

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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

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

For NPS use only

received

AUG 20 1986

date entered

OCT 2 1986

**1. Name**

historic N/A

and or common Brinson Family Historic District

**2. Location**

street & number Along Bainbridge, Wainhurst and Leon Streets

N/A not for publication

city, town Brinson

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia

code 013

county Decatur

code 087

**3. Classification**

**Category**

☒ district  
☐ building(s)  
☐ structure  
☐ site  
☐ object

**Ownership**

☐ public  
☒ private  
☐ both

**Public Acquisition**

N/A in process  
☐ being considered

**Status**

☒ occupied  
☐ unoccupied  
☐ work in progress

**Accessible**

☒ yes: restricted  
☐ yes: unrestricted  
☐ no

**Present Use**

☐ agriculture  
☐ commercial  
☐ educational  
☐ entertainment  
☐ government  
☐ industrial  
☐ military

☐ museum  
☐ park  
☒ private residence  
☒ religious  
☐ scientific  
☐ transportation  
☐ other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name See Continuation Sheet

street & number

city, town

\_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of

state

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Decatur County Courthouse

city, town Bainbridge

state Georgia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Historic Structures Field Survey:

title Decatur County

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1981

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

Historic Preservation Section  
Department of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta

state Georgia

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Brinson Family Historic District in Brinson, Georgia, consists of a group of five houses (one a parsonage) and a church clustered around and spreading out from a four-way intersection on the south side of this small, southwest Georgia town. With the exception of a sink hole located near the south edge of the district, the land in the district is flat. The district is located at the southern edge of the portion of Brinson laid out with a gridiron plan. The three properties north of Wainhurst Street-Bainbridge Street and within the gridiron area are small rectangular town lots. Those to the south are larger and irregular in shape, reflecting both the large expanses of undivided land in this area historically held by the Brinson family and the presence of the old Bainbridge-Donalsonville Road that angles into Brinson through this area. Buildings in the district are all wood-framed structures with weatherboard or shiplap siding. They date from sometime before 1890 to 1920. They range in size from a small one-story cottage to several large two-story houses.

The Simeon Brinson House, located in the southwest corner of the district on the south side of Wainhurst Street, is one of the largest, grandest, and oldest houses in the district. It was built in 1893 by Simeon Brinson, the town's founder and the progenitor of the family for whom the district is named. The house is a two-story Victorian Eclectic structure with weatherboard siding and Queen Anne detailing. Its plan is asymmetrical with a multi-gabled roofline, several projecting bays, and a wraparound front porch that echoes the line of the front bay. A kitchen/dining room to the rear which was originally attached to the house by a breezeway is now incorporated into the main house. The house has considerable exterior detailing including a porch elaborately trimmed with spindles and cutwork, and a second floor balcony and gable ends trimmed with decorative shingles. The interior has tongue-and-groove walls, wainscoting, and ceilings, period mantels, and elaborate door and window surrounds.

The Brinson-Russell House, located at the north edge of the district on Leon Street, was built by Simeon Brinson in 1890 for his son Jason Brinson on the occasion of his marriage. The house is a small, one-story, "L"-shaped cottage with shiplap siding. The heavy brick piers that support the front porch are a later addition. The oldest house in the district, the O'Neal-Brinson House located at the east edge of the district on Bainbridge Street, was built in two stages. The earliest part of the house, built in the decade or two before 1890, was a simple gable-roofed Victorian cottage with a front porch and probably exterior end chimneys. In 1905, when Jason Brinson moved to this house from the Brinson-Russell House, he added the front projecting "L". The present "L"-shaped front porch with its tapered columns resting on high brick piers is a Craftsman touch probably from the 1920s. The house is presently clad in aluminum siding.

The fourth house associated with the Brinson family is the Homer Hodges Brinson House, first built about 1909 and substantially remodeled in 1919-1920 by Simeon Brinson's second son. It is a large two-story house designed in an eclectic style with Craftsman- and Prairie-style influences. It has a hipped roof, weatherboard siding, a prominent wraparound porch, and a porte coch'ere. The deep overhang of the eaves, the shallow pitch to the main and porch roofs, and the strong horizontal emphasis of the front porch

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suggests the Prairie style. The detailing of the front door surround, the small second-story balcony, and the interior are Craftsman inspired. A historic two-story garage is located behind the house.

On opposite corners of the intersection of Leon Street and Wainhurst/Bainbridge Road are the Brinson Methodist Church, built in 1901, and the church parsonage, dating from about 1915. The church is a simple rectangular structure with shiplap siding and a gable roof surmounted by a small steeple. Windows are two-over-two double hung sash. The interior has board walls and ceiling, a small apse-like projection at the alter end, a shallow balcony, and an entrance area. The parsonage has shiplap siding and some very simple Craftsman detailing; it has an unusual plan with a recessed second floor. A historic garage is associated with the house.

Landscaping in the district is fairly extensive. At the heart of the district around the intersection, large shade trees planted close to the roads give the area a densely landscaped feeling which sets it off from the rest of Brinson. The historic pecan grove which stretches between the O'Neal-Brinson House and the H.H. Brinson House is a second strong landscape feature. Individual yards in the district are heavily planted with shade trees, flowering shrubs, ornamental trees such as palms and ornamental cedars, and grass. The H.H. Brinson House has a low masonry retaining wall that sets it off from the road. The entrance to the church is flanked by two large shade trees. There are no non-contributing structures in the district.

Boundary

The boundary for the district is drawn to encompass a contiguous, intact grouping of historic buildings in Brinson which relate historically to Simeon Brinson and his family. The buildings are surrounded, for the most part, by non-historic structures. Four small historic houses on the north side of Bainbridge Street opposite the district are not included because they are not associated with the Brinson family.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1890-1920

Builder/Architect

Multiple

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Brinson Family Historic District is historically significant in terms of architecture, landscape architecture, community planning and development, agriculture, commerce, and politics/government. These areas of significance support National Register listing under National Register Criteria A, B, and C.

### Architecture

In terms of architecture, the five houses and one church in the district are significant for providing representative examples in Brinson of late 19th- and early 20th-century building types, styles, materials, and technologies. Both modest and fairly elaborate examples of Victorian Eclectic architecture and the Craftsman-influenced eclectic architecture of the early 20th century are represented in the district. The ca. 1880 O'Neal-Brinson House and the 1890 Brinson-Russell House with their one-story "L"-shaped layouts, gable rooflines, decorative attic vents (in the Brinson-Russell House), and rear ells are typical of the modest houses built throughout southwest Georgia around the turn of the century. The Craftsman-influenced porches on both houses document the "updating" that frequently occurred in the early 20th century as the Victorian styles became outmoded and the Craftsman style achieved widespread popularity. The ca. 1915 Methodist parsonage, although a rather idiosyncratic building with an unusual floor plan, also documents the influence of the Craftsman style with its exposed rafters and heavy porch supports.

The Simeon Brinson House and the Homer Hodges Brinson House are two of the very finest extant houses in the small town of Brinson. The 1893 Simeon Brinson House with its asymmetrical plan, wraparound porch trimmed with lacy cutwork, bay windows, balcony, and decorative shinglework is an excellent example of a late 19th-century, Queen Anne-influenced Victorian Eclectic house. The Homer Hodges Brinson House, completed in 1920, is a fine small-town example of the type of eclectic residential architecture popular in the early 20th century. It contains elements of the Craftsman, Prairie, and American Foursquare styles.

The 1901 Brinson Methodist Church is an extremely intact example of a simple vernacular wood-framed church; it is similar to many built around the turn of the century in small Georgia communities.

### Landscape Architecture

In terms of landscape architecture, the district is significant for the extensively and historically landscaped yards of the individual houses in the district and for its historic pecan grove and street trees. The Simeon Brinson House and

(Continued)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 14 acres

Quadrangle name Brinson, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	6
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7	1	6	4	2	0
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3	4	2	9	0	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

1	6
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7	1	6	2	7	0
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3	4	2	8	7	9	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	6
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7	1	5	9	1	0
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3	4	2	8	9	2	0
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D 

1	6
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7	1	5	9	2	0
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3	4	2	9	2	1	0
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E 

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F 

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H 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary, outlined with a heavy black line on the enclosed map, is described and justified in Section 7.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date August 7, 1986

205 Butler Street, S.E.

street & number 1462 Floyd Tower East

telephone 404/656-2840

city or town Atlanta

state Georgia 30334

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date 8/11/86

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

Chilcote  
Keeper of the National Register

date 10/2/86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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the Homer Hodges Brinson House in particular have yards planted with many varieties of shade trees, ornamental trees, flowering shrubs, and grass in the informal manner popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The H.H. Brinson House has a historic front walk and low retaining wall which set the yard off from the street. The Brinson Methodist Church is framed by two large shade trees planted on either side of its entrance at the time of its construction. The pecan grove between the O'Neal-Brinson House and the H.H. Brinson House was planted by Homer Hodges Brinson about 1915 and provides important documentation of this typical early 20th century south Georgia landscape feature. The district has a dense landscaped environment provided by the historic plantings associated with each house and the rows of street trees that sets it apart environmentally from the rest of Brinson.

Community Planning and Development, Politics and Government, Agriculture, Commerce

The district is significant in terms of community planning and development, politics and government, agriculture, and commerce for its associations with Simeon Brinson (1847-1918) and two of his sons, Jason Henry Brinson (1867-1940) and Homer Hodges Brinson (1878-1944). Simeon, for whom the town is named, bought large tracts of land in the area in the 1870s and, following the arrival of the railroad, had the area surveyed for a town in 1889. He served as an early postmaster and, after the town was incorporated in 1907, as its first mayor. He, and later his son Jason, farmed large quantities of land in the vicinity and ran the community's principal cotton warehouse and its only bank, all vitally important aspects of the area's agricultural economy. Jason also owned a general merchandise store. H.H. Brinson practiced medicine in Brinson. Together they contributed more than any other family to the ongoing life of Brinson.

Criteria Considerations

The Brinson Family Historic District is eligible for the National Register under Criteria "A" for its direct associations with the founding and growth of the town of Brinson and with the development of its agricultural economy. It is eligible under Criteria "B" for its direct associations with members of the Brinson family who founded and developed the town of Brinson and who served as its leading citizens. It is eligible under Criteria "C" for its period architecture and landscaping which combine to create a distinct historic environment.

Contributing/Non-Contributing Resources

6 contributing buildings (5 houses, 1 church)

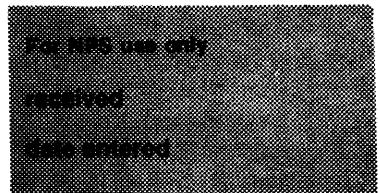
3 contributing landscape features

(overall informal front-yard landscaping, street trees, and pecan grove)

No non-contributing resources.

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Major

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Acts of the Georgia General Assembly, 1907. "Brinson Incorporated," pp. 484-491.

Bainbridge Democrat. June 24, 1886; June 14, 1888; May 30, 1889; June 20, 1889; July 18, 1889; May 1, 1890, October 5, 1899.

Bainbridge Post-Searchlight. March 25-April 15, 1971; April 13, 1979.

Bainbridge Post-Searchlight. "Mr. J.H. Brinson Dies July 2nd," July 13, 1940.

Brinson, Rachel Russell. "Brinson, Georgia," undated manuscript (ca. 1982), Climax, Georgia.

Candler, Allen A. and Clement Evans. Cyclopedia of Georgia, Volume IV, "Simeon Brinson," pp. 53-54, 1906.

Hodges, Marcia. "Description of the Brinson Community," (unpublished manuscript).

Jones, Frank S. The History of Decatur County.

Jones, Mrs. J.J. (daughter of Homer H. Brinson) of Graceville, Florida. Telephone interview by Erick Montgomery, June, 1985.

Liddon, Mrs. C.C. (daughter of Homer H. Brinson) of Graceville, Florida. Telephone interview by Erick Montgomery, June, 1985.

Montgomery, Erick. "Historic District Information Form: Brinson, Decatur County, Georgia." February, 1983. On file at Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Powell, Mrs. Frankie. Interview conducted by Erick Montgomery and Carolyn Brinson Barbree in Brinson, Georgia, 1982.

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1.    Leroy Scott  
      Route 1  
      Brinson, Georgia 31725
2.    Mrs. Homer H. Brinson, Jr.  
      Brinson, Georgia 31725
3.    Pearl N. Eagerton  
      Brinson, Georgia 31725
4.    Carl Harrison  
      Route 3, Box 193  
      Donalsonville, Georgia 31745
5.    Brinson Methodist Church  
      Brinson, Georgia 31725



BRINSON FAMILY HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Brinson, Decatur County, Georgia

## DISTRICT SKETCH MAP

Source: Southwest Georgia Planning &  
Development Commission Map

Scale: 1":200'

North: ↑

Contributing Buildings:

Photograph Number and Direction:

