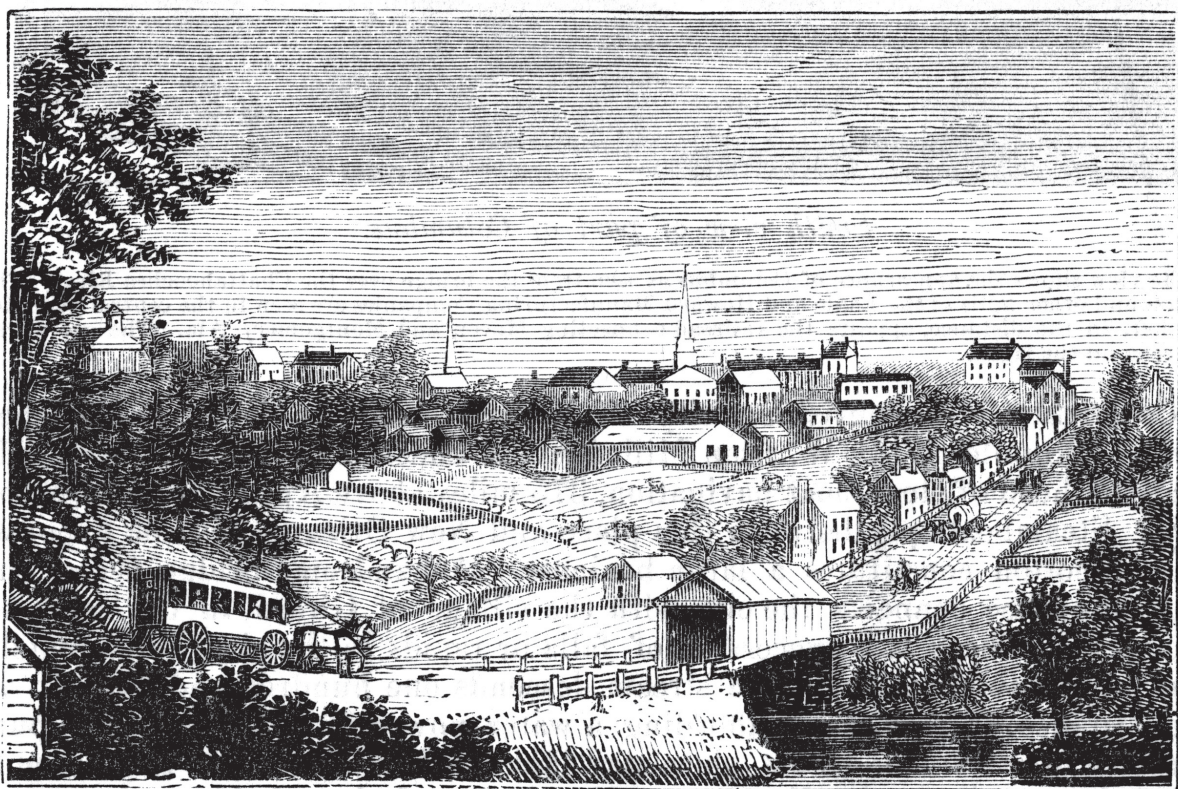

Three Oconee Street Historic Houses

Hubert H. McAlexander

On Oconee Street, Athens' oldest road, stood the first house in the village of which we have knowledge – the Daniel Easley house, sold in 1803 to the Reverend Hope Hull and decades later sold to Edward Reginald Hodgson. It is indicated on the 1804 map (recorded the next year) used as an illustration to the Mary Bondurant Warren essay in this volume. Unfortunately, this structure is often confused with another Hodgson-owned property on the opposite side of the early street – the Lane-Lumpkin-Hodgson house. To make matters worse, the identifying name of that structure is sometimes given to a third house that stood on the street until 2001. It is time, for the benefit of those who come later, to clear up this muddle.

In July of 1801, a five-member committee of Georgia's *Senatus Academicus* chose the site of the University of Georgia. The vote was unanimous in favor of a tract owned by Daniel Easley at the Cedar Shoals on the Oconee River. The committee called the place "Athens," as befitted a locus of higher learning, and from that point began the development of both college and village.



View of Athens from Oconee Street. John Warner Barber, *Our Whole Country, or, The Past and Present of the United States, Historical and Descriptive*, 1 (Cincinnati: 1861): 755.