

U.H. SMITH RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

Name: U.H. Smith Residential Historic District, (Phenix City, ^{MYRTLE} Russell County, Alabama)

Location: Intersection of 20th Street, 7th Avenue and 6th Court.

Acreage: Approximately 3.5

Verbal Boundary Description:

This district forms a triangle that begins at the corner of 6th Court and 20th Street, crosses the street and goes to 7th Avenue. It crosses 20th Street again and comes back to 6th Court. See line on attached scale tax map.

<u>UTM:</u>	A. 16	687840	3595260	F. 16	687760	3595180
	B. 16	687900	3595220	G. 16	687760	3595270
	C. 16	687910	3595160			
	D. 16	687830	3595100			
	E. 16	687790	3595090			

Description:

Description:

The U. H. Smith Residential Historic District includes six houses built in the late 19th century, all wood frame, single-family dwellings. These include two Victorian shotguns and a variety of Victorian Cottage styles, some with Greek Revival influence. The Greek-Revival-influenced cottages are simple in style and have trabeated entrances flanked by floor-length windows. There is one intrusion, a one-room cinder block store no longer in operation, and one non-contributing house from the 1950's. This district is located on the top of a small rise. The two shotguns are on the side of the hill. The cottages sit on the top of this hill. The yards are landscaped with trees and shrubbery. Brick walks lead to several doors and remnants of an old brick sidewalk remain.

is located on the top of a small rise. The two shotguns are on the side of the hill. The Greek Revival cottages and two Victorian houses sit on the top of this hill. The yards are landscaped with trees and shrubbery. Brick sidewalks lead from the street to the front doors.

Significance:

Architecture. The U.H. Smith Residential Historic District is architecturally significant for the fine collection of Victorian homes within its bounds. Although small in size, this district contains some of the finest craftsmanship in the area. The U.H. Smith house is a c. 1880 Greek Revival house expanded upward and back, creating a two story Victorian home with a double full length porch on the facade. This home displays some of the finest gingerbread detailing in town. Other homes in the area, while being only one-story, maintain the extensive gingerbread and wrap-around porches.

Local History. The U.H. Smith Residential Historic District was, in the latter half of the 19th century, one of the finest neighborhoods in the Brownsville area. U.H. Smith, a pharmacist and merchant, purchased and expanded his home in 1894. It, as well as surrounding properties, were purchased out of the Ingersoll property, as divided in the Ingersoll's Survey of the late 1870's. The district was a solid middle class neighborhood, with Smith's neighbors being a salesman, a cobbler, a railroad worker, and a bottling company employer. Smith, the Mayor of Phenix City between 1888 and 1891, was the acknowledged leader of this area.

Religion. U.H. Smith, son of a Methodist minister from Opelika, Alabama, married a Catholic woman from Charleston, South Carolina. This district became significant religiously when Mrs. Smith, and her relatives helped to influence the early development of the Catholic Church, St. Patrick's. With

twelve members of her immediate family, Mrs. Smith met over her husband's store before the present church building was constructed. A relative Lizzie Berry, helped found St. Patrick's School. She lived in the second house behind Smith and taught school informally before the St. Patrick's School was created. Because of its religious connotations, the area was a target of Klu Klux Klan cross burnings.

STRUCTURES WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE U. H. SMITH RESIDENTIAL
HISTORIC DISTRICT

1. Meyer House (605 20th St.): c. 1890; Ornate shotgun dwelling; one-story, wood frame, gable roof with return eaves, turned posts with gingerbread and brackets (transom above door); porch extends across facade and down left side, added rear addition.
2. Pitts House (608 20th St.): c. 1890; Victorian Cottage dwelling; one-story, ell-shaped, wood frame, gable roof with return eaves, turned posts and spindle gingerbread, with brackets, porch runs along inner ell of house.
3. Aurand House (700 20th St.): c. 1900; Victorian Cottage; ell-shaped, wood frame, gable roof with return eaves and bargeboard, full front veranda with altered posts (ornamental iron).
- 5a. Lee House (1903 6th Court): c. 1895; Victorian Cottage; one-story, wood frame, hip roof, decorative transom and door surround, floor length front windows on front porch with ionic columns
7. Glass House (1906 6th Ct.): c. 1910; Victorian Cottage dwelling; one-story, gable roof, wood frame, brick piers on porch, rear addition.
8. Smith-Green House (1907 6th Ct.): c. 1880 and 1895 ; Victorian Cottage with Greek Revival details; two-story wood frame, truncated hip roof; turned posts with spindle gingerbread on first and second story full front porches; front door has transom and sidelights, floor-length windows on first floor; gable-roofed one-story attached kitchen in back; upper floor and back added in 1895, along with major trim features, to an earlier (c. 1880) ell-shaped, one-story dwelling.
9. Annie V. Lee House (1908 6th Court): c. 1895; Victorian Cottage with Greek Revival details; one-story, gable roof, wood frame, transom and sidelights; turned posts on porch; early twentieth-century additions reveal double gable and trough viewed from north end; ell-shaped back addition adds to complex roof pattern.

STRUCTURES WHICH DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHARACTER OF THE U. H. SMITH RESIDENTIAL
HISTORIC DISTRICT

4. Harry's Grocery (702 20th St.): c. 1950; small concrete-block neighborhood store building nearly ajoin's Aurand House; gable roof, one-story, intrusive.
- 5b. Robinson House (1905 6th Court): 1955; one-story, wood frame, shiplap siding, low gable roof, open porch with ornamental iron posts; non-contributing.

INCLUSIVE STREET NUMBERS FOR THE U. H. SMITH RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

20th Street - odd 605-607

even 608-700

6th Court - odd 1903-1907

even 1906-1908



Contributing
 Non-Contributing

U.H. Smith Residential
 Historic District

0
75
150
22.5 Scale

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