

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received APR 22 1986

date entered MAY 22 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Pleasant Hill Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number See Continuation Sheet

N/A not for publication

city, town Macon N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Bibb code 021

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Owners (more than 50)

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Bibb County Courthouse

city, town Macon state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title See Continuation Sheet has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local _____

depository for survey records

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Pleasant Hill Historic District is Macon's major historic black community. It is a densely developed late 19th- and early 20th-century residential neighborhood that is extremely intact for a historic black neighborhood. It is a discontinuous district located on two facing hillsides now bisected by Interstate-75 which, since the 1960s, has run north and south through the valley between them. Historically the valley was occupied by a stream, now channeled through the area in culverts. Streets in the district are laid out in a number of offset grid patterns which reflect the area's extremely hilly topography and its incremental development. They vary in size from wide avenues to narrow alleys and lanes. Lots in the district are predominantly small and rectangular. Houses with uniform setbacks sit close to the streets in the centers of these lots.

Houses date from the 1870s through the 1930s. They are predominantly one-story, wood-framed vernacular structures with simple front porches and little detailing. Shotguns, "saddlebag" types, "L"-shaped Victorian cottages, and square-planned structures with pyramidal roofs are most common. The most elaborate have simple Victorian, Neo-classical, and Craftsman style detailing primarily consisting of porch trim. Victorian houses have turned or sawn-work balustrades and friezes, and sometimes bay windows and gable ends trimmed with brackets and/or decorative shingles. Neoclassical influences include Classical columns and, infrequently, symmetrically placed dormers. Craftsman influences consist of porches supported by heavy, square or tapered brick pillars. A few houses are two stories, and a few are finished with brick veneer. One group of shotguns and "L"-shaped houses built in 1924 are constructed of molded concrete block.

Scattered amidst the houses are a small number of commercial and institutional structures. The few commercial structures include one- and two-story wood-framed and brick buildings. One wood-framed store with a stepped parapet is attached to a simple Victorian house (photo 31) in a manner found frequently in historic black neighborhoods. There are two, two-story brick "corner" stores both with segmentally arched window openings, and with a corbeled cornice and stepped parapet respectively. Institutional buildings include a simple two-story, wood-framed Masonic Lodge now covered with siding (photo 24) and a small wood-framed church (photo 6). St. Peter Claver Church and School (photo 29), a complex of late-Victorian brick buildings with Romanesque and Gothic detailing are the most substantial institutional buildings remaining in the neighborhood. These were constructed beginning in 1912. A number of early 20th-century school buildings have been demolished or replaced by new non-historic schools.

Landscaping in the district consists of modest plantings of grass, shrubs, hedges, and a few trees in the very small front yards. Large shade trees are frequently found behind the houses. Retaining walls and steps constructed of a variety of materials including brick, stone, poured concrete, and concrete block are common in the district to accommodate the very hilly terrain. Linwood Cemetery (photo 15), containing more

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) black history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1870s - 1936 **Builder/Architect** Multiple

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Pleasant Hill is a historic residential environment whose character is determined by the particular terrain, streets, building lots, landscaping, and buildings found in the district. It is an important historic, black, urban neighborhood in Georgia, one of the most intact black districts in the state. Pleasant Hill is significant in terms of black history, community planning and development, and architecture. In terms of black history Pleasant Hill is significant because it contains a wide variety of resources that document residential patterns and, to a lesser extent, commercial and institutional development of the black community from the late 19th through the early 20th centuries. A broad spectrum of Macon's black citizens from educators, doctors, and lawyers to unskilled laborers lived in the area. In terms of community planning and development, it documents a land use pattern frequently associated with Georgia communities in which black neighborhoods were first positioned on, and then capitalized on, underutilized land. Its street pattern, with its network of unaligned grids, reflects its incremental development from several core areas. Architecturally, the area is significant for documenting a wide variety of vernacular residential and, to a lesser extent, commercial building types of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These areas of significance support National Register listing under National Register Criteria A, B, and C.

Black History and Community Planning and Development

The development of Pleasant Hill into Macon's primary black residential area dates back to the 1870s. At that time, Madison and Monore Streets, then at the city's outer edge, became home to many of the servants for the wealthy white families who lived along neighboring College Avenue (in the Macon Historic District). The remainder of Pleasant Hill was still primarily wooded, undeveloped land. Vineville, to the south of Pleasant Hill, originally developed as an area of large agrarian estates. By the 1880s it was being rapidly subdivided into suburban lots. Rows of large houses were built along Vineville Avenue, and these, too, generated the construction of workers' housing in Pleasant Hill. The neighborhood grew rapidly in the 1890s and 1910s, expanding from the east and the south in a northwesterly direction. By 1912, almost all the streets in the district were laid out, and by 1925, the majority of historic buildings in the district had been constructed. According to elderly residents in the neighborhood, many house lots were originally much larger than at present, with ample space for a garden and some livestock. As development continued, land was sold off, lot sizes were reduced, and more houses were built.

Pleasant Hill was the home of a large portion and a wide cross section of Macon's black residents. It was a neighborhood where, from early on, many residents were property owners and builders of their own homes. Doctors, dentists, educators, attorneys, businessmen, ministers, mail carriers, grocers, builders, many other self-employed

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 205 acres

Quadrangle name Macon West, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	1	7
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2	5	3	3	0	0
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3	6	3	7	3	1	0
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B

1	1	7
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2	5	2	9	6	0
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3	6	3	6	4	8	0
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C

1	1	7
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2	5	1	9	6	0
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3	6	3	6	7	4	0
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D

1	1	7
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2	5	1	4	8	0
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3	6	3	7	3	3	0
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E

1	1	7
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2	5	1	7	6	0
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3	6	3	7	9	6	0
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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary, outlined with a heavy black line on the enclosed maps, is described and justified in Section 7.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date February 28, 1986

street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W. telephone 404/656-2840

city or town Atlanta state Georgia 30334

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 3/17/86

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Amy Schlager

date 5/22/86

Keeper of the National Register

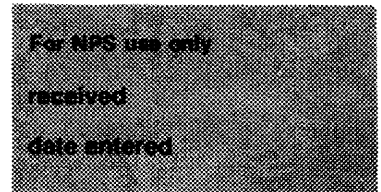
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Existing Surveys

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Two small groups of buildings in the Pleasant Hill Historic District have been previously listed as part of other National Register districts. A group of molded-concrete block houses to the west of Rogers Alley at the west edge of the district is included in the Vineville Historic District (listed in the National Register on November 21, 1980). A row of shotgun houses on the east side of Madison Street at the east edge of the district is included in the Macon Historic District (listed in the National Register on December 31, 1974).

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than 4,000 burials, is located on high ground in the northeast corner of the western section of the district. It was laid out in 1894 with curvilinear drives. These, for the most part, are now completely overgrown. Community residents are currently working to clear out the cemetery and restore it to its earlier appearance.

Non-contributing properties in the district consist primarily of non-historic wood-framed houses built after 1936, seriously altered historic houses (often with front porches enclosed, windows replaced, and original siding covered), and recently constructed brick houses which detract from the historic character of the neighborhood.

Boundary

The district consists of the contiguous, intact structures associated with the historic Pleasant Hill neighborhood. Interstate 75, which sliced through the neighborhood in the 1960s, has necessitated nominating the area as a discontinuous district. The boundary has been drawn to exclude several major intrusions including a 1960s housing project, a community center, and a new school. The district abuts the Macon Historic District on the east and, in places, the Vineville Historic District on the south and west. A group of shotgun houses on the east side of Madison Street included in the Macon Historic District and a multi-family residential development built in 1924 and included in the Vineville Historic District are also included in the district. These structures have direct ties to the Pleasant Hill community. To the north of Pleasant Hill is a non-historic residential neighborhood. To the south is non-historic and altered historic commercial development.

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tradesmen, and unskilled laborers all lived in the district. Among the most prominent were Lewis Williams, principal of several schools in the neighborhood, B.S. Ingram, principal of Pleasant Hill School and responsible for introducing manual training to the Macon curriculum, Minnie L. Smith, founder of Beda-Etta College, Albert B. Fitzpatrick, manager of black-organized People's Health and Life Insurance Company, L.J. Max, the owner of Wages and Earners Bank and editor of the "Negro" section of the Macon Telegraph, and Sara Bailey, credited with starting the first Girl Scout troop in Macon for black girls. According to local sources, residents were somewhat distributed in the neighborhood by occupation, with many of the doctors living on First Avenue and the mail carriers on Second Avenue, etc.

Pleasant Hill developed into an important education center for blacks in Macon. A number of public and private schools were located in the neighborhood including the Ballard Normal School, a high school sponsored by the American Missionary Association, St. Peter Claver School and Church, established in 1912 with money from a wealthy Catholic philanthropist, the Academy for the Blind, the North Macon Colored School, Beda Etta College, and two public black elementary schools. Of these only St. Peter Claver School is still in operation and in its historic facilities. The private schools closed as public education for blacks became more viable; the public schools were rehoused in new non-contributing buildings. Of the many churches once located in the area only two, St. Peter Claver Church and Warren Chapel Methodist Episcopal, are still located in intact historic structures. Macon's chief black commercial center was concentrated along Cotton Avenue with a smaller center located along Hardeman Street to the immediate south of Pleasant Hill in structures which have been substantially altered. Within the district, most of the four or five black-owned corner stores, all in place by 1916, have played an important role in providing for the basic needs of the community.

In terms of community planning and development, the district is significant for documenting a land use pattern frequently associated with Georgia communities in which black neighborhoods were first positioned on, and then capitalized on, under-utilized, hard-to-build-on land. Pleasant Hill, with its extremely hilly terrain, was land overlooked by the white community as it settled along nearby College and Vineville Avenues. But as the neighborhood's name, Pleasant Hill, suggests, the residents were able to work with the terrain to create a densely developed but attractive community with houses nestled into hillsides, fine views, and cooling breezes. Pleasant Hill's street pattern with its network of unaligned grids, reflects both its terrain and its incremental development.

In terms of black history, the district is significant for documenting Macon's primary black residential neighborhood which developed over the years into a community that housed a complete cross section of the city's black residents. The district is extremely important in the state for providing such a large intact area associated with Georgia's blacks. It provides valuable information about the life styles of Macon's black population. The homes of the many important black educators who lived in the district serve as important reminders of the many black educational institutions once located in the district, but now demolished. The scattering of small, black-owned

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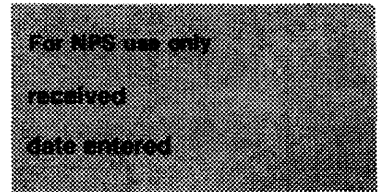
corner stores in the district document an important aspect of early 20th-century black commercial activity. Linwood Cemetery, Macon's principal black burial ground, documents the type of "rural" cemetery design popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries nationwide.

Architecture

Architecturally, the district is significant for providing good examples in Macon and Georgia of a wide variety of modest residential and, to a lesser extent, commercial and institutional resources dating from the 1870s to the mid 1930s. These structures together document the evolution of building materials, technologies, types, and styles during this period. The residential resources provide many good representative examples of modest vernacular house types including the saddlebag, shotgun, "L"-shaped cottage, and square plan with pyramidal roof as well as somewhat more elaborate one- and two-story houses. They illustrate how Victorian Eclectic, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman detailing are applied to some houses. Many of the houses in the district were constructed by black builders, carpenters, plasterers, and brickmasons who lived in the district, G. Moughon, John Young, L.J. May, and Zack Williams among them. The small number of modest commercial and institutional buildings provide good examples in Macon of buildings of those types associated with the black community. Of particular interest are a combination house/store, wood-framed and sheathed in weatherboard, a two-story wood-framed Masonic Lodge, and two two-story brick store buildings. These are all building types typically associated with the black community of which we have very few intact documented examples.

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National Park Service**

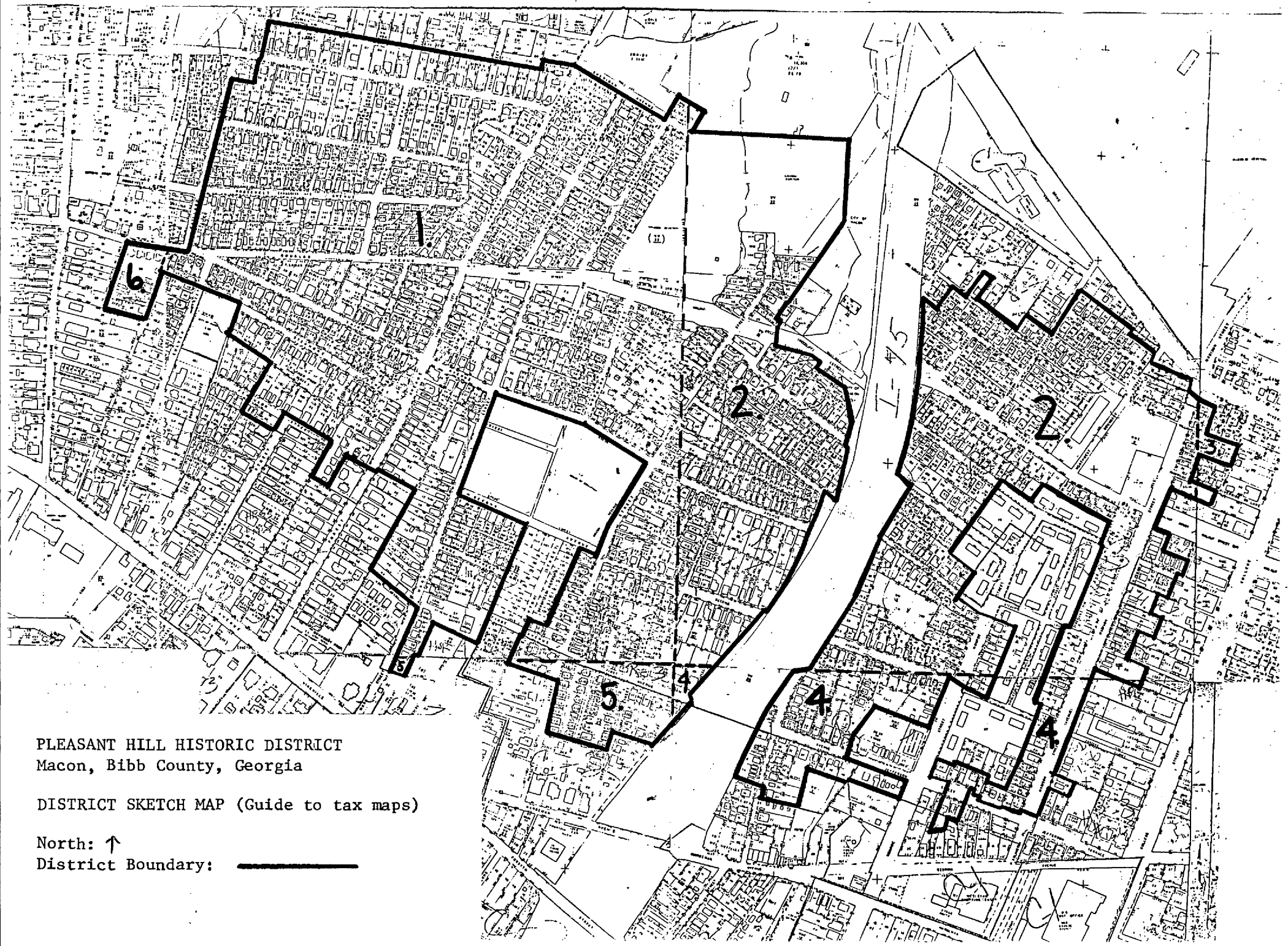
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Continuation sheet Bibliographical References Item number 9

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- Butler, John C. Historical Record of Middle and Central Georgia. Macon: J.W. Burke Company, 1958.
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- Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Macon, 1895, 1916, 1924.
- Shole's Directory for the City of Macon, 1880. Macon: A.E. Sholes, Publishers, 1880.
- Interviews conducted by Maryel Battin, Executive Director, Macon Heritage Foundation in June, 1984, with Pleasant Hill neighborhood residents: Albert Howard, Mayne Wesley and Robert Williams.
- Interview conducted by Patti Porter, Administrative Assistant, Macon Heritage Foundation in July, 1984, with Clara Jordan (owner of Linwood Cemetery).



PLEASANT HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Macon, Bibb County, Georgia

DISTRICT SKETCH MAP (Guide to tax maps)

North: ↑


District Boundary: —————




PLEASANT HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Macon, Bibb County, Georgia


DISTRICT SKETCH MAP (1 of 6)


Source: Macon-Bibb County Map #P7-2

Scale: 0  200'

North: ↑

District Boundary: 

Contributing Building: 

Non-contributing Building: 



Intrusion: 

Photo Number and Direction: 

PLEASANT HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Macon, Bibb County, Georgia

DISTRICT SKETCH MAP (2 of 6)

Source: Macon-Bibb County Map #Q7-1

Scale: 0 ——— 200'

North: ↑

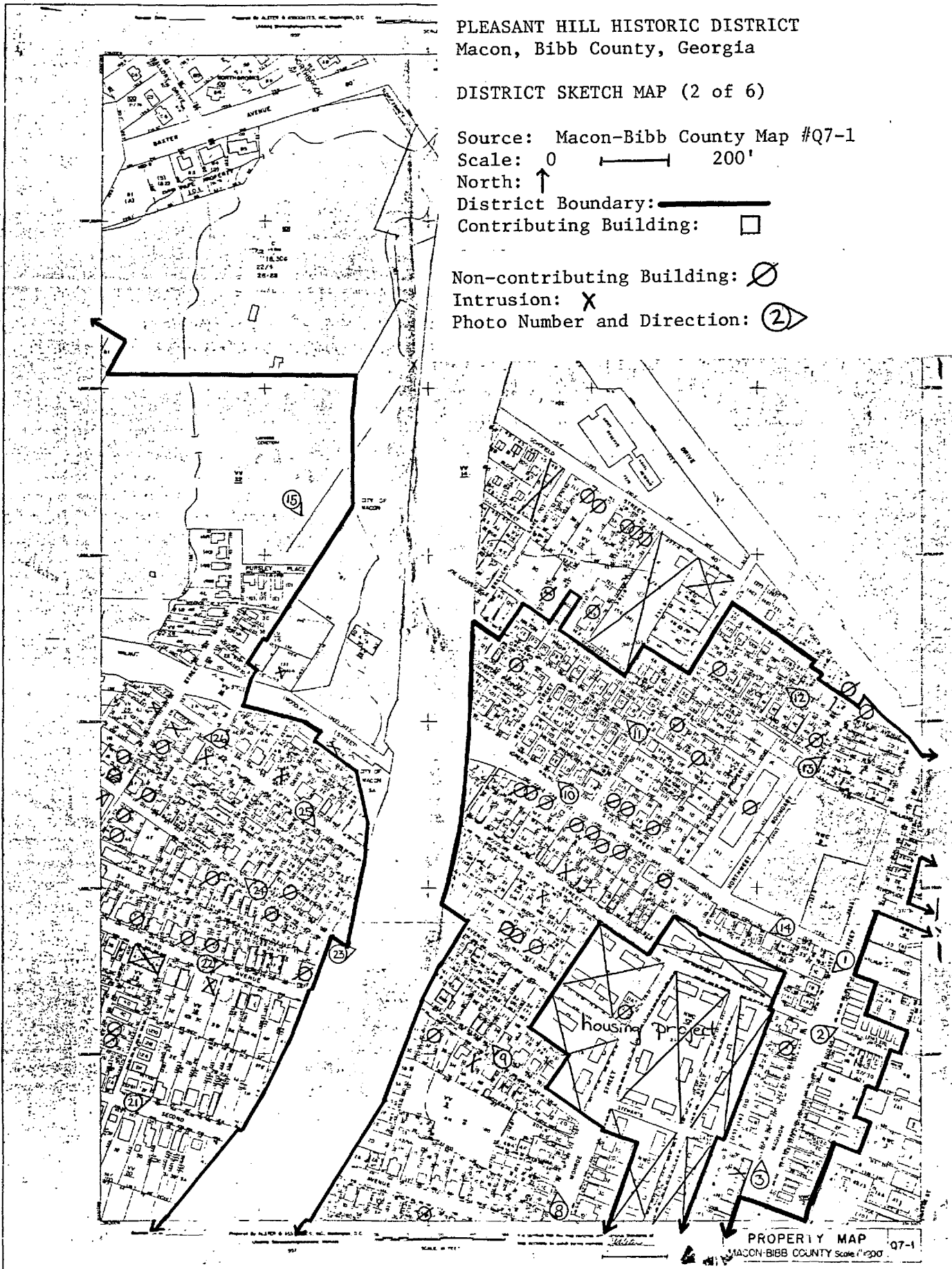
District Boundary: ———

Contributing Building: □

Non-contributing Building: ⊘

Intrusion: X


Photo Number and Direction: (2) ▷




PLEASANT HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Macon, Bibb County, Georgia


DISTRICT SKETCH MAP (3 of 6)


Source: Macon-Bibb County Map #Q7-2

Scale: 0  200'

North: ↑

District Boundary: 

Contributing Building: 

Non-Contributing Building: 



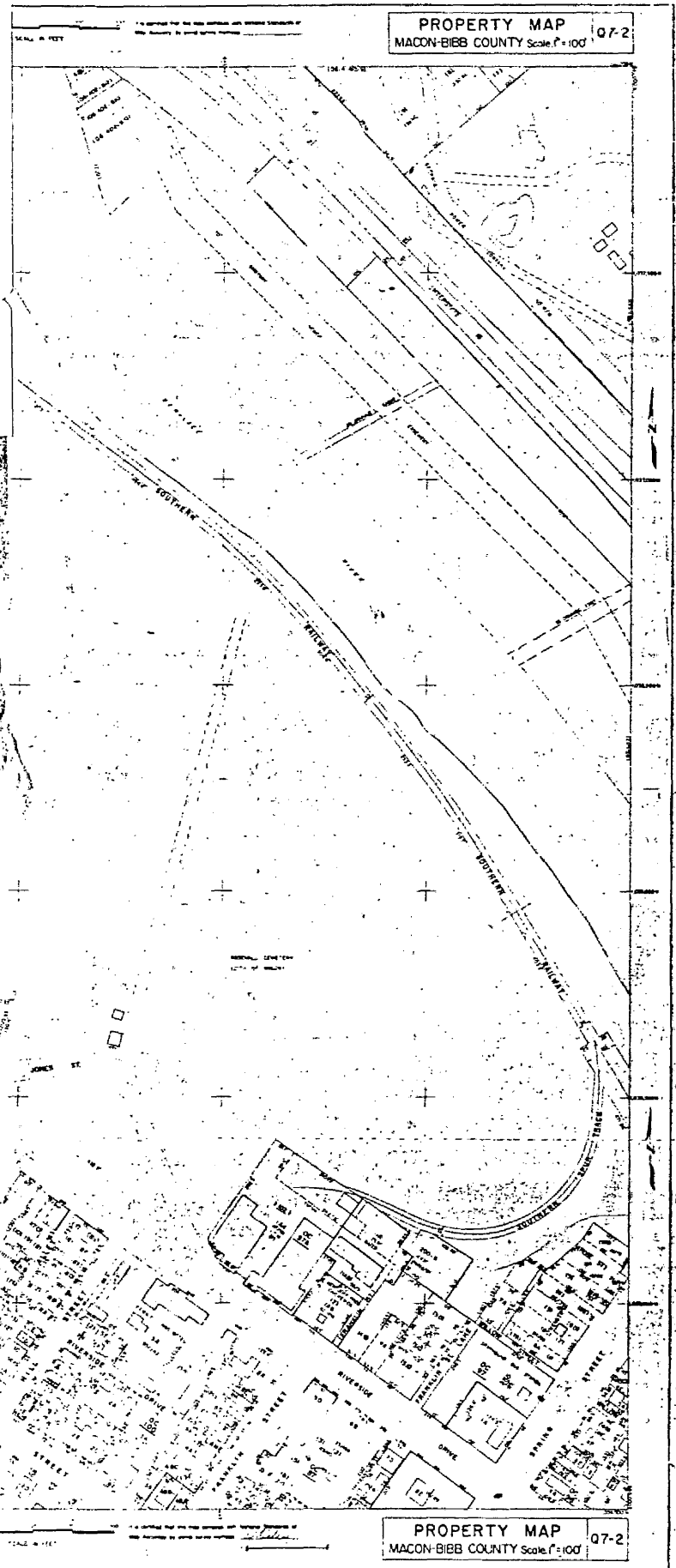
Intrusion: 

Photo Number and Direction: 





PLEASANT HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Macon, Bibb County, Georgia

DISTRICT SKETCH MAP (4 of 6)

Source: Macon-Bibb County Map #07-3

Scale: 0 ——— 200'

North: ↑

District Boundary: —————

Contributing Building: □

Non-contributing Building: ⊘

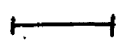



Intrusion: X




Photo Number and Direction: ⊙②



PLEASANT HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Macon, Bibb County, Georgia

DISTRICT SKETCH MAP (5 of 6)


Source: Macon-Bibb County Map #P7-4
Scale: 0  200'
North: 
District Boundary: 
Contributing Building: 

Non-contributing Building: 
Intrusion: 
Photo Number and Direction: 


PLEASANT HILL HISTORIC DISTRICT
Macon, Bibb County, Georgia


DISTRICT SKETCH MAP (6 of 6)


Source: Macon-Bibb County Map #P7-1

Scale: 0  200'


North: ↑

District Boundary: 

Contributing Building: 

Non-contributing Building: 

Intrusion: X

Photo Number and Direction: 

PROPERTY MAP
MACON-BIBB COUNTY Scale 1"=200' P7-1

