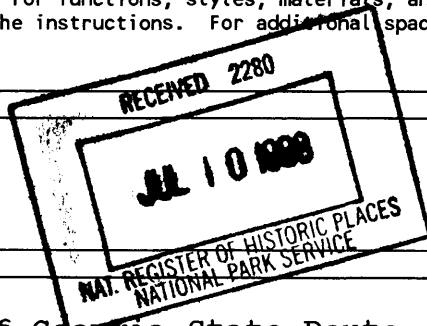


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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 Carmel Historic District
other names/site number n/a



2. Location

street & number Located at the intersection of Georgia State Route
362 at County Road 324
city, town Alvaton (x) vicinity of
county Meriwether code GA 199
state Georgia code GA zip code 30218

(n/a) not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	18	7
sites	5	0
structures	3	0
objects	0	0
total	26	7

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 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.

Mark R. Edwards
Signature of certifying official

July 2, 1998
Date

Mark R. Edwards
State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Malcolm M. Way

8/10/98

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

Malcolm M. Way
Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/processing
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/storage
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field
GOVERNMENT/post office
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding
RELIGION/religious facility
FUNERARY/cemetery
TRANSPORTATION/road-related

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/secondary structure
RELIGION/religious facility
FUNERARY/cemetery
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding
TRANSPORTATION/road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER/Saddle-log cabin
OTHER/Georgian Cottage
OTHER/Gabled Ell Cottage
OTHER/Double Pen
OTHER/New South Cottage
OTHER/Queen Anne Cottage
OTHER/Gothic Revival

Materials:

foundation	stone, brick
walls	wood, brick
roof	asphalt, tin
other	concrete

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Carmel Historic District is located in the northeastern corner of Meriwether County near the Coweta and Pike county lines. The geography of the area surrounding the Carmel community consists of two low ridges of high ground between the Flint River to the east and a major tributary, White Oak Creek and its Winky Branch, to the south and west. Historic settlement patterns tended to occur along the ridges and major crossroads while lower land was devoted to agriculture.

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The Carmel community is situated around the intersection of State Route 362 at County Road 324. State Route 362 originally ended at its junction with County Road 324. During the 1950s, State Route 362 was extended east towards Griffin, the county seat of Spalding County.

Historically, farm complexes with associated agricultural fields and single-family dwellings were located along the roads running through the Carmel area. Community landmark and commercial buildings were located at and near the junction of State Route 362 and County Road 324 (see attachment 1). Over the past few decades, some of the farm complexes, single-family dwellings, commercial buildings, and community landmark buildings have been lost and the outlying agricultural area of Carmel has been cultivated to grow wheat and pine trees. The majority of the remaining historic dwellings are located just north and south of the main intersection along County Road 324 and west along State Route 362, and represent types popular throughout Georgia from the early 19th century into the early 20th century. The types include hall-parlor, gable-ell, Georgian cottage, New South cottage, and Queen Anne cottage. The district also includes historic vernacular dwellings.

The area was settled during the late 1820s and early 1830s by families from the Edgefield District in South Carolina. One log dwelling which represents this early period of settlement is located north of the main intersection of State Route 362 and County Road 324. The Robert Caldwell Log House is the oldest historic dwelling located within the district (see Resource 1 on NR Map). Robert, his wife Jeanette, and son Newton settled in Carmel in the late 1820s. Robert built the family's log house c.1830. The two-story log vernacular dwelling features a side-gabled tin roof, hand-hewn logs with v-shaped notching, and battens located between the logs (see photos 1 and 2). The house is in a serious state of deterioration but still retains its overall form and log construction.

Following the initial wave of settlement, more people moved to the area and settling families grew in size during the mid-19th century. The second of two log dwellings within the district, the James Caldwell Log House built c.1850-60, is located just west of the Robert Caldwell Log House (see Resource 3 on NR Map). The one-story log vernacular dwelling features a side-gable tin roof, board-and-batten cladding over logs, and composite chimney (due to overgrown vegetation, photographs of the resource were not able to be taken). James Caldwell was the son of Newton Caldwell and grandson of Robert Caldwell. Glass Plantation, currently known as Straiton Hall, is located on the east side of County Road 324 just north of the Lucius Caldwell House (see Resource 7 on NR Map). William Glass and his family settled in Carmel during the early 1840s. Glass was a wealthy

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farmer and built his home, Glass Plantation, c.1850. The dormers and side dependencies were added to the dwelling in 1940, the year Harmon W. Caldwell bought the property and renamed it after his family's ancestral Ireland home, Straiton Hall (see photos 24 and 25).

It was during the mid-19th century that development began at the junction of State Route 362 and County Road 324. The original Mount Carmel Church, built in 1841, was located on the northwest corner of the main intersection. The Mount Carmel Cemetery was started about the same time and is located on the southwest corner of the intersection of State Route 362 and County Road 324 (see photos 13 and 14). Many of the earlier settlers of Carmel are buried in the cemetery. The cemetery is organized by family plots which are bounded by concrete, stone, or brick low walls and marked by obelisks and other decorative monuments (see photos 13 and 14). When the current Mount Carmel Methodist Church (see Resource 10 on NR Map) was constructed in 1890 near the cemetery on the southwest corner of the intersection of State Route 363 and County Road 324, the earlier building ceased functioning as a church and served as the Mount Carmel Academy (see Resource 8 on NR Map). The academy was torn down several years ago due to deterioration. The Mount Carmel Methodist Church is a wood-framed gable-front building featuring a steeply pitched roof, wooden double doors in the gable end, decorative detailing in door and window crowns, and six-over-six double-hung windows (see photo 11 and 12). The Carmel Post Office, located in the Ida Spence House (c.1870-80), was located on the southeast corner of the main intersection. The gable-ell building served as both the residence of Ida Spence and as the community post office. The projecting gable portion of the house served as the post office and featured a wooden door with a mail slot (see attachment 2). The dwelling suffered a fire in January 1996 and was destroyed. The chimneys and well house still remain (see photos 9 and 10).

The remaining historic dwellings within the district were built from from the late 19th century to the early 20th century. When James Caldwell married Barbara Anne Chasity Kempson (the Kempson Family was an early settling family in Carmel), he built his second home west of the main intersection on State Route 362 (see resource 9 on NR Map and Site Plan/James Caldwell House). The wood-framed gable-ell building was built c.1870 and features weatherboard cladding and an extended ell (see photos 15, 16, and 17). The house is currently vacant and the barns and packing shed are used for storage (see photos 18 and 19). A caretaker for the property lives in a trailer/mobile home on the property. The Newton Caldwell House, one of the more distinctive dwellings within the district, is located north of the main intersection (see Resource 2 on NR Map). The Georgian cottage-type building was built in 1874 and features a steep gable-end roof with a

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prominent central cross gable, clapboard cladding, trabeated front entrance, and six-over-six double-hung windows (see photo 3). The dwelling features Gothic Revival elements such as the steep roof pitch, prominent front gable, decorative window crowns, and flared eaves. This dwelling is one of a few buildings within the district that features elements of an architectural style. The site of the Pope House is located on the east side of County Road 324 just south of the Newton Caldwell House (see Resource 5 on NR Map). The Pope family was an early settling family in Carmel. Even though the Pope House burned several years ago, some significant landscape features remain. A large mature oak tree with a fieldstone retaining wall and the well head remain (see photos 5 and 6). A large barn (see Resource 6 on NR Map), built c.1900, associated with the Pope House is still located on the property (see photo 7). The Lucius Caldwell House is located on the east side of County Road 324 south of the main intersection (see Resource 14 on NR Map). The wood-framed house was built c.1880 as a central hallway-type house with a rear ell addition (see attachment 3). In 1910, a large one-story addition with a hipped roof with two front-projecting gables was added to the front of the house (see photo 27). Caldwell built his general store, cotton gin, and blacksmith shop across from his home during the early 1900s (see attachment 4). These three resources are no longer standing and modern residences are located on the site.

Other historic resources within the district include a cemetery and remaining agricultural fields associated with the Caldwell family. The Caldwell Family Cemetery is located on a hill just south of the Mount Carmel Methodist Church. The cemetery is set back from the road and features a stone wall (see photos 20, 21, and 22). The land in land lot 218 (located south of the intersection of State Route 362 and County Road 324) has been continuously planted in pine trees since the early 1940s (see photo 23). According to a 1941 high-altitude photograph, the land within land lot 218 consisted of terraced agricultural fields and planted pine trees. During the early 1940s, Lucius Caldwell planted the majority of his fields in pine since the growing of pine trees was less destructive to the soil than previous farming practices. The field adjacent to the Lucius Caldwell House was planted in the late 1930s and early 1940s with lespedeza, a crop used to restore damaged soil from past farming practices and to sell as a cash crop (see photo 28). Today, much of the Carmel landscape is dominated by pine trees, and patches of lespedeza grows wild next to road beds and in fields.

Carmel was historically a large rural landscape with farm complexes with agricultural fields, single-family dwellings, community landmark buildings, and agricultural and commercial resources. Some of these resources have been lost due to deterioration, modern development, and

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the growth of the pine industry in Meriwether County. The remaining historic resources concentrated near the intersection of State Route 362 and County Road 324 retain their historic integrity and best represent the historical development of the Carmel community.

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
AGRICULTURE
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance:

c.1830-1948

Significant Dates:

c.1830	Construction of earliest building.
Late 1930s early 1940s	Introduction of lespedeza crop.
Early 1940s	Introduction of tree farming.

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

n/a

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Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Carmel Historic District is a geographic area characterized by its agricultural fields, historic domestic buildings and outbuildings, historic circulation networks, and overall integrity of patterns of spatial organization associated with the development of the Carmel community. The Carmel Historic District is significant in the areas of architecture, agriculture, exploration/settlement, and landscape architecture.

The district is significant in the area of architecture for its excellent examples of residential and community landmark buildings. The residential architectural types represented within the district include hall-parlor, gable-ell, Georgian cottage, New South cottage, and Queen Anne cottage, as defined in *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings* context. The earliest dwellings constructed within the district are located north the main crossroads of State Route 362 and County Road 324. The Robert Caldwell Log House (Resource 1 on NR Map) and James Caldwell Log House (Resource 3 on NR Map) are significant as early to mid-19th century examples of vernacular architecture within the district. The Robert Caldwell Log House, built c.1830, is a good example of a double pen-type log house with a half story (see photos 1 and 2). The Robert Caldwell Log House is a rare early example of the construction of first generation housing using native materials by the initial wave of settlers into the Carmel area. The James Caldwell Log House, built c.1850-60, is a good example of a hall-parlor house. The interior is divided into two unequal rooms. A portion of the front porch has been enclosed to create another room. The enclosure of a portion of the front porch was a common alteration to this type of house. Although the hall-parlor is one of America's earliest house types, most remaining Georgia examples were built in the last half of the 19th century and the first three decades of the 20th century.

The remaining historic dwellings within the district are located north, south, and west of the main intersection and were built from c.1850 into the first decade of the 1900s. Glass Plantation, later renamed Straiton Hall (see Resource 7 on NR Map), was built c.1850 and is a good example of a Georgian cottage with a half story. The character-defining features include the paired gable-end chimneys and central hallway with two rooms on either side (see photos 24 and 25). The front dormers and side dependencies were added to the house in 1940, the year Harmon W. Caldwell bought the house and renamed it

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Straiton Hall. Houses of this type were built in almost all periods of Georgia's history, well into the 20th century, but the greatest concentration is between 1850 and 1890. James Caldwell House (see Resource 9 on NR Map) was built c.1870 and is a good example of a gable ell cottage. The character-defining shape of the house consists of a gable-front at one end of a recessed wing that is parallel to the facade. The recessed wing has been slightly extended, a modification not uncommon to this type of house (see photos 15, 16, and 17). Ida Spence House and Post Office (see Resource 12 on NR Map), originally built c.1870, featured the same modification to its gable ell form (see attachment 2). The gable ell cottage was popular in both rural and urban areas of Georgia from 1875 to 1915. The Caldwell-Pope House (see Resource 13 on the NR Map), built c.1900, is a good example of the Queen Anne cottage. The character-defining features of the house include a square main mass with projecting gables on the front and side elevations and a hipped roof (see photo 26). The Queen Anne type was popular in Georgia during the 1880s and 1890s and is commonly found in both urban and rural areas.

The Lucius Caldwell House is an excellent example of the practice of taking an existing house type and "updating" it to a more popular type (see Resource 14 on NR Map). The house was built c.1880 as a central hallway-type house with a rear ell addition (see attachment 3). The central hallway house was a very popular type in Georgia throughout the 19th century. In 1910, the house was extensively remodeled to conform to a New South cottage. The additions consisted of a hipped roof, front projecting and flush gables on the front facade, and a bay window (see photo 27). The rear ell addition and side gable of the original house are still discernible. Unlike the central hallway type, the New South type was popular after the turn of the century and represented a period of great economic growth and regional confidence. The New South cottage was a very popular house type for middle- and upper-middle income Georgian between the 1890s and 1920s. Although the practice of "upgrading" a house was common in Georgia, very few examples have ever been documented. The Lucius Caldwell House is a significant and rare documented example.

The Mount Carmel Methodist Church is an excellent example of a rural church with Gothic Revival elements. The character-defining features include its steeply pitched gable-front roof, wide overhanging eaves, pilaster-like corner framing, pedimented louvers in each gable end, and double wooden front doors with pedimented door frame (see photos 11 and 12). The Gothic Revival style was never very popular in Georgia and was used only sporadically during the 1850s, but gained some popularity during the 1870s and 1880s, especially for churches.

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The district is significant in the area of agriculture for its association to the agricultural history of Carmel. The agricultural development of the district area began in the early part of the 1830s with yeoman farming families who grew corn and other grains for personal use and grew small amounts of cotton to generate revenue. Larger farmers acquired several hundred acres, used slave labor, grew large amounts cotton, and employed an overseer to run the farm. According to the *1863 Tax Digest*, the Carmel area was a mixture of small farms using one to five slaves and larger farms using 30 to 50 slaves. The Robert Caldwell Log House and James Caldwell Log House are the only remaining resources located within the district that represent this early period of agricultural development. According to the *1880 Agricultural Census*, farming changed from slave labor to sharecropping and crop production became diversified, but still dominated by cotton. The role of cotton as the primary cash crop in the Carmel area started to decline at the beginning of the 1900s. According to the *1900 Tax Digest and Agricultural Census*, the economy of the Carmel area had become equally dependent on cotton and corn. By the late 1920s, the cotton crops were severely damaged by a statewide boll weevil outbreak and the soil was worn out and eroding due to past poor agricultural practices. A few resources remain within the district which represent this period of agricultural history.

The James Caldwell House with its associated historic outbuildings is a good example of the late 19th and early 20th century farming practices in Carmel (see Site Plan-James Caldwell House/Resource 9). The main house is located approximately 150 feet from State Route 362 and the outbuildings are located behind (south) and to the side (east) of the main house (see photos 15 through 19). The two barns located to the east and southeast of the main house were used to store hay, wheat, and livestock (see photo 18). A packing shed located south of the main house was used to store and process peaches (see photo 19). The two nonhistoric resources are a storage shed and trailer/mobile home. Although the fields associated with the farm have lost integrity due to the planting of pine trees (themselves representing the historically significant introduction of tree farming in the 1940s), the main house and outbuilding represent the diversification of crop production during the late 19th and early 20th century in Carmel. The Pope House (see Resource 5 on NR Map), built c.1880, was similar to the James Caldwell House. Even though the house burned several years ago, the associated historic barn remaining on the property helps to convey the agricultural diversity of the district (see Resource 6 on NR Map). The barn appears to have been used during the historic period to store wheat, hay, and animals, as well as tobacco and machinery (see photo 7).

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Crop production in the Carmel area was further diversified beginning in the mid-1930s. It was during this period that Lucius Caldwell cultivated various crops including oats, corn, pimento peppers, and lespedeza on agricultural fields once used primarily to produce cotton and corn. Common lespedeza, also known as "Jap clover", was established in Georgia by the mid-19th century, but Caldwell promoted its use and planted it extensively. Caldwell cultivated three types of lespedeza; Kobe, Korean, and Sericea, to sell to other farmers as ground cover to improve soil conditions. These three types of lespedeza were introduced into the United States from Japan in 1919 and into Georgia during the 1920s. By 1944, Caldwell had approximately 130 acres planted with these three types of lespedeza. Currently, lespedeza still grows on the field located just south of the Lucius Caldwell House (resource 15 on NR Map and photo 28). In a 1944 article from *The Atlanta Constitution*, the paper declared Caldwell as "Georgia's Lespedeza King" due to the large amount of lespedeza grown on his farm.

Timber also played a prominent role in the early to mid-20th-century agriculture of the Carmel district. (Caldwell's tree farm was one of the earliest farm registered with the Georgia Forestry Association in 1961). Along with his lespedeza fields, Caldwell grew pine and black locust trees. According to a 1941 high-altitude photograph of the Carmel area, the use of the land is primarily agricultural with terraced fields with "pockets" of planted trees. Land lot 218 (the location of the Lucius Caldwell House and associated agricultural fields) is planted in pine with open terraced fields. The land included within the boundary still reflects the historic use.

The district is significant in the area of exploration/settlement for its association to the earliest period of development of Carmel. Robert and Jeanette Caldwell moved with their son, Newton, from the Edgefield District in South Carolina to Carmel during the late 1820s, when the land was first opened to white settlement. Other families that moved to area during the same period included the Burton, Kempson, Grays, Reynolds, and Williams families. These families established the first settlement in the Carmel area, built homes, churches, and stores, and starting farming. The Robert Caldwell Log House is the last remaining resource representing this period of initial settlement. This log dwelling is typical of the earliest types of dwellings constructed by the early settlers moving into the Georgia frontier. The Mount Carmel Cemetery, started in the early 1840s, is also significant within this area since many of the early settling family members are buried in the cemetery. Another landscape feature dating from this first period of settlement are the land lot lines originally used to demarcate lands for settlement, and today are still reflected in property lines and field patterns. The boundary lines of

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the district follow the historic lots lines of land lots 218 and 219 on the western edge of the boundary and land lot 217 on the southern edge of the boundary.

The district is significant in the area of landscape architecture for its overall rural and agricultural landscape evidencing more than 150 years of agricultural uses. Land lots and overall field patterns from the 19th century still exist, to some degree, although the landscape in the district today is dominated by 20th-century agricultural practices including terraced agricultural fields (to slow soil erosion) and stands of planted pine trees (representing the introduction of tree farming on worn-out agricultural fields). Other significant landscape features include the stone wall surrounding the Caldwell Family Cemetery and the large mature oak tree with stone retaining wall located on the site of the Pope House.

National Register Criteria

The Carmel Historic District is eligible under National Register Criterion A for its association to the agricultural history and exploration and settlement of Carmel. The district is also eligible under Criterion C for its collection of domestic and community landmark buildings identified as significant in the *Georgia's Living Places* context, as well as its historic agricultural landscape.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

Period of significance (justification)

The Carmel Historic District's period of significance begins with the construction of the earliest domestic building c.1830 and ends in 1948, the end of the historic period, reflecting the continuous agricultural use and evolving agricultural practices throughout the 1940s.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The 26 contributing resources within the district which retain integrity encompass 18 contributing buildings which include residences, a community landmark building, and outbuildings that are substantial in size, scale, or importance; 5 sites which include the Mount Carmel Academy, Ida Spence House and Post Office, Pope House, Caldwell Family Cemetery, and the remaining intact pine and lespedeza fields; and 3 structures consisting of the stone wall surrounding the

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Caldwell Family Cemetery, stone retaining wall around the mature oak tree associated with the Pope House, and remaining well house associated with the Ida Spence House and Post Office. The 7 non-contributing resources are ranch-type residences and mobile homes built after 1948.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

The area of the Carmel Historic District was opened for white settlement as a result of the Treaty of Indian Springs signed on February 12, 1825. In December of 1826, the Georgia General Assembly passed an act to organize the newly acquired territory between the Chattahoochee and Flint rivers. In 1827, the area was reorganized and the county of Meriwether was created and named after the Revolutionary War hero, David Meriwether. Since the area already had well-established trails by the Creek Indians, most notably the Oakfuskee Trail, the area was easily accessible to those early settlers migrating from the east.

One of the earliest settlers into the area was Robert Caldwell and his wife, Jeanette, and son, Newton, from the Edgefield District in South Carolina. Caldwell entered the area in the late 1820s and settled on Land Lot 219 and built his log home. Around the same time a wealthy physician, Dr. Hezekiah S. Wimbish, from the Abbeville District in South Carolina bought large tracts of land in the Carmel but settled in Greenville, about 16 miles southwest of Carmel. Dr. Wimbish maintained a farm in the Carmel area (outside the historic district) that was overseen by James Edge, who later owned his own farm and house.

During the late 1840s, Dr. Wimbish began to sell parts of his vast land holding to a second wave of settlers from the Edgefield District in South Carolina including the Glass and Burton families. The area continued to grow as an agricultural center. As in other rural communities, many of the Carmel families married into other families living within the community, such as the marriage of Barbara Ann Chasity Kempson to James McLeash Caldwell in 1860.

According to the *1863 Tax Digest* the farmers in the Carmel area were using slave labor and producing mostly corn and other grains with limited amounts of cotton. The largest holding was by Dr. Wimbish with 1,280 acres of land and 56 slaves producing the most cotton, 30 bales, in the area. The smaller farms were located on both sides of Pope Road and the larger farms, such as Dr. Wimbish's farm, were located along Covered Bridge Road extending towards the Flint River (outside the National Register boundary). The area was a mixture of

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smaller family farms and larger farms using both hired and slave labor.

After the Civil War (1861-1865), the agricultural economy of the Carmel community became more diversified and sharecropping more common. The *1880 Agricultural Census* lists several of the farmers as having sharecroppers living on the farms, growing various crops, and using more land for grazing.

In 1908, the residents of Carmel refused to sell property to the Atlanta, Birmingham, and Atlantic Railroad so the railroad located in Alvaton, three miles west of Carmel. As a result, some members of the Carmel families moved to Alvaton, located west of this district, and built homes. Soon after the completion of the railroad line through Alvaton, Lucius Caldwell, son of Barbara Ann Chasity Kemspon and James McLeash Caldwell, moved the gin located in Carmel to Alvaton to be closer to the railroad.

As a result of the failure of the cotton crops due to the boll weevil outbreak, the population of the Carmel community dropped sharply between 1910 and 1920. The remaining farmers in the area turned to planting peaches and timber for commercial uses. In the late 1930s and early 1940s, Lucius Caldwell acquired land once owned by the Glass, Wimbish, and Edge families and started planting trees and lespedeza, a type of shrub used to help restore eroded farm land stripped of its nutrients and top soil by past farming practices. Caldwell sold the seeds of the shrub throughout the southeastern part of the United States. In 1961, the American Tree Farm System recognized the Caldwell tree farm was one of its first certified tree farms.

Lucius Caldwell's son, Harmon Caldwell, attended the Mount Carmel Academy and graduated from Old Boys High School in Atlanta in 1917 as the valedictorian of his class. He attended the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia and graduated in 1919. He then attended Harvard Law School for three years. Upon graduation from Harvard, he was appointed assistant professor of law at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. After practicing law in Atlanta for a few years, he taught law at the University of Georgia then became dean of the Lumpkin Law School at the university in 1933. In 1935, Caldwell was named president of the university. In 1948, he was unanimously elected by the Board of Regents to chancellor of the University System of Georgia and held that office until 1964.

Caldwell married his distant cousin, Mary Gwendolyn Burton, from South Carolina in 1944. Harmon Caldwell died in 1977 and his wife has continued the tree farm and remains active in the stabilization and

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preservation of the Carmel community.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Ehrenhard, Ellen. "Carmel Historic District," Historic District Information Form, August 8, 1994. On file at the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, with supplemental information.

Green, Thomas F. "Harmon White Caldwell." Dictionary of Georgia Biography. Vol 1. Ed. Kenneth Coleman and Charles Stephen Gurr. Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 1983. 146-7.

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (x) N/A

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

Acreeage of Property Approximately 350 acres.

UTM References

- A) Zone 16 Easting 729960 Northing 3673810
- B) Zone 16 Easting 730180 Northing 3672020
- C) Zone 16 Easting 729220 Northing 3672300
- D) Zone 16 Easting 729200 Northing 3673800

Verbal Boundary Description

The Carmel Historic District is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached USGS topographical map.

Boundary Justification

The Carmel Historic District encompasses the remaining historic resources and associated land that retain historic integrity and represent the history of the Carmel area. The district is bounded on the north, east, and south by legal property lines. The district is bounded on the west by the remaining land retaining historic integrity associated with the James Caldwell House and Whittle House and by current legal property lines.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Amy Pallante/National Register Specialist
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 651-6033 **date** June 1998

name/title Ellen Ehrenhard/Consultant
organization Ellen B. Ehrenhard Consulting
street & number 226 Jackson Street
city or town Newnan **state** Georgia **zip code** 30263
telephone (770) 502-1219 **date** August 8, 1994

(HPS form version 10-29-91)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property: Carmel Historic District
City or Vicinity: Near Alvaton
County: Meriwether
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: June 1998

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 28 View of Robert Caldwell Log House; photographer facing north.
- 2 of 28 Detail view of side elevation; photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of 28 View of Newton Caldwell House; photographer facing southwest.
- 4 of 28 View of Susie Caldwell-Elmore House; photographer facing southeast.
- 5 of 28 View of wellhead associated with the Pope House; photographer facing west.
- 6 of 28 View of historic oak tree with stone retaining wall (landscape feature) associated with the Pope House; photographer facing north.
- 7 of 28 View of historic barn associated with the Pope House; photographer facing northeast.
- 8 of 28 View of noncontributing building; photographer facing northeast.
- 9 of 28 View of well house associated with the Ida Spence House and Post Office; photographer facing north.
- 10 of 28 View of remaining chimneys associated with the Ida Spence House and Post Office; photographer facing west.
- 11 of 28 View of Mount Carmel Methodist Church; photographer facing northwest.

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Photographs

- 12 of 28 Detail view of front facade of church; photographer facing west.
- 13 of 28 View of Mount Carmel Cemetery; photographer facing northeast.
- 14 of 28 View of cemetery; photographer facing southwest.
- *note: Photos 15 through 19 are keyed to the James Caldwell Site Plan.
- 15 of 28 View of James Caldwell House; photographer facing southwest.
- 16 of 28 Detail view of front facade of James Caldwell House; photographer facing southeast.
- 17 of 28 Detail view of rear facade of house; photographer facing northwest.
- 18 of 28 View of barn associated with the James Caldwell House; photographer facing west.
- 19 of 28 View of packing shed associated with the James Caldwell House; photographer facing southwest.
- 20 of 28 View of Caldwell Family Cemetery; photographer facing southeast.
- 21 of 28 Detail of Harmon W. Caldwell's grave and stone wall.
- 22 of 28 Detail view of Lucius Caldwell's grave and stone wall.
- 23 of 28 View of planted pine along County Road 324.
- 24 of 28 View of Glass Plantation/Straiton Hall; photographer facing northeast.
- 25 of 28 View of rear facade of house; photographer facing northwest.
- 26 of 28 View of Caldwell-Pope House; photographer facing west.
- 27 of 28 View of Lucius Caldwell House from County Road 324; photographer facing southeast.


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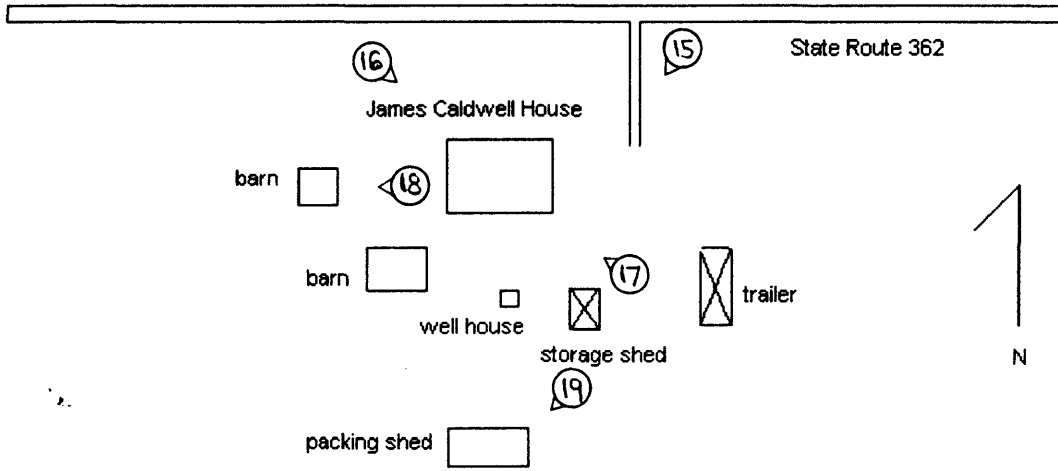
**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

28 of 28 View of field associated with the Lucius Caldwell House
(located in background); photographer facing north.

SITE PLAN-James Caldwell House/ Resource 9
Carmel Historic District
near Alvaton, Meriwether County, Georgia
not to scale

- Contributing resource
- Noncontributing resource
-  Photo direction and number



CULTURE SYMBOLS

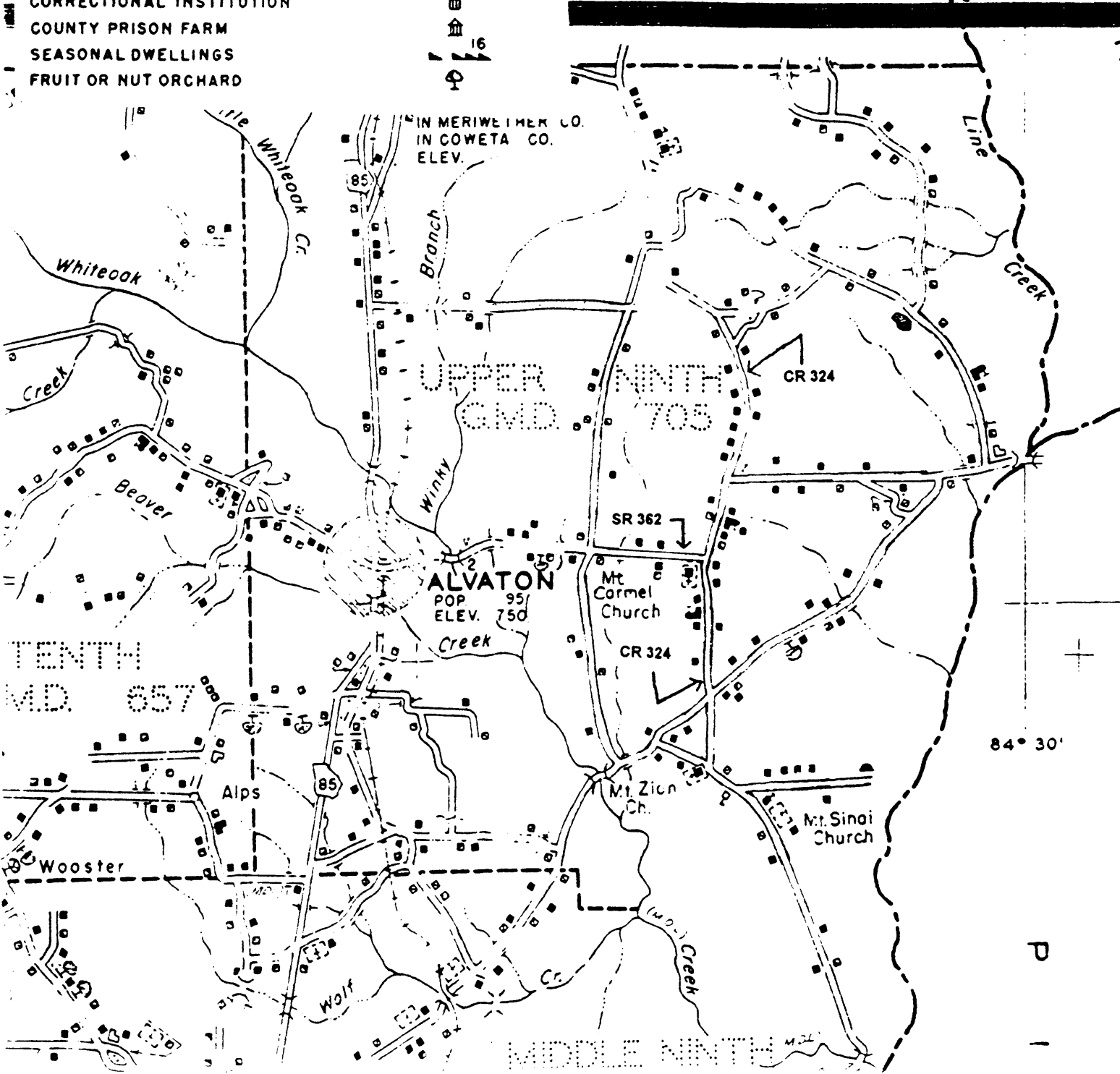
	IN USE	NOT IN USE
FARM UNIT	■	□
DAIRY	▼	♁
DWELLING	■	□
GROUP OF DWELLINGS	■	□
NURSERY	▲	
WAREHOUSE OR LARGE BARN	■	□
SCHOOL OR COLLEGE	■	□
CEMETERY	⊕	⊕
CHURCH & CEM. ADJACENT, CHURCH	⊕	⊕
HOSPITAL	⊕	⊕
COMMUNITY AUDITORIUM	■	□
POST OFFICE	■	□
STATE POLICE DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS	★	
CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION	■	□
COUNTY PRISON FARM	■	□
SEASONAL DWELLINGS	■	□
FRUIT OR NUT ORCHARD	■	□

Attachment 1

Carmel Historic District
 near Alvaton, Meriwether County, Georgia
 Map Source: 1951 Meriwether County Map
 Scale: 1" = 1 mile

84°30'

SPALDIN



Attachment 2
Carmel Historic District
near Alvaton, Meriwether County, Georgia
Ida Spence House and Post Office
Source: Copy of historic photograph



Attachment 3
Carmel Historic District
near Alvaton, Meriwether County, Georgia
Lucius Caldwell House
Source: Copy of historic photograph



Attachment 4
Carmel Historic District
near Alvaton, Meriwether County, Georgia
Caldwell Store and Cotton Gin
Source: Copy of historic photographs

