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OMB No. 1024-0018

OCT 11 1986

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION**

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 Walnut Hill Historic District  
other names/site number

**2. Location**

street & number Georgia State Route 51  
city, town Carnesville (X) vicinity of  
county Franklin code 119  
state Georgia code GA zip code 30521

(N/A) not for publication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	25	8
sites	1	0
structures	1	1
objects	0	0
total	27	9

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources along the Old Federal Road in Georgia's Banks and Franklin Counties, c.1805-1946.

**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

*10/07/96*

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

*Edson H. Beall 11.7.96*

( ) determined eligible for the National Register

( ) determined not eligible for the National Register

( ) removed from the National Register

( ) other, explain:

( ) see continuation sheet

Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwellings  
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuildings  
COMMERCE/store  
HEALTH CARE/doctor's office  
FUNERARY/cemetery

### Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwellings  
VACANT/storage  
FUNERARY/cemetery

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Craftsman  
OTHER/Central Hallway  
OTHER/Hall-Parlor  
OTHER/Georgian Plan Cottage  
OTHER/Folk Victorian

### Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	wood/weatherboard
roof	asphalt
other	brick

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Walnut Hill Historic District is a historic rural community composed of farm complexes with associated agricultural outbuildings and several community resources. The farm complexes that make up this community are located along the Old Federal Road in a linear development pattern. These small farms consist of farmhouses, nearby outbuildings, and surrounding agricultural fields. The houses and outbuildings were constructed from about 1850 into the 1940s. The farmhouses are a c. 1850 hall-parlor house type with later rear additions, a central hallway type house with rear ell and Folk Victorian-style front porch, and a c. 1910 one-and-one-half-story house with modified Georgian plan. Historic outbuildings include barns, wagon sheds, corn cribs, and a hired hand's house. Remaining community resources include a store, a doctor's office, and community cemetery.

The LeCroy-Payne-Wright House is a one-story, three-bay, white clapboard building constructed c. 1850 as a two room house. It has two outside chimneys and one flue. The two front rooms with gable-end roof have 12' ceilings and 6" wide boards on the floor. Windows are 6/6 (medium length), walls and ceilings have wide painted boards and doors are four-panel. Two rooms were added straight back on the right side. These rooms have plywood paneling on the walls and ceilings,

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and have 6" wide wood floors under linoleum. The third addition was made by adding two rooms to the left of the second addition. These two rooms have linoleum and plywood paneling. Mr. Wright added a bath where the u-shaped porch was, extended the front porch to meet the right side porch, and added a small shed on the back. The clapboards are original. The chimney is brick and the house is in good condition.

The farm has six contributing outbuildings. The relatively new well house is in the front yard and is a noncontributing building. The hired hand's or tenant house (gable-front with side shed) is in the back yard. The 1-1/2 story tractor or wagon shed with a lean-to was built c. 1935. The shed has vertical board siding, which needs replacing near the ground. The large weathered barn is two stories high and was constructed in the early 1920s. The main section is 32' x 32', has a loft for storing baled hay, four stalls, and two 8' cross halls, which are now cut off from the exterior. There is a 20' crib to the right of the barn. It is ceiled with wide, rough boards and has one single and one pair of batten doors. An open front shed was added on the left in 1948. Another shed was added to the left of that in 1960. Hay can be pushed from the main loft to a chute in the second shed that goes to a rack between the sheds. Mr. Wright has added another shed across the entire rear of the barn.

The yard is surrounded by trees. There are a row of dogwoods along the dirt road in front of the house, two large boxwoods, and a row of pines to the left of the house. There is also a double row of cedars to the rear of the house.

The Clarence Payne House, built c. 1910, is a 1-1/2 story, three bay, white clapboard, end-gabled house with an asphalt roof and a centered gable dormer with 3-1/1 windows on the front facade. The dropped shed roof porch wraps around the right side of the house. It has turned posts, a plain railing, and deep beaded trim under its roof line. The front door has a deep cornice molding above the transom and one square glass pane over a carved bottom panel. The front windows have the same cornice head as the front door, and the upper sashes have narrow vertical divisions with a diamond pattern above and below. The lower sashes have one pane.

The wide center hall has a short flight of stairs at the left rear which turns and passes through a door to the attic level. There is a doorway identical to the front door at the end of the hall. The Georgian plan has back-to-back fireplaces between the two rooms on the left and corner fireplaces on the same chimney between the rooms on the right. All four fireplaces have piers, mantel shelves and mirrors above them. There are French doors between the two rooms on the right. The kitchen has a simpler fireplace. All walls and ceilings

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are covered with narrow tongue and groove boards and some of them are beaded. Floors are narrow boards.

The back porch is closed in on both ends and half screened in the middle. All windows are 1/1 and have the same deep molding above them. All the outside corners have corner pilaster boards. Cornices and rakes are deep and boxed.

There is a white clapboard gable-front store to the left of the house. It is approximately 15' wide by 24' deep and has an 8' shed on the right side. The roof extends 10' in front and is supported by two turned posts. The double front door is made of diagonal battens and there is a 9/9 window on either side. The interior has 6" boards on the floor and is ceiled with 8" boards. The store was constructed c. 19015 and operated until about 1940.

The Payne-Sewell House, built c. 1885-1886, is a one-story, white clapboard Folk Victorian style house. An extension from the left rear of the front two rooms and hall makes the house U-shaped. The roof is asphalt and there are three intersecting gables. The house has two end chimneys on the front section and the right one has pulled away from the gable about a foot at the roof. There is one internal chimney.

The 4-panel front door has a 5-light transom and three side lights. An identical door unit at the rear of the front hall was closed up when the recessed porch on the right side was closed in to make a bedroom. There was a small room at the end of that porch originally.

The front porch has a dropped hip roof, six slender chamfered posts, scroll brackets and trim and is in need of repair work. The side porch is L-shaped, recessed under the principal roofs, has the same brackets and posts and has jigsaw cut railings.

Front rooms and the front hall have painted 10" boards on the walls and ceilings, and 4" wide wood floors. Ceilings are 14'. The two front rooms have narrow 11-1/2' windows with double hung, four light sashes. The rest of the windows are 6/6. Two of the back rooms and the enclosed porch have plywood paneling, tile and linoleum on the walls, ceilings, and floors. The interior doors are 4-panel, as are most of the exterior doors. There are a few exterior batten doors.

The house appears to be in sound condition but is in need of the relatively minor repair work mentioned.

The house is set on a bluff created by the highway, with a dirt road coming up the right side of the hill. There are many fruit trees on the property - apple, peach, plum, quince, fig and large chestnuts,

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walnuts, pecans, oaks, cedars and crepe myrtles. A large magnolia stands by the side porch. There are many old fashioned perennial flowers and many flowering shrubs scattered around the yard.

Dr. Sewell's office, about 12' by 24', with 7' ceilings and ceiled with 6", 7", and 8" boards, stands near the road. It is a clapboard building with a gable-front tin roof. There are two window openings on either side of the batten door, which has a lock box, brown enamel knob, and barn hinges. There is another window opening on the rear wall and another door on the right wall, near the rear. All sashes are missing and the windows are boarded up. There are two stove flues, the eaves are boxed and wide in proportion to the building, and the building is listing to one side.

The clapboard barn has a narrow two story, gable-front center section, open on the front ground level, with steps at the rear leading to the ceiled second floor, which has two windows on either side and a double door on the front. It was used by the hired hand. There is a wall ladder going from the steps to the small loft above and there is a small opening in the front gable of this loft. On the left side of the central section, there is a one-story, shed roof corn crib with a drop door on the side. On the right side, there is an identically shaped double-door buggy shed. Off the back of this first barn, there is an addition of equal width. The central portion is open and parallel to the rear facing gable. There is a hayloft above. There are two stalls on one side and one large open crib on the other side with another drop door to the exterior. All stalls have sliding wooden latches on the doors. The building is listing slightly to one side.

The clapboard wash house has a shed roof with open rafters on the front, an open front door, a dirt floor, a window on either end, a drain in the right rear corner, and a flue for the stove that heated the water.

The well has been enclosed in a small concrete block building to protect pipes and prevent freezing.

The William Payne House, built c. 1880, is a weatherboard Central Hallway type house with a rear ell. Three rooms have been added at a right angle to the ell, making the house U-shaped. A porch was added to enable access to the kitchen and dining room without going through a bedroom.

A large square Craftsman-style porch was added in the 1930's. The battered posts sit on massive capped piers rising above a solid stone balustrade with beaded mortar joints. The front door has side lights and a large pane above two vertical panels. The windows on either

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side of the front door are 1/1, in keeping with the newer porch. Other windows are 6/6 or missing. There are end chimneys on the front section and an interior chimney in the rear left ell.

The front four rooms have 8" wide painted boards on the ceilings and walls and 6" wide wood floors. The front hall has been sheetrocked, as has the third room back on the left side, which has narrow floorboards. The remainder of the house has various narrow boards on the walls and ceilings and 6" floors. All interior doors are four panel.

There is a shed room on the left rear, and two porches on the right rear, all of which are falling down. The back half of the house is in very poor condition. The front portion appears stable.

There is a very large boxwood, a large magnolia, a large spruce, and 3' diameter oak in the yard. Also, located in the yard, is the original metal windmill. There are 3 non-contributing outbuildings to the immediate rear of the house.

The Indian Creek Baptist Church is not included in the district due to the extensive alterations to the church building. The church/community cemetery adjacent to the church building is included as a contributing resource. The cemetery was started soon after the church was organized in 1850.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**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):**

AGRICULTURE  
ARCHITECTURE  
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**Period of Significance:**

c. 1850-1946

**Significant Dates:**

c. 1850  
c. 1880  
c. 1885-1886  
c. 1888  
c. 1910

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

Unknown

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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)**

Architecture

The Walnut Hill Historic District is significant in architecture for its historic farmhouses, outbuildings, and community buildings constructed from the mid-19th to the mid-20th century. The houses represent the types of houses typically constructed as rural Georgia farmhouses from c. 1850 to c. 1910. The outbuildings are examples of the types of domestic and agricultural outbuildings built on small farms in north Georgia during the 19th and early-20th centuries.

Agriculture

The district is significant in agriculture for its small farm complexes typically found in north Georgia and along this portion of the Old Federal Road. The majority of farms in the area were small subsistence farms, raising crops and livestock to sustain the families who lived there. Crops included corn, oats, wheat, and vegetables. Cotton was grown as a cash crop, but only on a small scale. Tenant farming was also done on several of this district's farms.

Community Planning and Development

The district is significant in community planning and development for its development as a historic rural linear community. The community was first settled during the 1850s and was closely associated with the Hamilton and Payne families and with Indian Creek Baptist Church. Indian Creek Church was founded in 1850 as a spin-off congregation from nearby Nails Creek Church, and the church/community cemetery was started soon after. The community developed in a linear pattern along the Old Federal Road in close proximity to the church and cemetery. The remaining historic store and doctor's office are resources that also served the community's needs.

**National Register Criteria**

The Walnut Hill District meets National Register Criteria A and C as an example of a historic rural linear community composed primarily of vernacular frame structures, associated outbuildings, and community resources.

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**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

**Period of significance (justification, if applicable)**

The period of significance for the Walnut Hill Historic District begins in 1850 with the construction of the earliest house, and ends in 1946, the end of the historic period.

**Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

The contributing buildings, cemetery, and windmill were constructed within the period of significance and maintain integrity. The nine noncontributing resources were either constructed after 1946 or have lost historic integrity.

**Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)**

The Walnut Hill vicinity was settled during the 1850s, a decade of growth and prosperity along the Old Federal Road. The district is closely associated with the Payne family, originally from Union, South Carolina, and Indian Creek Baptist Church, a spin-off from Nails Creek Baptist Church. Like much of the Old Federal Road region, Walnut Hill prospered in the 1850s and again after the Civil War years but was greatly disrupted in the 1920s and 1930s by the boll weevil's destructive forces and the Great Depression.

Uriah Payne arrived at Walnut Hill with his wife, children and in-laws, the Rev. Henry Wood and his family, in the late 1850's. The group purchased adjacent parcels of land along the Old Federal Road west of Indian Creek Baptist Church, which had been founded on November 30, 1850 by several members of the church at Nails Creek.

Uriah built a log cabin, now gone, between the sites of the present day William S. Payne and Clarence Payne houses. Uriah was a substantial landowner, accumulating about 600 acres. He had been in the area about five or six years when the Civil War began and was killed at Missionary Ridge, Georgia, leaving his wife and three young children. Mrs. Payne never remarried and the farm was worked by tenants (probably overseen by Rev. Wood, pastor of Indian Creek Baptist Church and father of Mrs. Payne) until Uriah's sons, William S. and John became old enough to farm. Each inherited half of their father's land and also part of their grandfather's land (the Rev. Henry Wood).

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Uriah's older son, William, married Sarah Hamilton and built a large house in the 1880's, now known as the William Payne House. William operated a sawmill and gristmill, was paid by barter of services or goods, and had a large number of tenants, mostly black, each with a small tenant house, one of which remains near the eastern boundary of the district in poor condition. William raised cotton as a cash crop and also raised the basic crops necessary for a self-sufficient farm.

Uriah Payne's younger son, John, married Emma Algood and they built the Payne-Sewell House around 1885-86. John Payne also farmed with large numbers of tenants, including two or three whites. John and Emma Payne had one son, Clarence, who was very small when his father died lifting a wagon while working at his brother's sawmill.

Emma Payne (1864-1928), John's widow, eventually remarried Dr. J.R. Sewell, M.D. (1871-1917) and they had two children, Trudy, who married a McDuffie, and John Knox Sewell, who inherited the farm after his mother died. John Knox was not a successful farmer, and died at the age of 34. His wife, Pearl Whiten Sewell (whose mother was a Bellamy) remained until the children were grown.

Uriah Payne and his family were typical of the cycles that occur in settlement and development. His sons prospered, but their children saw farming decline in the area in the 1920s and 1930s.

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## **9. Major Bibliographic References**

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Aerial photos, from University of Georgia collections:  
Franklin County 1938, 1951, 1956, 1967, 1980

Photographs: Taken April-May, 1985 by Sybil A. Bowers

Historic maps, from University of Georgia collections:

- 1818 Georgia map, includes roads
- 1829 Georgia map, includes roads
- 1836 A New Map of Georgia with its Roads and Distances
- 1846 A New Map of Georgia with its Roads and Distances
- 1860 County Map of Georgia and Alabama
- 1883 Georgia State Gazetteer map
- 1894 Post Route map
- 1909 USDA Soils Map of Franklin County
- 1910 Map of Franklin County
- 1916 Department of Agriculture map of the State of Georgia

Historic photos: contact prints, Vanishing Georgia Collection,  
property of Franklin County Historical Society

Interviews, Roger McConnell by Sybil A. Bowers

- 10 December 1984, 17 April 1985, 24 April 1985, 1 May 1985,
- 15 May 1985, 22 May 1985, 29 May 1985

Interviews, Roger McConnell by Susan Casey

- January 1990 and October 1990

National Register Nomination for Homer, Georgia, written  
September, 1984

Road maps, GMAPDC collections:

- 1967, Franklin County

Sherwood, Adiel. Gazetteer of the State of Georgia 1827, 1860

Georgia State Gazetteers, 1879-80, 1881-82, 1886

USGS topographic maps, 1967:

- Ashland quadrangle

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 # N/A
- ( ) recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # N/A

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**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other, Specify Repository: Georgia Mountains RDC

**Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):**

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** Approximately 125 acres

**UTM References**

A) Zone 17 Easting 284080 Northing 3804600  
B) Zone 17 Easting 284460 Northing 3804620  
C) Zone 17 Easting 284800 Northing 3803880  
D) Zone 17 Easting 285200 Northing 3803400  
E) Zone 17 Easting 285140 Northing 3803340  
F) Zone 17 Easting 284140 Northing 3803920  
G) Zone 17 Easting 284000 Northing 3804600

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the property is indicated as a solid black line drawn to scale on the accompanying National Register Boundary map. This map is based on the current county tax maps which are drawn to a scale of 1"=600'. These maps are the largest scale maps available for this rural area.

**Boundary Justification**

The Walnut Hill district boundary consists of those resources concentrated within the Walnut Hill area which convey the significance of the area. The boundary consists of current existing legal boundaries and topographical features, such as tree lines and agricultural fields, that are associated with the Walnut Hill community.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**name/title** Preservation Planner  
**organization** Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center  
**street & number** Post Office Box 1720  
**city or town** Gainesville **state** Georgia **zip code** 30503  
**telephone** 404-536-3431 **date** Completed - Fall, 1990

**name/title** John Kissane  
**organization** Private Consultant  
**street & number** 682 Ridgewood Avenue  
**city or town** Gainesville **state** Georgia **zip code** 30501  
**telephone** (770) 535-1430 **date** Completed - November 1990

**Reviewed and Edited 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** August 1996

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Photographs

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**Name of Property:** Walnut Hill Historic District  
**City or Vicinity:** Carnesville  
**County:** Franklin  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** March 9, 1994

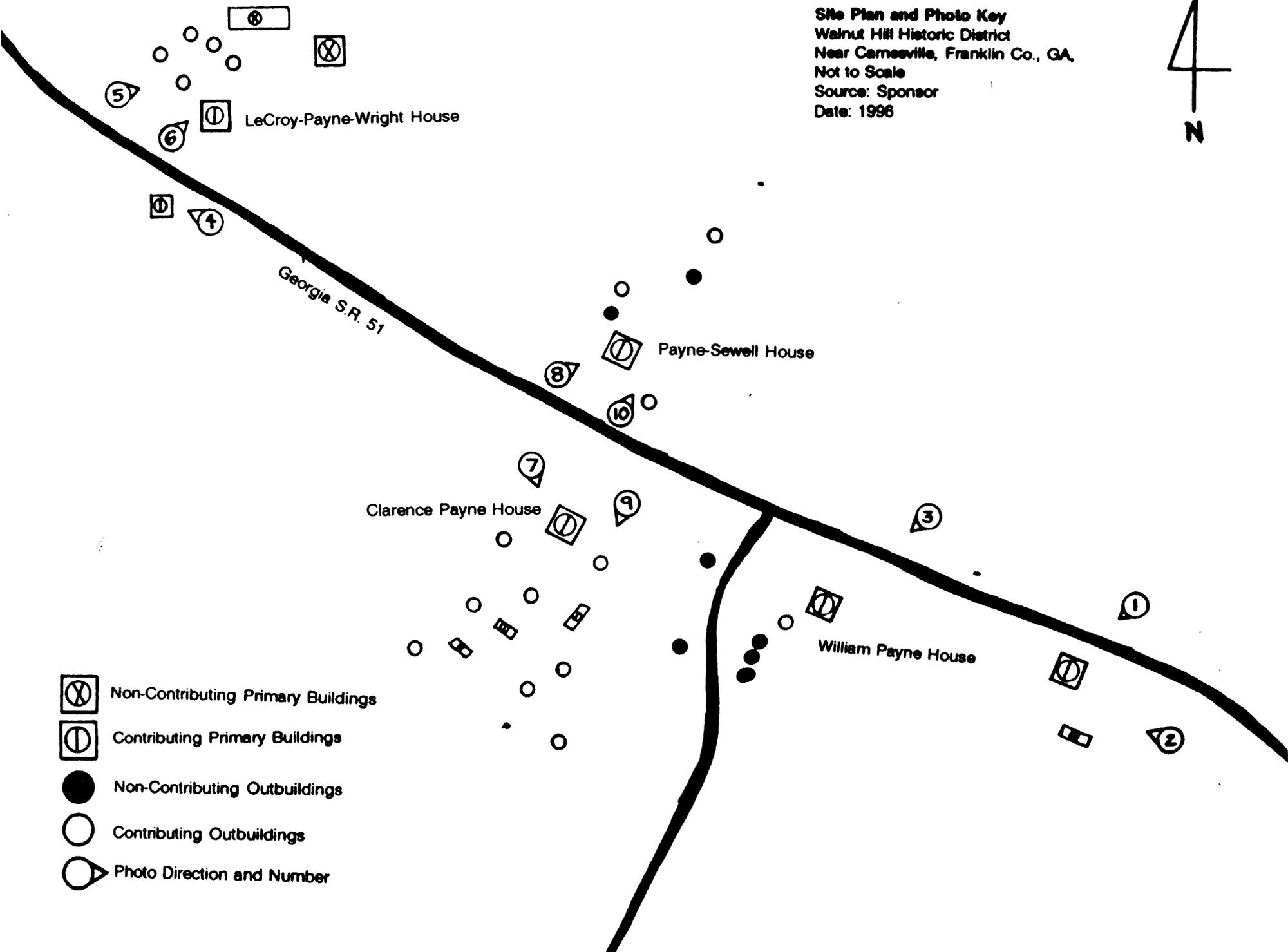
**Note:** Photography was field checked in July, 1996; photographs still convey an accurate representation of the properties.

**Description of Photograph(s):**

- Photo 1 of 10 Vacant House; photographer facing southwest.
- Photo 2 of 10 Indian Creek Cemetery; photographer facing west.
- Photo 3 of 10 Front facade of the William Payne House; photographer facing southwest.
- Photo 4 of 10 Front facade of tenant house; photographer facing southwest.
- Photo 5 of 10 LeCroy-Payne-Wright House; photographer facing northeast.
- Photo 6 of 10 Front facade of the LeCroy-Payne-Wright House; photographer facing north.
- Photo 7 of 10 Front facade of the Clarence Payne House; photographer facing south.
- Photo 8 of 10 Payne-Sewell House; photographer facing northeast.
- Photo 9 of 10 Store; photographer facing south.
- Photo 10 of 10 Doctor's office and barn (Payne-Sewell House); photographer facing north.



**Site Plan and Photo Key**  
 Walnut Hill Historic District  
 Near Carnesville, Franklin Co., GA,  
 Not to Scale  
 Source: Sponsor  
 Date: 1996



-  Non-Contributing Primary Buildings
-  Contributing Primary Buildings
-  Non-Contributing Outbuildings
-  Contributing Outbuildings
-  Photo Direction and Number