

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

For NPS use only

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

received **AUG 5 1985**

date entered **SEP 5 1985**

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

**1. Name**

historic

and/or common **Laney - Walker North Historic District**

**2. Location**

street & number **See Continuation Sheet**

**N/A** not for publication

city, town **Augusta**

**N/A** vicinity of

state **Georgia**

code **013**

county **Richmond**

code **245**

**3. Classification**

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

**4. Owner of Property**

name **Multiple Owners (more than 50)**

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. **Superior Court**

street & number **Richmond County Courthouse**

city, town **Augusta**

state **Georgia**

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title **None** has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Laney - Walker North Historic District is a large residential district with a number of commercial resources and churches scattered through its midst. The area is laid out on level ground with a strick gridiron plan. Two levels of the Augusta Canal (one now diverted underground) run diagonally through its north corner. Historic bridges are located on Walton Way and Twiggs Street where the canal crosses under the streets. Lots in the district are small, narrow, and rectangular. Buildings with consistent setbacks and located near the fronts of their lots create a densely built-up environment. Buildings date from the mid-19th through the early 20th centuries, with the oldest ones concentrated in the northeast portion of the district and particularly along Barnes Street and the north end of Ninth Street.

Residential structures range from one to two stories in height, with the majority being small one-story cottages. Most are wood-framed with weatherboard siding and modest wood detailing; a few of the earliest (mid-19th century) and latest (1920s and 1930s) are brick. A wide variety of vernacular house types including the plantation plain, double-pen, shotgun, and the asymmetrical-plan Victorian cottage are well represented. Two-story houses include a few with four-over-four room with central hall plans and Victorian houses with asymmetrical plans and wrap-around porches. Some of the earliest houses are variations on an indigenous house type known as the "Sand-hills cottage", which commonly features a raised main floor, a full-width front porch, and a gable roof pierced with dormers. The front porch in some form is almost ubiquitous in the Laney - Walker North District. Modest Victorian Eclectic detailing, including sawn and turned trim, chamfered columns, and decorative shingle work is common; very simple Greek Revival, Colonial Revival, and Bungalow/Craftsman detailing is also visible; many houses have no exterior detailing at all.

There are approximately seven historic churches in the district dating from the 1870s to the 1920s. All are constructed of brick and/or stucco and many feature simple Victorian Gothic or Victorian Eclectic detailing including pointed-arched windows and buttressing. Nearly all have central front entrances flanked by corner towers. Tabernacle Baptist Church, built ca. 1915 in a style with Italian Renaissance influences is an enormous edifice with numerous education facilities on its first floor and an auditorium that seats over 2,000 people above.

Commercial buildings in the district range in date from the mid-19th century through the 1930s and in size and type from one- and two-story, wood-framed stores to one-, two-, and three-story brick store and office buildings. They range in function from small retail stores and professional offices to funeral homes, an insurance company office, and a bank headquarters. The earlier wood-framed buildings, dating back to the 19th century, are scattered through the northern portion of the neighborhood. Of particular interest among these are a small gabled-roofed store building which may date back to the mid-19th century and several two-story buildings with grocery stores on the first floors and living space above. These have second-floor metal balconies, sign-board front gable ends, and, in the most intact, Queen Anne style detailing in the tall, decorative chimneys and gable trim. The later brick structures are more concentrated along Laney - Walker Boulevard and Ninth Street which, in the early 20th century, evolved into the neighborhood's principal commercial streets. These structures have typical late Victorian and early 20th century commercial detailing including brick corbeling in the early buildings and flat facades with modestly detailed cornices and spandrel panels in the later buildings. Of particular interest in the district is the three-story 1922 Penny Saving Bank building. A 1920 mill, several other small brick industrial structures, and portions of the historic city gas works remain to document the area's industrial past. A late-Victorian fire station is

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The Laney - Walker North Historic District is located in Augusta, Richmond County, Georgia. It is bounded on the north by D'Antignac Street and Walton Way, on the east by Seventh Street and Twiggs Street, on the south by Laney - Walker Boulevard, and on the west by Phillips Street and Harrison Street.



# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				ethnic history

**Specific dates** Mid-19th century–1935 **Builder/Architect** Multiple

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Laney-Walker North Historic District is a historically and architecturally significant area of Augusta important for its associations with three of the city's historic minority populations - Irish, Chinese, and black. In terms of community planning and development and ethnic history, the area is significant as a neighborhood that developed during the 19th century as a multi-ethnic working-class community in Augusta. In the early 20th century it evolved into a self-contained black community that housed and serviced a broad cross section of the city's black population. Architecturally, the district is significant for providing examples in Augusta of many types of modest residential, commercial, and institutional resources dating from the mid-19th century through 1935. In terms of commerce, it is important for its wide range of commercial structures that document the variety of minority businesses in the community. In terms of industry, the district is significant for its industrial structures and its one intact level of the Augusta Canal that document the area's important early industrial history. In terms of religion and education, the district is significant for its black churches, many of which were instrumental in establishing schools for the neighborhood. The homes of Rev. Charles T. Walker, the influential founder of Tabernacle Baptist Church, and Lucy C. Laney, founder of Haines Institute are located in the district. These areas of significance support National Register eligibility under Natural Register criteria A, B, and C.

#### Community Planning and Development and Ethnic History

Two important events in Augusta's history triggered the early development of the Laney - Walker area. The construction of the Georgia Railroad just to the north of the district in 1833 and the development of the Augusta Canal nearby and through the area in 1845-47 brought many laborers to this as yet undeveloped area. When finished, factories and other industrial operations began to develop adjacent to the railroad and the canal. These industries drew workers in need of housing. Laney - Walker's first residents were Irish, brought to Augusta to build the railroad. They established a community known as Dublin at the northeast edge of the district centered, as the neighborhood grew, along Barnes Street. In about 1840 Trinity C.M.E. church was established at its present location on Eight Street. The Civil War brought refugees, both white and black, to the area; in its aftermath emancipated slaves flocked to the area looking for work and a place to live. Many settled in the area, which was slowly expanding toward the south and west as well as building up along the western end of Laney - Walker Boulevard (then Gwinnett Street). The 1874-75 enlargement of the canal triggered a great surge of industrial and associated residential growth at the end of the 19th century. Chinese laborers brought to Augusta to work on the canal enlargement settled in the area and opened grocery stores and laundries. The neighborhood functioned as a well-integrated, working-class community until the turn of the century. At this time increasingly segregationist policies in Augusta and throughout Georgia began to change the character of the area. In 1913 the city passed a Jim Crow "zoning" law requiring blacks and whites when moving to settle in a block designated as black or white. This successfully established segregated residential patterns in the city. The Laney - Walker community quickly grew into Augusta's principal black neighborhood housing not only its working class but also its

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Approximately 125 acres

Quadrangle name Augusta East, S.C.- Ga.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>
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D	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>
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E	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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F	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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G	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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H	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary outlined with a heavy black line on the enclosed maps is described and justified in Section 7.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher  
Historic Preservation Section

organization Department of Natural Resources

date 6-20-85

street & number 270 Washington Street S.W.

telephone (404)656-2840

city or town Atlanta

state Georgia 30334

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

   national    X state       local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Elizabeth A. Lyon*  
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/11/85

### For NPS use only

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

*for Delores Byrum*  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 9/5/85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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rapidly growing group of black professionals and white collar workers. By 1920 it was a vital and self-sufficient black neighborhood with a wide variety of services provided by and for the blacks who lived there.

Thus the district is significant first for providing an example of a multi-ethnic working-class neighborhood whose growth was triggered by industrial development in the area. Second, the district is significant for documenting a vital, self-sufficient black community that grew in response to the South's early 20th-century segregationist policies. The neighborhood grew to provide a complete range of services for its inhabitants. It contained the homes of many of Augusta's most prominent blacks including Frank Yerby, a novelist of international repute, Silas Floyd, a writer and educator, Lucy C. Laney and Charles T. Walker for whom the neighborhood is named, and numerous black doctors, merchants, builders, and businessmen. The district is perhaps unique in the state for providing such a wide range of resources associated with the black community. Residential, commercial, and religious resources are all well represented.

Architecture

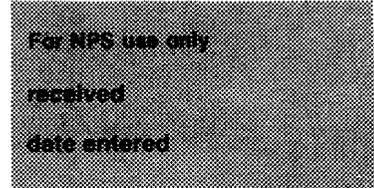
Architecturally, the district is significant for providing good examples in Augusta and Georgia of a wide variety of modest residential, commercial, and institutional resources dating from the mid-19th through the early 20th centuries. These structures together document the evolution of building materials, technologies, types, and styles from the mid-19th century to the 1930s. The residential resources provide many good representative examples of modest vernacular house types including the plantation plain, double pen, shotgun, Victorian cottage, and indigenous Augusta house type—the Sandhills cottage— and larger types such as the four-over-four room with central hall plan and the two-story Victorian asymmetrical plan house. They illustrate how modest Victorian Eclectic, Greek Revival, Colonial Revival and Craftsman detailing are applied to such houses. Two of the more substantial early 20th-century houses in the district are known to have been built by William McNatt, a prominent black builder who lived in the district in one of these houses. The commercial structures illustrate a wide variety of modest commercial building types ranging from the earliest—a one-story, gable-roofed wood framed store—to large two-story, wood-framed, store/dwelling buildings, small one-story, brick stores with party walls, and two- and three-story, brick, store/office building. They document typical late Victorian and Early 20th-century commercial detailing as applied to modest buildings. Of particular interest are several two-story wood-framed store/dwelling building of a type once common but now quite rare in Georgia and the three-story Penny Savings Bank Building, a 1922 office building which is one of the most important commercial architectural resources associated with the black community in the state. The fine collection of historic black churches in the district provides excellent documentation on typical urban black church architecture of the late 19th and early 20th centuries in Georgia. These churches, typically, have central entrances flanked by corner towers and Victorian Gothic and/or Victorian Eclectic detailing. Tabernacle Baptist Church built in 1915 is a landmark structure in Augusta and one of the largest church buildings in the state.

Commerce

In terms of commerce, the district is important for its wide range of commercial

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resources that document the variety of minority businesses historically active in the community. The Chinese presence in Laney - Walker North is represented by several large grocery stores, at least one of which is still owned by a Chinese family. During the early years of the 20th century, the commercial areas of the district which grew up along Laney - Walker Boulevard (then Gwinnett Street) and Ninth Street were the center for day-to-day commercial activities for Augusta's black community. These commercial activities included a wide variety of enterprises including retailing, banking, and professional services. Of particular importance in the district are two landmark black commercial enterprises which were established and grew up in the area. The Pilgrim Health and Life Insurance Company, established in 1898, has grown to become the ninth largest black-owned life insurance company in the country. The Hornsby Building, located in the district was built by one of the company's founders, Walter S. Hornsby, in 1927 to house some of its offices. The Penny Savings Bank, established in 1910 by a group of Laney - Walker's most prominent blacks, was one of the few black-owned banks in the state. It moved to an impressive new building on the corner of Laney - Walker Boulevard and Ninth Street in 1922 when it merged with Atlanta's Citizens Trust Company Bank.

Industry

In terms of industry, Laney - Walker North is significant for its remaining intact historic industrial structures which include the Southern Cotton Mill, the Augusta Mattress Factory, the remaining buildings associated with the city gasworks, and the one intact level of the Augusta Canal. Together these document the neighborhood's important industrial history which relates so closely to the canal and the railroad. Many more industrial structures in or adjacent to the district have been demolished in recent years.

Religion and Education

In terms of religion and education, the district is significant for containing a large number (approximately seven) historic black churches, many of which were instrumental in providing educational opportunities for the black community. In addition, all three of Augusta's important private black secondary schools are represented in some way in the district. Trinity C.M.E. Church, one of Augusta's oldest and most important black congregations, was established by slaves in 1840 as an offshoot of Augusta's white Methodist Church. Bishop Lucius Holsey, pastor of the church in the late 19th century, was instrumental in establishing Paine Institute (later Paine College) in about 1883, the first of Augusta's well-known schools for blacks. Harmony Baptist Church on Hopkins Street is significant as the oldest surviving church building in the district (c. 1873) and as the location of Augusta's first word school for blacks. Tabernacle Baptist Church, established in 1885 and moved to its present building in the Laney - Walker North neighborhood in 1915, is Augusta's largest black congregation and a church with a national reputation. Charles T. Walker (1858-1921), its founder and early pastor whose oratorical abilities brought the church prominent visitors from around the country, was instrumental in bringing the Walter Baptist Institute (the second of the three schools) to Augusta in 1898. In addition, he established a wide variety of educational offerings at the church which included cooking, sewing, automobile, business, and night schools, a laundering department, a library, and a reading room. Walker lived on Laney - Walker Boulevard in a house that is located within the district. Also within the district boundary, on Phillips Street, is the home of Lucy C. Laney (1854-1933), the noted

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educator who, about 1883, founded the Haines Normal and Industrial Institute, black Augusta's third important secondary school. The school itself, which closed in 1936, has been replaced by a modern high school complex named in Lucy Laney's honor.

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"A Historical Synopsis of the Laney - Walker Neighborhood Before 1940." On file at Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Lowe, Charles. "Laney - Walker Update: A Social History." On file at Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

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LANEY-WALKER NORTH HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Augusta, Richmond County, Georgia

DISTRICT MAP

Source: City tax Map

North: 

District Boundary: 

Non-historic property: 

Intrusion: 

Vacant Lot: 

Photo Direction and View:  333'

Scale: 1" = 333'

