

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF HARTWELL, HART COUNTY, GEORGIA

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY #1

I. IDENTIFICATION

HISTORIC NAME: Gulley-Vickery-Blackwell House  
 CURRENT NAME: Blackwell Residence  
 STREET ADDRESS: 115 Franklin Street  
 CITY: Hartwell  
 PRESENT OWNER: Ms. Mary Lou Blackwell  
 MAILING ADDRESS: 115 Franklin Street  
 CITY: Hartwell  
 STATE: Georgia  
 ZIP CODE: 30643  
 CURRENT USE: residence  
 ACREAGE: two city lots (approximately 1 acre)  
 U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: Hartwell, Georgia  
 U.T.M. REFERENCE: Z17 E322290 N3802860  
 V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: H-10-3-6

II. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION:

This two-story, three-bay structure is Plain style with six chamfered posts extending both stories and enclosing first and second story porches which extend the width of the principal entrance facade. A double doorway, enframed by transom and sidelights, provides entrance to the central-hall residence; an ell addition extends from the rear. A single doorway positioned directly above the entrance provides access to the second floor porch. This porch is embellished with a cutwork ballustrade and dentil molding at the cornice of the shallow shed roof. The main roof is mansard in form; the rear ell contains a steep gable roof. All roofs are covered with-diamond shaped asphalt shingles. Both doorways on the entrance facade are flanked by 6/6 windows. End chimneys are located on the main block of the structure; the rear ell contains a central chimney.

Interior features include plank wall and ceiling surfaces and wooden floors. The stair rises from the central hall. The rear ell originally contained an open gallery porch which is now enclosed.

The structure is located near the front of a deep, narrow lot which faces the public square. Large hardwood trees, randomly placed shrubs, and an open lawn comprise the landscaping.

The property is in fair condition.

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 62

### III. HISTORY

ORIGINAL OWNER: J. P. Gulley  
 ORIGINAL USE: residence  
 ARCHITECT/BUILDER: unknown  
 HISTORIC ACREAGE: two city lots (approximately 1 acre)  
 DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: circa 1850  
 DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS: 1901-1908

#### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT):

According to The History of Hart County, this structure was built prior to the Civil War as the home of Jasper P. Gulley. The house was constructed on the north side of the public square on Lot 42 of the original plan. A notation in the History states that Gulley built a store on the northwest side of the square and had it stocked with family groceries. Gulley sold the property to Mary E. Vickery on July 4, 1890. Later deed references cite the house as the "Hamp Vickery Place." The earliest Sanborn map (1901) shows the structure as one of five residences located on the public square. This house is depicted as L-shape in plan with front and rear porches. A later map of 1908 shows the house as one of four dwellings on the square. In this view the front porch is extended the width of the front facade which may describe the present Victorian-inspired porch and balustrade. In addition, the rear porch was enclosed and a rear ell porch constructed. The 1908 map also provides the first view of the mansard roof which survives.

W. L. Hodges acquired the property from Vickery and in 1910 sold the house and two lots to Mrs. Hattie Harper of Fulton County, Georgia. Mrs. Harper resided in the structure until a sale to Mrs. G. I. Satterfield and Mrs. Richmond W. McCurry in 1918. Satterfield sold the house in 1920 to W. Y. Buffington, who sold the house in 1921 to the present owner, Mrs. Mary Lou Blackwell. The 1921 deeds refer to the property as the "Vickery Place" and the "Hattie Harper Place."

A Sanborn map of 1924 shows the structure as one of four residences on the public square. A slight alteration had been made to the rear porch for the provision of a bathroom. Today the entire rear porch is enclosed. Ms. Blackwell, who resided in the house since her purchase in 1921, is now in a nursing home. The structure is the sole remaining residence on the public square and is currently vacant and for sale.

### IV. SIGNIFICANCE

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA: A, C  
 AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Community Planning  
 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL):

The architectural evolution exhibited in this structure contributes to its architectural significance. The early plain-style in the overall form of the structure is contrasted with Victorian-inspired alterations; these include the chamfered porch posts, cutwork balustrade, and mansard roof. This juxtaposition of style is typical of small town architecture where attempts to modernize older buildings included the overlay of new architectural elements. Its Plain-style features constitute one of the oldest standing structures in the community.

In community planning, the structure is significant for its location fronting the public square. In the early history of Hartwell it was common for residences to be located on the square. As the community developed, the need for commercial space in the town center pushed residential land use to the outlying areas. It is important to note that two sides--north and west--of the public square have been omitted from inclusion in the Hartwell Commercial Historic District because of the predominance of modern commercial intrusions. Historically these locations have included residences. This is the only dwelling structure remaining on the town square to document this former land use. It is also one of the only structures left in the community remaining from the period of early settlement before the Civil War.

CONTRIBUTING/NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES:

Contributing building(s): 1

V. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: Historic Structures Field Survey: Hart County, Georgia

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Hart County Courthouse, records  
Sanborn Maps, Sanborn Map Company, New York

FORM PREPARED BY:

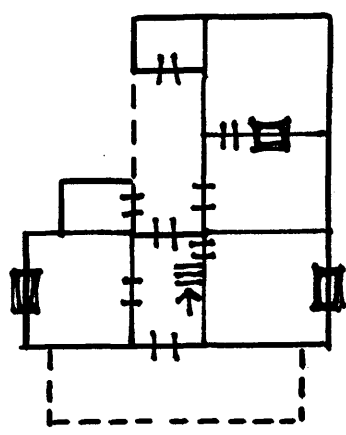
Dale Jaeger  
Georgia Mountains Area Planning and Development Commission  
Gainesville, Georgia

Donald Rooney  
Historic Preservation Consultant  
Atlanta, Georgia

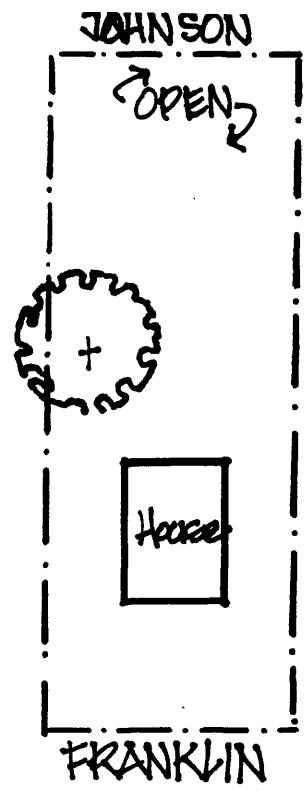
Richard Cloues  
Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources  
Atlanta, Georgia

VI. SITE PLAN/SKETCH MAP/FLOOR PLAN

Attached sketches are intended only to help illustrate the nominated property. No scale is provided or implied, unless otherwise noted. Boundary markings are simply general indications of the extent of the nominated property; the actual boundary description, unless otherwise noted, is the current legal description of the property which coincides with the current tax map number cited in Section I of this form. Also, note that the orientation of the various sketches differs from sketch to sketch; each is provided with a north arrow for clarity.



FLOOR PLAN



SITE PLAN