

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 30 1984
date entered JUN 28 1984

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Plains Historic District

and/or common Same

2. Location

Roughly bounded by Buena Vista Rd., Hospital, Clark, Main, Thomas, Paschal, and Bond Sts.

street & number See Continuation Sheet.

N/A not for publication

city, town Plains

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia

code 013

county Sumter

code 261

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" 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	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple owners (more than 50)

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Sumter County Courthouse

city, town Americus

state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Field Survey:

title Sumter County, Georgia [continued] has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981

federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta

state Georgia

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Plains Historic District consists primarily of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century commercial, residential, institutional, and ecclesiastical buildings located in the central and northwest parts of the city. The terrain of the district is predominantly flat, with informally landscaped yards and trees. The district has an irregular gridiron street configuration.

The commercial downtown area of the historic district is concentrated on the south side of Main Street across from the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad. It is comprised of an intact strip of eight one- and two-story, late nineteenth-century brick buildings. Metal awnings extend across the entire first story of all the buildings. Window treatments include four-over-four double-hung sash windows with segmental arches on the second-story facade. The first-level facade has round-arched windows and doors. The sides of the buildings have a stepped roofline. A single brick commercial building is located on the east side of Bond Street opposite the commercial strip on Main Street. The Plains depot, a simple board-and-batten building constructed in 1898, is located on the north side of Main Street opposite the intersection of South Hudson Street. Several historic brick warehouses are located behind the Main Street commercial buildings.

The residential buildings included in the district comprise a mixture of Queen Anne, Neoclassical, Late-Victorian, and Bungalow/Craftsman styles. Several of the houses along Church and Bond streets are notable for their large scale and decorative features on the porches and gables, and stained-glass windows. Small one-story wood-frame Victorian cottages and turn-of-the-century Bungalow/Craftsman-style homes are scattered on Hudson and Walters Streets.

Individually significant institutional buildings in the district are the Plains High School (ca. 1921), located east of Bond Street, and the Wise Clinic (ca. 1921), located on the north side of Hospital Street. The Plains High School is a two-story Classical Revival brick building with monumental portico, flanked by single-story wings, with a wing to the rear of the building. The Wise Clinic is a one-story building, horizontal in plan, with three projecting vertical wings attached to the north side of the building.

Contributing ecclesiastical buildings in the district are the Saint Andrews Lutheran Church (ca. 1907), the Plains Baptist Church (ca. 1906), and the Plains Methodist Church (ca. 1910). Saint Andrews Lutheran Church is located on the east side of Bond Street, at the intersection of Hospital Street. Built of stone, this church has a tower on the southeast corner of the building with two round-arched entrance openings and lancet-arched windows. The Plains Baptist Church, located on the west side of Bond Street, opposite the Lutheran Church, is a wood-frame Gothic-style building. It has two entrance towers with spires. Window and door openings have lancet arches and stained glass. The Plains Methodist Church, located on the south side of Church Street at the intersection of Thomas Street, is a one-story building with round-arched doors and windows with stained glass.

[continued]

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 2

The terrain of the district is predominantly flat, with informally landscaped yards and tree-lined streets. The principal roads in Plains are Church Street (U.S. 280), which runs east-west, and Bond Street (Ga. 45), which runs north-south. Landscaping features in the district include small dogwood trees along Bond, Church, and Main Streets, as well as scattered magnolias, pecan, pine, and oak trees on individual lots. The secondary streets, Walters, Thomas, and Hudson, have smaller houses with informally landscaped gardens and shrubbery.

Boundary

The district boundaries include an intact historic area predominantly in the northwestern part of Plains. The western edge of the boundary extends out Church Street, just past Thomas Street, and the southern boundary parallels the railroad tracks and includes the downtown commercial area south of Main Street. The eastern boundary zigzags to the north and includes the Plains High School and the Wise Clinic on the north side of Hospital Street. The northern boundary of the district extends up Bond Street slightly beyond the city limits into farmland. Outside the district is either non-historic development or the agricultural countryside. The district boundaries have been drawn to reflect the late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century history of Plains.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Medicine
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates late-19th/early-20th **Builder/Architect** Multiple

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Plains is a good example of a small southwest Georgia town dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Its historic district is significant in the areas of architecture, commerce, medicine, transportation, and community planning and development.

In terms of architecture, the district is important for its varied commercial, residential, institutional, and ecclesiastical buildings which date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The intact strip of brick commercial buildings with storefronts and metal awnings is characteristic of many small towns in southwest Georgia. The residential buildings included in the district are representative of the Queen Anne, Neoclassical, Late Victorian, and Bungalow/Craftsman styles as they were locally interpreted in Georgia's small towns. The Plains High School is a good example of the Classical Revival style used in an educational/institutional building. The Gothic Revival style is evident in the wood-frame Plains Baptist Church.

In the area of commerce, the Plains Historic District is significant for the role it played as the historic center of day-to-day commercial activity in parts of Sumter and Webster counties. A variety of wholesale and retail activities took place in the stores and warehouses of the district.

In terms of medicine, the district is significant for containing the 1920-21 Wise Clinic, an innovative small-town hospital, founded by three brothers, the Doctors Samuel, Thad, and Bowman Wise. The Wise Sanatorium accommodated sixty patients and had an X-ray and radium department, and a building in the rear for black patients. The hospital was one of the first small hospitals in the state to be accredited by the American College of Surgeons and the American Medical and Hospital Association. In addition, the hospital is significant for its association with Dr. Burr Thomas Wise, father of the three Wise brothers, who lived and practiced medicine in Plains until his death in 1910. He was also the first mayor of Plains. The Wise brothers practiced in the 1920 Plains Hospital and operated an accredited training school for nurses. In 1936, their practice was transferred to Americus.

In the areas of transportation, and community planning and development, the Plains Historic District is a significant small town founded in the late nineteenth century with the construction of railroad tracks running east-west in a sparsely settled region. When the depot was built in 1898 in the center of town, across from the commercial buildings, Plains began to grow and residential neighborhoods developed to the north and south of the railroad tracks. The district thus illustrates the way in which railroads have influenced the growth and development of small towns in Georgia.

9. Major Bibliographical References

"History of Plains," Grammage Print Shop, Americus, Georgia, 1976.

Sledge, John. "Plains Historic District Information Form," 1982. On file at Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approx. 78 acres

Quadrangle name Plains, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	D	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
E	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	F	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
G	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	H	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary is outlined by a heavy black line on the enclosed maps and is described and justified in Section 7.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andrea Niles, Survey and Research Specialist

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

date April 23, 1984

street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W.

telephone (404) 656-2840

city or town Atlanta

state Georgia 30334

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5/22/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 6/28/84

Alton Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet Location and Representation Item number 2 and 6

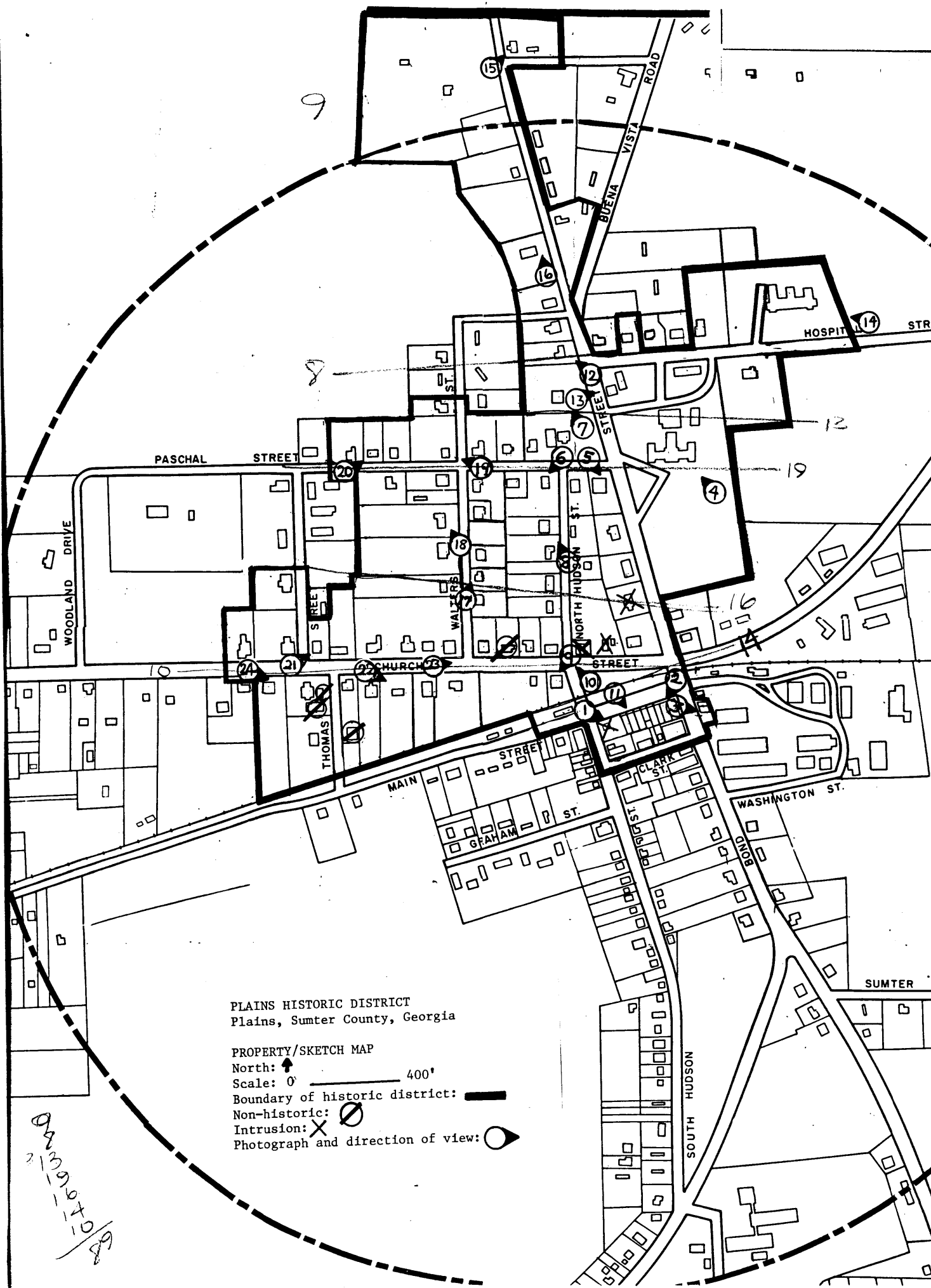
Page 2

2. Location

The Plains Historic District includes the area bounded approximately by Clark Street and the railroad tracks to the south, Thomas Street to the west, Paschal Street, the city limits, and Hospital Street to the north, and North Bond Street to the east.







6. Representation in Existing Surveys: Determination of Eligibility

The Plains Historic District was determined eligible by the National Register on January 26, 1978, at the request of the General Services Administration. The boundaries of the Plains Historic District, as determined eligible, included the north and south sides of Church Street, with President Carter's property on Woodland Drive as the western boundary. The northern boundary followed the north side of Paschal Street, just north of the Buena Vista Road turn-off from Bond Street, with the eastern boundary ending at Bond Street and the southern boundary including properties on the south side of Church Street. These earlier boundaries are superseded by the proposed historic district boundaries, which are based on updated survey information and additional historical documentation.



PLAINS HISTORIC DISTRICT
 Plains, Sumter County, Georgia

PROPERTY/SKETCH MAP

- North: 
- Scale: 0'  400'
- Boundary of historic district: 
- Non-historic: 
- Intrusion: 
- Photograph and direction of view: 

9-23-50
2-1-51
6-1-51