

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 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 McConnell Historic District other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Georgia State Route 51
city, town Carnesville
county Franklin code 119
state Georgia code GA zip code 30521

(X) vicinity of

(N/A) not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- (X) **private**
- () public-local
- () public-state
- () public-federal

Category of Property

() building(s)

- (X) **district**
- () **site**
- () structure
- () **object**

Number of Resources within Property:

	<u>Contributing</u>	Noncontributing
buildings	30	10
sites	0	0
structures	2	0
objects	0	0
total	32	10

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.

State/Federal Agency Certification 4.

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.

Signature of certifying official

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

	Signature, Keeper of the National Register	Date	
() see continuation sheet			
() other, explain:			
() removed from the National Register			
() determined not eligible for the National Register			
() determined eligible for the National Register			- 10giston
I, hereby, certify that this property is:	Dom A. Beall	<u>11. 7. 9</u> Q	Entered in the National Register
/4			

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

AGRICULTURE/outbuildings DOMESTIC/single dwelling EDUCATION/school COMMERCE/store

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling AGRICULTURE/outbuildings

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER/Double Pen OTHER/Plantation Plain OTHER/Georgian cottage plan

Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	wood/weatherboard
roof	standing seam metal, asphalt
other	stone

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The McConnell Historic District is a historic rural crossroads community composed of farm complexes and several community resources along the Old Federal Road at its intersection with Plain View and Strange Roads. The small farm complexes that make up this community consist of farmhouses, associated outbuildings, and surrounding agricultural fields. The houses and outbuildings were constructed from about 1870 into the 1940s. The most intact complex of farm buildings is the McConnell House and associated outbuildings. The house is a one-story, hipped-roof house with a modified Georgian plan constructed c. 1906. The house is set in a landscaped yard with a wide variety of trees, shrubs, hedges, and flowers. Behind the house is a large collection of outbuildings, including several barns, a chicken house, a corn crib, a potato cellar, storage sheds, and outhouses. The property's earlier 1879 house and barn also remain on the property. The community's 1905 school building and a c. 1910 store/meeting hall are located at the crossroad intersection.

The <u>Plain View School</u> is a one-story white clapboard building with a hip-on-gable tin roof and deep plain boxed overhangs. It has a shed roofed entry with a small cloakroom on each side. Inside the entry are two horizontally paneled doors, each of which opens into one of the two classrooms.

The "little room" is on the right (west) and the "big room" on the left (east). The rooms are roughly square and of equal size. Each room has a stove flue and two triple sash, 4/4 windows on both the

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front and end walls. Some of the top sashes have been covered with clapboards. Blackboards are on the rear walls, which have no windows or doors. There is a seven foot moveable partition between the rooms, and a batten door at the rear connecting the rooms. Ceilings are 14' high and covered with 2" wide beaded tongue-and-groove boards. Floors are pine and the walls are painted boards of varying size.

The <u>McConnell-Richardson-Bellamy House</u> is a one-story white clapboard house constructed in the 1880s as a tenant house. The main section has an asphalt spraddle roof with a 5' front porch recessed under the main roof which wraps around the left (east) end. The recessed Lshaped porch on the right (west) rear side is enclosed. A two-room ell (part of the original house) projects off the left rear and another two room ell is perpendicular to this. Chimneys are cut granite blocks, alternating square and rectangular. There are several large oak trees near the house.

The main part of the front gable barn is constructed of canted hewed V-notch logs covered with weathered clapboards. The barn is 32' x 32' and about 24' high. Originally there was a cross hall, however, Mr. Bellamy enclosed it because of the cold. He added 10' metal sheds on both sides of the main barn. The rear of the front to back hall has been closed off and a stall has been built in that space. Mr. Bellamy built a ladder to the loft in the right rear stall. There is a loft opening in the front gable. The original wooden shingled roof have been replaced with a tin roof. Floors are dirt.

The John F. McConnell House, built in 1906, is a white clapboard, pyramid roofed (tin) Georgian plan house with end-gabled ells on both sides. The house has three cut stone chimneys and six fireplaces. A drop shed front porch with turned posts and balusters and scroll brackets runs across the entire front of the house. There is a centered gable-front projection of the roof porch before the front door. The front door has one large pane over panels with some carving. The stone chimneys have alternating large and small stones. The left end single chimney reads W.O.B. (standing for William O. Brown) 1906 #255. Mr. Brown was a prolific mason in the area. Windows are tall 2/2, and the eaves are deep and boxed. There is a smaller back porch similar to the larger front porch.

Walls and ceilings are covered with narrow, unpainted beaded tongueand-groove boards, except for the two front rooms and hall, which have 3' wainscotting. Baseboards are about 1' and have beading. Doors and windows have mitered trim and the trim is beaded. Doors have five horizontal panels. Ceilings are 14', except for the hall which is 11-1/2' because of the proportion involved. The living room mantle has a projecting molding, a mirror with side shelves, and a bracketed mantel United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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with reeding. Two baths have been added and the sun porch enclosed. The house is in excellent condition.

The yard has numerous large trees, including oaks. There are many perennials and flowering shrubs, including wisteria and crepe myrtle. There are two large boxwoods in front of the house and a boxwood hedge along the left side of the yard. There is a garden behind the house, and it contains many old-fashioned flowers.

There are many outbuildings on the property. The corn crib and the old smoke house, now the woodshed, were on the property when David McConnell bought it. The crib with shed is a gable front half dovetail log building with vertical 8-12" boards on the right side. Sills are 4-1/2"w x 5" high and of white oak (more resistant to wood lice). Pole rafters have irregular lathing covered with tin. There is a small square door on the front of the crib. The old smokehouse has hewed V-notch joints, and a $10'w \times 9$ " high white oak sill. The floor is dirt, there is a 2' front overhang, one centered pole joist, and a mixed bag of rafters with irregular lathing. The rear is covered with vertical boards.

The <u>McConnell-Richardson-Bellamy House</u> was built c. 1879 as an addition to an existing two-story log home, which was torn down in 1907. It is a weathered clapboard, gable-end two room house with a recessed front porch, and 9/6 windows. There is a small stoop on the back. Eaves are boxed and have a wide board beneath them on the gable end. There is a fireplace between the two rooms and two closets in the room on the right, the kitchen and dining room. Walls and ceilings are covered with 6, 8" square edge boards.

The three-story, weatherboard barn, built in 1879, has a front facing spraddle tin roof. There is a 28' wide, 8-1/2' center hall with stairs at the rear leading to the second story. Directly above the center post of the hall, there is a 6' loft door and in the 9' space above that there is a 6/6 window. On both sides of the hall there are three stalls. There is no floor. Sills are 7 x 7" white oak barely off the ground. Joists above the open hall are 2 x 6" with 12" boards laid on them. There is an 8' open front shed on the right side of the barn. There are two windows on the rear of the barn, unusual for the area and the time.

The smaller gable-end weatherboard barn was built in 1909, with used material. Sills are 8"w x 11-1/2"h on rock piers 1 to 1-1/2' off the ground. $5-1/2h \ge 6-1/2w$ cants sit 2' on center on the sills. The building has new double batten doors on the front with 2 short doors above them. There is a loft door on the left end. The building is about 14' x 27'. Square nails were used throughout.

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The chicken house has weathered clapboards and was built in 1910. The furnace has a kettle that has been in the family for 130 years. The well shelter was built in 1924. The outhouses were built in 1878 and 1933. The bell has been in the family for 100 years, but was used at the Plain View School from 1905 to 1955.

The <u>McConnell-Poole House</u> was constructed in 1879 and substantially altered in the 1920s. It is not known exactly what the original house looked like but it was considerably smaller than the present house and did not have nearly as much porch space.

The <u>store/meeting hall</u> was constructed c. 1910 by the Masons and Oddfellows, who used the second floor as a meeting space. Jim Carson ran the store on the main floor. After his death, the store was closed but the second floor continued to be used as a meeting space.

8. Statement of Significance		
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:		
() nationally () statewide (X) locally		
Applicable National Register Criteria:		
(X) A () B (X) C () D		
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): (X) 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. 1870-1946		
Significant Dates:		
c. 1880 c. 1905 c. 1906		
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)

Agriculture

The McConnell Historic District is significant in <u>architecture</u> for its historic farmhouses, outbuildings, and community buildings. The houses represent the types of houses typically constructed as rural Georgia farmhouses from c. 1870 into the 1920s. 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. The school and store are typical early 20th-centurycommunity buildings.

Agriculture

The district is significant in <u>agriculture</u> 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 <u>community planning and development</u> for its development as a rural crossroads community associated with the McConnell family. Thomas McConnell (1817-1864) first moved to the area in the 1850s and farmed. His son David (1847-1907) and grandson John also farmed the property and built the houses within the district. The property is now owned by John's son Roger McConnell. The McConnell District is significant in the area of agriculture for being representative of the self-sufficient farming lifestyle typical along the Old Federal Road, with agricultural opportunity being the primary reason for its settlement.

National Register Criteria

The McConnell District meets National Register Criteria A and C as a very significant example of the types of buildings common along the Old Federal Road from the mid-19th century to the early-20th century. The presence of tenant houses points to the importance of the tenant-

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farming system that was vital to northeast Georgia during this period. The remaining buildings and associated outbuildings and their spacial relationship with the crossroads illustrates the historic development of the district as crossroads community and agricultural activities.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

The period of significance for the McConnell Historic District begin in 1870, 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 and structures were constructed within the period of significance and maintain integrity. The ten noncontributing buildings were either built after 1946 or have lost historic integrity.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

Plain View School

The original school in the Jewelville area was started in the 1880's in an old log tenant house furnished by David McConnell in a field across from the present McConnell house. That school existed about two years. It replaced the Indian Creek School.

After that, a new building was built on McConnell's land on the crossroad opposite the present day Plain View School. The land was furnished by McConnell with the understanding that the land would revert to the original owner when the building was no longer used as a school. The school operated for many years with a part-time male teacher, sometimes with a female assistant.

The present schoolhouse was built in 1905 on McConnell land and opened in the fall of that year. The community hired Levi H. Bellamy to construct the two room building. Children from near Carnesville and Nails Creek.

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There were two equal sized rooms, referred to by the children as the "big room" for older children and the "little room" for the younger children. The school was used until 1952 when it was consolidated with the Carnesville Elementary School.

The school was bought and restored by the local Women's Club, and it is still available for public use. It is still used as a voting site for local, state, and national elections.

McConnell-Richardson-Bellamy House

David McConnell built this house as a tenant house for the tenant manager in the early 1880's. It remained a tenant house until his death. He also built the log barn on the property, probably in the 1890's. When his estate was settled in 1908, his youngest daughter, Willie (Mrs. James Ayres), inherited it and moved in. Around 1909, the Ayres added a two room ell and connecting porch on the left rear. The house has remained basically unchanged. The chimneys were built by William O. Brown. Henry Bellamy helped cut the granite bricks.

The Ayres lived here from 1908 until 1918, when they sold the farm to the Richardson family. The Richardsons lived here for five to eight years, but could not make a go at it. Livingston Richardson's uncle, Frank Richardson, lived nearby and held the mortgage, so he took the farm and used the house as a tenant house until his death around 1960. At that time, the land was divided four ways and Frank Bellamy bought the part which contained the original McConnell land. His family is still living here. He has restored the building essentially to its original condition. Mr. Bellamy raises chickens and considers his a small operation, selling 350,000 chickens annually.

John F. McConnell House

Thomas McConnell (1817-1864), great grandfather of the present owner, (Roger McConnell), his wife Frances Caroline Feldon Hollingsworth (1819-1893) and their family moved to Franklin County from Anderson County, South Carolina in 1852. Thomas had been a farmer and he moved due to the depleted soil productivity. When they arrived, they had four or five children and their family grew to include twelve children, nine of whom survived to adulthood.

The first year the McConnells lived in a small cottage on one-andthree-quarters acres, but Thomas gradually acquired slightly over 500 acres of land on both sides of the Old Federal Road. The land was obtained primarily from the Ash family, Hawkins family, and Morris family. Thomas and his family moved into a small log house on the site of the present McConnell-Poole House. Thomas was a self-

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sufficient farmer who grew some cotton for cash. He cut timber on his land and used it to build seven tenant houses. He had no slaves in Franklin County and probably had none in South Carolina. Thomas was a captain in the Home Guard and left to serve in the Civil War. He was badly injured, died shortly after returning home, and was buried at Indian Creek Baptist Church. His son, David M. McConnell (1847-1907), at 16 years of age took Thomas's place in the calvary as a courier during the last year of the war.

Young David McConnell returned from the war and married Mary Crow in 1866. They moved into a small log cabin, no longer standing, on the opposite side of the Old Federal Road from the present McConnell House. Their first five children were born there.

Thomas McConnell had left no will and his widow Frances had difficulty with her debts, especially taxes. She was down to her last hundred dollars and managed to get appointed administrator of Thomas's estate. All the family's land was sold at the courthouse door in Carnesville. Nobody bid except Frances' son David, with the hundred dollars she had given him. There was an unspoken agreement among the neighbors not to bid; therefore, David regained his father's land.

Frances McConnell never remarried and David became head of the family, buying and selling land and farming. In 1879 he bought the Old McKie home, a log house on the site of the present-day McConnell house. David built an ell on the rear and weatherboarded the building. He remained in that house until his death in 1907. There were two other small log buildings on the property when David bought the property. One was a corn crib with a wagon shed and the other was a smokehouse. Both are still standing and the smokehouse is now used as a wood shed. He built the large barn and the privy both still standing. He replaced his mother's house with the present-day McConnell-Poole House.

David McConnell grew corn, wheat, oats, and raised cattle, hogs, and chickens for the farm. Cotton was his only cash crop. He worked ten or eleven tenant families, mostly white families, providing them with equipment, tools, mules, horses, and fertilizer. The tenants bought supplies at John Duncan's or Obe McDuffie's stores. David paid for most of these supplies outright and deducted these debts from the tenants' half of the profits.

David had attended school for one session, and after his father's death assumed the responsibility for his siblings. He sent them to school and even took care of his nieces and nephews. He and Mary had ten children, eight survived to adulthood, and the boys had eight to

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ten years of schooling at the local schools. David sent his eldest son, John F., to school for ten years in Carnesville.

David McConnell was an outstanding man in the community. He donated land for the Plain View School, was a member of the Franklin County Board of Education for several years, and one of the main bondsmen for county officials for a long period. His brothers were also active in the community. J.C. became sheriff, Asa was Clerk of Superior Court for several years and L.J. was an editor and county school superintendent.

In 1905, at age 59, David made preparations for a new house. He had timber cut from the uncut pines on his land and dried it in a shed for a year. David's oldest son, John F., drew up plans for the new house, including the pitch of the roof. There were other houses of this type in the area before the McConnell's.

The John F. McConnell House was constructed in 1906. George Neal milled, planed and dressed the lumber. He did the lathe work for the porches. Will Culpepper and William R. Means, David's son-in-law, were the carpenters. The six mantles and clock-shelf in the living room were made by a Mr. Meadows in Gillsville and were brought to the house already assembled. The chimneys were constructed by William O. Brown, a Baptist preacher, who was well known locally. The stone for the chimneys and foundation were cut from the quarry on Keysler Road, off the Old Federal Road. Brown built several hundred chimneys in the area and numbered them. The numbering can be seen on the McConnell Chimneys.

Mary McConnell died in March of 1907 and David died in October of the same year. David was well off when he died. He left no will, but wanted John, his oldest son, to have the home place. That wish was respected. John got the house and 72 acres. The remaining land and money were divided among the other children.

9. Major Bibliographic References

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 Photographs: 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:

(X) State historic preservation office
() Other State Agency
() Federal agency
() Local government
() University
(X) Other, Specify Repository: Georgia Mountains RDC
Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

McConnell Historic District, Franklin County, Georgia

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 125 acres.

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 283580 Northing 3805600
B) Zone 17 Easting 283920 Northing 3804960
C) Zone 17 Easting 284080 Northing 3804600
D) Zone 17 Easting 284000 Northing 3804600
E) Zone 17 Easting 283220 Northing 3804920
F) Zone 17 Easting 283260 Northing 3805700

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"=660'. These maps are the largest scale maps available for this rural district.

Boundary Justification

Boundaries are based on the concentration of historic resources and historical associations among them. The areas to the east and west of the McConnell District have different historical associations. There are also expanses of landscape as well as some intrusion and nonhistoric properties outside the district.

11. Form Prepared By

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

Name of Property:McConnell DistrictCity or Vicinity:CarnesvilleCounty:FranklinState:GeorgiaPhotographer:James R. LockhartNegative Filed:Georgia Department of Natural ResourcesDate Photographed:March 9, 1994

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

Description of Photograph(s):

Photo 1 of 12	Front facade of John McConnell House; photographer facing west.
Photo 2 of 12	Front facade of David McConnell House; photographer facing southwest.
Photo 3 of 12	Outbuilding (John McConnell House); photographer facing north.
Photo 4 of 12	Outbuildings (John McConnell House); photographer facing north.
Photo 5 of 12	Barn (John McConnell House); photographer facing north.
Photo 6 of 12	Front facade of McConnell-Richardson-Bellamy House; photographer facing west.
Photo 7 of 12	Front facade of Plain View School; photographer facing west.
Photo 8 of 12	Street view of Plain View Road; photographer facing north.
Photo 9 of 12	Historic house on Plain View Road; photographer facing east.
Photo 10 of 12	Store along SR 51; photographer facing northeast.
Photo 11 of 12	McConnell-Poole House; photographer facing east.
Photo 12 of 12	Street view of SR 51; photographer facing southwest.



