

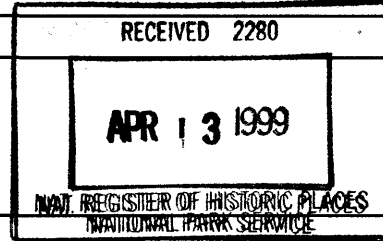


NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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 Woodbine Historic District
other names/site number n/a



2. Location

street & number The intersections of Bedell Avenue/US Highway 17 and 3rd Street and 4th Street within the central business district of Woodbine.
city, town Woodbine (n/a) vicinity of
county Camden **code** GA 039
state Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 31569

(n/a) not for publication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	65	19
sites	0	0
structures	2	3
objects	0	0
total	67	22

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1

Name of previous listing: Camden County Courthouse

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.

W. Ray Luce Signature of certifying official 4/7/99 Date

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

Edson H. Beall 5/12/99

() 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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE/business
COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant
SOCIAL/meeting hall
GOVERNMENT/courthouse
EDUCATION/school
RELIGIOUS/religious facility
TRANSPORTATION/rail-related
TRANSPORTATION/road-related (vehicular)

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE/business
COMMERCE/TRADE/restaurant
SOCIAL/meeting hall
GOVERNMENT/courthouse
GOVERNMENT/city hall
RELIGION/religious facility
HEALTH CARE/hospital
TRANSPORTATION/road-related (vehicular)

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE VICTORIAN/Gothic
LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Neo-Classical Revival
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Late Gothic Revival
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENT/Craftsman
MODERN MOVEMENT/International Style

Materials:

foundation stone, brick, concrete
walls tabby, wood, brick
roof tin, asphalt
other n/a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7--Description

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The City of Woodbine is located on the southern bank of the Satilla River in the south Georgia coastal county of Camden. Camden county was one of the earliest settled counties in Georgia, and Woodbine is a modest-sized river town that has experienced two distinct periods of development.

The area of the Woodbine Historic District was originally the site of Woodbine Plantation, an early 19th-century rice plantation encompassing approximately 4,000 acres south of the Satilla River. In 1884, James King Bedell (1849-1912) bought the plantation, officially named the plantation Woodbine, and constructed a wood-framed home (see Attachment 1). An antebellum rice plantation was originally located on the site of the current Bedell Plantation; however, the original rice plantation house and outbuildings were burned during the Civil War. Bedell built his plantation house c.1890 on the same site of the burned house and farmed the remaining rice fields. The Georgian-type house has suffered some alterations and is in poor structural condition. During the early 1980s, the rice fields were purchased and turned into a crawfish farm. Many of the historic rice farming-related structures, such as levees and dikes, were incorporated into the crawfish farm. Woodbine Plantation is located approximately one mile west of the Woodbine Historic District. Modern residential construction separates Woodbine from Woodbine Plantation.

To insure the growth of Woodbine Plantation, Bedell sold right-of-way from his plantation to the Florida Central and Peninsular Railroad (FC&P) and the railroad was completed through the district area in 1893. The railroad tracks were removed during the late 1980s and a curvilinear paved 12-foot path was constructed within the historic railroad bed. Even though the path has a winding alignment, the overall historic linear alignment of the roadbed has remained intact.

As a result of the completion of the railroad, a community started to develop. During the late 19th-century development of Woodbine, many of the residential and commercial buildings fronted the railroad. During this period, Woodbine featured several wood-framed two-story buildings, unusual for a small rural town in Georgia. A few late-19th century buildings remain that represent the initial period of town development. The residence located at 303 E. Oak Avenue was built in 1898 and a Masonic Lodge, located next to the residence, was built in 1895. The 303 E. Oak Avenue is a wood-framed side hallway-type house with Craftsman-style elements featuring a two-story wrap-around porch (see photo 17). The Masonic Lodge is a two-story, wood-framed, gable-front, vernacular building with a symmetrical front facade (see photo 17).

Woodbine started to take shape in 1908, the first period of development, when the town was incorporated and laid out by Bedell and railroad engineers in a grid pattern encompassing 15 blocks

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7--Description

with the railroad tracks running parallel to Bedell Avenue, the original main thoroughfare. The early 20th-century plan conforms to the railroad strip community type, as defined in the *Georgia Community Development and Morphology of Community Types* context. Within the common railroad strip community, the railroad runs down the center of the community plan with a main road (Bedell Avenue) running parallel to the tracks. The remaining streets are laid out in a grid system.

During the early 1900s, Bedell constructed several buildings, which included a general store that also functioned as a hotel and post office (no longer standing) and a wood-framed warehouse along the railroad. The general store was a two-story, gable-front, wood-framed building with a full-width front porch (see Attachment 2). The warehouse is a long, gable-end, rectangular wood-framed building with a shed porch fronting the railroad bed (see photo 20).

The majority of the remaining historic residences were constructed during this early period of Woodbine's development. The residences built during the early 1900s are one- and two-story wood-framed buildings representing architectural types and styles popular during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The residences are situated on large lots informally landscaped with palmetto trees, azaleas, foundation shrubs, pine trees, and live oaks with Spanish moss (see photo 7).

St. Marks Episcopal Church, located on Bedell Avenue/US Highway 17, is the only remaining community landmark building constructed during the late 19th- to the early 20th-century development of Woodbine. The one-story center steeple-type church was built in 1900 and features tabby construction, four-sided spire, square tower with louvered lanterns, Gothic-style windows, and main entrance located in the tower (see photo 12). Tabby is a building material consisting of a mixture of lime and water with shells, gravel, or stones. According to Georgia's Historic Resources Survey, St. Marks Episcopal Church is one of only a few early 20th-century examples of tabby construction surviving intact in Georgia; most tabby buildings were constructed in the state during the early to mid-19th century. The brick Sunday school addition was added in 1954 when the property was moved a few feet south during the widening of Bedell Avenue/US Highway 17.

The greatest period of development for Woodbine began in the early 1920s. In 1923, the county seat was moved from St. Marys to Woodbine and previously undeveloped land east of Bedell Avenue was platted to function as a courthouse square. The grid pattern was extended into the new area and the courthouse square was laid out with the courthouse located in the center of a square with four streets intersecting with the square. The Camden County Courthouse was designed by Julian de Bruyn Kops (1862-1942) and completed in 1928. The building represents the Late Gothic Revival style and features shaped parapets with battlements, drip-mold window crowns, and front portico with castellations (see photo 1).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7--Description

Along with the designation of Woodbine as the county seat in 1923, the completion of US Highway 17 as the Dixie Highway in 1927 spurred additional growth for the town. The Dixie Highway was the major highway for motorists traveling from northern cities south to Florida. As a result of more people passing through Woodbine on the highway, commercial developed shifted from the railroad tracks east to Bedell Avenue/US Highway 17/Dixie Highway. The commercial development along the west side of Bedell Avenue/US Highway 17/Dixie Highway consists of a row of attached one-story brick buildings constructed from the 1930s to 1948. These buildings are located close to the edge of the highway and feature stepped-parapet roofs and three-bay storefronts with a centrally located main entrance with large storefront windows on each side (see photo 10). These stores historically and currently function as general merchandise stores and food-oriented businesses. The commercial development along the east side of the highway consists of freestanding, one-story, brick buildings. These buildings varied in historic functions from cafes to automotive repair shops and gas stations (see photos 8 and 11).

The historic residences built during this second period of development are smaller and less ornate than those constructed prior to 1923. The historic residences are typically one-story wood-framed or brick-veneered dwellings located south of 4th Street and east of Bedell Avenue/US Highway 17/Dixie Highway. These dwellings represent architectural types and styles popular in Georgia during the early to mid-20th century. Architectural types include bungalow (see photo 21), English Cottage, and Side-Gabled Cottage and the predominant architectural style is Craftsman (see photo 3 and 21).

The community landmark buildings constructed after 1923 consist of a school, churches, and government-related buildings. The Woodbine School, located at the intersection of 2nd Street and Camden Avenue, is a small complex of historic and nonhistoric buildings. The one-story "T"-shaped school was constructed in 1926 and features masonry construction, bands of ribbon windows to provide ample natural light, projecting center gable with recessed main entrances, trabeated main door, and Craftsman-style exposed rafter tails and eave brackets (see photo 2). In 1933, the number of children attending the school increased. To accommodate the increased number of students, a one-story addition was constructed in the mid-1930s by the Works Projects Administration (WPA). During the 1950s, another building, auditorium/gymnasium, and recreational field were constructed next to the school. The Woodbine School now serves as the Woodbine Community Center.

Two churches were constructed within the district after 1923. The First Baptist Church, located on the corner of Camden Avenue and 2nd Street, was constructed in 1934. The gable-front wood-framed building features a small steeple, overhanging eaves, rafter tails, long narrow windows, and enclosed front portico. A two-story wood-framed wing was added in 1949 to the rear of the building to function as an educational annex. The Woodbine Methodist Church, constructed c.1945, is situated on the site of the original Woodbine Methodist Church constructed in 1896. The original wood-framed center-steeple church featured a center square tower with louvered lanterns and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7--Description

windows and two main entrances located on either side of the tower (see Attachment 3). During the mid-1940s, another church building replaced the 1896 building; the original floor was incorporated into the "new" church. The building features masonry construction, steeply pitched roof, and Gothic Revival-style front portico with parapet (see photo 6). A modern church has been constructed just south of the c.1945 church. The congregation has moved its services to the modern church and the c.1945 church is now used as a fellowship hall.

The government-related buildings include the Camden County Courthouse constructed in 1928 and the Atkinson Memorial Building constructed in 1947. The Atkinson Memorial Building, located on the courthouse square at 200 E. 4th Street, is the only example of the International Style within the National Register district. The one-story building features a flat roof with wide overhanging eaves, multiple roof levels, unornamented wall surface, one-story plain round supports, and single and paired windows (see Attachment 4).

The City of Woodbine has lost some of its historic fabric due to the construction of county service-related buildings on the courthouse square. Along with the construction of these new buildings, a modern radio tower was constructed in a block on Bedell Avenue/US Highway 17 between 3rd Avenue and 4th Street (see photo 8, 11, and 12). Also, an area of vacant land and construction of modern buildings where historic buildings once stood has occurred on the southern end of the town. As a result, a gap has developed between the historic commercial center and the historic African-American neighborhood of Woodbine. The African-American community consists of historic residences and a church; however, these historic places could not be included within the National Register boundary due to the vacant lots and modern construction located between the commercial center and the neighborhood.

8. Statement of Significance

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):

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMERCE
TRANSPORTATION
ARCHITECTURE
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance:

1895-1948

Significant Dates:

1895	Date of earliest buildings still extant in Woodbine.
c.1908	Gridiron plan of Woodbine established.
1923	Camden county seat moved to Woodbine.
1927	Designation of Bedell Avenue as US Highway 17/Atlantic Coastal Highway/Dixie Highway.
1928	Construction of Camden County Courthouse.

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Julian de Bruyn Kops (1862-1942)-Camden County Courthouse

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Woodbine Historic District encompasses historic resources representing two significant distinctive periods of local development. The district is significant in the areas of community planning and development, commerce, transportation, architecture, and politics/government at the local level of significance.

The Woodbine Historic District is significant in the area of community planning and development at the local level of significance as a good example of a railroad strip community that evolved into a county seat. The railroad strip type is a significant community type in Georgia, as identified in the *Georgia Community Development and Morphology of Community Types* context written by Darlene R. Roth in 1989. The context defines the railroad strip-type community as "the commonest form of railroad town found in Georgia...The most distinguishing feature is that the tracks run right down the middle of town." The late 19th- to early 20th-century development of Woodbine strongly represents this form of community type since Woodbine was laid out along the Florida Central and Peninsular Railroad c.1908. The railroad bed was the main feature running through the platted town; Oak Street and Bedell Avenue were the main streets running parallel to the railroad tracks. Within this initial 15-block development with the railroad as the focus, Woodbine grew with the construction of residential, commercial, rail-related, and community landmark buildings.

The plan of the town as a railroad strip-type community was altered when Woodbine became the county seat in 1923. Previously undeveloped land east of Bedell Avenue was platted to accommodate a county courthouse. This significant courthouse plan conforms to the Sparta Courthouse Model, as identified in *Georgia Community Development and Morphology of Community Types* context. The main character-defining feature of this courthouse model are that the "approaches to the courthouse square occur in the middle of the block rather than at the corners." This plan is strongly represented in the courthouse square of Woodbine.

The pattern of county seats moving to different cities within one county is not unusual in Georgia. Since Camden County's creation in 1777, the county seat has moved from St. Mary's to Jefferson back to St. Mary's and then to Woodbine. Though Camden County is not unusual for its moving county seats, Woodbine is significant and unique in its creation of a planned courthouse square in a town that had been originally shaped by a transportation corridor. Other towns that were established and shaped by transportation corridors prior to becoming county seats, such as Pembroke in Bryan County, Hinesville in Liberty County, and Jesup in Wayne County located county courthouses on corner lots blocks away from the original main transportation corridor, usually the railroad, or built courthouses on established lots near the center of town. In essence, the courthouses were "squeezed" into existing town plans. In Woodbine, an area east of the developed center of town

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

which focused on the railroad was platted to represent a well established and significant Georgia courthouse plan, the Sparta Courthouse Model.

The district is significant in the areas of commerce and transportation at the local level of significance for its association to the commercial development and transportation history of Woodbine. Transportation played a significant role in the development of Woodbine. Prior to the settling of the town of Woodbine, the area consisted of the Woodbine Plantation, which was situated along the southern bank of the Satilla River. The river functioned as a transportation corridor for products, mostly rice, produced at the plantation. The rice was stored in warehouses at docks located along the river and then loaded onto ships to transport the rice to other markets (none of these docks survive today except possibly as archeological sites).

The founding of the City of Woodbine is closely tied to the completion of the Florida Central and Peninsular Railroad c.1893 through the Woodbine Plantation. With the railroad as the main focus, a community developed just south of the railroad's crossing of the Satilla River. According to the *Statewide Railroad Industry* context, there are several significant types of structures and buildings associated with railroad development in Georgia. One of the most significant character-defining features of a railroad is the railroad bed. Even though the historic railroad bed of the Florida Central and Peninsular Railroad has been significantly altered due to the construction of a recreational trail and no longer considered a contributing resource within the district, the overall linear alignment of the railroad corridor running through the town has remained intact. Historic buildings associated with the development of the railroad in Woodbine remain along the this linear railroad right-of-way.

The earliest buildings constructed as a result of the completion of the railroad through Woodbine consisted of a general store and hotel built by James King Bedell; these two buildings were constructed before the completion of the c.1908 gridiron plan (neither building is still standing) (see Attachment 2). The gridiron plan featured the railroad tracks, which ran through the center of the plan, with Oak Street running next to the railroad right-of-way. As Woodbine grew as a transportation center, the commercial development also grew and included both brick and wood-framed buildings extending along the railroad tracks as well as the streets running perpendicular to the tracks. Most of the commercial buildings located along the railroad are no longer extant due to the shift of the commercial block from the railroad to US Highway 17 during the 1920s. One historic brick store and a wood-framed warehouse remain along the railroad right-of-way and one historic brick store remains at the intersection of 3rd Avenue and Oak Street. The two brick commercial buildings were constructed during the early 20th century and character-defining features include three-bay front facades and large single and paired windows (see photos 15 and 16). The wood-framed warehouse was constructed c.1910 by Bedell; the character-defining features of the warehouse include its orientation towards the railroad right-of-way and long gable-end rectangular form with a shed porch (see photo 20). These remaining commercial buildings are good examples of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

the types of significant resources found along a railroad right of way in a small railroad-oriented town in Georgia.

Woodbine experienced a second period of commercial development when Bedell Avenue was paved and designated US Highway 17 in 1927. US Highway 17, known as the Atlantic Coastal Highway, was a major highway incorporated into the Dixie Highway, a system of highways created to accommodate a growing number of vacationing motorists. As a result of the new paved US Highway through Woodbine, the commercial center that was originally focused towards the railroad moved one block east to Bedell Avenue/US Highway 17. The commercial development along Bedell Avenue/US Highway 17 consists of attached, one-story brick buildings constructed from the early 1930s to 1948 featuring three-bay front facades with a centrally located main entrance and large display windows (see photo 10). The commercial development also includes freestanding buildings constructed during the mid-20th century that functioned as gas stations, automobile repair shops (see photo 11), and service-related businesses (see photo 8). The collection of attached and freestanding stores oriented towards Bedell Avenue/US Highway are good examples of the types of automobile-related businesses that are found along major transportation routes in Georgia.

The district is significant in the area of architecture at the local level of significance for its good examples of historic residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings. The majority of the historic dwellings are concentrated near the abandoned railroad. The one- and two-story wood-framed dwellings in this area were constructed during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The architectural types represented include Gable Ell cottage, Queen Anne cottage, Side Hallway, Georgian cottage, and bungalow. The architectural styles represented include Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman. These architectural types and styles were identified as significant in the *Georgia's Living Places* context. The Davis-Colson House, located 309 E. Oak Street, is a good representative example of a Queen Anne type house. Built in 1906, the character-defining features include a square mass with projecting gables on the front and side elevations, hipped roof, and interior chimneys (see photo 18). The Queen Anne cottage does appear in both urban and rural areas as popular middle-class housing of the 1880s and 1890s. The dwelling located at 402 W. Oak Street is a good representative example of a Gabled Ell cottage within the National Register district. Built c.1900, the character defining features include a T-shape plan featuring a gable-front at one end of a recessed wing that is parallel to the facade (see photo 14). The Gabled Ell cottage was popular in both rural and urban areas and in both modest and well-to-do neighborhoods. Its period of greatest popularity was 1875-1915.

The district features several two-story historic dwellings which are relatively rare in Georgia. The Murray House, located 102 4th Street, is a relatively uncommon wood-framed two-story dwelling representing the significant Side Hallway type. Built in 1910, the character-defining features include a side entrance opening into a hallway. The hallway contains the staircase, and the house is two

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

rooms deep (see photo 7). Other two-story dwellings representing significant architectural types within the district include the New South house (see photo 18, middle house in the row of three) and Georgian House.

The significant architectural styles of the dwellings include Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman. The Swift-Bryant House, a two-story wood-framed Gable Ell-type dwelling located at 307 E. Oak Avenue, is a good representative example of the Queen Anne style. The character-defining features of this dwelling include decorative shingle patterns in the front gables and a cutaway bay window (see photo 18, dwelling in the middle of the row of three). The Queen Anne style was extremely popular across Georgia and widely used in many variations all over the state from the 1880s to about 1910. The Craftsman style is another significant popular Georgia style represented within the district. The dwelling located at 106 E. 4th Street is a good representative example of this style. The character-defining features include a low-pitched roof with cross gables, widely overhanging eaves with brackets, short round columns set on masonry piers, and paired windows with a multi-paned sash over a large one-pane sash (see photo 3). The Craftsman-style houses were built across the state in rural, small town, and urban settings from the 1910s through the 1930s.

The historic commercial resources consist of freestanding and attached wood-framed and masonry buildings associated with the development of the railroad and Bedell Avenue as US Highway 17. The remaining stores associated with the development of the railroad and US Highway 17 through Woodbine are good representative examples of the types of railroad- and automobile-related stores found in Georgia's small towns. Although the railroad-related and automobile-related stores were constructed 10 to 20 years apart, they share similar characteristics. The character-defining features of the stores include their one-story height, masonry construction, and three-bay front facade with a centrally located main entrance with display windows located on either side (see photos 8 and 10 for road-related stores, see photos 15 and 16 for railroad-related stores). The last remaining wood-framed warehouse, the Bedell Warehouse, is located along the railroad right-of-way. The warehouse is a good representative example of the type of railroad-related warehouses found in Georgia small towns. The character-defining features include its orientation towards the railroad right-of-way and its long, gable-end, rectangular form with a shed porch (see photo 20).

The majority of the remaining historic commercial resources are located along Bedell Avenue/US Highway 17. The commercial corridor developed along Bedell Avenue due to the designation of the avenue to US Highway 17 in 1927. With the increase of motorists traveling through Woodbine, attached and freestanding masonry stores were constructed from the 1930s to 1948 along Bedell Avenue/US Highway 17. In Main Street to Miracle Mile: American Roadside Architecture, historian Chester Liebs identifies seven significant types of buildings common to the American roadside; stores are included. Many of the stores constructed along major transportation corridors before the mid-20th century are significant for their vernacular style. The sustainment and integrity of these

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

vernacular stores has been threatened by standardization of the roadside store and widening of highways.

This pattern is well represented within the Woodbine Historic District. The character-defining features of these attached buildings include their one-story height and simple design including parapet roofs, three-bay front facades, and orientation towards Bedell Avenue/US Highway 17. The development of this type of early "commercial strip" along major transportation corridors is found throughout Georgia. The freestanding buildings located along the east side of the highway include an automobile repair shop/garage and cafe (see photos 8 and 11). Just south of the historic district boundary, early 20th-century stores have been replaced by modern standardized gas stations and convenience stores.

The community landmark buildings within the district include churches, a school, and government-related buildings. St. Marks Episcopal Church was constructed in 1900 on Bedell Avenue/US Highway 17 near its intersection with 3rd Avenue. The church is a late and excellent example of tabby construction in Georgia. According to the Georgia's Historic Resources Survey, St. Marks Episcopal Church is one of only a few early 20th-century examples of tabby construction surviving intact in Georgia; most tabby buildings were constructed during the early to mid-19th century. Also, the church is a good representative example of a center steeple-type church built in the Gothic Revival style. The character-defining features include the four-sided spire, square tower with louvered lanterns, and lancet windows (see photo 12). The First Baptist Church, located on the corner of Camden Avenue and 2nd Street, is a good representative example of a gable-front wood-framed building with Craftsman-style features constructed in 1934. The character-defining features include its small steeple, overhanging eaves, rafter tails, and long narrow windows. The last historic church within the district is the Woodbine Methodist Church built c.1945. The church is a good representative example of a gable-front masonry church. The character-defining features include its gable-end form with steep roof line, gable vent, six-over-six double-hung windows, and front portico with Gothic revival parapet (see photo 6).

Woodbine School is a good representative example of type of early 20th century community schools constructed in Georgia's small towns. These schools typically feature low-pitched roofs, bands of windows, and symmetrical facades. The one-story "T"-shaped school was constructed in 1926 in the Craftsman style. The character-defining features include its low-pitched hipped roof, exposed rafter tails, four sections of ribbon windows allowing for ample natural light, and slightly projecting center gable with recessed main entrance (see photo 2). An addition was constructed behind the school in the mid-1930s by the Works Projects Administration (WPA). This one-story masonry building reflects the architectural features of the school.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

The Camden County Courthouse is a good and rare example of a Georgia courthouse built in the Gothic Revival style. The courthouse constructed in 1928 and designed in the Late Gothic Revival style by architect Julian de Bruyn Kops (1862-1942) of Savannah, Georgia. According to the Georgia's Historic Resources Survey, the Gothic Revival style is a less than common architectural style represented in Georgia. Furthermore, the use of this style for community landmark buildings, such as the Camden County Courthouse, is rare. The Barrow County Courthouse in Winder, Georgia, is the only other courthouse representing the Late Gothic Revival style identified in either the state survey or National Register databases (listed in the National Register of Historic Places on September 18, 1980). The character-defining features of the Camden County Courthouse include its stepped-parapets, drip molding over the windows, and projecting front portico with battlements (see photo 1). The Atkinson Memorial Building, constructed in 1947 to house government offices, is the a good representative example of the International style. According to the Georgia's Historic Resources Survey, the International style is a rare style almost exclusively built in Georgia cities during the late 1940s. The character-defining features include a flat roof with parapet wall, smooth and unornamented exterior wall surface, and overhanging eaves with one-story plain round supports (see attachment 4).

The district is significant in the area of politics/government at the local level of significance for Woodbine's function as the county seat of Camden County. Camden County was one of the original eight counties established by the Georgia General Assembly in 1777. The county seat has been located in different cities during the county's history: St. Marys, Jefferson, and Woodbine. In 1923, the county seat was moved from St. Marys to Woodbine and the existing county courthouse was constructed in 1928 (see photo 1). Woodbine has remained the center of county politics and government since 1923. According to the *County Courthouses in Georgia: Thematic National Register Nomination*: "As a repository for records of marriages, wills, land transactions, and road construction, the county seat chronicles each county. The impact of the county court system began early. The very roots of Georgia are buried in a courthouse-based structure." In Georgia, counties were the strongest form of local government.

National Register Criteria

The Woodbine Historic District is significant under National Register Criterion A for its association to the commercial development, transportation history, and governmental history of woodbine. The district is significant under National Register Criterion C for its good examples of residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings, as well as for its intact historic gridiron plan and courthouse plan.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Woodbine Historic District begins in 1895, the date of the construction of the earliest buildings remaining in Woodbine, and ends in 1948, the year the last commercial buildings were constructed along Bedell Avenue/US Highway 17.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The 67 contributing resources encompass 65 historic residences, 2 structures consisting of the c.1908 gridiron plan of the town west of Bedell Avenue/US Highway 17 and the Sparta Courthouse Model platted to accommodate Camden County Courthouse in 1923. The 22 noncontributing resources encompass 19 buildings that were either built after 1948 or have lost historic integrity due to additional and alterations and 3 structures consisting of the Florida Central and Peninsular Railroad, widened Bedell Avenue/US Highway 17, and modern radio tower.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

****Note: The following history was prepared by Darren Harper, "Woodbine Downtown Historic District," Historic District Information Form, October 28, 1994. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

The area where Woodbine is now located was originally part of one of the larger plantations in Camden County. The first owner of the plantation was a man named Elijah Clarke. Clarke was deeded all of the original plantation land from the State of Georgia in 1787. In 1808, the plantation was purchased by Nathan and Joseph Bixby. In 1835, John Bailey bought the plantation and ran it successfully for several years. It was during Bailey's ownership that the main plantation house and other outbuildings were destroyed in 1862 by Northern soldiers during the Civil War. During the late 1880s, James King Bedell bought the plantation and officially named it Woodbine. He built a main plantation house and operated a very prosperous plantation that employed more than 100 workers working in several different areas on the plantation.

The first major change to the area came in 1893 when the railroad built a line through the Woodbine Plantation. Mr. Bedell had given the right-of-way to the railroad with the stipulation that the first growing community would be called Woodbine, thereby signifying the start of a new community. The name was officially designated in 1908.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

With the introduction of the railroad to the community, the influence of transporting goods shifted from the river to the railroad. The businesses slowly started moving inland to be closer to the new source of exporting and importing goods in the community. People from all areas and walks of life started moving into this thriving community. They realized that this would be a very profitable place to work and raise a family.

As before, transportation brought about the next boost to the community. In 1927, US Highway 17 was constructed along Bedell Avenue. The highway ran from Maine to Miami and opened up a totally new source for transporting goods and for visitors to see this historic town. The businesses in the area soon recognized this new source of income and moved in that direction. The central business district grew up around U.S. Highway 17 at an extremely fast pace. The district is organized on a grid plan which resembles the towns of Brunswick, Georgia and Savannah, Georgia, both laid out using the Oglethorpe plan. This business district has now become the heart of the community.

Though Woodbine is a small community, companies from all over have picked Woodbine to start or expand their companies. There are a number of companies that have started in the community and have grown into other states. This creates a constant source of revenue and jobs for the community.

The area is also a hub of local and civil organizations. The Masons are the oldest organization having been in Woodbine since 1895. Other organizations include the Lions Club, the Woodbine Club and the Woodbine Women's Club all of which play an active role in the community. These clubs give the citizens in the area a way of staying in touch with each other and help maintain the character and culture of this town.

Woodbine continues to show signs of being a very prosperous and growing community. This growth can be seen in the population increase. In 1950, Woodbine had a population of 750 people and had increased to 845 people by 1960. By 1970, the population was 1,002 people. This community has stood the test of time and has retained much of its historic character that made it so great in the early years. The pride and hospitality of the people is reminiscent of what you would expect from a small south Georgia town.

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

Reddick, Marguerite. Camden's Challenge: A History of Camden County, Georgia. Camden County Historical Commission, Camden County, Georgia. 1976.

Liebs, Chester H. Main Street to Miracle Mile: American Roadside Architecture. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1985.

Roth, Darlene R. Georgia Community Development and Morphology of Community Types. Georgia Department of Natural Resources/Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, Georgia. 1989.

Sharp, Leslie N. "Down South to Dixie: The Development of the Dixie Highway from Nashville to Chattanooga, 1915-1940." M.A. thesis, Middle Tennessee State University, May 1993.

Thomas, Kenneth H. Jr. "County Courthouses in Georgia: Thematic National Register Nomination." April 21, 1981. On file at the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, with supplemental information.

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): Camden County 20-26

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 70 acres.

UTM References

A)	Zone 17	Easting 431130	Northing 3426400
B)	Zone 17	Easting 431120	Northing 3425800
C)	Zone 17	Easting 430660	Northing 3425780
D)	Zone 17	Easting 430480	Northing 3426280

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the Woodbine Historic District is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached USGS topographical map.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary for the Woodbine Historic District encompasses the remaining intact contiguous historic resources and acreage representing the development of Woodbine. The Woodbine Historic District is surrounded by modern housing developments, modern commercial development, and marshes and swamps.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

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) 656-2840 **date** February 1999

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

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consultant
 regional development center preservation planner
 other:

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property: Woodbine Historic District
City or Vicinity: Woodbine
County: Camden
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: March 1997

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 22 View of the Camden County Courthouse; photographer looking east.
- 2 of 22 View of the Woodbine School (now Woodbine Community Center); photographer looking northeast.
- 3 of 22 View of Craftsman bungalow located at 106 E. 4th Street; photographer looking northeast.
- 4 of 22 Streetscape view of Camden Street featuring bungalow-type dwellings; photographer looking southeast.
- 5 of 22 Streetscape view of Bedell Avenue/US Highway 17; photographer looking northwest.
- 6 of 22 Detail view of front facade of the Woodbine Methodist Church; photographer looking south.
- 7 of 22 View of the dwelling located at 102 E. 4th Street; photographer looking north.
- 8 of 22 Streetscape view of freestanding commercial buildings along Bedell Avenue/US Highway 17; photographer looking northeast.
- 9 of 22 Streetscape view of 4th Street; photographer looking west.
- 10 of 22 Streetscape view of attached commercial buildings along Bedell Avenue/US Highway 17; photographer looking northwest.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

- 11 of 22 View of automobile repair shop on Bedell Avenue/US Highway 17; photographer looking southeast.
- 12 of 22 View of St. Marks Episcopal Church; photographer looking southeast.
- 13 of 22 View of noncontributing motor court and attached row of commercial building along Bedell Avenue/US Highway 17; photographer looking southwest.
- 14 of 22 View of late 1930s gas station along Bedell Avenue/US Highway 17; photographer looking northwest.
- 15 of 22 View of gable ell cottage located on 3rd Avenue; photographer facing east.
- 16 of 22 View of railroad-related commercial building along the railroad right of way; photographer looking northwest.
- 17 of 22 View of railroad-related commercial building near the intersection of 3rd Avenue and Oak Street; photographer looking southwest.
- 18 of 22 Streetscape view of E. Oak Street including the dwelling located at 303 E. Oak Street and Masonic Lodge located at 305 E. Oak Street; photographer looking southeast.
- 19 of 22 Streetscape view of E. Oak Street including dwelling located at 307 and 309 E. Oak Street; photographer looking east.
- 20 of 22 Detail View of a gable ell cottage with landscaping; photographer looking southwest.
- 21 of 22 View of the Bedell Warehouse; photographer looking northeast.
- 22 of 22 Streetscape view of 4th Street; photographer looking east.

Attachment 1

Woodbine Historic District

Woodbine, Camden County, Georgia

Source: Georgia Historic Resources Survey/Camden County

20
Number

CAMDEN
County

Name of structure WOODBINE PLANTATION

Location 1 MI. WEST OF WOODBINE ON THE SOUTH ^{BANK} ~~SHORE~~ OF THE SATILLA.

Present owner CLAUDE L. MILLER, JR., & OTHERS

Original owner JAMES K. BEDELL ~ 1890 Architect/builder _____

DESCRIPTION

Style "SAND HILLS COTTAGE" F.D. NICHOLS EARLY ARCHITECTURE OF GEORGIA

Facade Material CYPRUS

Outbuildings -

Plan CENTRAL HALL, 4 ROOMS WITH LARGE DINING ROOM BEHIND & KITCHEN ON REAR.

Alterations HALL WALLS REMOVED BETWEEN FRONT TWO ROOMS. STAIRS TO ATTIC REMOVED FROM KITCHEN.

Condition	Good	Fair	Poor	Endangered
Structure	_____	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Grounds	_____	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Neighborhood	_____	<u>X</u>	_____	_____

Notes: VERY HIGH CEILINGS. 12' CEILINGS IN HOUSE. 18' CEILING AT ROOF PEAK IN ATTIC.
TWO INTERIOR CHIMNEYS. ~~MARBLE~~ ARE SET IN ALCOVES.
FIREPLACES
GAS CARBIDE UNIT IN YARD IS NOW BARBEQUE PIT.
FRONT DOOR HAS SIDELIGHTS & TRANSOM.

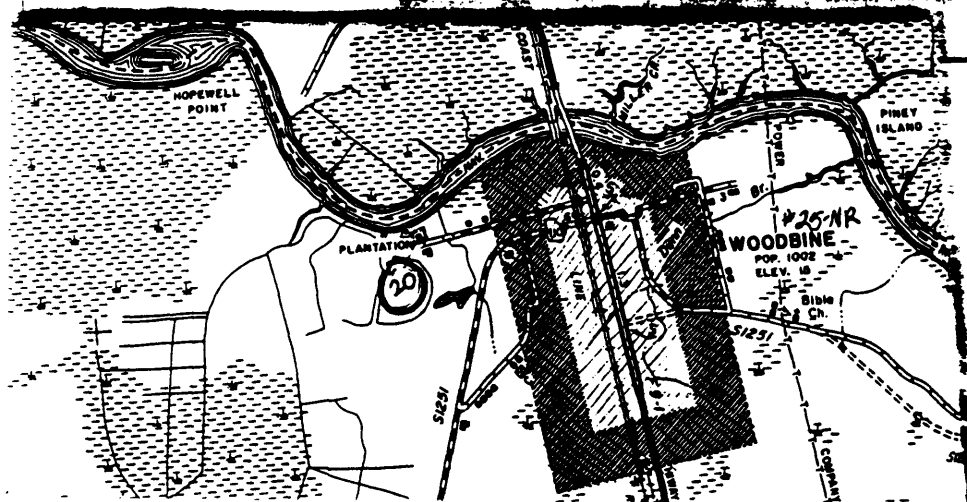
SIGNIFICANCE

Architectural (Local, State, National) Discuss: LOCAL - THIS COTTAGE IS VERY SIMILAR IN STYLE AND FLOOR PLAN TO MUCH EARLIER COTTAGES AT REFUGE PLANTATION AND BURNT FORT. SINCE THIS HOUSE WAS BUILT ON THE SITE OF THE (COVER)

Historical (Local, State, National) Discuss: LOCAL - LAND FROM THIS PLANTATION WAS USED FOR THE PRESENT CITY OF WOODBINE. WOODBINE AND KINGSLAND WERE BOTH SETTLED AS A RESULT OF THE RAILROAD COMING THROUGH AROUND 1895. THE (COVER)

Recommendations for National Register (single structure, district, priority):

(COVER)



12/29/74

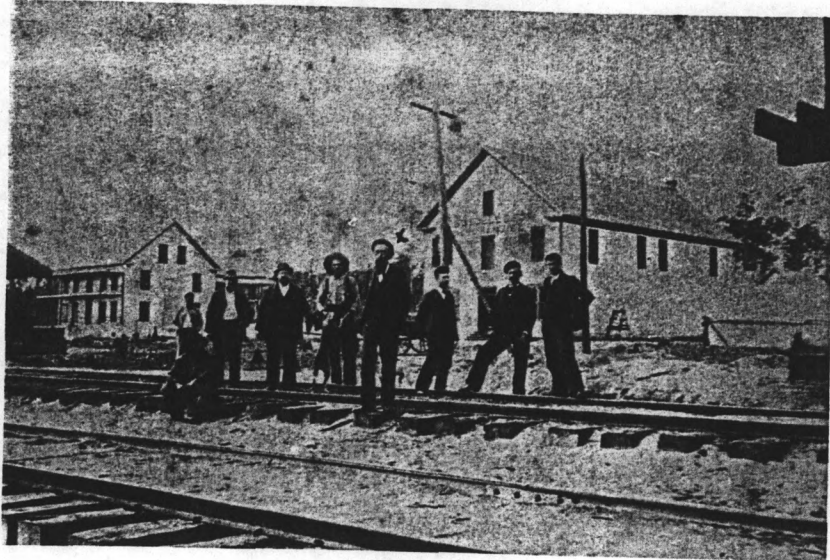
Vanessa Martin

Attachment 2

Woodbine Historic District

Woodbine, Camden County, Georgia

Source: Camden Challenge: A History of Camden County, Georgia



Attachment 3
Woodbine Historic District
Woodbine, Camden County, Georgia
Source: Camden Challenge: A History of Camden County, Georgia



Woodbine Methodist Church, built in 1896.

Attachment 4
Woodbine Historic District
Woodbine, Camden County, Georgia
Atkinson Memorial Building (200 E. 4th Street)
Source: Photo by Sponsor

