

JUL 13 1987

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

RECEIVED

For NPS use only

received MAY 19 1987

date entered SEP 15 1987

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

## 1. Name

historic Geneva Street Historic District

and or common

## 2. Location

street & number see continuation sheet NA not for publication

city, town Opelika NA vicinity of congressional district 3

state Alabama code 01 county Lee code 081

## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Multiple owners

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lee County Courthouse

street & number 215 South 9th Street

city, town Opelika state Alabama

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1970-present  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery state Alabama

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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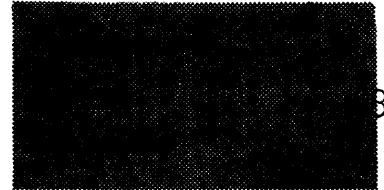
**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Geneva Street Historic District contains one monument, an unlandscaped park area and 90 structures, primarily residential, that date from the mid-19th century up to the present, with the large majority (approximately 85%) dating from the 1890s through the 1920s. The district is located just south of the downtown business district and is concentrated along a major north-south artery -- Geneva Street -- that interrupts the orderly grid pattern of the town and gives the district its triangular parks and odd-shaped lots.

79 contributing properties  
13 non-contributing properties  
92 total

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Item number 2

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Geneva Street - 407-811 odd and even  
Torbert Avenue - 801-816 odd and even  
South 10th Street - 519  
South 9th Street - 401-405 odd and even  
South 8th Street - 400-513 odd and even  
South 7th Street - 507-513 odd only  
Avenue E - 802  
Avenue D - 700-815 odd and even  
Avenue C - 707, 801-809, and the Confederate Monument

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STRUCTURES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE GENEVA STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT,  
OPELIKA, ALABAMA

1. 401 South 9th St.--Hodge House, c. 1910

Two-story, red brick, brick foundation, truncated hip roof, pedimental gables, extended eaves, modillions, partial wraparound porch with brick pier supports, original heavy chain between piers replaced with metal pipe. This house, which was altered for a multi-family dwelling, replaced a two-story frame house on part of the original Edwards' tract. Nelson Hodge, who built the house, married into the Edwards' family. (Roll 20, Neg. 22) (Roll 3, Neg. 2-AHC)

2. 405 South 9th St.--Edwards House, 1865, Carpenter Gothic

Two-story, frame, stone foundation piers, steep gable roof with triple facade gables, shed roof porch with lattice trim, scroll-sawn trim. One of a handful of mid-19th century Carpenter Gothic houses in Alabama and bears a strong resemblance to the Penn Yonge House Spring Villa (NRHP). Built by John Calhoun Edwards and his wife Sara Jane Griffin Edwards, members of one of the city's earliest families. (Roll 20, Neg. 23, 24) (Roll 22, Neg. 4-5) (Roll 1, Neg. 1-4; Roll 3, Neg. 2-5-AHC)

3. 408 Geneva St.--Melton House, 1919 (1880)

Two-story, frame, brick foundation, partial basement in rear, hip roof, extended eaves with exposed rafter ends, central half pyramidal roof portico above wraparound shed roof porch supported by brick piers, porte cochere. Original two-room central hall portion built by Charles Suddeth. In 1909, W. E. Hudmon added another side hall, four rooms and an upper story with four large two-story columns on the front. In 1919, Mr. W. H. Ingram, father of Mrs. Melton, bought the house, had the columns removed and the house moved back on its lot. The present porch was added. Mr. Ingram was owner and founder of Opelika's first commercial bakery, which ultimately became Sunbeam and Flowers Bakery. (Roll 22, Neg. 3)

4. 410 Geneva St.--McNamee-Torbert-Dean House, c. 1873, Second Empire

Two-story, frame, brick foundation, shingled mansard roof with central tower. A half hip roof porch with corner turret spans the facade. Roofline was apparently changed and tower added. Single leaf entrance with oval glass in door and flanking sidelights and transom. James M. McNamee purchased this property with a house on it from W. H. McNamee and his wife, C. L. McNamee. Sold to Hattie K. Torbert in 1900. This house is believed to be one of the oldest in Opelika; McNamee was a stock-holder, vice-president and director of the Bank of Opelika. (Roll 20, Neg. 25-27) (Roll 22, Neg. 2) (Roll 3, Neg. 7-8-AHC)

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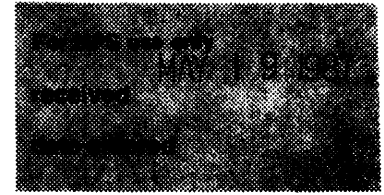
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5. 500 Geneva St.--Floyd-Carrington House, c. 1900  
One-story, frame cottage, combination hip and gable roof with tin and Eastlake chimneys, several gables with turned and scroll-sawn ornament wraparound porch with Ionic columns in pairs, and bracketed cornice, central door with oval light and transom. Believed to have been built by George Shealy, sold to J. H. Floyd, then owned by Cecil Floyd. Mrs. Harold Carrington, the present owner, bought it from the Floyds. (Roll 21, Neg. 35) (Roll 22, Neg. 1)
8. 510 Geneva St.-- Kilpatrick House, c. 1900  
One-story, frame, T-cottage with later side addition, gable roof with turned and sawn ornament in front gable. Porch has tapered columns on brick piers, probably later. (Roll 21, Neg. 34) (Roll 3, Neg. 9, 12-AHC)
10. 519 South 10th St.--House, c. 1890s  
One-story, frame, T-type cottage with high hip and gable combination roof, semi-octagonal gabled front bay, double front gables, simple fluted columns support wraparound porch.
11. 610 Geneva St.--Traywick-Tatum-Preston House, 1905  
Two-story, frame, brick foundation piers and basement, combination hip and gable roof, shingled turret, wraparound porch with paired columns on brick piers, triple window, in process of adding vinyl siding. Constructed by Henry Traywick and similar in design to the Duke Searcy House on Avenue A. Purchased in 1924 by Dr. O. H. Tatum, a dentist. (Roll 20, Neg. 28-29) (Roll 21, Neg. 33) (Roll 1, Neg. 20-AHC)
13. 702 Geneva St.--Tatum-Hicks House, 1929 Tudor Revival, R. Kennon Perry of Atlanta, architect  
One and one-half story, brick with basement, hip and gable tile roof with massive clustered chimneys, "half timber" front gable, diamond-paned leaded casement windows, porte cochere, door and windows framed in stone. Stained glass in dining room. (Roll 21, Neg. 32) (Roll 1, Neg. 15, 18-19-AHC)
14. 704 Geneva St.--Brown House, 1929, Bungalow  
One-story, frame, hip roof, offset front gable, bracketed eaves on gable, brick piers, triple and double windows, divided upper sash, single light lower. (Roll 21, Neg. 31)
15. 706 Geneva St.--Langley-Thompson House, c. 1900, hip roof cottage  
One-story, frame, medium tin hip roof, shed porch with brick pier on pier supports (replacement) central door with 4-lite transom, paired windows flanking. (Roll 21, Neg. 30)

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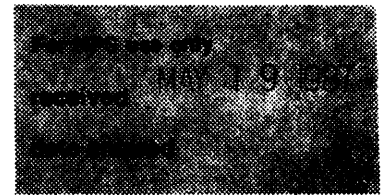
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16. 802 Geneva St.--Stewart-Story House, 1924, cottage  
One-story, brick, hip roof with central and off-set gables, porte cochere, triple windows, interesting detail in offset gables, porch piers are brick on brick. Built by Dr. J. H. Stewart, a prominent dentist. (Roll 21, Neg. 29) (Roll 1, Neg. 13-AHC)
17. 804 Geneva St.--Prince-Story House, 1925, bungalow influences  
One-story, brick, gable roof with central front gabled porch, roof has exposed rafters with decorative ends, flemish bond brick alternates red stretchers with blue glazed headers, porch piers are brick on brick. (Roll 21, Neg. 28)
19. 807 Geneva St.--Littleton-McClendon House, 1918, classic box cottage  
One-story, frame, pyramidal roof, central pyramidal dormer with check rail sash, central door, flanking 1/1 windows, wraparound porch with square brick piers. (Roll 21, Neg. 25)
20. 805 Geneva St.--Littleton House, 1919  
One-story, frame, clipped gable roof with inset porch, brick piers across facade, Tuscan columns on south elevation; originally porch wrapped around three sides. Built by W. L. Littleton, whose son now owns and occupies it. A. Rental Cottage, early 20th century, one-story, frame, Bungalow. B. Cottage, early 20th century, 1-story, frame cottage. (Roll 21, Neg. 24)
21. 801 Geneva St.--Haynie-Littleton House, c. 1900  
One-story, frame, high truncated hip roof with offset front gabled porch, offset wraparound porch with Tuscan columns, one-over-one windows, one stained glass window. (Roll 21, Neg. 21-23) (Roll 1, Neg. 6-AHC)  
A. Rental Cottage  
B. Rental Cottage
22. 707 Geneva St.--Under the Oaks, 1910, NeoClassical Revival  
Two-story, brick, hip roof, central portico with four Ionic columns and balustraded deck, broken pediment over central entrance, porte cochere, French doors. Contributing garage. (Roll 20, Neg. 32-33) (Roll 21, Neg. 19-20) (Roll 1, Neg. 14, 16-AHC)
23. 701 Geneva St.--Humphries House, 1932  
One-story, frame, gable roof, exposed rafter ends, central pedimental portico, paired windows. (Roll 20, Neg. 31) (Roll 1, Neg. 17-AHC)

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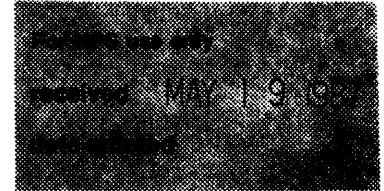
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24. 609 Geneva St.--Stokley House, c. 1900  
One-story, frame, hip and gable roof, partial wraparound porch with Tuscan columns on piers, siding and permastone. (Roll 21, Neg. 18)  
(Roll 3, Neg. 10-AHC)
25. 607 Geneva Street--Woods-Kennon House, 1908  
One-story, frame, pyramidal roof with recessed porch, bracketed eaves, offset recessed side entrance under porch; pre-case concrete brick pillars on brick piers support porch; front entrance has sidelights and transoms.  
(Roll 21, Neg. 17) (Roll 3, Neg. 10-AHC)
26. 603 Geneva Street--Kennon House, c. 1900  
One-story, frame, pyramidal roof with recessed porch, wooden columns on piers, siding, aluminum windows, replacement door. (Roll 21, Neg. 16)
27. 601 Geneva Street--Kennon House, c. 1900  
One-story, frame, high hip roof with recessed porch, Tuscan columns on piers, remodeled for multi-family use, siding, double entrances. (Roll 21, Neg. 15)
28. 511 Geneva Street--Williams-Lynch House, 1935 English Cottage  
One-story, brick, gable roof, front gable, front chimney with nice brickwork. (Roll 21, Neg. 14) (Roll 3, Neg. 11-AHC)
30. 505 Geneva Street--Tarver-Ennis House, c. 1900, T-cottage  
One-story, frame, gable & hip roof, offset front gable, 3-bay facade, Ionic columns. (Roll 21, Neg. 13)
31. 503 Geneva Street--Meadows-Ennis House, c. 1890, twin gable cottage  
One-story, frame, gable roof, twin front gables with sawn trim, symmetrical three-bay facade, replacement porch posts are Commercial Brick. (Roll 21, Neg. 11-12)
33. 411 Geneva Street--Kilgore House, c. 1875  
One-story, frame on high stuccoed brick basement, medium hip roof, half-hip roof porch, Tuscan columns, full-length windows; door surround is transitional late Greek Revival and Eastlake, with dentil course, Greek Key motive, and paneled pilasters with circular insets. (Roll 21, Neg. 10)  
(Roll 1, Neg. 5-AHC)
34. 409 Geneva Street--Butler-Canon House, c. 1870s/80s  
One-story, frame, gable roof with high hip central section, 5-bay facade, symmetrical, full length windows, shed roof porch with Doric columns, central door surround with sidelights, and paneled pilasters. John Buford Butler moved his family there in 1896; he was Tax Assessor for county.  
(Roll 21, Neg. 8-9)

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35. 407 Geneva Street--Hall House, c. 1900  
One-story, frame, medium hip roof, shed porch with columns on piers, 5-bay, symmetrical facade, 2/2 windows; sidelights flank door. Harry L. Hall purchased house in 1912 from Mrs. Bell Allen Ross who purchased it from Mrs. Susan Persons. Hall was president of the First National Bank of Opelika. (Roll 21, Neg. 7)
36. 405 Geneva Street--Bullard-Hall-Dean, prior to 1893  
One-story, frame, high gable roof, tin, 3-bay symmetrical facade, central entrance with sidelights, transom, full-length windows, 6/9, replacement stone porch. Occupied by a Dr. Bullard, a local physician until 1916 when sold by his widow to Harry L. Hall. (Roll 21, Neg. 6)
37. 403 Geneva Street--Murphy House--1905  
One-story, frame, high hip roof, central broken gable, 3-bay facade; central door has been widened to accommodate use of house as duplex. (Roll 21, Neg. 4-5)
38. 402 South 9th Street--Amoco Station-Baker Alternator, c. 1920  
One-story, enameled siding gas station, painted green in recent years.
39. Avenue C--Confederate Monument, 1911  
Metal soldier on stone base, located in center of triangular park. Was dedicated on April 6, by Robert E. Lee Chapter, UDC, in front of a crowd of 3,000.
40. 809 Avenue C--Cowan-Ingram-Graves House, c. 1890  
Two-story, frame, hip and gable roof, gabled front L, ground floor wraparound porch, upper floor porch; both have simple, turned posts and balusters, 1/1 windows. Constructed by J. B. Cowan; second owner G. T. Ingram was grandfather of present owner. (Roll 21, Neg. 1-3)
41. 805 Avenue C--House, c. 1920  
One-story, frame and brick bungalow, hip roof with gables and open eaves, asbestos siding. (Roll 22, Neg. 41)
42. 801 Avenue C--House, c. 1924, Spanish Mission influences  
One-story, stucco, clipped gable roof, simple arcaded porch with tile flooring. (Roll 22, Neg. 25) (Roll 1, Neg. 17-18)
43. 707 Avenue C--Bankston House, c. 1900  
One-story, frame with new vinyl siding, gable roof with front hip dormer, bracketed eaves, simple veranda with Doric columns.



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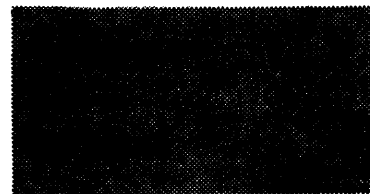
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44. 700 Avenue D--House, c. 1915  
One and one-half story, frame, hip roof with side gables and front hip dormer, bracketed eaves, paired columns on stone posts, check rail sash, colored lights around dormer windows.
45. 704 Avenue D--McCall House, c. 1915  
One-story, frame, pyramidal roof with front offset porch, brick columns, triple window.
46. 708 Avenue D--Jinwright House, c. 1915  
One-story, frame, bungalow, gable roof, bracketed eaves, paired posts on brick piers, shingled front gable. (Roll 2, Neg. 9-AHC)
47. 714 Avenue D--Echols House, c. 1870s  
One-story, frame, high brick foundation, H-shaped, gabled roof with twin front gables, Gothic arches in gables with louvers, heavy Greek Revival type trim for entrance windows, Eastlake porches across front and rear L; rear L appears to have had an open breezeway now enclosed with Eastlake trim. (Roll 22, Neg. 9-11) (Roll 2, Neg. 2-8,10-AHC)
48. 408 South 8th Street--Condon-Floyd House, c. 1890  
One and one-half story, frame, brick foundation, truncated hip roof with front gable over semi-octagonal bay, Eastlake porch trim on wraparound porch; Condon was a jeweler, a town alderman, and one of the founders of the First National Bank of Opelika; Floyd family since 1930s. (Roll 22, Neg. 8) (Roll 2, Neg. 13-14-AHC)
49. 404 South 8th Street--Sykes-Adams House, 1880s with alterations  
One-story, frame, high hip roof with twin front gables, later bungalow porch, fine interior screen in front hall. (Roll 22, Neg. 7) (Roll 2, Neg. 15-AHC)
50. 400 South 8th Street--Farley House, c. 1860 with late 19th c. alterations  
One-story, frame, high hip roof with twin front gables, hip roof porch with simple columns, double leaf entrance door with sidelights and transom. Original owner, John Edwards transferred to R. J. Edwards on May 9, 1885. (Roll 22, Neg. 6)
51. 405 South 8th Street--Smythe House, 1920s, Bungalow  
One-story, frame, gabled roof, open eaves, truncated brick piers with contrasting brick, similar chimney, fine Craftsman windows, asbestos siding. (Roll 22, Neg. 51) (Roll 2, Neg. 16-AHC)
52. 407 South 8th Street--Traywick-Niebuhr House, 1880s  
One-story, frame, gable roof, with central front gable with trim, full width shed porch with square wooden columns, two of original front windows altered to doors, windows are 2/2. (Roll 22, Neg. 23)

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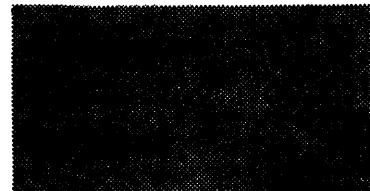
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53. 411 South 8th Street--Barnes-Niebuhr House, 1873  
One-story, frame, pyramidal roof, central front dormer with Palladian window, full-width porch with simple turned posts and scroll-sawn trim, windows have stationary panels; Mr. & Mrs. Will Barnes moved into the house as newly-weds in 1873. Contributing garage. (Roll 22, Neg. 22) (Roll 2, Neg. 12-AHC)
54. 501 South 8th Street--Simon House, c. 1909  
One and one-half story, frame, gabled roof with inset porch, Colonial Revival-type Ionic columns, transom, sidelights frame door, 1/1 sash, one front window replaced with door, stone retaining wall. (Roll 22, Neg. 21)
58. 513 South 8th Street--Dudley House, c. 1900  
One-story, frame, gabled roof, central front gable, recessed side wings. (Roll 22, Neg. 19) (Roll 3, Neg. 24-AHC)
59. 512 South 8th Street-- Simons House, c. 1910  
One-story, frame, pyramidal roof, wraparound porch, round fluted columns, bracketed eaves, double leaf entrance with glass panels and transom, check rail sash. (Roll 22, Neg. 16)
60. 508 South 8th Street-- Koplou House, c. 1900  
One-story, frame, hipped roof, shed porch, wooden posts on brick piers, three-bay, transomed doors flank central window. (Roll 22, Neg. 15)
61. 506 South 8th Street--Kendred House, c. 1900  
One-story, frame, high hipped roof, shed porch, wooden posts on brick piers, three-bay facade--windows flank door. (Roll 22, Neg. 14) (Roll 3, Neg. 25-AHC)
62. 504 South 8th Street--House, c. 1900  
One-story, frame, pyramidal roof, half hip porch with simple turned posts with scroll-sawn trim, three-bay facade, central door with 6/6 windows, vinyl siding. (Roll 22, Neg. 13) (Roll 3, Neg. 25-AHC)
63. 500 South 8th Street--House, c. 1900  
One and one-half story, frame, gabled front bay, original wraparound porch stripped, replacement portico. (Roll 22, Neg. 12) (Roll 23, Neg. 28-30)
64. 815 Avenue D--Kilgore House, c. 1924  
One-story, frame, gabled roof with inset porch, open eaves, bracketing on facade, paired windows, simple posts on brick piers.
65. 813 Avenue D--Brown House, c. 1900  
One-story, frame, pyramidal roof, paired windows, porch has square columns and simple balustrade.

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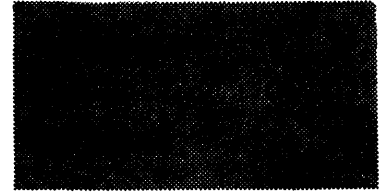
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66. 805 Avenue D--Simon House, c. 1890  
One-story, frame, gabled front bay cottage, gabled roof, full width porch with simple turned posts and scroll-sawn trim.
67. 803 Avenue D--Simon House, mid-19th with alterations  
One-story, frame, hip roof, end interior chimneys, paired 1/1 windows on facade, 9/9 windows on sides, half-hip roof shed porch with columns on brick piers, asbestos siding. (Roll 23, Neg. 27)
68. 709 Avenue D--Odom House, c. 1915  
One-story, frame, pyramidal roof, offset front gable, paired window columns on brick piers, open eaves.
69. 707 Avenue D--Odom House, c. 1900  
One-story, frame, truncated hipped roof with twin front gables with scroll-sawn trim in apex and small square lites with colored-lite surrounds, 1/1 windows, offset projected bay under one gable, later front porch has brick piers and wooden columns.
70. 705 Avenue D--Odom House, c. 1915  
One-story, frame, hip and gable roof, offset gable, open eaves, brick piers support columns for shed roof porch, 2/2 eaves.
71. 507A South 7th Street--House, c. 1900  
One-story, frame, hipped roof, offset front gable, apex trim and small rectangular lite with colored-lite surround, front porch with columns on piers.
72. 511 South 7th Street--Samford House, c. 1915  
One-story, frame, high hip roof, central gabled dormer with apex trim and square lite with colored surrounds, later Craftsman porch.
73. 513 South 7th Street--Corner Store, c.1915  
One-story, frame construction with gable roof. (unoccupied)
74. 801 Torbert Boulevard--Torbert House, c. 1896  
Two-story, frame, truncated hip with gables, multiple planes and textures, leaded and stained glass, wraparound porch with replacement Craftsman piers and columns on front elevation; original turned posts remain on east elevation; second-story porch has turned posts; was home of Clement Torbert, former president of First National Bank of Opelika; Plans completed by 1896. Brick flower shed and low retaining wall. (Roll 22, Neg. 17-18) (Roll 3, Neg. 20-22-AHC)
75. 809 Torbert Boulevard--Swatts House, prior to 1924  
one and one half-story, frame, cross gable roof, Craftsman porch.  
(Roll 23, Neg. 23-24)

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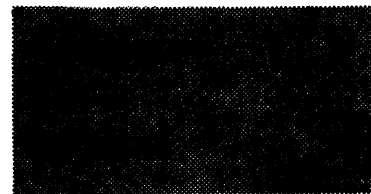
76. 811 Torbert Boulevard--Ingram-Mclendon-Morris House, 1910  
One-story, frame, hip roof, front gable, columns on piers, check rail sash.  
Built by W. H. Ingram in 1910. (Roll 23, Neg. 22)
77. 816 Torbert Boulevard--Kilgore House, prior to 1924  
One-story, frame, bungalow with gable end tin roof, columns on piers, bracketed  
eaves with fascia on front and open on sides. (Roll 23, Neg. 19)
78. 812 Torbert Boulevard--Kilgore House prior to 1924  
One-story, frame, hip roof cottage with recessed porch, 9/1 windows, columns on  
piers, extended eaves, with partial fascia. (Roll 23, Neg. 20)
79. 810 Torbert Boulevard--Ennis House, prior to 1924  
One-story, frame, cottage with gable and hip roof, front offset gable 1.  
(Roll 23, Neg. 21)
80. 808 Torbert Boulevard--Ennis House, prior to 1924  
One-story, frame, gable tin roof, front offset gable.  
A. Noncontributing apartment.
81. 802 Avenue E--House, early-20th-century  
One-story, frame, bungalow, offset front gable, bracketing.
82. Intersection of Avenue E, Torbert Avenue and Glenn Street--Park, c.1888  
Grassy, unlandscaped triangular-shaped lot. (Roll 3, Neg. 22-23-AHC)

NON-CONTRIBUTING PROPERTIES IN THE GENEVA STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT, OPELIKA

6. 502 Geneva Street--Farm Bureau Insurance Co., c. 1960s  
One-story, brick building.
7. Between 502 and 510 Geneva Street  
Parking lot, paved.
9. 604 Geneva Street--T.C.R. Oil Company, c. 1970s  
One-story, concrete block service station.
12. 700 Geneva Street--House, c. 1960  
One-story, red brick, ranch house. (Roll 20, Neg. 30)
18. 811 Geneva Street--Twin City Tobacco Company, c. 1917  
One-story, brick warehouse, now clad in metal facade.  
(Roll 21, Neg. 26)

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29. 507-509--Apartment complex, 1970s  
Two, two-storied apartments, frame and brick.
32. 501 Geneva Street--Sasser Insurance Co., c. 1970s  
One-story, brick and frame construction.
55. 503 South 8th Street--Apartment, c. 1970  
One-story, brick apartment building.
56. 505 South 8th Street--Apartment, c. 1970s  
One-story, brick apartment building.
57. 511 South 8th Street--Simon House, c. 1930  
One-story frame bungalow with bracketed gable roof. Porch has been completely enclosed with brick, and facade is irreversibly altered. (Roll 22, Neg. 20)
- 71A. 507B South 7th Street--Opelika Answering Service, c. 1969  
One-story, concrete modern structure.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1865; c.1870s; c.1880s;  
1890-1937 **Builder/Architect** (Inv.#13) R. Kennon Perry (Atlanta)

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Criterion C - Architecture

The Geneva Street Historic District contains Opelika's finest collection of mid-19th-through early 20th-century domestic architecture and features some of the city's earliest and best examples, including two mid-century Carpenter Gothic houses, a large number of Queen Anne-influenced houses and cottages, and Arts and Crafts-inspired bungalows.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property 33.6

Quadrangle name Opelika East & West

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	6	5	2	5	5	0	3	6	1	8	0	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

1	6	6	5	2	7	8	0	3	6	1	2	2	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

1	6	6	5	2	2	5	0	3	6	1	2	1	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D 

1	6	6	5	2	0	8	0	3	6	1	2	9	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H 

Zone	Easting				Northing									

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Boundary lines have been drawn to encompass the best surviving concentration of domestic architecture and landscape associated with the early settlement of Opelika, Alabama. See the red line on the attached scaled sketch map.

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

state NA code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellen Mertins, National Register Coordinator  
Shirley Qualls, Cultural Resources Coordinator

organization Alabama Historical Commission date February 19, 1987

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 205 261-3184

city or town Montgomery state Alabama

## 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 

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3/13/87

### For NPS use only

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

  
Keeper of the National Register

date 9/15/87

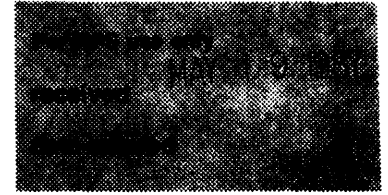
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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**HISTORICAL SUMMARY**

The Creek Indian Nation ceded the last of its lands east of the Mississippi to the United States in March 1832; at the southern most tip of the ceded area was the site that would become Opelika (the name is probably taken from the Indian words Opilu, swamp or waterhole, and Taka, large). In 1834, soon after the Creek cession opened the "New Alabama" to development, wealthy planters sought, and got, a railroad charter from the state legislature. Their immediate goal was to bring trade from Georgia and the Upper Tennessee Valley to Montgomery and Mobile. Two surveyors for the projected railroad from Atlanta to Montgomery, Charles Byrd and L. P. Grant, became interested in the village of Opelika as a trading center and terminus for the railroad; they bought 80 acres on each side of the railroad there.

In 1837 Daniel Bullard, an early settler, built Lebanon, a Methodist Church, of split logs and boards, on Geneva Street, two miles south of the current courthouse. The church formed the nucleus for early settlement in the area. After the railroad arrived in 1848, however, the center of the town moved north. Today, most of the earliest remaining houses are located on the northern stretch of Geneva Street encompassed by this district.

Opelika was originally incorporated into Russell County in 1854 with its city limits defined as extending one mile in each direction from the Montgomery and West Point railway station. The boundaries outlined by the incorporation included a portion of land in Macon County, therefore, necessitating a change in the boundaries of the two counties. In 1866, an act of the Legislature created Lee County, taking portions of Chambers, Macon, Russell and Tallapoosa Counties. The village known as Opelika, with a population of roughly 500, became the Lee County seat of justice.

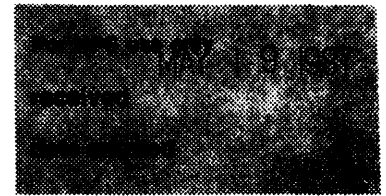
The 1855 building of a 29-mile railroad branch line linking Opelika to Columbus, Georgia provided the village with railroads running in three directions. This juncture of important rail lines made the tracks, railroad facilities and government supply warehouses a target of Federal raids during the Civil War. After the war, two ambitious railroad projects (the Savannah and Memphis Line and the East Alabama and Cincinnati Line) located their southern terminus in Opelika. The town and Lee County extended generous financial aid to support these lines.

The town's population increased dramatically, growing to 2,500 by 1870. During the 1870s and 1880s, the population continued to grow in spite of unfavorable circumstances. Discriminatory freight rates gave Montgomery and Columbus, Georgia a decided advantage in selling bulk commodities. Civil disorders, occasioned by railroad bond indebtedness and struggles between Republicans and Democrats for control of the city, gave Opelika a reputation as a dangerous place to live, visit, shop or even travel through by train. By the 1890s, however, the rates had been adjusted, the civil disorders calmed and finally, the advantage afforded the town by



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an adequate transportation system and warehouse facilities began prompting the growth of local industries and retail outlets. As traveling businessmen and "drummers" passed into and through Opelika bringing goods, new retail outlets opened and Opelika became a cotton storage and shipping point serving a large portion of East Alabama. By the closing decade of the 19th century and during the early 20th century, the town became the trade and railway center of East Alabama.

A significant number of Opelika's leading businessmen and professionals who weathered these trying times selected the area encompassing the Geneva Street Historic District for their home sites. In addition to affording its residents convenience to local churches, schools and the important East Alabama commercial trade center--their place of business--the neighborhood offered a pleasant setting with large lots, paved streets (the first of local residential areas) and sporadically placed triangular park areas--a distinction of the Geneva Street area not found elsewhere in the city.

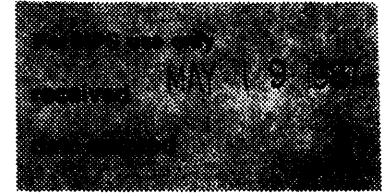
The earliest residents chose lots along and just south of Madison Avenue (now Ave. C), the major artery leading into the business district. In 1865 successful Lee County planter John Calhoun Edwards (b. 1838) and his wife of five years, Sara, built the district's most distinctive residence (INV #2) locally known as "The Gingerbread House." Situated on the 9th Street extension of Geneva Street, almost directly across from a park area that once contained an elaborate fountain, (INV #38) the Carpenter Gothic house features steeply-pitched gables with curvilinear gingerbread trim. Edwards has also been linked to the c. 1860 Farley House (INV #50) which was transferred to R. J. Edwards in 1885; however, the specific relationship between the two Edwards has not been confirmed.

Another particularly fine house, the c. 1873 Second Empire (INV #4) residence was built by W. H. McNamee. His son, banker James M. McNamee, gained ownership of the house following the death of his father. James McNamee was the Vice President and Director of the Bank of Opelika and a charter trustee of the Opelika Seminary.

Surveyor William Hodges Barnes, Jr. (born 1848) built an 8th Street residence (INV #53) for his bride, Mary, in 1873. Barnes was the son of distinguished attorney W. H. Barnes (1824-87) and the brother of two Opelika mayors (Augustus, 1885 and Reid Boylston, 1895). Another 1870's residence, situated on Ave. D (INV #47) was built by members of the Echols family--listed in the late-19th and turn-of-the-century census as a railroad agent.

During the 1890s additional homes were built by the town's new wave of businessmen and professionals including Josh C. Condan (INV #48), a local jeweler who was a founder of the First National Bank and a town alderman; physician Dr. Clarence H. Bullard (INV #36), son of early Russell County settler Daniel Bullard (who suggested the town name of Opelika) and the brother of WWI hero Gen. R. L. Bullard; bank president Clement Clay Torbert (INV #74) whose son is Alabama Supreme Court Chief Justice

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(since 1977) C. C. Torbert, Jr.; and county tax assessor John Buford Butler (INV #34).

Following the turn-of-the-century, this trend continued as other young businessmen, professionals and government officials built homes or rented residences in the district. Former Sheriff George Nelson Hodge built a two-story frame residence (INV #1) on the corner of 9th Street and Ave. C after attaining his new position as a bank president. Harry Hall (INV #35) who rose from bank clerk to president of the First National Bank of Opelika purchased this Geneva Street residence from the widow of Isaac Ross, III, Belle Allen Ross; and in 1919, merchant grocer William Henry Ingram, who founded the town's first commercial bakery (Sunbeam and Flowers,) purchased a house (INV #3) from the family of successful businessman W. E. Hudman. Hudman was mayor of Opelika in 1881 and served several terms as a town alderman.

Today, the Geneva Street area is rapidly changing. New commercial structures fill the vacant lots, while a number of the historic residences have been converted to residential rentals or have been re-adapted for small business/office use.

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