

PH0352942

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	DEC 30 1975
DATE ENTERED	JUN 29 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

****** *Historic*
Waycross Historic District
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Waycross

Georgia

VICINITY OF

CODE

13

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

Ware

CODE

299

Roughly bounded by Plant Ave, Williams, Lee, Chandler, and Stephens Sts.

8th-Williamson S: Stuckey

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple Owners

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Waycross

STATE

Georgia

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Ware County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Waycross

STATE

Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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 earliest residential neighborhood of this young, south Georgia railroad center, the Waycross Historic District roughly consists of the area bounded by Plant Avenue, Williams, Lee, Chandler and Stephens Streets. Formerly a forest, the neighborhood even today sports magnificent specimens of oak, palm and pine which handsomely compliment the district's wide, straight streets. Basically flat, in terms of terrain, the neighborhood is laid out in an irregular block pattern; that is to say, many of the original, large city blocks have been bisected by smaller, and in many cases, unpaved, streets which have created numerous square and rectilinear blocks much smaller than the original ones. As could be expected by tradition, the residential area historically tied to the lower-income residents and formerly associated with the railroad workers, possesses the most hilly terrain and the fewest paved streets; that area in which the town's executive and professional-type people resided was established on the more flat, well-drained ground. Likewise, the housing, both in terms of size and decorative quality dissipates as one moves further away from the railroad tracks and the train depot.

Architecturally, the Waycross Historic District is well-represented by several styles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, although Victorian elements are predominant throughout. In fact, the majority of houses in this area were probably built around 1880-1895.

Lee Street, named after General Robert E. Lee, forms the eastern-most boundary of the district and is typical of all the streets found in the community. It is extremely wide for a residential area, graciously planted and with sidewalks well set back from the curblin. The W. W. Beach House (1894) located at 405 Lee Street is still owned by a member of the Beach family, Miss Myrtis Beach. The house, standing on its original city block lot and surrounded by magnificent old magnolia trees (See photo #2) is executed in wood, whose pink and white paint has now weathered beautifully. The two-story house has a full porch with gingerbread trim, 2/2 floor-to-ceiling length windows, that are topped with stained glass and protected by full-length shutters, as well as double entrance doors, all arranged symmetrically on the first floor. The second floor has five 2/2 windows, also symmetrically arranged, that balance the composition. The hipped roof of the house, covered in green asphalt shingles and broken only by an extension of the front facade that reads as a pediment, is likewise balanced by two tall brick chimneys. Atypical of those houses found on Lee Street, the Beach House stands out primarily in terms of its overall quality and individual character. This street is also the address for several of the area's churches, including the Seventh Day Adventist Church housed in a white clapboard building dating from 1914.

Another major north-south street in the historic district is Gilmore Street, the second paved street in Waycross. Similar to other streets in the community, this wide avenue sports many notable structures which are, in fact, not only representative of this street, but of the whole district. Among these are:

(1) The Blackshear House (1888; see photograph #3) an unusual Victorian version of the ante-bellum which demonstrates a greater than usual degree of creativity in the transfer of the classical to the Victorian. Sporting a shallow mansard-like roof and with a deep cornice that has been lightened by means of lattice-work, this house is of a greater

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quality than normally found and far exceeds the level of local significance. Its columns, too slender to read as called for by a classical order, nevertheless possess strifing wooded capitals that read well as the Victorian translation of that which would be classically appropriate. The second-story balcony floats behind the two center columns and runs almost the full length of the veranda, supported on each end by thin posts that also act as the corner posts for the balustrade on the ground-level below.

(2) The Thornton Residence is a two-story frame with the second floor executed in the shingle-style. A wide, one-story porch runs linearly across the front of the house supported by short, paired, square columns that rest on brick pedestals. Elaborate brick work crowns the house in the form of three ornate chimneys. (See photograph #4.)

(3) The Livingstone Residence (see photograph #5), located at 407 Gilmore, is a rambling two-story frame whose chief characteristics are the shingled front gable and the unusual jig-saw work on both the front porch (which runs the full width of the house and turns down both sides) and the second floor porch-balcony.

(4) Hamilton and Serenity Houses (c. 1900) are, by comparison with some of their neighbors, rather plain (see photograph #6). Hamilton House, however, is a well-maintained, two-story frame whose main feature is its deep porch with its turned columns, carved brackets and corner pavillion. Serenity House, also a two-story frame, is more austere in appearance and possesses an almost portico-like porch of classical derivation.

Stephenson Street, which forms a part of the western boundary of the district, once defined the western edge of one of the first public parks in Waycross. Throughout the town's history, this park has been unnamed, and today access to this neglected open space can only be attained by entrance to Brunel Street, the third major north-south street of the community.

Reed, Pendergrast, Reynolds, Howe and Marion Streets are among the more important east-west arteries of the historic district. The Niemer Residence, at 302 Howe Street, (see photograph #7) a one-story Victorian cottage with two shingled, front-end gables and a two-part, hipped-roof porch, joins the Bailey Residence, also on Howe Street, (1912; see photograph #8) in being typical of the many rambling, two-story frame houses and one-story cottages found throughout this Waycross community.

Styles with Victorian elements, however, are not the only ones existing within the district. Bungalows, such as those along Eads Street are typical of many of the more recent housing (see photograph #9). Likewise, several large masonry structures can be found in the area including several residences such as the one at the corner of Gilmore and Kollock Streets (see photograph #11); a former hotel and now the Alcoholism Treatment

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Center (see photograph #10) located in a triangular site bounded by Screven Avenue, Gilmore and Williams Streets (c. 1915-20); and the local railroad depot, a two-story red brick building with white stone framed windows and doors that is located on Plant Avenue.

Altogether, the Waycross Historic District is an excellent blend of turn-of-the-century structures and even the "shot-gun" type worker's housing fits well into the scheme of the general community. Intrusions as they exist today are primarily those of mobile homes; however, these mobile homes are, as a rule, well sited and as such do not produce much visual interference within the neighborhood. Likewise, few contemporary structures are found within the area - the major ones being the First Methodist Church, on Gilmore, and a c. 1950's extension to the historic Central Baptist Church (1910) originally designed by a local architect, George Feltham. The enclosed map details all such intrusions.

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The city of Waycross was created in 1872 and incorporated in March, 1874 by an act of the Georgia General Assembly. Founded as a railroad center, most of the original settlers of the town gathered to live in an area now known as "Old Waycross" which centered around Butler Street and along Plant Avenue. However, the first true residential area in the city to develop strictly as such was to be found in the Gilmore, Brunel and Lee Street section, now referred to as the Waycross Historic District.

Many of the major streets within the Historic District were among the city's first paved streets, signifying the relative importance of this neighborhood, and most, if not all, of the streets were at one time according to locals, Indian trails and Spanish bridle paths. Plant Avenue, named after Henry B. Plant, a local railroad magnate, was the first of the paved streets of Waycross. Shortly thereafter, Gilmore Street, the second most heaviest "line of travel" in the city, was paved. This street, one of Georgia's historic highways, has served (according to tradition) as an Indian trail, Spanish bridle path, train road and as part of the "Dixie Highway." Gilmore became a thoroughfare from the time it was blazed through virgin swamp and forest; this was due in part to the fact that of all roads in the vicinity, this one was the most direct route leading to four noted trading posts in South Georgia. Gulf and Albany Streets followed Gilmore Street in becoming respectively the third and fourth paved streets. Brick pavers were initially used as the pavement material and remnants of this early surfacing can still be seen at some intersections within the district; these streets have since been covered with asphalt and crushed aggregate.

In the early days of Waycross, the present historic district was part of a large forest that was harvested by local settlers to provide much needed construction materials. As a growing railroad center, this wood brought substantial income to many of the local people and eventually, so much timber was harvested that large quantities could be shipped out to Savannah and other ports.

Only after much of the forest had been cleared away was the site divided up into small blocks and developed in a relatively consistent manner as the city's first "sub-division." Rapidly becoming popular with local professional people and executives of the railroad, many of Waycross's most prominent doctors, lawyers, judges and the like have resided here.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mrs. J. L. Walker, History of Ware County, J. W. Burke Co., Macon, 1934.
 Newspaper clippings file, Ware County, Historic Preservation Section, Georgia
 Department of Natural Resources; interview with Captain Everett Bailey, Gary
 Copeland - local residents
 Records of the Office of the Surveyor General, Ga. Dept. of Archives, Atlanta

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 178

UTM REFERENCES SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

A

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 B

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B

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 C

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 D

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bounded as follows: following center-line of railroad right-of-way at intersection with center line of Jenkins Street go Northeast to point due north of Brunel Street; continue south to intersection of Brunel and Screvens and proceed northeast along center line of Screvens to intersection with Gilmore Street; proceed due South on Gilmore to center line of Reed Street and proceed along centerline to rear lot line of the First Methodist Church from which point proceed north to rear lot lines of houses on Williams Street; following rear lot lines on Williams Street proceed east to intersection of center line of Lee (cont.)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

H. Lee Dunagan, Intern (Elizabeth Z. Macgregor, Architectural Historian, Consultant)

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Ga. Dept. of Nat. Res./Historic Pres. Section

August 19, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

270 Washington St., N. W., Room 703-C

634-0830

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Atlanta

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

DAVID M. SHERMAN

DATE

12/17/75

TITLE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Active

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

6/29/76

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5.12.76

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The houses located within the historic district are typical of, and signify, the new-found wealth of early Waycross. As a rule, well-sited and both tasteful and generous in their decoration, these large, primarily Victorian era, homes resemble those in size and proportion that one would expect to find in the Georgia countryside. Some, overly gracious in their dimensions, almost yearn for the wide expanses of an estate and seem to be strangely misplaced in their present urban environment. Others, small and devoid of any elaborate decoration, reflect the life-style of the railroad workers who, at one time, in the railroad's hey-day, inhabited them.

Architecturally speaking, the houses located within the Waycross Historic District are not only significant for the above mentioned reasons, but also due to their strong sense of individuality.

CONTINUATION SHEET Verbal Boundary Description ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Street; proceed south along center line of Lee Street to rear lot lines of houses facing Reed Street at which point proceed in an easterly direction to the intersection with the rear lot lines of houses on Calhoun Street; following the rear lot lines of houses on the east side of Calhoun Street proceed south to the rear lot lines of houses on Wadley Street and from that point proceed east to the rear lot lines of the houses on the east side of Samuel Street; proceed south along the rear lot lines of the houses on the east side of Samuel Street to the intersection of the rear lot lines of the structures on the south side of Pendergrast Street; proceed west along the rear lot lines on the south of Pendergrast to the intersection with the rear lot lines of those structures on the west side of Samuel Street; from which point, following the lot lines, proceed in a northerly direction to the intersection of the center line of Wadley Street at which point proceed west; proceed north on the lot lines connecting Wadley Street with Clay Street from which point following the center line of Clay Street connect with the rear lot lines of those houses facing Reed Street and proceed west; following the rear lot lines of those houses on the south side of Reed Street intersect with the centerline of Lee Street and proceed approximately a block south to intersect with the center line of Wadley Street in an easterly direction connect with the center line of Sweet Street and proceed south to the center line of Pendergrast from which point proceed west to the rear lot line of the structure on the Southeast corner of Pendergrast and Lee Streets at which point proceed south to corner of lot and follow lot lines west to Lee Street; go south along Lee to intersection with Howe Street, at which point go east to rear lot lines of those houses south of Howe and east of Lee Streets; proceeding south along rear lot lines of those houses east of Lee Street proceed west at the intersection with the centerline of Marion Street; following the center line of Marion Street in a westerly direction proceed south at the intersection with the center line of Eads Street to the intersection of the center line of Chandler Street; proceed west along center line of Chandler Street to intersection with center line of Gilmore Street; proceed south along Gilmore Street to northern edge of railroad right-of-way and follow right-of-way in a northwesterly direction to the intersection of the

(continued)

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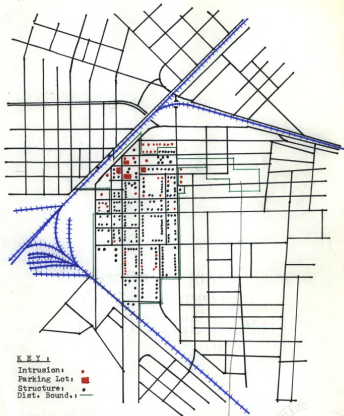
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 Description

center line of Brunel Street; proceed north along center line of Brunel Street to intersection with Alley on the west side of Brunel and south of Howe Street approximately one-half block; proceed along alley in a westerly direction to the center line of Stephenson Street at which point proceed north to rear lot line of those houses on the south side of Kollock Street facing same; follow rear lot lines parallel with Kollock Street west to intersection with center line of Haines Street at which point proceed north to intersection with centerline of Reynolds Street; follow center line of Reynolds Street east to intersection with center line of Stephenson Street; follow center line of Stephenson Street north to intersection with Jenkins Street at which point, following the center line of Jenkins, proceed west to close at center line of railroad right-of-way.

10 Geographical Data - Latitude & Longitude coordinates

	Latitude	Longitude
NW	31° 12' 40"	82° 21' 40"
NE	31° 12' 40"	82° 20' 52"
SE	31° 11' 58"	82° 20' 52"
SW	31° 11' 58"	82° 21' 40"



KEY:

- Intrusions: ●
- Parking Lot: ■
- Structure: ●
- Dist. Bound.: —

SKETCH MAP OF WAYCROSS HISTORIC DISTRICT AND VICINITY
Waycross, Georgia

Some housing. LeBaron
2-2-76

