

I. IDENTIFICATION

PROPERTY NAME:	Slocum Residence	HISTORIC NAME:	<u>Keese House</u>		
STREET ADDRESS:	4 Burgess Street	CITY:	Lavonia		
PRESENT OWNER:	Farris Slocum (1 acre) John Keese (6 acres)	MAILING ADDRESS:	32 Burgess Street		
CITY:	Lavonia	STATE:	Georgia	ZIP CODE:	30553
CURRENT USE:	Residence	ACREAGE:	7 acres		
U. S. G. S. QUADRANGLE:	Lavonia, Ga.-S.C.	U. T. M. REFERENCE:			
V. B. D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER:	319-005-003		Z 17 E306180 N3811940		

II. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION:

Two-story frame plain-styled residence with Victorian-inspired details. House is built on a cross plan with three two-story gables projecting to the north, east, and west. These gables are embellished with "half-timbering," and the eaves feature turned and cut work at the peaks. A one-story porch supported by square piers wraps around the projecting bay on the front facade. A rear one-story wing projects to south and is enclosed with a screened porch on the west facade. A portion of this porch has been enclosed as a part of the dining room. A central chimney serves six rooms within the structure. Structure is set on brick piers filled in at some places with sheets of plastic. Windows throughout most of the structure are original one-over-one. The front entrance door and several interior doors are also original.

Interior of structure contains five rooms with a laundry room and pantry on first floor and three bedrooms on the second floor. Several rooms have had ceilings lowered and walls have been paneled. Original tongue and groove paneling is still intact in two front rooms on the first floor. Structure is in good condition.

House is now located on one city lot of approximately one acre. Landscape in this area is grassed, with several large pecan and other hardwood trees. A frame outbuilding is sited at an angle to the main house on the west side of the structure. This outbuilding, which contains evidence of the original well, is divided into three sections--a storage area, an area used for curing meat, and an addition of a frame carport.

The additional six acres include the remaining undeveloped land in the original tract. This land, which is open pasture land, contains three outbuildings. These structures include a frame barn built in 1906 and two structures dating from 1940-- a concrete block building and a frame barn.

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III. HISTORY

ORIGINAL OWNER: Frank Keese

ORIGINAL USE: Residence/
Small Farm

ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown

HISTORIC ACREAGE: 8 acres

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1905

DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT):

This structure was built as the residence of Frank Keese, a local merchant in the Lavonia community. Keese was originally from Fairplay, South Carolina, a town located approximately ten miles from Lavonia on the east side of the Savannah River. Keese came to Lavonia around the turn of the century and married into the Tribble family, a prominent family who owned most of the land in the western portion of Lavonia. Keese's wife inherited eight acres of this land in 1902 and this structure was built as the couple's residence in 1905. Keese began operating a hardware business in that same year at the present day location of the Morgan Hardware Company on Grogan Street. For a short time Keese was a hardware salesman but he returned to the hardware store on Grogan Street in 1916 and remained in that business until his death in 1939. In addition to the downtown business, Keese also grew cotton on the eight acre tract. The large barn built in 1906 served as a mule barn in this small farming operation.

After Keese's death his son, John, rented the family home and began a dairy operation on the acreage. He added two structures - a concrete block building and the other frame barn - for use in the dairy. The Keese family had farmland in the county where they raised the grains necessary to feed the dairy cows. In the 1950's Keese began using the family home to house an employee of the dairy, Farris Slocum, who helped in the operation and also delivered the milk. The dairy closed in the late 1960's and Keese sold the family home with one acre of land to this former employee. Slocum and his wife continue to reside in the structure today.

IV. SIGNIFICANCE

N. R. AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Agriculture LEVEL: Local
Commerce, local history

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL):

Architecturally this structure is significant as a unique style within the multiple resource area. The overall character is of plain design with Victorian-inspired detailing. The symmetrical design of the exterior is contrasted by the asymmetrical layout of the interior. The chimney is a unique feature in that it serves six rooms within the structure. The exterior of the structure and several interior rooms remain as intact examples of architectural design in the early 1900's.

SIGNIFICANCE CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

V. FORM PREPARED BY: Dale Jaeger ORGANIZATION: Georgia Mountains APDC
Preservation Planner
ADDRESS: Post Office 1720
Gainesville, GA 30503

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: Historic Structures Field Survey
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Mr. and Mrs. Farris Slocum
Mr. John Keese - Lavonia Chamber of Commerce Committee

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (CONTINUED)

The property is also important in agriculture as an example of small city farmstead. The original owner of the property, Frank Keese, raised a modest amount of cotton on this land while also operating a hardware business in the downtown area. The practice of part-time farming with the assistance of black labor and a full-time business operation was a typical means of making one's livelihood in Lavonia in the early 1900's.

In commerce and local history this property is important for its association with Frank Keese and the Tribble family. Keese, who married a Tribble descendant, was a local merchant in the Lavonia community and operated a downtown hardware business from 1905 until his death in 1939. The Tribble family was a large landowner in Lavonia and apparently owned much of the acreage which is located in the western portion of the resource area. The senior Tribble was an ordinary in Franklin County for a number of years.