

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 06000737

Date Listed: August 18, 2006

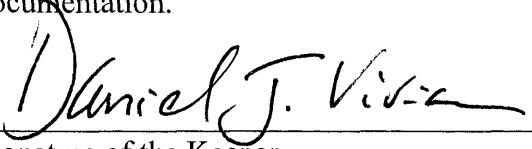
Property Name: Downtown Athens Historic District (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase, and Boundary Decrease)

County: Clarke

State: Georgia

none
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for 
Signature of the Keeper

August 18, 2006
Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 8. Statement of Significance

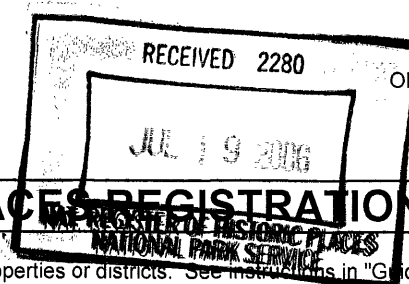
The following are hereby removed as significant dates: 1801, 1806, and 1834.

[These changes were made in consultation with and approved by the National Register staff of the Georgia SHPO.]

The Georgia State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

**National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**



7131

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 Downtown Athens Historic District (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase, Boundary Decrease)

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by Dougherty Street to the North; Thomas Street and Hickory Street to the east; Broad Street and South Street to the South; and Pulaski Street to the west

city, town Athens

() vicinity of

county Clarke

code GA 059

state Georgia

code GA

zip code 30601

() not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

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

Category of Property:

- () building(s)
- (X) district
- () site
- () structure
- () object

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.

Rebecca C. Coates

Signature of certifying official

7-6-06

Date

W. Ray Luce

Historic Preservation Division Director

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

Daniel J. Vivian

8/21/06

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

for

Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/SINGLE DWELLING/RESIDENCE
COMMERCE/TRADE/BUSINESS/OFFICE BUILDING
COMMERCE/TRADE/PROFESSIONAL
COMMERCE/TRADE/FINANCIAL INSTITUTION/BANK
COMMERCE/TRADE/SPECIALTY STORE
COMMERCE/TRADE/DEPARTMENT STORE
COMMERCE/TRADE/WAREHOUSE/COMMERCIAL STORAGE
GOVERNMENT/CITY HALL
GOVERNMENT/CORRECTINAL FACILITY/POLICE STATION
GOVERNMENT/POST OFFICE
GOVERNMENT/COUNTY COURTHOUSE
GOVERNMENT/FEDERAL COURTHOUSE
RELIGION/RELIGIOUS FACILITY/CHURCH
RECREATION AND CULTURE/THEATER
RECREATION AND CULTURE/MONUMENT/COMMEMORATIVE MONUMENT
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY/TELEPHONE COMPANY
FACILITY
HEALTHCARE/CLINIC

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/MULTIPLE DWELLING/APARTMENT BUILDING
COMMERCE/TRADE/BUSINESS/OFFICE BUILDING
COMMERCE/TRADE/PROFESSIONAL
COMMERCE/TRADE/FINANCIAL INSTITUTION/BANK
COMMERCE/TRADE/SPECIALTY STORE
COMMERCE/TRADE/RESTAURANT
GOVERNMENT/CITY HALL
GOVERNMENT/CORRECTINAL FACILITY/POLICE STATION
GOVERNMENT/POST OFFICE
GOVERNMENT/COUNTY COURTHOUSE
GOVERNMENT/FEDERAL COURTHOUSE
RELIGION/RELIGIOUS FACILITY/CHURCH
RECREATION AND CULTURE/THEATER
RECREATION AND CULTURE/MONUMENT/COMMEMORATIVE MONUMENT

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

EARLY REPUBLIC/FEDERAL
MID-19TH CENTURY/GREEK REVIVAL
LATE VICTORIAN/SECOND EMPIRE
LATE VICTORIAN/ROMANESQUE/ROMANESQUE REVIVAL
LATE VICTORIAN/RENAISSANCE/RENAISSANCE REVIVAL
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/BEAUX ARTS
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/CLASSICAL REVIVAL
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/COMMERCIAL STYLE
MODERN MOVEMENT/MODERNE/ART MODERNE
MODERN MOVEMENT/ART DECO

Materials:

foundation	Brick; Stone/Granite; Concrete
walls	Brick; Concrete; Metal
roof	Asphalt; Metal
other	Stone/Limestone; Terra Cotta

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Downtown Athens Historic District is located in Clarke County in northeast Georgia. It is characterized by commercial and community landmark buildings constructed from the mid-19th century through the mid-20th century. The Downtown Athens Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on August 10, 1978, and updated through a boundary increase on May 31, 1984, and through additional documentation on March 11, 1998. This nomination identifies additional contributing properties to be added to the existing National Register district and excludes properties that have lost historic integrity or have been demolished.

This nomination adds to the historic district a number of commercial and community landmark properties located outside of the boundaries of the current National Register district, removes properties from within the current boundaries that have lost historic integrity or have been demolished, and updates the period of significance for the entire historic district. The amended Downtown Athens Historic District encompasses the contiguous historic commercial and community landmark buildings in the central business district of Athens.

The Downtown Athens Historic District as amended encompasses the historic commercial and community landmark buildings located in the central business district of Athens. The commercial buildings, constructed from the mid-19th century through the mid-20th century are typically one to two stories in height, share party walls, and were constructed of brick. A few buildings within the district are three to nine stories. The buildings were constructed up to their front lot lines adjacent to the sidewalks.

The area of downtown Athens listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 and updated

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):

Architecture
Commerce
Community Planning and Development
Ethnic Heritage/Black
Politics and Government

Period of Significance:

c.1840-1956

Significant Dates:

1801-Site of University of Georgia determined
1801-Clarke County created from Jackson County
1806-Athens incorporated
1834-Organizational meeting of Georgia Railroad and Banking Company held in Athens
1841-Georgia Railroad reaches Athens
1847-Town hall and market house constructed
1853-Athens Foundry established
1871-Athens designated county seat of Clarke County
1887-Street paving initiated downtown
1904-construction date of Athens City Hall
1910-construction date of Morton Building
1914-construction date of Clarke County Courthouse

Significant Person(s):

Chase, Albon
Morton, Monroe Bowers "Pink"

9. Major Bibliographic References

Athens Banner-Herald. Various issues.

Athens, Georgia: Home of the University of Georgia, 1801-1951. Athens: Mayor and Council of the City of Athens, 1951.

Chaffin, Ethel Tison. "Musical Theatre in Athens, Georgia: 1865-1888." Athens Historian, Volume 4, Number 1 (October 1999): p. 37.

Coleman, Kenneth. Confederate Athens. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1967.

Coleman, Kenneth, and Charles Stephen Gurr, eds. Dictionary of Georgia Biography. Two Volumes. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1984.

Coulter, Ellis Merton. "The Birth of a University, a Town, and a County." Georgia Historical Quarterly 46, No. 1 (March, 1962): pp. 113-150.

Coulter, Ellis Merton. College Life in the Old South. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1951.

Coulter, Ellis Merton. "The Politics of Dividing a Georgia County: Oconee from Clarke." Georgia Historical Quarterly 57, No. 4 (Winter 1979): pp. 475-492.

Critchfield, Mary Dudley. "Les Lieux de Memoire (Sites of Memory)." MLA Thesis, University of Georgia, 2001.

DeVorse, Louis, Jr. "Early Water-powered Industries in Athens and Clarke County." Papers of Athens Historical Society 2 (1979): pp. 39-51.

Doster, Gary L. A Postcard History of Athens, Georgia. Athens: Athens Historical Society, 2002.

Federal Writers' Project, Works Progress Administration, comp. Georgia: A Guide to Its Towns and Countryside. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1940.

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

Griffith, A.E. History of Southern Mutual Insurance Company, Athens, Georgia, 1848-1923. Rev. ed. Athens: McGregor, 1931.

Hajos, Albin. Hajos' Athens Georgia: Photo-Gravures. Athens: The author, 1900.

Huffman, Frank. J., Jr. "Town and Country in the South, 1850-1880: A Comparison of Urban and Rural Structures." South Atlantic Quarterly 76 (Summer 1977): pp. 366-381.

Hull, Augustus Longstreet. Annals of Athens, Georgia. 1906. Reprint, with index. Danielsville, Georgia: Heritage Papers, 1978.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 40 acres (original district)

UTM References (original district-as labeled on map submitted with 1978 nomination)

A)	Zone 17	Easting 280930	Northing 3759950
B)	Zone 17	Easting 280920	Northing 3759860
C)	Zone 17	Easting 280860	Northing 3759600
D)	Zone 17	Easting 280700	Northing 3759640
E)	Zone 17	Easting 280600	Northing 3759780
F)	Zone 17	Easting 280540	Northing 3760010
G)	Zone 17	Easting 280360	Northing 3759100
H)	Zone 17	Easting 280280	Northing 3759480
I)	Zone 17	Easting 280420	Northing 3753520

Acreage of Property 1 acre (1984 boundary increase)

UTM References (1984 boundary increase-as submitted with 1984 nomination)

A)	Zone 17	Easting 280290	Northing 3760140
B)	Zone 17	Easting 280370	Northing 2759840
C)	Zone 17	Easting 280320	Northing 3759830
D)	Zone 17	Easting 280250	Northing 3760130

Acreage of Property 19 acres (boundary increase)

Location: West of the current district boundary; bounded by West Dougherty Street to the north, the current district boundary to the east, West Clayton Street and West Broad Street to the south, and Pulaski Street to the west.

UTM References (boundary increase)

A)	Zone 17	Easting 280255	Northing 3760195
B)	Zone 17	Easting 280384	Northing 3759637
C)	Zone 17	Easting 280006	Northing 3759645
D)	Zone 17	Easting 280021	Northing 3760193

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Holly L. Anderson, National Register Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 34 Peachtree Street, N.W., Suite 1600
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** June 7, 2006
e-mail holly_anderson@dnr.state.ga.us

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

name/title John A. Kissane
organization N/A
mailing address 310 Three Oaks Drive
city or town Athens **state** Georgia **zip code** 30607
telephone (706)613-7307
e-mail

- () **property owner**
(X) **consultant**
() **regional development center preservation planner**
() **other:**

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Amy Kissane, Executive Director
organization (if applicable) Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation
mailing address 489 Prince Avenue
city or town Athens **state** Georgia **zip code** 30601
e-mail (optional)

name (property owner or contact person) Evelyn Reece
organization (if applicable) Athens-Clarke Planning Department
mailing address 120 West Dougherty Street
city or town Athens **state** Georgia **zip code** 30601
e-mail (optional)

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 3--Classification

Number of Resources and Contributing Resources Previously Listed

It is not possible to confirm the actual resource count for the original National Register district through documentation. The information used to update the resource count was taken from the National Register Information System (NRIS) database. According to the database the resource count for the 1978 nomination included 82 contributing resources (building type), 2 contributing resources (object type), and 20 noncontributing resources (building type). These numbers cannot be verified by documentation on file. According to the database the resource count for the 1984 boundary increase included 7 contributing resources (building type) and 0 noncontributing resources. As of the date of this nomination according to the database the resource count for the Downtown Athens Historic District is 89 contributing buildings, 2 contributing objects, and 20 noncontributing buildings.

Previously Listed Resources within Original District Boundary (Additional Documentation):

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	96	29
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	2	0
total	98	29

Previously listed resources are included in the following National Register nominations:

Albon Chase House (listed on August 19, 1974)
Franklin House (listed on December 11, 1974)
Parrott Insurance Building (listed on October 7, 1977)
Downtown Athens Historic District (listed August 10, 1978)
Morton Building (listed on October 22, 1979)
Downtown Athens Historic District (Boundary Increase) (listed on May 31, 1984)

Newly Identified Resources within District (Boundary Increase):

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	25	23
sites	0	0
structures	1	0
objects	0	0
total	26	23

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 3--Classification

Total Number of Resources within District (includes previously listed and newly identified):

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	121	52
sites	0	0
structures	1	0
objects	2	0
total	124	52

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

in 1984 contains buildings constructed from the mid-19th century through the early 20th century. These buildings exhibit characteristics of architectural styles popular in Georgia during that time period.

The Federal style, popular in Georgia from the late 18th century to the mid-19th century, is most commonly characterized by a simple box form, two or more rooms deep, usually with a side-gabled roof. A semi-circular or elliptical fanlight is often incorporated over the front door into an elaborate door surround. Doors and windows follow a strict symmetry. Windows are double-hung-sashes with six panes per sash. The Greek Revival style, popular in Georgia from the 1840s through the 1860s, was the first style to appear statewide in Georgia. It is characterized by details such as prominent columns, pilasters, and wide plain entablatures. Buildings exhibiting the Greek Revival style are usually a rectangular block with a symmetrical façade with a central entrance. Door surrounds are elaborate with transoms, sidelights and pilasters. The Franklin House (listed in the National Register on December 11, 1974) (photograph 5) is a good example of a building that exhibits characteristics of both the Federal and Greek Revival styles. The building is a three-story brick structure that was constructed in stages between c.1845 and c1860. The symmetrical front façade features six-over-six double-hung-sash windows and a central entrance. The original ground floor façade was replaced c.1870 using cast-iron posts and large display windows, typical of commercial buildings in the late 19th century. The second floor features a central door, which once led to a small balcony (nonextant). The door features a multi-light transom and sidelights and pilasters supporting a wide entablature. The Romanesque Revival style (also referred to as Richardsonian Romanesque) is characterized by asymmetrical façades, round-topped arches over windows, porch supports, or entrances, masonry walls with rough-faced, squared stonework, and sometimes towers (photographs 4, foreground; and 9). A good example of this style is located at 283 East Broad Street (photograph 1, background). The Parrott Insurance Building (listed in the National Register on October 7, 1977) features round arches over windows and entrances and masonry walls with stonework. The Renaissance Revival style was most commonly used in Georgia for public buildings in the early 20th century. Buildings of this style feature masonry walls, arched openings, and dominant classical details including columns, pilasters, and corner quoins. The building located at 320 East Clayton Street, the Michael Brothers Department Store building (photograph 11), is a good example of this style. Designed by Neel Reid, the building features classical pilasters and arched window and door openings. The most common style in Athens' central business district is the Commercial Style (photographs 4 and 9). Characteristics of this late 19th century and early 20th century style include flat- and segmental-arched windows, recessed storefronts, and large display windows, and decorative brick detailing along the cornices and above doors and windows. Excellent examples of the Commercial style are located on the north side of East Broad Street between College Avenue and Jackson Street (photograph 1). Other commercial buildings of note include the Southern Mutual Insurance Building (photographs 9, background; 12, background; and 13, background), constructed in 1906 to house the home office of the newly formed insurance company; the old Federal Building, constructed in 1912 at 300 College Avenue, which now serves as offices for First American Bank & Trust Company; and the Holman Building (photographs 3, background; and 32, background), a nine-story red brick buildings with minimal classical elements constructed in 1913.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

The Downtown Athens Historic District, as listed in 1978 and amended in 1984, contains several community landmark buildings. The 1914 Athens County Courthouse (photograph 21) is an excellent example of the Beaux Arts style. Located on East Washington Street in the eastern portion of the original district, the two-story yellow brick building, designed by A. Ten Eyck Brown, features fluted Ionic columns, a roof balustrade, a dentil course, and decorative limestone insets. Athens City Hall (photograph 18), located on the corner of College Avenue and Washington Street, is a two-story yellow brick building that features characteristics of the Renaissance Revival style and a clock in the centrally located tower. The United States Post Office and Courthouse (photograph 22, left background), constructed in 1941, is a good example of the Stripped Classical style. The First Presbyterian Church (photograph 22, foreground) is located in the northern portion of the district. The Greek Revival-style building was constructed in 1856. The Georgian Hotel (photograph 20) was constructed in 1908 on the former site of the Washington Street School. Designed by A. Ten Eyck Brown, the five-story building features characteristics of the Classical Revival style. The Georgia Theatre (photograph 15) was added to the district as part of the 1984 boundary increase. Constructed in the 1920s, the building reflects the Art Deco style, typical of theaters constructed during this time. Also located in the original district boundaries are a police station (photograph 16), a civic hall (photograph 17), and the Simon Michael II Memorial Clinic (photograph 19).

Downtown Athens continued to develop into the mid-20th century. This development occurred west of the then existing central business district, overtaking what up to that point was a residential neighborhood. The portion of downtown Athens being added to the district through a boundary increase is bounded by Dougherty Street to the north, Lumpkin Street to the east, Broad Street to the south, and Pulaski Street to the west. The buildings in this area exhibit characteristics of architectural styles popular from the early to mid-20th century. As in the existing National Register district, some of the buildings in the boundary increase reflect the Commercial style with large display windows and decorative brickwork at the roofline (photograph 35). Many of the buildings located in this area were constructed to house businesses for the growing automobile industry such as sales, service, and garages (photographs 25, center; 27; and 28). They are one-story brick buildings with large display windows and automobile service doors. The building located at 285 West Washington Street (photograph 29, right) was constructed in the mid-1930s and housed the Big Star Food Store. The front façade has been altered by the construction of a recessed entrance, but the large display windows and Carrera glass exterior remain intact. Other buildings of note in this area include the Southern Bell Telephone Company Building (photograph 32, foreground), constructed in 1916 as the fourth telephone exchange in Athens, and the Adcock Building (photograph 31), constructed c.1920, which originally housed an automobile garage, a wholesale grocery, an automobile repair business, a farmers' market, and a candy shop. This building was successfully rehabilitated through the Tax Incentives Program, Technical Preservation Branch, National Park Service.

Also located in the boundary increase is an area known as "Hot Corner." This area west of the central business district developed during the early to mid-20th century as the African-American commercial district in Athens. Many of the buildings located at the intersection of West Washington Street and North Hull Street were owned by African-Americans and housed businesses owned by African-Americans. The buildings located at this intersection (photograph 26, background) are typical

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

of early to mid-20th century commercial buildings. They are one-story brick buildings with flat roofs with little to no ornamentation. Some features of the buildings include coping at the roofline and parapet walls.

There is one remaining residential building in this area of the district. The Albon Chase House (listed in the National Register on August 19, 1974) (photograph 33, background) is the oldest residence in downtown Athens that remains on its original site. It is a Greek Revival-style, stucco-faced brick building that was constructed c. 1840. It was constructed as a family home by Albon Chase, co-founder of the Southern Banner (later the Athens Banner and now the Athens Banner-Herald). In 1899 the house was converted for use as the parsonage for Athens' Presbyterian ministers, and beginning in the 1920s it served as a boarding house and later as apartments. The house was restored in 1985.

This portion of the amended district also contains community landmark buildings. The First United Methodist Church (photograph 34), located on North Lumpkin Street, is the oldest church in downtown Athens and occupies the site on which the congregation constructed its first building in 1824. The current building was constructed in 1852. The building is a front-gabled with a full-height entrance portico and a tall steeple. Two nonhistoric additions are located behind and to the side of the church. A community landmark building located in "Hot Corner" is the Morton Building (photograph 30). The building was constructed in 1910 by Monroe Bowers "Pink" Morton, a leading African-American businessman in Athens. The four-story building is faced with yellow brick on the main façade and red brick on the remaining façades. The main façade is symmetrical with a central entrance. A second entrance and large display windows are located to the left of the main entrance and a third entrance is located at the northwest corner of the building. The upper floors are divided by brick pilasters and feature one-over-one double-hung-sash windows with segmental arches and keystones. The Union Bus Terminal (photograph 33, foreground) located on West Broad Street, is a one-story Art Moderne-style building that was constructed in 1940. It still serves as a bus station today.

Another area being added to the district is located to the east of the previously listed district. Two buildings outside of the period of significance of the 1978 nomination and the 1984 boundary increase fall within the historic period for the purposes of this nomination and retain their historic integrity, and are therefore being added as contributing resources. These buildings are simple, plain, mid-20th century commercial buildings that now fall within the period of significance.

The areas being omitted from the original boundary are located on the eastern border of the 1978 district boundary. The resources in these areas have lost historic integrity either through nonhistoric additions and remodeling or through loss of historic setting, or have been demolished, and therefore no longer meet the National Register criteria (photographs 6 and 7). New construction has contributed to the loss of integrity in some cases (photograph 7).

Landscaping in the district is minimal. Some street trees do exist (photographs 1, 9, 18, and 32), and foundation plantings are present in front of community landmark buildings (photographs 18, 21, 33,

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

and 34). The district is surrounded by nonhistoric mixed-use development to the north, the Athens Warehouse Historic District and nonhistoric development to the east and southeast, The University of Georgia and nonhistoric commercial development to the south, and nonhistoric development to the west.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Brown, A. Ten Eyck, architect-Clarke County Courthouse and Georgian Hotel
Crane, Ross, architect-First Presbyterian Church
Goodrich, Lewis F., architect-Athens City Hall
Little-Cleckler Construction, builders-Clarke County Courthouse
Mathis, W.A., architect-Union Bus Terminal
Morton, Monroe Bowers "Pink", builder-Morton Building
Reid, Neel, architect-Michael Brothers Department Store building

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Downtown Athens Historic District is the central business district of Athens. The area developed in the early 1800s with the establishment of the University of Georgia, and continued development into the mid-20th century.

This amendment (additional documentation, boundary increase, and boundary decrease) to the original National Register nomination adds community planning and development and ethnic heritage/Black as areas of significance and augments the existing areas to include the historic development of the central business district through the mid-20th century.

The Downtown Athens Historic District, as amended, is significant in the area of architecture for its representative collection of intact 19th to mid-20th century commercial buildings that represents prevailing design and construction traditions of small to mid-sized cities and towns in Georgia. They include freestanding and attached one- and two-story buildings. There are also a small number of buildings taller than two stories. Character-defining features of these types of buildings include: freestanding or attached with party walls; simple rectangular forms; oriented to the street, usually in lines or rows with a common setback usually fronting directly on the sidewalk; storefronts with cast-iron or wood columns, large display windows with transom lights and wood or brick bulkheads; architectural ornament primarily on the front and sometimes side façades; parapet rooflines, some with recessed panels; second-story segmental-arched windows; and ornamented projecting cornices. Architectural styles represented by these buildings include good examples of the Federal, Greek Revival, Second Empire, Romanesque Revival, Renaissance Revival, Beaux Arts, Classical Revival, Commercial, Art Moderne, and Art Deco styles. The district also contains architecturally significant community landmark buildings including the Clarke County Courthouse, Athens City Hall, United States Post Office and Courthouse, First Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, Union Bus Terminal, Georgia Hotel, Morton Building, and Georgia Theatre. These are excellent local examples of architectural styles popular during the period of significance as evidenced by their detailing and distinctive features. The materials used in the construction of these buildings are the same as those used in the construction of the commercial buildings in the district, however some of the materials such as stone and ceramic tile are used in applied ornamentation on the community landmark buildings. These buildings generally possess a high degree of craftsmanship as evidenced by architectural details such as cast-iron posts, brick corbelling, and other ornamentation common to the architectural styles represented in the district.

The Downtown Athens Historic District, as amended, is significant in the area of commerce as the historic commercial center of Athens, Clarke County, and the surrounding northeast Georgia region. Typically the county seat was also the principal commercial center in the county. Such commercial centers generally featured a range of retail stores, offices and professional services, warehouses, artisans, mechanics, entertainment and related services, and communications-related businesses. Extant buildings in the Downtown Athens Historic District represent many of these commercial activities including general merchandise, hardware, drug store, banks, law offices, theater, post office, and newspaper office. Of special note locally are the Franklin House, the Morton Building,

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

and the Georgia Theatre. These historic buildings and the commercial activity they represent are directly related to the economic development and prosperity of the community and its surrounding region from the early 19th century through the mid-20th century. Athens's development was due in large part to the establishment of the University of Georgia in Athens.

The Downtown Athens Historic District is significant in the area of community planning and development for its intact historic town plan. This plan is a good example of the Washington-type of county seat plan, one of four major types of county seat plans that prevailed in Georgia from the late 18th-century through the early 20th century. The Washington plan features a central courthouse square with streets leading directly to its corners. Athens's courthouse square, rather than being in the center of the town plan, is located in the northeast section of town. This plan also reflects the designation of the community as the Clarke County seat. In Georgia, generally, only county seat communities were laid out in this distinctive manner. Reinforcing the importance of the plan is the concentration of historic commercial and community landmark buildings around the square and along the principal streets that creates a clearly defined "downtown" or central business district. This pattern of development represents the traditional way in which Georgia's county seats grew and developed over time. The architectural development of the central business district also reflects some of the major periods of community growth and development and the major economic factors that contributed to the community's growth and development including the establishment of the railroad in the late 1870s.

The Downtown Athens Historic District, as amended, is significant in the area of politics and government as the county seat of Clarke County and because of the presence of buildings and structures directly related to activities and events associated with local county government and the federal government. Throughout much of Georgia's history, the county has been the most important and powerful form of government. County governments made and enforced laws; provided essential public services including building and maintaining roads, water and sewer systems, and other utility services; administered important aspects of the legal system including courts, birth and death records, taxes, wills and probate, and property deeds; and provided public education throughout the county through county school boards. County commissioners, sheriffs, and judges traditionally are the most important local political figures. These important governmental functions and the politics that directed them are generally represented by the county courthouse, often a courthouse square, the county jail, and sometimes auxiliary offices. In the Downtown Athens Historic District, county government is represented by the courthouse with its traditional placement in the central business district. Municipal government is represented by Athens City Hall, which is located prominently on a ridge in the middle of the central business district. The federal government is represented by the United States Post Office and Courthouse.

The Downtown Athens Historic District, as amended, is significant in the area of ethnic heritage/black for containing historic resources such as the Morton Building and several other commercial buildings in a portion of the district that developed into a thriving black commercial area known as "Hot Corner" in the early to mid-20th century. Many of the businesses, and the buildings that housed them, in "Hot Corner" were owned by blacks. The builder and owner of the Morton Building, Monroe Bowers "Pink"

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Morton, was the leading local black entrepreneur during the first several decades of the 20th century. The district represents some of the outstanding achievements of working-class and middle-class blacks in a southern urban area during the first half of the 20th century. Virtually every Georgia city had a distinct African-American commercial district in the early 20th century, but most have been lost to demolition or development.

National Register Criteria

The Downtown Athens Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of commerce for its role as the commercial center not only for Athens, but for also Clarke County during the historic period; in the area of community planning and development for the intact gridiron street plan; in the area of politics and government for Athens' role as the seat of government for Clarke County; and in the areas of ethnic heritage/black and commerce for the African-American commercial area known as "Hot Corner" which was made up of black-owned and operated businesses during the historic period. The district is also eligible for listing under Criterion B in the area of ethnic heritage/black, for its association with Monroe Bowers "Pink" Morton, a black businessman who operated many businesses in the district during the historic period. It is also eligible for listing under Criterion B for its association with Albon Chase, the publisher of the Southern Banner (now the Athens Banner-Herald) and Monroe Bowers "Pink" Morton, a successful African-American entrepreneur who played a major role in the development of "Hot Corner." The district is eligible for listing under Criterion C for its excellent collection of commercial and community landmark buildings that represent architectural styles and types typical of the historic period.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Downtown Athens Historic District, as amended, begins c.1840, the date of the oldest building in the district, and ends in 1955, the end of the historic period.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

Contributing resources in the Downtown Athens Historic District as amended are those constructed during the historic period that are significant in the areas of architecture, commerce, community planning and development, ethnic heritage/black, and politics and government that retain their historic integrity. These resources include historic commercial buildings, community landmark buildings, and the overall plan of the central business district. The contributing structure in the district is the gridiron street plan that still exists today. The two contributing objects are the Elijah Clark-Revolutionary War monument and the Civil War monument located in a traffic island on Broad Street.

Noncontributing resources within the district include those that were constructed outside the period of

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

significance (photographs 3, right background; and 8, background) or those that have lost historic integrity due to nonhistoric alterations (photographs 2, left; 26, right foreground; and 29, left). Vacant lots are included in the count of noncontributing resources.

Buildings newly identified in the boundary increase are commercial and community landmark resources located outside the current National Register boundary (photographs 8, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, and 35). Several buildings that were considered noncontributing in the original nomination have been reclassified as contributing resources in the amended nomination due to the extended period of significance and to rehabilitation or restoration work. Some buildings that were considered contributing in the original nomination have lost their integrity and have been reclassified as noncontributing in the amended nomination due to incompatible alterations or additions.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

****NOTE: The following history was compiled by John Kissane, preservation consultant, November, 2004. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

The resources in the Downtown Athens Historic District as amended share the same developmental history as those in the original listing and its amendments except that the district as amended extends the period of significance to 1955 to encompass the full range of historic development in the central business district. The commercial and community landmark buildings in the amended portion of the district contributed to the area's role as the commercial center for Athens and Clarke County.

Background to Settlement

Athens-Clarke County, Georgia, occupies land that was in the possession of the Native Americans until treaties were negotiated between the State of Georgia and the Cherokee and Creek Nations on May 31 and November 1, 1783 respectively. These treaties conferred upon the state all of the so-called "Oconee lands" north as far as the Apalachee River. On February 25, 1784, the state legislature opened the newly acquired lands to settlement by establishing Franklin County and Washington County. Within each new county 20,000 acres of land were set aside as an endowment for a state-controlled university of higher learning. On January 27, 1785, the legislature passes an act that chartered the University of Georgia, the first chartered state-supported university in America.

Abraham Baldwin, a native of Connecticut and graduate of Yale University, was selected as the university's first president. Baldwin had arrived in Wilkes County in 1783 and was elected to serve in the General Assembly the following year, and it was he who drafted the university charter. Baldwin's political career was extraordinary, as it included membership in the Continental Congress and the Constitutional Convention as one of Georgia's signers of the Constitution, and service in the United States House and Senate.

Despite the fact that the University of Georgia was chartered in 1785, it remained uncertain for the

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

ensuing sixteen years just where the institution would be located. Nevertheless, the establishment of a university even on paper was enough to spur an already-existing interest in settling the newly opened lands in Franklin County and Washington County. Settlers began arriving in greater numbers, acquiring property, constructing minimal log dwellings, and clearing and beginning to work the land. Until 1803, the State of Georgia distributed property by means of the headright system, whereby the head of the family was allowed to acquire a maximum of 1,000 acre. While the headright system was operated by county officials, many Revolutionary War veterans were given land grants by the State of Georgia. In October, 1785 veteran William Few, a native of Baltimore County, Maryland, was awarded 1,120 acres from Governor Samuel Elbert. Few held the land, located on the west side of the Oconee River, until 1889 when his health began failing and he left Georgia for New York. A 693-acre tract of Few's property was purchased the following year by Daniel William Easley, a Virginian who had become a prominent landowner earlier in the decade.

By the time Daniel Easley acquired a portion of Few's land, Jackson County had been created from Franklin County, and event that took place on February 11, 1796. Easley was one of five men initially charged with finding a suitable location for the governmental seat of Jackson County. (The site selected, roughly halfway between Athens and Jefferson, was first known as Clarkes Borough and later became Clarkesboro; when Clarke County was created from Jackson County lands on December 5, 1801, it was determined by Jackson County officials that a more centrally located county seat was needed, so Clarkesboro lost that function to Jefferson.)

The delay in siting and opening the University of Georgia was due in large part to a lack of sufficient financial resources. By the fall of 1797, however, approximately \$6,000 had been raised through the sale of portions of the 40,000 acres set aside in 1784 and the Trustees of the University reported a total fund of \$7,463.75, "sufficiently respectable to commence the building of the University." (Coulter). Discussions about a permanent location for the institution first concentrated on Louisville (the state capital between 1796 and 1807) and later Greensboro (in what was then Washington County and now the governmental seat of Greene County). On June 17, 1800 a committee known as the Senatus Academicus first met to begin deliberations on a proper site. By the following summer a determination had been made that the university would be located in Jackson County and a five-man delegation was sent from Louisville to the vicinity of the North Oconee River in search of a proper site. Composing the group were Baldwin; future Georgia governor John Milledge; former governor and signer of the Declaration of Independence George Walton; Georgia militia General John Twiggs; and Hugh Lawson.

The selection committee inspected many prospective sites, but in July, 1801, it was determined that the University of Georgia should be built on the western side of the Oconee River in the vicinity of a place known as Cedar Shoals. This was the property owned by Daniel Easley, and in the view of the committee it boasted several advantages. For one, the area was becoming settled and farmers in the region were already producing beef, mutton, and pork and shipping these meats to Augusta. Also being raised were corn, cotton, and potatoes, and apple and peach orchards were observed on the hillside that rose up from the river. Several springs in the area provided fresh water, and the North Oconee River offered an abundance of fish and was determined to hold some potential as a

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

means of transportation. Moreover, the location was found to be aesthetically pleasing, for as newly-elected University of Georgia President Josiah Meigs commented when he first arrived, "If there is a healthy and beautiful spot in Georgia this is one." The committee purchased 633 acres for \$4,000, leaving Easley with 60 acres of the original William Few tract, and named the site Athens after the classical Greek city.

Antebellum Period

Soon after it made the 633-acre purchase from Daniel Easley, the five-member selection committee designated 36.5 acres to serve as the University of Georgia "square" or campus. Some of this land was cleared and work on construction of the first building, to be known as Franklin College (and later changed to Old College when other buildings were constructed), begun by Jett Thomas and David Gaddy. The Georgia General Assembly gave the University authorization to lay out lots for sale or lease in 1803. Lots were initially drawn along the north side of the campus and subsequently sold to finance the construction of Franklin College.

Athens' growth during the first decades of the 19th century was closely tied to advances made by the University and likewise to periods of difficulty faced by the institution. The town was incorporated in 1806, with Hope Hull, William Malone, and Stevens Thomas selected to serve as the town's first commissioners. By this time approximately ten houses and four business establishments had been constructed. Some 17 families resided in the town, and the University had attracted 70 students. The town's wooden houses and businesses were located in close proximity to one another, in an area bounded by streets that would be named Front (later changed to Broad Street), Hancock, Hull, and Foundry. Naturally a street, later named Clayton Street, was placed between the two parallel rows of lots. The first plan of Athens, dated May 31, 1805 and included in the minutes of the University of Georgia Trustees, was actually drawn in 1804 and indicates locations of the first town lots.

In 1807 Athens' first newspaper, a religious journal, began being put out by Reverend John Hodge. Within a year Hodge fell into ill health and sold the enterprise to Alexander McDonnell, who teamed with Elias Harris and changed the publication, known as the Georgia Express to a weekly newspaper. In 1809 McDonnell and Harris changed their paper to the Foreign Correspondent and Georgia Express and expanded its news coverage to include foreign events, although the paper reverted to its original name within a few years. IN 1814 McDonnell and Hodge entered into a partnership and began publication of the Athens Gazette. The publication ran into financial difficulties and was not of a consistent high quality. In 1827, however, O.P. Shaw initiated the Athenian, which became known as one of Georgia's best literary papers. Acquired in 1832 by Albon Chase and A.M. Nisbet, the weekly began being published as the Southern Banner and eventually became the Banner-Herald. A rival paper, the Southern Whig, was started in 1835, and a number of other newspapers and journals have been published in Athens in the years since.

During much of the century's second decade Franklin College experienced difficulties that originated just prior to 1810 when conflict arose between President Meigs and the Trustees. Meigs wanted to

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

include the study of science in the institution's curriculum but the Trustees were opposed. Franklin College's finances were also in poor order at this time, and enrollment fell sharply to a low point of only seven students. This development had an impact on the young town, and growth was noticeably curtailed. But shortly after Moses Waddel was appointed president in 1819 the situation began to change for the better, for both the college and the town. Waddel's presidency saw enrollment at Franklin College climb to over 100 students as the school consistently attracted well-qualified young men from across the state. Alonzo Church succeeded Waddel in 1829 and continued most of the policies that he found already in place. Over time a number of University faculty came into conflict with the conservative Church, a strict disciplinarian. But for the most part townspeople appreciated Church's efforts and took his side in times of conflict with the faculty, and they certainly benefited from the University's continued positive influence on the town.

Athens grew in both population and the number of business establishments during the 1820s. The town's first churches were built during this decade, and in 1829 the first cotton mill to operate in Clarke County, the Georgia Factory, was established (with the temporary name Athens Manufacturing Company) on the North Oconee River five miles south of town. In 1833 James Camak and ten other local entrepreneurs founded the Camak Manufacturing Company on the Middle Oconee River between Athens and Watkinsville. The plant was renamed Princeton Factory in 1834. Also in 1834, three original investors in the Athens Factory opened the Athens Cotton and Wool Factory (later shortened to Athens Factory) not far southeast of the growing town.

During these early years, travel of any distance was quite difficult. Because the seat of Clarke County government was Watkinsville seven miles to the south, many Athens residents could not avoid making the trip from time to time, and in fact all voting in Clarke County took place in Watkinsville until 1831. Stagecoaches traveled between Athens and Watkinsville (and on to Milledgeville) three times a week by the mid-1830s, but few people from outside Clarke County had any reason to travel to Watkinsville. Athens' distinction of being home to the University of Georgia as well as thriving business and industrial enterprises attracted many outsiders from both near and far.

And so by the 1830s Athenians were well convinced that transportation improvements would be needed for the city to advance as a commercial and industrial center. In good weather it took a full week for freight to reach Athens from Augusta; wet conditions could result in nearly impassable roads and lengthy delays. It seemed to many in the community that railroads might provide the best solution.

James Camak's residence just northwest of Athens' growing commercial area was completed in early 1834, and on March 10th of that year it was the site of the organizational meeting of the newly-formed Georgia Railroad Company. Camak was elected president of the organization and fellow Athenians John A. Cobb, Alex B. Linton, W.M. Morton, Elizur L. Newton, and William Williams were named to the board of directors. Serving as presidents of the organization during the antebellum years were Camak, William Dearing, John P. King, and Charles H. Phinizy. Progress on all aspects of the venture was made quickly, especially considering that this would be only the third railroad constructed in the United States. The Athens branch of the line was completed from Union Point to

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Carr's Hill on the east side of the Oconee River in 1841.

Although initially planned to run between Athens and Augusta, the first Georgia Railroad line was constructed between Greensboro and Augusta and it was not until 1841 that a branch was extended from the main line at Union Point northwest to Athens. Initially cars were mule-drawn, but steam engines were soon put into operation. The local Georgia Railroad terminus was established on the eastern side of the river, certainly not ideal for travelers nor for local businesses and industries, all of whom had to rely on hack drivers and freight haulers, or their own two feet, to move themselves as well as goods across the Oconee Street bridge. It was not until the early 1880s that the Georgia Railroad constructed a bridge over the river and built its terminal in the industrial portion of downtown Athens.

Athens' first fire company was established in 1839 partly in response to the loss by fire of New College on the University of Georgia campus in 1830. Even though many residents of the town responded to that fire with demands for fire protection, nine years went by before anything was done. But on December 29, 1839, the Athens Independent Fire Company was chartered with 26 men listed as initial members. But the effectiveness of fire fighting was rather minimal at this early stage given that there was no available water supply much less a fire engine. It was not until 1857 that cisterns were installed on Broad Street and College Avenue and a reservoir constructed on Dougherty Hill to solve the water problem for the purposes of fire protection. A destructive fire in September of 1857 resulted in further action, as city officials appointed engineers to supervise fire protection efforts and purchased a small fire engine. In November of 1858 the first annual report made by the fire engineers indicated that fire protection was indeed reducing damages caused by fire and that the downtown area was well supplied with water.

By 1840 Clarke County ranked second in Georgia, behind only Chatham County, in the level of financial investment in manufacturing. This was due to the location of three cotton plants in the county, all outside the town of Athens but the Athens Factory was close by. The number of businesses in Athens reflected the growing propensity of the area as in 1840 Clarke County had a total of 45 commercial establishments and most were located in Athens. Several hotels were in operation in the town at this time, with the Planter's Hotel (located on East Broad Street at the northwest corner of its intersection with College Avenue) considered the finest in the late 1830s and 1840s.

But even as hotel accommodations and other aspects of the downtown area were improving, the upkeep of streets and sidewalks continued to be a great difficulty. In times of poor weather Athens' dirt streets, stone and wood sidewalks and wooden bridges became unpleasant and even dangerous to negotiate. Most efforts to keep people from damaging or soiling streets and sidewalks met with little success, but in 1849 the town council ordered all men between the ages of 16 and 21 to do road duty and this measure was somewhat more successful. No official street names had been assigned to Athens' streets until 1859, when a committee was formed to prepare a report on naming local streets. Among those named downtown at this time were Broad Street, Clayton Street, College Avenue, Dougherty Street, Foundry Street, Hancock Avenue, Market Street, Milledge Avenue, Oconee Street, and Prince Avenue.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

The decade of the 1840s saw downtown Athens become firmly established in its position as the commercial and industrial center of northeast Georgia. The town had a population of approximately 2,500 residents in 1840 and increased to approximately 3,000 by 1850 and nearly 4,000 by 1860. Growth, industrial and commercial as well as residential, caused Athens' legal boundaries to be extended twice within two years. In 1840 the town limits were extended "across the Oconee River, on the eastern side thereof, to the distance of one mile from the College Chapel (Georgia Laws)." Two years later Athens' corporate limits were adjusted again, this time to extend two full miles in all directions from the Chapel. The University of Georgia Chapel was mentioned in the legislative acts changing town limits because it functioned as something of a town hall until 1847 when a building was constructed in the center of Market Street (now Washington Street) between Lumpkin Street and Hull Street and dedicated for use as a town hall. In addition to housing a hall for town meetings on the second floor, the building's lower level contained space for the local calaboose, or jail, as well as a market, and the town bell was rung whenever an animal was butchered and prepared for sale. The building was also utilized for theatrical performances, political debates, and various other functions.

The Franklin House, Athens' oldest remaining commercial building, was also completed in 1847 and was one of a half dozen local hotels in operation by the 1850s. The building was constructed for William L. Mitchell, a member of the University of Georgia Board of Trustees, who had purchased three corner lots on Broad Street and Thomas Street during an 1843 University auction. While the hotel, located in the two upper levels, did not open until June 1847, the ground floor housed several commercial spaces that were first occupied in 1845 and 1846. Mitchell also acquired property on the east side of Thomas Street, where he constructed a frame hotel building that was linked to the Franklin House by a bridge over the street. Other hotels in operation during some or all of the 1850s included Athens, Central, Eagle, Hancock, Kerlin's, Lanier, Lumpkin, and Planter's hotels.

In 1848 stockholders of the Southern Mutual Insurance Company moved the home office of the company from Griffin (where the company was founded a year earlier) to Athens. Since that time Southern Mutual has remained an important component of the downtown area. The company moved into a new building at the northeast corner of College Avenue and Clayton Street in 1876, and then constructed its present seven-story building, Athens' first skyscraper, on the same lot in 1908.

Among the downtown improvements made during the 1850s was the introduction of gas lighting to the town. The Athens Gas Light Company was incorporated in March 1856, and very slowly thereafter individuals began installing the newly available lights. The city contracted with Athens Gas Light Company in the fall of 1859 for installation of gas lighting downtown, beginning with eight lamps on College Avenue and Broad Street. By the following spring much of the downtown area was illuminated by gas lamps.

Several churches were constructed on the University of Georgia campus and in downtown Athens beginning in the 1820s. In 1852 the Methodists constructed a new brick church building (extant) on Lumpkin Street, utilizing the site of the congregation's first church. Local Presbyterians built a new church (extant) along Hancock Street in 1856 to replace the congregation's original church on the University campus where the Academic Building now stands. The Presbyterian Manse, constructed

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

in the 1830s, still stands on Hull Street. A new Athens Baptist Church was completed in 1860 on Market (now Washington) Street at the southeast corner of its intersection with College Avenue, replacing a small frame building that stood on the University campus near the intersection of Broad Street and Lumpkin Street. The second Baptist Church was replaced in 1898 by a building that stood until 1921, when the present First Baptist Church building was constructed on Pulaski Street at the northwest corner on its intersection with Hancock Avenue (outside district boundary).

By 1860 downtown Athens had become a busy commercial and industrial center. Approximately 50 businesses were in operation downtown and many of Clark County's 36 manufacturing plants operating in 1860 were in or near downtown Athens. An important industrial development from the 1850s was the establishment of the Athens Foundry on the east side of Foundry Street in 1851. Other industries were being developed at the time in this part of the downtown area, as well as closer to the river. Athens became northeast Georgia's center for railroad shipments during the 1850s as well. Farmers from throughout the region came to Athens with wagonloads of goods for shipment by rail to Augusta and elsewhere.

Civil War and Late 19th Century

During the Civil War much about life in Athens was disrupted, but the downtown area was fortunate to escape physical destruction. The University closed in September of 1863 (not reopening until January of 1866) and most students went off to war, but in their place many refugees from active theaters of war arrived in Athens. Some rented living space while others purchased residences, so Athens' population was likely not greatly changed during the war years. Athens' industrial area proved important to the war effort, as factories and foundries produced cotton goods and arms for the Confederate government as well as private citizens.

In early May, 1865, several weeks after Lee's surrender to Grant, Federal troops from the Thirteenth Tennessee Regiment began arriving in Athens. There were incidents of robbing and pillaging, but it did not last for long as a second Federal unit soon arrived and returned order. One of the most dramatic events of the period of Federal occupation took place on November 18, 1865, when the town hall in the middle of Washington Street caught fire. Members of the Thirteenth Connecticut Volunteers were quick to save the building and were given cash awards by the town council as an expression of gratitude. The military occupation of Athens ended early in 1866 and then efforts began to return life to something of the way it had been six years earlier.

Downtown Athens was quick to make an economic revival. Many businesses that closed temporarily were able to reopen within the first year and a number of new businesses were established. The University resumed classes in January 1866, and with Confederate veterans able to attend with tuition, board, books, and clothing provided by the state, enrollment at the institution rose considerably. These developments provided a needed boost to downtown Athens and the local economy.

One sign of the town's return to normalcy occurred in 1870, when the first true theatrical facility in

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

downtown Athens was constructed at the northwest corner of Broad Street and Thomas Street. The building was named Deupree Hall after the man responsible for its construction, Colonel Lewis J. Deupree of nearby Lexington, Georgia. Deupree had the theater remodeled into an opera house in 1873. The building is depicted as Deupree's Opera House on the 1885 Sanborn Map, which notes that the structure's first floor housed a grocery store and another business while the third floor served as a Masonic Hall. Although the opera house building survived into the early 20th century, it ceased to function as a performance hall after the Athens Opera House was constructed in 1888 on the south side of Market (Washington) Street between College Avenue and Jackson Street. In fact, the 1888 Sanborn Map indicates in that year the Deupree building housed a general merchandise store on the first floor, offices on the second floor, and a hall on the third floor. By 1926 a different building occupied the lot according to the Sanborn Map of that year.

On May 5, 1871, the cornerstone was laid in the Center of College Avenue and Washington Street for Athens' Confederate monument. Thirteen months later, on June 3, 1872, the monument was formally dedicated. A total of \$4,444.44 in construction costs was raised over a five-year period by the Ladies' Memorial Association. The monument remained in its original location until the turn-of-century, when it was determined to be a traffic hazard and moved to a median in front of City Hall. It was later moved to its present location in the center of Broad Street between College Avenue and Lumpkin Street.

As the 1870s opened Athens' population stood at 4,251, up only modestly from a decade earlier. But the 1870s saw several important developments that improved the fortunes of downtown Athens and the town as a whole. In 1870 William P. Dearing organized the Athens Street Railway Company, and it soon began carrying not passengers but freight from the Georgia Railroad depot on the east side of the Oconee River to downtown merchants.

On November 24, 1871, Watkinsville lost its position as the seat of Clarke County, with all county offices and county business moved to Athens. For years there had been agitation by local citizens for such a move, and when it finally happened Athenians agreed to work for passage of a bill to create a new county with Watkinsville as governmental seat. More than three years later, on February 12, 1875, Oconee County was established from the southwestern half of Clarke County. Although the new Oconee County was similar in area to Clarke County, it had only half as many people, since Athens accounted for the great majority of the area's population.

The first building to serve as the Clarke County courthouse in Athens was the old Town Hall. Several years of debate ensued over the best location of a courthouse, and in 1875 a three-building complex (courthouse, jail, and jailer's house) was constructed in what was then a residential area on the south side of Prince Avenue, several blocks west of the downtown area. The three structures were designed by University of Georgia professor L.H. Charbonnier. Only the jail remains today.

In 1872 Athens switched from an intendant and warden system of government to the mayor and alderman form, still in use today. The act amending the town's charter stated that "the municipal government of the city of Athens shall consist of a mayor and eight alderman, who are hereby

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

constituted a body corporate, under the name and style of "The Mayor and Council of the City of Athens (Georgia Laws)."

As a result of these developments, Athens' population increased by a substantial 43% to stand at 6,099 in 1880. Growth continued at virtually the same rate through the 1880s, with the 1890 population standing at 8,639.

The decade of the 1880s brought further improvements to the infrastructure of downtown Athens. A city police force was established in 1881, and the first telephone lines were installed in 1882. Street paving began modestly in 1885, and in 1887, the General Assembly passed an act authorizing the mayor and council to "grade, pave, macadamize and otherwise improve certain streets" and to "assess and collect two-thirds of the costs of said improvements out of the real estate fronting on said streets...(Georgia Laws)." A second street railway company was organized and began operating in Athens in 1885. Initially the streetcars were pulled through the downtown area by small mules, but the lines were electrified in the 1890s.

In 1885 the first Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Athens were produced by the Sanborn Map Company in New York, New York. These maps provide information essential to an understanding of the physical growth of Athens from 1885 through the mid-20th century, as they depict building footprints as well as names of certain businesses and institutions and other details about the area of coverage. The 1885 Sanborn maps indicate that commercial establishments were concentrated along Broad Street and Clayton Street between Lumpkin Street and Foundry Street. Other than a single tier of businesses along the south side of Broad Street between Jackson Street and Foundry Street the area south of Broad Street was occupied by the University of Georgia as well as by several cotton warehouses and dwellings. The Athens Foundry was located on the east side of Foundry Street, opposite Market (Washington) Street. Areas to the north of Market Street and west of Lumpkin Street remained almost entirely residential in 1885. Furthermore, every block in downtown Athens with the exception of that bounded by Clayton, Broad, Jackson Streets and College Avenue contained at least one dwelling in 1885, indicating that commercial, warehouse, and residential uses were intermingled at this time. The block bounded by Market, Clayton, Thomas, and Jackson Streets contained the Moss and Thomas cotton warehouse, a livery stable, two general stores, one vacant storefront, Chemical Engine hook and ladder company (volunteer fire department), and five residences. The block immediately east, bounded by Market, Clayton, Foundry, and Thomas Streets was entirely residential in 1885, and the Athens Foundry was just across Foundry Street.

A public school system was established in Athens after approval by a majority vote in 1885, and four years later the Market Street School was constructed downtown. Renamed Washington Street School when the street named was changed, the building was a large, two-story brick structure that initially housed both grammar and high school students through grade nine; the tenth grade was added in 1906. Washington Street School occupied the northwest corner of the intersection of Washington Street and Jackson Street until 1909 when it was replaced by the Georgian Hotel.

Directly opposite Market (Washington) Street from the school stood the three-story New Opera

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

House that opened for its first production in January, 1888. The building served for nearly 45 years as Athens' center of live entertainment, rivaled in the early 20th century only by the Morton Theatre, the community's home of black vaudeville as well as jazz and other forms of entertainment. The New Opera House was rehabilitated in 1906 and renamed the Colonial Theatre, and over the years it hosted musical performances of all varieties, religious and political speakers, social events, conferences and conventions. Movies proved to be especially popular at the Colonial, but in the 1920s three other movie theaters opened downtown just as the Colonial began to experience ceiling deterioration and other problems. It was condemned and demolished in 1932.

The decade of the 1890s was one of considerable growth and change for downtown Athens. The local economy was strengthened by residential growth in sizeable areas west and southwest of the commercial district, and a number of new businesses were established downtown. Establishment of a State Normal School on Prince Avenue at what was then the western extreme of town was also an important development for the entire community and the institution complimented the University of Georgia quite well. Nevertheless, downtown Athens remained rather compact, with Lumpkin Street still the western extreme of commercial development. Residences also predominated north of Washington Street, so the end of the 19th century saw the commercial district still effectively bounded by Washington, Broad, Foundry, and Lumpkin Streets.

Early 20th Century through 1955

As the 20th century opened, Athens was a prosperous community of just over 10,000 residents, had developed into the commercial and industrial center of northeast Georgia, and was served by five rail lines. Growth continued during the first several decades of the century and saw commercial expansion into areas that had been entirely residential throughout the 1800s. By 1940 Athens' population had more than doubled, reaching 20,650 that year, and corresponding growth had taken place in the central business district.

One of the first commercial enterprises in the area west of Lumpkin Street was the Athens Coca-Cola Bottling Company, established around the turn of the century at the northeast corner of the intersection of West Hancock Avenue and Hull Street (nonextant). A few other businesses began operation on Hull Street as well as nearby along West Hancock Street and Washington Street, and the 20th century saw the establishment of a small black business district centered at the intersection of Washington Street and Hull Street. This area was still predominantly residential at that time and destined to remain so for several more decades, but the transformation had begun.

"Hot Corner" was the name by which the lively intersection of Washington Street and Hull Street became known, and in 1910 it was distinguished by the construction of the four-story Morton Building, which housed businesses on the ground level with professional offices and the Morton Theatre above. The building, constructed by local black entrepreneur Monroe Bowers "Pink" Morton on the former site of the Henderson Cotton Warehouse, was soon frequented by black vaudeville acts as well as prominent jazz performers such as Louis Armstrong, Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, Blind Willie McTell, Bessie Smith, and Mae West. Also in the Morton Building was the E.D. Harris

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Drug Store, Athens' first black-owned and operated drug store organized by prominent local physician Ellington D. Harris. The Morton Building was converted for use as a movie theater in the 1930s and closed in the mid-1950s after suffering relatively minor fire damage. Successfully restored in the early 1990s, the Morton Theatre reopened in 1994 and is again a favored performance location in downtown Athens.

In 1916 the Southern Bell Telephone Company constructed a new three-story headquarters building at 183 West Clayton Street. It was the fourth Athens location for the telephone exchange, and the distinctive yellow brick building is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of West Clayton Street and North Hull Street. Commercial buildings had already been constructed on the north side of West Clayton Street and a large cotton warehouse, Williams Transfer and Storage Company (no longer extant), was located a short distance east of the new telephone exchange. But to the west, across North Hull Street, it was still almost entirely residential in 1916.

In 1917, seven years after construction of the Morton Building, the three-story Samaritan Building was built at 181 West Washington Street. Demolished in the early 1970s to make room for a parking lot, the Samaritan Building was home to the Improved Order of Samaritans, a black fraternal organization, and black businesses such as the African-American-owned life insurance company, the Atlanta Life Company. Around 1920 E.D. Harris moved his drug store from the Morton Building into the Samaritan Building, where several black physicians including Dr. Earl F. McLendon and Dr. Ida M. Hiram, a female dentist, had their offices.

At the time commercial development was beginning to spread to the west of the original commercial center, six important construction projects, which resulted in buildings that are landmarks today, were getting underway along College Avenue and Washington and Clayton Streets. A new City Hall was completed on the west side of College Avenue in 1904, followed in 1906 by the Federal Building (now First American Bank and Trust) directly across the street. In 1908, the seven-story Southern Mutual Building was constructed as Athens' tallest commercial building, and just a year later the Georgian Hotel was built on Washington Street at the northwest corner of Washington Street and Jackson Street. Finally in 1913 work was begun on a new Clarke County courthouse further east on Washington Street as well as the nine-story Holman Building at the southeast corner of the intersection of Clayton Street and Lumpkin Street. Thus, within a period of ten years these six buildings greatly changed the appearance of downtown Athens and speak to the prosperity the town enjoyed during this period.

While World War I certainly changed the lives of many in the community, downtown Athens did not suffer any severe consequences of the war. A number of downtown establishments failed during the early 1920s as a result of the agricultural disaster brought about in Georgia by the boll weevil, but still the overall climate of Athens' commercial center was a healthy one. In fact, three movie theaters were constructed in downtown Athens during the 1920s. First to open was the Palace Theatre, located on the west side of College Avenue between Clayton Street and Washington Street on a lot now occupied by a parking deck constructed in the early 1990s. While both the Palace and the Strand, constructed on East Clayton Street next to the Holman Building, are no longer extant, the

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Georgia Theatre at the northwest corner of Lumpkin Street and Clayton Street still stands. Originally known as the Elite, the Georgia Theatre is now an active venue frequented by a variety of popular music performers and their fans and also shows movies on occasion.

Between the mid-1920s and the early 1950s almost no building activity took place east of Lumpkin Street while more than a dozen buildings were constructed between Lumpkin Street and Pulaski Street. This building activity west of Lumpkin Street completely transformed the character of the area from primarily residential to a mix of commercial, service, and light manufacturing uses. One of the most significant buildings in this area, the Adcock Building, located on the west side Hull Street between Clayton and Washington Streets, was built c.1920, slightly before the real "boom" in building activity, but a continuation of several important construction projects in the 1910s. The Adcock Building, as it became known when it housed the Adcock Furniture Company at mid-century, was actually built as a mixed-use facility, housing an auto repair business, a wholesale grocery, a candy shop, and an automobile garage. It was rehabilitated as a mixed-use project in 2003.

A comparison of the 1926 and 1951 Sanborn Maps for this area clearly reveals the changes that took place over the quarter century interval. Present in 1951 are several automobile-related businesses. Other businesses present on the 1951 map and located in the buildings constructed during the previous two decades include a machine shop, a laundry, a shirt manufacturing company, a bottling works, and a bus station. No longer present were more than three dozen dwellings that stood in this area in 1926. A few houses remained in 1951 but nearly all would soon be gone. Most of the buildings constructed west of North Lumpkin Street between 1925 and the early 1950s are large brick structures with little or no ornamentation. An exception is the Art Deco-influenced Union Bus Station, which was completed in 1940 at 220 West Broad Street as the third such facility in downtown Athens. The town's first bus station opened in the late 1920s at 198 East Clayton Street (nonextant), and moved a decade later to 170 College Avenue. Five bus lines operated out of the 1940 terminal when it opened, and the facility also offered a restaurant to its patrons. After more than 60 years of continuous service as a bus station, this building remains in use as a bus depot although only one bus line provides local service.

Development in the Downtown Athens Historic District since 1955

During the last half of the 20th century downtown Athens has experienced the trauma of urban renewal and well-intentioned but historically inappropriate efforts to modernize buildings and streets. It has weathered new commercial competition in the form of enclosed shopping malls and strip shopping centers, and benefited from the efforts of forward-thinking citizens, businessmen, public officials, and others who have never viewed the downtown area as anything other than the heart of Athens and Clarke County.

Urban Renewal and Threats to Downtown Buildings

Athens embarked on two large urban renewal projects in the early 1960s. The first, known as "Georgia Project 50" and initiated in 1952, was centered on Baxter Street and thus beyond the

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

boundaries of the downtown area. But "Georgia Project 51", also known as the College Avenue Redevelopment Project, involved the public acquisition of some 128 acres in northern downtown as well as in the vicinity of the Oconee River north from East Broad Street. The stated goals of the undertaking were (1) revitalization of downtown Athens, (2) maximization of ad valorem tax revenues through enhanced property valuations, and (3) continuation of Athens' position as a northeast Georgia trade center. The City of Athens received \$3.5 million in federal assistance to complete work that began in 1964 and eventually saw the demolition of more than 300 buildings on 310 parcels, resulting in the displacement of some 212 families and individuals as well as 62 businesses. Buildings constructed shortly after the 1964 clearance include 255 and 256 East Hancock Avenue, just outside the original district boundaries. Several buildings along the north side of Dougherty Street were also constructed in the late 1960s and early 1970s and are just north of the boundary increase.

By the early 1970s more than one-third of the cleared land had been sold for redevelopment with purchases made by government entities as well as private individuals. New undertakings completed included construction by Clarke County of a \$700,000 public library, a \$2.1 million low-cost federal housing project constructed on ten acres by Bethel Homes, Inc., a ten-story building providing elderly housing, the Robert G. Stephens Federal Building, and construction of the Thomas Street Connector, a relocation of U.S. Highway 29 North from downtown across the Oconee River. These projects and others necessitated demolition of many historic buildings, primarily houses determined at the time to be "slum" dwellings, but also many commercial buildings and even a few institutional buildings such as the c.1884 Congregation Children of Israel Synagogue, torn down at the northeast corner of Jackson Street and Hancock Street to make room for the new federal building. Most of the residential buildings removed were in the poor and racially integrated "Lick Skillet" neighborhood, located from East Hancock Street at its intersection with College Avenue and Jackson Street and further north. Nearly all of the buildings demolished dated from the mid- to late 1800s.

A few other historic buildings were threatened by urban renewal but ultimately saved. These include the oldest surviving residence in Athens, the Church-Waddel-Brumby House, and Athens City Hall, which though considered by some as a good candidate for replacement was never seriously threatened. The Church-Waddel-Brumby House, constructed in 1820 for Alonzo Church, president of the University of Georgia 1829-1859, stood on the north side of East Hancock Avenue between Jackson Street and Thomas Street, and was in the line of the planned federal building. But a vocal group of Athens residents formed the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation (ACHF) in April of 1967 and that fall arranged to have the house moved a short distance to the northeast along the rerouted Dougherty Street. Several years went by while the ACHF raised private money and secured local as well as federal grants to restore the house, but the project was finally completed in 1972. ACHF deeded the Church-Waddel-Brumby House to the City of Athens and began operating the building as a house museum. It was soon felt that the property was being under-utilized. Additional work was completed and the house was adapted for use as the Athens Welcome Center, a function it continues to serve today.

Indirectly threatened by urban renewal was the Old Federal Building, a Renaissance Revival-style

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

building located at 300 College Avenue in 1906. When federal offices vacated the building for the new Robert G. Stephens Federal Building, downtown revitalization plans earmarked the site for a parking deck. But in 1971 the property was acquired by the First American Bank and Trust Company, which rehabilitated the building's basement and ground floor for its offices. This project was significant and the first major adaptive reuse undertaking in downtown Athens.

Shortly after the Old Federal Building and Church-Waddel-Brumby House were successfully rehabilitated another highly significant downtown building appeared likely to be lost. The Franklin House, one of the most important commercial buildings in downtown Athens, and among the oldest historic hotel buildings in Georgia, was slated for demolition in 1973. Once again, however, the ACHF prevented a key resource from being torn down by raising the funds necessary to purchase the property. The ACHF was successful in having the Franklin House listed in the National Register of Historic Places in December, 1974 and the organization utilized a National Park Service grant to complete stabilization work before selling the building to a private businessman in 1977. After changing hands a short time later, the Franklin House was fully restored and today remains a centerpiece of downtown Athens, housing a law firm and other businesses.

Early Revitalization Efforts

Although urban renewal brought change to the northern side of downtown Athens and specified revitalization of the downtown area was a goal, the program did not focus its attention on the heart of Athens' commercial district. But at the very time that urban renewal was changing the face of the College Avenue area north of Washington Street, a new effort began proposing changes for other downtown streets. The impetus came from a 1965 report commissioned by the Athens Area Chamber of Commerce and titled "The Classic City?" Authored by the Atlanta firm Heery and Heery, the study concluded that downtown was suffering economically as well as aesthetically and that conditions would only worsen and negatively affect the entire city unless changes were made. The Heery team recommended conversion of the eastern end of Clayton Street into a pedestrian mall, a plan that never materialized. Over the next few years various proposals were put forward, focusing on increasing parking availability, removing the clutter of downtown building signs, and improving traffic flow through the area. In 1968 a downtown redevelopment committee recommended securing additional urban renewal funds, although the group noted that "Urban Renewal in a downtown area does not require wholesale demolition of existing buildings as it does in blighted areas of sub-standard buildings (Athens Banner-Herald)."

While nothing concrete resulted from the Heery study, it did serve to spark interest in and attention to the problems and potentials of downtown Athens. But during the 1970s and early 1980s a number of downtown buildings suffered from insensitive alterations and neglect. The area experienced some bleak years, primarily due to competition from new outlying shopping centers. In 1981 Georgia Square Mall opened several miles west of downtown and four downtown department stores and several small retail businesses relocated to the new facility. This new competition led some business owners to modernize their downtown buildings, efforts that were well-intentioned but ultimately failed to draw back many of the lost customers and detracted considerably from the historic character of the

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

commercial district. Many of these changes have been reversed since the early 1980s.

Construction of a downtown convention facility was a topic of discussion for years in Athens, especially among some community leaders who believed such a project would spur economic development. In addition, certain cultural groups desired additional performance space and were supportive of the concept, but others were opposed for economic as well as aesthetic reasons. In 1987 voters supported a \$26 million local option sales tax referendum to fund the Classic Center, and by 1990 a site had been selected with the building proposed to be constructed on the east side of North Thomas Street just north of East Clayton Street. Initial plans were rejected as being too small to be economically viable and also incompatible with the historic downtown, but Georgia architect Rabun Hatch was subsequently hired and produced a more favorable design. Finally built for a total of \$30 million, the Classic Center was well received and is heavily utilized by the community.

In the early 1990s a large parking deck was constructed along College Avenue at the southwest corner of its intersection with Washington Street. The project was somewhat controversial, as many were concerned that the large new structure would harm the historic integrity of the area. The building does dominate the intersection and provides a sharp contrast to City Hall on the other side of Washington Street, but the placement of commercial spaces on the ground floor is somewhat successful in minimizing the building's visual impact to pedestrians and street traffic.

As the 21st century opens much change is taking place in and around downtown Athens, including a major infrastructure improvements project consisting of replacing aged utility lines, installing a new storm water drainage system, and a number of streetscape improvements such as sidewalk and crosswalk work and tree planting.

Another important recent undertaking just west of downtown was the rehabilitation of the former Coca-Cola Bottling Plant (outside the district boundary, individually listed in National Register of Historic Places on February 1, 2006), on the south side of Prince Avenue a block west of Pulaski Street, into the Bottleworks, a mixed-use development that consists of thirteen residential condominiums as well as leased retail space and restaurant areas. Utilizing six former Coca-Cola buildings constructed in 1927 plus a new building, the project has already greatly infused the rising vitality of the adjacent historic residential area, some of which is included in the Reese Street Historic District, located west of downtown Athens and south and east of the primarily residential Cobham Historic District.

A project that has been in the works since 1993 is the construction of a multimodal transportation center at the eastern edge of downtown Athens on Foundry Street. The facility was originally envisioned as the local hub for a commuter rail line between Athens and Atlanta. Though the future of the proposed rail line remains somewhat in doubt, the multimodal center will still go forward as a transfer station for Athens and University of Georgia buses. The project is expected to consist of a parking deck, a bus transfer center, and a landscaped pedestrian plaza.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Also on the east side of downtown, a new hotel complex is scheduled for completion in 2005. A small group of nonhistoric buildings (not within the boundaries of the original nomination) was demolished in 2004 to make room for construction in the block bounded by East Washington, North Thomas, East Clayton, and North Jackson Streets. The hotel will provide accommodations for Classic Center patrons, convention attendees, and others, and will be situated just across North Thomas Street From the Classic Center facility.

It appeared for several months in 2002 as though the Adcock Building at 269 North Hull Street would be torn down to make way for a large condominium project aimed to attract University of Georgia football fans, who would utilize the condos primarily on home game weekends. But historic preservationists and others rose up in opposition and the developers instead purchased nonhistoric property in the middle of the block bounded by West Clayton, North Hull, West Broad, and Pulaski Streets. Construction of the "Gameday" center began in 2003 and was completed in the fall of 2004. The massive structure is quite prominent and has increased local concerns about the need for local designation controls in the downtown area. The Adcock Building has in the meantime been successfully rehabilitated as a mixed-use commercial and residential property.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 9—Major Bibliographic References

Hynds, Ernest C. Antebellum Athens and Clark County, Georgia. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1974.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee, A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1990.

Mell, Edward Baker. Reminiscences of Athens About 1889 to 1890. Edited by Jones M. Drewry. Athens: N.p., 1964.

Morris, Sylvanus. Strolls About Athens In the Early Seventies. 1912. Facsimile reprint. Athens: Athens Historical Society, 1969.

Reap, James K. Athens: A Pictorial History. Norfolk, Virginia: The Donning Company, 1982. 3rd edition, 2001.

Reap, James K., and Morton R. McInvale. "Downtown Athens Historic District." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. September, 1977. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. With Supplemental Information.

Rowe, H.J., ed. A History of Athens and Clarke County. Athens: McGregor, 1923.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps (Athens, Georgia). New York: Sanborn Fire Insurance Company, 1885, 1888, 1893, 1898, 1903, 1908, 1913, and 1926.

Schinkel, Peter. "The Negro in Athens and Clarke County, 1872-1900." Master's Thesis, University of Georgia, 1971.

Sears, Joan Niles. The First Hundred Years of Town Planning in Georgia. Atlanta: Cherokee, 1979.

Strahan, Charles Morton. Clarke County, Georgia, and the City of Athens. Athens: N.P., 1893.

Thomas, Francis Taliaferro. A Portrait of Historic Athens and Clarke County. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1992.

Thurmond, Michael L. A Story Untold: Black Men and Women in Athens History. Athens: Clarke County School District, 1978.

Warren, Mary Bondurant. "Athens: Its Earliest History." Papers of the Athens Historical Society 1 (1963): pp. 7-12.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 9—Major Bibliographic References

Previous documentation on file (NPS): () 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 # GA-1122**
- ☐ **recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #**

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ **State historic preservation office**
- ☐ **Other State Agency**
- ☒ **Federal agency**
- ☐ **Local government**
- ☒ **University of Georgia**
- ☒ **Other, Specify Repository:** Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation, Inc.

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 10—Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5 acres (boundary increase)

Location: East of the current district boundary; bounded by East Washington Street on the north, North Thomas Street on the east, East Broad Street on the south, and Wall Street on the west.

UTM References (boundary increase)

E)	Zone 17	Easting 280684	Northing 3760047
F)	Zone 17	Easting 280731	Northing 2759852
G)	Zone 17	Easting 280589	Northing 3759831
H)	Zone 17	Easting 280552	Northing 3760010

Acreage of Property 10 acres (boundary decrease)

Location: Four separate areas located on the eastern edge of the current district boundary; see enclosed district map.

UTM References (boundary decrease)

J)	Zone 17	Easting 280639	Northing 3760227
K)	Zone 17	Easting 280903	Northing 3759970
L)	Zone 17	Easting 280856	Northing 3759578
M)	Zone 17	Easting 280740	Northing 3759644
N)	Zone 17	Easting 280766	Northing 3759750
O)	Zone 17	Easting 280731	Northing 3759852

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the original nomination is indicated on the attached map by a heavy black line. The boundary of the area added to the district is indicated on the attached map by a heavy dashed black line. The area being removed from the district through a boundary decrease is indicated by cross-hatching.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the proposed nomination as amended includes a portion of the original acreage listed in the National Register of Historic Places as the Downtown Athens Historic District in 1978, the acreage added to the district in 1984 through a boundary increase, and adds areas to the east and west of the current boundary to include historic resources not included in the original listing. The boundary also reflects the boundary decrease, which excludes resources that have lost historic integrity or have been demolished.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Downtown Athens Historic District (Additional Documentation, Boundary Increase, Boundary Decrease)
City or Vicinity: Athens
County: Clarke
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: August, 2005

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 35

1. East Broad Street; photographer facing northeast.
2. West Broad Street; photographer facing northeast.
3. Corner of West Broad Street and South Lumpkin Street; photographer facing northwest.
4. East Broad Street; photographer facing southeast.
5. Franklin House; photographer facing southeast.
6. South Thomas Street; photographer facing southeast.
7. Classic Center and Fire Hall #1; photographer facing southeast.
8. Corner of East Clayton Street and North Thomas Street; photographer facing northwest.
9. East Clayton Street; photographer facing northwest.
10. East Washington Street; photographer facing southwest.
11. Michael Brothers building; photographer facing southeast.
12. East Clayton Street; photographer facing northeast.
13. Corner of East Washington Street and College Avenue; photographer facing southwest.
14. West Clayton Street; photographer facing northwest.
15. Georgia Theatre; photographer facing northwest.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

16. Police Substation; photographer facing northeast.
17. Civic Hall; photographer facing northeast.
18. Athens City Hall; photographer facing northwest.
19. Simon Michael II Memorial Clinic; photographer facing southeast.
20. Georgian Hotel; photographer facing northeast.
21. Clarke County Courthouse; photographer facing northwest.
22. First Presbyterian Church (foreground) and United States Post Office and Courthouse (background); photographer facing northwest.
23. Athens First Bank & Trust building; photographer facing southwest.
24. Corner of West Hancock Avenue and North Lumpkin Street; photographer facing northwest.
25. Corner of West Hancock Avenue and North Hull Street; photographer facing northwest.
26. North Hull Street; photographer facing southwest.
27. West Hancock Avenue; photographer facing southwest.
28. West Washington Street; photographer facing northeast.
29. West Washington Street; photographer facing southwest.
30. Morton Building; photographer facing southeast.
31. Adcock Building; photographer facing northwest.
32. Corner of West Clayton Street and North Hull Street, Southern Bell Company building (foreground); photographer facing southeast.
33. Union Bus Terminal; photographer facing northwest.
34. First Methodist Church; photographer facing northwest.
35. West Clayton Street; photographer facing northwest.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)