

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

DEC 28 1989

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Barr's Subdivision Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Hwy 45 & Howard from LeBaron to State, roughly NA not for publication
city, town Citronelle NA vicinity
state Alabama code AL county Mobile code 097 zip code 36522

3. Classification

| | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Ownership of Property | Category of Property | Number of Resources within Property | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district | <u>7</u> | <u>3</u> buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site | _____ | _____ sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure | _____ | _____ structures |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object | _____ | _____ objects |
| | | <u>7</u> | <u>3</u> Total |

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NA

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official [Signature] Date 12/11/89
Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet. [Signature] 1/25/90
 determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic / Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic / Single Dwelling**7. Description**Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)Late 19th Early 20th Cen. Amer. Movements
Victorian

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brickwalls WeatherboardVinylroof Tin

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The City of Citronelle sits among the hills of north Mobile County. It is fortunate in not having the deep ravines that mark many areas of the county in the central part of the City. There is, however, a steep drop from the railroad, but the ground rises quickly and gently to the City's highest point, from which the land slopes gently to the west. At the western part of the old section of town, Barr's Subdivision is isolated from the early core by Highway 45. This area contains on its two north/south streets and one block of State Street the westernmost intact concentration of early structures.

Barr's Subdivision was formed in 1905 from eight of the 1853 town lots and made into 32 smaller subdivision lots. Originally one large house with Victorian influence was built on Highway 45. The subsequent owner constructed a house next door which documentation states was a rental. Following this, the area was subdivided and houses were built on State and Howard Streets. The house on State adopts a Creole cottage plan, but the plan enlarges the house and shrinks the porch so that the structure loses the feel of the indigenous style. The Citronelle penchant for unusual roofs is seen on Howard Street where there is an extreme cross gable, a gambrel roof with very large shed dormers, and a multiple gable roof. Set in a pecan grove the large houses offered a cohesion to the early street scene.

Of the seven contributing structures in the Barr Subdivision District, the origins of the builders of the original two houses are unknown. Of the other houses, one builder was from Kentucky and the remaining four houses were constructed by people from Illinois. This verifies the extreme influence in Citronelle of the non-local builders, particularly builders from the Midwest. Photographs from several Illinois historical agencies confirm the relationship of the architecture of that State and Citronelle. There are three noncontributing structures in the district.

 See continuation sheet

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Barr's Subdivision

HIGHWAY 45

113 Highway 45 [MB-8582; MCRS 155/2-3]
Harilah R. Rose House. 1894.

Two stories; frame; vernacular; plain weatherboard; irregular shape; gable to sides fo standing seam metal; centered, one-story, two-thirds facade, hipped porch with turned posts and sawn brackets; one story wing on rear with semi-hexagonal bay; centered, front gable interrupts eave line.

115 Highway 45 [MB-8581; MCRS 155/1]
George and Emma Sears House. 1899.

One story; frame; Victorian vernacular; asbestos shingles; off-center T-plan; cross gable roof of patterned tin; front off-center projecting bay flanked by shed roofed porches.

HOWARD STREET

109 Howard Street [MB-8569; MCRS 155/6-7]
James H. White House (Illinois). 1910.

One story and a half; frame; vernacular; plain weatherboard; rectangular shape; cross gable roof of standing seam metal; centered, three-quarters facade, hipped porch with turned columns.

115 Howard Street [MB-8568; MCRS 155/9-10]
H. C. Harlow House (Kentucky). 1907.

One story and a half; frame; vernacular; plain weatherboard; irregular plan; gambrel roof to sides with large shed dormers on front and rear; enclosed front porch; hipped, screened porch on left side.

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Barr's Subdivision

119 Howard Street [MB-8567; MCRS 155/12-14]
H. Ralph Fisher House (Illinois). 1906.

One story and a half; frame; vernacular; cross gabled;
plain weatherboard; irregular plan; projecting bay on right
with wrap-around, screened porch to left; porch has turned
posts and pedimented entrance; pedimented, gabled dormer on
front; one story, semi-hexagonal bay on right.

121 Howard Street [MB-8566; MCRS 155/15-17]
Carl S. Pick House built for A. J. Johnson
(Illinois/Sweden). 1909.

Two stories; frame; vernacular; synthetic siding;
modified rectangle; wrap-around porch to left with Tuscan
columns; gable, one story addition to right of front porch.

STATE STREET

508 State Street [MB-8559; MCRS 155/5]
Catherine E. Meek House (Illinois). 1909.

Two stories; frame; vernacular; plain weatherboard;
irregular shape; gable roof to sides of patterned tin;
centered, two-thirds facade, hipped porch with slender
columns; rear two story wing with additions.

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Barr's Subdivision

NONCONTRIBUTING

113 Howard [NC-1; MCRS 155/8]
1940s. Residence.

One story; frame; vernacular; irregular shape; plain weatherboard; gable roof to side of standing seam metal; front, centered porch, enclosed; lean-to addition to right.

117 Howard [NC-2; MCRS 155/11]
1960s. Commercial.

One story; brick; rambler; rectangular massing; gable roof to front; full length, recessed, concrete porch with iron pole supports; industrial garage at rear.

506 State [NC-3; MCRS 155/4]
1952. Residence.

One story; thin concrete blocks laid horizontal for horizontal emphasis; 1950s modern; long low gable to front; recessed central entrance with small enclosed court. This house was based on the plans of the 1952 Good Housekeeping House of the Year.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Community Planning & Development
Architecture

Period of Significance

1894 - 1910

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

CRITERION A: COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Barr's Subdivision is significant as the western terminus of Citronelle's early urban settlement and the last of the early speculative subdivisions. As such it finalized the City's established pattern of development: the original owner occupied house was built; this was followed by construction of a rental house, and finally the pattern was completed with the subdivision of the original town lots into Barr's Subdivision.

CRITERION C: ARCHITECTURE

The architecture in Barr's Subdivision contributes to the significant concentration of Victorian architecture in Citronelle. In addition, the house forms with the steeply pitched roofs and imported national styles are indicative of the Midwest origins of the builders.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

"All Roads Lead to Citronelle". From The Citronelle Call. Citronelle, AL: January 14, 1902.
Barnett, Cora Chastang. "Citronelle, Now and Then, 1811-1971". No publication information.
Probate Records, Mobile County. Judge of Probate Records Office, Mobile, Alabama.
Tax Records, Mobile County. Mobile County Tax Collector's Office, Mobile, Alabama.
United States Census Records, Mobile County, Alabama. 1860-1920.

Correspondence: see continuation sheet for the agencies contacted to verify the stylistic connection between Citronelle and the Midwest.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Specify repository:

Mobile Historic Development Commission

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 5.9 Ac.

UTM References

A

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 8 | 0 |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

C

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

B

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 8 | 0 |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

D

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---|---------|---|---|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 6 | 3 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 5 |
| Zone | | Easting | | | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The district boundaries follow the current lot lines of the enumerated structures. These are generally outlined on the USGS map and specifically drawn on the accompanying sketch map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

Barr's Subdivision is separated from the remaining section of early Citronelle by Highway 45. The district includes only the contributing structures and vacant land resulting in a concentration of significant buildings indicative of the development of the town and its architecture.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Devereaux Bemis/Architectural Historian; Steven M. Kay/AHC Reviewer
organization Mobile Historic Development Commission date May 23, 1989
street & number P. O. Box 1827 telephone (205) 438-7281
city or town Mobile state Alabama zip code 36633

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BARR'S SUBDIVISION

HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Citronelle saw its first white settler by the second decade of the nineteenth century. However, it was not until the 1850s that the city was platted for the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. This plat divided the area into blocks with lots of five acres each. Between the blocks, roads 60' wide were laid out to provide easy travel and neighborhood vistas from residences. Citronelle was sparsely settled over the years, but in 1875 the citizenry published the first pamphlets extolling the healthful benefits of the area. In 1882 the Hygeia Hotel opened as a health spa capitalizing on the pure spring water available nearby.

Following the Hygeia, other hotels, boarding houses and rental houses offered rooms to the health conscious Victorians. People from the City of Mobile would go up to take the waters, but it was to the Midwest that most of the marketing was directed. Illinois was a particularly favored spot by the advertisers. That region, in turn, favored Citronelle by sending large numbers of visitors. It was these visitors from Illinois and other Midwestern states who were responsible for the present appearance of Citronelle.

Though little physical evidence remains today, Citronelle catered to the crowds that visited. Aside from the hotels, the town provided a Chautauqua, a music school and society, various entertainments and social functions, and excursions to Mobile. The highlight of the visit however was the health benefits provided by the spring water, the cool pine scented breezes, and the invigorating salt air from the Gulf.

These visitors found cheap plentiful land with the railroad selling the large five acres lots for \$70 to \$120 depending on the location. These lots became more popular following the donation of a large parcel of land in 1884 to the Mobile School Board. With cheap land, a healthful environment, easy access by rail, and a congenial atmosphere, Midwesterners began to build houses and move down permanently. Some houses changed hands rapidly but others remained in the same families for years.

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Two major types of houses were constructed. Large imposing homes were built as owner occupied residences. Smaller cottage types were put up as rentals, sometimes with several occupying one of the large five acre lots. This also allowed for construction of new streets where the lots were divided. With the subdivision of lots and dedication of new streets a development pattern arose. Generally, a landowner would build his permanent residence. This was followed by subdivision of land for sale or construction of speculative housing.

In this manner the community continued to grow, and the city was incorporated in 1892. The city was not broken out of the overall county records in the 1870 Census, but had a population of 172 in 1880. By 1900 the city had expanded to 696 and to 935 in 1910 reflecting the building boom of the period.

Citronelle had some outlying farms, but little manufacturing. The economy began to depend on forestry products and oil & gas leases as the resort business declined. This led to the stagnation and slow growth of the community. Citronelle is no longer a resort town and the flagship Hygeia Hotel was sold and closed and finally burned in 1912. Since World War I houses have continued to be built by locals and visitors to Citronelle but the rapid out of state expansion from the turn of the century has never returned.

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Barr's Subdivision

Blue Island Historical Society
% Blue Island Public Library
2433 York St.
Blue Island, Illinois 60406

* Kenneth A. Jellema, Chairman
Blue Island Historic Preservation Commission
2303 Des Plaines
/City of Blue Island
/13051 Greenwood Ave.
Blue Island, Illinois 60406

Campbell Center for Historic Preservation Studies
P. O. Box 66
Mount Carroll, Illinois 61053

Christian County Historical Society
P. O. Box 254
Taylorville, Illinois 62568

Commission on Chicago Historical and Architectural Landmarks
320 N. Clark St.
Room 516
Chicago, Illinois 60610

Fulton County Historical & Genealogical Society
45 N Park Dr.
Canton, Illinois 61520

Greene County Historical & Genealogical Society
221 N 5th Street
Carrollton, Illinois 62016

Historical Society of Montgomery County
904 S. Main
Hillsboro, Illinois 62049

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Old State Capitol
Springfield, Illinois 62701

Morgan County Historical Society
234 N. Webster
Jacksonville, Illinois 62650

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Barr's Subdivision

* Virginia Gregory
Rockford Historic Preservation Commission
Community Development
425 East State Street
Rockford, Illinois 61104

* Sandra Bryden
Rockford Museum Center and Midway Village
6799 Guilford Rd.
Rockford, Illinois 61107

Shelby County Historical & Genealogical Society
303 N. Morgan St.
Shelbyville, Illinois 62565

*These organizations were particularly helpful in supplying pertinent information.

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UTM References:

| Zone | Easting | Northing |
|-------|-------------|---------------|
| E. 16 | 3 8 1 9 1 0 | 3 4 4 0 1 1 5 |
| F. 16 | 3 8 1 7 8 0 | 3 4 4 0 1 1 5 |
| G. 16 | 3 8 1 7 8 0 | 3 4 4 0 2 8 0 |
| H. 16 | 3 8 1 7 0 0 | 3 4 4 0 2 8 0 |

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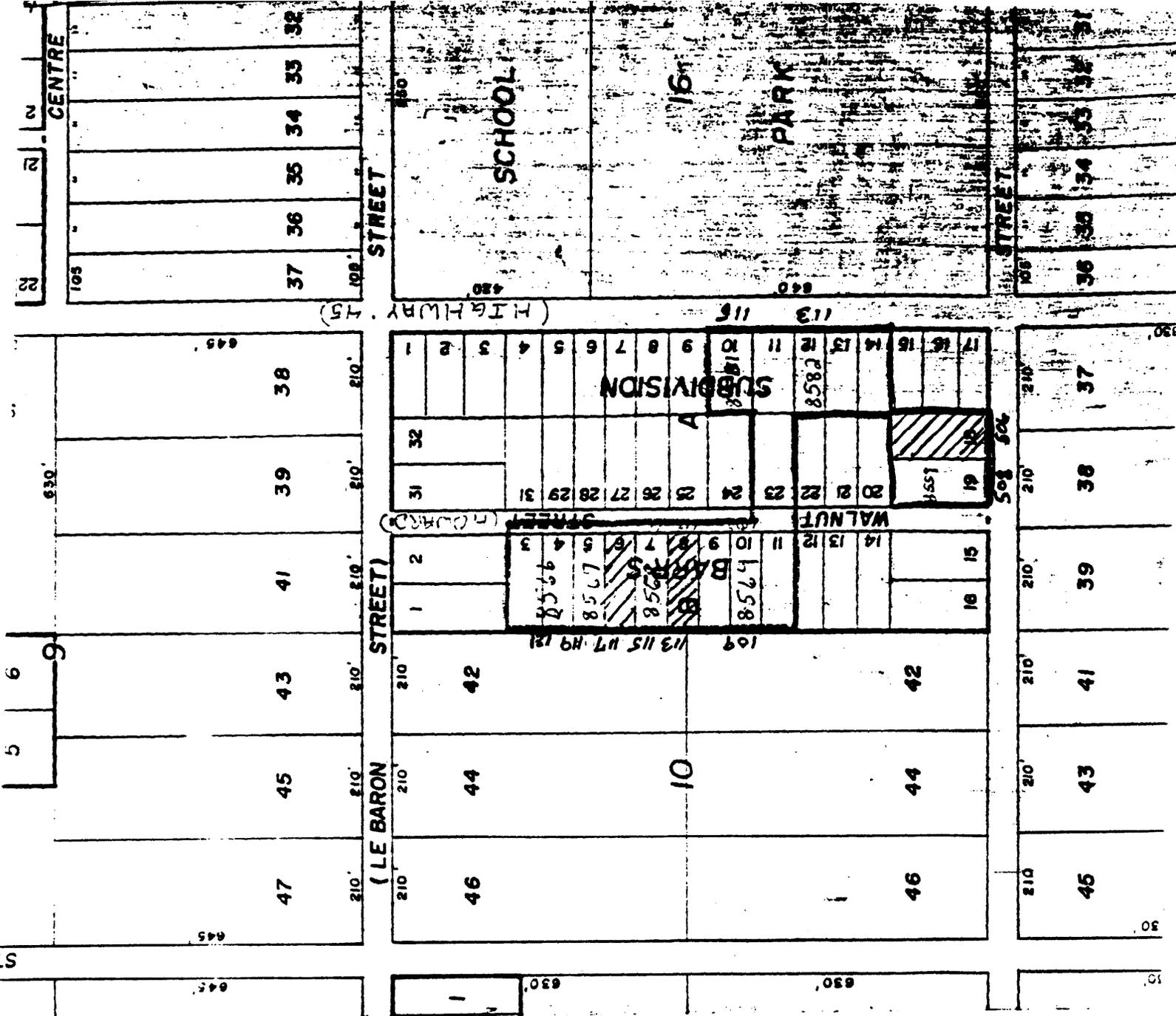
Section number Photo-
graphs Page 1 Barr's Subdivision: Photo log.

Information in items 1-5 is the same for all the photographs listed.

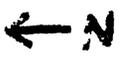
1. Barr's Subdivision
2. Citronelle, Mobile County, Alabama
3. Devereaux Bemis, photographer
4. August 1988
5. Mobile Historic Development Commission, MCRS# 155

Photo# Description (Frame#)

1. 113 Highway 45, Rose House, Facade, Camera facing W (2)
2. 508 State Street, Meek House, Facade, Camera facing N (5)
3. 109 Howard Street, Harlow House, Oblique view, Camera facing SW (6)
4. 119 Howard Street, Fisher House, Oblique view, Camera facing NW (12)
5. Street Scene, Howard Street, Camera facing NW (19)
6. Street Scene, Howard Street, Camera facing NW (22)



**BARR'S SUBDIVISION
HISTORIC DISTRICT**



1" = 300'

▨ NON CONTRIBUTING