

LOWER TWENTIETH STREET RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Name: Lower Twentieth Street Residential Historic District, Phenix City,
Russell County, Alabama

Location:

Along 20th Street from 2nd to 6th Avenue.

Acreage: Approximately 7

Verbal Boundary Description:

Covers both sides of the road on 20th Street from 2nd Avenue to 6th Avenue.

See line on attached scale tax map.

UTM: A. 16 688200 3595240
B. 16 688200 3595110
C. 16 688000 3595100
D. 16 687950 3595140
E. 16 687940 3595200
F. 16 687970 3595240

Description:

The Lower 20th Street Residential Historic District is located in the east portion of the city along the Chattahoochee River. This is the only street in the district. The houses are all early 20th century Victorian cottages and shotguns. They are one story, single-family dwellings. Some of the houses have simple ornamentation, while others have elaborate porches and gables. Two houses at the top of the district built in 1890 have elaborate gingerbread, bargeboard, window and door surrounds.

Most of the houses are situated near the middle of their lots with

informally landscaped lots. The district begins on a small hill near the Chattahoochee River and gently slopes down to 6th Avenue. Generally speaking, the largest homes are built on the top of this rise.

Significance:

Community Planning. The Lower Twentieth Street Residential Historic District is significant to the community planning of Phenix City as one of the first surveyed, subdivided tracts of land ^{outside the original 1830's town plan.} ~~in town.~~ This section of housing is representative of the subdivisions surveyed for William J. Ingersoll, who sold it in half-acre building lots beginning in 1875. Identified as "Ford's Survey of Ingersoll Lots" on original deeds, the development stretches beyond Summerville Road to the west, and eastward to the River. These lots filled the need for housing created by the expanding Columbus Mills. The lots were auctioned off in stages between 1875 and 1892. This Victorian development, with only a few sections still intact, provided enough housing to shift the population center of the multiple resource area significantly northward.

Architecture. The Twentieth Street Residential Historic District is significant architecturally as one of the most complete streetscapes in this early subdivision. Most of the houses on the west end of the street represent the late 1870's and 1880's. These houses have an ell shape, or rectangular floor plan, with Greek Revival porches. Some have ornamental gingerbread. The houses on the eastern end of the block were built after the sales in 1892, and represent late Victorian styles of cottages. Houses here have ornamental curves, and elaborate trim. Except for four shotgun houses in the district, associated with unskilled mill workers, the houses represent middle class housing of their period.

Local History. The Twentieth Street Residential Historic District is significant locally as representative of this area of town. Among the residents of the district in the early twentieth century were five textile workers, two bankers, two salesmen, and a foundry molder. The area is reported to have remained in good condition through the Great Depression. It began to decline when older residents died, and their children sold the property. The homes today are largely rental properties, but the extant streetscape serves as a reminder of the subdivision of property, and the early development of the Brownville subdivision.

STRUCTURES WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE LOWER TWENTIETH STREET
RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

1. Dukes House (205 20th Street): c. 1880; Greek Revival Cottage; one-story with gable roof and return eaves; added Victorian porch with turned posts and simple gingerbread; still shows Greek Revival details with transom and sidelights and floor-length windows; rear addition.
2. Phillips House (206 20th Street): c. 1915; Worker's Cottage; one-story, wood frame, gable roof with battered pier columns on front porch.
3. Redden House (207 20th Street): c. 1900; one-story Victorian Cottage with gable roof and return eaves; wood frame; c. 1930 Bungalow-style porch; transom above front door.
4. Stewart House (300 20th Street): c. 1900; Victorian Cottage; one-story with gable roof and return eaves; intersecting front gable over porch with lyre motif pattern on attic vent; turned posts with spindle gingerbread trim; carved door and window surrounds; wood frame; board and batten rear addition.
5. Brittingham House (301 20th Street): 1913; Victorian Cottage, one-story, wood frame, ell-shaped, gable roof; front and end gables have returns; recessed front porch with turned posts and gingerbread; elaborately carved door surround and transom.
7. Jones House (303 20th Street): c. 1900; Victorian Cottage, one-story, wood frame, asbestos siding; truncated hip roof with gable ends and intersecting front gable; front porch has turned posts, spindle-like gingerbread, and balustrade; carved window and door surrounds; small rear addition.
8. Rental house (305 20th Street): c. 1920; Bungaloid dwelling with low hip roof, wood frame, and battered pier columns.
9. Rental house (400 20th Street): c. 1910; Victorian Cottage; one-story, wood frame, hip roof with intersecting front gable, turned posts and balustrade; recessed front door with entablature; addition in rear.
10. Rental house (401 20th Street): c. 1900; Eclectic one-story, wood frame cottage; hip roof with intersecting front gable end with returns; transom and sidelights; doric column porch.
11. Culpepper House (402 20th Street): c. 1910; Victorian Cottage; one-story, wood frame, hip roof; porch runs across facade and is recessed long side; aluminum awning is under bracketed eaves; altered windows.
12. Clark House (403 20th Street): c. 1880; Greek Revival Cottage; one-story, wood frame, gable roof, transom and sidelights; altered windows and porch.
13. Rental house (404 20th Street): c. 1910; Victorian Cottage; irregular in plan; one-story, wood frame, hip metal roof with intersecting front gable and returns; turned posts and gingerbread are on porch; decorative porch surrounds.

14. Moore House (405 20th Street): c. 1890; Shotgun; one-story, wood frame; altered porch.
15. Morgan House (406 20th Street): c. 1890; Victorian Cottage; one-story, gable roof, wood frame, asbestos siding; altered windows and porch.
17. Rental house (408 20th Street): c. 1890; Greek Revival Cottage; one-story, wood frame, roof is gable at one end and hip at other; floor length windows with transom and sidelights around door; altered full-length porch.
18. Rental house (410 20th Street): c. 1910; Shotgun; one-story, wood frame, hip roof, altered porch and windows.
19. Rental house (411 20th Street): c. 1910; one-story, ell shape, gable roof with return eaves; altered porch and door; originally a shotgun with rear addition making ell.
20. Howard House (412 20th Street): c. 1900; Shotgun, one-story, wood frame, hip roof; altered windows, door, and porch.
21. Rental house (413 20th Street): c. 1900; Shotgun, one-story, wood frame, gable roof with returns; turned posts and brackets; carved door surround; altered porch and railings.
22. Wilks House (414 20th Street): c. 1890; Victorian Cottage; one-story, wood frame; full facade front porch with turned posts and gingerbread; floor length windows on front; transom above door.
23. Vacant house (416 20th Street): c. 1890; Victorian Cottage; one-story, wood frame, truncated hip roof, porch runs halfway around house, which is on a corner lot; floor length windows on porch; carved door surrounds; altered porch.
24. Webb House (1914 4th Avenue): c. 1910; plain Victorian Cottage; one-story; hip roof, wood frame; aluminum siding; full porch with square posts and aluminum awning.
25. Rental house (2000 4th Avenue): c. 1895; Victorian Cottage; one-story, wood frame, gable roof with lyre motif pattern on attic vent; asbestos siding; transom above door; full porch with solid wood square posts.

STRUCTURES WHICH DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE LOWER TWENTIETH STREET RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

6. Duplex (302 20th Street); c. 1950; concrete block house with hip roof; intrusive.
16. Ranch House (602 20th Street); c. 1960; non-contributing ranch-style cottage, one-story, wood frame, gable roof.



LOWER TWENTIETH STREET
RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

SCALE 0 75 150 225

N ↑

- Contributing
- Non-Contributing

INCLUSIVE STREET NUMBERS FOR LOWER TWENTIETH STREET RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

20th Street - odd 205-413
4th Avenue -

even 206-416
even 1914-2000



STREET NUMBERS
FROM 1914 TO 2000
EVEN

20th Street
4th Avenue