

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Historic Preservation Division

Noel Holcomb, Commissioner

W. Ray Luce, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
34 Peachtree Street NW, Suite 1600, Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Telephone (404) 656-2840 Fax (404) 651-8739 <http://www.gashpo.org>

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Helen Talley-McRae, 404-651-5268

helen.talley-mcrae@dnr.state.ga.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Lawrenceville Street Historic District Listed in National Register

Part of the original 1823 plan for the City of McDonough

ATLANTA (March 23, 2009) –The Lawrenceville Street Historic District, located between Maxwell Street and State Route 20 in McDonough, Henry County, was listed in the National Register on February 20, 2009. The City of McDonough supported the nomination and a consultant prepared the nomination materials.

Lawrenceville Street, first called Gwinnett Street, is part of the city's original plan of 1823. By 1900, lots south of the road's elbow-turn to the east were covered with large one-story houses. In some cases, property owners subdivided parcels for other family members. Residents received city water in 1905 and telephone service the following year. A few lots on the east end of the street were developed by 1920. In the decades between 1940 and 1960, the street was filled with continuous rows of houses, including several Ranch houses built in the 1950s. In 1947, the street was paved and sidewalks were built.

The historic district is significant in the area of community planning and development because the Lawrenceville Street corridor is one of the earliest streets in McDonough and because it was a principal middle- and upper-middle-class neighborhood located north and west of the courthouse square.

The Lawrenceville Street Historic District is significant in the area of architecture because its houses are representative of architectural styles and types built in Georgia cities from the end of the 19th century through the middle of the 20th century. The district is a small residential street of about 30 houses in the northeast corner of downtown McDonough. The street forms an arc from the courthouse square to the northeast edge of downtown. The street was laid out in the 1820s. The earliest houses are located at the west end of the street closest to the courthouse. This historic district includes a broad spectrum of American domestic architecture. The earliest

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houses in the district are New South Cottages and Queen Anne Cottages built at the turn of the 20th century. The Central-Hallway House at 61 Lawrenceville Street, built circa 1890, features a Greek Revival-style porch and a steeply pitched cross-gable dormer characteristic of the Gothic Revival style. Larger houses from the first decades of the 20th century include two-story American Foursquare Houses and Georgian Cottages. The district also includes Craftsman-style Bungalows, English Vernacular Cottages, Colonial Revival-style houses, and from the mid-20th century, American Small Houses, and Ranch houses. Lawrenceville Street is located north of the McDonough Historic District.

The National Register is the federal government's official list of historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts worthy of preservation. According to Richard Cloues, deputy state historic preservation officer, listing in the National Register recognizes a property's significance and ensures that the property will be taken into account in the planning of federally funded or licensed projects. In addition, owners of National Register properties may be eligible for rehabilitation tax incentives.

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources serves as Georgia's state historic preservation office. Their mission is to promote the preservation and use of historic places for a better Georgia. HPD's programs include archaeology protection and education, environmental review, grants, historic resource surveys, tax incentives, the National Register of Historic Places, community planning and technical assistance. For more information, call 404-656-2840 or visit their Web site at www.gashpo.org.

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