

CHAPTER SEVEN

HISTORIC AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

History of White County

The Cherokee Indians are considered to be the first inhabitants of the area known today as White County, Georgia. However, one source indicates that the Creek Indians relinquished the Helen/Robertstown/Nacoochee Valley area to the Cherokee Indians. Many of the Indian names still remain today. The Town Creek section of the County was named "Tesnatee" (meaning "Wild Turkey") by the Cherokee Indians. "Yonah" was an Indian word that means "bear". The "Chattahoochee River" was an Indian name that means "river of painted rocks".

Nacoochee Valley was a prominent Cherokee Indian settlement. Indians were forcibly removed from the region around 1836. Claims have been made that Spaniards of the DeSoto expedition visited Nacoochee during May, 1540. However, these claims are basically unsubstantiated and disputed by consulted historical references.

Carolínians reportedly explored the area even before the founding of the Georgia Colony in 1733. However, the first Whites that settled in the area were sixty-one families, who originally came from Burke County and Rutherford County, North Carolina in 1822 or 1823 to Nacoochee Valley. These families spread across the County and their trades included carpentry, blacksmithing, masonry, farming, and preaching. The State of Georgia acquired the Nacoochee, Sautee and Helen areas in the Treaty of 1819 with the Cherokee Indians and used a "land lottery" to distribute the land and to hasten development. Present day White County was originally a part of the fourth land lottery in Georgia.

The Town Creek section of White County was settled earlier than 1822 by the Oxford and Owensby families in the area of Tesnatee. The Tesnatee Baptist Church is located in that early settled section of the County.

In 1828, the finding of gold in the area of Dukes Creek provided the impetus for rapid growth in population. Prospectors from North Carolina moved to the County and soon made other gold discoveries on the Chattahoochee River, Bean Creek and in the Loudsville Community.

Gold was mined for more than a century in White County, and more than one-third of Georgia's gold came from White County. A black servant of Major Frank Logan of Loudsville, Georgia, named James Witheroods, is credited for discovering the gold in 1828. The County contained nine gold mines as late as 1939. The largest gold nugget ever found in the United States east of the Mississippi River was found in the Hamby Mines in White County. Prospectors came from North Carolina diggings to participate in the White County gold rush. People came from England specifically to mine, including preachers and educators. The gold mines eventually began to be worked out and gold mining subsided. Asbestos was the only other mineral that was mined extensively in White County, although some iron was mined during the American Civil War to produce Joe Brown bayonets made in the County. Occupations of White Countians at the time of the Civil War included farming, cattle raising, spinning, weaving, corn milling, and leather

tanning. The County also contained eight distilleries, three jug factories, 30 grist mills, one flour mill, 20 sawmills, and three gold mines.

From the 1830's until 1925, the Logan Turnpike was a privately owned toll road and the only direct route south over the Blue Ridge Mountains for area farmers to market their produce. The turnpike was maintained by hand labor and the Logan family collected a toll at the gate near their home near Cleveland. The charge was 25 cents per wagon and five cents a head for livestock. The road was used by mountain people to drive cattle, sheep, and turkeys to market in Gainesville, Commerce, and Athens. The road continued in the Logan family management until 1922 when the state constructed Highway 19-129 over Neels Gap. The abandoned seven and one-half mile road is now part of the Chattahoochee National Forest and inaccessible to the public. The Unicoi Turnpike, chartered in 1821, ran through the Unicoi Gap and Nacoochee Valley to Clarkesville. During the Civil War in 1861, Mossy Creek Campground was the starting point for at least a few companies of Confederate soldiers.

White County was originally a part of Habersham County, which was the fifty-eighth County and which was organized in 1818. At the time of Habersham County's creation, it contained today's Stephens and White Counties. White County was a part of Habersham County for thirty-nine years until its official creation on December 22, 1857. The new County was named in honor of Col. White, a Georgia General Assembly member who achieved reconsideration and then approval of the incorporation bill at the same session it was introduced by William B. Shelton and failed. The County Seat, which prior to White County was known as Mt. Yonah, was named "Cleveland" in honor of General Benjamin Cleveland, a General of the Militia, State Representative, and State Senator of Habersham County.

On December 11, 1858, a tri-weekly, two horseback mail line was established between Clarkesville and Dahlonega and passed through Cleveland on a road now known as Underwood Street. The post office at that time was kept in part of a building, which stood on the present County lot. Edwin P. Williams of Nacoochee was awarded the contract to build a courthouse and jail for the new County and construction on the courthouse was completed between 1859 and 1860. The jail was completed circa 1860 but was replaced by the present historic jail, circa 1900. Williams was paid \$10,000 in Confederate money for both projects. The sole Baptist Church in Cleveland stood on the site of the present Baptist Church and was named Mt. Yonah Baptist Church. School was taught in the building and court was held there until construction on the courthouse was complete.

In 1860 the Census reported a population in White County of 3,315, 263 of whom were considered slaves, and 11 free blacks. Population in 1820 was 3,145 while in 1830, during the gold rush in White County, the population jumped to 10,671. In 1863, a small section of eastern Lumpkin County was added to White County. This addition to White County is apparently a source of controversy today in Lumpkin County.¹

¹ Residents of a small section within White County reportedly still consider themselves a part of Lumpkin County, to which they remain tax payers. This area within White County is known in Lumpkin County as "Little Lumpkin". [Historic Resources in White County](#)

In 1881 the National Forest Service was established and several years later the Chattahoochee National Forest was defined, although little land was acquired until the 1920s. Today 41,000 acres of White County are part of the Chattahoochee National Forest.

The Lanier Meaders family from the Mossy Creek area began making pottery in 1893 and helped make White County and the Georgia Mountains known for its excellent folk pottery. Potters were drawn to the area because of the good clay and from 1920 to 1940, the Meaders' family supplied the pottery needs of local North Georgians. As early as the 1890s, White County was an attraction to summer visitors who stayed in Cleveland, Nacoochee and homes in various other portions of the County. One of Georgia's best known resorts in later years was the Mitchell Mountain Ranch Hotel in Helen, Georgia.

When the Pacelot Mills were first located in the community of New Holland near Gainesville, Georgia, many White County citizens located there for employment reasons. The result was a loss of more than 1,000 persons in a twenty-year period between 1890 and 1910.

The erection of lumber mills in the north section of the County around 1911 brought to White County banks, new businesses and by 1913, the Byrd-Matthews Lumber Mill brought the Gainesville-Northwestern Railroad. This railroad resulted in rapid development of Helen and Robertstown. This area apparently suffered some during World War I but continued to flourish until the Great Depression in the 1930s and the closing of lumber operations.

The first soldier from Georgia killed in action during World War I was Roy Head of White County, in whose honor the bridge on U.S. Highway 129 was named. In 1921, Benton McKaye proposed the Appalachian Trail as a community planning project designed as a countermeasure to the unplanned spread of the metropolitan environment. To McKaye, the purpose of the trail was not just for recreation, but to serve as a buffer between urban areas and open space and to "unravel the complexity of industrial civilization." McKaye had hoped that the trail would stimulate industrial workers who hiked the trail to view industrialism "as a means in life and not an end in itself." Although McKaye's initial proposal for the Appalachian Trail included the establishment of food and farm communities, camping communities and industrial communities, the concept developed as a hiking trail and the community planning aspects of the trail were forgotten. (Source: Ross, John R. 1975. "Benton McKaye: The Appalachian Trail." Journal of the American Institute of Planners. March, 1975.)

In 1968, Helen was a sleepy town with a population less than 200 with a dozen stores, compared to its booming lumber days of the early part of the twentieth century. A group of businessmen and artist, John Kollock, developed the concept of designing Bavarian fronts for the structures to attract tourists to the area. Compliance with the Bavarian theme was voluntary until 1978 when design guidelines were developed for the City.

Historic Resources in White County

Historic resources include historic structures and sites, historic rural resources, community landmarks, archaeological and cultural sites, and the historic environment in which they exist. They serve as visual reminders of White County's past, providing a link to its cultural heritage and a better understanding of the people and events, which shaped the patterns of its development. Preservation of these important resources makes it possible for them to continue to play an integral, vital role in the community. Because historic resources are irreplaceable, they should be protected from deterioration and the intrusion of incompatible land uses. Preservation can also provide White County with substantial savings in the cost of infrastructure through the re-use of facilities and utilities and is often less expensive than demolition and new construction.

White County's Historic Properties

White County's historic properties have been categorized according to property type to help identify them more clearly. These categories include: residential structures, agricultural outbuildings, community landmark structures and historic districts, historic commercial buildings, and archaeological resources.

Historic Residential Structures in White County

Most construction in White County, including residential, is wood, which is not surprising in a heavily forested County. Early handmade brick is present in some chimneys. Only one historic stone house was found in White County according to a survey of the County's historical resources in 1975, and the assumption is made that White County seems never to have had a major resident stonemason.

Urban styles came slowly to White County and were simplified. A few houses, such as the Nichols-Hardman Estate, exhibit elaborate highly styled features, but most historic residences in the County do not. Many houses show some traces of "gingerbread," shaped shingles or gable ends and decorative front gables.

By the early 20th-century, changes in residential construction included dropping the rear ell projection, square plans, and high pointed hipped roofs. These trends were seen in new construction in Helen and Robertstown and many other houses and schools around the County from about 1915 to 1925, and occasionally as late as 1940. Log construction still exists in White County but much of it is hidden behind weatherboard or other siding materials. Nineteenth century log was hand hewn of large timbers. A concentration of 1930's era log residences exists just west of Cleveland where smaller diameter logs were used.

Many of White County's historic residential structures presently suffer from demolition by neglect.

The historic residential structures in White County are significant for representing the various stages of settlement and development in the County. Although exact dates of construction are unknown for many of the County's historic residential structures, some may date to the early 19th century.

Many good examples of house types exist in rural sections of the County and most exhibit local craftsmanship and utilization of local materials.

Agricultural Outbuildings

Remaining historic outbuildings in White County are primarily simple, utilitarian structures and most lack stylistic or decorative ornamentation. Most exhibit the utilization of local building materials, craftsmanship, and construction techniques. Many log barns, cribs, shuck-pens, and smokehouses remain from the 19th-century.

Community Landmark Structures and Historic Districts

A variety of historic landmark buildings exist in White County. Community landmark buildings house or once housed community institutions such as local governments, educational programs and civic organizations; or they are architecturally or historically significant residential or commercial structures that are particularly important to the County as a whole. These buildings range in appearance from the very simple, such as "Grandma Bell's House", to the more ornate such as the Williams-Shelby House.

Nearly all communities that developed in White County contained one or more community institutions such as schools, churches, or post offices. A few of these structures remain scattered throughout the County today and although the communities or functions they served may be long gone, these structures are important as they represent the one-time self-sufficient nature of these small communities.

It is important to note here that the landmark structures in White County listed below are not the only structures worthy of historic preservation. GMRDC consulted the five year preservation plan, "A Vision for the Future", developed by the Historic Preservation Section of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in preparing these recommendations. It is beyond the scope of this study to address every single significant historical structure in White County. These landmark buildings are recognized as extraordinary to understanding White County's historical and physical past, but they should be considered in context with the rest of the County's historic resources as noted in the Department of Natural Resources'1976 survey and subsequent historic resources surveys. Following each particular resource is a reference number provided in the 1976 survey. Historic properties are indicated by these numbers on Map 10.

Landmarks & Districts

Westmoreland House (32)	Castleberry House (136)
"Grandma Bell's" House (35)	Loudsville Campground and Church (143)
Bugg-Knight Log Cabin (157)	Charles Roberts' House (86)
Adairs Mill (160)	Blue Creek (district) (92-94)
Thomas Residence (173)	Sautee-Nacoochee (district) Meaders Pottery & Residence (99)
White County Courthouse (1)	
White County Jail (5)	Cooley-Hood-Smith House (103)
Woodlawn School (121)	Mossy Creek Campground (104)
Yonah School (135)	Merritt-Westmoreland-Wheeler House (131)
HulseyFarm (111)	

Westmoreland House:

This structure is significant architecturally and historically. A four over four ell plan with Victorian era stylistic details, the Westmoreland (c.1880) House exhibits high style architectural elements such as dentil mounding, oval beaded glass front door and matching sidelights (c. 1920) and hand cut porch balusters uncommon on historic residential structures in White County. The property also contains several intact agricultural outbuildings significant because they illustrate the predominant means of livelihood in White County in the late 19th-century. The Westmoreland family is an important one in White County's history.

"Grandma Bell's" House:

This double pen cabin has retained its architectural integrity and is associated with James Cicero Bell, schoolteacher and Methodist minister who participated in the California Gold Rush of the 1840's and returned to White County. The interior of the house exhibits hand dressed planks, wooden latches, rock chimneys, and handmade paneled front doors. The house was moved (c. 1970) to its location across from the Tom Bell Reservation.

Richard Lumsden House:

This house, located near Duke's Creek Bridge, may date to 1830 and is probably the oldest existing structure in White County. The house exhibits a two-story Georgian

plan with a central hallway and two rooms on either side originally. The handmade brick chimneys with geometric designs are dated 1830. This structure is significant both architecturally and historically as one of White County's most important landmarks.

White County Courthouse:

The historic White County Courthouse is easily one of the most important historic structures in the County and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. It was constructed in 1859.

Williams' - Shelby House:

This 1876 Carpenter Gothic style residence is important historically as it was constructed by Georgia Walton Williams, son of early White County settlers, who made his name as a South Carolina and Charleston Banker. This residence was constructed as a summer home for Williams' family. The structure exhibits high style characteristics for White County including fine moldings, small brackets, bay windows, and shutters. An English landscape architect from Charleston landscaped the property for Williams including fountains.

Charles Roberts House:

This two-story Georgia plan house (c. 1884) contains four rooms on each floor with a central hallway with a two-room rear ell addition. The house also exhibits double galleries across the front of the house, latticework, and vernacular gingerbread work. Robertstown was named after Charles Roberts after his sudden death in 1907. The house is unique architecturally because the end chimneys are placed within end walls and surrounded by paneling while no other interior end chimneys are found in White County.

Blue Creek Community:

The Blue Creek/Stovall Mill Community contained a sawmill, shingle mill, grist mill, cotton gin, corn crusher and a syrup mill in the late 19th-century. Today, the Stovall House remains along with a mill building, barn, and store/post office, which closed in the 1940's.

The house is two-story with a central hall, kitchen ell, and double gallery. The house also exhibits a boxed cornice and gable end returns indicating it may have been constructed around the 1860's.

Until 1962, the post office and store was known as Eastburn, Georgia. Also in the area of the Blue Creek mill community is the Stovall Log House built by Alfred Stovall. The double pen log house (c. 1830's) with two front and rear doors contains square nails in the weatherboard, a tiny window beside the chimney in the gables at each end and no rear windows. A plain two-story house with a kitchen ell and shed porch built before 1895 is a part of the Stovall Estate.

This community is significant as an architecturally intact example of a typical mill community of White County that can be used as a teaching tool of the County's agricultural and milling heritage.

Meaders Residence and Pottery:

The Meaders family of White County is well known for their folk pottery made by all the Meaders descendants. J.M. Meaders built the Meaders House in 1876. The simple house contains a central hallway, rear ell and gabled kitchen across the rear. The original potting shed and chimney were built in 1887 and used by Quillian L. Meaders, 1887-1890. The enlarged shed (1890) is used by Cheever Meaders. A non-historic shop and kiln (1952) is used by Lanier Meaders.

Cooley-Hood-Smith House:

Mr. Cooley, a longtime landowner in White County, built the house in 1890 for his bride with two stories, two rooms on either side of a central hallway, a two-room rear ell, Eastlake style front and side doors, and a bay window in the living room. Because of the structure's architectural integrity, it is significant to the County and potentially eligible for the National Register.

Mossy Creek Campground:

Established in 1833, the campground has contained several brush arbors or tabernacles. Cabins, or "tents" arranged in a square around the tabernacle, some predating 1900, are of rough construction with a stair or ladder to the sleeping loft, dirt floors, and shed porches. Camp meetings, held for a week during August, have been historically important religious and social events. The campground is representative of a typical religious institution in the Georgia Mountains region.

Hulsev Farm:

This agricultural complex, constructed circa 1908, is an excellent example of a farmhouse and outbuildings in near-original conditions. The house contains two rooms on each side of a central hall and a one-room rear gabled ell. The house also contains five chimneys, homemade doors, and simple mantels. Many of the extant outbuildings are log, some still with hand-split shakes. This complex contains the only blacksmith shop found remaining in White County and is an important landmark worthy of preservation. Merritt-Westmoreland-Wheeler House:

This house, possibly built circa 1850 is in near original condition with pegged and handmade doors, hand-forged hardware, boxed cornice and return. The house is a good example of vernacular architecture in White County with a good deal of architectural integrity.

Castleberry House:

This originally log house has been covered in weatherboard. The log portion of the house could be as old as 1853 and the frame section as left front dates before 1916. Although little is known about the history of this house, it is important as an example of an extant log structure in the County.

Loudsville Campground and Church:

The campground and church was established in 1839 and the arbor has been replaced several times. The 45 "tents", most pre-dating 1900, are of rough construction with dirt floors. This site along with the Mossy Creek Campground is important to understanding the role of religion in the County's history.

Bugg-Knight Log Cabin:

This log cabin, possibly dating to 1830-1850, is significant as one of the few remaining log structures in White County. The house, with a large stone chimney, purportedly served as an almshouse for indigents and paupers. At the rear of the property in the forest are said to be two Indian mounds and the remains of an old hotel.

Adairs Mill:

The mill, said to have been constructed, circa 1830, by a Mr. Logan, was part of a mill community which contained a trading post, granaries, and a post office. The house associated with the mill burned in 1918, but the soapstone chimney remains. The mill operated until the 1930's. The mill building is important to preserve as a remnant of the mill community, common in White County.

Thomas Residence:

This house, possibly built circa 1850, contains a large fine cut rock chimney, hand-dressed-hewn timbers, square nails, and two front doors. Two upstairs porch rooms open onto a small center porch, while a full facade front is located on the first floor. Asbury Mill, now demolished, stood nearby. The house is significant as a resource, which has retained its architectural integrity and exhibits interesting architectural characteristics.

White County Jail:

The brick jail constructed circa 1900 originally housed both the sheriff and his family on the first floor and prisoners on the second floor. The jail is significant as an intact historic White County institutional building and as a good example of vernacular Italianate architecture. Architectural characteristics include pilasters and quoins and segmental brick arches over the windows. The jail was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

Woodlawn School:

This school is significant architecturally and historically as an example of a typical White County school constructed in the 1920's. Because these small schools no longer function as such due to consolidation, the buildings remaining are important to preserve and to understand historic schooling practices in White County. This school building is especially important as it exhibits common characteristics of other early 20th-century schools such as four square rooms, large tripartite windows and a small chimney for a stovepipe in each room. Remnants of blackboards also exist in some rooms.

Yonah School:

This school, constructed in 1933 to replace a former school, contains two rooms with a central hall and hipped roof, and a bell tower above the front portico. Although only in use 20 years until consolidation with Cleveland in 1940, this building is important as an example of a school serving a small community in historic White County.

Sautee-Nacoochee Valley Historic Districts:

While landmark buildings are usually physically isolated, historic districts contain a number of historic structures, which relate to one another historically and architecturally. Many structures that could qualify as landmarks are included in historic districts as well as less significant structures. Two historic districts have been recognized and listed in the National Register of Historic Places in White County: The Sautee and Nacoochee Valley Districts. The two districts contain a total of 86 historic sites with architectural styles including Italianate and Gothic Revival and a variety of house types including Plantation Plain, Double Pen, and Hall and Parlor. One of the most significant aspects of the Sautee and Nacoochee Valley Historic Districts is the relationship of the structures' setting, the valley landscape and distant views. This relationship is important to preserve and becomes more important than the architectural significance of the valleys' structures.

The historic districts contain several landmarks within their boundaries. All of the historic sites in the districts work together but several stand on their own architecturally and/or historically. These include the following:

- * "West End" Nichols-Hunnicut-Hardman House with Indian mound gazebo
- * Richardson-Lumsden House
- * Crescent Hill Baptist Church
- * Williams-Dyer House
- * Glen-Kenimer House
- * Alley House
- * Sautee Store
- * Wyly Roger House
- * "Mountain Home" George Walton Williams House
- * Henry Williams House
- * The Nacoochee School - now Sautee-Nacoochee Community Association building
- * Presbyterian Church
- * Lumsden-Marsh-Crittendon House
- * Lamar-Stovall-Walter House
- * "Sautee Manor"
- * Berrong House
- * Orville West House

The preservation of the districts in their entirety is a top priority, but it is important to recognize the area's most significant sites and landscape qualities as well.

Historic Commercial Buildings in White County

Only a few historic commercial structures remain standing in unincorporated White County. Most that remain are in fair to poor condition and some are in danger of being lost to neglect in the next several years, and many have already been lost since the Department of Natural Resources' historic resources survey of 1976. Those remaining and recognizable as historic commercial structures include the Sautee Store in the Sautee-Nacoochee Valley Historic District, the Old Lynch Mountain Store and Post Office, also in the Sautee-Nacoochee Historic District, the Old Robertstown Store and Post Office, the Henry Ledford Store (one-half mile from the Loudsville Campground), and the Old Kennedy Store off of Highway 115 west near Shoal Creek.

These structures are significant as they are representative of the small, rural White County communities they served, many of which are no longer recognized as such today. The rural community commercial structures are simple vernacular buildings significant as examples of vernacular commercial building design. Most remaining structures date from the early 20th-century. Archaeological Resources

The following archaeological resources were cited in the 1974 Georgia Mountains Area Planning and Development Commission Resource Study. They are by no means the only archaeological sites in White County but they are important to recognize as part of the County's historic resources that can be lost if not recognized and protected.

1. Indian Grave Gap, stone caroms on ridge about one mile west of Tray Mountain
2. Nacoochee Indian Mound
3. Village site on the Chattahoochee River
4. Mounds in Nacoochee Valley
5. Rock wall remains on Yonah Mountain
6. Mound on Loudsville Gold Mining Property, 6 miles west of Cleveland on east side of Tesnatee Creek
7. Indian mound at Cleveland
8. Mound on east side of Sautee Creek, one mile above Chickamauga Creek
9. Dukes Creek mining site
10. Loudsville mining site
11. Stovall Mill site - former covered bridge, dirt road south of Highway 255, east of Blue Creek Church

Strategies for Historic Preservation in White County

The following are elements of a potential preservation plan for White County. They are suggested steps to follow to implement preservation in White County but are by no means a complete plan in themselves. Much more extensive research and time would be necessary to produce such a plan. Ideally, the community can pursue all of the following objectives, but it is wise to take one at a time to achieve long-lasting and community supported preservation.

Survey

The most recent survey of White County's historic resources was undertaken by the Department of Natural Resources in 1976. This survey, while very good, is dated and needs to be updated. Many of the 182 historic resources surveyed have been demolished, either outright or by neglect. Also, the survey does not include many of the County's important agricultural outbuildings. An updated survey would most likely reveal more historic resources and more detailed information about the properties. The 1976 survey is accompanied by slides, which are more difficult to use than black and white photos that an updated survey could provide. A survey was begun in 1996 and has not been completed to date, therefore the 1976 information was used.

Surveys can be used to identify individual buildings and districts for possible listing in the National Register or Georgia Register of Historic Places; support local designations of buildings and districts; expedite environmental review by governmental agencies; aid preservation and land-use planning; and promote research of the state's history and architecture. Also, through the public's participation, encouraged by the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia's historic preservation office, surveys can increase awareness of, and interest in, a community's historic buildings. White County is fortunate to have a fairly comprehensive survey in place to use as a basis for further preservation action.

Analysis and Recognition of Historic Resources

Once a community or county knows what its historic resources are, then it can begin to recognize these resources and bring community attention to their significance. One tool a community can use to achieve this is the National Register of Historic Places. The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's list of historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts worthy of preservation. Although listing on the National Register does not protect properties from alteration or demolition, it serves as a good way to bring recognition of and pride in a community's historic properties. National Register landmarks and districts also serve to pinpoint areas in a community where preservation and local protection can be implemented.

Presently, two districts and two landmarks in White County are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. These are the historic White County Courthouse and the historic White County Jail, both located in Cleveland. The Sautee Valley Historic District and Nacoochee Valley Historic District are also listed on the National Register. All resources listed in this section are worthy of, and recommended for, nomination to the National Register in this plan.

The Georgia Mountains Regional Development Center's Preservation Program can assist the County in securing funds to both update the historic resource survey and to nominate all potential National Register properties.

Once all of the County's resources have been determined, the community needs to decide which of these resources are most important to preserve, usually those deemed worthy of National Register recognition, and they should be informed of the benefits of preservation including:

- * Historic resources are top tourist destinations. Revitalized buildings and historic districts attract new businesses and tourists, stimulating retail sales and increasing sales tax revenues.
- * Historic rehabilitation creates new jobs during construction and later in new offices, shops, and restaurants.
- * Property values tend to increase in revitalized areas.
- * Tax incentives are available for rehabilitation.
- * Less energy is required to rehabilitate old buildings than to demolish and replace them with new construction. Goals and priorities should be set for the preservation of these resources. Such goals might include preserving specific rural areas of the County and making the community aware of their importance (such as has been accomplished in the Sautee and Nacoochee Valleys), protecting the most important historic resources in the County from demolition or demolition-by-neglect, or implementing a heritage education program in the County schools based on the County's archaeological and architectural resources. These are just a few possible goals.

The final step in developing a plan for preservation in White County is to implement the tools and actions needed to achieve the community's goals. These tools or actions may include survey, National Register designation, a countywide preservation ordinance, financial incentives, and community development programs.