

Jackson County Comprehensive Plan

HISTORIC RESOURCES

**A Chapter of the Technical Appendix
Community Assessment**

Revised November 16, 2009

Prepared For:

**Jackson County Board of Commissioners
c/o Department of Public Development**

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CONTENTS

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE	4
Early Settlement	4
Government	4
The Rise and Fall of Cotton	5
DEVELOPMENT OF MUNICIPALITIES	6
Jefferson	6
Harmony Grove (Commerce)	6
Maysville	6
Hoschton	7
Pendergrass	7
Center	7
Cooper (Nicholson)	7
Arcade	7
Braselton	7
Talmo	7
School Systems	8
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES	8
SURVEY OF HISTORIC RESOURCES	8
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	11
Overview	11
National Register Listings in Jackson County	11
HISTORIC RESOURCES IN MUNICIPALITIES	14
Arcade	14
Braselton	14
Commerce	14
Hoschton	15
Jefferson	15
Maysville	16
Nicholson	16
Pendergrass	16
Talmo	16
AGRICULTURAL AND FARM RESOURCES IN UNINCORPORATED JACKSON COUNTY	16
Georgia Centennial Farms Overview	17
Centennial Farms in Jackson County	17
Other Agricultural Resources	17
INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCES IN UNINCORPORATED JACKSON COUNTY	18
TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES	18
Native American Trails	18
Historic Bridges	18

LOCAL FORMAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION EFFORTS	19
Local Historic District Designation and Protection	19
Certified Local Government	19
Restoration Efforts	19
CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	19

LIST OF MAPS

Jackson County, 1822	5
Jackson County, 1846	5
Jackson County, 1883	5
Jackson County, 1899	5
Historic Resources and Markers (1976 Inventory)	9
NAHRGIS Historical Resources	10

HISTORIC RESOURCES

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Early Settlement

When the first settlers came to this area, they found it inhabited by the Creek and Cherokee Indians. Indian trails cross through Jackson County and have been the basis for many migration paths and trade routes as well as modern highways and railroad beds.

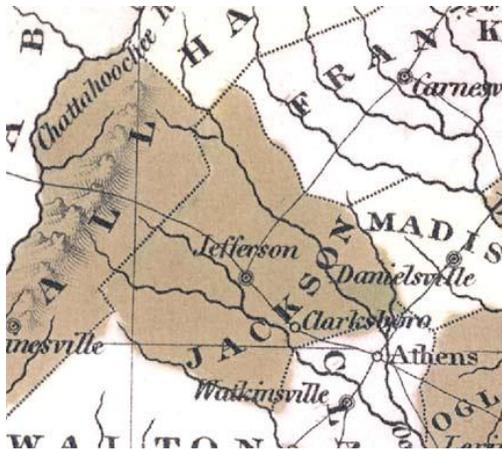
One of the first permanent settlements was started in January 1784 in the Groaning Rock section of Jackson County. By the time the county was established in 1796, 47 people had moved to Groaning Rock. As more settlers moved into the area, the community expanded toward Yamtrahoochee (Hurricane Shoals). Several homes were constructed including a fort, a grist mill, and a smelting plant. By 1788, the community of Hurricane Shoals had established the first formal school. Others were along Sandy Creek at Groaning Rock, Yamacutah (near present-day Commerce), Hurricane Shoals, and in 1786 on the Middle Oconee River near the Tallassee Shoals.

Government

Jackson County was established on February 11, 1796, by an Act of the Georgia General Assembly from an area originally included in Franklin County. The county was named for James Jackson, Revolutionary War Lieutenant Colonel, United States Senator, and later governor of Georgia from 1798 to 1801.

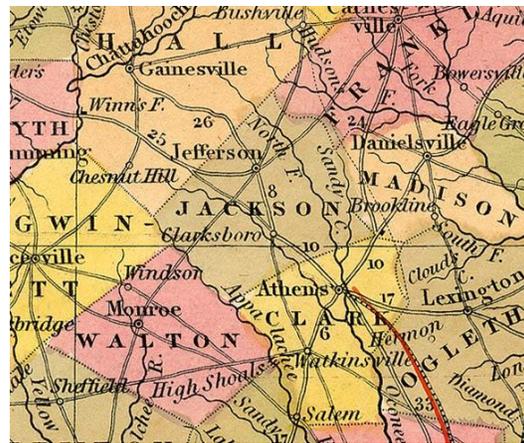
The Georgia General Assembly granted 40,000 acres for a state college in 1784. In 1801, a site for the college was selected in part of Jackson County (later to become Clarke County). The first classes at Franklin College (now the University of Georgia) were held in Jackson County. The founding of the University and the development of the City of Athens in 1801 caused Jackson County to lose part of her original territory. In 1804, an Act of the Georgia legislature added land (an 80 square mile strip) to Jackson County which it purchased from the Cherokees. In 1811, however, Jackson County lost land for the creation of Madison County. In 1812, land was added back to Jackson but in 1818 Jackson County lost a large amount of land to create part of Walton, Gwinnett, and Hall Counties. In 1821, Jackson County was enlarged with territory from Franklin County, but in 1858, Banks County received territory from Jackson. The largest and final loss to Jackson County was the creation of Barrow County in 1914 (Source: 1998 comprehensive plan, historic resources).

Clarksboro, centrally located in the county in 1796 (today located about midway between Arcade and the Jackson and Clarke County lines on U.S. 129), was selected as the seat for the first county government. There are no records of a courthouse ever being built in Clarksboro, but a jail was constructed in the summer of 1797. Clarksboro remained the county seat for six years until 1802. With the creation of Clarke County in 1801, a new county seat was needed to be centrally located in Jackson County. Consideration was given to a site between Talmo and Pendergrass near the present North Jackson County School. In 1803, a committee selected Thomocoggan (now Jefferson) because of the ample water from Curry Creek and four, freely flowing springs. Thomocoggan was renamed Jefferson after Thomas Jefferson. The move of the new county seat was in 1803, but it was not until 1806 that the Georgia General Assembly made the move official and Jefferson was incorporated.



Jackson County, 1822

Source: Atlas of Historic Maps of Georgia



Jackson County, 1846

Source: Atlas of Historic Maps of Georgia



Jackson County, 1883

Source: Atlas of Historic Maps of Georgia



Jackson County, 1899

Source: Atlas of Historic Maps of Georgia

The Rise and Fall of Cotton

The early settlers were yeoman farmers who practiced subsistence farming. As the population increased and cotton markets opened, farmers turned to cotton production as a cash crop. The community around Talmo was noted for its very fine grade of short staple cotton. With the building of the railroad through Harmony Grove (now Commerce), the town flourished as a cotton market from 1880 to 1910, receiving cotton from Jackson, Banks, Madison and Franklin Counties.



Murphy Cotton Gin, Circa 1906 int # 54

Source: Talmo Comprehensive Plan, Technical Addendum to Community Assessment, 2008

The incorporation of the Harmony Grove Mill in 1893 enhanced the market. By 1899, the Jefferson Cotton Mill was chartered, and the cotton market was booming in Jackson County. At one time, Jackson County had 19 cotton gins and six cotton seed oil mills.

As the county's population grew, roads were made to connect farms with cotton gins and village stores and towns with neighboring county seats. When the boll weevil struck Jackson County in 1921, however, cotton production declined and market prices fell sharply. Further destruction to the market occurred with a sustained drought, and cotton was never able to make a comeback.

As cropland was taken out of production, some farmers turned to other means of making a living. Many farmers went to work in the textile mills, manufacturing plants, and poultry dressing plants in the area. Many farmers who remained in the business converted their farms from crop production to beef cattle or poultry production. Poultry production began in the county after 1926.

DEVELOPMENT OF MUNICIPALITIES

Jefferson

Jefferson was originally known as "Thomocoggan," when it was an Indian village. It was called "Jeffersonville" from 1805 to 1810, and then "Jeffersonton" from 1810 to 1824, and finally "Jefferson" in 1824. Jefferson was chartered as the official county seat. Jefferson is the oldest remaining city in Jackson County.

The Gainesville-Midland Railroad was built through Jefferson in 1883. The railroad transported passengers, freight, and mail from Jefferson to Gainesville and south to Social Circle. In 1806, By the 1830s, stagecoaches were in operation and Jefferson became an overnight stop on the Augusta to Dahlonega route. The Gainesville Midland Railroad developed from the Gainesville, Jefferson, and Southern Railroad which had been organized in 1872. By 1883, the forerunner of the Gainesville-Midland line was moving passengers and freight from Gainesville to Jefferson and on to Athens in 1905. A branch line went to Social Circle. Many communities had passenger waiting rooms for the Gainesville-Midland lines. The trains for both rail lines were initially pulled by wood-fired steam engines and later converted to coal burning. Passenger and mail service was discontinued in the 1940s, but freight trains still operated.

Harmony Grove (Commerce)

The settlement of Harmony Grove, now Commerce, dates back to 1810. The central business district did not form until the 1850s, when business was centered along State and Cherry Streets, known as the Athens and Clarkesville Road. Residential areas developed in areas surrounding the business center. The Northeastern Railroad Company laid tracks through Harmony Grove from Lula connecting with Athens 18 miles to the south in 1876. Harmony Grove was not incorporated until 1884. By 1904, the name of Harmony Grove was changed to "Commerce" to reflect the prosperity of the community.

Maysville

Maysville was incorporated in 1879. The original city limits radiated three-quarters of a mile from the depot. The Town straddles the Jackson-Banks County line. The Northeastern Railroad which connected Richmond and Danville Air Line Railroad at Lula, Georgia, was built through Maysville in the mid-1870s and the railroad was the catalyst for development of the town.

Hoschton

Hoschton developed as a railroad town after the Gainesville Midland Railroad built its line through the town in 1878. In 1880, two of the Hosch brothers, R.A. and J.R., sought to develop the town and began surveying lots. By 1889, the town with its linear, grid pattern formally existed in Georgia and within Jackson County. It eventually grew into a bustling town with two cotton gins, a tannery, newspaper, millinery, and school (Source: Hoschton Comprehensive Plan). Hoschton was incorporated in 1891 with city limits that ran three-quarters of a mile in every direction radiating from the depot.

Pendergrass

Pendergrass was also incorporated in 1891. Garden Valley was the name of this community in the late 1700s and through most of the 1800s. The name was changed to Pendergrass to honor Franklin Lafayette Pendergrass, a prominent businessman who was a director of the Gainesville, Jefferson, and Southern Railroad.

Center

In 1906, the Town of Center was established with its town limits stretching one-half mile in each direction along the railroad and a one-quarter mile in each direction from the railroad, making the town one mile long and one-half mile wide. Center has since relinquished its city charter and abolished its city government.

Cooper (Nicholson)

Just north of Center, the town of Cooper (now Nicholson) established a post office. The town was named after the large Cooper farm in that area. The local residents wanted the railroad depot in their area, so they petitioned the local "railroad man" (Mr. Nicholson) to get a fuel stop located in their town. Mr. Nicholson was successful and the town was officially named Nicholson in 1882. In 1907, the town of Nicholson was incorporated.

Arcade

Arcade was incorporated in 1909. The first city government was dissolved and later reincorporated.

Braselton

Braselton was incorporated in 1916, but the town dates back to 1884 when John O. Braselton opened a small store.

Talmo

Talmo was first settled by a land grant to Stephen Whitmire in 1816 for 375 acres. The name of Talmo is derived from the Creek Indian work, "Talomeco," meaning "home of the Chief Tallassee." The first recorded settlers arrived around 1840. Talmo had one store and a railroad line in 1896. The town of Talmo was incorporated on August 9, 1920.

School Systems

Jackson County Academy in Jefferson was created by an act of the Georgia General Assembly in 1818. The legislature created a framework for countywide school systems in 1827. Maysville operated an independent school system as early as 1845. Commerce had an independent city school system created by the legislature in 1902, and it followed with one for Jefferson in 1912. In 1917, an independent school system was created by the legislature for Braselton. Maysville's school system merged with Jackson County's in 1941. Braselton's independent school system merged with Jackson County in 1950.¹

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Prehistoric and historic archaeological sites have been identified in Jackson County. The Georgia Archaeological Site File identified 181 known sites (1996). This list is not definitive or complete. It does not include all archaeological sites, but known or documented sites. Specific information regarding these sites "exists for the use of individuals, government agencies, and organizations that are engaged in legitimate research and cultural resource management activities." (Site File Policy statement, 1996.) Research is available on a fee basis and at the discretion of the Georgia Archaeological Site File.

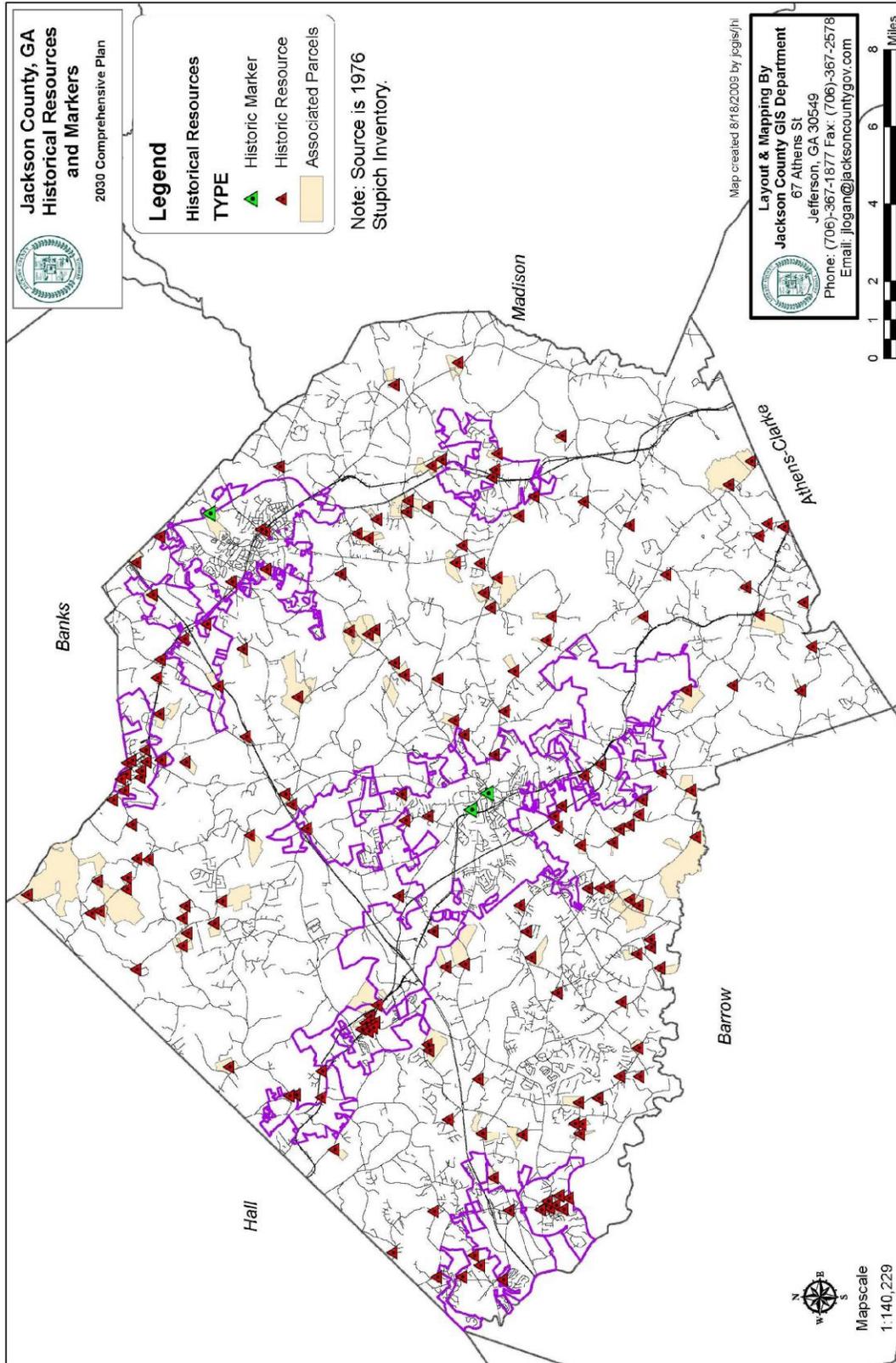
SURVEY OF HISTORIC RESOURCES

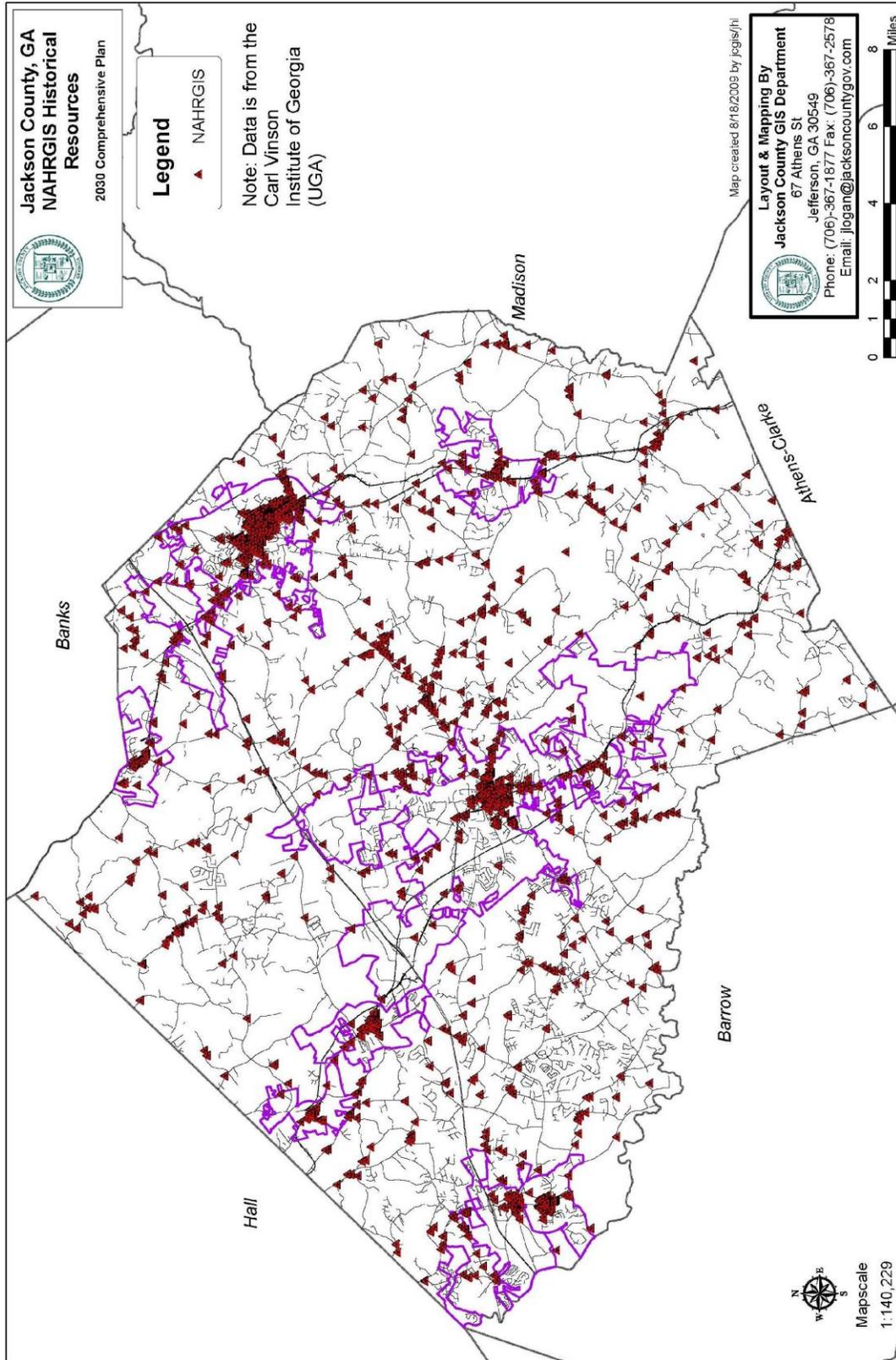
In 1976, Jackson County's historic buildings were surveyed to identify properties that appeared eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The survey was sponsored by the Department of Natural Resources. Information on each surveyed building includes an estimated date of construction, description of architectural features, and condition of building. In Jackson County, 209 historic buildings were surveyed. In Commerce, 53 buildings were surveyed and 51 buildings in Jefferson. This same survey found 11 historic buildings in Hoschton. Information regarding the current condition of these 313 historic buildings is unavailable. The survey's information is obtainable at the Historic Preservation Division and the Northeast Georgia RDC. A map reflecting this inventory is provided on the following page.

Since 1976, many of the county's and cities' historic buildings have been physically altered or destroyed. In addition, many buildings not included in the 1976 survey need to be identified and recorded. The 1998 comprehensive plan called for a new, updated survey for the county and individual cities.

Another, more recent survey was done by student at the University of Georgia (NARGIS). The accuracy and reliability of this information has not been verified, and it is thought that the resources shown on this map have not been carefully verified in the sense of the standards followed in the 1976 inventory. It is provided here, however, as supplemental information.

¹ Leadership Jackson County. April 1990. "School Merger: A History of the School Merger Issue in Jackson County."





NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Overview

The National Register of Historic places is our country's list of historic resources that are worthy of preservation. The list is maintained by the U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Park Service. In Georgia, the National Register program is administered by the Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Department of Natural Resources. To be listed in the National Register, a property must meet the National Register criteria for evaluation. These criteria require that a property be old enough to be considered historic (generally at least 50 years old) and that it still look and appear as it did in the past. In addition, the property must (a) be associated with events, activities, or developments that were important in the past; or (b) be associated with the lives of people who were important in the past; or (c) be significant in the areas of architectural history, landscape history, or engineering; or (d) have the ability to yield information through archaeological investigation that would answer questions about our past.

Listing on the National Register does not place obligations or restrictions on the use or disposition of and individual property. National Register listing is not the same as local historic district zoning or local landmark designation that protects listed properties with design review. Properties listed in, or eligible for, the National Register are subject to an environmental review for projects using federal funds--regardless of the amount. National Register listing does not encourage public acquisition of or access to property. Properties listed in the National Register qualify for both state and federal grant programs. These programs offer financial incentives for the repair and rehabilitation of listed properties.

National Register Listings in Jackson County

In Jackson County, the following historic resources are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Following the name of each property is a brief description of the property and related information.

1. **Seaborn M. Shankle House** (Commerce) is a building originally constructed in 1840 and enlarged in the 1970s. The property includes the Shankle family cemetery and an outbuilding. The house was constructed by Seaborn Shankle who operated a mercantile business in the area until his death in 1885 and remained a prominent member of the Harmony Grove Community (later named Commerce). The Seaborn M Shankle House was the first property in Jackson County listed in the National Register (November 29, 1979) and included 1.3 acres of land.
2. **Hillcrest/Allen Clinic and Hospital** (Hoschton) is a Neoclassical-styled building constructed between 1914-1917. The building was originally owned and used by two doctors, L.C. and Myron Allen who specialized in early radium procedures in the treatment of tumors. The hospital was known regionally and state wide, attracting patients from all areas of the state. The property, at the time of its National Register listing on May 2, 1985, covered 6.11 acres and included seven outbuildings. It is also considered regionally significant and included in the Northeast Georgia Regional Comprehensive Plan as a regionally significant historic resource.

3. **Maysville Historic District.** The Maysville Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on December 10, 1985 and comprises approximately one-half of the total land area inside the city limits. A unique characteristic of the community is its location in both Banks and Jackson Counties. The boundary runs along the Southern Railroad track through the center of town. Homer Street is the north-south axis of the town and is considered one of the community's central arteries in conjunction with East and West Main Streets. East and West Main are located on either side of the railroad and roughly represent the town's east-west axis. Systems of smaller surface streets extend from these three principal arteries that form the backbone of the present historic district (Source: Maysville Comprehensive Plan, Community Assessment, Chapter 7, Historic Resources).
4. **Gov. L. G. Hardman House** (Commerce) is a two-story brick house constructed in 1921 and Mediterranean or Mission architectural style. The house was the home of Dr. Hardman, who was a noted physician, successful businessman, and politician--serving in the Georgia House of Representatives and as the Governor of Georgia. The property includes five acres of land and was listed on June 16, 1988.
5. **Commerce Commercial Historic District** (Commerce) comprises late 19th and early, 20th-century buildings covering approximately nine acres in downtown Commerce. This district is situated along the ridge which is followed by the railroad and is the dividing watershed for three rivers. The irregular street pattern is due to the city being at the site of a confluence of several wagon roads which were later intersected by the railroad. Most of the buildings are of brick construction and several with cast iron storefronts. The district was listed in the National Register on January 19, 1989.
6. **Holder Plantation** is a c. 1867 rural farmhouse that includes numerous outbuildings and landscape features related to its use as a farm during the 19th and early 20th centuries. It is located three and one-half miles northwest of downtown Jefferson on U.S. Highway 129. The Holder Plantation consists of an I-house with a one-story rear ell, numerous historic outbuildings, and surrounding pasture and woodlands which at one time made up a working cotton plantation. The main house dates from c. 1867 and is a two-story, frame, one-room deep addition to the 1850s structure which forms part of the rear ell. The son of one owner was John N. Holder, longtime owner/editor of The Jackson Herald and five time candidate for Governor. The property, as the time of its listing on September 5, 1990, included 27.54 acres of land. It is also considered regionally significant and included in the Northeast Georgia Regional Comprehensive Plan. Holder Plantation was recognized as a Centennial Farm in 1993.
7. **The Shields-Ethridge Heritage Farm** has been a working farm complex since 1799. The main house was built in 1866. Its plantation plain facade was changed to represent the Neoclassical style in 1914. Over 60 other structures are part of this historic district, including tenant houses, a two-room schoolhouse, barns and storage buildings, along with a cotton gin complex, a commissary and grist mill/hammer mill operation which served the surrounding farm population. It is located two and one half miles south of downtown Jefferson, southwest of the intersection of U.S. 129 and Ethridge Road. It was listed in the National Register on June 25, 1992, and a portion of the Farm was subsequently deeded to The Shields-Ethridge Farm Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit organization. The Farm was also recognized as a Georgia Centennial Heritage Farm by the Department of Natural Resources in 1993. The Foundation manages a portion of the original farm and provides tours and hosts annual events that are open to the public. The

farm complex, as a whole, in 1997 was in the process of being restored for its use as an outdoor agricultural museum. “Bachelors’ Academy,” located at the Shields-Ethridge Heritage Farm, is a restored, two-room building that accommodated one teacher for seven grades. The Shields-Ethridge Farm is included in the Northeast Georgia Regional Comprehensive Plan as a regionally significant historic resource.

8. **The Williamson-Maley-Turner Farm** is an early 20th farm that includes several significant outbuildings used as part of the farm’s dairy operations. It is located on Georgia Highway 15, the Commerce-Jefferson Road. The main house is a Craftsman-styled building and constructed in 1913. The farm includes a distinctive round barn that is significant for its uses in experimental agricultural technologies. The round barn was built to serve as a dairy barn. It was modeled after round barns seen in the northern states and is presently used as a furniture store. At the time of its National Register listing on July 7, 1995, the farm property covered approximately 50 acres of land. It is also identified as a regionally significant historic resource in the Northeast Georgia Regional Comprehensive Plan.

9. **The Talmo Historic District** (Talmo) is a small district comprising approximately 40 acres and including ten historic buildings that evidence two periods of development in 1866 and 1883. Talmo is representative of a railroad community that developed as a crossroads community. The community also evidences cotton production in Jackson County, as the location of the high quality of cotton grown and known as the “Talmo Cotton District.”



Source: Talmo Comprehensive Plan, Technical Addendum to Community Assessment, 2008

10. **Jackson County Courthouse** is one of the oldest courthouses still in use. It was built in 1879 by W. W. Thomas with locally made bricks from the 1820 courthouse.

11. **Braselton Downtown:** The Downtown District is the Town of Braselton’s most significant cultural resource and is designated on the National Register of Historic Places.

12. **The Hoschton Depot:** The Hoschton Depot is the only physical evidence of the railroad that exists in the town. It was built in 1883 to provide train service with The Gainesville Midland Railroad line. The depot operated until 1947 and provided for both passenger and freight service. The depot, like others found in Georgia, contained a large freight room, a smaller passenger waiting room and an interior ticket room. The railroad line stretched from Gainesville to Monroe (Walton County) and then linked to the Georgia Railroad in Social Circle. The Hoschton Depot was rehabilitated in 2002 as part of a Transportation Enhancement project funded through the Georgia Dept. of Transportation. It was listed on the National Register on March 31, 2000 (Source: Hoschton Comprehensive Plan).

HISTORIC RESOURCES IN MUNICIPALITIES

This section lists historic resources within the various cities in Jackson County, not already identified under the discussion of National Register-listed landmarks, properties, and districts.

Arcade

The 1998 comprehensive plan indicates that there are several historic properties exist in the City of Arcade, but no listing is provided.

Braselton

1. **The W.H. Braselton home** is a two-story, Neoclassical building that is located south of Braselton's town center. The city purchased the building in 1995, intending to rehabilitate the building for its adaptive-use as a city hall. Stabilization repairs to the building began in 1996. The Town of Braselton sought National Register listing for the W.H. Braselton home.
2. **Braselton Store** is the site of the Braselton brothers enterprise, dating back to 1884.
3. **Green Braselton House** is a neoclassical house was built in 1918 for Green Braselton, one of the three Braselton brothers.
4. **John O. Braselton House** is a neoclassical house built in 1904 and was the home of John O. Braselton, the youngest of the three brothers who began the firm of the Braselton Brothers.
5. **W. H. Braselton House:** This home of the eldest brother, W. H. Braselton, was built in 1910 in the neoclassical style.
6. **Braselton Historic District:** The immediate area of the Braselton Brothers Store, W. H. Braselton Home and several other historic resources could be nominated as a potential National Register district. All of the Town's historic resources were being considered for National Register listing as a historic district.

In 1996, two of Braselton's historic buildings were destroyed: The Braselton Hotel, considered a landmark, was destroyed by arson, and the Braselton Blacksmith shop was demolished to provide additional parking space for an adjacent business.

Commerce

1. **Shankle Heights Historic District:** Located on Victoria and Elizabeth streets and comprised of c. 1920-1942 residential buildings with several Neoclassical homes.
2. **Old Broad Street Historic District:** Comprised of several historic buildings located near the L. G. Hardman House. These properties could be individually listed or included in a district.
3. **Broad Street Properties:** Several buildings dating to c. 1894 are located on Broad Street and between Elm Street. These buildings may be eligible for individual National Register nominations.

Hoschton

In 2002, the Georgia “Find It” Program, a survey partnership sponsored by the Georgia Transmission Corporation (GTC) in partnership with the Georgia Historic Preservation Division (HPD) and the University of Georgia, surveyed cultural resources in Hoschton. It “intensively” identified historic resources and is probably the most accurate data available. It identified seventy-five historic properties in the town. Of these, twenty-seven were believed to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (Source: Hoschton Comprehensive Plan).

Based on this more recent survey, a small, intact historic district could be delineated and possibly nominated to the National Register. **The Hoschton Historic District** (proposed) would include some of the 27 surveyed historic properties extending to the downtown’s commercial buildings and surrounding residential buildings. While Hoschton does contain many historic resources, many intrusions (e.g., infill development) have created gaps within the historic areas. In addition, physical changes to individual historic buildings that altered their historic character will affect the boundaries of a potential district. Further research is needed on individual historic properties and the district as a whole to evaluate Hoschton’s National Register eligibility.

Jefferson

1. **Jefferson Downtown Historic District:** A locally designated district of Jefferson which includes the downtown commercial district and historic residences. Included in this district are the Ethridge-Gurley House (c. 1836) and the Ethridge-Daniel House (1910) on Lee Street, the Pendergrass-Snare House (1893), and the Smith House (1913) on Sycamore Avenue. The downtown local historic district also contains the Crawford W. Long Museum complex located on the former site of Dr. Long’s office on the public square.

2. **Crawford W. Long Museum:** Located in Jefferson, this three-building complex includes the Pendergrass store of 1858 and the two story drugstore/office building built by Dr. J. B. Pendergrass in 1879. The museum is located on the site where Dr. Crawford W. Long performed the first operation with ether anesthesia on March 30, 1842. Open since 1957, the Museum commemorates Long’s discovery of ether’s use as an anesthetic and the first painless surgery which took place March 30, 1842. The original museum building was constructed in 1879.



Source: Jefferson Comprehensive Plan, Community Agenda, 2008

3. **Bruce Home:** Washington Street, Jefferson. Built 1875 with Greek Revival fluted Doric columns and pilasters with a full-height porch.
4. **Ethridge-Gurley House:** Located in Jefferson and built in c. 1836, it is the oldest existing house in Jefferson.

5. **Jefferson Depot:** One-story frame building with a hipped standing seam metal roof supported by large brackets under the eaves.
6. **Pendergrass Store:** Incorporated as part of the museum in 1987, the Pendergrass store was largely built in 1858.
7. **Washington Lawrenceville Historic District:** This locally designated residential district in Jefferson contains a mixture of late 19th and early, 20th-century homes as well as two historic districts.
8. **Turner Goodwin House:** Located on Lawrenceville Avenue.
9. **Jefferson Mills,** established in 1899, remains as the oldest industry in town. A mill village was constructed around the Victorian-era brick mill and contributes two distinctive building types to Jefferson.
10. **Washington Street Historic District:** A small residential district located along Washington Street and south of Elm Street.

Maysville

Maysville was not included in the coverage of the 1998 comprehensive plan for Jackson County. However, the county's 1998 plan indicates that: "the Task Force reported that historic properties in Maysville are being allowed to be demolished by neglect."

Maysville has a large historic district listed on the National Register of Historic Places. However, it lacks protection ordinances and does not have a historic preservation commission. It proposes to certify the city's downtown development authority to serve as the historic preservation commission.

Nicholson

The Freeman House is one of the oldest houses in Jackson County and built of hand-hewn logs.

Pendergrass

The 1998 plan indicates that many historic buildings in Pendergrass are being repaired, but others have deteriorated beyond the point of repair. The town has retained its depot which serves as the center of the city limits.

Talmo

As noted previously Talmo has received recognition in the National Register of Historic Places.

AGRICULTURAL AND FARM RESOURCES IN UNINCORPORATED JACKSON COUNTY

This section identifies historic and cultural resources not listed on the National Register of Historic Places. They are divided into types of resources (agricultural/farm, institutional, etc.)

Jackson County has a long and rich agricultural tradition. Many significant farms existed in the county and several historic farms remain that evidence the past. The county's rural character is also considered one of the county's main attributes.

Georgia Centennial Farms Overview

In the state of Georgia, farms that contribute to the state's agricultural heritage are recognized by the Georgia Centennial Farm Program. This program is administered by the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources in cooperation with the Georgia Farm Bureau Federation, the Georgia Department of Agriculture, the University of Georgia, College of Agriculture and Environmental Services, the Georgia National Fair and the Georgia Forestry Commission.

The program recognizes farms through three types of award categories: (1) the Centennial Heritage Farm Award, (2) the Centennial Farm Award and (3) Centennial Family Farm Award. Each category requires that eligible farms use a minimum of 10 acres for agriculture production or earn \$1,000 in farm generated income. Other requirements pertain to each category involving ownership and National Register listing as follows:

- Centennial Heritage Farms, owned by members of the same family for 100 years or more and listed in the National Register;
- Centennial Farm Award, at least 100 years old and listed in the National Register; and
- Centennial Family Farm, owned by members of the same family for 100 years or more and not listed in the National Register.

Centennial Farms in Jackson County

In Jackson County, four farms are recognized as Georgia Heritage Farms from the three categories. These farms include:

1. The Shields-Ethridge Farm (Centennial Heritage Farm)
2. Holder Plantation (Centennial Farm)
3. Sarah & Clarence Carson Farm (Centennial Family Farm)
4. Johnson Farm (Centennial Family Farm)

Jackson County's history indicates that farms played an important role in its economic development during the 19th and 20th centuries. Farms also comprise many of the county's historic resources as well as cultural landscapes. Farms in Jackson County, more generally, contribute to its rural character and its inherent qualities. The recognized farms not only represent important cultural resources, but may possess opportunities related to tourism and promoting the county's quality of life. Because of Jackson County's strong associations to agriculture, many other farms may be eligible for recognition by the Centennial Farm program.

Other Agricultural Resources

1. **Sells Community** is located off state Route 53 south of Hoschton near the intersection of Watkins and Jackson Trail roads. This community began as a dairy farm. The owner's main house, a store, and tenant houses comprise a small farming community historic district.

2. **The Duke Farm**, sometimes known as the Hallelujah Farm, is located on Highway 60 and was the site of one of the official state distilleries. This site has been specifically identified as suitable for centennial farm designation.
3. **State Arboretum**: A 318-acre forest deeded to the University of Georgia in 1980 from the estate of Jason Newton Thompson. The forest is two miles southwest of Braselton and includes more than 100 species of native Georgia trees.

INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCES IN UNINCORPORATED JACKSON COUNTY

1. **Etoho Baptist Church**, located at Hurricane Shoals, was probably the first church in the county. The church was established in 1788 and was moved in 1852 to its current site on the Jefferson-Maysville Road. The name was changed during the move from Etoho to Oconee Baptist.
2. **Thyatira Presbyterian Church** was the second church in the county, founded in 1795. As of 1997 it was still in existence. It is located three miles south of its original location on the Commerce-Jefferson Road.
3. **Cabin Creek Baptist Church** was the third church established in the county (1796).
4. **Crooked Creek Baptist Church** was founded near an Indian village in 1803, off the Athens-Jefferson Road.
5. **The Academy Baptist Church**, established in 1810, was located three miles north of Jefferson off the Jefferson-Gainesville Road.
6. **The Groaning Rock Community (?)**

TRANSPORTATION RESOURCES

Native American Trails

Several early Native-American and frontier trails extend through Jackson County. These trails were important in the development of the county, the northeast Georgia region, and the state of Georgia. Many of Jackson County's towns were founded sites of Native-American villages; Native-American history is important to the county's and cities' history. There such trails are evident from prior analyses:

1. **Jackson Trail** is an old Indian trail that crosses through Jackson County.
2. **The Locoda Trail**, passing through Center, Nicholson, Commerce, and Maysville, was a historic Indian trail in the area.
3. **The Okoloco Indian Trail**, passed through the western part of Jackson County where the Hog Mountain Road is now located.

Historic Bridges

In Jackson County, several historic bridges remain that evidence the county's early road development. In particular, the double-arched bridge in Jefferson is significant as a historic structure.

LOCAL FORMAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION EFFORTS

Local Historic District Designation and Protection

Jefferson enacted a Historic Preservation Ordinance in 1986 which established the Jefferson Historic Preservation Commission. There are six historic districts located in and around the downtown area of Jefferson. The six districts are Downtown, Martin-Cooley, Oak Avenue, Paradise Cemetery, Washington-Lawrenceville, and Woodbine Cemetery.

Certified Local Government

The Certified Local Government (CLG) program was created by the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980 in order to formally establish a federal-state-local preservation partnership. The amendments outline five broad standards that must be met by a local government in order to be granted “certified local government” status. These standards include:

1. Enforcing appropriate state or local legislation for the designation and protection of historic properties;
2. Establishing an adequate and qualified historic preservation review commission by local legislation,
3. Maintaining a system for survey and inventory of historic properties,
4. Providing for adequate public participation in the local historic preservation program, including the process of recommending properties to the National Register of Historic Places, and
5. Satisfactorily performing the remaining responsibilities delegated to it by Federal and State governments.

The role of “certified local governments” in the federal-state-local partnership involves, at minimum, the responsibility for review and approval of nominations of properties to the National Register of Historic Places, and the eligibility to apply to the State Historic Preservation Officer for matching funds reserved for “certified local governments.” In Georgia, the Certified Local Government program is served by the Office of Preservation Services located at the University of Georgia in Athens. This office can provide guidance and technical service related to CLGs. They also provide grant applications and information for preservation projects.

Restoration Efforts

Jefferson is restoring the Historic Crawford W. Long Museum. Jackson County is restoring the historic courthouse in Jefferson. Jackson County has also preserved selected historic buildings from demolition and destruction and located them to the Hurricane Shoals County Park.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter provides substantial evidence of the importance of historic resources in Jackson County and its municipalities. The cities have rich histories based on prior agricultural use, the rise and fall of the cotton industry, and the development of railroads through the county. Some of Jackson County’s history has literally been parceled off in the form of a new county (Barrow). Its first county seat, Clarksboro, seems to have no recognition in the county at all.

The county's focus on historic and cultural resources should consist of a two-pronged strategy, with various, multiple objectives for each. First, the county should recognize and nurture the efforts of municipalities in Jackson County, especially including Braselton, Commerce, Jefferson, Hoschoton, and Maysville (but not neglecting any of the cities), and find a way to weave the individual municipal efforts together into a formalized municipal historic preservation program for Jackson County. Many of the cities in Jackson County are still too small to devote enough resources to historic preservation. Though private groups and the Northeast Georgia Regional Commission (as well as the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission with regard to Maysville) have done admirable work in terms of technical assistance and other support, a formal program needs to be established if preservation and its importance to heritage tourism and downtown revitalization are to be truly recognized and nourished in Jackson County.

Secondly, in addition to a formal municipal preservation program assisted at the county level, Jackson County itself needs to strengthen and focus its efforts on the many agricultural and rural resources in the unincorporated areas of the county. Such efforts should include aggressive actions to nominate more properties for centennial farm status, a more thorough inventory of resources in the unincorporated parts of the county, an interim preservation protection ordinance, and ultimately, strong consideration to a countywide historic preservation program to protect resources in unincorporated parts of the county.

Assuming that these recommended actions receive consensus support by the county (its plan steering committee, the planning commission, and the board of commissioners), the Community Agenda should lay out in detail the necessary actions, steps, policies, programs, and implementing tools.