

I. IDENTIFICATION

PROPERTY NAME: McMurray Residence	HISTORIC NAME: McMurray House
STREET ADDRESS: Hartwell Road, ✓	CITY: Lavonia
PRESENT OWNER: Mrs. Edna McMurray Shadburn	MAILING ADDRESS: Hartwell Road
CITY: Lavonia	STATE: Georgia ZIP CODE: 30553
CURRENT USE: Residence	ACREAGE: 1.7 acres
U. S. G. S. QUADRANGLE: Lavonia, Ga.-S.C.	U. T. M. REFERENCE:
V. B. D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: 3-3-003-005	Z17 E306 950 N3811990

II. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION:

Two-story brick residence, combining Georgian Revival and Craftsman influences. Hipped and gabled roof is covered in asphalt shingles. One-story porch supported by square brick piers extends across most of the front facade. Smaller one-story porches are located on the south and north sides of the structure and are supported by square wooden columns. The porch on the north is screened. Windows throughout the structure are six over one and original. Craftsman touches on the exterior include bracketed eaves with eaves of tongue and groove paneling. Brick walls are solid brick composed of two layers of brick with a one-half inch airspace in the middle.

Craftsman touches are more evident on the interior and are found in the wood vaulting of the living room ceiling; wooden doors which vary from solid wood, half glass, to full glass; wooden moldings; and the stairway. The interior arrangement is similar to the Kidd House (No. 20) which is oriented around a central room rather than a central hall. This structure has wooden floors, plastered walls, and plastered ceilings, with the exception of the living room, which features a vaulted wood ceiling. The structure contains five bedrooms and two baths upstairs, and two rooms in the basement. The house is in good condition.

The structure is sited on a large city lot with hardwoods, flowering shrubs and trees scattered throughout the lawn in informal arrangements. A frame car shed to the rear of the structure appears to be a later addition.

III. HISTORY

ORIGINAL OWNER: E. R. McMurray	ORIGINAL USE: Residence
ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Mr. O'Kelly	HISTORIC ACREAGE: 1.7 acres
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1912	DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS: None

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT):

E. R. McMurray moved to Lavonia in September 1900 and purchased a lot at the corner of Milton and Hartwell Road. This lot contained a frame structure which served as the residence of the McMurray family until the construction of the present day home in 1923. This structure was built by Mr. O'Kelly, a local builder, and the former frame home was demolished.

McMurray had come to Lavonia to go into the general merchantile business with his first cousin, Dr. S. B. Yow, whose home was located across Hartwell Road (No. 19). The Yow-McMurray business was located in two stores at the corner of Grogan and Main Streets in downtown Lavonia. One store contained dry goods and the adjoining store which was accessible through an interior door housed hardware, fertilizer, and farm supplies. These stores still stand but the interior wall has been removed and a modern store front added. Yow and McMurray also loaned money to many families which is verified through deed notations. Following the death of McMurray in 1947 and Yow in 1953 the business continued through the sole ownership of McMurray's son, W. M. McMurray, until his death in 1956. The brick home was given to McMurray's daughter who continues to reside in the family home today.

IV. SIGNIFICANCE

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL):

Architecturally, the McMurray House is a good example of the builder-designed eclectic-styled house found throughout the multiple resource area. It breaks away from the locally common Victorian eclecticism by combining elements of the Georgian Revival and Craftsman styles. It is especially significant for its Craftsman-inspired interior, highlighted by an open, asymmetric plan and straightforward use of natural materials. It is also one of the few brick houses in Lavonia, and makes use of an unusual brick wall construction technique in which the bricks are laid to create an integral air space inside the wall.

In commerce, this structure is significant for its association with E. R. McMurray, a local merchant in the Lavonia downtown from 1900 until his death in 1947. The Yow-McMurray business which he helped to creat remained a viable general merchantile enterprise in Lavonia for over 50 years.

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REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: None

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Mrs. Ernest Vandiver
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