

I. IDENTIFICATION

PROPERTY NAME:	Franklin House	HISTORIC NAME:	<u>Crawford-Shirley House</u>		
STREET ADDRESS:	100 Augusta Road ✓	CITY:	Lavonia		
PRESENT OWNER:	Mrs. Lucile Beasley	MAILING ADDRESS:	Parkertown Road		
CITY:	Lavonia	STATE:	GA	ZIP CODE:	30553
CURRENT USE:	Antique Shop	ACREAGE:	One acre		
U. S. G. S. QUADRANGLE:	Lavonia, Ga.-S.C.	U. T. M. REFERENCE:			
V. B. D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER:	317-001-001		Z17 E306460 N3811450		

II. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION:

Two and one-half story frame Victorian-eclectic inspired structure with three internal chimneys, two gabled bays on the front facade, and a gabled bay on each side of the structure. One-story porch supported by square piers extends across the front facade and wraps around the sides of the structure, with a pediment designating the entrance. The four gables contain rectangular windows set in pairs, diagonal wood siding, and bands of dentil molding. Dentil molding is also located under the eaves of the gables and under the eaves of the front porch. High hipped roof is covered in asphalt shingles. Windows throughout the structure are original and one over one. Front door which is also original is outlined by a long rectangular transom of a geometric design and sidelights. Windows to each side of the door repeat the geometric design of the transom. Structure is set on a brick foundation which appears to have been added between the original brick piers. Structure contains a wing at the rear which is enclosed by one-story porches with more modest detailing.

The interior of the structure is a symmetrical balance of rooms, with four-over-four in the front portion of the structure divided by a central hall. The ceiling in the central hall and the ceiling in the front room on the south side of the structure are made of pressed metal; ceilings in the other rooms of the structure are made of tongue and groove paneling. Walls are plastered, with some wooden wainscoting. All floors are of wood. The house contains original period mantels. Baths have been added in the second story of the structure and in the rear wing on the first floor. A central staircase which divides the rear wing from the front porch was originally open but has now been enclosed, with a door for access. Doors throughout the structure are original, with sliding doors located in the first floor rooms on the front of the structure. The structure is in fair condition, with back porches and the central chimney in rear wing deteriorated.

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ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION: (CONTINUED)

The structure is sited close to a busy highway, State Route 17. The front yard, which contains several large hardwood trees, serves as a parking lot for the antique business in the structure and is dirt with some gravel. The landscape is grassed on the other sides of the structure. The side yard on the south side of the structure contains a oak tree approximately four feet in diameter. Several pecan trees are scattered in the rear yard. The remainder of the acreage is open. Surrounding land uses include a small suburban shopping center to the north, newspaper office on the adjoining property to the south, and a gas company on the adjacent property to the rear.

III. HISTORY

ORIGINAL OWNER:	Mack Crawford	ORIGINAL USE:	Residence
ARCHITECT/BUILDER:	Unknown	HISTORIC ACREAGE:	360 acres
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION:	1907	DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS:	

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT):

This structure was built on a 360 acre tract in 1907 by Mack Crawford. Crawford, who lived in this structure a short time before moving to Toccoa, was one of the original owners of the nearby Lavonia Cotton Mill (No. 15). In Toccoa, which became the county seat of Stephens County in 1907, Crawford is credited with establishing one of the first banks.

The property was acquired by Joseph N. Shirley, a farmer and merchant. Shirley raised cattle and farmed cotton this property as well as running a store in Martin, a small town located approximately five miles north of Lavonia. The cattle which were raised by Shirley were shipped to Atlanta.

In the 1940's Mr. J. H. Beasley purchased the property from Shirley, which at that time contained approximately 150 acres. During Beasley's ownership much of the original acreage has been sold or leased. Approximately 119 acres were purchased by the Lavonia Manufacturing Company; several acres were donated to the city for the construction of a city hall and the development of a park; land was also given for the construction of a American Legion and National Guard Armory; and land was also sold for the development of commercial uses which surround the structure today. The City of Lavonia also leases a portion of the original acreage for use as an airport. Today the house is located on approximately one acre of land which is all that remains of the original tract in the vicinity of the structure. In the 1960's Beasley, who never resided in the structure, divided the house into four apartments. In the 1970's the house was reused as an antique shop with the apartment partitions removed. The house continues to serve as an antique shop.

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IV. SIGNIFICANCE

N. R. AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Agriculture, LEVEL: Local

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL):

In architecture, this structure is one of the most elaborate late-Victorian designs within the multiple resource area. The use of pressed metal on the interior ceilings and the detailed woodwork in the gables are unique features in architectural designs found in the Lavonia community. The intact condition of the structure is illustrated in the original room spaces, doors, mantels, windows and wall ceiling, and floor surfaces. It is truly a landmark house in Lavonia.

In agriculture, the structure is important for its association with a large cotton farming and cattle-raising operation. This operation was carried out on this property from the early 1900's until the mid 1940's. There are few structures within the city limits of Lavonia which were associated with farms of this size. Comparable developments were usually found in the more remote locations of the county. The farming operations carried out here exemplify the early 20th century trend toward diversification.

In industry, the house is significant as the home of Mack Crawford, one of the two original owners of the nearby Lavonia Cotton Mill (No. 15). The Lavonia Cotton Mill was Lavonia's third and largest historic industry.

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REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: Historic Structures Field Survey
 Georgia Department of Natural Resources

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: J. H. Beasley
 Chamber of Commerce Committee