

## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER/GEORGIA REGISTER NOMINATION

1. Name: Waynesboro Historic District.

2. Location: The district is located in Waynesboro in the middle of Burke County, Georgia, where U.S. Highway 25 and Georgia Highway 24 intersect. The district is roughly centered on Liberty Street and 6<sup>th</sup> Street. *USGS Quadrangle: Waynesboro, GA.*

3a. Description: The Waynesboro Historic District is located in east central Georgia about 25 miles south of Augusta and 100 miles north of Savannah. The town's population is approximately 6,000. This large district encompasses the concentration of historic commercial, industrial and residential areas within the incorporated limits of the city of Waynesboro, including four previous National Register listings. Waynesboro's county-seat town plan was established in 1783, and is a variation of the "Augusta" type plan with wide main streets and lots that were set aside for public buildings. The historic layout with mostly uniform rectangular lots is still intact. The street grid runs in approximately a northwest-southeast direction, with one railroad line along the eastern edge of the downtown area and one along the northern edge. The 1857 courthouse and its 1939 WPA annex are located on one of the original public squares at the intersection of two important thoroughfares (now 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Liberty Street). The other three designated public lots were developed for commercial use. The central commercial core is characterized by one- and two-story, attached, brick storefront buildings. With the coming of the Savannah and Augusta Railroad c.1856, an industrial area for the processing and storage of agricultural products was established roughly three blocks east of Liberty Street. Several complexes of large warehouses and grain bins are still intact. Most of the late 19<sup>th</sup>- and early 20<sup>th</sup>-century residential development occurred west of Liberty Street. Houses range from large high-style homes on the major streets, such as Liberty and Jones, to more modest dwellings on the smaller streets and the outskirts. House types and styles include almost every form popular in Georgia between the 1830s and 1950s. The northwest portion of the district has the highest concentration of African-American resources, including significant churches and schools. The entire district has a large number of community landmarks, including the Anthony Wayne Hotel (1925), the Melrose Hotel (c.1870), Waynesboro Grocery Company (c.1898), the Confederate Memorial Cemetery, the former U. S. Post Office (c.1931), the "Calaboose" (c.1900), St. Michael's Episcopal Church (1894), Thomas Grove Baptist Church (1908), Thankful Baptist Church (c.1923), First United Methodist Church (1938), First Presbyterian Church (1884), First (Waynesboro) Baptist Church (1935), Haven Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church (1888), Waynesboro High and Industrial School (c.1920), and the Waynesboro Grammar School and High School complex (c. 1926, 1936). Numerous historic homes are also considered notable due to their architecture and/or association with prominent local politicians or business leaders.

3b. Period of Significance: 1783-1958.

3c. Acreage: Approximately 418 acres.

3d. Boundary Explanation: The proposed boundaries include the intact and contiguous historic properties in the town of Waynesboro, roughly encompassing the major areas of historic commercial, industrial and residential development.

4a. National Register Criteria: A and C.

4b. National Register Areas of Significance: Architecture, Commerce, Community Planning and Development, Industry, and Politics/Government.

4c. Statement of Significance: Waynesboro (originally spelled Waynesborough) was a crossroads community formed where the Quaker Road (Peace Street, then 6<sup>th</sup> Street) and the road from Savannah to Augusta (Liberty Street) met. It was founded by state legislation in 1783 as the county seat of Burke County. After railroads reached the area by the mid-1800s, the town grew to become the regional hub for processing and shipping of farm products, beginning with cotton, and later including peanuts and pecans. This spurred the growth of commercial and residential areas. The town has adopted the moniker "Bird Dog Capital of the World," because the Georgia Field Trials began there in 1901, and continue to the present day. The district is significant in architecture for its representative collection of commercial buildings that reflect design and construction traditions commonly found in Georgia towns, along with its many excellent examples of houses from the 1830s through the 1950s that showcase the types and styles identified in the statewide context, *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in their Landscaped Settings*. These range from large Greek Revival style homes to small New South cottages, sometimes mingled on the same streets. It is also significant in community planning and development for its intact historic town plan, which is a good example of an Augusta-style county seat plan. In the area of commerce, Waynesboro's significance derives from its role as the historic commercial center of Burke County and the region. Typically the county seat filled this role, and provided for the day-to-day commercial needs of nearby rural residents, such as retail stores and offices and professional services. As the county seat, it is also significant in politics/government for the presence of buildings directly related to activities and events associated with local county government, such as the courthouse, jail, public utility buildings, and administrative offices. The district is significant in industry because of the predominance of several agricultural processing businesses along the railroad, and the intact resources associated with those industries, such as warehouses, gins, silos, and grain elevators.

4d. Suggested Level of Significance: The district is being nominated at the local level of significance for its role as the center of commerce, industry and government for Burke County and the surrounding area.

4e. National Register Status: The following properties in the district were previously listed in the National Register: Burke County Courthouse (listed 1980), John James Jones House (listed 1980), Waynesboro Commercial Historic District (listed 1993), and Haven Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church (listed 1996).

5. Sponsor: The nomination is sponsored by the city of Waynesboro. A consultant prepared the nomination materials.