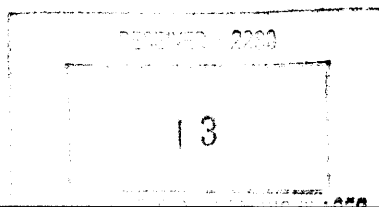


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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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 Braselton Historic District  
other names/site number/n/a

## 2. Location

street & number Main intersection of Georgia State Route 124 and Georgia State Route 53.  
city, town Braselton (n/a) vicinity of  
county Jackson code GA 157  
state Georgia code GA zip code 30605

(n/a) not for publication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	46	8
sites	5	0
structures	1	0
objects	0	0
total	52	8

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: n/a  
Name of previous listing: 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.

Richard Coates  
Signature of certifying official

3-8-01  
Date

for W. Ray Luce  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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

Patrick Andrews 4/27/01

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
COMMERCE/business  
COMMERCE/professional  
COMMERCE/specialty store  
GOVERNMENT/post office  
FUNERARY/cemetery  
RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility  
AGRICULTURE/storage  
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field  
INDUSTRY/manufacturing facility  
TRANSPORTATION/road-related

### Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
COMMERCIAL/business  
COMMERCIAL/professional  
COMMERCIAL/specialty store  
FUNERARY/cemetery  
RECREATION AND CULTURE/sports facility  
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field  
TRANSPORTATION/road-related

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival  
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Neoclassical Revival  
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Tudor Revival/English Vernacular Revival  
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Craftsman

### Materials:

**foundation** brick, stone, concrete  
**walls** wood, brick  
**roof** metal, asphalt  
**other** n/a

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Braselton Historic District includes a large portion of the small town of Braselton, located in northeast Georgia. The historic district encompasses the historic residential, commercial, community landmark, and agricultural/industrial resources associated with the development of Braselton. The core of the town is centered around an irregularly shaped crossroads intersection, Georgia State

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### Section 7--Description

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Route (SR) 53 at Georgia SR 124, consisting of two T-shaped intersections. The Gainesville Midland Railroad (a section of the Central of Georgia Railroad) was originally located along Georgia SR 53 with a spur (siding) located along Wall Street. The line was abandoned and the railroad tracks removed in 1947.

The historic commercial resources are located near the core of the town. The commercial resources are oriented towards Georgia SR 124/Davis Street with the abandoned railroad corridor located behind the buildings. The historic commercial resources consist of attached one-story brick buildings with bands of windows and stepped-parapet roofs and free-standing one-story wood-framed buildings. The collection of historic commercial resources along Georgia SR 124/Davis Street was constructed 1902 to 1940s and is associated with the foundation family, the Braselton family. Prior to the construction of these buildings, wood-framed stores built by the Braselton family were located on the same site. The attached brick buildings feature large display windows with transoms, recessed main entrances, parapet roofs, terra-cotta coping, and historic signage (see photo 25). Also located within this group of attached buildings are cotton compresses and warehouses. These buildings feature low hipped roofs, brick fire walls, and large bay entrances (see photos 27 and 29).

A second concentration of commercial buildings, built during the early 1900s, is located on the southwestern corner of Georgia SR 53/Washington Street at Georgia SR 124/Broadway Avenue. A 1925 gas station oriented towards the intersection is the only historic gas station remaining in the town. The building features a low-hipped roof, overhanging eaves, a canopy, and three-bay central block (see photo 14). Located directly behind (southeast) the gas station is a c.1920 front-gable building with two large bay openings; the building historically functioned and continues to function as an auto garage. The Braselton rolling mill (a type of grist mill), one of the largest buildings within the district, is located within this row of commercial buildings at the northwest corner of the intersection of Georgia SR 53/Washington Street and Frances Street. The Braselton rolling mill was constructed c.1900 and features two-and-a-half-story height, side-gable metal roof, weatherboard exterior cladding, and one-bay side additions (see photo 12).

The historic dwellings are located on the roads radiating from the main intersection of Georgia SR 53 at Georgia SR 124. The historic residences consist of dwellings constructed from the late 19th century into the early 20th century. The architectural types represented within the National Register district include central hallway, gable ell cottage, Georgian cottage, Queen Anne cottage, and Georgian house. These architectural types are located throughout the district. The historic residences share equal setbacks and feature informally landscaped yards with mature trees, foundation planting, and grass lawns (see photo 33). Low concrete and stone retaining walls and steps are included within a few of the landscaped yards (see photo 34 and 32). A few of the historic residences include outbuildings and agricultural fields.

Three large historic residences associated with the Braselton family, the founding family, remain within the district. The John Braselton House, built 1910, is located on the northwest corner of the

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intersection of Georgia SR 53 at Georgia SR 124 (photo 15). The two-story Georgian-plan house built in the Colonial Revival style features a truncated hipped roof with dormer, interior chimneys, one- and two-story wrap-around porch featuring dentils and supported by columns with Ionic capitals, machine-turned balustrade, one-over-one double-hung windows, and main and side entrances with fanlights and sidelights. A two-story ell was added to the rear of the residence during the historic period. The landscape of the John Braselton House consists of concrete and stone retaining walls, stone piers with inscriptions marking the main drive to the house, large hardwood trees, and grass lawn with foundation plantings located near the house. Agricultural outbuildings and agricultural fields are located to the west of the house. These buildings including two large transverse barns, smokehouse, a tenant house, and sheds (see photos 16-19). A historic bell supported by concrete columns is also located near the outbuildings. The agricultural fields are located behind the collection of outbuildings.

The Green Braselton House, built 1910, is located on Georgia SR 53/Greene Street north of the John Braselton House. The two-story Georgian-plan house built in the Colonial Revival style features a hipped roof, interior chimneys with decorative patterned brickwork, slightly front-projecting second-story bay, single and paired nine-over-one double-hung windows, one-story wrap-around porch with a wide entablature supported by single and paired classical columns, and trabeated main entrance. The landscaping includes large mature hardwood trees, grass lawn with foundation plantings, and circular driveway (see photos 20 and 21).

The third of the Braselton residences is the William Harrison (W.H.) Braselton House, built in 1913. The W.H. Braselton House is located on Georgia SR 53/Washington Street on the southern end of the district. The two-story Georgian-plan house built in the Neoclassical Revival style features a flat roof, modillions, dominant full-height front portico with fluted classical columns, second-story center-bay balcony, one-story side porches supported by fluted classical columns, one-over-one double-hung windows, and trabeated main entrance. Much of the historic landscaping associated with the house has been lost to a parking lot. The remaining historic elements include a grass lawn and mature hardwood trees (see photo 10). The building currently functions as the Braselton city hall.

The majority of the historic residences are one-story wood-framed dwellings featuring few stylistic elements. The earliest surviving residence within the historic district is located in an overgrown lot near the northeast corner of the intersection of Georgia SR 83/Green Street and Georgia SR 124/Davis Street. The dwelling, built c.1890, was originally constructed as a one-room store; however, during the historic period, the building was enlarged to a central hallway-type house. The dwelling features a side-gable metal roof, weatherboard exterior cladding, gable-end chimney, and interior central hallway (see photo 24). A similar central hallway-type house, built c.1900, is located on Liberty Church Road just north of its intersection with Georgia SR 124/Broadway Avenue. The house features a metal side-gable roof, wood-frame construction, weatherboard siding, full-width shed porch, and a centrally located front door opening into a central hallway with one room located on either side (see photo 4).

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The historic residence located on Georgia SR 53/Greene Street north of the Green Braselton House is the only historic brick residence, built c.1940, within the district. The one-and-a-half-story house built in the English Vernacular Revival style features masonry walls, steeply pitched gabled roof with dominant front-facing gables, and patterned brickwork and stone in the front-facing gable marking the main entrance (see photo 22).

The historic district features several excellent examples of historic agricultural/industrial buildings. As mentioned above, the Braselton Rolling Mill was constructed c.1900 and features two-and-a-half-story height, side-gable metal roof, weatherboard exterior cladding, and one-bay side additions (see photo 12).

A c.1920 cotton gin is located on the south side of Wall Street, a dirt road, behind the row of attached commercial buildings. The cotton gin is representative of the type of cotton gin built during the early 20th century. The two-story building features a side-gable metal roof, corrugated metal exterior cladding, covered wagon entry, and wrap-around porch (see photo 28). Historically, a siding (spur) of the Gainesville Midland Railroad (a section of the Central of Georgia Railroad) was located along Wall Street in front of the cotton gin. Located directly across Wall Street from the cotton gin is a row of cotton compresses and warehouses (see photo 29). These buildings feature low hipped roofs, fire walls, and large bay entrances (see photos 27 and 29). The Braselton family built the cotton gin next to the railroad siding to eliminate the need to ship the cotton from Braselton to Gainesville, Jefferson, or Athens for processing.

Historically, Braselton featured a high school with gymnasium located on Harrison Street in the southwest corner of the historic district. The Braselton High School was built in late 1920s and the gymnasium in 1926 with funds provided by the Braselton Family. The high school was torn down, but the steps leading to the school and parts of a low curb that outlines building remain. The site of the school has not been developed and the spatial relationship between the site of the school and the gymnasium is still clearly discernible (see photo 12). The gymnasium is a wood-framed three-bay building featuring a gable-front roof, overhanging eaves with triangular knee braces, a ventilator in the front gable, six-over-six double-hung windows, a projecting front-gable porch with triangular knee braces, and paired wooden front doors (see photo 8). The building now functions as the Braselton Flea Market.

The Braselton family cemetery is located in the far northwest corner of the historic district. The cemetery was founded in 1929 by the Braselton family. The entrance of the cemetery is marked by two stone decorative markers featuring a square base with a large rubble-faced sphere (see photo 2). A similar marker, smooth-face finish instead of the rubble-face finish, with the inscription "BRASELTON 1929" is located near the center of the cemetery (see photo 1). The cemetery features large mature hardwood trees, foundation shrubs, curvilinear roads, and decorative stone headstones varying in sizes.

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### Section 7--Description

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Historically, the town featured agricultural fields both within its city limits as well as outside the limits. Intact historic examples of terraced agricultural fields remain within the National Register district. Two fields behind the John Braselton House have retained their historic character. These fields have been terraced and continue to be planted.

The nonhistoric buildings within the district are not large in scale and are primarily located along Georgia SR 53. These buildings along Georgia SR 53 include the Braselton Post Office, Northeast Georgia Bank, and grocery store. There has been little modern residential development within the district.

The area outside the district includes the historic town of Hoschton to the south, Interstate 85 to the north, and modern residential and commercial development to the east and west.

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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):**

ARCHITECTURE  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
COMMERCE  
INDUSTRY

**Period of Significance:**

c.1887-1951

**Significant Dates:**

c.1887      Construction date of oldest historic building within the district.  
1916      Incorporation of Braselton.

**Significant Person(s):**

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation:**

n/a

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

n/a



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### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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#### **Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The Braselton Historic District is an excellent example of a late-19th- and early 20th-century Georgia town founded by a single family and supported on the strength of agricultural production. The historic district is significant in the areas of architecture, landscape architecture, commerce, and industry at the state level of significance.

The Braselton Historic District is significant in the areas of architecture and landscape architecture for its excellent collection of residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings located in their historic landscaped settings. The historic dwellings within the district date from 1887 to the late 1940s. They vary from wood-framed vernacular buildings to high-style buildings with formally landscaped yards. The significant architectural styles represented within the district include Folk Victorian, Neoclassical Revival, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman, as defined in the *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings* context (1991). The significant architectural types include central hallway, saddlebag, gable ell cottage, Georgian cottage, Queen Anne cottage, and Georgian house, also as defined in the *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings* context.

One of the oldest buildings remaining within the historic district was built c.1887. It is located in an overgrown lot on the northeast corner of Georgia SR 53/Green Street and Georgia SR 124/Davis Street. The dwelling is a good example of a central hallway-type house. The house was originally constructed as a one-room store and then enlarged to function as a dwelling. The character-defining features of the dwelling include the side-gable roof, weatherboard exterior cladding, gable-end chimney, and interior central hallway (see photo 24). According to the *Georgia's Living Places* context, the central hallway-type house was a favorite for Georgians built between 1830 and 1930, with clusters occurring in the periods 1840-1860 and 1870-1890. The type most frequently has a gabled roof and exterior end chimneys. The type seems to be fairly evenly distributed across the state, appearing mainly on average-sized farmsteads and on principal residential streets in Georgia's towns and cities. This dwelling also is a good example of the relatively common practice of changing the original use of a building. Although no formal documentation or study has been done on the practice of the adaptive use of buildings, it was commonly done in Georgia.

Another good example of a vernacular dwelling within the district is located on Liberty Church Road just north of its intersection with Georgia SR 124/Broadway Avenue. The character-defining features of the c.1900 saddlebag-type house include its side-gable metal roof, weatherboard exterior cladding, full-width shed porch, centrally located chimney, and two-bay front facade with each bay featuring a main door (entering into a single pen) and window (see photo 4). According to the *Georgia's Living Places* context, the saddlebag type is one of the most distinctive and easily recognizable house types in Georgia. The saddlebag features a central chimney flanked by two rooms (or pens). The rooms are usually square, and the roof is usually gabled. The earliest saddlebag houses, built in the 1830s

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### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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and 1840s in rural agricultural area, are quite rare statewide. In the last few decades of the century saddlebags were popular alternatives for modest housing in outlying fringes of Georgia's towns and cities. Far more examples survive today from the great period of mill village construction, from about 1910 to 1930.

An excellent example of a side-gable bungalow with Craftsman-style elements is located on the northwest corner of the "T"-intersection of Georgia SR 124/Broadway Avenue and Liberty Church Road. The character-defining features of the side-gable bungalow include its side-gable roof, overhanging eaves, front-projecting porch, and irregular floor plan (see photo 5). The bungalow type was very popular in all regions of Georgia between 1900 and 1930, both in rural areas and cities and towns. The Craftsman style was the most popular early 20th-century style in Georgia. The Craftsman style was a break with the popular revivals of historical styles and a movement toward the modern house. Craftsman styles were built across the state in rural, small town, and urban settings from the 1910s through the 1930s. The character-defining features of the Craftsman style included a low-pitched roof that is usually gabled but may also be hipped, widely overhanging eaves with exposed rafter tails, decorative brackets or braces at the eaves, porches have short square columns set on piers, and windows may have a multi-paned sash over a large one-pane sash.

The three significant historic dwellings associated with the Braselton family, the founding family, are the largest and grandest dwellings within the historic district. The John Braselton House, built 1900, is located on the northwest corner of the intersection of Georgia SR 53 and Georgia SR 124. The dwelling is a two-story Georgian-House type built in the Colonial Revival style. The character-defining features of the house include its truncated hipped roof with dormer, interior chimneys, one- and two-story wrap-around porches featuring dentils and supported by columns with Ionic capitals, machine-turned balustrade, one-over-one double-hung windows, and main and side entrances with fanlights and sidelights. A two-story ell was added to the rear of the residence during the historic period (see photo 15). According to the *Georgia's Living Places* context, the Georgian House type features two-story height and square plan shape; the roof is usually hipped but sometimes gabled, and chimneys are sometimes in the exterior walls but usually in the interior of the house, between each pair of rooms. The interior plan features a central hallway with two rooms located on either side of the hallway. The Georgian House was popular from the first decades of the 19th century well into the 20th century. Most examples of the type, however, were built in the periods 1850-1860 and 1900-1930. The Georgian House is much less common than its one-story Georgian cottage, one-story, counterpart.

The significant Colonial Revival features of the John Braselton House include, the hipped roof, full-width first- and second-story porches, and main and side entrances featuring slender columns, fanlights, and sidelights (see photo 15). Most Colonial Revival houses are symmetrical. A central entranceway is elaborated with a pediment supported by pilasters or columns. The roof may be hipped or side-gabled with dormers. Windows have double-hung sashes, usually with six-over-six or

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### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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nine-over-nine panes and may be paired. The Colonial Revival style was very popular in Georgia for a long period, from the 1890s through the 1940s and beyond.

The *Georgia Living Places* context identifies ten major types or forms of historic residential landscapes: the landscape of work, Ornamental yards, the swept yard, the Downingesque landscape, the Horticultural landscape, New South landscaping, landscape revivals at the turn of the century, Craftsman landscaping, 20th-century suburban landscaping, and the landscape of play. The historic landscaping plan, the landscape of work, associated with the John Braselton House is identified as significant in the *Georgia Living Places* context. The character-defining features of the landscape of work include a farmhouse, outbuildings, outdoor activity areas, a well, a small "kitchen garden" in a side or rear yard, agricultural fields and woodlots, and sometimes a small grove of fruit or nut trees. These components are linked by networks of paths, fences, and functional sight lines.

The character-defining features of the landscape of work associated with the John Braselton House include concrete and stone retaining walls, stone piers (with inscriptions) marking the main drive to the house, large hardwood trees, grass lawn with foundation plantings located near the house (see photos 15 and 16). Agricultural outbuildings and fields are located to the west of the house. These building include two large transverse barns, smokehouse, a tenant house, and sheds (see photos 17 and 18). A historic bell supported by concrete columns is also located near the outbuildings (see photo 17). The agricultural fields and wooded lots are located behind (west) the collection of outbuildings. A system of roads and walks connect the outbuildings (see Attachment 1: Site Plan/John Braselton House). The landscape of work occurs primarily on farms of all sizes dating from the 18th century to the present.

The Green Braselton House, built 1910, is located on Georgia SR 53/Greene Street north of the John Braselton House. The house is a two-story Georgian House built in the Colonial Revival style (similar to the John Braselton House). The character-defining features of the dwelling include a hipped roof, interior chimneys with decorative patterned brickwork, slightly front-projecting second-story bay, single and paired nine-over-nine double-hung windows, one-story wrap-around porch with a wide entablature supported by single and paired classical columns, and trabeated main entrance. The landscaping includes large mature hardwood trees, grass lawn with foundation plantings, and circular driveway (see photos 20 and 21).

The third of the Braselton family residences is the William Harrison (W.H.) Braselton House, built in 1913. The W.H. Braselton House is located on Georgia SR 53/Washington Street on the southern end of the historic district. The dwelling is a two-story Georgian House built in the Neoclassical Revival style. The character-defining features include a flat roof with balustrade, modillions, dominant full-height front portico with fluted classical columns, second-story center-bay balcony, one-story side porches supported by fluted classical columns, one-over-one double-hung windows, and trabeated main entrance (see photo 10).

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The Neoclassical Revival style was very popular in Georgia. The style was part of the revival of interest in classically inspired architecture as well as a reaction against Victorian styles. The most common feature of the Neoclassical Revival style is a dominant full-height front portico with classical columns. The full-height entry portico is often coupled with a one-story full-facade porch. Other character-defining features include classical cornice with dentils or modillions, a usually low-pitched and hipped roof which may have a balustrade, a porte-cochere and side porches supported by columns, one-over-one double-hung windows, and elaborate main entrance featuring pilasters, columns, fanlights, sidelights, and transoms. The Neoclassical Revival style was built in Georgia's rural areas, cities, and small towns from the 1890s through the 1930s.

The historic dwelling located on the north side of Georgia SR 124/Davis Street near its intersection with Pinecrest Lane is a good representative example of a front-gable bungalow with Craftsman-style elements situated within an intact historic landscape design, the ornamental yard. The character-defining features of the front-gable bungalow include its low-pitched front-gable roof with wide overhanging eaves, enclosed integral front porch, Craftsman-style fixed windows with vents in the front gable, Craftsman-style braces along the eaves, and wooden porch supports on brick piers (see photo 32). The historic setting of the dwelling is an excellent representative example of the ornamental yard. According to the *Georgia Living Places* context, the ornamental yard generally is self-contained; sometimes literally enclosed by fences, walls, or terraces; sometimes delineated by dramatic changes in landscape treatment. It usually is situated along with the house on a high point of the ground. The character-defining features of the ornamental yard associated with this dwelling are the stone walls marking the steps leading from the Georgia SR 124/Davis Street to the elevated or raised front yard, the low concrete wall setting off the yard, and the foundation plantings and grass yard (see photo 32).

Another good example of a historic dwelling in its historic landscaped setting is located on the far eastern edge of the historic district on the north side of Georgia SR 124/Davis Street. The Georgian cottage-type house was built c.1900. The Georgian cottage was possibly the single most popular and long-lived house type in Georgia. The Georgian plan consists of a central hallway with two rooms on either side. The plan shape is square or nearly so; the roof is usually hipped but sometimes gabled; and chimneys are sometimes in the exterior walls but usually in the interior of the house. The character-defining features of this dwelling include the side-gable roof, square plan shape, and interior central hallway (see photo 34). (The ends of the front porch were enclosed to create additional rooms during the historic period.) The setting of the historic dwelling features ornamental yard-type elements which include a low concrete and stone wall with steps leading to an elevated or raised front yard and foundation plantings and grass yard (see photo 34).

The historic commercial resources, built 1902 to 1940, are located near the core of the town. A row of attached stores is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Georgia SR 124/Davis Street and Georgia SR 53/Washington Street. The character-defining features of the row of attached

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one-story brick stores include flat roofs with parapets, terra-cotta coping, historic signage, bands of windows with transoms, large display windows, recessed main entrances, and three-bay front facades (see photo 25). The attached row of stores is an excellent example of the multiple retail type, as defined in the *Georgia Resources Survey* guide. The character-defining features of the multiple retail type include two or more attached units built together, typically one-story, identical facades and storefronts, and usually three-bays wide. This type was typically built in Georgia from the 1890s through the 1930s.

A second concentration of commercial buildings, built during the early 1900s, is located on the southwestern corner of Georgia SR 53/Washington Street and Georgia 124/Broadway Avenue. An excellent example of an early 20th-century gas station is oriented towards the intersection. The character-defining features of the gas station include its low-pitched hipped roof which incorporated a canopy, overhanging eaves, and three-bay central block (see photo 13 and 14). This standardized form of gas station was commonly built in Georgia during the early to mid-20th century.

Located directly behind (southeast) the gas station is a c.1920 car garage. The character-defining features of the building include its front-gable roof, wood-frame construction, and two large bay openings; the building historically and continues to function as an auto garage (see photo 14-the garage appears to be attached to the gas station, but is actually a freestanding building).

Another commercial building associated with the automobile is the Braselton Tire store. The building was constructed in 1935 and the character-defining features of the one-and-a-half-story building include its front-gable roof, wood-frame construction, and large single-bay opening (see photo 13).

The historic district features several excellent examples of historic agricultural/industrial buildings. The Braselton Rolling Mill was constructed by the Braselton family c.1900. The character-defining features of the building include its two-and-a-half-story height, side-gable metal roof, weatherboard exterior cladding, and one-bay side additions (see photo 12).

A c.1920 cotton gin is located on the south side of Wall Street, a dirt road, behind (south) the row of attached commercial buildings. The cotton gin is a good representative example of the type of cotton gin built during the early 20th century. The character-defining features include its two-story height, a side-gable metal roof, metal exterior cladding, covered wagon entry, and wrap-around porch (see photo 28). Historically, a siding (spur) of the Gainesville Midland Railroad (a section of the Central of Georgia Railroad) was located along Wall Street in front of the cotton gin.

Located directly across Wall Street from the cotton gin is a row of cotton compresses/warehouses (see photo 29). The character-defining features of these buildings include their low-hipped roofs, masonry construction, fire walls, buttresses, and large bay entrances on the front and rear facades. (see photos 27 and 29).

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### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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The last remaining historic community landmark building is the Braselton gymnasium, built in the late 1920s. The gymnasium is an excellent representative example of the type of gymnasium built in Georgia's small towns during the early 20th century. The character-defining features of the building include its front-gable roof, one-and-a-half-story height, wood-frame construction, overhanging eaves with Craftsman-style triangular knee braces, a ventilator in the front gable, six-over-six double-hung windows, a projecting front-gable porch with Craftsman triangular knee braces, and paired wooden front doors (see photo 8). The gymnasium was associated with the Braselton High School built in the early 1920s. The high school building has been torn down but the historic steps leading from the road to the school and a low curbing mark the location of the school. These are significant landscape features that help to retain the spatial relationship between the site of the school (the site has remained vacant since the school was torn down) and the gymnasium (see photo 8).

The district's other historic landscape architecture components include informally landscaped yards, mature hardwood trees along the streets, 10-foot wide residential streets, and the Braselton family cemetery. The Braselton family cemetery is located on Liberty Church Road in the far northwestern corner of the district.

The Braselton Historic District is significant in the areas of commerce and industry for its excellent collection of commercial and industrial resources located near the central core of the historic district which represent the commercial and industrial role played by the community during the early 20th century. Although not the county seat nor the largest community in the county, Braselton served as a commercial and industrial center for portions of three counties: western Jackson, northwestern Barrow, and southeastern Hall. Its regional prominence was due in part to its location along the railroad and in part to aggressive marketing and salesmanship by the Braselton brothers. From the 1890s through the mid-20th century, Braselton served as a market and shipping point for agricultural products, particularly cotton (as evidenced by the surviving cotton gin and warehouses), and as a retail center for goods and services (as evidenced by the surviving downtown commercial buildings).

The first store was established in Braselton by John Braselton, the youngest son of William Harrison (W.H.) Braselton and Susan Braselton, in 1887. The house located in the overgrown lot on the northeast corner of Georgia SR 53/Green Street and Georgia SR 124/Davis Street was originally built as John Braselton's one-room store. During the historic period, the house was enlarged to serve as a residence (see photo 24). In 1891, John's brother, Green Braselton, joined him in the operations of the store. The Braseltons continued their development of a commercial center in Braselton by constructing more stores at the main intersection of town, Georgia SR 53 at Georgia SR 124. The Braseltons' commercial efforts were given a boost in 1882 with the completion of a Gainesville, Jefferson, and Social Circle Railroad (later the Gainesville Midland Railroad then the Central of Georgia Railroad) through Braselton.

In 1902, the Braseltons constructed the Braselton Commission Company on the corner of Georgia SR 53 and Georgia SR 124 (see photo 25). The building has been added onto during the historic

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### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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period and has housed a dry goods store, post office, office and freight depot of the Gainesville Midland Railroad, local express office, Braselton Bank Company, Braselton Chamber of Commerce, and a wholesale general merchandise company. The Braselton family would continue to build stores in this area until the 1940s.

The railroad initiated industrial as well as commercial development in Braselton. In 1900, the Braselton family constructed the large Braselton rolling mill located on the west side of Georgia SR 53/Washington Street. The railroad historically followed the alignment of Georgia SR 53; the tracks were removed in 1947. The rolling mill is a good and rare representative example of the type of steampowered rolling mill constructed in a small town in Georgia during the early 20th century. The character-defining features of the building include its two-and-a-half-story height, side-gable metal roof, weatherboard exterior cladding, and one side-bay addition (see photo 12).

Overall, the Braselton Historic District has retained a high level of integrity and is an excellent example of a small Georgia town founded on the production of cotton as well as the availability of the railroad to move goods and services.

### National Register Criteria

The Braselton Historic District is eligible under National Register Criterion A for its significant association to the commercial and industrial history of the town. The district is also eligible under National Register Criterion C for its excellent collection of residential, commercial, industrial, and community landmark buildings associated with small towns in Georgia.

### Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

### Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins c.1887 with the oldest remaining building and ends in 1951, the end of the historic period.

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

The 52 contributing resources encompass 46 historic dwellings; five sites consisting of the remaining landscape features of the Braselton High School, three terraced agricultural fields, and the Braselton family cemetery; and one structure consisting of the intact system of roads. The 8 noncontributing resources consist of buildings that were either built after 1951 or have lost historic integrity due to additions and alterations.

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#### Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

**\*\*Note: The following history was prepared by Bruce Lonnee and Harris Walker Jr., "Braselton Historic District," Historic District Information Form, February 23, 1998. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

The Braselton family first began farming the present site of Braselton when William Harrison Braselton, Sr. and his wife Susan settled there in 1876. The town of Braselton got its start when John Oliver Braselton, the youngest son of William Harrison and Susan Braselton, decided at the age of eight years old that he would become a storekeeper. John Braselton took a six-by-six foot outbuilding and turned it into a store to sell candy to local farm hands. The store was a success and was quickly replaced by a second, third, and finally fourth building. John Braselton asked his older brother Green to join the firm the next year, and in 1891 the oldest brother, William Henry (Jr.), joined the business. They locally became known as the famous three B's.

The Braselton brothers built their stores close to the junction of two rural roads (now Georgia SR 53 and Georgia SR 124 ) and the Gainesville, Jefferson, and Social Circle Railroad. The roads had been in place for some time, but the rail line had been built in 1882 and spurred growth in the area. Local farmers had access to shipping and receiving large cargoes of agricultural goods. Before the completion of the railroad through Braselton, farmers used the freight station located in Hoschton, a town just south of Braselton.

By the time the fourth building was constructed in 1902, the business had expanded from candy to dry goods, notions, shoes, millinery, clothing, and groceries. It was the largest building in Braselton, and by 1921 it had been expanded to the point that it housed the store, the local post office, the offices and freight depot of the Gainesville Midland Railroad, the local express office, Braselton Bank Company, Braselton Chamber of Commerce, and a wholesale general merchandise company called the Braselton Commission Company. Space for the storage of over five hundred bales of cotton was in the warehouse section of the building. By 1944, additional businesses included undertaking, barber shop, filling station, garage, planing mill, and blacksmith. As late as 1990 this building housed grocery, hardware, furniture, appliances, and dry goods stores.

Just south of this building on Georgia SR 53 stands the Braselton Roller Mill. The roller mill was built by the Braselton brothers around 1900 and was one of the earliest full-operating rolling mills in northeast Georgia.

In 1902, the railroad constructed a siding along Wall Street behind the row of commercial buildings along Georgia SR 124/Davis Street. The Braselton brothers built a cotton gin along the siding during the early 1920s. The ability to ship cotton directly from Braselton made it possible to keep more money in the community rather than pay dealers in Gainesville, Jefferson, or Athens to process the



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### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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cotton. This led to expansion of the family businesses and an overall increase in wealth in the Braselton area both in and out of the Braselton family.

Shortly after the city of Braselton was incorporated in 1916, the three Braselton brothers paid for the construction of a high school in 1919 (the school was destroyed the following year during a storm). Braselton continued to grow during the 1920s with the construction of more housing and commercial buildings.

The depression of the 1930s posed little threat for the local economy because the local agriculture was composed of staples rather than luxuries. The Braselton brothers' businesses continued to thrive during this time period, and their customers came from surrounding counties. As in most agricultural areas, the local businesses extended credit through the year and were paid when the crops were sold. Braselton did better than most communities in this endeavor because the Braselton brothers charged much less than other merchants for this carrying fee. When most Georgia merchants were charging \$8 to carry a sack of flour worth \$5, the Braseltons were charging the customer \$5.50. The net result of all of this was that the town of Braselton had a great deal more country folk coming in to do business than a lot of the other nearby rural towns of similar and even larger size.

While cotton growing was declining during the late 1930s and 1940s, residents moved from agriculture to manufacturing jobs. Textile mills, manufacturing plants, and poultry dressing plants moved into the area. Poultry production began in the county around 1927 and the increase in production has been tremendous over the past 40 years. Northeast Georgia has become one of the nation's leading poultry-producing regions.

Following the end of World War II, the importance of Braselton shifted from a regional agricultural business center to a more regional shopping center. Braselton was an established mid-point between Gaineville and Winder which resulted in commercial traffic moving through town. Braselton became a convenient shipping and mercantile center for produce and goods during the mid-20th century. After the establishment of the large regional shopping malls, the Braselton commercial core slowly started to decline. In 1990, actress Kim Bassinger purchased the commercial core of Braselton to revitalize the stores; however, the stores continued to close. Today, some professional offices and a furniture store remain active in the commercial core.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Braselton, Leta G. The Braselton Family Album; Braselton Georgia; 1876-1982. Atlanta: Conger Printing, 1982.

"Braselton Historic District," Historic Property Information Form, 1998. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Elrod, Frary. Historical Notes on Jackson County Georgia. Jefferson, Georgia 1967.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources. "Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings." 1991. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Stewart, William C. Gone to Georgia: Jackson and Gwinnett Counties and their Neighbors in the Western Migration. Washington D.C. 1965.

White, W.E., ed. The Early History of Jackson County, Georgia. Atlanta 1914.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested**
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued**  
**date issued:**
- 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:**

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

**Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): n/a**

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property** Approximately 60 acres.

### UTM References

A)	Zone 17	Easting 245,693	Northing 3,777,911
B)	Zone 17	Easting 245,708	Northing 3,777,104
C)	Zone 17	Easting 244,477	Northing 3,777,127
D)	Zone 17	Easting 244,485	Northing 3,777,906

### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Braselton Historic District is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached USGS topographical map and the attached National Register Map.

### Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary for the Braselton Historic District includes the contiguous resources associated with the development of the town. The area outside of the district consists of modern residential and industrial development, historic development associated with the town of Hoschton, Jackson county, and modern highway project (Interstate 85).

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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### State Historic Preservation Office

**name/title** Amy Pallante

**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

**street & number** 156 Trinity Aveune, Suite 101

**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303

**telephone** (404) 656-2840 **date** March 2001

**Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable)** ( ) not applicable

**name/title** Bruce Lonnee and Harris C. Walker Jr./Preservation Intern

**organization** Northeast Georgia Regional Development Center

**street and number** 305 Research Drive

**city or town** Athens **state** Georgia **zip code** 30605-2795

**telephone** (706) 369-5650

( ) **consultant**

(X) **regional development center preservation planner**

( ) **other:**

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

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**Name of Property:** Braselton Historic District  
**City or Vicinity:** Braselton  
**County:** Jackson  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** August 1998

**Description of Photograph(s):**

- 1 of 34 View of Braselton family cemetery; photographer facing west.
- 2 of 34 View of entrance to the Braselton family cemetery; photographer facing west.
- 3 of 34 View of a Georgian cottage-type residence on Liberty Church Road; photographer facing northwest.
- 4 of 34 View of double pen-type residence on Liberty Church Road; photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 34 View of Craftsman bungalow on the corner of Georgia SR 124/Broadway Avenue and Liberty Church Road; photographer facing west.
- 6 of 34 Streetscape of Georgia SR 124/Broadway Avenue; photographer facing west.
- 7 of 34 View of Craftsman bungalow and steps and foundation of the Braselton High School; photographer facing south.
- 8 of 34 View of the Braselton Gymnasium; photographer facing south.
- 9 of 34 View of historic building (library); photographer facing north. These historic warehouses and serve as the Braselton Library.
- 10 of 34 View of the W.H. Braselton House; photographer facing northeast.
- 11 of 34 Streetscape view of Georgia SR 53/Washington Street; photographer facing north.
- 12 of 34 View of the Braselton rolling mill; photographer facing west.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### Photographs

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- 13 of 34 Streetscape view of Georgia SR 124/Washington Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 14 of 34 View of historic gas station at the intersection of Georgia SR 124 and Georgia SR 53; photographer facing southwest.
- 15 of 34 View of the John Braselton House; photographer facing west.
- 16 of 34 View of the main drive and outbuildings of the John Braselton House; photographer facing northwest.
- 17 of 34 Detail view of the outbuildings of the John Braselton House; photographer facing northwest.
- 18 of 34 View of large barn and historic bell of the John Braselton House; photographer facing northwest.
- 19 of 34 View of a second large barn of the John Braselton House; photographer facing northwest.
- 20 of 34 View of the Green Braselton House and landscaping; photographer facing northwest.
- 21 of 34 Detail view of the Green Braselton House; photographer facing southwest.
- 22 of 34 View of English Vernacular-style house; photographer facing northwest.
- 23 of 34 Streetscape view of Georgia SR 53/Greene Street; photographer facing south.
- 24 of 34 View of central hallway-type house; photographer facing southeast.
- 25 of 34 View of the intersection of Georgia SR 124 and Georgia SR 53; photographer facing west.
- 26 of 34 View of historic residence on Georgia SR 124/Davis Street; photographer facing north.
- 27 of 34 View of cotton compresses/warehouses; photographer facing southwest.
- 28 of 34 View of Braselton cotton gin; photographer facing southwest.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### Photographs

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- 29 of 34 Streetscape view of Wall Street (railroad siding historically located along this corridor); photographer facing southwest.
- 30 of 34 Rear view of historic Braselton store; photographer facing southwest.
- 31 of 34 Streetscape view of Georgia SR 53/Davis Street; photographer facing west.
- 32 of 34 View of historic landscaping and Craftsman bungalow; photographer facing northwest.
- 33 of 34 Streetscape view of Georgia SR 53/Davis Street; photographer facing west.
- 34 of 34 View of historic landscaping and residence; photographer facing north.

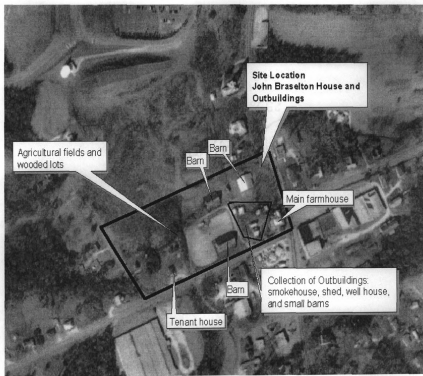
## **ATTACHMENT 1**

Braselton Historic District

Braselton, Jackson County, Georgia

Aerial photograph of the John Braselton House and outbuildings

Not to scale



**NATIONAL REGISTER MAP**

**BRASELTON HISTORIC DISTRICT  
BRASELTON, JACKSON COUNTY, GEORGIA**

- CONTRIBUTING BUILDING = ●
  - NONCONTRIBUTING BUILDING = ○
  - CONTRIBUTING SITE = ▲
  - PHOTO NUMBER AND DIRECTION = ⊙
- NOT TO SCALE**

