

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

For NPS use only

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

received **MAR 21 1985**

date entered **APR 18 1985**

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

1. Name

historic Gordon Avenue Historic District

and or common

2. Location

street & number See Section 7.

N/A not for publication

city, town Thomasville

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia

code 013

county Thomas

code 275

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 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>N/A</u> 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 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. Superior Court

street & number Thomas County Courthouse

city, town Thomasville

state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Field Survey:

title Thomas County, Georgia

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976

federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta

state Georgia

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Gordon Avenue Historic District consists of a group of five houses on large lots along the west side of Gordon Avenue, a major street in southern Thomasville. The houses are relatively large, one-and-a-half and two-story, wood-framed single-family dwellings. They reflect late-Victorian, Neoclassical, and Colonial Revival styles. Landscaping features include spacious lawns and informally placed pine trees, shrubbery, sidewalks and fences.

Gordon Avenue is one of the major streets that radiates off Broad Street, south of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad tracks. The district is situated on level ground, which slopes slightly to the west along the back of the lots. It is located along the west side of Gordon Avenue to the north and south of Junius Street. The district boundary circumscribes an intact grouping of five historic houses on Gordon Avenue. Beyond the boundary is non-historic development.

The grounds around the houses are spacious and informally landscaped with tall pine trees, lawns, boxwoods, shrubbery, and oak trees. Gordon Avenue is lined on both sides with sidewalks and tall oak trees with Spanish moss. Other landscaping features include a low wrought-iron fence at the sidewalk entrance to the property at 1012 Gordon and a wrought-iron fence with brick piers in front of the sidewalk entrance to the property at 924 Gordon Avenue.

The five houses in the district include the structures at 1104, 1012, 1008, 936, and 924 Gordon Avenue. The Neoclassical structures (#936 and 924) have monumental porticos with Doric columns and a triangular pedimented gable with central lunette window. The structures located at 1104 and 1008 Gordon Avenue have triangular pedimented dormer windows, while the structure at 1012 Gordon has several simple dormer windows and a large projecting gable roof with one side sloping near the center of the principal facade. The simple Victorian house in the district (#1008) has a round arched entrance portico and several round arches underneath the corner gables, a tower with conical-shaped roof, and a front porch with brackets and balustrade.

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 checked="" 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) local history
Specific dates	1890–1930	Builder/Architect	several	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Gordon Avenue Historic District is significant in the areas of architecture, community planning and development, landscape architecture, and local history. It is significant at the local level, with dates of development between 1890 and the early 1930s. It meets National Register criteria A, B, and C.

In terms of architecture, the Gordon Avenue Historic District is important for its fine collection of wood-framed, late-Victorian, Neoclassical and Eclectic style residential architecture dating from the late-nineteenth and early decades of the twentieth centuries. These houses are representative of the type of historic residential architecture found in many of Georgia's small cities, and they reflect prevailing national principles and practices of architecture as they were locally interpreted. Included in the district are two good examples of Neoclassical structures with monumental porticos, and an impressive, large late-Victorian structure with multi-level roof lines, a conical roofed tower, and bracketed porch. In addition, there are two Eclectic-style structures with Neoclassical and Colonial Revival detailing.

In the area of community planning and development, the district is important for illustrating the way in which incremental suburban development frequently occurred along major streets leading into and out of town. Formerly called Wyche Street, the land on the western end of the street, owned by S. Alex Smith, was subdivided by his heirs. The street became known as Gordon Avenue, with the L.M. Gordon property located at the end of the road. Gordon Avenue is one of the major streets that radiates off to the south of the railroad tracks and Broad Street. In the late 1800s, it was a popular street for driving carriages and bicycles, rivaling Paradise Park and Pinetree Boulevard in the beauty of its wooded areas.

In terms of landscape architecture, the Gordon Avenue Historic District is significant for its informal landscaping, characteristic of turn-of-the-century landscaping in America, and for its level terrain and pine trees, which give the district a distinctly south Georgia character. The district is landscaped with wide open spaces, broad lawns, curving driveways, fences, hedges, sidewalks, and large pine and oak trees.

The Gordon Avenue Historic District contributes significantly to local history by containing the historic homes of several of Thomasville's influential businessmen, industrialists, and professionals. Dr. John Coyle, a dentist

[continued]

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 24 acres, approximately

Quadrangle name Thomasville, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	7	2	1	5	4	6	0	3	4	1	3	9	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

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

C

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

D

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

The district boundary is outlined on the attached "Property/Sketch Map" 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 Andrea Niles, Survey and Research Specialist

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

date January 18, 1985

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 State Historic Preservation Officer (Deputy)

date 3/7/85

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

4-18-85

for Melores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

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from North Carolina, owned property on the south side of Junius Street and built the first house in the district (#1008 Gordon). Samuel G. McLendon, a representative in the State Legislature and an attorney, built his home near Dr. Coyle. Theo Titus, an attorney, built his home at 936 Gordon around 1910, about the same time that Cicero Young, a dry goods merchant, built a house at 924 Gordon. Judge Ewing, from Wheeling, West Virginia, built a home at the southern end of the district.

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Continuation sheet

Bibliography

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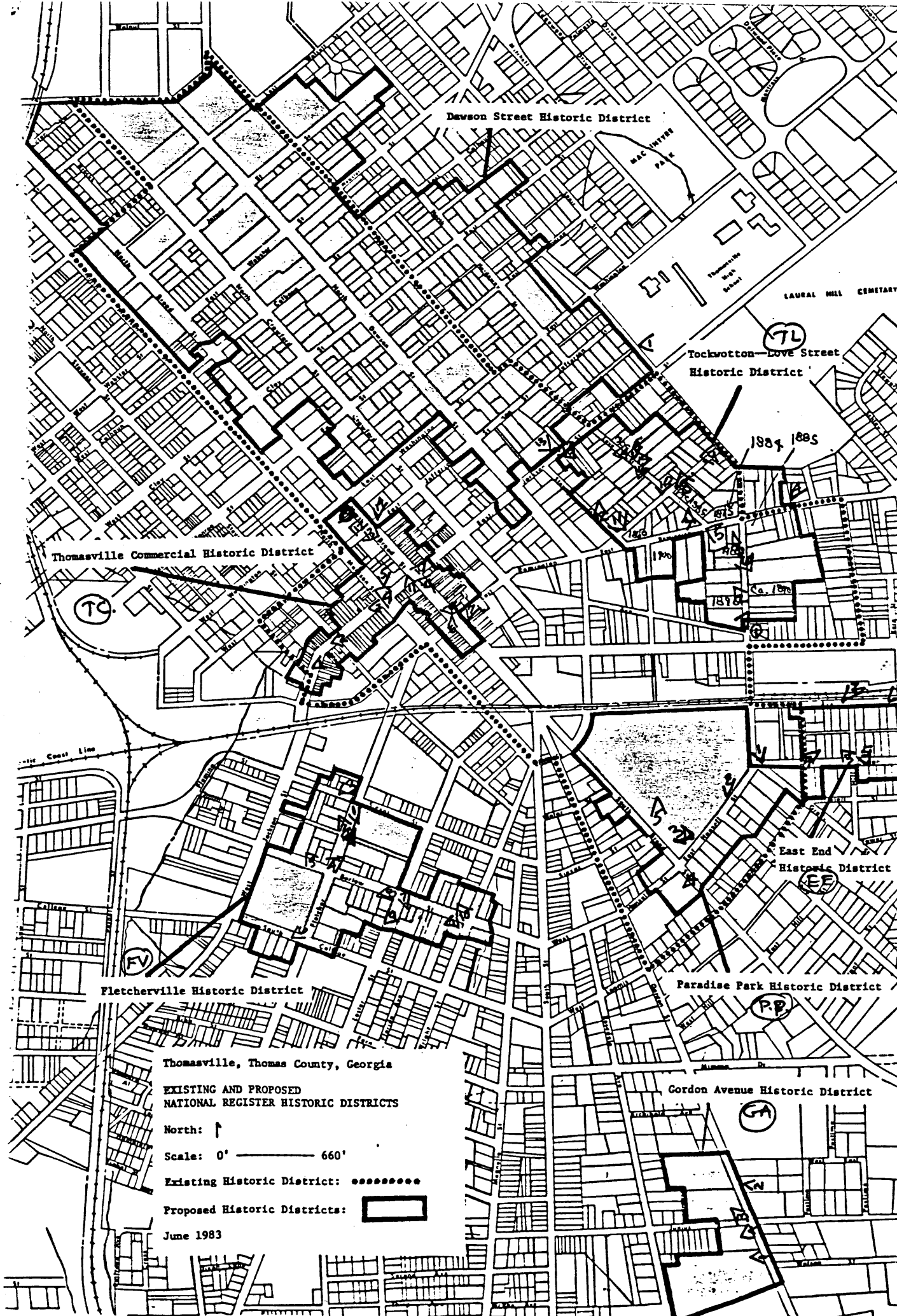
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Dawson Street Historic District

Thomasville Commercial Historic District

Fletcherville Historic District

Tockwotton-Love Street Historic District

LAUREL HILL CEMETARY

1884 1885

East End Historic District

Paradise Park Historic District

Gordon Avenue Historic District

Thomasville, Thomas County, Georgia

EXISTING AND PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICTS

North: ↑

Scale: 0' ————— 660'

Existing Historic District: ●●●●●●●●

Proposed Historic Districts: []

June 1983



GORDON AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT
 Thomasville, Thomas County, Georgia

PROPERTY/SKETCH MAP

Scale: 1" = 100'

Boundary of historic district: **—**

North: ↑

Photograph and direction of view: (2) →

Source: Thomas County Tax Maps