

KID ALLEY RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Name: Kid Alley Residential Historic District, Phenix City, Russell County, Alabama

Location:

Girard, along 11th Avenue. at 9th Pl.

Acreage: Approximately 3

Verbal Boundary Description:

This district runs north and south along 11th Avenue for one block, beginning at 9th Place and taking in both sides of the road. See line on attached scale tax map.

<u>UTM:</u>	A.	16	687240	3593580	G.	16	687180	3593580
	B.	16	687290	3593520				
	C.	16	687310	3593440				
	D.	16	687320	3593380				
	E.	16	687300	3593400				
	F.	16	687200	3593530				

Description:

The Kid Alley Residential Historic District is one block of houses built in the early 20th century. This district is one of two intact Victorian residential neighborhoods left in the Girard area. A small area of only 12 houses, they are wood frame, single-family residences which range in size from large cottages to small shotguns. Elaborately decorated with architectural detailing, all of these houses are painted in the Victorian style. The lyre pattern, a consistent architectural detail in Phenix City,

is seen in this district in the attic vents and decorative gingerbread along the porches. There are two intrusions, both at the south end of the district. Most of these houses are built close together and have small lots. However, the yards are landscaped with shubbery and very few large trees are in the front yards.

Significance:

Architecture. The Kid Alley Residential Historic District is significant due to its small concentration of intact Victorian cottages along one street. Each house reflects the ability of the craftsmen in this area in the early 19th century with the gingerbread and bargeboard being especially elaborate on these houses. All of the porch columns are turned post with the exception of two homes which have been altered to the bungalow style porch columns. Each house is painted one or two different colors and reflects the feeling of a true Victorian neighborhood.

Local History. The Kid Alley Residential Historic District is significant to the local history of Phenix City as one of the remaining intact tracts of land subdivided as "settlement lots" by M.M. Moore in 1890. Five lots were purchased by C.T. Gifford, a local contractor who owned a nearby home whose old driveway at the time intersected 11th Street at the south end of the district. He apparently built five of the existing homes which are small, but ornately finished. These were used as rental properties. The Kid Alley District was a middle class neighborhood from the beginning, and apparently excluded unskilled laborers. This was true in 1930, forty years after its founding, when a barber, a grocery store operator, a railroad man, a lunch room supervisor, an automobile dealer and a Fort Benning carpenter were among the neighbors recalled by a resident. The street always included some rental

property, but well built homes attracted long term renters, particularly families with upward mobility. The resulting youth of the families may account for the area's traditional name, which dates back to at least 1910. A story recalled by an older resident explains the name. A man, it is said, had trouble threading his wagon through the narrow dirt street for the children playing there. Complaining to the postman, he was told, "Don't you know they call that Kid Alley because if you go through with a wagon, you've got a kid for every spoke." The name and the profusion of children both persisted through the 1930's.

STRUCTURES WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE KID ALLEY RESIDENTIAL
HISTORIC DISTRICT

1. Smith House (920 11th Avenue): c. 1895; Victorian Cottage; one-story, asbestos siding, gable roof, turned posts, gingerbread, carved window surrounds.
2. Hollis House (921 11th Avenue): c. 1895; Victorian Cottage; one-story, wood frame, hip roof with intersecting front gable; turned posts on porch with altered balustrade.
3. Gallups House (922 11th Avenue): c. 1895; Victorian Cottage; one-story, wood frame, gable roof with shingles in front intersecting gable; carved porch columns with spindle-like gingerbread and lyre patten; carved window and door surrounds.
4. Bragg House (923 11th Avenue): c. 1895; Victorian Cottage; one-story, wood frame, gable roof with front intersecting gable having decorative bargeboard; turned posts and gingerbread on front porch.
6. Norton House (925 11th Avenue): c. 1895; Shotgun; one-story, wood frame, hip roof; turned posts and brackets.
7. Knight House (926 11th Avenue): c. 1895; Victorian Cottage; one-story, wood frame, hip roof; turned posts with spindle-like gingerbread.
8. Tillman House (927 11th Avenue): c. 1895; Victorian Cottage; one-story, wood frame, hip roof, carved porch columns with brackets.
9. Citarelli House (928 11th Avenue): c. 1895; Victorian Cottage; one-story, wood frame, gable roof, turned posts with spindle-like gingerbread.
10. Adams House (929 11th Avenue): c. 1895; Shotgun; one-story, wood frame, hip roof; screened front porch with metal awning, altered.
12. Wilson House (1001 11th Avenue): c. 1885; one-story, wood frame, pyramidal roof with front intersecting gable with pediment; turned posts and brackets; transom and sidelights around front door and four floor-length windows in front; Victorian Cottage with Greek Revival elements.

STRUCTURES WHICH DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE KID ALLEY RESIDENTIAL
HISTORIC DISTRICT

5. Catrett House (924 11th Avenue): c. 1935; Bungalow; one-story, wood frame, gable roof, metal awning; non-contributing.

11. Callaway House (931 11th Avenue): c. 1895; Victorian Cottage; one-story, wood frame, gable roof; cinder-block porch columns; aluminum siding; altered door and windows; non-contributing, altered beyond recognition.

PROPERTY OWNERS FOR THE KID ALLEY RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

W. E. Smith
920 11th Avenue
Phenix City AL 36867

Monroe and Cecil V. Hollis
921 11th Avenue
Phenix City AL 36867

Mrs. P. I. Gallups, Sr.
922 11th Avenue
Phenix City AL 36867

Franklin C. Bragg
923 11th Avenue
Phenix City AL 36867

Sam Catrett
924 11th Avenue
Phenix City AL 36867

Richard Norton
925 11th Avenue
Phenix City AL 36867

Jack Knight
926 11th Avenue
Phenix City AL 36867

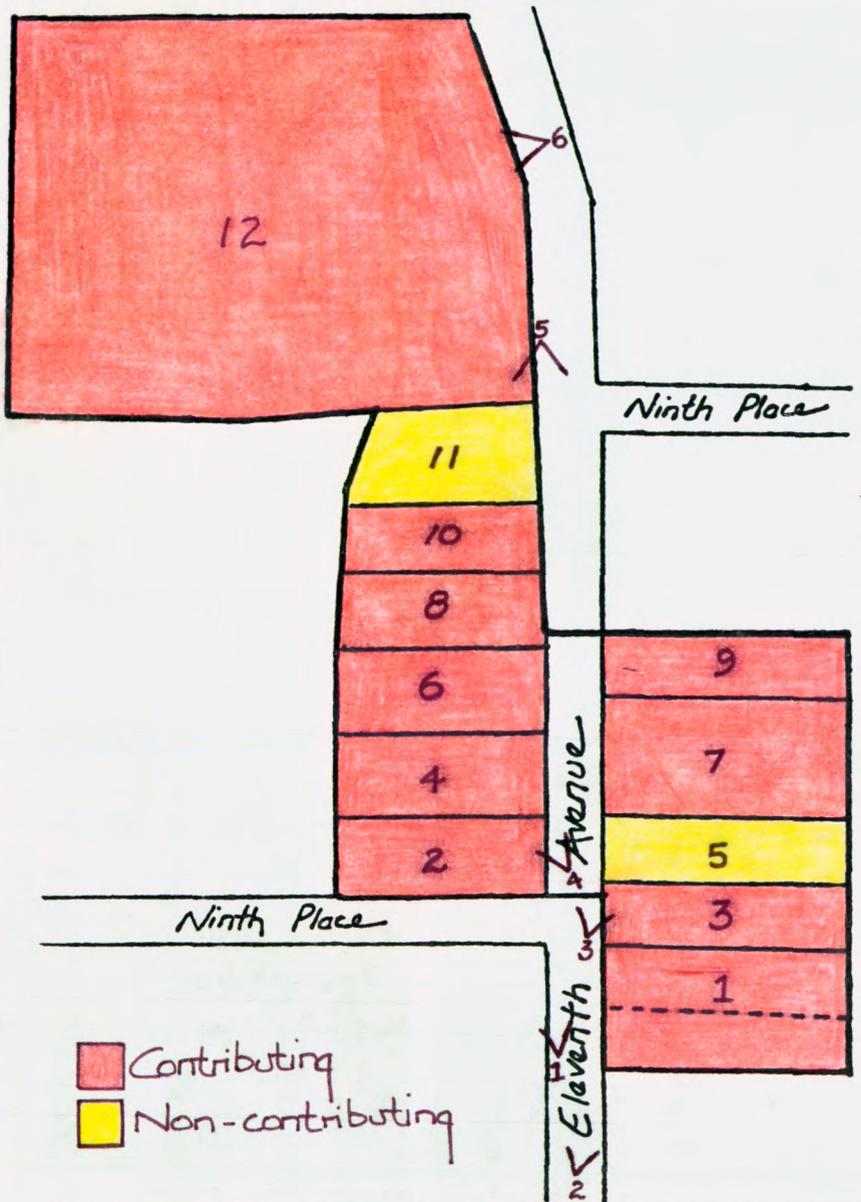
Pauline Tillman
927 11th Avenue
Phenix City AL 36867

Janice Citarelli, et al.
928 11th Avenue
Phenix City AL 36867

Ivey Adams
929 11th Avenue
Phenix City AL 36867

G. W. Callaway
931 11th Avenue
Phenix City AL 36867

Clifford Eugene Wilson
1001 11th Avenue
Phenix City AL 36867



INCLUSIVE STREET NUMBERS FOR THE KID ALLEY RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

11th Avenue - odd 921-1001 even 920-928

