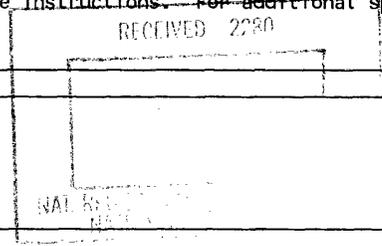


755

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 Warthen Historic District
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number Located at the crossroads intersection formed by GA.
State Route 15, State Route 102, Warthen Street, Old
Sandersville-Sparta Road, and Walker Dairy Road.
city, town Warthen (n/a) vicinity of
county Washington code GA 303
state Georgia code GA zip code 31094

(n/a) not for publication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	39	10
sites	2	1
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	41	11

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

June 10, 1997
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

Ma J. M. [Signature]

7/25/97

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

[Signature]
Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
COMMERCE/financial institution
COMMERCE/warehouse
COMMERCE/department store
GOVERNMENT/post office
EDUCATION/school

TRANSPORTATION/rail-related
RELIGION/religious facility
FUNERARY/cemetery
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field
AGRICULTURE/agricultural
outbuildings

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
COMMERCE/department store
SOCIAL/clubhouse
RELIGION/religious facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival
LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVAL/Colonial Revival
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVAL/Gothic Revival
OTHER/Folk Victorian
OTHER/Gabled Ell cottage
OTHER/Central Hallway
OTHER/Georgian cottage
OTHER/Saddlebag
OTHER/Side Hallway
OTHER/Hall Parlor
OTHER/Plantation Plain

Materials:

foundation brick and concrete
walls brick and wood
roof standing seam metal and asphalt
other n/a

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Warthen Historic District is located in northern Washington County, just south of the fall line, situated on a ridge dividing the Ogeechee and Oconee river basins. The Warthen Historic District, which encompasses most of the unincorporated town of Warthen, includes historic residences, commercial buildings, community landmark buildings, two historic cemeteries, a crossroads intersection, and open green spaces.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Warthen is oriented around a crossroads intersection, at which the founder of the town's house is located. The Richard Warthen House was constructed c.1808-1810 and originally consisted of two houses put together to create one house, which represents the Plantation Plain type. Originally, there was no interior access between the two houses. The house was significantly remodeled after the 1930s, but continues to represent the Plantation Plain type.

The residential development of Warthen is located in three sections of the community. The African-American section of town is located southeast from the crossroads intersection along CR 60/Walker Dairy Road. The area consists of late 19th- and early 20th-century type houses associated with rural settings and tenant housings (see photos 3-4). The types include Saddlebag, Central Hallway, and Hall Parlor. The buildings are vernacular and are devoid of any style. The landscaping of the yards included mostly grass with dirt or gravel driveways. At one time the neighborhood included three churches and one school; however, these buildings do not exist today. The roads in this area are both paved and dirt and are approximately 10 feet wide. The African Americans living in this section of Warthen worked as domestics and blacksmiths but mostly as agricultural workers.

A second area of Warthen consists of a mixture of residential and institutional buildings located along CR 61/Warthen Road, just north of the crossroads intersection. This area consists of several community landmark buildings which include the Warthen Methodist Church, built 1887, and nonhistoric cemetery (see photo 6), the Bethlehem Baptist Church, built c.1890, and cemetery (see photo 5), Bethlehem Academy, now Warthen Community Center, built c.1904 (see photo 7). This complex of buildings is located in a cluster on the north side of Warthen Road. Surrounding this complex of buildings are one- and two-story frame buildings oriented towards Warthen Road (see photo 13). The two-story residences are Georgian houses with Colonial Revival features (see photo 10 and 12) and types of one-story residences include Georgian cottage (see photo 11), Central Hallway, and Hall Parlor. One of the earliest log residences in the community, the Hooks-Warthen-Turner House built in the early 19th century, is located just east of the complex (see photo 9). The residences in this area are informally landscaped with foundation plantings and mature trees (see photo 13).

A third area of the Warthen Historic District consists of a mixture of residential and commercial buildings. The commercial buildings are located along the original alignment of Georgia SR 15/Old Sandersville-Sparta Road near its junction with Georgia SR 102 and Georgia SR 15. The commercial stores are one-story brick buildings with three-bay storefronts with Folk Victorian detailing. The stores

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

are both attached and freestanding buildings (see photo 14-15). Stores included the Farmers & Merchants Bank, Warthen Bank, a cotton warehouse, and drug store. The historic commercial buildings were constructed during the early 20th century, prior to the boll weevil infestation and the Great Depression. The buildings no longer function as stores and are currently being used for storage. Few modern commercial buildings have been constructed in Warthen since 1947.

Located directly south of the commercial complex is a residential area, which includes several community landmark buildings. The historic residences are located on the west side of Old Sandersville-Sparta Road and are situated on wide deep lots. The houses are one- and two-story wood-framed buildings. The types include Georgian house, Georgian cottage, Side-Hallway, and Central Hallway. The styles include Greek Revival, Folk Victorian, and Colonial Revival. One of the oldest houses in Warthen, the Warthen-Davis House, is located in this area (see photo 24). The Warthen-Davis House is a c.1860 Side Hallway-type house with Greek Revival detailing. Another notable house in this area is the c.1916 Jewell Turner House, which was originally used as the Warthen Hotel (see photo 22). The community landmark buildings in this area include the Warthen Depot (c.1914) (see photo 21), which is now a residence, and the Warthen Jail. The Warthen Jail, built c.1783, is a single-pen building constructed of hand-hewn logs with a gable roof (see photo 18). The account of the temporary incarceration of Aaron Burr (1756-1836) is recorded on a Georgia state historical marker located near the jail. The Warthen Family Cemetery is located within this residential area. The cemetery includes mature magnolia trees, stone markers, and an iron gate (see photos 19-20).

The lay out of the Warthen Historic District was greatly affected by the realignment of Georgia SR 15. After the Augusta Southern Railroad closed in 1933, the highway, which ran near the commercial block and the homes on the southern side of the district, was relocated to the railroad bed. The realignment left a wide park-like space between Georgia SR 15 and the original alignment of Georgia SR 15.

The yards in Warthen Historic District are planted with oak, magnolia, dogwood, and crepe myrtle. Several house lots have low retaining walls or terraces of brick fronting the roadways. The landscaping along Old Sandersville-Sparta Road best reflects the New South landscaping type, as identified in Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings context. As identified in the context, several of the historic yards have low retaining walls, foundation plantings and mature trees informally planted creating an overall park-like setting (see photo 18 and 22).

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
ETHNIC HERITAGE: AFRICAN AMERICAN
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance:

c.1783-1947

Significant Dates:

c.1783 Construction of Warthen Jail.
1884 Augusta-Gibson-Sandersville Railroad extended through Warthen.
1933 Augusta Southern Railroad closed.
1946 Realignment of Georgia SR 15.

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

J.J. Chafin/contractor Farmers & Merchants Bank, 1911
Warthen Hotel, 1916

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

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

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Warthen Historic District is located in northern Washington County, Georgia at the junction of Georgia SR 15 and Georgia SR 102. The district encompasses most of the unincorporated town of Warthen with its historic residential buildings, commercial buildings, community landmark buildings, cemeteries, and landscaping. There is no designed plan in Warthen, but the town is centered around a crossroads intersection and now abandoned and paved railroad corridor. Warthen is broken into several areas of mixed uses and an African-American community. The district has a local level of significance in the areas of architecture, commerce, ethnic heritage: African American, and landscape architecture.

The district is significant in the area of architecture for its excellent examples of the types and styles of residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings constructed from the late 18th century into the early 20th century. The types and styles represented in the district are identified in the Georgia's Living Places context as significant in Georgia. Residential development mixed with other commercial and community landmark buildings extends out from the crossroads intersection where the founder of the town's homeplace, the Richard Warthen House c.1808-1810, is located (see photo 1). The house originally consisted of two separate houses. A house was rolled to the current location and bolted to an existing house. There was no internal access between the two houses. When the house was remodeled in the 1930s, the bolts were removed and access was provided between the two houses. The Richard Warthen House reflects the Plantation Plain-type house, which is one of the earliest house types constructed in Georgia. This type house was primarily built in rural settings and very few remain in Georgia.

Most of the historic residences were constructed from the late 19th century into the early 20th century. The types of vernacular residential buildings located in the African-American area, just southeast of the crossroads intersection, consists of Saddlebag, Central Hallway, and Hall Parlor. The houses are one-story framed buildings with shed porches, weatherboard or board-and-batten siding, and located close to the edge of CR 60/Walker Dairy Road (see photos 3-4). These types of housing are representative of the types of rural African-American housing during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The area historically included three churches and one school; however, these buildings no longer stand.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

A residential area with a complex of community landmark buildings is located in the northeastern section of the district. The historic residences in this area are larger than in the African-American area and exhibit more stylistic influences. The residences include good examples of one- and two-story frame buildings oriented towards Warthen Road (see photo). The two-story residences are Georgian houses with Colonial Revival, Folk Victorian, and Craftsman features, and types of one-story residences include Georgian cottage, Central Hallway, and Hall Parlor. One of the few remaining log buildings, the Hooks-Warthen-Turner House built in the early 19th century, is located within this area. The house is constructed of hand-hewn logs covered with weatherboard. The front and rear porches have been enclosed and a chimney is located on a gable end. The complex of community landmark buildings consists of Warthen Methodist Church, built 1887, and nonhistoric cemetery (see photo 6), the Bethlehem Baptist Church, built c.1890, and cemetery (see photo 5), and the Bethlehem Academy, now Warthen Community Center, built c.1904 (see photo 7). This complex of buildings is located in a cluster on the north side of Warthen Road. Both the Bethlehem Baptist Church and Warthen Methodist Church have Gothic Revival elements, a style popular in Georgia during the 1870s and 1880s and associated with rural settings. The Bethlehem Academy building reflects the Colonial Revival style, a popular style in Georgia from the 1890s through the 1940s.

An area with a mixture of residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings is located along the original alignment of Georgia SR 15/Old Sandersville-Sparta Road. The commercial buildings are located at the junction of Old Sandersville-Sparta Road with the existing Georgia SR 15 and Georgia SR 102. The commercial stores are excellent examples of one-story brick buildings with three-bay storefronts with Folk Victorian detailing. The historic commercial buildings were constructed during the early 20th century, prior to the boll weevil infestation and the Great Depression. The stores are both attached and freestanding buildings (see photos 14-15). Stores included the Farmers & Merchants Bank, Warthen Bank, a cotton warehouse, and drug store. None of the commercial stores is operating.

Located adjacent (south) of the commercial buildings is an excellent collection of historic residences, the Warthen Depot (c.1914), and Warthen Jail (c.1783). The historic residences in this area are the largest with more stylistic features than in other areas of Warthen. Most of the historic residences are two-story Georgian-type buildings with Queen Anne, Craftsman, and Colonial Revival style features, each a popular style in Georgia from the late 19th into the mid-20th century. A distinctive house in this area is the Warthen-Davis House, built c.1860. It is the one of the earliest houses built in Warthen and the only house in the district that is a two-story Side Hallway-type building with Greek Revival features (see photo 24).

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

The Warthen Jail is significant as one of the oldest known jails and as one of the oldest intact buildings in Georgia (see photo 18). It is also significant for its log construction with hand-hewn logs. Following the formation of Washington County in 1784, Warthen served as the first county seat until Sandersville was designated as the county seat in 1796. The jail was built in Warthen due to its role as the county seat.

The district is significant in the area of landscape architecture for its excellent examples of historic residential landscaping. Many of the historic residences reflect the New South-type landscaping, as identified in the Georgia's Living Places context, with the planting of foundation plants, mature trees, and low retaining walls creating a park-like setting. The New South landscaping is best represented along Georgia SR 15/Old Sandersville-Sparta Road. The historic yards along this road include low brick retaining walls, large mature trees, foundation plantings, and iron fences (see photos 18 and 22). The Warthen Family Cemetery also uses New South-type features, such as an iron fence and large trees, which create a park-like effect (see photo 19).

The district is significant in the area of commerce for its excellent intact collection of commercial buildings which strongly convey the commercial development of Warthen. Warthen began a growth period following the completion of the Augusta-Gibson-Sandersville Railroad through the town in 1884. The strongest period of growth for Warthen took place from 1900 to 1920. During that time, the commercial buildings along the original alignment of Georgia SR 15/Old Sandersville-Sparta Road were constructed. The one-story freestanding and attached buildings are brick with Folk Victorian detailing. The stores included two banks, a telephone exchange, a drug store, cotton gin, and a cotton warehouse. The survival of these buildings after the removal of the railroad line and relocation of Georgia SR 15 is significant since these buildings are the only remains of the commercial economy of Warthen.

The district is significant in the area of ethnic heritage: African American for its association with the African-American development located southeast of the intersection of Georgia SR 15/Old Sandersville-Sparta Road and Georgia SR 102. The African-American community of Warthen developed during the late 1800s. The community established three Baptist churches during the 1870s and a school in 1898. Many of

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

the residences were built during the late 19th century into the 20th century. Many of the houses are characteristic of African-American rural tenant houses described in the Historic Black Resources context by Carole Merritt. The "houses built in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were typically two- or three-room frame buildings with steep gable roofs." The majority of the historic houses have weatherboard and board-and-batten wall cladding and a shed porch (see photos 3-4). The residents of this community worked in Warthen as blacksmiths, domestics, and mostly farm labors. Today, the historic residences are the only resources remaining within the African-American community.

National Register Criteria

The Warthen Historic District is eligible under Criteria A and C for its significance in the commercial and developmental history of Warthen and for its variety of architectural styles and types from the late 18th and early 20th centuries.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Warthen Historic District begins c.1783, the construction of the Old Warthen Jail, and end in 1947, which marks the fifty-year period of historical significance.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The contributing resources were built before 1947 and retain their historic integrity. The two contributing sites are the Warthen Family Cemetery and the Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery. The noncontributing resources were either constructed after 1947 or have undergone extensive alterations causing them to lost their historic integrity. The noncontributing site is the Warthen Methodist Church Cemetery, which is a nonhistoric cemetery.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

The town of Warthen lies a few miles south of Georgia's fall line zone where fauna, flora, geology, and topography of the piedmont meets that of the coastal plain. The fall line, where streams take their last surge over rocks, is a natural location for fording streams. Native Americans made use of these fords for hundreds of years and the first European settlers also utilized them as they pushed westward across Georgia. An arterial Indian trail, known as the Lower Trading Path, led westward from Augusta along the fall line to the Creek Indian settlements along the Chattahoochee River, near present-day Columbus. Just west of the fording point at the Ogeechee River shoals, the trail intersected a path leading southward known as Lamar's trail. As original land plats dated 1786 and 1787 show Lamar Trail passing through the future site of Warthen, it can be inferred that the community's first settlers followed this route.

Following Washington County's creation in 1784, settlers began to take up grants in the area of present-day Warthen. According to tradition, Robert Wicker's family were the first settlers in this area. To the north of the Wicker place, on the Little Ogeechee River, the Warthen family settled and built a grist mill. By 1792 the future site of Warthen was traversed by a state-mandated road connecting Greensboro with the coast at Sunbury. There is a strong tradition that the Wicker settlement was Washington County's first county seat, and that court was held there until Sandersville was designated the county seat in 1796. The Old Warthen Jail, locally known as Aaron Burr Jail, was supposedly built at the time the community served as the county seat. There is no doubt that the tiny log building is very old. Available documentation says it was moved at least once - some 300 yards from its original site. The jail, according to tradition and a historical marker, housed Aaron Burr (1756-1836) one night in 1807. Burr was under arrest for treason and was being taken under guard to Richmond, Virginia for trial. A 1906 newspaper article seems to refute the Burr tradition. The article, written by Col. Macon Earthen, Sr. (1843-1914), gives a very detailed account of Burr's movements from Fort Wilkinson (Milledgeville) to Shoals of Ogeechee in Hancock County. According to Col. Warthen, Burr spent the night at Shoals not in the Wicker (Warthen) community. From Shoals the Burr party moved eastward on the Lower Trading Path towards Augusta.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

The history of the Warthen community is largely the history of the Warthen family. As previously mentioned, the Warthens first settled in Washington County near Little Ogeechee River, some eight miles north of the community that would later bear the family name. About 1810, Richard H. Warthen (1794-1861) began clerking in a store near the old Wicker settlement. By the 1820s, Warthen had opened his own store in the community and was named U.S. Postmaster in 1827. The new post office was officially listed as Warthen's Store. Several years earlier, the local voting precinct and militia district had also been named for the Warthens. Richard Warthen and his family continued to operate the store and post office throughout the antebellum period. Warthen also became a large land owner. By 1860, he owned almost 9,000 acres, 2,000 of which was improved land. From the latter, 80 bales of cotton were produced in 1860. Warthen's plantation was worked by 95 slaves who lived in 17 houses. The 1860 population census gives a fairly accurate picture of the community at that time. A merchant and clerk resided in Richard Warthen's household. A near neighbor, William E. Bridges, was a "jug marker". Bridges was a member of a colony of stoneware potters who lived in the Warthen vicinity. Other trades in the village and vicinity included mechanics, blacksmiths, and a shoemaker.

Antebellum Warthen also supported a school and church. Bethlehem Baptist Church is the oldest organized congregation in Washington County, dating from 1790. The present building was constructed in 1890. Bethlehem Academy, chartered in 1832, was liberally supported by Richard H. Warthen, who also served as a trustee.

Warthen's store in 1860 was essentially a crossroads dominated by the store, post office, and Richard Warthen's plantation. Nearby grist and saw mills on the Little Ogeechee and Keg Creek, also owned by the Warthens, added to the local economy. However, change was in the offing. In 1861 Richard Warthen died and the Civil War (1861-1865) began. Warthen's sons joined local military companies and served throughout the war; they returned in 1865, but several of their relatives died in the conflict. War came to the community in November 1864 as Sherman's Army marched from Atlanta to Savannah. On November 26th, a contingent of Confederate General Wheeler's cavalry, resting at Warthen, attacked a small party of Federal cavalry. After a running fight, the Federals withdrew. The following spring,

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

President Jefferson Davis then a fugitive passed through Warthen on May 5, 1865, spending the night just south of the village.

Following the war, the community recovered and grew. The Warthens continued to serve as postmasters and expanded their general store. Two new general stores opened in the 1870s. By the early 1880s, the population was approximately 225. Over 1,000 bales of cotton were shipped annually. The town boasted a steam-powered cotton gin and a grist and saw mill. Among the occupations at this period were: teachers, a constable, two physicians, a miller, a barber, a carpenter, "jug manufacturer," an apiarist, and planters. The "jug manufacturer" was Andrew Redfern who also produced tiles, fire brick, and other stoneware objects.

Warthen's postwar growth was spurred by the arrival of the Augusta-Gibson-Sandersville railroad in 1884. The line prospered during the 1880s, but went into bankruptcy in 1891. It was revived as the Augusta Southern railroad in 1893. By 1886, the community had tri-weekly mail service and a Methodist Church.

The 1890s, a period of economic depression for agricultural products, particularly cotton, slowed the community's growth. By 1900, the population was stated to be 148, a considerable downturn from the 1880s. At this time, Warthen was described as being "a trading point for a large agricultural district and does considerable shipping." Educational facilities grew after the war to include schools for blacks as well as whites. In 1898, the black school employed four teachers; the white school three. Although the Warthen family continued to participate in the community's growth, several sons of Richard Warthen migrated to Sandersville, nine miles to the south. George D. Warthen founded a bank which still bears his name and Richard Lee Warthen became a successful attorney. During the years 1900-1920, Warthen experienced its greatest expansion. Population (approximate) increased from 148 to 228. At the same time, the total population of Warthen Militia District declined from 1,698 to 1,464. A double row of brick commercial buildings gave the community an urban flavor. An attractive passenger depot was built adjacent to the business district, and a hotel opened to accommodate visitors and businessmen. Businesses included two banks, a telephone exchange, a drug store, cotton gin, and a cotton warehouse. Three doctors lived and practiced in the

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

community. Even at its peak development in the early 1920's, Warthen continued to remain an unincorporated town. Several published sources, official and unofficial, list it as incorporated, but the acts of the Georgia General Assembly record no incorporation charter.

The arrival of the boll weevil devastated Warthen's economy like many other communities dependent on cotton culture. The weevil arrived during the latter part of World War I, but not until 1921 did Washington County feel its full effects. That year weevil-infested fields produced about 4,000 bales; in 1914 Washington County had produced over 35,000 bales of cotton. Businesses closed and families moved to urban areas. Then, during the Great Depression, the Augusta Southern railroad discontinued its route through Warthen. The latter event was another economic blow to the community. After the railroad closed, Georgia SR 15 was relocated to the approximate site of the railroad bed, leaving Warthen's old business district on a quiet, deserted lane. By 1940, the town's population dropped to 140 and declined steadily for the next four decades. Since 1980, the population began to increase again due to greater mobility, better highways, and industrial development, especially the kaolin industry. Georgia SR 15 has become Warthen's primary link to other communities. The highway is a north-south route connecting Savannah and the coast with piedmont Georgia. Today only a few businesses are located on the realigned highway: a general store/service station, another service station, and the U.S. Post Office.

Through almost two centuries, Warthen has grown, changed, and retrenched. Yet to a remarkable degree it has retained aspects from every period in its development. Log structures, planters' houses, a railroad depot, and the old business district all survive in varying stages of repair. In the midst of heavy traffic on Georgia SR 15, two structures stand emblematic of Warthen's past and present. Richard Warthen's home and a general store immediately in front of the house are both owned by Warthen descendants. From every street vista, the eye is drawn to the house and store in the forks of two state highways. They are the genesis of the community: a plantation house and commissary.

Warthen is typical of hundreds of communities across Georgia that formed around plantation store crossroads. Some of these settlements developed into cities and became county seats. Others,

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

after a "boom-town" surge, dwindled and virtually disappeared.
Warthen remained, and one can see and feel the colorful history of
Washington County and the cotton South in its streets and lanes.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Moffat, William G. "Warthen Historic District," Historic District Information Form, June 19, 1992. On file at the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, with supplemental information.

Merritt, Carole. Historic Black Resources: A Handbook For the Identification, Documentation, and Evaluation of Historic African-American Properties in Georgia, 1984. On file at the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

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):

Wg 9-Wg 21

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 245 acres.

UTM References

- A) Zone 17 Easting 331900 Northing 3664900
- B) Zone 17 Easting 332090 Northing 3664200
- C) Zone 17 Easting 331820 Northing 3663400
- D) Zone 17 Easting 331220 Northing 3663400
- E) Zone 17 Easting 331130 Northing 3664460
- F) Zone 17 Easting 331420 Northing 3665200

Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary for the Warthen Historic District is indicated on the attached Warthen tax maps, scale 1'=100", by a heavy black line.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary for the Warthen Historic District encompasses the built and natural resources associated with the town of Warthen. Since Warthen is unincorporated and does not have legal city limits, the boundary follows current legal property lines, Georgia SR 15 and CR 60, and Williamson Swamp Creek. The large section included in the northern area of the boundary encompasses the remaining agricultural land historically associated with the Warthen House.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title William G. Moffat/Consultant
organization Historic Georgia Preservation
street & number 185 Woodland Way
city or town Athens **state** Georgia **zip code** 30306
telephone (706) 548-7326 **date** June 1992

name/title Amy Pallante/National Register Specialist
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forysth Street
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 651-6033 **date** May 1997

(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: Warthen Historic District
City or Vicinity: Warthen
County: Washington
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: August 1996

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 25 View of the Richard Warthen House; photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 25 View of the crossroads intersection of Warthen; photographer facing west.
- 3 of 25 View of Double Pen house located in the African-American section of the district; photographer facing north.
- 4 of 25 View of Saddlebag house in African-American section of the district; photographer facing north.
- 5 of 25 View of Bethlehem Baptist Church; photographer facing northwest.
- 6 of 25 View of Warthen Methodist Church; photographer facing north.
- 7 of 25 View of the Bethlehem Academy, now Warthen Community Center, photographer facing; north.
- 8 of 25 View of the Bethlehem Baptist Church, Warthen Methodist Church, and Bethlehem Academy; photographer facing northwest.
- 9 of 25 View of the Hooks-Warthen-Turner House (log); photographer facing northwest.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Photographs

- 10 of 25 View of Georgian house; photographer facing south.
- 11 of 25 View of Georgian cottage house; photographer facing south.
- 12 of 25 View to two-story house on Warthen Road; photographer facing east.
- 13 of 25 Streetscape of Warthen Road; photographer facing south.
- 14 of 25 View of commercial area along the original alignment of Georgia SR 15; photographer facing south.
- 15 of 25 View of attached commercial buildings; photographer facing northeast.
- 16 of 25 View of the Farmers & Merchants Bank; photographer facing northwest.
- 17 of 25 View of streetscape of the original alignment of Georgia SR 15; photographer facing east.
- 18 of 25 View of Old Warthen Jail; photographer facing northwest.
- 19 of 25 View of the iron gates of the Warthen Family Cemetery; photographer facing west.
- 20 of 25 View of stone markers in the Warthen Family Cemetery; photographer facing west.
- 21 of 25 View of Warthen Depot; photographer facing east.
- 22 of 25 View of Jewell Turner House, originally the Warthen Hotel, photographer facing west.
- 23 of 25 View of historic residences from existing Georgia SR 15; photographer facing west.
- 24 of 25 View of the Warthen-Turner House; photographer facing west.
- 25 of 25 View of log house; photographer facing south.