

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Oakdene Place

and/or common

2. Location

*Roughly bounded by the Etowah River, Queen and  
E 6th sts.*

street & number See continuation sheet N/A not for publication

city, town Rome N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Georgia code 013 county Floyd code 115

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple owners (Less than 50)

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Floyd County Courthouse

city, town Rome state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Structures Field Survey: has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
Floyd County, Georgia

date 1977  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section  
Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state GA

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Oakdene Place is a self-contained, densely developed residential neighborhood dating from the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Its curvilinear streets are laid out in an area of gently rolling hills extending south from the bank of the Etowah River. Housing in the district is of two distinct types. The northern area of the district, along River Avenue and the northern end of Coral Avenue to Fair Street, contains large late-Victorian homes on large lots with extensive informal landscaping. Here houses are predominantly Queen Anne and Neoclassical in style and detailing. Most are wood framed and feature period details such as large porches, brackets, balustrades, stained glass, and tall chimneys on the exteriors, and oak and pine flooring, leaded glass, and extensive woodworking on the interiors. The majority of houses of this type were built between 1890 and 1903, when the construction of a foundry to the immediate south of the planned residential area halted this type of development. The southern end of the district, close to this foundry (excluded from the district because of extensive exterior alterations), contains modest mill workers' housing dating from the 1910s and 1920s. These houses are small frame dwellings with little or no detailing. They are of two basic types: square with a four room floor plan, and shotgun style, found both as single family units and duplexes. Large shade trees are found throughout Oakdene Place creating a naturalistic wood-like setting. In the earlier northern section are stone walls, iron fences and many yard plantings. The southern area is less extensively landscaped. A small frame store building at 20 Coral Avenue originally housed dining facilities for foundry employees.

## Non-Contributing Structures

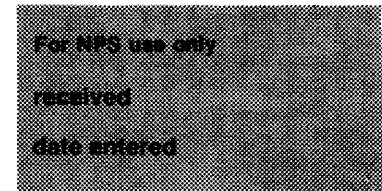
Non-contributing structures are limited to six non-historic infill houses dating from the 1940s and 1950s located on River Avenue and Coral Avenue and four intrusions located along the lane at the south edge of the district. These are indicated on the enclosed map.

## Boundary.

The nominated property consists of the intact historic acreage associated with Oakdene Place. This encompasses a densely developed residential area loosely bounded on the north by the Etowah River, on the east by the railroad, on the south by the foundry (excluded because of extensive exterior alterations), and on the west by open land which has changed from its historic appearance as the setting for an estate which was destroyed by fire in the 1960s.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



---

Continuation sheet                      Location                      Item number                      2                      Page                      2

---

Oakdene Place, a residential area in Rome, Floyd County, Georgia is located on the south bank of the Etowah River just to the southwest of the Second Avenue bridge over the Etowah. The district encompasses residential properties located on River Avenue, Queen Street, Coral Avenue, Fair Street, East Sixth Street, and Walnut Avenue.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1880s - 1925      **Builder/Architect** Multiple

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Oakdene Place is historically significant in the areas of architecture, community planning and development, landscape architecture and local history. It is an intact early suburban residential neighborhood that documents architectural styles and landscaping practices typical of many late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century communities in Georgia. The above areas of significance support district eligibility under National Register Criteria A, B, and C.

In terms of community planning and development, Oakdene Place is significant as an example of the planned residential suburbs that were developed beyond the Between the Rivers area of Rome by private investment companies beginning in the late 1870s. Its curvilinear layout, although typical of suburban development nationwide, is somewhat unusual for Rome which in general continued to expand using the gridiron layout initiated in the Between the Rivers area. By 1883, nearly one-third of Rome's population lived in the surrounding suburbs of East Rome, South Rome, Forrestville, and DeSoto. The Oakdene area, part of a larger area developed by the East Rome Land Company, was purchased in the late 1870s by A. Thew H. Brower, a well-known businessman in Rome.

Brower, who constructed a house for his family on what is now Coral Avenue, intended, but failed, to develop the area. In 1890 he sold it to the Rome Investment Company. At this point the land was quickly subdivided, and the neighborhood began to develop into an upper-class planned suburb as businessmen and professionals and their families built houses and located there. Development of the neighborhood as originally planned was slowed and eventually halted by the 1903 construction of the Bowie Stove Company along Oakdene's south edge. In the 1910s and early 1920s, the owners of the foundry constructed modest mill housing in the southern part of the neighborhood which contrasted sharply with the earlier fine houses. Only a third to a half of the originally planned development was built. The resulting heterogeneity of Oakdene Place is characteristic of Rome's historic residential development, however.

In terms of architecture, Oakdene Place documents two periods and two distinct forms of housing important in the history of the city of Rome. The northern part of the district contains large Queen Anne, late-Victorian and Neoclassical style houses built from the 1880s to about 1910 for some of Rome's prominent families. During the 1910s a few more modest Bungalow/Craftsman style houses were also constructed. In general, these houses feature exterior weatherboarding, porches, leaded or stained glass, asymmetrical floor plans and fine interior detailing including wide staircases and extensive woodwork. The earlier Victorian houses are extensively detailed with such features as turrets, fish scale shingles and brackets. The later Neoclassically inspired houses have simpler classical detailing. These houses are similar in size and style to many of the larger homes built during the same period in Rome's Between the Rivers Historic District. The south end of

Continued

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approximately 10 acres

Quadrangle name Rome South, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UMT References

A 

1	6	6	6	8	8	2	0	3	7	9	0	6	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

1	6	6	6	8	6	2	0	3	7	9	0	3	3	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

1	6	6	6	8	5	0	0	3	7	9	0	3	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D 

1	6	6	6	8	5	4	0	3	7	9	0	6	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary, outlined with a heavy black line on the enclosed map, is described and justified in Section 7.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher

Historic Preservation Section

organization Ga. Dept. of Natural Resources date May 31, 1983

street & number 270 Washington Street, S. W. telephone 404-656-2840

city or town Atlanta state GA 30334

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon

Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 6/27/83

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Alarosa Byers</u>	<u>8/4/83</u>
Keeper of the National Register	date
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

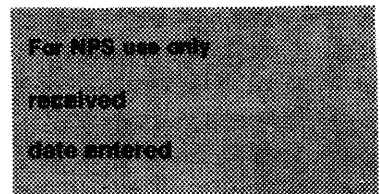
the district contains the modest mill housing built during the 1910s and 1920s by the foundry immediately to the south of the district to house its employees. These simple wood-frame houses with exterior weatherboarding and small front porches are varied in plan and include examples of shotgun houses, square four room houses and duplexes. They are typical of mill workers quarters of this period throughout Rome and document this important type of housing.

In terms of landscape architecture, the district is significant for providing an example of the type of naturalistic, park-like landscaping which became popular nationwide in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Oakdene Place's rolling topography, informally planted trees, rock walls, hedges and a lake that was planned but never constructed are typical features of this style of landscaping.

In terms of local history, the district is significant as the home of representative members of two socioeconomic classes important in the history of Rome. A number of industrial and civic leaders who individually made important contributions to Rome's development and a group of workers who collectively contributed to Rome's industrial strength lived in the neighborhood. Their simultaneous presence in this neighborhood, where they lived for many years in close juxtaposition, documents a housing pattern that was typical for Rome, although somewhat unusual elsewhere. In addition, at the Brower House (#6 Coral Avenue) an event took place which became part of Rome's local history. Here, at a social gathering in the early 1880s, young Woodrow Wilson was first introduced to his Rome-born wife, Ellen Louise Axson.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

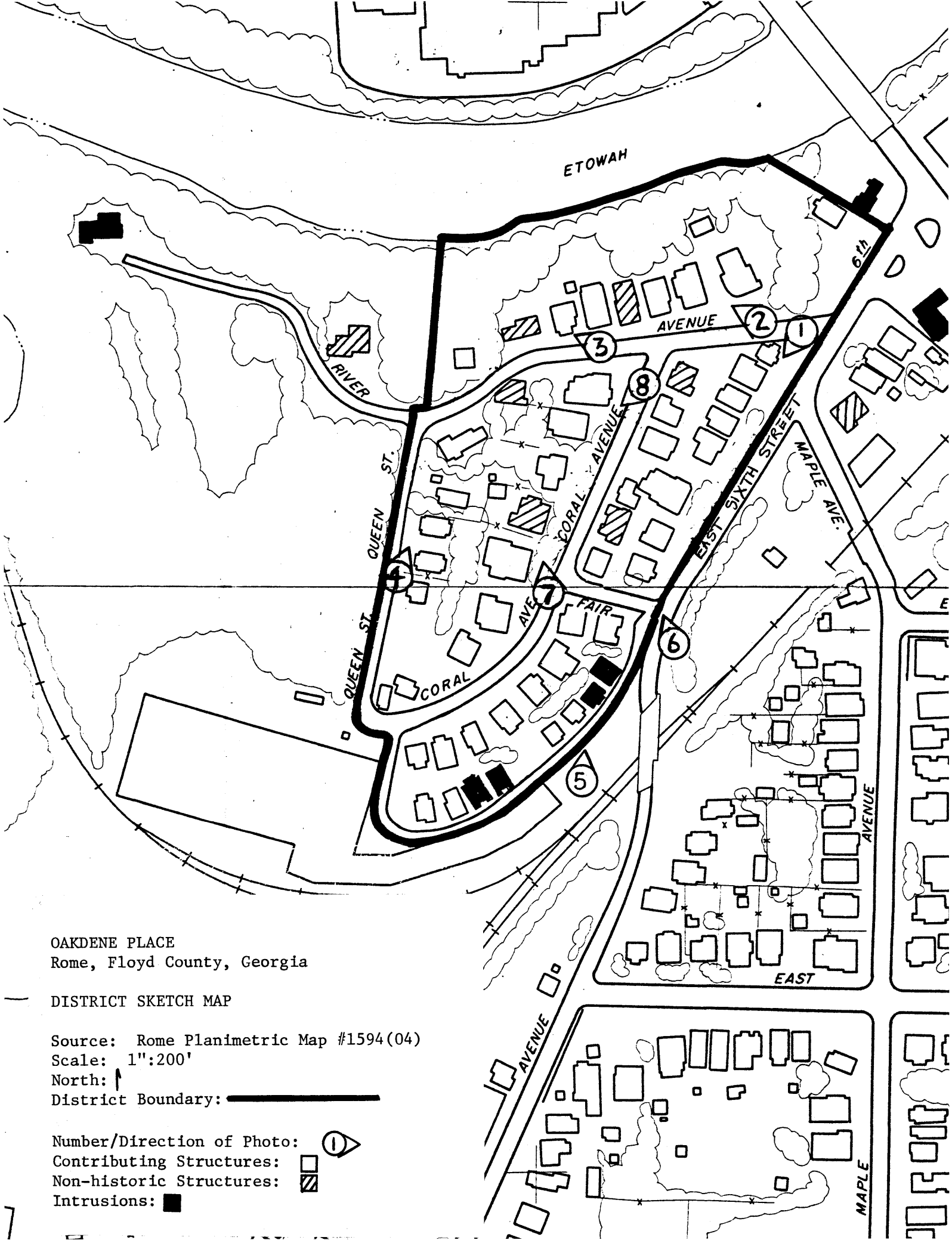


---

Continuation sheet	Bibliographical References	Item number 9	Page 2
--------------------	-------------------------------	---------------	--------

---

- Aycock, Roger. All Roads to Rome. Rome: Rome Area Heritage Foundation. 1981.
- Bathey, George Magruder, Jr. A History of Rome and Floyd County, 1540-1922. Atlanta: The Webb and Vary Company. 1922.
- Brown, David. "Historic Property Information Form: Oakdene Historic District," August 31, 1982. On file at State Historic Preservation Office, Atlanta.
- Clarkson, Pam; President, Oakdene Place Association. Rome, Georgia. Interview with David Brown, August 5, 1982.
- Early History of Rome, Floyd County, Georgia. Rome: Chamber of Commerce. n. d. On file at state archives.
- "Historic Homes on Tour." Rome News-Tribune. October 5, 1980.
- Grant, Elmer P., Sr. Recollections of Rome. n. d. On file at state archives.
- "Remarkable Rome, Illustrated." Rome Tribune-Herald. 78 pages. December 1911.
- Rome City Directories. 1880-81, 1883, 1888, 1898-99, 1904, 1913, 1919, 1922, 1926-27, 1929, 1931.
- Sanborn Insurance Maps for Rome, Georgia. 1885 1888, 1893, 1898, 1903, 1909, 1915, 1926.
- "Suffrage Edition." Rome Tribune-Herald. March 1915. 30 pages.
- The Tribune of Rome. October 2, 1888. "Anniversary and Trade Number."
- "20th Century Rome, Resume of Her Past, Present, and Great Future, Illustrated." Special Industrial Edition by The Rome Tribune. M. Ohlander, compiler. 70 pages. October 1902.



OAKDENE PLACE  
 Rome, Floyd County, Georgia




DISTRICT SKETCH MAP

Source: Rome Planimetric Map #1594(04)

Scale: 1":200'

North: ↑

District Boundary: **—————**

Number/Direction of Photo:   
 Contributing Structures:   
 Non-historic Structures:   
 Intrusions: 