

I. IDENTIFICATION

PROPERTY NAME: Killingsworth Farm ✓ HISTORIC NAME: Killingsworth Farm  
STREET ADDRESS: Hartwell Road ✓ CITY: Lavonia  
PRESENT OWNER: Willie Herndon MAILING ADDRESS: 2952 Old Norcross Road  
CITY: Tucker STATE: Georgia ZIP CODE: 30084  
CURRENT USE: Rental ACREAGE: Less than one  
U. S. G. S. QUADRANGLE: Lavonia, Ga.-S.C. U. T. M. REFERENCE:  
V. B. D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: 315-002-008 Z17 E 307870 N3811820

II. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION:

One-story frame Victorian-inspired residence built on central hall plan with wing on south side of structure. Metal roof over main portion of residence is hipped with a square cupola at the peak. The roof forms a pediment with wooden shingles and a window bordered with small square panes on the front facade. Roof over wing portion is gabled. One-story porch extends across front facade and wraps around the north and south sides of the structure. On the south a portion of the porch has been enclosed to form a room. On the north the porch extends into a car shelter. The porch is supported by square columns which appear to be replacements since one chamfered pilaster survives. Columns supporting the car shelter also appear to be later additions. These columns are set on brick foundations and are tapered in typical craftsman styling. The front entrance is defined by a pediment in the porch roof which contains wooden shingles. Two rectangular shaped windows on either side of the door appear to have one time been decorative features. The original glass, which may have been stained or leaded glass, has now been replaced with large single panes of glass. The front door, which has a segmental arched transom, is multi-paneled and appears to be a replacement. The rear door of the structure has a segmental arched transom. A shed porch at the rear of the structure has wooden shingles on the sides of the roof, and the porch floor is concrete.

The house is sited on a city lot with large hardwoods in the front yard. The house is in good condition. To the rear of the structure there are several outbuildings: a frame garage (later addition); a smoke house, barn, and shed, which appear to be of similar age as the house; and a grape arbor. There is open pasture land adjacent to this lot to the rear of the property. This farmland has not been included in the area proposed for nomination.

III. HISTORY

ORIGINAL OWNER: J. S. Killingsworth ORIGINAL USE: Residence/Farm  
ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Unknown HISTORIC ACREAGE: 100+  
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1895-1896 DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS:

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT):

J. S. Killingsworth, one of the signers of original charter for the City of Lavonia, established his residence in the southeastern portion of the city in the late 1800's. According to a niece and older residents in Lavonia, Mr. Killingsworth was a wealthy man who had a variety of business concerns. A large tract of land which was associated with the residence was used in the production of cotton. This operation was carried out by tenant farmers. In proximity to the house, Killingsworth maintained a fruit orchard. In the 1930's the property was sold to Tom Carson, a local postal clerk who lived on the property until after World War II. Carson apparently maintained the original appearance of the residence and added the grape arbor in the rear yard. The property was then sold to Ernest Jackson and has changed ownership several times in the last ten years. The present owner uses the property as a rental. The farming acreage has been divided from the residential tract for tax purposes.

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IV. SIGNIFICANCE

N. R. AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Agriculture, : LEVEL: Local  
Politics/Government

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL):

Architecturally, this house is a good example of the late Victorian era housing common to Lavonia. Houses such as this, with their nearly square plans, high hipped roofs, multiple gables, wrap-around porches, and central halls give Lavonia much of its distinctive character as a turn of the century boom town. This house is distinguished by its square cupola, one of only two such features in the multiple resource area.

In terms of agriculture, the property is significant as the nucleus of a historic cotton farm on the outskirts of Lavonia. This farm, operated by tenant farmers, is typical of the larger-scale cash crop farming in the vicinity at the turn of the century.

In terms of politics and government, the house is significant as the home of J. S. Killingsworth, one of the signers of Lavonia's charter of incorporation as a city.

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V. FORM PREPARED BY: Dale Jaeger ORGANIZATION: Georgia Mountains APDC  
Preservation Planner  
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REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: None

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Mrs. Homer Gaines Marshall Allison  
Mrs. Ernest Vandiver, Jr. Marie Williams

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