

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Vernon Road Historic District

and/or common

## 2. Location

Vernon Rd. from Jenkins St. to Forrest Ave. incl.  
Ferrelli Dr., Broad and Carter Sts.

street &amp; number See Continuation Sheet.

N/A not for publication

city, town LaGrange

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia

code 013

county Troup

code 285

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name Multiple owners (more than 50)

street &amp; number

city, town

\_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of

state

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street &amp; number Troup County Courthouse

city, town LaGrange

state Georgia

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Field Survey:

title Troup County, Georgia [See Continuation Sheet.]

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1977

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ localdepository 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 Vernon Road Historic District is a linearly shaped residential area along Vernon Road, historically a country highway at the outskirts of LaGrange. The district lies on gently sloping ground west of the steep hill occupied by LaGrange College. Vernon Road, the principal road in the district, runs in an east-west direction through the entire length of the district; Broad Street branches off from Vernon Road at the east end of the district and skirts to the north of LaGrange College. Lots in the district are generally rectangular in shape and vary from a fraction of an acre to several acres in size; several properties contain extensive acreage. Almost all the lots in the district front onto Vernon Road or the short stretch of Broad Street. Buildings in the district are almost exclusively single-family residences. These houses are situated at varying distances from each other and the street. They range in period from the early-nineteenth century to the early-twentieth century, in style from antebellum Greek Revival through postbellum Victorian Eclectic to turn-of-the-century Neoclassical and early-twentieth-century Georgian Revival, Bungalow, and English Tudor, and in size from one-story cottages to two-story mansions. One early-twentieth-century estate is included in the middle of the district. Most of the houses in the district are either wood-framed, weatherboarded, and detailed with appropriate wood trim or brick-veneered. The front yards of most of these houses are informally landscaped with trees, shrubbery, and lawn, and the front yards blend together to create continuous landscaped borders along the road. Rear yards may contain agricultural or storage outbuildings and lead to back lots in field or forest. Several properties feature formal landscape plantings, and the one estate--known as Hills and Dales--has extensive landscaped grounds. Non-historic properties, mostly modern residences, are limited in number and do not seriously intrude upon the historic residential character of the road.

### Boundary

The district boundary circumscribes an area along Vernon Road in LaGrange that manifests a cohesive historic residential character and appearance--that of an outlying country road gradually incorporated into the city's development. To the east is LaGrange College. To the north and northwest lies undeveloped land. To the west are the West Georgia Medical Center and industrial and commercial development. To the south are twentieth-century residential subdivisions with character, appearance, and history of their own.

### Photographs

The Historic Preservation Section has determined that the photographs taken in March, 1981, still provide an accurate view of the district. No significant changes have been made since this date.

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National Park Service**

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

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Continuation sheet    Location, Representation    Item number    2, 6

Page    2

Location of Legal Description

Vernon Road Historic District is a residential area in LaGrange, Troup County, Georgia. It is located west of LaGrange College. It includes the 900 and 1000 blocks of Broad Street and Vernon Road from its intersection with Broad Street to the West Georgia Medical Center.

Representation in Existing Surveys

The Ferrell-Holder House, an antebellum Greek Revival house located at 1402 Vernon Road, within the district, was individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places on August 14, 1979.

## 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/
<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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				Local History

Specific dates early 19th- early 20th centuries Builder/Architect Multiple

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Vernon Road Historic District is historically significant in the areas of architecture, community planning and development, exploration and settlement, landscape architecture and local history. In terms of architecture, the district is significant for its good examples of domestic architecture, which range from antebellum Greek Revival-style houses to early-twentieth-century Revival and Craftsman/Bungalow-style houses. In terms of community planning and development, the district is significant as a rural residential area that was originally developed along a country road at the outskirts of LaGrange and then was gradually incorporated into the urban development of the town. In terms of exploration and settlement, the district is significant for including one of the earliest transportation routes in the LaGrange area, Vernon Road, and some of the earliest houses built in the historic countryside around the town. In terms of landscape architecture, the district is significant for containing examples of both formal and informal landscaping. In terms of local history, the district is significant as the home of many of LaGrange's leading citizens. These areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register criteria A, B, and C.

### Architecture

The Vernon Road Historic District contains examples of a broad range of residential architecture dating from the early-nineteenth through early-twentieth centuries. These houses are representative of the type of historic residential architecture found in many of Georgia's smaller cities and towns, and they reflect prevailing national principles and practices of architecture as they were locally interpreted. Included in the district are examples of the antebellum Greek Revival style, postbellum Victorian Eclectic styles, Revival styles, and early-twentieth-century English Tudor, Italianate and Craftsman/Bungalow styles. These styles are manifested in a wide variety of house sizes. Some of the houses reflect their local carpenter-builder origins. Others were designed by some of Georgia's well-known early-twentieth-century architects, including Neel Reid ("Hills and Dales"), Ivey and Crook (#1102 and #1201 Vernon Road), P. Thornton Marye (#910 Broad Street), and Lockwood and Poundstone (#1109 Vernon Road). The Oaks (#1103 Vernon Road) is a fine example of a fully realized Greek Revival mansion. "Hills and Dales," the Fuller E. Calloway house designed by Neel Reid, is among the finest early-twentieth-century residences in the state.

[continued]

## 9. Major Bibliographical References See Continuation Sheet

Golsen-Williams, Maurie. "Draft National Register Nomination: Vernon Road Historic District". September, 1980. On file at Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources, Atlanta. (This National Register nomination is based largely on the information contained in this document.)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approximately 130 acres

Quadrangle name LaGrange, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

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

B 

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

C 

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

D 

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

E 

1	6	6	8	1	9	3	1	0	3	6	5	7	3	3	1	0	
Zone			Easting						Northing								

F 

Zone			Easting						Northing									

G 

Zone			Easting						Northing									

H 

Zone			Easting						Northing									

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

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher

Historic Preservation Section,

organization Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

date December 7, 1983

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

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12/9/83

### For NPS use only

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

for Allene Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 1/12/84

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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National Park Service**

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Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only  
received  
date entered

Continuation sheet    Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

Exploration and Settlement and  
Community Planning and Development

Vernon Road Historic District illustrates a type of neighborhood, typical of many of Georgia's small towns and cities, that developed first as a rural residential area along a major country road on the outskirts of town and then was gradually absorbed into the community as it expanded. Very early in LaGrange's history, a few substantial houses accompanied by large landholdings were built along Vernon Road, one of the earliest transportation routes in the LaGrange area. The Ferrell-Holder House (ca. 1830, substantially altered in 1937, individually listed in the National Register) and the Philip Hunter Greene House (The Oaks, ca. 1843) exist to document this period of early settlement. In the early years of the twentieth century, the breakup of some of the original large landholdings, in combination with the 1920 expansion of the city limits to include all of the district, resulted in the subdivision and further development of the area. In spite of its now being within the city limits of LaGrange, this area still maintains its identity as a country road rather than a city street. Houses have widely varying setbacks from Vernon Road and are situated on lots that vary tremendously in size.

Landscape Architecture

In terms of landscape architecture, the district is significant for its overall informal landscaping, which imparts the character and appearance of a rural highway to the neighborhood. The large shade trees, shrubs, and lawns of the individual yards blend together to create a park-like environment typical of prevailing principles and practices of American landscaping in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. In addition, the district contains some extremely fine examples of formal antebellum boxwood gardens. Of particular note are the Ferrell Gardens, developed in the mid-nineteenth century by Sarah Ferrell (daughter of the builder of the Ferrell-Holder House) and now part of the Hills and Dales estate. These gardens were referred to as "the apotheosis of all Georgia box gardens" in Florence Marge's important book, The Garden History of Georgia: 1733-1933. The extensively landscaped grounds of Hills and Dales, developed beginning in 1914 around the boxwood gardens, are an important landscaping element in the district.

Local History

In terms of local history, the district is significant for containing the homes of many of LaGrange's leading citizens, including planters, businessmen, industrialists, politicians, lawyers and merchants. Of particular note is the association of the district with the Calloway family, developers of LaGrange's successful Calloway Mills, and local philanthropists.

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

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

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Bibliography

Item number 9

Page 2

Books, Papers, and Periodicals

Johnson, Forrest Clark, "A History of LaGrange, Georgia: 1828-1900," (thesis for West Georgia College, Carrollton), 1980.

LaGrange Daily News, Bicentennial Edition.

Marge, Florence. Garden History of Georgia: 1733-1933. Atlanta: Peachtree Garden Club, 1933.

Smith, Clifford. History of Troup County. Atlanta: Foote and Davies Company, 1935.

Interviews

Birkeli, Kay. Conducted by Maurie Golsen-Williams in LaGrange, August, 1980.

Callaway, Fuller, Jr. Conducted by Maurie Golsen-Williams in LaGrange, August, 1980.

Crayton, Mary Jane. Conducted by Maurie Golsen-Williams in LaGrange, August, 1980.

Morgan, Lynn. Conducted by Maurie Golsen-Williams in LaGrange, August, 1980.


Traylor, Isabelle. Conducted by Maurie Golsen-Williams in LaGrange, August, 1980.


VERNON ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT  
LaGrange, Troup County, Georgia


DISTRICT SKETCH MAP

Source: Troup County Tax Maps

Scale: 0  200'

North: 

District Boundary: 

Non-historic Property: 

Photograph Number and Direction: 