

I. IDENTIFICATION

PROPERTY NAME:	Dowis residence	HISTORIC NAME:	Beasley House		
STREET ADDRESS:	75 Grogan Street	CITY:	Lavonia		
PRESENT OWNER:	Joyce C. & Max R. Dowis	MAILING ADDRESS:	75 Grogan Street		
CITY:	Lavonia	STATE:	Georgia	ZIP CODE:	30553
CURRENT USE:	Residence	ACREAGE:	Less than one		
U. S. G. S. QUADRANGLE:	Lavonia, Ga.-S.C.	U. T. M. REFERENCE:	Z17 E306830 N3812340		
V. B. D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER:	312-002-001				

II. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION:

One and one-half story frame residence of Victorian-era styling built on a central hall plan. High hipped roof covered in metal has four gables with diamond-shaped attic windows. Two gables are placed symmetrically on the front facade. A one-story porch wraps around two sides of the structure. Porch posts of wrought iron are replacements and a portion of the porch on the rear of the west side has been enclosed. The house is set on brick piers and the foundation has been filled in with additional brick. Windows are original one over one. The front door is also original and is identical to the door found on the Adams House (No. 22) on Hartwell Road.

On the interior, walls and ceilings are plastered and the wood floors have been carpeted. A wall which once enclosed the central hall has been removed in the living room to expand the size of this room. To the rear of the structure a former porch has been enclosed in the creation of the dining room, kitchen, and bath. The house is in good condition.

The house is sited on a city-sized lot with several large hardwoods surrounding the structure.

III. HISTORY

ORIGINAL OWNER:	R. L. Beasley	ORIGINAL USE:	Residence
ARCHITECT/BUILDER:	Unknown	HISTORIC AREAAGE:	Several acres
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1913	DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS:	Various - see description

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT):

This structure was built in 1913 as the residence of R. L. Beasley. Beasley owned and operated a grocery store in the central business district of Lavonia. His store was located on Grogan Street in the row of stores between East Main and Vickery Streets. The

PROPERTY Dowis Residence

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT):

house remained in the Beasley family until 1964 and was acquired by the present owners in 1979.

IV. SIGNIFICANCE:

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL):

In local history, this structure is significant due to its association with the original owner, R. L. Beasley. Beasley was a local merchant in the Lavonia community for a number of years and operated a grocery business a few blocks from this residence. This structure is important as representative of the pattern of downtown merchants establishing residences within walking distance to their businesses.

In terms of architecture, the Beasley House is significant as a representative example of a locally common house style. Relatively modest Victorian-era houses such as this are found throughout the multiple resource area. Some occur in neighborhoods; others stand more or less alone. All are one-story high with a nearly square central-hall plan, high hipped roof, multiple gables, and wrap-around porch. They vary primarily in the level of detailing. This particular example is relatively plain although impressively massed. Minor alterations involving porch columns, partial porch enclosure, rear additions, and partial removal of hall walls are typical for historic houses in the multiple resource area. In terms of commerce, the house is significant as the home of R. L. Beasley, a local merchant who for years owned and operated a grocery store in Lavonia's central business district. The house is typical of those built for Lavonia's merchant class, which grew tremendously at the turn of the century.

V. FORM PREPARED BY:	Dale Jaeger Preservation Planner	ORGANIZATION:	Georgia Mountains APDC
ADDRESS:	Post Office 1720	TELEPHONE NUMBER:	404-536-3431

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: None

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Chamber of Commerce Committee