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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property	1. N	lame	of	Pro	perty
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historic name	Montezuma	<b>Historic District</b>
other names/site	number	N/A

2. Location

street & nu	mber Roug	ghly cen	tered a	long North/South [	Dooly Street
city, town	Montezuma		( ) via	inity of	
county	Macon		code	GA 193	
state	Georgia	code	GA	zip code	31063

() not for publication

3. Classification

**Ownership of Property:** 

**Category of Property:** 

(X) private( ) building(s)(X) public-local(X) district( ) public-state( ) site( ) public-federal( ) structure( ) object

Number of Resources within Property:	<b>Contributing</b>	<b>Noncontributing</b>
buildings	269	175
sites	3	2
structures	4	0
objects	1	0
total	277	175

# Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 4 Name of previous listing: Montezuma Depot DeVaughn-Lewis House Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

# **Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer**

Historic Preservation Division Director

ignature of certifying

W. Ray Luce

In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my

Signature of commenting or other official

State or Federal agency or bureau

I, hereby, certify that this property is: ) entered in the National Register

() determined eligible for the National Register

5. National Park Service Certification

- ) determined not eligible for the National Register
- () removed from the National Register
- () other, explain:
- () see continuation sheet

Keeper of the National Register

Date

Date

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

## 6. Function or Use

## **Historic Functions:**

DOMESTIC: single dwelling DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution COMMERCE/TRADE: department store SOCIAL: clubhouse **GOVERNMENT:** post office EDUCATION: library **RELIGION:** religious facility FUNERARY: cemetery **RECREATION AND CULTURE:** monument/marker AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: processing INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXRACTION: manufacturing facility INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: waterworks **HEALTH CARE: clinic** LANDSCAPE: park TRANSPORTATION: rail-related TRANSPORTATION: road-related **OTHER:** levee

#### **Current Functions:**

DOMESTIC: single dwelling DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution COMMERCE/TRADE: department store SOCIAL: clubhouse GOVERNMENT: post office EDUCATION: library **RELIGION:** religious facility FUNERARY: cemeterv **RECREATION AND CULTURE:** monument/marker AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: processing INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXRACTION: manufacturing facility INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: waterworks LANDSCAPE: park **TRANSPORTATION:** rail-related TRANSPORTATION: road-related OTHER: levee

## 7. Description

## **Architectural Classification:**

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Tudor Revival LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND EARLY 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman OTHER: Folk Victorian OTHER: Commercial Vernacular Victorian OTHER: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Commercial OTHER: Queen Anne house OTHER: Queen Anne cottage OTHER: New South house OTHER: New South cottage OTHER: gabled-ell cottage OTHER: central hall OTHER: single pen OTHER: American small house

#### Materials:

foundation	BRICK
	GRANITE
	CONCRETE
walls	WOOD: weatherboard
	BRICK
	STUCCO
roof	ASPHALT
	METAL
other	N/A

## Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Montezuma is located in central southwest Georgia along a major rail line that trends south from Macon and near the Flint River, a historic source of transportation that runs from Clayton County near Atlanta southwest to the intersection of the Georgia, Alabama, and Florida borders. Montezuma is approximately two miles from Oglethorpe, the county seat of Macon County.

## SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Montezuma Historic District encompasses historic residential, commercial, industrial, and community landmark resources associated with the development of the town. The district is

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generally centered along Dooly Street, the main north-south thoroughfare through the town. A majority of the historic residential development is located north of the Central of Georgia (Norfolk Southern) railroad, which runs northeast-southwest in relation to Dooly Street. The central business district is located between the Central of Georgia (Norfolk Southern) railroad on the north and Atlantic and Birmingham (CSX) railroad and Beaver Creek to the south with additional residential development located south of the creek. Montezuma's African-American neighborhood, historically called Duncan's Bottom, is located on the west side of North Dooly Street and is notable for its rare, intact examples of the single-pen house type. Centered along the railroads, Montezuma's commercial buildings are one- and two-story brick buildings with decorative and corbeled brickwork. The historic African-American commercial area is located along Beaver Street. Historic industrial resources include the two-story, brick knitting mill (1903) and one-story, brick cottonseed oil mill (1901) constructed by the Montezuma Manufacturing Company. The historic houses date from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. Architectural styles include Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, Craftsman, Neoclassical Revival, Colonial Revival, and English Vernacular Revival. House types include Queen Anne cottage, Queen Anne house, New South cottage, New South house, Georgian house, English cottage, gabled-ell cottage, central hall, and bungalow. Historic community landmark buildings include the Montezuma Depot (1890), Montezuma Carnegie Library (1906), United States Post Office (1939), Montezuma Community Clubhouse (c.1920), Montezuma High School Gymnasium (c.1925), and Macon County Clinic (1934). Also located within the district are several historic churches, two cemeteries, two historic water towers, and Confederate monument (1911). Plagued by periodic flooding since the town's founding, a 29-foot levee was constructed along Beaver Creek in 1954. In 1994, the levee broke during Tropical Storm Alberto and caused widespread flooding in the town. Montezuma received federal funding to restore the downtown, which was submerged under 13 feet of water for six days.

## **FULL DESCRIPTION**

The following description was prepared by Cherie (Blizzard) Bennett and Glen Bennett, historic preservation consultants, and edited with additional information by Gretchen Brock, National Register Coordinator, Historic Preservation Division. "Montezuma Historic District," draft <u>National Register of Historic Places Form</u>, July 31, 2000. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Located in Macon County, Georgia, the Montezuma Historic District consists of the city's historic commercial, governmental, industrial, and institutional resources as well as historic residential neighborhoods at the north and south ends of the district. The district extends approximately 1.5 miles in a north-south direction along Dooly Street. Two separate railroad tracks divide the district along an east-west axis in two different locations along Dooly Street, once at Oglethorpe Road and once again atop the Beaver Creek levee.

The historic commercial area in Montezuma is centrally located within the district. Commercial development initially occurred adjacent to the intersection of Dooly Street and the railroad tracks and

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expanded over time to include Dooly, Beaver, Cherry, and Cabot streets. The historic African-American commercial district is located on Beaver Street. The majority of the historic commercial buildings were built in the Commercial Vernacular Victorian style and Early 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Commercial style, exhibiting little detailing beyond decorative brickwork along the cornice and above the windows. Also located in the downtown area are two historic industrial resources located to the west of Dooly Street along the railroad tracks and Oglethorpe Road: the Montezuma Knitting Mill and the Cotton Seed Oil Mill.

Surrounding the historic central business district to the northeast, northwest, and southeast are historic residential areas that contain a variety of common house types and styles popular in Georgia during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The styles include Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, Neoclassical, Colonial Revival, Craftsman, and English Vernacular Revival. Representative house types in the district include Queen Anne house, Queen Anne cottage, English cottage, gabled ell, central hall, bungalow, and single pen. There are several multi-family dwellings within the district including two two-story apartment buildings at 605 North Dooly and 100 Vinson Avenue, and one-story multi-unit buildings at 400 Asbury Street, 306 Martin Luther King, Jr. Street, and 201 Drayton Street. Historic community landmark buildings in the district include the Montezuma Depot (1890), several churches, the Montezuma Carnegie Library (1906), the United States Post Office (1939), Montezuma Community Clubhouse (c.1920), old Montezuma High School Gymnasium (c.1925), and the old Macon County Clinic (1934).

Also within the district are the Felton Cemetery and the Montezuma Colored Cemetery (now Mount Pleasant) Cemetery. There are three parks in the historic district, two of which are non-historic and one, the Fannie Carmichael Park located on North Dooly Street, which is historic.

## **Commercial Buildings**

Montezuma's historic commercial area is located in the approximate center of the historic district (photograph 46). Commercial buildings are concentrated along Dooly, Cherry, Beaver, and Cabot streets. The commercial area initially developed adjacent to the Central of Georgia (Norfolk Southern) Railroad line. To the west, northwest, and southwest of downtown, the topography of the land descends into a valley and the Flint River. The land rises to the east, northeast and southeast of downtown as one travels along Dooly Street, Artesian Street, Railroad Street, Vinson Avenue, and Minor Avenue.

Within the central business district, a smaller African-American commercial district developed along Beaver Street in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The buildings along this block of Beaver Street are one-story, brick, attached buildings with flat roofs. The area historically served as the business and social center for African Americans living in the community and was site of numerous street dances throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century. These commercial establishments continue to cater to Montezuma's African-American community today.

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The commercial buildings in downtown Montezuma are representative of the types of structures built in small-town commercial areas during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries (photographs 41, 43, and 45). The buildings are one and two stories in height and most share common walls and have a zero setback flush with the sidewalk. Brick is the most common building material, and stylistic detailing is typically limited to along the building cornices. Most of the commercial buildings feature centrally located flush entryways, but some retain their original centered, recessed entryways with paired doors. Many of Montezuma's historic commercial buildings have transoms over the front entrances, although some have been infilled. Several of the buildings have entryway and window awnings, some of which are in keeping with historic form and materials. Most buildings in downtown Montezuma have flat or gently sloping roofs with parapet walls that obscure view of the roof from the public right-of-way.

The McKenzie Mall building occupies a prominent corner in the commercial district at 100 East Railroad Street. This building was constructed c.1880 and has since housed a commercial business on the ground floor and the Masonic Hall on the second floor. The two-story, brick building features restrained detailing in the form of decorative brickwork along the cornice line and two-over-two double-hung sash windows. The façade also features a centrally located plaque inscribed with the Mason's symbol just below the cornice. Flanking the McKenzie Mall are several simple, one-story brick buildings that house a variety of commercial enterprises.

Maffett's Department Store at 208 South Dooly Street is another significant commercial building in the district. Constructed c.1890, the store occupies a one- and two-story building along this commercial block of South Dooly. The building is constructed of brick and features segmental arched, two-over-two double-hung sash windows with detailed brickwork along the cornice of the parapet wall.

The Citizens National Bank building at 106 South Dooly Street is a high-style commercial building in the downtown business district. This building was built in 1921 in the Neoclassical style and features a terra-cotta façade with Doric pilasters, decorative parapet, panels above the windows, and columned door surround.

The district also features a cotton warehouse at 117 Cherry Street. The brick warehouse was constructed c.1920 and is the only surviving cotton warehouse in the district. The building features a large hipped roof with a hipped clerestory. In addition, the warehouse features a shed-roof extension over the loading platform and bays.

Another significant commercial building in the district is the Montezuma Motor Company located at 301 South Dooly Street (photograph 52). The c.1920 Art Deco-style building was originally built for the Tom Huston Frozen Foods Company before it was converted to the Montezuma Motor Company c.1950. The brick building has a flat roof and parapet walls and features vertical, layered brick elements on the façade that exhibit the verticality that is the essence of the Art Deco style.

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The Napa Auto Parts Store at 207 South Dooly Street is a good example of the adaptive use of a historic building. Built in 1946, this building was originally the Colonial Grocery Store. It is a freestanding, one-story, brick building with a front façade of blond brick. The building has a flat roof and features a parapet wall with granite coping. The flush entryway consists of glass doors and four-light display windows with canvas awnings.

In addition, two industrial resources associated with the Montezuma Manufacturing Company are located within the central business district on Oglethorpe Road adjacent to the railroad tracks. The 1903 knitting mill is a two-story brick building that has a flat roof. This building has segmental arched double-hung sash windows and exhibits simple brickwork along the cornice (photograph 48 in background). The other industrial building is the 1901 cotton seed oil mill located on Oglethorpe Road adjacent to the knitting mill. This one-story brick building features a side-gable, standing-seam metal roof with a stepped parapet wall. The double-hung sash windows include segmental-arched window hoods. Another industrial building is located near Beaver Creek. The c.1930 Montezuma Waterworks is a two-story brick building with a one-story rear wing (photograph 56). The building features little ornamentation and has steel casement windows.

The majority of buildings in the central business district are in good to excellent condition and retain a high degree of historic integrity. Relatively few nonhistoric and noncontributing buildings are located in the commercial area, which do not detract from the overall high degree of integrity of downtown Montezuma.

## House Types and Styles

The Montezuma Historic District contains a substantial variety of historic houses, ranging in age from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the early 1950s. As would be expected with a large group of buildings built over such a timeframe, there is also a considerable variety of architectural design and stylistic influence represented in the district's houses. Residential architectural styles include Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, Neoclassical, Colonial Revival, Craftsman, and English Vernacular Revival. Common house types found in the district include Queen Anne house, Queen Anne cottage, New South house, New South cottage, bungalow, gabled-ell cottage, central hall, and single pen.

The majority of houses in the district are located north and south of the central business district along and adjacent to Dooly Street. There is a preponderance of high-style houses located along North Dooly Street and in the area east between Dooly and Railroad streets. This area connects Dooly to Engram, College and Railroad streets via Artesian Street and Vinson and Minor avenues. Several high-style residences are also located to the south of the central business district along South Dooly Street. The simpler, vernacular-style houses were mainly built in the historic African-American neighborhood west of North Dooly Street historically called the Duncan's Bottom area. The African-American neighborhood within the historic district is roughly denoted as the land bounded by Morse Avenue on the north, Drayton Street on the east, Oglethorpe Road on the south, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and Washington Street on the west.

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The historic district includes a number of houses that exhibit the characteristics of architectural types and styles from the late-Victorian era. There are several examples of Queen Anne-style houses including the houses at 326, 318, 204, 203, and 116 North Dooly Street, 211 West Railroad Street, and 407 Engram Street. An example of a Queen Anne-style house in Montezuma is the Queen Anne-type and –style house located at 407 Engram Street (photograph 19, right in background). The two-story, frame house features a projecting two-story bay, a complex roof with numerous gables, a wrap-around porch with paired, square posts and balustrade, and details such as lunette windows, modillions, and corbeled chimneys. Other Queen Anne-style houses in the district feature wrap-around porches, turned porch supports, complex roof structures, porte cocheres, classical dentils and modillions along the cornice, and one-over-one double-hung sash windows.

An example of a Queen Anne-type house in the district is located at 416 Engram Street (photograph 15). The two-story, frame house features a complex roof, projecting two-story front bay, and a wrap porch with Doric columns.

In addition, there are several examples of the Queen Anne cottage building type with Queen Annestyle details located in the district, including one-story houses at 411 Drayton Street, 413 Engram Street, 208 Norris Street, and 309 and 311 North Dooly Street. These last two are mirror images of each other and are excellent examples of the style with sawnwork on the wrap-around porches, bay windows, verge board in the gables, and Queen Anne-style stained glass windows (photograph 23).

An example of a Queen Anne cottage with restrained details is located on the 500 block of North Dooly Street (photograph 3). The one-story, frame house features a steeply pitched multi-gabled roof, Craftsman-style windows, and an asymmetrically placed front porch with a steep front-gable roof and brick posts.

The district contains numerous good example of late 19<sup>th</sup>- and early 20<sup>th</sup>- century building types. An example of a c.1900 New South cottage-type house is located on North Dooly Street (photograph 17). The one-story, frame house features a partial-width porch with square posts on brick piers. A good example of a gabled-ell cottage is located at 246 Barton Street and features a simple shed-roof porch with square posts (photograph 12). An example of a central hall-type house is located at 426 Hill Street, which also features a simple shed-roof porch (photograph 10, left).

Examples of Folk Victorian-style houses in the district include the frame, gabled-ell cottage at 509 South Dooly Street (photograph 59, left) and Queen Anne cottages on Norris Street (photograph 26). The cottage on the corner of Norris Street and Antigo Court features a complex hipped roof with gable returns, dormers, and simple stylistic details such as turned porch supports and decorative shingles in the gables. Another good example of a Folk Victorian-style Queen Anne cottage is located on the 200 block of Norris Street (photograph 27, right).

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Montezuma's most outstanding residential architecture was built during the first two decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the Neoclassical style. These buildings include the DeVaughn Lewis House at 510 South Dooly Street, the McKenzie House at 300 North Dooly Street, and the Windham House at 308 North Dooly Street. The most prominent house in the district is the 1905 Neoclassical-style DeVaughn-Lewis House located at 510 South Dooly Street (National Register listed May 2, 1985). The two-story, frame house features two-story, single, Corinthian columns supporting a large front gable portico and engaged pilasters (photograph 60). The house also features a second-story balcony with a door and flanking windows in the form of a Palladian window. The other windows are one-over-one double-hung sash with wood window surrounds and flat hoods. The cornice and front gable feature large modillions, and a large lunette window is located in the front gable of the portico.

The McKenzie House, 300 North Dooly Street, is another good example of the Neoclassical style found within the district (photograph 35). The two-story, frame house was built in 1901 and features four two-story Corinthian columns supporting a large portico. The house also features a second-story front balcony with turned porch balusters. The first-story windows are one-over-one double-hung sash windows with wood window surrounds, side lights, and gable pediments that contain elaborate relief work. The building's elaborate entablature features an overhanging eave, cornice with modillions, a dentil course, and detailed relief work in the frieze.

Another example of Neoclassical architecture in the district is the Windham House located at 308 North Dooly Street (photograph 34). Constructed c.1910, the two-story brick house features single and grouped Doric columns supporting a large portico. The house features a second-story front balcony with a segmental-arched door and sidelights. The large one-over-one double-hung sash windows are topped with stone lintels. The main entryway consists of double wood doors flanked by small Doric columns and features leaded-glass transom and sidelights. The building's entablature includes an overhanging eave, cornice with modillions, and a classical frieze featuring the triglyphs and metopes motif. The house also includes a one-story side porch and porte cochere.

Another example of a Neoclassical-style house in Montezuma is the two-story, frame, house at 502 South Dooly Street (photograph 58). The house was constructed c.1910 and features a one-story wrap-around porch with fluted Corinthian columns and turned porch balustrades. The complex hipped roof features wide, overhanging eaves with modillions and a hipped, double window dormer. One-over-one double-hung sash windows are found throughout the house and a Palladian window occupies the space directly above the front entryway. The front entryway consists of double woodand-glass doors with a leaded glass surround. The house also features a porte cochere.

There are several examples of the Colonial Revival style of architecture in the district including houses at 104 Vinson Avenue, 402 Engram Street, 301 North Dooly Street (photograph 24), and 524 Engram Street. The house at 104 Vinson Avenue is two-story brick house that features Doric columns supporting a front gable portico (photograph 16). The house is representative of the Palladian plan with two one-story wings flanking the larger two-story main house. The front entrance has six-panel wood door with a segmental-arched transom window and sidelights. The six-over-six

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double-hung sash windows have stone sills and lintels. The hipped roof features two rounded-arch dormer windows with multi-light geometric panes. The houses at 301 North Dooly Street and 524 Engram Street are also two-story brick homes feature similar Colonial Revival detailing.

The house at 402 Engram Street is a one-story brick house with Colonial Revival-details. The house has a side-gable roof with a front-gable portico supported by four lonic columns. The entrance is composed of a solid wood paneled door with a rounded keystone arch and sidelights. The windows are six-over-six double-hung sash and feature stone sill plates. The cornice and portico feature a delicate dentil course.

The Colonial Revival-style, one-and-a-half-story, frame, Georgian cottage located on the 500 block of Engram Street features a symmetrical façade with three gabled dormers and a recessed entrance with swan's neck pediment (photograph 5).

Several good examples of the English Vernacular Revival style are present in the district. The houses, located at 847, 518, 507, and 304 North Dooly Street, 511 and 501 South Dooly Street, and 615 Engram Street, are representative of this later style of architecture. All of these houses features two or more of the elements that are representative of the English Vernacular Revival Style such as brick construction, arched entrance, steeply pitched front facing gable, multi-paned casement windows, half timbering in the gables, patterned brick work, and arched side porch. A representative example of an English Vernacular Revival-style English cottage-type house is the one-story brick house located at 613 North Dooly Street (photograph 1). The house features a projecting gabled entrance, front chimney, and a multi-light window on the front façade.

Excellent examples of Craftsman-style houses are found in great numbers throughout the district. The two-story, frame, Craftsman bungalow at 429 North Dooly Street features knee braces and a shed roof dormer. The house at 407 Drayton Street is a one-story, frame, Craftsman bungalow with exposed rafters, battered wood columns on brick piers, and four vertical lights-over-one double-hung sash windows. The house at 507 South Dooly Street is a one-story Craftsman bungalow constructed of brick and wood that features knee braces, exposed rafters, Craftsman-style windows, and decorative shingles in the gables. Other examples of the Craftsman style in the district include houses at 400 North Dooly, 207 West Railroad Street (photograph 39), 504 and 403 Engram Street, and 205 and 207 Minor Avenue.

There are relatively few houses built during the late 1930s and 1940s in the district. One representative example is the one-story, frame house at 109 Walnut Street, which has a front-facing gable and an absence of stylistic details. Another example is the American Small House located at 511 North Dooly Street (photograph 4).

Montezuma's African-American neighborhood has numerous good examples of house types commonly found in small town African-American neighborhoods in Georgia. Many of the vernacular houses in the historic district are located in an area west of Dooly Street. This area, known locally as

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Duncan's Bottom, was traditionally settled by African-American members of the community (photographs 29 and 36). The neighborhood is bounded by Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive and Washington Street on the west, Oglethorpe Road on the south, Drayton Street on the east and Morse Avenue on the north. The majority of the residential structures are constructed of wood and brick

Duncan's Bottom includes numerous examples of several rare house types. The single-pen house type was once numerous in Georgia but rarely survives intact today. Several excellent examples of this rare house type house are found in the neighborhood including those at 111 Whiteline Street and 214 Whiteline Street (photograph 31).

An example of a gabled-ell cottage is located at 330 Norris Street and features gable returns, a partial-width front porch with columns on brick piers, and a later historic rear addition with exposed rafters (photograph 25).

An unusual house type found in the neighborhood includes the houses located at 402 Asbury Street, 306 Martin Luther King Jr., Drive, and the northwest corner of Asbury and Drayton Streets (photograph 33 of 402 Asbury Street). Based on oral history information, these houses are believed to have been barracks that were brought to Montezuma from the nearby Warner Robins Air Force Base, although this local story has not been confirmed. The neighborhood has very little new construction and most of the noncontributing houses are small-scale new construction, modern mobile homes, and some historic houses that have lost integrity.

An example of a multi-family house in the district is located at 603 North Dooly Street (photograph 2, right).

## **Community Landmark Buildings**

The Montezuma Historic District has several good examples of community landmark buildings typically found in small Georgia towns including a depot, a library, a United States Post Office, several churches, and education-related buildings.

Built in 1890 by the Central of Georgia Railroad, the Montezuma Depot (National Register listed June 12, 1980) is located at the center of the Montezuma Historic District (photograph 40). The passenger and freight depot is a brick, rectangular-shaped building with paired brackets under the wide, overhanging eaves, a bay ticket office, and a wood loading platform. The depot features details reflecting the Queen Anne style include the large paired brackets along the eaves and the protruding bay of the passenger ticket office. The depot is a prominent community landmark building and is currently being rehabilitated for a local history museum and welcome center.

The Montezuma Carnegie Library, located at 109 North Dooly Street, is one of Montezuma's most high-style buildings (photograph 42, right). Construction began in 1906 with the official opening in

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August of 1907. Columbus-based architect T. Firth Lockwood, Jr, designed the Neoclassical-style building. The brick-and-granite library has a symmetrical façade with a recessed entry flanked by two granite lonic columns. Decorative elements on the façade include banded brick pilasters with egg-and-dart detailing and windows topped with segmental arches that are accented with keystone-like brackets. There is a continuous foundation of rusticated granite block.

The 1939 United States Post Office is located at 110 Cabot Street (photograph 44). The building was one of many post offices in Georgia built during the New Deal ear and was designed by the supervising architect of the United States Treasury Department, Louis A. Simon. The building is constructed of red brick laid in common bond style with a marble-covered central entrance featuring marble, Doric, engaged columns. The hip roof is topped by a four-sided cupola. The building also features a stone cornice and marble front steps. The interior lobby has terrazzo floors with black marble baseboards and plaster walls with gray marble wainscoting. The interior of the post office does not contain a mural.

Churches constitute the majority of Montezuma's community landmark buildings. The First Baptist Church and the Methodist Church located at 207 and 201 North Dooly Street, respectively, are the earliest of the churches in the Montezuma Historic District. The First Baptist Church was built in 1899 in the Romanesque Revival style

The Neoclassical-style Montezuma Methodist Church at 201 North Dooly Street was built in 1916 and designed by T. Firth Lockwood, Jr., who designed the Carnegie Library in Montezuma (photograph 37). The church is a brick building featuring a recessed entryway, reminiscent of the Carnegie Library's entrance. The entrance is flanked by two colossal, Indiana limestone columns that support an entablature and pediment. The pediment features dentils and a small round window.

Montezuma Historic District also has a number of African-American churches. St. Paul's Primitive Church was constructed c.1930 and is located on Whiteline Street (photograph 32). The remainder of Montezuma's African-American churches are nonhistoric and noncontributing, although many of the congregations have existed for a long time and are integral parts to the community. These churches include Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, located on River Road; Magnolia Baptist Church (c.1964) at the corner of River Road and Whiteline Street; Union Baptist Church (c.1970) on Norris Street (photograph 27, left); and Mount Pleasant/Traveler's Rest CME Church (c.1974) at the corner of Norris Street and Antigo Court.

Smaller community buildings, which have served the public since their construction, include the 1920s Montezuma Community Clubhouse located at 309 Engram Street, the 1920s old Montezuma High School Gymnasium located at 208 East Artesian Street (photograph 21), and the 1934 Macon County Clinic building located at 200 North Dooly Street that was converted in the 1970s to the Leisure Estates Motel (photograph 38, left).

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#### Sites, Structures, and Objects

The historic Felton Cemetery is located to the south of Oglethorpe Road and historically was for white Montezuma citizens (photographs 47-51). The majority of the oldest graves in the cemetery date from the 1880s, however there are two graves dated 1829. These appear to be an anomaly, since the gravestones appear to date from the 1920s. (Perhaps, the bodies of these people, who died in 1829, were transferred to Felton Cemetery in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is unknown.) The cemetery has been in continuous use since the 1880s. There are 59 Confederate veterans buried in the Felton Cemetery. The cemetery has a brick gateway and winding dirt roads. The informal landscaping includes oaks, cedars, crape myrtle, camellia, and dogwood.

The majority of Montezuma's African-American citizens are buried in the Mount Pleasant Cemetery (formerly called Montezuma Colored Cemetery or Whiteline Cemetery) (photograph 32). The cemetery is located behind St. Paul's Primitive Church and is bounded by Whiteline Street (formerly Ellington Street) on the east, River Road on the north, and Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard (formerly Johnson Street) to the west. The oldest known grave in the cemetery is dated 1907, and the cemetery is presently still used by the community. Landscaping is sparse and consists of oak trees and crape myrtles.

There are three parks in the historic district. Two parks were built in the years following the flood of 1994, which was caused by Tropical Storm Alberto, and are therefore non-historic. One of the nonhistoric parks is located on South Dooly Street and contains playground equipment for young children. The other nonhistoric park is bounded by Cabot Street, Cherry Street and Spaulding Avenue and is named the Charlie Jackson Unity Park. The historic park within the district is the Fannie Carmichael Park located on North Dooly Street (photograph 22). The park was dedicated on Augusta 8, 1925. The one contributing object within the district is the Confederate monument, which was erected in 1911 near the intersection of Dooly Street and Cherry Street by the United Daughters of the Confederacy. The monument was moved to its current location in the historic Fannie Carmichael Park in 1965 and rededicated to all men and women who had or were serving in the United States Armed Forces.

The historic structures in the Montezuma Historic District include two water- and transportationrelated resources. The concrete bridge on South Dooly Street that spans Beaver Creek was constructed in 1952 and is named for J.D. Clark (photograph 54). The bridge is a typical style for this era and features simple, low, concrete railings. Another contributing structure is the 1954 levee built along the Beaver Creek to protect the town from periodic flooding. There are also two contributing water towers in the district, one located in Fannie Carmichael Park (photograph 22) and one located near the waterworks (photograph 55).

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#### Landscaping

Landscaping in the district is typical of small Georgia towns. A few street trees, commercial buildings built to the lot lines, and sidewalks, characterize the central business district. Landscaping in the African-American neighborhood is typical of Georgia towns and is characterized by small lots, the absence of sidewalks, few plantings or street trees, and narrow paved and dirt roads (photographs 28 and 30).

## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

() nationally (X) statewide () locally

**Applicable National Register Criteria:** 

(X) A () B (X) C () D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): (X) N/A

()A ()B ()C ()D ()E ()F ()G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

ARCHITECTURE COMMERCE COMMUNITY PLANNING/DEVELOPMENT ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance:

1851-1954

## Significant Dates:

- 1851 the year the Southwestern Railroad, later Central of Georgia Railroad, was built through Montezuma
- 1854 Montezuma is incorporated
- 1903 second railroad line built through Montezuma (Atlantic and Birmingham)
- 1954 29-foot levee was built to protect town from periodic flooding
- 1994 the year Tropical Storm Alberto hit and flooded much of the city

## Significant Person(s):

N/A

## **Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

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# Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Lockwood, Jr., Thomas Firth—architect, Columbus, GA

Simon, Louis A. ---architect, U.S. Post Office

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## Statement of significance (areas of significance)

In 1851, the Southwestern Railroad Company (later Central of Georgia, currently Norfolk Southern) constructed a railroad from Macon through Macon County to Oglethorpe. The town of Montezuma developed along the railroad, east of the Flint River. In 1903, the Atlantic and Birmingham Railway (now CSX) built a railroad through Montezuma.

Montezuma Historic District is significant in the area of <u>architecture</u> for its excellent examples of historic residential, commercial, industrial, and community landmark buildings representing the common architectural types and styles found throughout Georgia in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early-to-mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Architectural styles represented during this period of construction range from the Late Victorian period to the Modern Movement.

The Montezuma Historic District contains numerous, intact, excellent examples of late 19<sup>th</sup>- to earlyto-mid-20<sup>th</sup>- century common house types and styles found throughout Georgia and defined in the statewide historic context: <u>Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings</u>. The majority of the houses in the district lie north of the central business district along and adjacent to North Dooly Street. The area west of North Dooly to Martin Luther King, Jr., Drive and Washington Street comprises a historically African American neighborhood known as Duncan's Bottom.

Common house types in the district include Queen Anne cottage, Queen Anne house, New South cottage, New South house, Georgian house, English cottage, gabled-ell cottage, central hall, bungalow, single pen, and American small house. The Queen Anne cottage and Queen Anne house were popular house types for middle-class Georgians and were commonly built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Good examples of these two house types are the Queen Anne-style cottages at 411 Drayton Street, 413 Engram Street, 208 Norris Street, and 309 and 311 North Dooly Street and several Queen Anne houses along Dooly Street (116, 203, 204, 318, and 326 North Dooly Street and 502 South Dooly Street). The New South cottage and New South house building types are other popular middle- to upper-middle class housing types and are also found throughout Montezuma's historic district. The English cottage house type is commonly associated with the English Vernacular Revival (or Tudor Revival) style. Excellent examples of this picturesque house type in Montezuma are located along North and South Dooly Street and feature the cross-gabled massing, front chimneys, and prominent front gables. A very common house type in Georgia is the gabled-ell cottage, and consequently. Montezuma has numerous good examples of this house type including 330 Norris Street and 509 South Dooly Street. Central hall houses were commonly built in Georgia's towns and cities and several intact examples are found in the historically African-American Duncan's Bottom neighborhood of Montezuma including an example on Hill Street. Good representative examples of the bungalow house type are found throughout the Montezuma Historic District and are commonly associated with the Craftsman style. Representative examples located at 400 and 429 North Dooly Street, 407 Drayton Street, 207 West Railroad Street, and 205 and 207 Minor Avenue are just a few of the intact, early 20<sup>th</sup>-century bungalows in the historic district. Rare, intact examples

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of the single-pen house type are found in the Duncan's Bottom area of the district including houses at 111 Whiteline Street and 198 Whiteline Street. According to <u>Georgia's Living Places</u>, few single pens remain in their original form due to their small size. Although few post-World War II houses were built in Montezuma, a good representative example of the American Small House type is located at 109 Walnut Street and is characterized by its small, compact shape and lack of stylistic details.

The Montezuma Historic District has excellent representative examples of common late 19<sup>th</sup>- and early 20<sup>th</sup>- century architectural styles found in small towns in Georgia. Architectural styles in the district include Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, Neoclassical, Colonial Revival, English Vernacular Revival, and Craftsman.

The Queen Anne style was extremely popular throughout Georgia in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century through the 1910s. Both two-story examples with towers and elaborate sawnwork and more modest one-story examples with bay windows and wrap-around porches are found in the historic district. A c.1910 two-story house at 407 Engram Street is a good example of the more elaborate expression of the Queen Anne style in the district. The house features a projecting two-story bay, a complex roof with numerous gables, a wrap-around porch with paired, square posts and balustrade, and details such as lunette windows, modillions, and corbeled chimneys. The mirror-image Queen Anne cottages at 309 and 311 Norris Street are excellent examples of more modest Queen Anne-style houses in the district and feature sawnwork on the wrap-around porches, bay windows, verge board in the gables, and Queen Anne-style stained glass windows.

The vernacular Folk Victorian style was built throughout Georgia from the 1870s through the 1910s and is characterized by simple house types with Victorian-era detailing. Good examples of this style in Montezuma are 208 and 326 Norris Street, which are Queen Anne cottages with simple turned porch posts and decorative shinglework in the front gables. Other good examples are found at 304 River Road and 330 Norris Street.

Montezuma has several excellent examples of monumental Neoclassical-style houses, reflecting the wealth of its cotton-based economy before the devastation of the boll weevil and Great Depression. Neoclassical-style houses in Montezuma sit prominently along North and South Dooly Street, the main thoroughfare through town. Representative examples include the National Register-listed DeVaughn Lewis House and the McKenzie House with its four two-story Corinthian columns supporting a large portico, second-story front balcony with turned porch balusters, pediments that contain elaborate relief work, and an elaborate entablature with overhanging eave, cornice with modillions, a dentil course, and detailed relief work in the frieze.

The most popular architectural style in Georgia during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century is the Craftsman style. Excellent examples of Craftsman style can be found in great numbers throughout the Montezuma Historic District. A two-story, Craftsman-style bungalow at 429 North Dooly Street has knee braces

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and shed roof dormer. The house at 407 Drayton Street is a one-story, frame Craftsman-style bungalow with exposed rafter tails, battered wood columns on brick piers, and Craftsman-style windows.

The Montezuma Historic District has excellent, intact, historic commercial buildings representative of the types and styles of commercial buildings constructed in small towns in Georgia from the late 19<sup>th</sup> through the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries in Georgia. The central business area in Montezuma is centrally located in the town near the rail lines and along the main north-south route through town. The area is characterized by one- and two-story, brick, attached and freestanding commercial buildings, most exhibiting details of the Commercial Vernacular Victorian or Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Commercial styles. A good example of a late 19<sup>th</sup>-century commercial building in Montezuma is the McKenzie Mall building located at 100 East Railroad Street. The building was constructed c.1880 and has housed various commercial businesses on the ground floor and the Masonic Hall on the second floor. The two-story, brick building features a corbeled cornice. A good example of an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century commercial building in 1921and features a terra-cotta façade with Doric pilasters, decorative parapet, panels above the windows, and columned door surround. Another good example of a commercial building in the district is the Art Deco-style Montezuma Motor Company at 301 South Dooly, which was built in the 1920s as the Tom Huston Frozen Foods Company.

Good examples of industrial architecture in the historic district include the c.1920 brick cotton warehouse at 117 Cherry Street with its long, low form, hipped roof with hipped clerestory, loading platform, and bays; the two-story, brick knitting mill; the one-story, brick cotton seed oil mill; and the c.1930 Montezuma Waterworks.

The Montezuma Historic District has numerous excellent examples of common community landmark buildings found in small towns throughout Georgia. Representing the impetus for Montezuma's founding, the Montezuma Depot is located in the center of the central business district. The National Register-listed, Queen Anne-style, brick depot was built in 1890 by the Central of Georgia Railroad Company and retains its large paired brackets along the wide eaves, protruding bay, and loading platform. The Montezuma Carnegie Library, located at 109 North Dooly Street, is an excellent example of a public library built in Georgia. The 1906-07 Neoclassical-style, brick-and-granite building was designed by T. Firth Lockwood, Jr. and has a symmetrical facade with a recessed entry flanked by two lonic granite columns. Banded brick pilasters with egg-and-dart detailing at the capitals decorate the façade and windows are topped with segmental arches. Lockwood also designed the 1916 Montezuma Methodist Church. The Neoclassical-style brick church features a recessed entryway flanked by two, monumental, Indiana limestone columns that support an entablature and pediment. The front-facing pediment features dentilwork and a small round window. Another good example of church architecture in Montezuma is the 1899 First Baptist Church. The Romanesque Revival-style, brick church features two towers and arched windows topped with brick arches. Another important community landmark building in Montezuma is the 1939 United States Post Office, located at 110 Cabot Street. The Colonial Revival-style brick post office features a

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marble-covered central entryway with marble, Doric, engaged columns. A four-sided cupola tops the hip roof. Exterior details include a stone cornice with dentil and frieze and marble front steps.

The district is significant in the area of black ethnic heritage for its unusually intact historic residential, commercial, and community landmark resources associated with the African-American community in Montezuma. The house types in the historically African-American Duncan's Bottom neighborhood of Montezuma represent common house types found in small town African-American communities as described in Historic Black Resources: A Handbook for the Identification, Documentation, and Evaluation of Historic African-American Properties in Georgia. House types found in Montezuma's African-American neighborhood include gabled-ell cottage, single pen. bungalow, and central hall. The Montezuma Historic District is also significant in the area of black ethnic heritage for the intact, historically African-American commercial buildings located in the central business district. During segregation in the South, African-American owned- and operatedbusinesses were established to provide goods and services to the African-American community. As stated in Historic Black Resources, "racial segregation in the city made necessary and desirable greater black self-sufficiency. This self-sufficiency was evidenced in many Georgia towns by a small separate commercial district near the principal white business district or within a black residential neighborhood" (p. 48). The one-story, attached, brick commercial buildings along Beaver Street in Montezuma are an intact, historic example of this segregation-era practice. The district is also significant for its two historic community landmark buildings associated with Montezuma's African-American community. The c.1930 brick St. Paul's Primitive Church at 311 Whiteline Street is the only historic church building remaining in the African-American neighborhood, and the Mount Pleasant Cemetery (formerly called Montezuma Colored Cemetery or Whiteline Cemetery). The cemetery is located behind St. Paul's Primitive Church and has been in constant use by the community since at least c.1907 until the present day.

The district is significant in the area of commerce because its historic central business district represents the town as a center of commerce in Macon County. The downtown was historically the primary location for the trading, buying and selling of goods, services, and commodities on a local and countywide basis. In fact, the downtown remains the center of commerce for Montezuma today and contains banks, shops, pharmacies, grocers, restaurants, gas stations, and professional offices. The historic intact commercial buildings within the historic district are representative of all types of commerce that contributed to the town's economy throughout its history. The one- and two-story, brick, commercial buildings along North and South Dooly Street are typical of small Georgia towns and represent the mercantile, professional, and banking businesses commonly found in downtowns. Downtown buildings consisted primarily of downtown commercial spaces with upstairs professional offices. The majority of these buildings were built during the late 1800s and early 1900s and contained groceries, jewelers, drug stores, and other merchants. In the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, businesses centering on the use of the automobile such as gas stations and car dealerships were built in Montezuma. The later c.1920 Tom Hudson Frozen Foods (which became Montezuma Motor Company c.1950) and the 1946 Colonial Grocery Store represent later early 20<sup>th</sup>-century businesses. Surviving industries such as the cotton warehouse and the Montezuma Manufacturing Company's

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1903 knitting mill and 1901 cotton seed oil mill represent the cotton-based economy that characterized most of Georgia's towns until the 1920s.

Montezuma Historic District is significant in the area of community planning and development as a good example of a cross-rail-type community. A cross-rail-type community is defined in Georgia Community Development and Morphology of Community Types as a town that developed because of the railroad and has the main street running roughly perpendicular to the tracks. The historic district represents the early growth of Montezuma and is comprised of almost the entire historic development of the city including the commercial, industrial, governmental, and residential areas. Montezuma was founded in 1851 when the railroad line was extended southward from Macon to Oglethorpe. Stores and houses were built along the east/west railroad as residents of the nearby stagecoach town of Traveler's Rest moved to be near the rail line. Initially, commercial as well as residential buildings were built around the railroad. As the town developed, however, the commercial center of town clustered directly to the south of the rail line. Residential development continued to the north and south of the rail line. Montezuma's residential development is a good example of the tendency in many Georgia towns whereby the land along the higher elevations was developed by the more affluent and Caucasian residents, and the poorer residents and African Americans lived in the less desirable areas closer to the river and more prone to flooding. The town continued to develop in this way. A majority of Caucasian residents lived along North and South Dooly Street and to the east of North Dooly, while the African-American community developed to the west of North Dooly Street.

An important community planning project in the development of Montezuma was the construction of the 29-foot Beaver Creek levee in 1954. Floods had plagued Montezuma since its founding, with especially devastating floods in 1902, 1929, and 1948. The levee appeared to be Downtown Montezuma's solution to its periodic flooding. However, in July 1994, the levee broke and floodwaters poured into downtown Montezuma. Thirteen feet of water stood in the downtown area for six days. After the flood, Montezuma received federal funding to restore the downtown. Significant changes took place in downtown, including façade restorations, park development and streetscape improvements. Through these efforts, the downtown central business district has retained a high degree of historic integrity, and historic preservation efforts have become an important component in the community's planning process.

The Montezuma Historic District is significant in the area of <u>transportation</u> as an important rail stop between Macon and Savannah as evidenced by the remaining depot, cotton warehouse, and two railroads. Early in its history, Montezuma became a primary location for crops and raw materials from southwest Georgia going to and from the major transportation centers of Macon and Savannah. The city of Montezuma had an early reliance and long association with the development of the railroad in southwest Georgia. The establishment of railroad systems in Georgia directly affected the spatial patterns of the local physical and cultural landscape. This is especially true of Montezuma, which was originally platted and settled because of the presence of the Central of Georgia Railroad line that was extended south from Macon. The early real estate speculation and settlement took place immediately adjacent to the point where the expanding railroad track crossed the Flint River.

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The early importance and influence of the railroad is exemplified by the 1890 Montezuma Depot, which was constructed in 1890 by the Central of Georgia Railroad and remains at the literal heart of Montezuma as a community landmark.

The district is also significant in the area of transportation for early important roadways including the Dixie Overland-Ocean to Ocean-Highway (GA State Route 26), which was a route from Savannah, GA to San Diego, CA, and the Dixie Highway (GA State Route 49/Dooly Street). The rise in popularity of the automobile affected development in Montezuma. Early livery stables constructed in Montezuma were converted to automobile sales and service centers. During the late 1920s through 1940s, two service and gas stations were constructed at the intersection of Dooly and Railroad streets. This location was ideal because of its close proximity to the Dixie Overland – Ocean to Ocean – Highway (Georgia State Route 26), which runs east to west through the district, and the Dixie Highway (Georgia State Route 49), which runs north to south along Dooly Street through Montezuma. In the 1950s, a motor lodge/motel was constructed on 203 West Railroad Street called the Aztec Motel (now called the Budget Motel, noncontributing). The building that originally housed the Tom Huston Frozen Foods Company at 301 South Dooly Street was converted to a car dealership in the 1950s and remains so today.

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# **National Register Criteria**

The Montezuma Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of commerce, community planning and development, African-American ethnic heritage, and transportation. The district is eligible in the area of commerce for its excellent collection of commercial buildings that represent the economic and trade history of the town. The district is eligible in the area of community planning and development because the town retains its overall historic integrity and retains all its historic components including its historic commercial, residential, community landmark, African-American, and transportation-related resources. The town plan has not changed from its historic development. The district is eligible for listing under Criterion A in the area of black ethnic heritage for its excellent collection of historic African-American houses, commercial buildings, a church, and a cemetery. The district is eligible under the area of transportation for its intact, historic depot, the two rail lines that bisect the town, and as part of the Dixie Overland—Ocean to Ocean—Highway (State Route 26) and the Dixie Highway (State Route 49).

The Montezuma Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of architecture for its excellent collection of intact, historic commercial, residential, and community landmark buildings representing common types and styles found in small Georgia towns from the late 19<sup>th</sup> through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## **Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

# Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with 1851, the date the railroad was built through the site of the town of Montezuma and ends with 1954, the date the levee was constructed as a major civil engineering project to protect the community from periodic flooding.

## Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The contributing buildings within the district date from the district's period of significance and retain their historic integrity. The noncontributing buildings were constructed after the period of significance or have lost their historic integrity from nonhistoric alterations. The contributing sites in the district are the Felton Cemetery, Mount Pleasant (Montezuma Colored or Whiteline) Cemetery, and Fannie Carmichael Park. The contributing structures in the district are the 1952 bridge, 1954 levee, and two water towers. The one contributing object in the district is the Confederate monument located in Fannie Carmichael Park. The two noncontributing sites are two modern (1994) parks.

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# Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

## NOTE: The following developmental history was prepared by Cherie Blizzard and Glen Bennett, historic preservation consultants. "Montezuma Historic District," draft <u>National Register of Historic Places Form</u>, July 31, 2000. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

The earliest white settler in the area that would become Macon County was Timothy Barnard, an English émigré who first settled in Wilmington, North Carolina. By 1790, Barnard obtained a government-issued license to trade with the Creek Indians and established a trading center along the banks of the Flint River. He married a member of the Creek tribe, served as an interpreter between the Creeks and the Americans, and became an assistant to Benjamin Hawkins, United States Agent to the Creek Nation. As such, Barnard explored much of the Creek territory and blazed a path known as Barnard's Path, a principal early trail running from the Chattahoochee River to the St. Mary's River in southeast Georgia and beyond to St. Augustine in the Spanish territory of Florida. Barnard's Path crossed the Flint River about two miles south of his trading post and property. Barnard's trading business was guite successful, and he developed a substantial farm on property acquired from the Creeks. When Hawkins visited the Barnards in 1796. Hawkins found a flourishing dairy for cheese, peach orchards, and extensive crops tended by Negro slaves. Barnard's son John, or Timpoochee, also took a Creek wife and became immersed in the Creek culture. Both father and son retained a strong loyalty to the Unites States during the War of 1812. When Timothy Barnard died in 1820, his will granted freedom to his slaves and revealed his ownership of several plantations down river as well as property in England. For Barnard's loyalty to the American cause, the government gave his sons reserve lands in the former Creek territory.

In the 1829 treaty between the Creek Indians and the American government, the land between the Flint River and the Chattahoochee River was ceded to the government. Among the several counties formed from these new territories were Houston County, which extended west from the Ocmulgee River to the banks of the Flint River, and Marion County, which extended from the Flint River west to the Chattahoochee River. In 1837, land from the western portion of Houston County was merged with land from the eastern section of Marion County to form Macon County. The new county was named for Nathaniel Macon of North Carolina, President Pro-Tem of the U.S. Senate.

By 1827, a settlement emerged along Barnard's Path at the Flint River and became known interchangeably as Traveler's Rest or Bristol. In 1830, David Jones, a merchant, arrived and established a store at the settlement. In 1832, local settlers established the Poplar Springs Baptist Church on nearby donated land, and in 1836, moved the church into the settlement at Traveler's Rest. The church then became known as Traveler's Rest Baptist Church. By the mid 1830s, Traveler's Rest had several stores as well as at least one doctor. The stagecoach ran through the

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town from Macon to southwest Georgia. Within ten years, the town would gain a sawmill, several grocers, two hotels, a carriage repair shop, a harness shop, saloons, an Odd Fellows Hall, and a Masonic Lodge.

Another prospering community was the town of Lanier, which was designated by the Georgia State Legislature as county seat of Macon County in 1837. Lanier was centrally located within the county on the west bank of the Flint River along a trading route which ran from the state's southwestern farmlands to Waresboro in southeast Georgia. In 1838, male and female academies were established in both Travelers' Rest and Lanier to educate local children. By 1840, the population in Lanier had grown to 200, and the town included a courthouse, two hotels, warehouses, a stagecoach stop, and a post office. During the next decade, settlement in Macon County continued to increase.

The county's history was permanently altered in 1849 when the Southwestern Railroad Company of Macon announced plans to extend its rail line across the Flint River at a point below the town of Lanier. The railroad's southwestern terminus was completed at a new town called Oglethorpe in July of 1851. This was a terrible blow to Lanier, and residents literally began moving their houses and business establishments to the new town of Oglethorpe. Within twenty years, no sign would be left of Lanier's existence, and Oglethorpe was named the county seat.

The original railroad survey called for the rail line to cross the Flint River at Traveler's Rest after passing through Marshallville and Winchester. A new survey was ordered, however, and the final route was changed to cross the river at a slightly higher point in elevation. The development that grew around this important transportation intersection became the town of Montezuma. According to <u>History of Macon County, Georgia</u>, Shadrick R. Felton owned all of the land where the town of Montezuma now stands. As was common during this period of speculative land development, Mr. Felton surveyed and partitioned his land into smaller town lots in anticipation of the coming railroad. Settlers bought many of the lots, and merchants moved to the area from Traveler's Rest to better support the growing population. Thus was born the city of Montezuma. While many other cities in the area would thrive as the terminus of the railroad and then decline as the railroad extended its reach beyond their town, Montezuma occupied an important location at the intersection between the expanding rail line and the Flint River. For this reason, Montezuma developed as a regional trade center for outlying areas and an interim market for outbound cotton via rail. As with most Georgia towns, Montezuma's development was dependent on the routes chosen for the emerging rail lines as the railroad supplanted stagecoach and river travel as the major form of transportation in the state.

The city of Montezuma was incorporated in 1854 along the eastern bank of the Flint River. Presumably, the town was named by a veteran who, having recently returned from the Mexican War (1846-1848), was still captivated with the Spanish language and place names (other towns in Georgia were similarly named, including Villa Rica and Buena Vista). Needham Waterer built the first building in the town as a confectionery and residence, and soon after Lemuel C. Webb built a saloon (both are no longer extant).

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Following its incorporation, Montezuma's early growth was halted by the Civil War. Unlike many towns in Georgia, no major military battles were located in the area, and the county escaped the mass destruction suffered in other parts of the state. Although no homes or farms were destroyed during the war, residents of Montezuma and Macon County struggled through the period of Reconstruction nonetheless. The loss of slave labor and the devastation of the cotton economy brought difficult times as residents attempted to refocus their interests.

In 1869, Montezuma elected its first mayor, and by 1870, the town had a Masonic Lodge, bank, and hotel, and the town's first newspaper the <u>Montezuma Weekly</u> was developed by Colonel R.E. Ozier. Also in 1870, nurserymen Samuel Henry Rumph perfected the Elberta Peach and refined his shipping techniques to include some degree of refrigeration so that large quantities of peaches could successfully reach northern markets. The success of Rumph's technological advances created a worldwide demand for Georgia peaches. By 1880, a sufficient number of trees had been propagated to send a substantial peach crop to market. The peaches brought a very good price on northern markets, and a new industry thrived in the county.

Montezuma and the rest of Macon County entered a boom period as farmers began to plant peaches in addition to cotton. Montezuma continued to prosper as a regional market for peaches, pecans, and other agricultural products. The rise in the economy during the 1880s through the 1920s caused the largest period of growth in Montezuma, and most of the building stock in the town dates from this period. The February 1885 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map reveals a large railroad depot and freight house (non-extant) as well as several large businesses located near the railroad line, including McLendon's Cotton Warehouse, H.L. Hill's Cotton Warehouse, E.J. Wilson Cotton Gin and Planing Mill, Planters Warehouse, and the Brown and Westbrook's Warehouse (the warehouses are no longer extant). In addition, approximately 20 two-story commercial buildings were located in the town. The commercial buildings included services such as general merchandise, bank, millenary, drug store, dry goods, and printing in their ground floors. Many of these buildings housed professional offices on the second floors. Montezuma also boasted rooms for rent in its two hotels, the Montezuma and Minor Hotels (both no longer extant). The Montezuma and Flint River Steamboat Company was formed in 1889 and provided transportation down river for local citizens as well as cargo transport for merchants.

The railway, which was the impetus for the creation of the town of Montezuma, was built in 1851 as the Southwestern Railroad Company. In 1870, the railroad became the Central of Georgia Railroad (now Norfolk Southern Railroad), which built the existing depot in 1890. Additional transportation development occurred in 1903 as the Atlantic and Birmingham Railway (now CSX) built a line through Montezuma.

The Atlantic and Birmingham Railroad constructed a depot (no longer located in Montezuma) southwest of the Central of Georgia depot (Note: the Atlantic and Birmingham depot was moved in early 1970s to the Agrirama in Tifton, Georgia). Soon thereafter, the Montezuma Manufacturing Company established several mills adjacent to the new rail line to the west of downtown, including a

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cotton oil mill in 1901, a knitting mill in 1903, and a fertilizer plant in 1910. The population increased with the development of the mills and many civic improvements were added to the town. Montezuma's population rose steadily during this period and the 800 residents in 1880 grew to 1,000 in 1895, 1,500 in 1905, and 1,850 by 1911. The Montezuma Carnegie Library was built 1906-1907 with funds raised in the community and matched by the Andrew Carnegie Library Fund. The new library was formally opened on August 24, 1907. Another civic project was the 1911 Confederate monument erected in the middle of Dooly Street in downtown Montezuma by the United Daughters of the Confederacy

By 1911, the town developed both east and west of its main linear artery, Dooly Street. Residential neighborhoods developed to the east along Artesian Avenue, Vincent Avenue (now known as Vinson Avenue), Minor Avenue, Ingram Street (now Engram), and Butler Street (now College). Successful businessmen of the time built new and larger residential buildings the latest architectural styles of Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Neoclassical. Among the most elaborate houses built during this period include those at 417 Engram Street (1903), 502 South Dooly Street (1908), 510 South Dooly Street (1905), 300 North Dooly Street (1901), and 308 North Dooly Street. In addition, many middle-class merchants and businessmen built smaller, less elaborate houses that emulated the styles of the finer homes. Houses built during this time period comprise a large portion of the extant historic housing stock in the community today. These larger homes were found along Dooly and Engram Streets, whereas smaller residential buildings were constructed along Drayton Street and westward down to the river.

To the west, the town extended from Drayton to Norris Street. The area running north to River Road and south to Oglethorpe Road was originally a large plat of land owned by J.F. Norris. As the town continued to grow west toward the river, Johnson Street (now Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard) was platted. The area near the Flint River running north-south along Johnson and Washington streets became known as Duncan's Bottom. This area of Montezuma, northwest of downtown, developed as primarily an African-American neighborhood. The Montezuma Colored School, constructed c.1920. was located at the corner of Norris and Antigo streets (no longer extant). The Colored Hotel was located at the corner of Oglethorpe and Drayton Streets (no longer extant). Several African-American congregations formed churches in this area. The Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, located on River Road, was founded in 1897, and the Mt. Pleasant Colored Methodist Episcopal Church (also known as the Traveler's Rest CME Church), is now located at the corner of Norris Street and Antigo Court after moving to this location in 1954. Magnolia Baptist Church moved to the neighborhood at the corner of River Road and Whiteline Street in 1903 (original building no longer extant), and St. Paul's Primitive Church constructed their church building c.1930 on Whiteline Street. In addition, the Union Baptist Church, located on Norris Street, was formed in 1907 when members of the Magnolia Baptist Church congregation withdrew to form their own church. Although the church congregations began during the historic period, the original church buildings are no longer extant with Magnolia Baptist Church rebuilding in 1964, Union Baptist Church in c.1970, and Mount Pleasant/Traveler's Rest CME Church in c.1974. Another important feature of this area is the Montezuma Colored Cemetery, bounded by Whiteline Street (formerly Ellington Street) on the east,

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River Road on the north, and Martin Luther King, Jr., Boulevard (formerly Johnson Street) to the west. The cemetery is located behind St. Paul's Primitive Church and was renamed the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1914, an important promotional effort by the Savannah Automobile Club to find the most direct route across the state of Georgia from Savannah to Columbus influenced development in Montezuma. The route chosen was Georgia State Route 26, which went west from Savannah through Statesboro, Swainsboro, Dublin, Cochran, Hawkinsville, Montezuma, Oglethorpe, Ellaville, and Buena Vista to Columbus. After the route was chosen, the organization formally organized the "Dixie Overland-Ocean to Ocean-Highway." According to an article in The Montezuma Georgian dated June 6, 1931, "the object of this association was to ascertain the practicability of promoting an all-weather highway through the South." The goal of the new highway was to be the shortest route from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean among other transcontinental highways in the United States at the time. The highway ran from Savannah, Georgia, to San Diego, California. In 1915, the Montezuma Kiwanis Club sponsored a rally in order to arouse interest in the highway and to "impress the highway board with the organization's claim for the first east and west, through-state, paved highway." Montezuma citizen, John B. Guerry, "presented [the] claims in a most eloquent manner, and the highway board afterwards directed the survey and promised immediate contracts for grading to the various counties through which the Dixie Overland State Route 26 passed." It appears that in the years following these efforts, interest began in a north-south route through the state, which brought about State Route 49 being renamed the Dixie Highway.

The rise in popularity of the automobile and the new highways brought car-related buildings to Montezuma during the late 1920s through the 1940s. Two service and gas stations were constructed at the intersection of Dooly and Railroad streets, an ideal location because of its close proximity to the Dixie Highway. According to <u>Sanborn Maps</u>, the livery stables on Beaver and South Dooly streets were also converted to automobile sales and service centers.

By 1920, Montezuma's population had reached 2,500 people. The city had grown northward to McKenzie Avenue, south to Walnut Street, west to Harrison Street, and southeast along Spalding Avenue from downtown Montezuma. In 1921, Montezuma High School (no longer extant) was built on Engram Street between Railroad Street and the residential neighborhood north of Artesian Street. The historic school was demolished in 1999 after students were relocated to a new elementary school in Oglethorpe. Other developments during this time period include the construction of the Citizens National Bank building in 1921 and the dedication of the park area around the water tank on North Dooly Street as the Fannie Carmichael Park on August 8, 1925. The park was dedicated in Ms. Carmichael's name since her father, Gilbert C. Carmichael, lived in a house near the park.

Montezuma continued to grow with Williams Street added to the north, Johnson Street to the west, Chapel Hill Road to the south, and Golf Course Drive to the east. Another significant addition to the city during this period was the construction of the Macon County Clinic in 1934 by Drs. Tom and Fred Adams. Located at 200 North Dooly Street, the clinic was the first hospital in Macon County. The

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Macon County Clinic ceased operation in April of 1973. Another hospital, the Riverside Sanatorium, was built on Sumter Street in 1938 by Dr. C. P. Savage. This building stood until it was completely remodeled in the 1980s as the Macon County Medical Center (noncontributing and outside of the district).

As with the years during the Civil War, community development slowed during World War II. As industrial, commercial, and personal efforts shifted to support the war effort, Montezuma did not grow significantly during the 1940s. One important development was the construction of the Colonial Grocery Store in 1946 at 207 South Dooly Street.

Due to its proximity to the Flint River, Montezuma experienced periodic flooding including floods in 1902 and 1929. Late November of 1948 brought a great flood to the Montezuma's business district that brought four feet of water into the downtown.

Following the conclusion of the war and the national shift back to a domestic-oriented economy, Montezuma undertook several important civil engineering and roadway projects in the early 1950s. Construction of a concrete bridge on South Dooly Street over Beaver Creek was completed in 1952. Efforts to construct the levee began in 1953 when W.F. Blanks, Nanita Gottman, and J.D. Clark, members of the Montezuma Chamber of Commerce, presented the idea to E.L. "Tic" Forrester, a state congressman from Americus. With the influence of Congressman Forrester and Montezuma's Mayor A.C. Felton, a 29-foot levee along Beaver Creek was constructed in 1954. The levee appeared to be downtown Montezuma's solution to its periodic flooding. D.F. Douglas High School was built between 1956 and 1958 in Duncan's Bottom (no longer extant). Another important development after the World War II occurred when three Montezuma businessmen began operating Southern Frozen Food in July 1946. The business started out freezing peaches, expanded to include frozen vegetables in the 1950s, and continues operation today.

The 1960s brought the development of several large industrial and educational facilities to the east of downtown Montezuma. The Macon County High School was bonded in 1963 and constructed well to the south and east of downtown along Vienna Road (outside of the district). In addition, the Municipal Airport was constructed and dedicated in October of 1964 (outside of the district). Complementing this development, the Montezuma Industrial District was established along Hamilton Road adjacent to the airport (outside of the district). This county development marked a significant shift and expansion in the focus of growth in Montezuma. Later in the 1960s, many of the downtown commercial buildings were "modernized" by covering their original brick facades with metal, wood paneling, and other materials. In addition, the Confederate monument was moved from downtown to Carmichael Park in 1965 and rededicated to all men and women who had or were serving in the United States Armed Forces.

In more recent years, the Atlantic and Birmingham Railroad tracks (now CSX tracks) were moved from Cherry Street to the top of the Beaver Creek levee between 1986 and 1991. Montezuma continued to expand to the north with the addition of Christopher Hill's subdivision in the 1980s, as

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well as to the east with the development of Country Club subdivision and a new shopping center and fast food restaurant (all located outside of the district).

A new public library located at 506 North Dooly Street was constructed in 1991. With this new library facility, the Montezuma Historical Society moved into the Carnegie Library building. Today, the Historical Society and Macon County Chamber of Commerce and Development Authority share occupancy of the Carnegie building.

In July 1994, the downtown area of Montezuma was flooded after days of continuous rainfall triggered by Tropical Storm Alberto that caused the farm ponds above Beaver Creek to overflow. The pond waters swelled Beaver Creek, a tributary of the Flint River, and caused it to flow around the levee and into downtown Montezuma. Thirteen feet of water stood in the downtown area for six days. Stabilization and restoration efforts were undertaken by the residents of Montezuma with the aid of federal money made available through the National Park Service. The community created the Historic Preservation Revitalization Task Force that worked with the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources and the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation at the federal level. The task force assisted business owners in clean-up efforts, interior and roof repairs, façade restoration, and the development of an overall streetscape plan for the entire downtown area. The plan, developed by Robert and Company of Atlanta, includes new sidewalks, street lights, street trees, relocated power lines, and two new downtown parks.

Although growth in Montezuma has stabilized or even declined during the last twenty years, the 1994 flood and resultant recovery efforts have drawn attention to the importance of community development based on sound urban design and historic preservation.

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

- Bennett, Cherie Blizzard and Glen Bennett, historic preservation consultants. "Montezuma Historic District," draft <u>National Register of Historic Places Form</u>, July 31, 2000. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.
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- Hays, Louise Frederick. <u>History of Macon County Georgia</u>. Spartanburg, S.C: The Reprint Company, 1993. Reprint of the 1933 edition.
- Head, Thera and Allen. Montezuma, GA. Interview by Cherie Blizzard, April 2000.
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\_\_\_\_\_. Montezuma, GA. Interview by Cherie Blizzard, April 2000 and July 2000.

Section 9—Major Bibliographic References

<u>Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps</u>. New York: Sanborn Map Company, various dates between 1884-1928 (revised to 1948).

Previous documentation on file (NPS): () N/A

- () preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- () preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued date issued:
- (X) **previously listed in the National Register:** DeVaugh-Lewis House listed May 2, 1985 Montezuma Depot listed June 12, 1980
- () previously determined eligible by the National Register
- () designated a National Historic Landmark
- () recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- () recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- (X) State historic preservation office
- () Other State Agency
- () Federal agency
- () Local government
- () University
- () Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 276 acres (acreage estimator).

## **UTM References**

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A)	16	780121	3578869
B)	16	780458	3577983
<b>C</b> )	16	779846	3577245
D)	16	779522	3576653
E)	16	779277	3577520
F)	16	779594	3578391

## **Verbal Boundary Description**

The National Register boundary is indicated on the attached tax maps drawn with a heavy black line, drawn to scale.

## **Boundary Justification**

The boundary encompasses the intact, historic, and contiguous resources associated with the development of Montezuma.

# 11. Form Prepared By

## State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Gretchen A. Brock/National Register Coordinator
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101
city or town Atlanta state Georgia zip code 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 date August 14, 2003
e-mail gretchen\_brock@dnr.state.ga.us

## **Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable)**() not applicable

name/title Cherie (Blizzard) Bennett and Glen Bennett
organization c/o Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101
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e-mail cherie\_bennett@dnr.state.ga.us

- () property owner
- (X) consultant
- () regional development center preservation planner
- () other:

**Property Owner or Contact Information** 

name (property owner or contact person) Kathy Detamore organization (if applicable) N/A mailing address 907 Weathers Drive city or town Montezuma state Georiga zip code 31063 e-mail (optional) N/A NPS Form 10-900-a United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

#### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

#### Photographs

Name of Property: City or Vicinity:	Montezuma Historic District Montezuma
County:	Macon
State:	Georgia
Photographer:	James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed:	Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed:	January 2001

## **Description of Photograph(s):**

#### Number of photographs: 60

- 1. 600 block of North Dooly Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 2. 600 block of North Dooly Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 3. 500 block of North Dooly Street; photographer facing north.
- 4. Intersection of North Dooly Street and Morse Avenue; photographer facing north.
- 5. 500 block of Engram Street; photographer facing north.
- 6. 200 block of Minor Avenue; photographer facing northwest.
- 7. 200 block of Minor Avenue; photographer facing northwest.
- 8. 100 block of Morse Avenue; photographer facing northeast.
- 9. 400 block of Barton Street; photographer facing north.
- 10. 426 and 428 Hill Street; photographer facing east.
- 11. 400 block of Mitchell Street; photographer facing northeast.
- 12. 412, 414, and 416 Barton Street; photographer facing north.
- 13. 400 block of Mitchell Street; photographer facing north.
- 14. 300 block of River Road; photographer facing north.
- 15. 416 Engram Street; photographer facing northeast.

#### Photographs

- 16. 104 Vinson Avenue; photographer facing north.
- 17. 400 block of North Dooly Street; photographer facing north.
- 18. 400 block of North Dooly Street; photographer facing north.
- 19. 405 Engram Street; photographer facing north.
- 20. Intersection of East Artesian Avenue and Engram Street; photographer facing north.
- 21. Gymnasium, 208 East Artesian Avenue; photographer facing north.
- 22. Water tower and Fannie Carmichael Park; photographer facing north.
- 23. 300 block of North Dooly Street; photographer facing north.
- 24. 300 block of North Dooly Street; photographer facing north.
- 25. 330 Norris Street; photographer facing north.
- 26. Intersection of Norris Street and Antigo Court; photographer facing northeast.
- 27. View of Norris Street; photographer facing north.
- 28. 300 block of McKaskill Street; photographer facing north.
- 29. 200 block of Antigo Court; photographer facing west.
- 30. 300 block of White Line Street; photographer facing north.
- 31. 214 White Line Street; photographer facing northeast.
- 32. Montezuma Colored Cemetery (now the Mount Pleasant Cemetery) and St. Paul Primitive Church; photographer facing east.
- 33. 402 Asbury Avenue; photographer facing northeast.
- 34. 308 North Dooly Street; photographer facing east.
- 35. 300 North Dooly Street; photographer facing east.

#### Photographs

- 36. 100 block of Martin Luther King, Jr., Drive; photographer facing north.
- 37. Montezuma Methodist Church, 201 North Dooly Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 38. Leisure Estates Motel, 116 North Dooly Street; photographer facing northeast.
- 39. 207 Railroad Street; photographer facing northeast,
- 40. Montezuma Depot and view of downtown; photographer facing north.
- 41. Commercial area; South Dooly Street; photographer facing southwest.
- 42. Carnegie Library, 109 North Dooly Street; photographer facing north.
- 43. Commercial area, South Dooly Street; photographer facing northeast.
- 44. U.S. Post Office, corner of Cherry and Cabot streets; photographer facing northwest.
- 45. Commercial area, South Dooly Street; photographer facing north.
- 46. View of commercial area; photographer facing west.
- 47. Felton Cemetery; photographer facing southeast.
- 48. Felton Cemetery with mill in background; photographer facing east.
- 49. Felton Cemetery; photographer facing east.
- 50. Felton Cemetery; photographer facing north.
- 51. Felton Cemetery; photographer facing north.
- 52. Montezuma Motors, South Dooly Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 53. 304 South Dooly Street (noncontributing); photographer facing northeast.
- 54. J.D. Clark Bridge; photographer facing north.
- 55. Water tower, Tank Street; photographer facing east.
- 56. Waterworks; photographer facing north.

#### Photographs

- 57. 500 block of South Dooly Street; photographer facing north.
- 58. 502 South Dooly Street; photographer facing north.
- 59. 500 block of South Dooly Street; photographer facing north.
- 60. DeVaughn-Lewis House, 510 South Dooly Street; photographer facing east.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)