

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Ainsworth E. Blunt House

and/or common Blunt House

2. Location

street & number 506 South Thornton Avenue not for publication

city, town Dalton vicinity of _____ congressional district 7th-Larry McDonald

state Georgia code 013 county Whitfield code 313

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

Estate of Mrs. Emery Kirby Baxley, c/o Mr. Mark Albertson, Assistant Trust Officer
name First National Bank

street & number P.O. Box 1088

city, town Dalton vicinity of _____ state Georgia 30720

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Whitfield County Courthouse

city, town Dalton state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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 Ainsworth E. Blunt House is located on a slight elevation on Thornton Avenue, a main thoroughfare through Dalton.

The Blunt House, an 1848 two-story house with late-nineteenth-century additions, is a reflection of Federal-style architecture with obvious Victorian additions. The earliest portion of the structure is the front of the house, where the Federal style is primarily evident. The symmetrical front facade has a centrally located two-story portico flanked by windows on each side. The front door is bounded by sidelights and an overlight. Immediately over the front door is a second front door that leads to a small portico porch. This door is essentially the same as the first-floor door. A full-length porch spanning the first-floor front facade was added around the turn of the century. The interior end chimneys have been stuccoed. The floor plan of the 1848 Federal structure is evident: two over two with central stair hall. The original staircase was removed when the additions were made to the Blunt House in the late-nineteenth century. Mortise-and-tenon construction is evident in interior features, such as the second-floor bedroom closet doors. While the interior ornamentation reflects the Federal style, some Greek Revival detailing is noted.

The original kitchen appears to have been located in the two-room ell on the southwest end of the Federal-style structure. Evidence supporting this supposition includes the extremely large fireplace. The ell appears to be original to the house. The roofline of the rear of the Blunt House changed with the Victorian additions.

The additions to the Blunt House are located to the rear of the Federal-style structure. These additions were constructed during the late-nineteenth century. A staircase, descending to the rear of the house, was added at that time. On the first-floor level, the rooms of the addition are used as a dining room and a kitchen. The second-floor addition housed several bedrooms and a bathroom. A porch on the rear of the addition has been enclosed. The ornamentation of the addition is distinctly Victorian. Dark-wood molding around the doors and windows and dark mantles are found in the dining room and a second-floor bedroom. Dark sliding doors connect the parlor of the older structure with the Victorian dining room.

Due to subdivision of land and residential development, the original four-acre lot has been reduced to less than one acre. The front yard of the Blunt House is landscaped with large trees and shrubbery. A small flower bed is located to the rear of the house. A stone retaining wall is located in front of the house, adjacent to the street. There are no outbuildings located on the property.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
Specific dates 1848		Builder/Architect Unknown		

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Ainsworth E. Blunt House is significant in the architectural, military, and local history of Dalton. Architecturally, the Blunt House is an excellent example of the Federal style of architecture in Dalton. It is an example of the persistence of the Federal style in rural areas of Georgia and is one of the oldest houses in Dalton. During the Civil War, the Blunt House served as a temporary headquarters for Confederate generals and also as a Union hospital. Ainsworth E. Blunt was instrumental in the establishment of the First Presbyterian Church in Dalton and served as mayor and postmaster of Dalton.

The Blunt House is an excellent example of the Federal style of architecture as found in the Dalton and northwest Georgia area. Indicative of the Federal style of architecture are the thin columns, tall, narrow proportions, and symmetrical facade and interior floor plan.

While exterior end chimneys are common in the Federal style, interior end chimneys are fairly unusual in northwest Georgia. Built in 1848, the Blunt House is an example of the slow transmission of architectural styles to the remote areas of Georgia. During this time, the Greek Revival style was flourishing in the cotton belt of Georgia, having superseded the Federal style. The Blunt House is one of few pre-Civil War structures that has remained in the same family for well over 100 years. It was possibly the first two-story house to have been built in Dalton (originally Cross Plains).

The additions to the Blunt House are indicative of the Victorian architectural period. Dark-wood door and window frames, ornate wooden mantles, and larger panes of window glass are representative of Victorian architecture. The additions are also indicative of the growth pattern of the Blunt family. The additions were made by the daughter of Ainsworth E. Blunt, Lillie Blunt Kirby. The additions were needed to accommodate the Kirby family of six. The two-story rear addition provided the needed space for the family.

During the Civil War, the Blunt House served as a headquarters and a hospital for the Confederate and Union armies. In March, 1864, Confederate troops were camped in Dalton prior to Sherman's march to Savannah. General Joseph Johnston and several brigade and division officers used the Blunt House as a temporary headquarters. When the Confederate Army retreated to the Atlanta area, Union troops camped in Dalton and used the Blunt House as a field hospital. During the occupation of Dalton, the Blunt family went north to visit relatives.

[continued]

9. Major Bibliographical References

[see continuation sheet]

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property .39 acre
 Quadrangle name Dalton North, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	6	6	8	5	6	1	0	3	8	4	8	8	3	5
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing						

C

Zone			Easting				Northing						

D

Zone			Easting				Northing						

E

Zone			Easting				Northing						

F

Zone			Easting				Northing						

G

Zone			Easting				Northing						

H

Zone			Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries are indicated by heavy black line on the enclosed Whitfield County Tax Map 237-12-8-Parcel 12. This includes all of the land that continues to be associated with the Blunt House.

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 Kacy Ginn, National Register Researcher
 organization Historic Preservation Section
Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources date April 18, 1980
 street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W. telephone (404) 656-2840
 city or town Atlanta state Georgia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon
 title Acting State Historic Preservation Officer date 5/13/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Carol Dubois</u>	date <u>July 9, 1980</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Carol Dubois</u>	date <u>7/3/80</u>
Chief of Registration	

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Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

Ainsworth E. Blunt (1800-1865) was a pioneer settler of Dalton and was instrumental in the growth and development of the area. Originally from Amherst, New Hampshire, Blunt volunteered his services to the Cherokee Indian mission at Brainerd, Tennessee. Joining the mission in 1822, he served as a mechanic and as postmaster for the mission. He was instrumental in establishing the Presbyterian church in nearby Chattanooga. Blunt moved to Cross Plains (Dalton) in 1843, then a small settlement a short distance from the county seat. Blunt established a mercantile business and soon became the first postmaster (1845) of Cross Plains, which had been incorporated in 1839. In 1847, Cross Plains was incorporated as Dalton. It was during this time that Blunt served as the mayor of Dalton. Blunt was also instrumental in the establishment of the First Presbyterian Church (1847) in Dalton and continued to serve as an elder for the duration of his life. Blunt was active in all areas of community life and contributed to the growth and development of Dalton.

Historical Narrative

The Blunt House was built in 1848 on a four-acre lot in downtown Dalton. After Blunt's death in 1865, the house became the property of his daughter, Mrs. T.M. Kirby. Mrs. Kirby deeded the house to her daughter, Mrs. Emery Kirby Baxley. The Blunt House remained in the Blunt family until Mrs. Baxley's death in 1978. With the stipulation that the Blunt House be listed on the National Register, Mrs. Baxley willed the house to the Whitfield-Murray Historical Society for use by the Society and to insure the preservation of the Blunt House.

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Continuation sheet

Bibliography

Item number 9

Page 2

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Whitfield County History Commission. Official History of Whitfield County, Georgia, 1936.