



WASHINGTON COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

129 Jones Street
Sandersville, Georgia 31082

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NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 1989

FOURTH QUARTERLY MEETING OF HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1989, AT 7:30 P.M.
CIVIC ROOM OF WASHINGTON EMC

PROGRAM+

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER: DR. WILLIAM RAWLINGS, SR.

SPEAKER : GEORGE APPLE, SALES DIRECTOR FOR THIELE KAOLIN COMPANY

TOPIC : GEORGETOWN AND SHOALS AREA, NORTHERN PART OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, OGEECHEE RIVER

THE BOOK: GREAT NEWS!! -

The county history book, COTTON TO KAOLIN - A HISTORY OF WASHINGTON COUNTY 1784-1989, will be off the press by October 21. You may buy a book at the pre-publication price of \$40.00 (plus \$4.25) if you wish it mailed to you) through October 21 by sending a check to the Historical Society, 129 Jones Street, Sandersville; or you may purchase copies at the museum on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

You are invited to a Publication Celebration at the museum on Sunday afternoon, October 22, from 3 to 6 o'clock. Books will be distributed at this reception, and the following week, Monday through Saturday afternoons from 2 to 5 p.m.

MUESUM COMMITTEE: Come by and see your Museum. The fall exhibit is a collection of maps, information on early post offices, and some interesting documents.

NOTE: Museum is open Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

HISTORICAL SITES AND DISTRICTS COMMITTEE: The committee was recently notified that the Church Street-Smith Street-Harris Street Historic District has been approved and placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service.

The district is a historic residential area laid out along three early streets, two of which served as major transportation routes out of town. Lots are generally rectangular and vary considerably in size; houses are located near the front center of these lots. Houses range from small cottages to large two-story residences. They date from the 1820s through the 1930s. Most are wood framed and weatherboarded; a few are veneered with brick, and one has an unusual concrete frame. Styles represented include the Greek Revival, Victoria Eclectic, Craftsman/Bungalow, and English Cottage. Two historic churches are variations on the Victorian Gothic style. An unusually large number of historic outbuildings are scattered throughout the district behind many of the houses. Landscaping consists of some street trees, particularly along Church street, and front yards planted with grass, shrubs, and shade trees. Non-contributing properties are limited to a few non-historic houses and a few intrusive ranch houses.

Included in this district is the Brown House. Title to this historically significant home was recently passed to the society through a joint purchase and division of the property with Washington EMC. A representative from the HSAD committee is serving on the Brown House Committee.

Two articles describing the fifteen structures listed in the application for a Charles E. Choate district have been printed in THE SANDERSVILLE PROGRESS and a third is pending. The district is at this time being reviewed in the DNR office in Atlanta. When we hear from them, a public hearing for this committee plans to publish a brochure.

BROWN HOUSE COMMITTEE: Cecil Hodges, Jr., Chairman, Lewist West, George Lyons,
Mary Alice Jordan, Billy Veal, Frances Bateman, Nancy Tarbutton.

Due to the efforts of many, but particularly negotiations by Jimmy Boatright, Billy Veal, and Finance Chairman, Paul Thiele, the Historical Society purchased the Brown House and 1.1 acres from Washington EMC on August 22, 1989, for \$35,000. Thank Sly Moore, Bobby Moore and the Washington EMC Board of Directors for their cooperation and assistance in this community project when you see them.

The Steering Committee met with Richard Laub, architectural Service Planner from the Georgia Historic Preservation Office of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources on August 18, 1989 for advice on how to proceed with this project. He recommended that the property first be made secure to prevent prowlers or looters and also, that steps be taken to halt further deterioration from weather. He was very impressed with the property and its potential and will send us detailed recommendations when he returns from vacation.

Anita West has been appointed grounds chairperson and with her committee of Sara Dukes, Charles Sheppard, Sidney Law, Bob West and the assistance of state prisoners provided by Sheriff Jimmy Walton has started removing some of the underbrush from the yard. Washington EMC has installed a chain link fence along the back line and Billy Veal is working with Bobby Strange to install a chain link fence along the north, west, and south side to give complete security while we proceed with this project.

Noted preservationist, Henry Green from Brunswick has been sent a video tape of the house and property and will visit shortly to inspect the house and make his recommendations. Georgia Lyons is arranging this visit.

There is a lot of enthusiasm for this project and we have received cooperation from every source that has been asked to help. The committee hopes to proceed in a cautious manner to develop a sound, practical program that will give us a unique, authentic, historical attraction that will be a tremendous asset for Washington County.

Ray, Avirett, President