

735

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 Leader-Rosansky House
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number 403 Jackson Street
city, town Vidalia (n/a) vicinity of
county Toombs code GA 279
state Georgia code GA zip code 30474

(n/a) not for publication

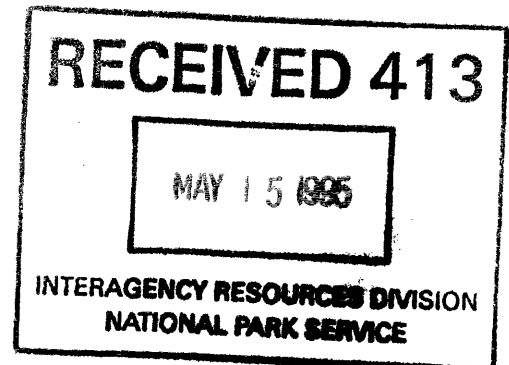
3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object



Number of Resources within Property:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: n/a

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

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 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 the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Mark R. Edwards
Signature of certifying official

5/05/95
Date

Mark R. Edwards
State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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 or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Edson H. Beall

6/20/95

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions:

COMMERCE: professional

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival

Materials:

foundation brick; concrete
walls wood
roof tin
other n/a

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Leader-Rosansky House is located in the downtown residential section of Vidalia in southeast Georgia (photo #1). The current owner completed a certified rehabilitation on the house in 1993 for use as an accountant office.

Built in ca. 1903, the Leader-Rosansky House is a one-and-one-half story, frame, Queen Anne and Neo-Classical Revival style house with corbeled brick chimneys, weatherboard siding, and a hipped, pressed-metal roof with a pedimented front gable. The foundation is brick pier with concrete block infill (photo #2).

A full front porch exhibits turned balusters, columns with Ionic capitals, and hexagonal, gazebo-like treatments (photo #3). The front glass-and-wood paneled door is highlighted with elaborate crown molding, a transom window, and sidelights. Cornice brackets, dentiled window moldings, textured wood facade shingles, and 1/1, 2/2, and stained-glass windows are intact (photo #4).

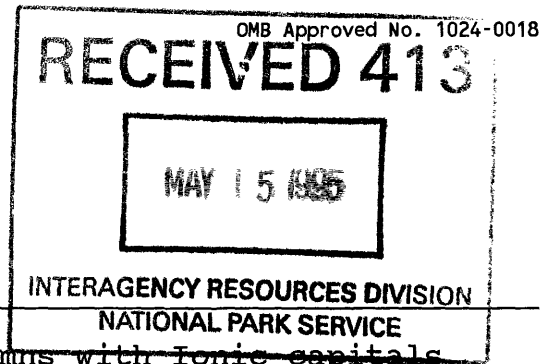
The floor plan, a semblance of a central hallway with corresponding rooms on each side, is a variation on the Georgian cottage plan (photo #5). Throughout the exterior and interior of the house, there are unusual-shaped spaces using a series of angles. Creating a hexagonal motif, these angles are evident in the front and rear porches, the hallways, stairwell, window seat, and even the hexagonal pavers on the walk (photo #6).

The interior features include the original wood floors, vertical, beaded-board wainscoting, picture rails, wood paneled doors, plaster and wood ceilings, wood moldings, a wood stairway with newel posts and turned balusters, interior transom windows, and decorative fireplace

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7



mantels (photo #7). The mantles have columns with ~~Ionic capitals~~, tiered shelves, mirrors, and bas-relief detailing (photo #8). The interior door surrounds have fluted pilasters and bull's-eye medallions (photo #9). Like the exterior, the interior reflects both a Late Victorian and classical influence (photo #10).

In 1955, the second floor caught on fire and was hurriedly rebuilt. During the recent rehabilitation of the property, the upstairs was completely renovated (photo #11). The room configuration was changed, skylights were added, and the floor was re-carpeted (photo #12).

The house sits on a less than one acre lot with a grass lawn and a variety of young and mature trees, including dogwoods, pecans, elms, and cedars. The historic wrought-iron fence and hexagonal sidewalk pavers remain (photo #13). A parking lot has been added behind the house.

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): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Architecture
Commerce
Community Planning and Development
Ethnic Heritage: European

Period of Significance:

c.1903-1930

Significant Dates:

c.1903 - Construction date

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Ivey P. Crutchfield (1878-1952) - unverified

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Leader-Rosansky House in Vidalia is significant in terms of architecture as an excellent and intact example of a turn-of-the-century grand home as built in a small southeastern community. It is also significant as an intact example of a Queen Anne and Neo-Classical Revival style house with elaborate details such as the ornate porch, Ionic columns, the stained glass windows, and patterned shingles. These elaborate details are not found on any other local property. Besides the classical detailing on the columns, window and door surrounds, and pediment, the classical influence is also apparent in the symmetry of the house.

With its central passage and corresponding rooms on either side, the house is also significant as a variation on the Georgian cottage plan. The plan is a variation because instead of having an uninterrupted passage through the house from front to back, the central corridor is made up of discrete spaces with door openings (photo #5).

The architect for the building is thought to have been Ivey P. Crutchfield (1878-1952), a prominent southeast Georgia architect who lived in Vidalia for awhile and built several residential and commercial buildings, including the First National Bank, the Leader & Rosansky Store, and the Peterson-Jenkins House in Vidalia. Although efforts have failed to verify the architect of the Leader-Rosansky House, the house may be attributed to Crutchfield because of the non-rectangular rooms, variation of the Georgian central hallway plan, and elaborate detailing which are commonly found in his other designs. As an early design of Crutchfield's, the Leader-Rosansky House has added significance in architecture as an intact design of one of Georgia's prominent early 20th-century architects.

Built for Moses Leader and Nahum Aaron Rosansky, this house is believed to be the oldest home surviving in Vidalia and is the only surviving home of any of Vidalia's founding fathers. It is significant in commerce and community planning and development because the Leader and Rosansky families were instrumental in developing the Vidalia business district as a regional commercial center and in developing the residential sections of the infant city. They operated the Leader & Rosansky Store from the late 1890s until 1928 and it became the largest trade mart in the area. During this time, they experienced economic success and expanded their partnership into land ownership and real estate which led to their donation of land for a church, two new schools, and some city streets.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

The Leader-Rosansky House is also significant in terms of ethnic heritage: European. Both Leader and Rosansky were Polish Jews who came to America in 1890 from an area of Poland ruled by Russia to escape the anti-Semitic atmosphere that had intensified in Eastern Europe during the 1880s. The immigration of Eastern European Jews to small Georgia communities to establish a business was not unusual. The house represents the success of Leader and Rosansky as Jewish immigrant merchants and their contributions to the small southeastern community of Vidalia.

National Register Criteria

The Leader-Rosansky House is eligible under Criterion C as an intact, unusual, and excellent example of a Queen Anne- and Neo-Classical Revival-style house with a variation of the Georgia cottage plan. It is also eligible under Criterion A for its significance in the commercial, planning, and developmental history and ethnic heritage of Vidalia.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

Period of significance (justification)

The house was constructed c.1903 and 1930 marks the year of Mr. Rosansky's death.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The house is the only resource included in the nomination.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

Note: Historical Narrative was written by Kathryn Ware in July 1991 and was submitted with the Historic Property Information Form, August 15, 1991 submitted by David J. Lovins. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

In 1890, Moses Leader and Nahum Aaron Rosansky, unknown to each other, came to this country from a section of Poland ruled by Russia, where, a decade earlier, persecution of Jews had intensified. They met in Augusta, where they formed a partnership. Old established wholesale houses in the big cities were hubs for retailing; they could help a beginner with credit and with knowledge of where the needs and opportunities were.

A few years later Mr. Leader arrived in Vidalia as a peddler with a pack on his back. He stayed at the home of S.B. Meadows, a newly arrived merchant and liveryman. He must have plied his trade among the scattered old settlers and the numerous new outlying sawmills. Soon he was able to rent a horse and buggy from Mr. Meadows and increase the size of his stock. We surmise that during these years Mr. Rosansky was working elsewhere in the Augusta orbit accumulating capital to join with that of his partner.

By 1897, Leader and Rosansky were advertising their store in the newspaper (the store was here earlier, as the advertisements found indicate). A year later they announced that they had doubled the size of their showroom, the workroom, and the force of milliners.

In Vidalia's phenomenal first decade, the population increased one-thousand percent: 1890 census records are lost, but in the 1890 application for a Vidalia Post Office, the population was given as fifty. (and in the 1893 polling for incorporation of the town twenty-six eligible men turned out to vote; in the 1900 census the population was 503.

The first year of the new century found Mr. Leader and Mr. Rosansky, naturalized citizens, living in a rented house.

In 1901, the partners bought fifty-two acres of land from Caroline A. Mosley (nee McIntyre, a granddaughter and heir of Daniel McIntyre). This tract (together with some smaller adjoining tracts that they acquired soon after and with several small parcels owned by others) they would transform from countryside to the lots and streets--Church, Jackson, and Durden--that would be Vidalia's premier residential area

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

for the next fifty years and would continue to be prized for another fifty years, up to the present day.

They selected a lot for themselves on the Mosely tract and there they soon built the imposing yet graceful house that would be a beacon for the southward development of the town into the country. Today it is the only remaining house in Vidalia that belonged to any of the city's first fathers.

Early in 1902, Mr. Leader's sister Rosa came here from Poland. She, like brother before her, stayed with the S.B. Meadows family until her marriage to Mr. Rosansky, soon after. Old-time Vidaliens remember hearing their parents and grandparents talk: they said she came here with a tag around her neck telling where she was to be sent, since she spoke no English. Also, it was said that she cried all the time. They wondered whether she had been torn from a sweetheart in the old country or was just dismayed by the arduous journey and the strangeness of her new surroundings--she had not even seen her brother for twelve years. She is said to have confided many years later that first she had not loved Mr. Rosansky, but that he had been so kind and good that she had learned to love him.

With the marriage of Miss Leader and Mr. Rosansky, the partners became brothers-in-law, and the family was further consolidated by the birth of Ellen Rosansky on November 27, 1902.

Vidalia's growth and development was likewise enhanced in 1902. The north-south Macon, Dublin, and Savannah Railway connected to the early east-west tracks (now the Seaboard Air Line Railway). The prospering railroad line town was on its way to becoming a hub of transportation. The "Town of Vidalia" chartered in 1893 by Montgomery county became the "City of Vidalia" chartered by the State of Georgia.

Vidalia was changing from town to city not in name only, and the leading citizens were the men who had come to build the new town in the early 1890s, Leader and Rosansky among them. They wanted the utilities, hospitals, schools, churches, hotels, businesses, and professional services of a city, and they knew how to get them.

They wanted prosperity and good will in the countryside, too. At about this time, among many substantial gestures by other businessmen, the partners gave land for a country church north of Vidalia. They had by this time begun to deal in land and to acquire what would be vast acreage in the years to come. Perhaps land ownership held a special allure for them, as it had been forbidden to Jews in Poland.

In 1904, Leader and Rosansky gave most of the land for a magnificent new school which would be completed the next year.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

Earlier in 1904, they had given all the land for another school site, which was abandoned. They gave a good deal of land to the city for streets; one of them is named Leader Street.

During the era when many original wooden store buildings were being replaced by brick, a 1904 advertisement for Leader and Rosansky's Great Removal Sale offers, amidst discounted items of merchandise "our entire line of fixtures at less than half price, 10 floor show cases 6 to 10 feet long, umbrella cases, ribbon cases, and many others." The store to which they were "removing" may have been the large and impressive edifice, designed and built by Ivey P. Crutchfield, which was to dominate merchandising in the region for a long time to come. They sold everything from handkerchiefs to curly-maple bedroom suites to mules.

The Leader and Rosansky family lived quietly at home, in contrast to the bustling activity at the store, where up to thirty employees worked at peak times. Mrs. Rosansky, by all accounts never mastered English and, perhaps for this reason, was timid. Perhaps she was homesick for the old country, despite its dangers. Surely she grieved over the death of her first-born child Ellen, who died at age five.

The next child, Annie, excelled in school and in Vidalia's first Girl Scout troop.

Mrs. Rosansky died in the flu epidemic of 1918. While Annie attended Barnard College of Columbia University in New York, the house became a bachelor establishment. In addition to Mr. Leader, Mr. Rosansky, and Milton ("Mickey") Rosansky, then in the middle grades of school, there were two young men who worked at the store, A.L. ("Al") Bauman and Don Thompson, a local boy with his first job away from the family farm. The cook, a local black woman named Mary, did her best to follow her instruction in Jewish dietary laws.

After graduation, Annie married Al Bauman, and they moved to Virginia. Mickey left after high school to work in Birmingham with an associate of his father and uncle, married their, and never came back to Vidalia to live.

Leader and Rosansky's closed in late 1928. Mr. Rosansky died in 1930; the list of his pallbearers is a Who's Who of early Vidalia. A few years later Mr. Leader went to live with Annie and Al in Virginia and died there in 1950.

Neither Annie nor Mickey had children, and they are now both dead, thus ending a families that had a special place among the pioneer builders of Vidalia.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

S.R. Shuman came to Vidalia about 1903 from the nearby Ohoopee community to seek better opportunities for himself and his large and growing family. In 1905, he opened a meat market on McIntosh Street (on land he purchased from leader and Rosansky) which evolved over the years into a modern supermarket owned and operated by his three youngest children, Marvin, Leland, and Dyess. When Dyess Shuman sold the store in 1979, it was Vidalia's oldest family business.

Marvin Shuman bought the Leader and Rosansky house from Annie Rosansky Bauman in 1945. The spirit of the time did not foster the appreciation of a vintage house, and war-induced shortages did not allow the building of a new house. Mr. Shuman met these conditions by modernizing the kitchen, installing radiant gas heat, lowering some of the ceilings, concealing some of the fireplaces, and covering some of the walls with the new paneling. Into the refurbished house, he moved with his wife Lillian, children Anita and James, and Lillian's recently widowed mother, Cora Lee Agee.

Mrs. Shuman, an only child, had been a diligent student and a dedicated musician. While Mr. Shuman was outgoing and expansive, she was quiet and retiring and enjoyed the sanctuary of her home with its fine organ and piano. Anita and James liked to play in the "secret rooms" created by the dropped ceilings and to slide on the highly polished hardwood floors. James' electric trains toured the upstairs room.

The Shumans were active in the First Methodist Church; Mr. Shuman served in various leadership capacities, and Mrs. Shuman alternated as organist. Mrs. Agee sang in the choir. In 1968, the Methodists started Grace Church in a new section of the ever-growing city. The Shumans were charter members.

Mrs. Agee died in 1961; Mr. Shuman died in 1973, and Mrs. Shuman died the following year. In 1975, Anita and James gave their mother's Baldwin organ to Grace Church.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Lovins, J. David. "Leader-Rosansky House," Historic Property Information Form, August 15, 1991. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, with supplemental information.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): () N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested January 8, 1992
- 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 #

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

n/a

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 366750 Northing 3564880

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary, which includes the house and yard, is indicated by a heavy black line, drawn to scale on the enclosed tax map.

Boundary Justification

The property boundaries represent the current legal boundaries associated with the house, as well as the historic boundaries since 1945.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leslie N. Sharp, National Register Consultant
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** March 30, 1994

(OHP form version 12-08-93)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property: Leader-Rosansky House
City or Vicinity: Vidalia
County: Toombs
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: March 1994

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 13: Front facade of Leader-Rosansky House with historic fencing; photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 13: Southwest corner and rear facade of house; photographer facing northeast.
- 3 of 13: Front facade and southeast corner of house; photographer facing northwest.
- 4 of 13: Detail of decorative wood shingles on south facade; photographer facing east-northeast.
- 5 of 13: Central hall looking toward rear of house; photographer facing northwest.
- 6 of 13: Second room on the south side, bay window; photographer facing southeast.
- 7 of 13: Staircase in entrance hall; photographer facing southwest.
- 8 of 13: First room on north side; photographer facing southwest.
- 9 of 13: First room on south side; photographer facing north.
- 10 of 13: Second room on north side; photographer facing east-southeast.
- 11 of 13: Second floor landing looking down staircase and to the rear of the house; photographer facing southwest.
- 12 of 13: Second floor office in northwest corner of house; photographer facing west-northwest.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

13 of 13: Front facade of house, historic fencing and hexagonal
 pavers; photographer facing west.





STREET

27

25

MEADOWS STREET

30

LEADER-ROSANSKY HOUSE
TOOMBS COUNTY, GEORGIA
TAX MAP
NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY: 
SCALE: 1" = 100'
NORTH: 

30