

I. IDENTIFICATION

PROPERTY NAME:	Vandiver Residence	HISTORIC NAME:	<u>Yow House</u>		
STREET ADDRESS:	109 Hartwell Road	CITY:	Lavonia		
PRESENT OWNER:	S. Ernest Vandiver	MAILING ADDRESS:	109 Hartwell Road		
CITY:	Lavonia	STATE:	Georgia	ZIP CODE:	30553
CURRENT USE:	Residence	ACREAGE:	Approximately 2 acres.		
U. S. G. S. QUADRANGLE:	Lavonia, Ga.-S.C.	U. T. M. REFERENCE:			
V. B. D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER:	312-001-020		Z17 E307000 N 3812050		

II. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION:

Two and one-half story frame Colonial Revival-style residence. Two-story porch supported by wooden columns extends across front facade. Two bays project from first floor of front facade and five pedimented dormers project from roof. Entrance door of Federal design has elliptical transom with side lights which contain beveled glass. Windows are six over six with cornices. House has two end gables and two internal chimneys. Structure has back pedimented portico and a side entry which is also pedimented. House is in good condition.

The house is located on a 22 acre tract, of which only the approximately two acre Hartwell Road lot is proposed for nomination. The main residence which fronts a side yard on a southern orientation is surrounded by a variety of outbuildings and a diverse collection of plant materials. There are a variety of hollies, one which is approximately two feet in diameter. An asphalt drive lined with boxwoods encircles the residence and provides access to the outbuildings. These outbuildings include a large frame barn, a Delco power house of brick with arched windows which has been converted into a game room, a frame carriage house, and frame residential structure. A gazebo was recently added over the former site of a fish pond. The remainder of the site is predominately wooded.

III. HISTORY

ORIGINAL OWNER:	E. C. Maret	ORIGINAL USE:	Residence
ARCHITECT/BUILDER:	Mr. O'Kelly	HISTORIC ACREAGE:	2.38 acres
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1900 approximate	DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS:	1921

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT):

This structure was apparently built at the turn of the century by E. C. Maret, a school teacher and large landowner in the Lavonia community. The original structure was a modest

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (CONTINUED)

one and one-half Victorian styled residence, with a wrap-around porch, sited near the road. In 1901 Dr. S. B. Yow purchased this residence and 2.38 acres from Maret. Yow, a medical doctor who never practiced medicine, was a local merchant and part owner of Yow-McMurray, a merchantile store in downtown Lavonia (See No. 18). Dr. Yow and his wife, Faith, who was the sister of Hugh Dorsey, a Governor of Georgia from 1917 to 1921, began acquiring adjacent property soon after their purchase and by 1904 had acquired a total of 16 acres. The property appears to have served as a small working farm. Fruit trees were planted, gardens were maintained, chickens were raised, and mules were kept in the barn at the back of the lot.

In 1921 the original structure was almost completely dismantled, moved back from the street and completely renovated. During the construction the Yows occupied a small structure on the property which had originally been servants' quarters. This structure was later used as rental property by the Yows. The main house was rebuilt with a southeastern orientation which faced the former sideyard. Classical touches -- a Greek Revival-styled two-story porch which extended across the front facade and an entrance door which was framed by a fanlight and sidelights -- were added to give the house its present day Colonial Revival - style appearance. The work was done by a local builder, Mr. O'Kelly. A Delco power house was added which made this structure one of the first to have electricity in Lavonia. Dr. and Mrs. Yow added a variety of plant materials and landscape features to the property. Many unusual species of holly, oak, cedar, ginkgo, tulip trees, and crepe myrtle were planted and a fish pond with gold fish and water lilies was added. At the death of Dr. Yow in 1953 the property was sold to S. Ernest Vandiver. The Vandivers made modest changes to the property. The kitchen area was remodeled, a screen porch and sun deck added, the power house converted to a game room, and the fish pond filled in the construction of a gazebo for the wedding of a Vandiver daughter in 1974. Vandiver, who served as Governor of Georgia from 1958 to 1963, and his wife continue to reside in the structure today.

IV. SIGNIFICANCE

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL):

Architecturally, the Yow House is significant as the finest local example of early 20th century Colonial Revival architecture. Originally built in the Victorian Eclectic style at the turn of the century, it was relocated and remodeled in the 1920s by an important local builder known only as Mr. O'Kelly. This transformation reflects the breaking away from Victorian design which had dominated local architecture of the previous decades. In agriculture, this property is significant as the nucleus of a small in-town farm, one of several in Lavonia. Its outbuildings and associated historic acreage were characteristic of such small farms at the turn of the century. In landscape architecture the property is significant for its lush, informal landscaping dating from the early 20th century. Its

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informal style and specimen plantings are characteristic of early 20th century landscaping. It is perhaps the most extensively landscaped property in the multiple resource area. In commerce, the house is significant as the home of S. B. Yow, who with E. R. McMurray (No. 18) founded an important general merchandise enterprise in downtown Lavonia.

V. FORM PREPARED BY: Dale Jaeger ORGANIZATION: Georgia Mountains APDC
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REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: Historic Structures Survey
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Centennial Brochure

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Vandiver Family
Marshall Allison