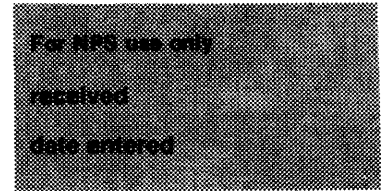


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VICKERY STREET RESIDENTIAL  
HISTORIC DISTRICT

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Name: Vickery Street Residential Historic District.

Location: Vickery St

In Lavonia, Franklin County, Georgia, along Vickery Street beginning near the town center and extending almost to the city limits.

Acreage: 23 acres.

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

The boundary of the Vickery Street Residential Historic District is identified by a heavy black line on the attached map of the Lavonia multiple resource area. This boundary encompasses an intact historic residential neighborhood in Lavonia which forms a linear pattern along Vickery Street. A single structure has been included which is located on Thomas Street, a side street of Vickery Street. Commercial, light industrial, and residential land uses are found to the south, west, and north of the district, and to the east is open agricultural land.

<u>UTM Reference:</u>	(A) Z17 E306700 N3813410	<u>Photographs:</u> See photos nos. <u>15</u> through <u>29</u>
	(B) Z17 E306610 N3812370	
	(C) Z17 E306440 N3812300	
	(D) Z17 E306190 N3813150	

Description:

The Vickery Street Residential Historic District is an area of approximately four blocks of intact historic structures located on either side of Vickery Street and one structure on Thomas Street. The structures are predominately detached, wood-framed, single-family residences, with one commercial building, a residence of decorative concrete block, and two churches within the district. The houses range in size from small one-story cottages to one relatively large "mansion." Styles represented within the district include Queen Anne, Gothic Revival, Victorian Eclectic, Georgian Revival, Renaissance Revival, and Bungalow. Many of these houses are rather plain, but others feature elaborate detailing, primarily of Gothic Revival inspiration.

The most elaborate structure, which is Queen Anne in design, is located near the northern end of the district at the intersection of Vickery Street and Rainbow Drive. Vickery Street curves at this point and makes this Queen Anne-styled residence, the Knox-Maret-Tribble-Roberts Residence, a focal point in its terminus-like location. This asymmetrically-massed structure features a three-story tower with "fish scale" shingles and conical roof, decorative bargeboards, pediment with rondel and latic ornaments, and a three sided porch with spindle bands. Gothic Revival touches within the district are most evident in the porches of the Allison House on Thomas Street and the Roberts-Verner Residence at the corner of Vickery and Bowman Streets, the latter of which also has scrollwork detailing at the

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Description: (Continued)

peak of the two gables on the front facade.

Victorian Eclectic structures are interspersed throughout the district, with the more elaborate structures in locations closer to the town center. These structures vary from plain-styled buildings based on Plantation-Plain type designs to highly-detailed houses with diagonal wood patterns, porches supported by Ionic columns, and decorative treatments in the gables. There are four almost identical houses within the district; they are distinguished by steep gables which have slightly-flared eaves. There is only one structure within the district of Georgian Revival design; this structure, which is located to the north of the Baptist Church, has a two-story bay, a one-story porch supported by Tuscan columns, a trabeated doorway, and dentil molding under the eaves. The Lavonia Baptist Church is the single Renaissance Revival-style structure within the district; it features a large dome, a two-story pedimented portico which shelters a large arched window of colored glass, and rectangular-shaped stained glass windows. This church assumes a dominant location at the intersection of Bowman and Vickery Streets. Bowman Street has been altered to form a triangular-shaped island which places the church in a terminus-like location from the central business district. There is one other church within the district, the Lavonia Presbyterian Church. This structure is frame and of plain styling. There are two Bungalow-styled structures within the district. One of these structures, the Whitworth-Gantt Residence, was originally a plain Victorian-era cottage which was altered in 1925 to its present appearance with a shed dormer, bracketed eaves, and craftsman-inspired columns which support a one-story shed porch.

There is one house constructed of decorative concrete blocks at the northern end of the district. This structure has a one-story porch supported by Tuscan columns and is separated from the rest of the district by a vacant lot. There is one commercial structure within the district. This one-story brick structure with a flat roof was originally a booster station for the American Telephone and Telegraph Company and its architecture reflects tele-utility company design of the 1930's. This structure has been adapted for use as a law office.

All of the structures within the district with the exception of the Knox-Maret-Tribble House are at identical setbacks from the road. Most of these structures are sited in the middle of their rectangular lots. The lots themselves are informally landscaped with trees, shrubs, and lawn. The front yards blend together into a continuous streetscape. Street trees of small dogwoods and sidewalks line both sides of Vickery Street. There are few intrusions - mostly ranch houses - within the district. The district boundary has been drawn to exclude other non-historic buildings along the street. Vickery Street is an extension of the original gridiron plan, and a few lots in the southern portion of the district were a part of the original plat.

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Statement of Significance:

Architecture. The Vickery Street Residential Historic District is significant in the area of architecture because it represents a historic residential neighborhood in Lavonia characterized by a concentration of late nineteenth and early twentieth century houses. This effect is due to the variety of architectural styles of buildings placed at uniform setbacks along a primary roadway which leads from the town center to the rural countryside. The district is also significant for its fine collection of residential architecture. In a town dominated by Victorian Eclectic Design, it is significant that this district includes examples of other styles. The variety of styles found within the Vickery Street district include Queen Anne, Gothic Revival, Victorian Eclectic, Georgian Revival, Renaissance Revival, and Bungalow. All of these structures reflect their carpenter-builder origins in terms of craftsmanship, design, and detailing. Quite exceptional is the Queen Anne residence and the Renaissance Revival church. These are elaborate structures within the multiple resource area. The district is also important for representing the evolution of architectural styles. There are two structures within the district -- the Allison House and Whitworth-Gantt Residence--which illustrate this evolution particularly well. The Allison House evolved from a one-story Plain-styled residence to its present day Victorian Eclectic design with Gothic Revival embellishments, and the Whitworth-Gantt Residence changed from a modest Victorian cottage to a Bungalow-inspired residence. Styles within the district represent approximately 50 years of architectural development in Lavonia.

Landscape Architecture. The Vickery Street Residential Historic District is significant in the area of landscape architecture since the landscaping materials and siting of the houses create a distinct historic residential environment. The houses are sited at uniform setbacks in informally landscaped front yards and form a linear pattern along Vickery Street. This arrangement of architecture and landscaping along this roadway, additionally lined with a variety of street trees, creates the feeling of an in-town residential avenue. The rural setting of this in-town neighborhood is illustrated by the presence of open farmland on the east. The siting of major structures within the district -- the Lavonia Baptist Church and the Knox-Maret-Tribble-Roberts Residence -- at terminus-like locations is important since these locations highlight the uniqueness of the structures' architectural styling.

Community Planning and Development. The Vickery Street district is significant in terms of community planning and development because it represents the growth of a residential neighborhood along an outlying county road. The earliest development in the district occurred at the southern end with the construction of the Roberts-Verner Residence on a 60-acre tract predating by two years the founding of the town. It appears that the district developed on land formerly owned by T. H. Roberts. Vickery Street, part of which was included in Lavonia's original gridiron plan, was extended to the north in a straight line, and approximately one-acre lots were laid out on each side of the street. This sub-division of land was fairly consistent until the street curved to the east at the location

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Statement of Significance (Continued)

of a 20-acre tract associated with the Know-Tribble-Maret-Roberts residence. The division of small lots continued along the path of the road and today forms the north part of the district. During its early development the small lots on Vickery Street were bounded on the rear by open farmlands. The land to the west has now developed into mixed residential, commercial, and light industry uses. The land on the east remains open and documents the former mix of rural and urban land uses.

Local History. In local history the Vickery Street historic district is significant due to its association with prominent individuals in the Lavonia community. Some of the individuals associated with the Vickery Street area include: O. D. Cannon, Sr., a local merchant who resided in the present day Cannon-Coram house; C. A. Addington, the president and organizer of the First National Bank, who lived in the present day Addington-Conwell-Tyce house; W. G. Welborn, who owned a local livery business and resided in the present Welborn-Sewell house; B. H. Pulliam, a cotton buyer, who lived in the present Pulliam-Sears-Vickery-Haley-Toney house; Dr. T. W. Freeman, a medical doctor who owned a drug store in the town center and lived in a residence which is owned by his descendants today; Thomas A. Allison, a local merchant, an early mayor, and president of the First Bank of Lavonia who lived in the Allison house (which later housed a railroad agent); G. F. Blackwell, who was in charge of the construction of the railroad into Lavonia; John Stevenson, a local builder responsible for numerous structures within the resource area who lived a short time in the Young-Stevenson-Smith-Harbin-Hartzog house and later built a residence of decorative concrete block at the northern end of the district; and Mr. and Mrs. Rush Burton, who operated a local hotel for approximately 40 years and lived in the Burton-Rogers house. The district is also associated with J. R. P. Sewell, a wealthy developer who lived in the county and invested in the city and later moved to Texas. Sewell built five almost identical structures within the district, four of which remain today. These structures were built between 1895 and 1900 and represent speculative building practices during one of Lavonia's early building "boom" periods. There were also a number of farmers who lived within the district, including I. C. Adams, Bunk Harrison, and J. Mitchell. These individuals, who had located in the city because of proximity to schools, churches, and the commercial center, commuted to work each day to their outlying county farms. This practice of city living and country working was shared by many residents in the community. The residential mix within the Vickery Street District of merchants and professional individuals who worked in the town center and farmers who commuted to the county illustrates the attraction in-town living had to a variety of individuals.

Form Prepared By:

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