built in 1945 at 409 West College Street (no longer extant and presently the location of the Pit Stop Barbecue). Before then, Dr. J.W. Watts practiced in his office on the corner of West College and Mill streets, and at his McElroy Street home nearby.

Behind Sewell Manufacturing, C. C. Ozier Hatchery & Mill served as one of Georgia's largest hatcheries during the 1950s. The city of Bowdon is now demolishing the 100-year old Ozier plant to create municipal parking space. Jackson-Baskin Furniture, Butane Gas Service, and Kent Trading Post were also located downtown by 1953.

On City Hall Avenue adjacent to Cumbie's were Georgia Power, a garage, a laundromat, the *Bowdon Bulletin* (which had moved in July 1945), and the George Dobson Cafe. At the triangle behind the park and clubhouse stood Duke Oil Company and an Amoco station. Holloway Supply moved from a Depot Street warehouse to a Commerce Street location.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

In the early 1950s, local Cub and Girl Scout troops were formed, and Bowdon High students organized the Bowdonite Teen Club, which met every Saturday night at the Bowdon high school gym. "As You Like It" and the South Bowdon Homemakers clubs were also organized. The Masonic lodge moved into its present location, a one-story building at 604 West College Street.

The year 1952 marked a citywide Better Hometown campaign, which included a month-long spring cleaning drive. Bowdon celebrated its centennial in August 1953, at which point its population had reached 1,600. The celebration featured a parade, a picnic at Bowdon Memorial Park, baseball games, a beauty pageant, and a historical pageant at newly built Warren Sewell Field at Bowdon high school. The theme of the centennial was "Last Stand of the Creek Indians."

In 1953, the Bowdon Jaycees built the bleachers at Sewell Field between the 20-yard lines at the home side of the field and between the 20- and 30-yard lines on the visitors' side. The Bowdon Red Devils football teams have claimed a number of regional and state championships since the construction of Sewell Field. The bleachers were replaced in 2003. Also in 1953, the completion of Georgia Highway 100 North created a new north section of Bowdon and changed the name of Rome Street to Old Rome Street (now called North Carroll Street).

With the exception of modern development outside of the historic district boundaries, Bowdon has changed little since the 1960s. The population of Bowdon according to the 2000 U.S. Census is 1,959.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS): () 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:
- (X) previously listed in the National Register Dr. James L. Lovvorn House (May 19, 1988)
- () 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:

- (X) 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 478 acres (acreage estimator).

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A)	16	660795	3712593
B)	16	662988	3713197
C)	16	663280	3711811
D)	16	662063	3710416
E)	16	660555	3711597

Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary is indicated on the attached tax map drawn with a heavy black line, drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses the intact, historic, and contiguous resources associated with the development of Bowdon.

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, NW, Suite 1600
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** September 10, 2009
e-mail gretchen.brock@dnr.state.ga.us

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

name/title Lynne S. Miller, Historic Preservation Planner
organization Chattahoochee-Flint Regional Development Center
mailing address PO Box 1600
city or town Franklin **state** Georgia **zip code** 30217
telephone (706) 675-6721 ext. 226
e-mail N/A

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

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Janice Duncan
organization (if applicable) Bowdon Historic Preservation Commission
mailing address 136 City Hall Avenue
city or town Bowdon **state** Georgia **zip code** 30108
e-mail (optional) N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Bowdon Historic District
City or Vicinity: Bowdon
County: Carroll
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: April 2006

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 69

1. Dr. James L. Lovvorn House (right, partially obscured by a tree), 113 East College Street; photographer facing west.
2. Bowdon Inn (right) and Bowdon Motor Company (left), 100 block of West College Street; photographer facing northwest.
3. United States Post Office-Bowdon, Georgia, West College Street; photographer facing northwest.
4. 314 and 318 West College Street; photographer facing northwest.
5. J.W. and Martha Ellen Lovvorn Barrow House, 324 West College Street; photographer facing northwest.
6. Dr. and Mrs. W.P. Smith House, 332 West College Street; photographer facing northwest.
7. McDaniel Whatley House, 412 West College Street; photographer facing north.
8. McDaniel Whatley House, 412 West College Street; photographer facing north.
9. View of commercial development, south side of West College Street; photographer facing southwest.
10. Bowdon High School (noncontributing); photographer facing northwest.
11. Bowdon High School Gymnasium (contributing); photographer facing north.
12. Bowdon High School Agricultural Building (contributing); photographer facing northwest.
13. Bowdon High School sports fields (noncontributing); photographer facing northeast.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

14. Bowdon Methodist Protestant Church cemetery; photographer facing southwest.
15. Shelnut House (noncontributing); photographer facing northwest.
16. Bowdon Methodist Protestant Church (contributing); photographer facing north.
17. View of Eason Street; photographer facing north.
18. View of Adamson Road at Eason Street; photographer facing northwest.
19. View of 700 block of West College Avenue; photographer facing northwest.
20. View of 700 block of West College Avenue; photographer facing northwest.
21. View of 802 West College Avenue; photographer facing northwest.
22. View of 100 block of Kuglar Street; photographer facing north.
23. View of Mitchell Avenue at Poplar Street; photographer facing west.
24. View of 600 block of Mitchell Avenue; photographer facing northwest.
25. View of Elm Street; photographer facing north.
26. View of Mitchell Avenue; photographer facing west.
27. View of intersection of Oak Street and Mitchell Avenue; photographer facing southwest.
28. Mary Elizabeth Dye House (right); photographer facing north.
29. Bowdon Baptist Church (nonhistoric building left, noncontributing; historic building right, contributing); photographer facing west.
30. Bowdon Baptist Church cemetery; photographer facing south.
31. Bowdon Baptist Church cemetery; photographer facing west.
32. View of Mill Street; photographer facing northwest.
33. View of 200 block of Mill Street; photographer facing northwest.
34. View of 405 Mill Street; photographer facing northwest.
35. View of 100 block of West College Street; photographer facing east.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

36. View of Wedowee Street looking north towards College Street; photographer facing northwest.
37. Bowdon Methodist Episcopal Church, South, 302 Wedowee Street (left) and Lovvorn-Roop House, 210 Wedowee Street (right); photographer facing northwest.
38. Cemetery behind Bowdon Methodist Episcopal Church, South; photographer facing west.
39. View of 400 block of East College Street; photographer facing southwest.
40. View of 400 block of East College Street; photographer facing west.
41. View of 400 block of East College Street; photographer facing southwest.
42. View of 400 block of East College Street; photographer facing southwest.
43. View of 400 block of East College Street; photographer facing southwest.
44. View of 400 block of East College Street; photographer facing southwest.
45. View of East College Street; photographer facing southwest.
46. View of 300 block of East College Street; photographer facing southwest.
47. View of 300 block of East College Street; photographer facing southwest.
48. View of 300 block of East College Street; photographer facing southwest.
49. View of 300 block of East College Street; photographer facing southwest.
50. Bowdon City Hall and annex, City Hall Avenue; photographer facing south.
51. Sewell Clothing Plant, City Hall Avenue; photographer facing west.
52. Wessinger's Auto Service, East College Street at the corner of Pine Street; photographer facing southwest.
53. 100 block of East College Street; photographer facing southwest.
54. 100 block of West College Street; photographer facing southwest.
55. Sewell Clothing Plant, City Hall Avenue; photographer facing southwest.
56. Sewell Clothing Plant; City Hall Avenue; photographer facing southwest.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

57. Water tower; photographer facing west.
58. Trintex Manufacturing plant, 500 Wedowee Street; photographer facing southwest.
59. Trintex Manufacturing plant, 500 Wedowee Street; photographer facing south.
60. View of Tarpley Avenue; photographer facing west.
61. View of 300 block of Wedowee Street; photographer facing north.
62. View of intersection of Wedowee and Beavis streets; photographer facing northwest.
63. View of 400 block of Wedowee Street; photographer facing north.
64. View of Campbell Street; photographer facing northeast.
65. View of 200 block of McElroy Street; photographer facing west.
66. View of 236 McElroy Street; photographer facing northwest.
67. View of Campbell Avenue; photographer facing west.
68. View of 605 Wedowee Street; photographer facing north.
69. Bowdon city cemetery; photographer facing north.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)