

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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HISTORIC DISTRICT Item number Page 1

SOUTH WASHINGTON STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT (Clarkeville MRA)

Name: South Washington Street Historic District

Location:

~~In Clarkesville, Habersham County, Georgia, along South Washington Street between Laurel Drive and Spring Street.~~

Acreage: Approximately 19 acres.

UTM References:
A Z17 E269100 N3832125
B Z17 E268780 N3831920
C Z17 E268560 N3832150
D Z17 E268630 N3832510

U.S.G.S. Quadrangle: "Clarkeville, GA"

Scale: 1:24,000

Boundary Description and Justification:

The exact boundaries of the district are described by a heavy black line on the attached maps of the Clarkeville multiple resource area. These boundaries circumscribe an intact historic neighborhood, primarily residential, along South Washington Street. To the north and south are historic properties separated from the district by location and new development. To the east and west are areas of non-historic residential development.

Description:

The South Washington Street Historic District is a one-quarter mile linear collection of approximately a dozen structures. To the south, the district encompasses both sides of the street, and to the north only properties on the west side are included. Uses within the district are predominately residential. The houses are detached, wood-framed, single family homes. Most of these structures are modest in size with two exceptions - a city farmstead residence and a rambling turn-of-the-century two-story structure. There is a brick school almost central in the district. Styles represented include plain style, Victorian Eclectic, Georgian Revival, and Queen Anne.

The plain style houses are concentrated in the southern portion of the district. Most of these structures are typical L-plans with pitched tin roofs, set into the hillside which provides at least a large crawl space and in one case a full basement. One plain style house within this collection has the appearance of a workers cottage set in a residential neighborhood as opposed to the mill village. This house has an almost square floor plan of five rooms and a recessed porch. The focal point in

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this plain style grouping is what has been termed the city farmstead (House-Holcomb residence). Encompassing a four acre tract which causes the district boundary to extend eastward, this property still retains its original appearance. The main structure, a rambling two-story farmhouse, is sited on a hill overlooking the more modest homes. The landscape of large trees, specimen plantings, and boxwoods is formal with rolling farmland to the rear. Outbuildings include a barn, smoke house, attached cellar, and a later two car garage. To the north of the plain style residences, a collection of Georgian Revival homes begins. Lining Washington Street to the west, these houses are set back at uniform distances in continuous landscapes of gently sloping lawns, foundation shrubbery planting, and scattered large trees. Dormers projecting from their roofs become dominant features on the street. All are central hall plans, small in size, wood framed, and modest interpretations of grander homes at other locations in the multiple resource area. One residence which ends this collection on the north has several craftsman touches. It is constructed of pine stained in dark creosote with exposed rafter ends.

Central to the district is the brick school, set back further from the street, with the landscaping of lawn, shrubs, and large trees continued. The school is composed of two buildings constructed at different times. The front building, built in 1931, is a long, rectangular structure divided by a pedimented entrance at center. To the rear, a later W.P.A. brick structure is connected to the front building by a breezeway. This structure is set into a sloping hill creating two floors. To the north, there is a Victorian Eclectic showplace with Queen Anne-inspired details (Burns-Sutton House). This structure with its rambling appearance is almost encircled by porches which on the northeast side extend into a carriage porch. The rounded porch posts and balustrade are of Queen Anne design with delicate cut-work in the gables. The house is set in a landscape of four acres, heavily treed with spacious lawn, and surrounded by several outbuildings, a corn crib, barn, and well house. The district ends at a modest cottage to the north.

Photographs: Refer to photographs numbered 25-33 of 35.

Statement of Significance:

The South Washington Street Historic District is significant as one of just two small but intact groupings of historic structures in the city of Clarkesville. It is also a good example of a modest "streetcar suburb" that developed along the trolley line through previously agricultural land in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The district is historically significant for its representative body of plain style, Victorian Eclectic, Queen Anne, Georgian Revival, and Bungalow houses, and for the way in which their informally landscaped front and side yards creates

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an overall residential environment in this part of town. Several of these properties, primarily the larger ones, were owned by prominent Clarkesville citizens. The district also contains Clarkesville's principal early twentieth-century public school, part of which resulted from W.P.A. construction efforts during the Depression.