

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JUL 2 1985  
date entered AUG 30 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Gillsville Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number State Route 52 N/A not for publication

city, town Gillsville N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county (1) Banks (2) Hall code (1) 011 (2) 139

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Owners

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number (1) Banks County Courthouse (2) Hall County Courthouse

city, town (1) Homer (2) Gainesville state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Field Survey:  
title Banks County and Hall County has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Georgia Department of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Gillsville Historic District is located along State Route 52 and the railroad in the small town of Gillsville, on the border of western Banks County and eastern Hall County. The district has a linear configuration and is comprised of late 19th- and early 20th century residential and commercial buildings and one antebellum residence.

The commercial town center contains a grouping of several attached one-story brick structures with corbelling, shed porches, and stepped cornices, and a two-story, wood-framed, corner building. There are additional detached one-story commercial structures on State Route 52 near the attached commercial buildings.

Residential structures are primarily one-story, wood-framed, plain style vernacular or Victorian-eclectic structures, sited in the center of their lots and arranged in a row, in fairly uniform setbacks from the railroad. Architectural details include metal roofs, wrap-around porches, multiple gables, chamfered or turned porch posts, balustrades with cutwork, and bracketing on porches. An exception is the antebellum Garrison House, a two-story Greek Revival structure at the east end of the district north of the railroad tracks.

Landscaping throughout the district is informal with grass lawns, randomly planted trees, and shrubbery. Major open spaces are located along the railroad right-of-way and the cemetery at the northwestern end of the district.

The buildings outside the district include non-historic residences, a school, and a church. The National Register boundary is based on the concentrated area of historic structures in Gillsville. Non-contributing properties in the district consist of a small number of modern commercial buildings and non-historic houses.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				Local history

**Specific dates** 1833 - 1934      **Builder/Architect** various

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Gillsville Historic District is significant in the areas of architecture, commerce, community planning and development, and local history.

In terms of architecture, the district is important for its representative collection of 19th- and early 20th-century small-town commercial and residential structures. The commercial area is comprised of one-story attached brick buildings with corbelled cornices, stepped roofline, and front shed porch, and a two-story wood-framed corner building. Residential structures are one- and two-story wood-framed vernacular style buildings with front porches, some of which have Victorian detailing. An important antebellum residence is the Garrison Home, a two-story wood-framed structure with Greek Revival detailing.

In the area of commerce, the district is significant for its business center which consisted of a general store, grist mill, cotton gin, blacksmith, carpenters, brick and jug manufacturers. The businesses served the town's residents and those of the surrounding farms.

The district is significant in the area of community planning and development for its development in a linear pattern paralleling the railroad tracks in the 1870s, and for its association with Josiah H. Gill, (1798-1833), an early landowner who served as the town's first postmaster in 1833 and gave the community its name. The linear town plan with its commercial and residential structures sited on both sides of the railroad was one of several characteristic forms taken by small railroad towns in Georgia in the late 19th century.

In terms of local history, the Gillsville Historic District is notable for its association with Josiah Gill, for whom the town was named, and John Garrison (1823-1904) who deeded 825 acres to the Northeastern Railroad Company in 1872 to construct the railroad. Garrison served as the first railroad agent and a member of the original city council. He also operated a hotel in his home for local travelers. The Garrison home is the only pre-Civil War residence in the district. Other early Gillsville residents included Augustus Bryan, farmer; Dr. Welchel, physician; Felix House, owner and operator of a cotton gin; W.A. Gilmer and C.W. Meaders, merchants; W.T. Martin, who built the row of brick stores; and W.A. Miller who built, owned, and operated a general merchandise store.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Jaeger, Dale. "Town of Gillsville Historic District - Historic District Information Form". September, 1984. (On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources).

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property 54 acres, approximately

Quadrangle name Gillsville, Ga.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	7	2	5	7	6	9	0	3	7	9	9	3	9	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

1	7	2	5	7	4	8	0	3	7	9	9	0	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

1	7	2	5	6	4	8	0	3	7	9	9	8	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

1	7	2	5	7	0	3	0	3	8	0	0	0	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The district boundary is described by a heavy black line on the enclosed "property/sketch map" and is justified in Section 7.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state Georgia code 013 county Banks code 011

state                      code                      county Hall code 139

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andrea Niles, Survey and Research Specialist

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date 6-12-85

street & number 270 Washington Street SW telephone (404)656-2840

city or town Atlanta state Georgia

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Elizabeth A. Lyon*  
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date 6/20/85

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 8/30/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

Gillsville Historic District  
Gillsville, Banks and Hall Counties, Georgia

Property/Sketch Map:

Scale: 1 inch = 400 feet

Direction of photograph: ②

Boundary of nominated property: ———

Non-historic property: ∅

Intrusion: X

North: ↖

