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JUNE 1996

ATHENS HISTORIC DISTRICTS & LANDMARKS



LEGEND

- DESIGNATED AS ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY HISTORIC DISTRICTS & LANDMARKS and LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
- DESIGNATED UNDER ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY HISTORIC PRESERVATION ORDINANCE ONLY
- NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES ONLY



JUNE 1996

**ATHENS HISTORIC
DISTRICTS & LANDMARKS
and
NATIONAL REGISTER
OF HISTORIC PLACES**

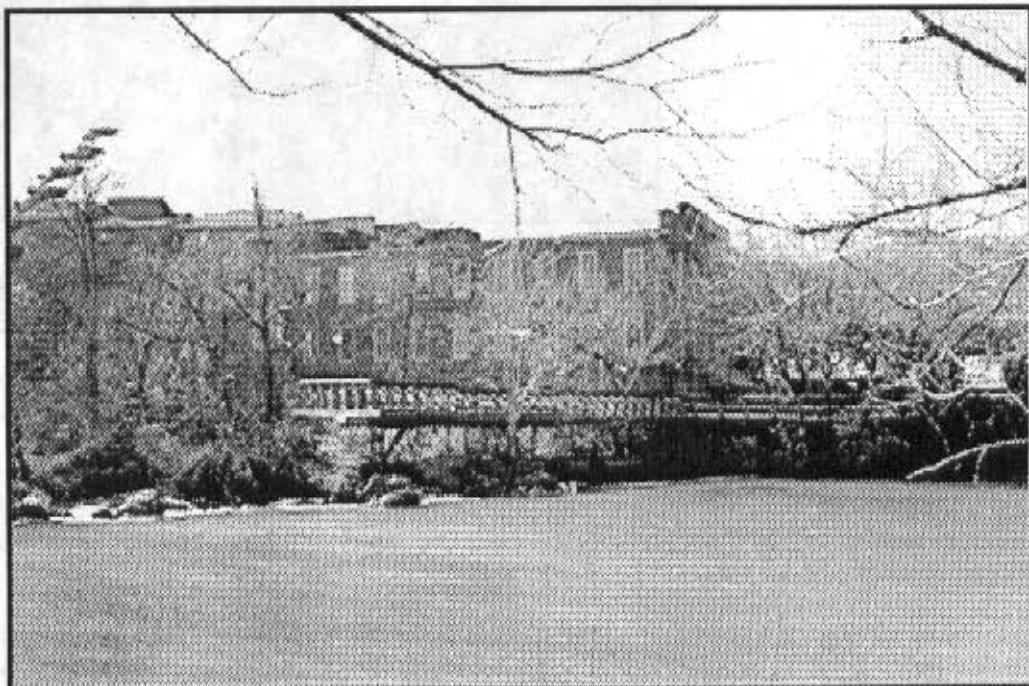
ATHENS FACTORY

The Athens Factory, formerly known as the Athens Cotton and Wool Factory and more recently as the Old Mill, is located on Tax Parcel No. 17-1-D2-G-002A on the west bank of the North Oconee River at the intersection of Baldwin and Williams streets.

The historic industrial complex consists of two brick buildings joined together to form an L-shape. The smaller "wool" building was built on the riverbank parallel to the river. The larger "cotton" building extends westward at a right angle from the south end of the wool building. Rectangular in plan, the three-story wool building still has its original stone-walled millrace, which passes through the walls of the irregular-cut stone foundation that supports the ground floor. Load-bearing brick walls and internal timber framing support the partitionless upper floors and the flat roof. On the northeast elevation, a stepped parapet obscures the roof and its rafters, and flat "jack" arches of brick appear over the windows. Similar in almost every respect, the four-story cotton building displays a more slender and elongated form. The western end of the north elevation features the principal entrance, a round-headed, double doorway located beneath a segmental arch and housed in a square projecting tower. A brick-enclosed elevator shaft occupies the inner angle where the two buildings join; astride the millrace at the outer angle stands the structure that first housed the turbine and later the generator. Changes in brickwork and fenestration indicate subsequent enlargements to both buildings. At one time the original five acres contained a complex of outbuildings including a picker house, a stone warping house, dye houses, boiler rooms, and warehouses. The amended property boundary omits 2.3 acres where modern construction had severely disturbed the archeological potential.

Often confused with the Athens Factory because of its early use of the same name and the overlap of its investors, the Georgia Factory was founded in 1829 by John Johnson, William Dearing, John Nisbet, Augustin S. Clayton, and Abraham Walker, who began its construction at shoals several miles downstream known today as Whitehall. Three years later these same men, except for Johnson, purchased from William A. Carr approximately 55 acres on the North Oconee River, which included the five-acre tract where they built the Athens Cotton and Wool Factory. Both mills operated under the name Athens Manufacturing Company until the investors sold the downstream mill to John R. White around 1835. White's mill was known thereafter as the Georgia Factory, with its nearby owner's mansion and mill village of Whitehall. The in-town mill became known as the Athens Factory. Initially of wood-frame construction, the Athens Factory's first buildings suffered from fires that destroyed the complex in 1834 and again in 1857, which led in 1858 to construction of the brick buildings extant today. This waterpowered factory complex manufactured cotton yarns, woolen yarns, and cloth. The company sold off a sixteen-acre tract some hundred yards upstream for the construction of the Cook and Brothers Confederate Armory in 1862, repurchased the parcel in 1870, and converted the armory building into a "weaving" mill. The Athens Factory continued operations through the first quarter of the twentieth century, finally closing in 1926 three years short of its hundredth birthday. The company dissolved in 1947, the Southern Mill Supply Company acquired the Athens Factory buildings in 1957, and the next year Chicopee Mills bought the weaving mill in the old armory building. Then in 1977, William L. Laird purchased four acres of the Athens Factory's original five-acre tract with the existing brick buildings and rehabilitated them into the Old Mill Center, a complex that included a tavern/restaurant and shops. O'Malley's Tavern, which opened there in 1978, currently operates a fitness center, bar, and restaurant within the Athens Factory buildings.

The Athens Factory is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (July 31, 1980), and the Georgia Historic Marker Program has given marker recognition to the Cook and Brothers Confederate Armory (029-02).



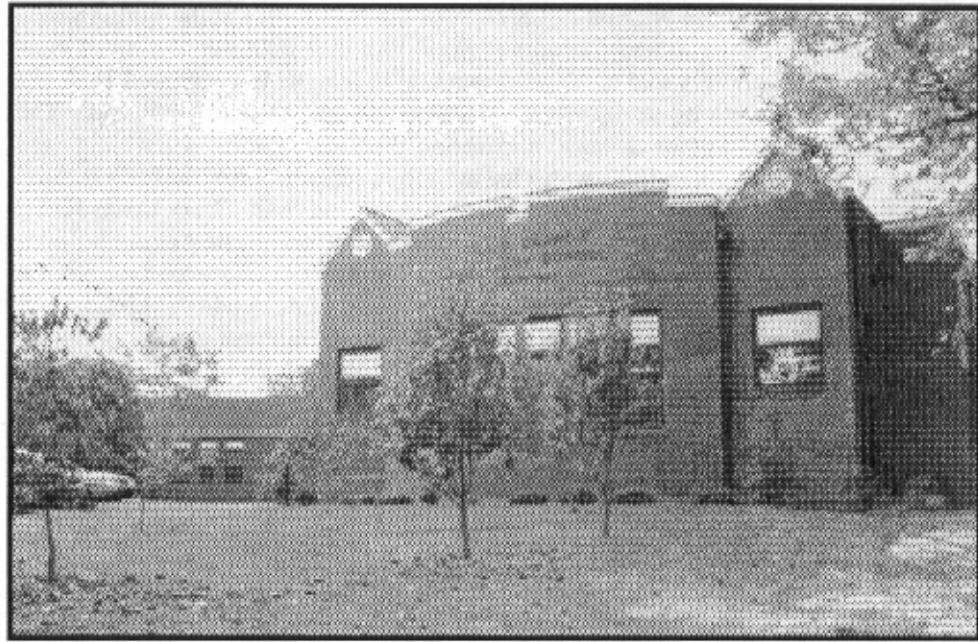
BARROW SCHOOL

The David C. Barrow School, also known as the Lumpkin School, is located at 100 Pinecrest Street (Tax Parcel No. 17-3-A1-F-004), north of Five Points and east of the Lumpkin Street traffic artery.

This large brick building was originally a rectangular but asymmetrical structure built in 1923 with classrooms on only one side of the main hallway. It took on its current irregular form through the construction of several additions. The present double-gable roof resulted from classrooms being added along the main hall of the original building. Doorways on either end of this corridor have gabled-roof entry porches with exposed rafter ends and supporting brackets, typical of the Craftsman style. The older sections of the school feature Flemish bond and decorative brickwork, and panels appear over the windows in the customary location for transoms. Recessed side entrances of the original building display arched doorways with an entablature and flanking columns. A brick tower with a pyramidal roof calls attention to the juncture of the wings of the older building and a later addition built in two-story Prairie style. Other additions built in 1986 mimic the original structure by utilizing gables, a similar cornice, and round vents.

Opened in 1923, the institution was named after then Chancellor of the University of Georgia, David C. Barrow, reputed to be one of the foremost educators in America. The building remains one of the two oldest schools still operating in Athens; the other is Chase Street School, built the same year. The Oconee Street and College Avenue schools are older but have been adaptively converted to office use.

The David Barrow School is locally designated as a Historic Landmark (January 8, 1991).



BISHOP HOUSE

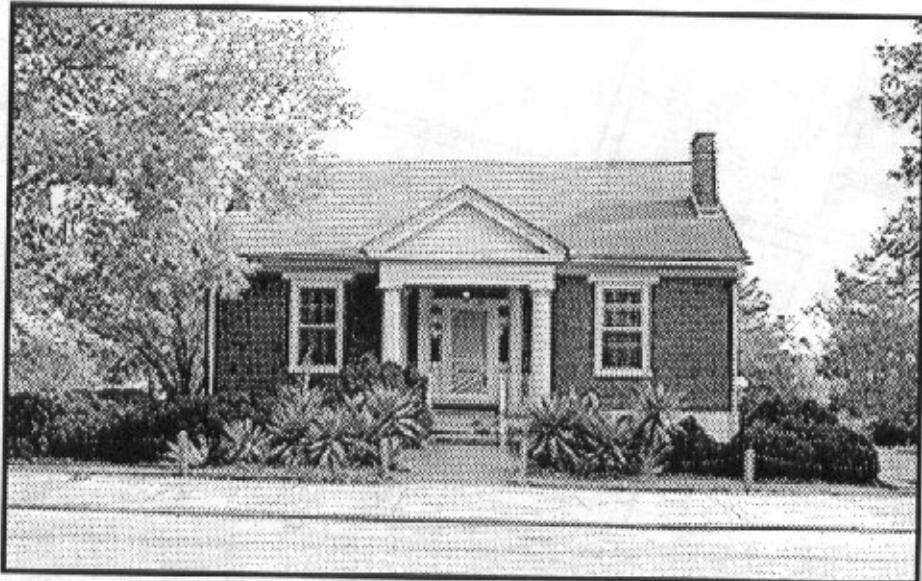
The Bishop House, also known as the Bishop Cottage, is located on the east side of Jackson Street (Tax Parcel No. 17-1), which bounded the eastern edge of the campus of Franklin College, the original nucleus of the University of Georgia.

This one-and-one-half-story brick structure, built on a four-over-four, room central hall plan with a one-story front porch, sits on a raised basement concealed by the hillside slope of the lot. Representative of the Greek Revival style, twin Doric columns support its small pediment. A stringcourse delineates the main floor level, and whitewashed stone lintels accent the windows. The main entrance features a transom and sidelights.

Englishman Thomas Bishop came to Athens from Massachusetts in 1835 and opened a grocery store. After acquiring the building site from the Trustees of the University of Georgia, he constructed the house in 1837. Bishop and his heirs retained

ownership of the house for more than a century until the University bought it in 1942. Adjacent to Old North Campus and currently occupied by the Department of Classics, the Bishop House was individually nominated to the National Register because it was non-contiguous, separated from Old North Campus by Jackson Street.

The Bishop House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (March 16, 1976).



BLOOMFIELD STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

The Bloomfield Historic District is the area roughly bounded on the west by heavily-traveled South Milledge Avenue, on the north by Peabody Street one block south of the Baxter Street east-west traffic artery, on the east by the University of Georgia grounds, and on the south by Rutherford Street one block west of the Lumpkin Street thoroughfare.

This densely developed thirty acre district is named for Bloomfield Street, its principal avenue, running parallel to South Milledge and intersected by several other streets. Houses with uniform setbacks stand on small and predominantly rectangular lots. As the principal building material, wood functions structurally and decoratively, although brick and stucco finishes or detailing appear among the more recent houses. The northern end of the district features Victorian Eclectic houses dating from the 1890s; these wood-framed structures exhibit modest period detailing including gable ends with decorative vents, bay windows, and wrap-around porches. Developed in the first two decades of the twentieth century, the southern portion of the district encompasses residences of the Craftsman style and Bungalow form along with a few buildings of the American Foursquare form and the Tudor Revival style. Typical features include low-pitched roofs, front dormers, wide eaves with exposed rafters, a variety of exterior wall treatments, and massive front porches. Only a few 1950s apartment buildings intrude on the intact portion of this historic urban neighborhood.

In the late 1880s Robert L. Bloomfield, a prominent Athens industrialist and landowner, subdivided a portion of his land along the east side of Bloomfield Street into lots, where several houses were soon built. In 1912 his son-in-law, John E. Talmadge, Jr., divided the nearby Hall Street area into lots. The west side of Bloomfield Street, mostly back lots and cow pasture for the large homes on South Milledge Avenue, began to be sold off and subdivided in the 1920s. The southernmost portion of this district was surveyed and subdivided in 1890, but John Mell purchased all the lots and attached them to his adjoining residence on South Milledge Avenue, which delayed development of this area. The proximity of the Milledge Avenue streetcar line made the district increasingly attractive to middle-class Athenians, which stimulated its growth during the Twenties and Thirties into a modest middle-class neighborhood.

Within the Bloomfield district, buildings judged worthy of individual recognition include the Parr House (see Inventory: Part I) and three residences located at 145, 163, and 193 Mell Street, all of them interpretations of the Craftsman style designed by turn of the century Athens architect, Fred Orr.

The Bloomfield Street Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (April 18, 1985) and has been locally designated as a Historic District (November 1, 1988).