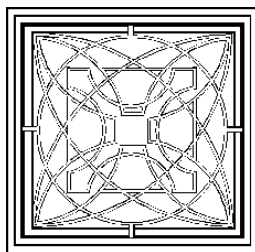


ST. MARYS, GEORGIA
HISTORIC RESOURCE INVENTORY
SURVEY REPORT

June 2001



Piedmon
Preservation

P.O. Box 205
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30603

St. Marys Historic Resource Survey Report
June 2001

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SURVEY BACKGROUND AND METHODOLOGY

The City of St. Marys through the St. Marys Historic Preservation Commission sponsored the completion of a historic resource survey of the city limits of St. Marys, Georgia. The project was funded through a Certified Local Government grant obtained from the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and matching funds from the City of St. Marys. The goal of this survey was to provide a base of information for the local government to use toward the preservation of its cultural resources. Piedmont Preservation, a preservation firm located in Athens, performed the survey beginning in the Spring of 2001.

The method used for the St. Marys survey is based upon the Georgia Historic Resources Survey program, an ongoing, statewide survey of buildings, sites, structures, and objects of historical, architectural and cultural significance administered by the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The goal of the Georgia Historic Resource Survey is to collect, as uniformly and reliably as possible, the minimum level of information needed statewide for preservation activities. Under the Georgia system, information gained through fieldwork is entered into a database program furnished by the Historic Preservation Division. The Historic Preservation Division prints the information onto a Georgia Historic Resource Survey form, a single-page, two-sided, acid-free form providing a concise record of the surveyed property. Photographs and topographical maps keyed to individual buildings are included with the survey forms.

Surveys in Georgia do not routinely document all buildings fifty years or older. Resources to be documented are identified by surveyors during a field survey of the area and are evaluated for condition and architectural integrity. The assessment of condition is based upon the future viability of the resource. For instance, any house in which the roof is open to the weather is not surveyed. In order for a building to display architectural integrity, it must continue to convey an accurate sense of the past. During this survey an evaluation of architectural integrity included a combination of the following factors: 1) impact of additions or alterations on overall form; and 2) changes to siding, doors, windows, chimneys, and foundations. If the combination of changes was considered to compromise the integrity of the resource, it was not surveyed. Historic changes, such as adding clapboard siding to a log cabin in the 1840s or a gable ell to a central hall cottage in the 1910s, were considered as contributing to rather than detracting from integrity. Evaluations were also influenced by the relative historic significance of a resource. For example an 1810 I-house with changes to siding, windows, doors, and chimneys may have been surveyed whereas a 1940 bungalow with the same changes may not have been surveyed.

The consultants conducted an intensive field survey during the Spring of 2001. The historic resources were surveyed using a hand held computing device, a digital voice recorder, and a camera. The hand held contained a database with fields corresponding to those on the Georgia Historic Resource Survey form. Narrative information such as noted alterations to the resource, an architectural description, and outbuilding were recorded. One black and white photograph was taken of each building for later attachment to the final survey forms. Additional photos were taken when warranted.

The information on the field forms was entered into the Georgia Historic Resource Survey database program, for use in the statewide effort to document Georgia's historic resources. The program produced Georgia Historic Resource Survey forms for each property surveyed. Each property was designated with a county code followed by a city code further followed by a resource number (CM-SM-0111). Contact prints and location maps were later attached to the individual forms. Site plans were included for those

properties containing a significant number of outbuildings or other resources. The City of St. Marys was also provided CD-ROMs containing all the photos in digital format.

The location of resources is recorded by four different methods. As mentioned each Georgia Historic Resource Survey form has location map locating the resource. Each form also has written address or location. Resources are given third location indicator on the Georgia Historic Resource Survey form – a Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) number. Using a UTM number a resource can be located on a United States Geological Survey (USGS) map or in the field using a Global Position Sensing unit. Finally, all resources are plotted on maps in the appendix of this document. Also in the appendix are indexes indicating upon which maps specific resource numbers or addresses are found.

The original survey forms with contact prints and maps were forwarded to the Historic Preservation Division for storage. Copies of the individual forms and maps were submitted to the City of St. Marys. The following survey report was created to assist in the analysis of the information gained during the survey and provide recommendations for the future preservation activities.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY AND CONTEXT

Establishment and Growth

On November 20, 1787, the twenty founders of St. Marys gathered on Cumberland Island to sign the "Articles of Agreement." It wasn't until 1788 that this area was surveyed and the city lots laid out by James Finley. The original twenty founders were Isaac Wheeler, William Norris, William Ashley, Nathaniel Ashley, Lodowick Ashley, Thomas Norris, John Bartlett, William Reddy, Jacob Weed, John Alexander, Robert Seagrove, James Seagrove, James Finley, Stephen Conyers, Thomas Norris, Prentiss Gallup for Simeon Dillingham, John Fleming, Henry Osborne, and Langley Bryant. The streets of old St. Marys are named for these men. All received lots in St. Marys, but most did not settle here. Many sold their lots either to others in the original group of twenty or to outsiders.

In 1792, St. Marys was established as a town by an act of the Georgia Legislature and established as the county seat of Camden County. However, it wasn't until November of 1802 that St. Marys was actually incorporated. Two years prior, in November of 1800, Georgia Legislature established Jeffersonton as the county seat because of its central location. Nonetheless, St. Marys had steadily grown. As of the 1800 census, St. Marys had a population of 190 whites, 73 slaves, and three freedmen.

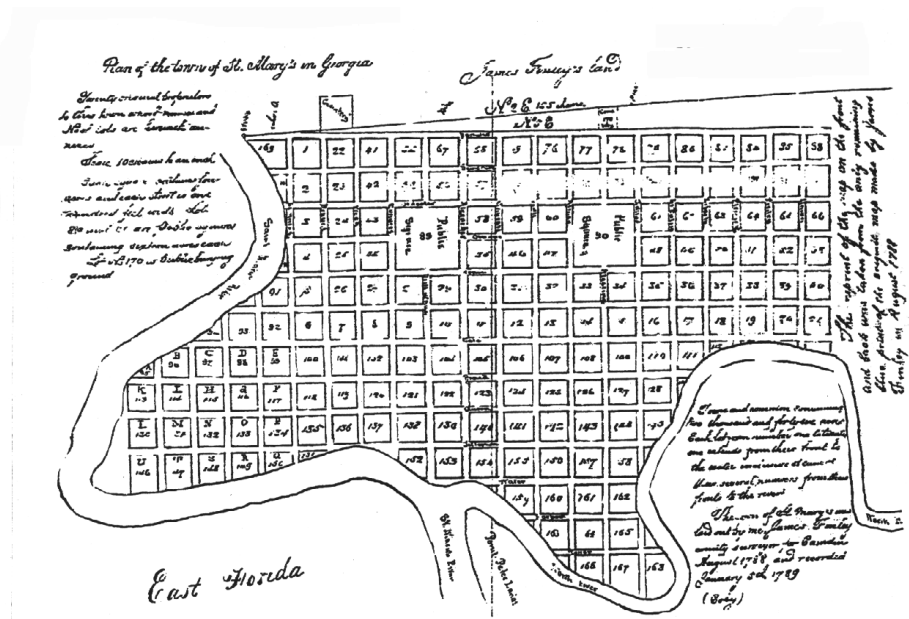


Figure 1: 1788 Finley Map

Not surprisingly, the development of St. Marys has been directly tied to its waterfront and the activities generated by this resource. Military functions and activity, shipping and shipbuilding, milling and manufacturing, and more recently recreation – all directly connected to St. Marys' water access – have generated the peaks and valleys of the town's development. While the seat of county government returned to St. Marys from 1871-1923 (when it was moved to Woodbine), this is more a result of the above activities than a source of development. As seen in Table 2 on page eleven below, population has well reflected the state of St. Marys economy which has focused on the waterfront.

Military

Though St. Marys had not yet been established, the area was strategically important during the Revolutionary War due to its nearness to the Florida border. It remained important after the war for the same reason. Naval vessels could often be found anchored in the St. Marys River. From 1793 - 1805, Point Peter was of great military importance and almost \$16,000 was spent on fortifying it. In 1806, a military directive ordered the shut down of the fortifications. Finally, in 1809, plans were made for a battery and a strong blockhouse at Point Peter.

In 1812, there were 800 reserves stationed there, but most were moved before the War of 1812 broke out. Point Peter had few men to defend it when the British arrived. On January 13, 1815, they attacked Point Peter defended by a garrison of only thirty-six. After fourteen casualties at Point Peter, the Americans withdrew and abandoned the fort. The British burned all the barracks of Point Peter and towed away all vessels at St. Marys. They occupied the town for about one week.

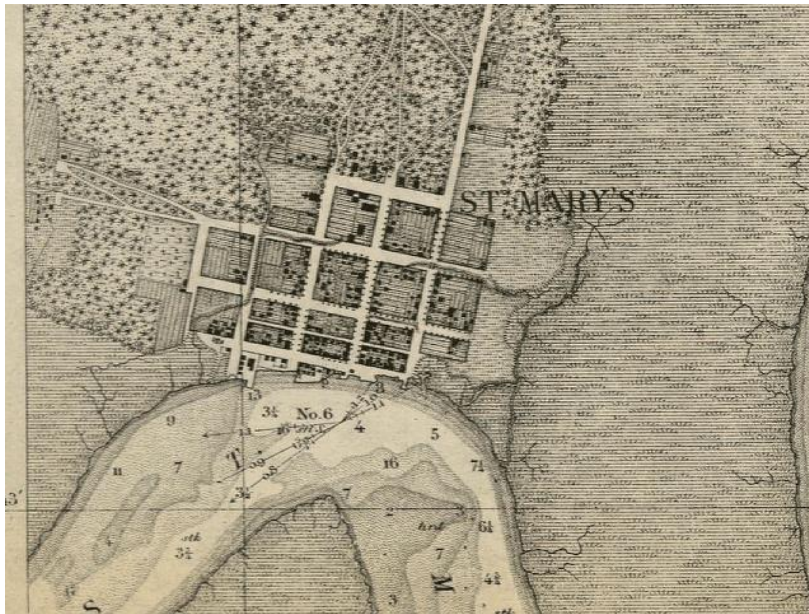


Figure 2: 1862 U. S. Coastal Survey map

During the Civil War, many locals went to fight for the Confederacy and much of the remaining population evacuated inland. Federal Troops captured nearby Fernandina and foraging parties from there harassed the coast, including St. Marys. During course of the war the town and its structures were damaged by these forays as well as by shelling from the gunboat, John Adams. Several buildings were lost including the Academy building. Nevertheless, many buildings survived and the town entered reconstruction.

For nearly a century following the Civil War, military activity would not play a substantial role in the development of St. Marys. This changed in 1954 when the U.S. Army purchased the land that is now Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base. From the 1950s to the early 1970s, the facility was used to store ammunition and conduct support exercises. In 1975, the Spanish government asked the U.S. Navy to remove its nuclear submarine squadron from its base in Rota, Spain. After a search of 60 potential U.S. sites, the Navy chose St. Marys as its submarines' new home and purchased the land from the Army in 1977. The installation of the Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base and the arrival of ten Trident nuclear submarines in the mid-1980s has been one of the largest impact on St. Marys in the twentieth century.

Shipping and Shipbuilding

Shipping became St. Marys' main economic activity early in its history and remained important into the twentieth century. Settlers from nearby areas brought their products to town for export and trade exchanging their goods for imported necessities. Over the years varied products such as rice, cotton, lumber, seafood, and turpentine were shipped from the port. Even before the actual founding of St. Marys, its importance as an entry point for various goods was recognized when Henry Osborne was appointed customs collector in 1785. The post continued to be located in St. Marys, with a hiatus from 1861-1869, until 1913 when it was moved to Fernandina. Shipping continued to be an important activity until the mid-twentieth century.

Early shipbuilding is not well documented but Colonel John Patterson, a master shipbuilder from Philadelphia, is known to have operated a shipyard producing large ships as early as 1798. One account claimed that by 1837 more vessels had been built in St. Marys than in any other port in Georgia. John Richardson later operated a boatyard on the St. Marys waterfront. In the early twentieth century both A. H. MacDonell and Phil Hopper (later with Captain Green Lang, Sr.) were operating yards on Major Moore Creek at the foot of Weed Street and the foot of Conyers Street respectively. These enterprises continued into the years following World War II.

Milling and Manufacture

Lumbering had been the main economy for Camden County from the earliest days. Timbering operations and sawmills were located all along the rivers supplying raw and finished products for the docks in St. Marys. With the advent of steam powered mill in the late nineteenth century brought saw milling directly into the town. One such operation was originated in 1870 when Richard D. Fox and Samuel L. Burns erected a sawmill in the front end of the city on the St. Marys River. The partners also operated another mill on North River for a time until it burned. The twentieth century saw several sawmills located on the waterfront. Their owners included Lemuel Johnson, Davis and Brandon, and Walter Lang. The Lang sawmill burned in the 1930s and was the last mill to be located in downtown St. Marys.

The riverfront mills and other industries were aided by the construction of a railroad to the town in the first decade of the twentieth century. The City conveyed to Lemuel Johnson and others representing the Waycross Air Line Company land for the construction of a railroad. On July 11, 1908, the St. Marys and Kingsland Railroad was inaugurated. The line operated under this name until the death of Johnson in 1918 when the name was changed to the Atlantic, Waycross, and Northern. In 1924 controlling stock of the company was purchased by the Southern Fertilizer and Chemical Company whereupon it became the St. Marys Railroad Company.

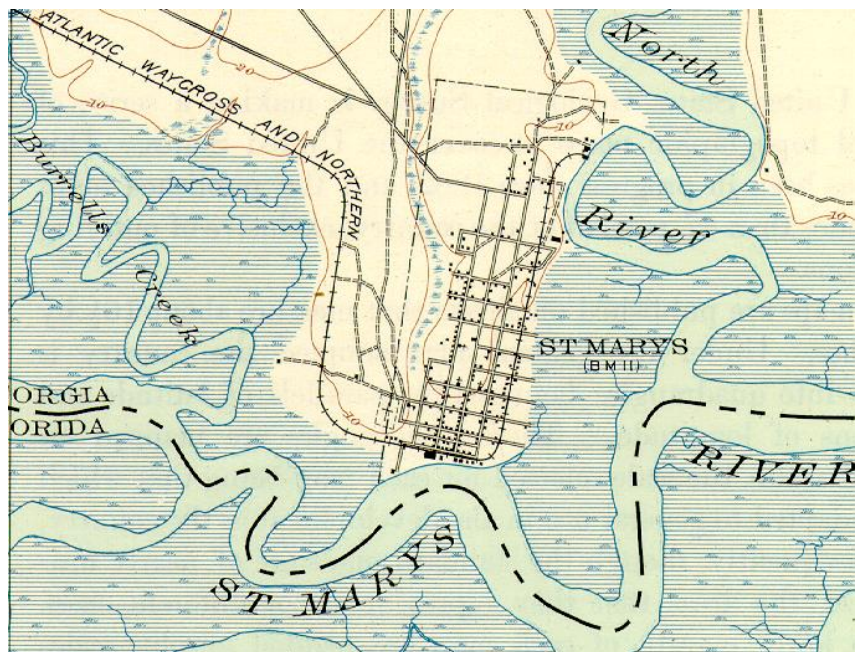


Figure 3: 1919 USGS map

The tracks originally terminated at the waterfront with the depot and freight office located at the foot of Osborne Street and the shops at the foot of Wheeler Street. The tracks were extended around the town along the eastern marsh to the porgy plant in 1918. This is clearly visible in the 1919 USGS map (Figure 3). Later a spur leading directly to the site was constructed across the northern end of the town and a new railroad office was constructed there in 1953. The 1958/1970 USGS map of the area shows the tracks along the eastern marsh removed and Norris Street in their place. This map also shows the construction of a spur serving the Army Base (now Kings Bay Submarine Base) between 1958 and 1970. Since that time the tracks to the St. Marys waterfront have been removed and Dilworth Street has taken their place.

Shortly after the arrival of the railroad several canning and processing plants arrived in St. Marys. Around 1912 three canning plants began operation. Davis and Brandon operated a canning plant near the cemetery where they canned shrimp, sweet potatoes, and string beans. The Hardee Brothers opened a shrimp canning plant on the waterfront. This was sold to C. A. Taylor who operated the canning plant in the Dickey building on the waterfront (still extant but not surveyed due to integrity). The third plant, located on the North River, was operated by Georgia Cannery, Incorporated. In 1917, the Southern Fertilizer and Chemical Company opened a porgy plant on the present site of the paper plant. The plant processed menhaden and porgy fish caught along the east coast. Oil was extracted from the fish and shipped in tank cars to Proctor and Gamble for use in soap. The fish scrap was loaded in box cars and shipped to the company's plant in Savannah where it was made into fertilizer. The plant remained in operation until 1937.



Figure 4: 1953 USGS aerial photo

A period of little manufacturing activity ended when the Gilman Paper Company opened its St. Marys Kraft Corporation plant on the site of the porgy plant. The first “machine” opened in 1941 followed by Machine #2 in 1955 and Machine #3 in 1960. Along with these main buildings, an entire complex of support buildings was established including a few associated with the St. Marys Railroad which Gilman acquired in 1940. The plant continues in operation though now owned by the Durango-Georgia Paper Company. The establishment and growth of this operation resulted in the growth as a town as a whole. A 1953 aerial photo (Figure 4) shows the beginning of development west of “the canal” which had served as a natural boundary for over 150 years. By 1958 (Figure 5) over 150 houses had been constructed in this area.

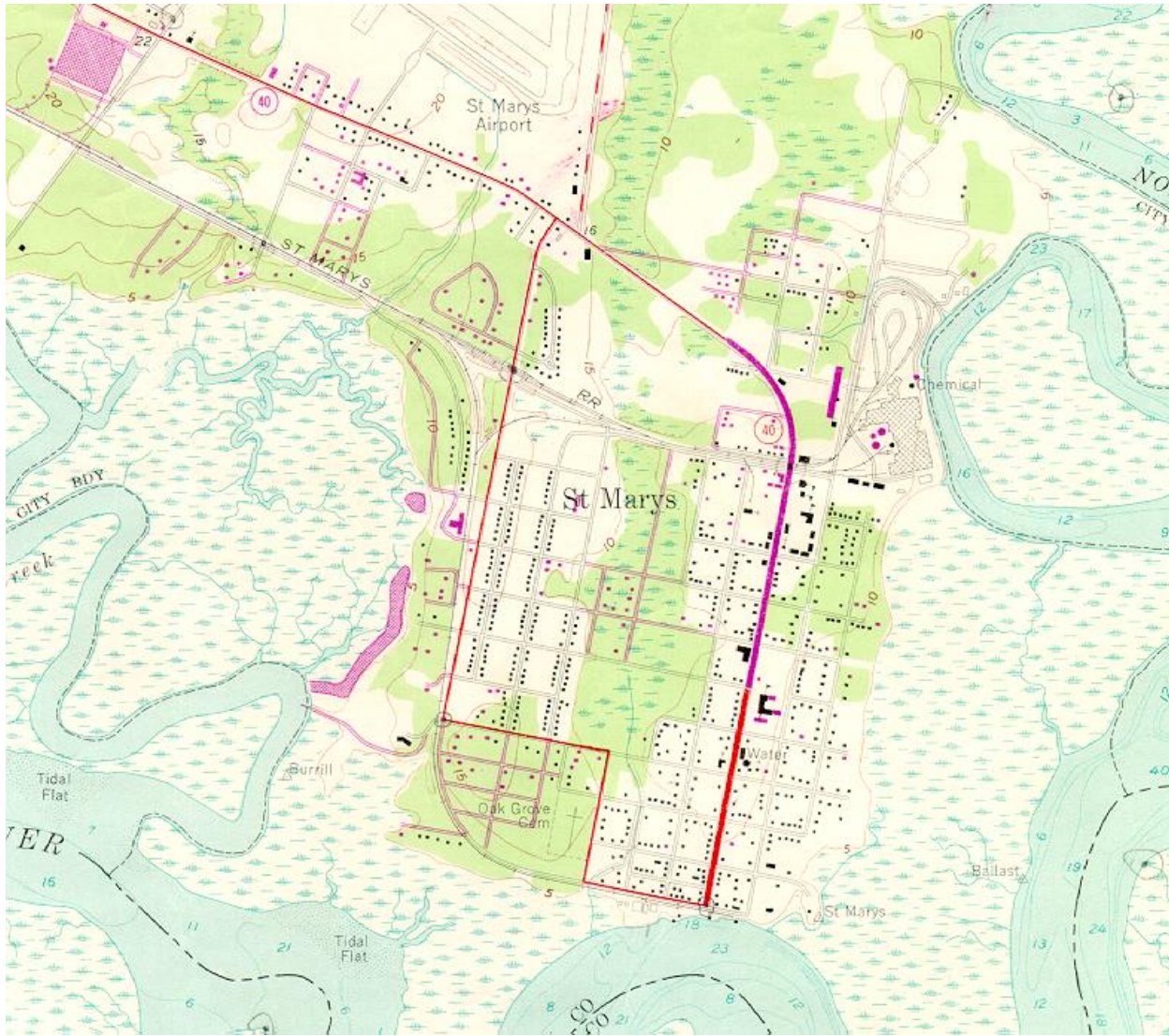


Figure 5: 1958 USGS map with 1970 revisions shown in purple

SURVEY FINDINGS

PROFILE OF USES

St. Marys has a profile of historic uses typical a small southern town oriented to the water. The following table presents the historical uses of the resources identified within this survey. The uses are delineated by category and appropriate sub-category.

Range of Dates

Uses	total	% of total	Range of Dates									
			Pre-1870	1870 to 1879	1880 to 1889	1890 to 1899	1900 to 1909	1910 to 1919	1920 to 1929	1930 to 1939	1940 to 1949	1950 and later
Commercial: bank	2	1.4	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Commercial: general store	3	2.2	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0
Commercial: hotel	2	1.4	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Commercial: retail store/shop	5	3.6	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0
Commercial: service station	2	1.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0
Industrial: manufacturing plant	9	6.5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7
Landscape Feature: park	1	0.7	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Religious: church	3	2.2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Residential: apartment building	2	1.4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Residential: duplex	1	0.7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Residential: secondary dwelling	1	0.7	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Residential: single dwelling	108	77.7	8	8	5	4	15	19	11	13	18	7
total by decade			11	9	7	5	16	23	14	18	22	14

Table 1

As would be anticipated housing related resources dominated the data accounting for 80.5% of the surveyed properties. Also not surprising, commercial resources make up a significant portion of the remainder. Though at also relatively high at 6.5% of the resources, one might expect a larger number of industrial resources give St. Marys developmental history. Most of these industrial resources were located on St. Marys river adjacent to the commercial district or on the North River. Their location lead to their redevelopment with the porgy fish plant being replaced by the Gilman Paper Plant and the sawmills on the waterfront removed entirely as the use transformed to recreation. This transformation is

easily discerned when looking at the 1919, 1958/78, and current USGS maps. Most telling is the removal of the railroad tracks; first along Norris Street and later from the waterfront.

Another predictable result based on the information outlined in the developmental history is the concentration of resources built in the first decades of the twentieth century and a second spike beginning in 1940. In the second decade (1910 - 1919) a large surge of construction is noted and is reflective of the rise of timber economy. This is also the decade in which the railroad arrived. The arrival of the Gilman Paper Plant spurred a second wave of construction noted in the survey. This survey did not generally record structures built after 1951, the Gilman Paper Plant buildings being the exception, and therefore the boom in construction during the 1950s is not reflected here.

St. Marys Census Data	
<i>Year</i>	<i>total population</i>
1860	650
1870	702
1880	N/A
1890	575
1900	529
1910	691
1920	824
1930	732
1940	733
1950	1,348
1960	3,272
1970	3,408
<i>source: U.S. Census Data</i>	
<i>Table 2</i>	

PROFILE OF FORMS

“Form” is a term used to describe the basic shape and floor plan of a building. The vast majority of the resources identified were residential structures. Therefore, the information below focuses on the profile of *residential* forms which adequately outlines the community’s architectural history. A total of 98 structures were recognized as having an identifiable residential form. Of the structures built prior to 1900, a majority are one of three forms: I-house, Sidehall House, or Georgian House. This is telling in two respects 1) these substantial houses note the early prosperity of the town; and 2) the larger, more substantial residential structures were well-built and valued enough to survive to the present. About three-fourths of the structures were built after the turn-of-the-Twentieth Century and are characterized by a wide mixture of forms until the mid-1930s when bungalows and minimal traditional cottage forms predominate.

Primary Forms:

- **Single-Pen** – The single-pen is an uncomplicated one-room house typically with a rectangular plan and a side gabled roof. Originally built as log structures, single pens continued to be constructed as frame structures by people of modest means in small town and rural areas through the turn of the twentieth century. These houses rarely maintain a high degree of material integrity with siding, doors, and windows commonly altered. Rear shed additions represent the most common structural alteration.
- **Saddlebag** – A saddlebag is a simple, rectangular two-room structure (or “double pen”). The defining characteristic of the saddlebag form is a central chimney that has a firebox in each pen. The saddlebag is typically covered with a side gabled roof and common with either a single entrance with a small shared foyer or separate entrances. The saddlebag is typical to the postwar south and is prevalent in both industrial/mill settings and agricultural settings as tenant and sharecropper housing.

These structures commonly have been altered with regard to siding, windows, and doors and typically have rear shed or gable addition and porch infill.

- Hall-and-Parlor** – The hall-and-parlor is another subcategory of the “double-pen” where the two rooms are of unequal proportions and thus asymmetrical in plan. This form has very old roots and may well be the grandfather of all double-pen forms with roots in most western European cultures. The form is characterized by a rectangular plan with two unequal rooms (the hall and the parlor) and a side gabled roof. There is typically a single chimney servicing only one of the rooms. This house is always intended as a single residence and has a broad application both temporally and across class and stylistic lines. The form may or may not maintain a substantive degree of material integrity, and rear shed or gable additions are typical.
- Center Hall** – The Center Hall is a structure of one room depth (single pile) where the rooms are placed symmetrically to either side of a wide central hall extending front to back. Typically, the structure is serviced by two chimneys, one servicing each side of the house. Side gabled roofs predominate. Exterior and interior symmetry arranged around a central hallway is the form’s defining characteristic. Rear gable and shed additions are typical. Temporally, the structures are built from the antebellum period through the mid-twentieth century and have a broad palette of stylistic applications ranging from the Greek Revival through Craftsman. However, unadorned varieties are not uncommon.
- Shotgun** – The shotgun house is a simple house form believed to be Caribbean in origin. This simple and practical form flowed north from New Orleans and was used extensively as housing for plantation labor as well as in industrial mill towns and railroad communities. The Shotgun is, by definition, one room wide and two or three rooms deep. While the shotgun does not have a hall, it is common for all interior and exterior doors to be aligned, thus providing a clear “shot” through the building. Both front gable and hipped roofs are common. The form commonly has small side or rear shed and gable additions.
- Double Shotgun** – The double-shotgun form is a two family dwelling consisting of two shotgun houses side by side with no openings in the shared party wall. The floor plan of each unit is typical to what one would expect of a shotgun house and is typically front gable although hipped roof examples are not uncommon. The structures are two rooms wide and two or three rooms deep. Like the saddlebag, the units often have fireboxes with a shared chimney found along the central ridge line. Double-shotguns are primarily an urban form though they are found from time to time in rural areas. While rarely maintaining a high degree of material integrity in form, rear shed additions are common.
- Gable Ell** – The Gable Ell is a small cottage where the basic form is relatively complex. The basic plan is a two-room, side-gable segment appended to another two-room segment with a front gable. The segments are joined perpendicular end to side to give the impression of an “L.” The roofs are typically cross-gabled with a number of variants regarding chimney placement and stylistic

Variant Residential Forms

Single-Pen	1
Saddlebag	4
Hall and Parlor	8
Central Hall	6
Shotgun	3
Double Shotgun	1
Gable Ell Cottage	5
Pyramidal Cottage	2
Queen Anne Cottage	2
Georgian Cottage	3
Bungalow (all types)	27
English Vern. Cottage	1
Minimal Traditional	6
American Foursquare	7
I-house	10
Sidehall House	7
Queen Anne House	1
Georgian House	4
	98

Table 3

decoration. The form was typical from the late nineteenth to early twentieth century and thus is common with Folk Victorian/Queen Anne and Colonial Revival elements. Just as common are simple unadorned examples and those with later Craftsman style updates. Rear gable and shed additions are typical.

- **Pyramidal Cottage** – The pyramidal cottage is a small, single story, four-room house with no interior halls. The form is generally composed of four proportional and interconnected rooms and a steeply pitched hipped pyramidal roof. One or more shared interior chimneys are typical. The form is used as both single residences and duplexes and is typically considered a working class residence. Full width rear shed additions are typical.
- **Queen Anne Cottage** – The Queen Anne cottage represents a transition between the rigid symmetry of earlier forms like the Central Hall to the organic and free-flowing plans of the bungalows. The form is associated with the Victorian era although it continued to be built while that fashion was fading. Interior plans are typically four or five rooms with a partial or full-length hall. The cottages are almost always two rooms in width and two or two-to-three rooms in depth with rooms of varying proportion. Asymmetry is the key to understanding the form. The roof is often as complex as the floor plan and may have any combinations of hips, gables, and dormers.
- **Georgian Cottage** – The Georgian cottage is the same form as a Center Hall but is two rooms in depth (double pile). Typically, the structure is serviced by two chimneys, one servicing each side of the house. Hipped roofs predominate. Exterior and interior symmetry arranged around a central hallway is the form's defining characteristic. Rear gable and shed additions are typical. The form was popular at the turn of the Twentieth Century and, due to the form's symmetry, elements of NeoClassical Revival were often applied.
- **Bungalow** – The bungalow is perhaps the most common and popular house form of the first four decades of the twentieth century. Bungalows are characterized by a long rectangular plan usually two rooms in width and two to three rooms in depth. They are almost always one story in height and have a ground-hugging horizontal orientation. Front-gabled, side-gabled, cross-gabled and hipped roofed variants are common. Full-length halls are uncommon in bungalows, as circulation patterns tend to lead from room to room rather than hall to room. Bungalows are typical to most communities and are as common in strictly unadorned vernacular forms as those with recognizable applications of the academic styles – commonly Craftsman and Colonial Revival.
- **English Cottage** – The English cottage is characterized by a steeply pitched roof, sometimes simply side gabled and sometimes cross-gabled and a lateral chimney on the façade of the house which reads clearly from the exterior. The footprint of the English cottage may have a more variety than the simple rectangle of the minimal traditional, although the interiors room arrangement is often identical. Mildly polychromatic brick siding is common, as are stoops and inset porches.
- **Minimal Traditional** – The minimal traditional is commonly associated with the post-WWII building boom although examples predating the war are not uncommon. The minimal traditional represents the evolution of the bungalow forms. The minimal traditional is generally a simple rectangular box with a low to medium pitched side-gabled roof, and is almost defined by the absence of eaves. Chimney placement is common along the ridgeline. In plan the form is generally composed of unproportional rooms clustered around a completely interior hall. Stylistic details are typically non-existent or very minimal with some Colonial Revival or Craftsman-like accents.

- **Sidehall House** – The sidehall house, sometimes called a half house, is essentially half of a four-over-four plan. The form is two-story, double-pile (two rooms deep) and includes a long through hall down one of the sides with a stair landing for access to the second floor. All rooms are accessed off of the side hall with the two rooms on each floor typically sharing a chimney. This semi-popular form is ideal for small in town lots. Front gabled roofs are common, though the hipped variant may be found.
- **Queen Anne House** – This form is a two-story variant of the characteristic delineated above the composite cottage form.
- **Georgian House** – The Georgian House is a common American house form used from colonial times to the present. The house is always a two-story structure with rigid symmetry. Four rooms are found on each floor and are set axially along a full-length central hall with a staircase in the central hall. Both hipped and side gable roofs are typical. This basic form has colonial roots (hence, it is sometimes referred to as a Georgian Plan) but has been adapted to many periods and styles. The form is typically associated with the Colonial Revival and Neoclassical styles, and generally maintains a high degree of material integrity. Rear gable and shed additions are typical as are original or added porte-cocheres.

PROFILE OF STYLES

“Style” is the manner in which architecture is decorated. Of the 140 resources identified in course of the St. Marys survey, 46 represented at least elements of the “academic” styles (that is, design movements identified by architectural historians). The remaining buildings, representing over three quarters of the total, were found to have no stylistic details.

Delineated in Table 4 is a breakdown of the represented styles identified in St. Marys. The most common style found in St. Marys was the Craftsman style, a form popular nationally from around 1905 until about 1935 and locally into the 1950s. A total of 16 buildings were found to have details associated with the Craftsman style. It is worthy of note that the majority of these are not to be considered “high-style,” but rather they possess elements of the style such as knee braces, battered columns, exposed rafter tails, and door/windows treatment typical of the style.

The Folk Victorian style represented the second most common stylistic category identified (8 occurrences). Folk Victorian appellation encompasses vernacular forms with applied elements of any or all of the styles popular in the Victorian period, such as Italianate, Gothic Revival, or Queen Anne. By far the most liberally used, the Queen Anne style was popular in the United States between 1880 and 1910.

Also popular in St. Marys after the turn of the century, was the Neoclassical Revival (beginning c. 1895) styles. These styles are still being used today. Neoclassical Revival borrows elements from the Early Classical Revival and Greek Revival styles commonly associated with the post-Revolution and Antebellum periods. Of note is Orange Hall, an excellent of the Greek Revival style. Also especially interesting is the presence of a house with elements of the Federal style, one of the earliest styles found in Georgia.

Represented Styles

Federal	1
Greek Revival	3
Italianate	2
Folk Victorian	8
Neoclassical	9
Renaissance Revival	1
Craftsman	16
Tudor	1
Art Deco	9

Table 4

DOCUMENTATION

PREVIOUS SURVEY AND REGISTRATION ACTIVITY

St. Marys has been the focus of or included in a historic resource survey twice prior.

The following individual National Register nominations (by historic name and year listed):

- Orange Hall – 1974 (also HABS documented, 1936)
- St. Marys Historic District – 1975

RESOURCES

Map 31, Report of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey, 1862.

St. Marys, Georgia Quadrangle, United States Geologic Survey (USGS), 7.5 Minute Series, 1919.

St. Marys, Georgia, United States Geologic Survey (USGS), Aerial Photograph, 1953.

St. Marys, Georgia Quadrangle, United States Geologic Survey (USGS), 7.5 Minute Series, 1955/1970.

St. Marys, Georgia Quadrangle, United States Geologic Survey (USGS), 7.5 Minute Series, 1981.

Camden's Challenge, Reddick, Marguerite, Camden County Historical Commission, Woodbine, GA, 1976. Useful secondary source regarding the founding and development of St Marys.

RESOURCE PRESERVATION RECOMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are opportunities for future preservation efforts in St.Marys.

- **National Register District** – Included in the scope of the survey project was to evaluate the current St. Marys National Register District with respect to the current survey findings. Any adjacent properties not included in the original nomination by now considered eligible were to be added to the district through a boundary amendment. This survey confirmed that the original district boundaries were well considered and even the passing of twenty five years had not warranted their expansion. This situation is a reflection of the fact that St. Marys Post War building boom seems to have occurred largely after 1952 and therefore few buildings adjacent to the current district have attained the age of 50 years since the original nomination.

However, several buildings within the district have turned 50 years since the National District was set in place and therefore can now be considered contributing elements to the district. Also, because of the early date of the nomination, contributing and non-contributing elements were not listed. In light of this the current project included updating the period and statement of significance and formally listing the status of elements within the district.

- **Local Historic District** – The St. Marys Historic Preservation Commission expressed an interest in expanding the local historic district as well. This interest was based on two goals: 1) to include any resources that heretofore have not be included in the district; and 2) even or “square-off” the district which follows the stair-step pattern of the National Register district. The second goal is based less on aesthetics than perceived confusion on the part of citizens as to which properties are included in the district. Two suggestions were made by the commission for possible expansions. These are analyzed below.

The first suggestion was to expand the district east to the to include the east side of Norris Street and the eastern portions of Weed, Conyers, and Dillingham Streets. Doing so would add 20 more structures to the district. Of these, only 3 were surveyed as historic during this project, two of which were noted as mid-20th Century. In light of this, it is **not** recommended that the boundary be extended east to the water. The area has no concentration of historic structures and does not have any particular historical interest. Furthermore, the addition of this area would place the commission in the difficult (and difficult to defend) position of reviewing non-historic structures that have few if any adjoining historic properties.

The second suggestion was to square-off the northwestern portion of the district to make it more identifiable and end citizen confusion as to the boundaries of the district. This could be accomplished through one of two options (see fig. 5). The first option would involve extending the boundary that runs behind the properties on the north side of Conyers Street to the center line of Bartlett Street. The line would follow the center line of Bartlett south to the center line of Weed Street where it would rejoin the existing boundary. The second option would involve turn the boundary west from the center line of Ready Street along the center

line of Dillingham Street until reaching the center line of Bartlett Street. The line would follow the center line of Bartlett south to the center line of Weed Street where it would rejoin the existing boundary.



Option one would add five structures to the district – all non-historic. It would also add vacant land most of which contains the canal. The advantage of option one is that it would bring the south side Dillingham Street and the north side of Weed Street into the district which, though occupied by non-historic structures, visually impact the opposite sides of the streets which are in the district. Additionally, it would draw in a portion of the canal which is a historic feature of the community and would provide a buffer to this portion of the district.

Option two would add (in addition to those in option one) fifteen structures – 13 non-historic and two historic one of which was of such low integrity that it was not surveyed during this project. Unlike option one, the non-historic structures have little impact on historic structures and merely create a management problem for the commission. The only advantage to option two is that it would add the McCants House (CM-SM-0119) to the district. Protection of this resource would be better achieved though individual designation. Therefore, it is recommended that the district be expanded by adding only the area shown in option one.

- **Public Awareness** – It has been noted that there is a concern that there is confusion among residents as to which properties are included in the historic district. While this situation may be somewhat alleviated by boundary changes and signage, the best approach would be an education program by the preservation commission. Possible projects could include: reminders in utility bills to district residents, creation of a brochure to be mailed to residents, a semi-annual newsletter, and newspaper advertisements. Another option is to place public notice signs prior to on properties applying for a COA and placing a COA sign on properties undertaking approved projects. These not only remind adjoining property owners that they may be in the district, but also assure them that their neighbor has received approval.
- **Future Survey** – As noted in the Developmental History section, St. Marys experienced a building boom through the decade of the 1950s, especially in the area west of the canal. The city should plan to survey this area in the next five to seven years, evaluate the neighborhood's historic significance, determine the need for protection at that time.

Another possibility for future survey is the St. Marys Airport. According to *Camden's Challenge*, the original landing strip was built in the 1930s and was enlarged in the early years of World War II. Further research should determine if any of this work remains and if so if these elements are significant to register.

APPENDIX

Survey Maps

Index of Surveyed Properties by Address

Index of Surveyed Properties by Georgia Number

Surveyed Properties Cross Referenced with 1985 Survey