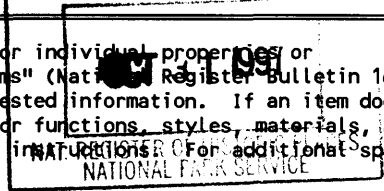


1470

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

historic name Bethlehem Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number Roughly bounded by Wrightsboro Road, M.L.K. Jr. Blvd., Railroad Street, Poplar Street, and Clay Street.
city, town Augusta (N/A) vicinity of
county Richmond code GA 245
state Georgia code GA zip code 30903

(N/A) not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	626	128
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	626	128

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Mark R. Edwards
Signature of certifying official

October 24, 1997
Date

Mark R. Edwards
State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Elson H. Beall 12/1/97

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling
RELIGION/religious facility
COMMERCIAL/specialty store
COMMERCIAL/restaurant
COMMERCIAL/hotel
EDUCATION/school
INDUSTRY/industrial storage
INDUSTRY/manufacturing facilities
TRANSPORTATION/rail-related
TRANSPORTATION/road-related (vehicular)

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling
RELIGION/religious facility
COMMERCIAL/specialty store
COMMERCIAL/restaurant
INDUSTRY/industrial storage
INDUSTRY/manufacturing facilities
TRANSPORTATION/rail-related
TRANSPORTATION/road-related (vehicular)

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Classical Revival/Neo-Classical Revival
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Tudor Revival
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/Craftsman
OTHER/Georgian cottage
OTHER/Central Hall
OTHER/Shotgun
OTHER/Gabled ell cottage
OTHER/Bungalow

Materials:

foundation concrete and brick
walls wood, brick, and concrete block
roof metal and asphalt
other N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Bethlehem Historic District consists of the historic residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings within the historically African-American neighborhood of Bethlehem, just south of the Laney-

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Walker Historic District (listed on the National Register of Historic Places on September 5, 1985), a historically African-American neighborhood, in Augusta, Richmond County, Georgia.

The Bethlehem Historic District is a densely populated neighborhood laid out in a grid pattern with two main streets that run diagonally, which were historically used as arteries to leave the center city, bisecting the neighborhood streets. The two main streets, Savannah Road (now Old Savannah Road) and Milledgeville Road (now Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd.), have maintained their same alignment since at least the early 1860s.

The pattern of neighborhood has had few changes over time. According to a 1875 map of the City of Augusta, the district area was known as the Picquet Territory (the Picquet name remains associated with the neighborhood through Picquet Street) and the lots were very deep and running east to west. A small section of area near Wrightsboro Road (originally Turrnell Spring Road) consisted of narrower lots running north to south. As the neighborhood developed and roads were developed, the orientation of the lots remained the same but the length of the lots were shortened.

The neighborhood began to develop during the late 1870s. According to a c.1890 map of the City of Augusta, several roads were developed resulting in the grid pattern. The existing grid pattern closely reflects the c.1890 grid pattern. Johnston Avenue was closed west of Mill Street due to the construction of the cotton compresses. The grid pattern remained unchanged between c.1890 and 1931. According to a 1931 map of the City of Augusta, the grid pattern closely reflects the existing pattern.

The range of the residential housing stock in the neighborhood consists of small shotgun-type houses to large two-story Colonial Revival-style houses. The greatest period of construction of houses within the district occurred between 1890 and 1930. According to the Historic Black Resources handbook written by Carole Merritt: "Major changes in black housing in the city came with the post-Civil War influx of migrants from the country and with the early twentieth-century development of racially segregated housing patterns." This pattern strongly reflects the development of the Bethlehem community. The residences built around the turn of the century are small, wood-framed, one-story buildings. The types include Georgian cottage (see photo 11), Gabled Ell cottage (see photo 1), Queen Anne cottage (see photo 7), New South cottage (see photo 15) and shotgun (see photo 13). The shotgun type is the most common type of house found throughout the district. A double shotgun-type house, located next to a shotgun-type house, is located on Wrightsboro Road (see photo 14). This type is somewhat rare in Georgia since it was limited almost entirely to the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

state's eight to ten largest cities. These turn-of-the-century residences are not representative of any high style. The Folk Victorian style is represented in many of these early houses. According to the Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Setting context written by this office: "the Folk Victorian style is actually more a way of decorating a house..." Stylistic features are added to porches and roof gables. The New South cottage and shotgun located on Wrightsboro Road strongly represent the Folk Victorian style with the decorative features located along the porches and in the gable of the shotgun-type house (refer to photo 15). Another good example of the Folk Victorian style is represented in the duplex located on Chestnut Street. The house features wooden porch supports with decorative brackets and a decorative wooden balustrade. The Queen Anne-type house on Mill Street includes the wooden porch supports with decorative brackets and also craftsman-style brick piers (refer to photo 7). The African-Americans that lived in these earlier type houses worked as labors in the nearby brick yards, rail yards, and mills.

The types of houses built from the 1900s to the 1930s are larger in massing than the above mentioned types and feature stylistic elements. The types include the Bungalow (see photo 8) and Georgian House (see photo 19). The styles include Craftsman (refer to photo 8 and photo 20), Folk Victorian, English Vernacular Revival, and Colonial Revival. The Russell House, located on Twelfth Street, was originally the home of Dr. Russell, a prominent African-American physician in Augusta. The Georgian-plan house features a full-width porch; fluted columns with composite capitals; trabeated front door; wide porch, dormer, and second-story overhanging eaves; and exposed rafter tails (refer to photo 19).

The commercial buildings within the district are one- and two-story, freestanding buildings. The stores are located at the intersections of major streets and along major streets within the neighborhood. The neighborhood supported and continues to support a diverse collection of stores. Historically, the stores in the neighborhood included grocery stores, barber shops, shoe repair shops, gas stations, and drug stores. Some of these stores still remain within the neighborhood: Smith Grocery, built c.1900 (see photo 29); Jackson Shoe Repair, built c.1920 (see photo 32); and Car Care Center (originally a Pure Oil station), built c.1925 (see photo 30). A few of the remaining historic stores were built during the 1890s but the majority of the stores were built from the 1900s to the 1930s. One of the earliest commercial buildings remaining within the district is the Red and Black Inn on Picquet Avenue. The two-story wood-framed building features a second-story cantilevered porch with Folk Victorian features (see photo 28). The brick commercial store located at the junction of Nicholas Street and Twiggs Road is representative of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

type of brick stores located within the neighborhood. The building, constructed c.1920, features a main entrance with double doors oriented towards the intersection; decorative brick design in the cornice; double windows with transoms; and decorative brick design creating the effect of pilasters (see photo 27). A two-story brick commercial building is located next to the above building.

The neighborhood included several industrial resources; however, few remain today. The Georgia Chemical Works, Augusta Brick Company, J.M. McKinzie & Sons Brick Company, B. S. Dunbar Brick Company, and McCoy Brick and Tile Company were all located just east of Railroad Street. These company provided jobs for those living within the Bethlehem community. However, these resources have been lost due to development and no longer convey their industrial use. (The National Register boundary does not include the area east of Railroad Street, the eastern boundary, since the area no longer reflects its historic use.) The industrial resource remaining within the district is the Whitney Cotton Compresses. Historically known as the Georgia Compresses, the brick buildings are located on the western edge of the boundary just west of Mill Street. A few of the compresses were damaged several years ago by fire but the remaining compresses are still active and reflect their original use.

The community landmark buildings within the district include the Bethlehem Community Center and several churches. According to the Historic Black Resources guide: "After emancipation, the church was often the first building constructed in the black community. As black residents began to concentrate in sections outside the central area, so did their churches." The intact historic church buildings include Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church, built c.1880 (see photo 26); Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, built c.1900 (see photo 25); Church of God of the Evening Light Reformation built c.1900; Mount Calvary Baptist Church, built c.1927 (see photo 24); and Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, built c.1921 (see photo 23). The church building vary in construction materials and design. Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church and Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church are constructed of brick and feature two front towers. Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, constructed of wood, and Mount Calvary Baptist Church, constructed of brick, are more modest buildings with short steeples located near the front of the buildings.

The Bethlehem Community Center was constructed in 1912 by a Methodist women's club to provide day care and education to those living within the Bethlehem community. The wood-framed building was bricked up in 1977 but still conveys its original form and style, Colonial Revival (see photo 33). The interior has retained a high degree of integrity, as determined by the Historic Preservation Division staff on an initial site visit, and confirmed recently by Historic Augusta, Inc.,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

the sponsor of this nomination. The floor plan and overall arrangement of the interior spaces are virtually unchanged; room dimensions including ceiling heights are essentially unaltered. Original materials include wood floors, wood wainscoting, and plaster walls and ceilings. Original wood trim surrounds doorways and windows. Windows have been replaced, with the exception of the smaller, more decorative ones; original paneled wood doors remain. Historic wood stairways connect the hallways on each floor. Due to the current intensive daily use of the building, it was not possible to take interior photographs.

The landscaping within the district consists of narrow lots with buildings situated close together (see photo 2). The buildings are located close to the edge of pavement (see to photo 4), and some hardwood trees remain between the buildings and the edge of pavement (see photo 16). Foundation plants are commonly found throughout the neighborhood, and the larger homes include low brick or concrete retaining walls (refer photo 19). The neighborhood also includes some examples of swept yards. The yard associated with the Georgian cottage located on located Mercier Street is representative of the swept yard. According to the Georgia's Living Places context, the swept yard is an African-American landscaping feature. The dirt yard is located in the front, side, and rear sections of the yard. The yard is swept of all grass, weeds, and other ground cover. Near the porch, the yard is decorated with bricks and planters. This vernacular landscape is rare in Georgia and is usually found in African-American neighborhoods.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

ARCHITECTURE
ETHNIC HERITAGE: AFRICAN AMERICAN
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance:

c.1870s-1947

Significant Dates:

c.1870s Development of the grid pattern of Bethlehem.

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Unknown

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Bethlehem Historic District is significant as an intact historically African-American urban neighborhood located in the southern section of Augusta, Richmond County, Georgia. The neighborhood developed within the boundaries of Central of Georgia Railroad lines, roadway corridors, and industrial development.

The Bethlehem Historic District is significant in terms of architecture for its excellent collection of historic residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings. The collection of residential buildings is diverse in type and style, which is characteristic of historic African-American neighborhoods and communities in Georgia. A majority of the residential buildings, as identified in the Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings context, reflect the types of significant buildings constructed in Georgia's urban neighborhoods from the late 19th century into the early 20th century. Good intact examples of important types of residential buildings located within the neighborhood include Shotgun with its characteristic long, narrow form, Double Shotgun with its characteristic symmetrical massing and four room-central hall plan, Georgian Cottage with its characteristic central hallway plan with two rooms on either side, Gabled Ell Cottage with its characteristic gable-front at one end of a recessed wing that is parallel to the facade, Bungalow with its characteristic long and low form with irregular floor plans within an overall rectangular shape, and Central Hallway with its characteristic central hallway between two rooms. These types are interspersed along the streets, such as along Camille Street (see photo 12) and Mill Street (see photo 7), or located side-by-side, such as the shotgun row along Maple Street (see photo 13). A rare Double Shotgun type-house, a type limited almost entirely to the state's eight to ten largest cities, is located next to a Shotgun-type house on Wrightsboro Road (see photo 14).

The significant styles represented in the district include Folk Victorian, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman. The Folk Victorian style is the most pervasive within the neighborhood. The Folk Victorian features are located along the front porches and in the eaves of many of the homes. The New South cottage and Shotgun on Milledgeville Road are excellent examples of the Folk Victorian style with the decorative brackets and porch supports of the New South cottage and the decorative design of the shingles in the front gable of the Shotgun (see photo 15). The Craftsman style is also represented throughout

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

the district. Some of the late 19th-century houses have had Craftsman details added to them, such as the Shotguns located on Mill Street (see photo 5). Other houses have been built in the Craftsman style, such as the Craftsman Bungalow located on Savannah Road (see photo 8). Other houses have a combination of Folk Victorian elements and Craftsman elements. The Queen Anne-type house located on Mill Street features Craftsman porch piers and Folk Victorian-style bargeboard and decorative brackets on the porch (see photo 7).

The diverse collection of styles and types represented within the neighborhood is due to the passage of a 1913 city ordinance that imposed racial zoning and confined all African-Americans regardless of socio-economic status to the same relatively small areas of the city. The African-Americans living in the Bethlehem community prior to 1913 worked as laborers in the surrounding industrial complexes and lived in small types of houses built during the late 19th century, such as the Georgian Cottage, Shotgun, Double Shotgun, Central Hall, and Gabled Ell Cottage. However, following the passage of the ordinance, a greater number of African-Americans moved into the neighborhood. These new arrivals included a large number of middle-class African-Americans, who built larger homes representing various popular styles. The Russell House, located on Twelfth Street, is an excellent example of this post-ordinance development. The two-story wood-framed house features a full-width front portico, fluted columns with composite capitals, trabeated front door, wide overhanging eaves, and a dormer (see photo 19). The house was built for a prominent Augusta African-American physician, Dr. Russell.

The commercial buildings within the district are one- and two-story freestanding buildings. The stores are located at the intersections of major streets and along major streets within the neighborhood. The neighborhood supported and continues to support a diverse collection of stores. According to the Historic Black Resources guide: "The urban environment encouraged the concentration of commercial activity. In addition, increasing 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." The stores within the Bethlehem Historic District are representative of those found in African-American communities in many Georgia towns. The stores located within the district originally included grocery stores, barber shops, shoe repair shops, gas stations, and drug stores. Although modern commercial development has occurred at some of the intersections, the neighborhood still supports many of its historic stores. The remaining historic stores include Smith Grocery, built c.1900 (see photo 29); Jackson Shoe Repair, built c.1920 (see photo 32); and Car

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

Care Center (originally a Pure Oil station), built c.1925 (see photo 30). A few of the remaining historic stores were built during the 1890s but the majority of the stores were built from the 1900s to the 1930s. The second period of development, 1900 to 1930, for the stores is due to the 1913 city ordinance. As more African-Americans moved into the neighborhood, more businesses opened to service their needs.

One of the earliest commercial buildings remaining within the district is the Red and Black Inn on Picquet Avenue. The two-story wood-framed building features a second-story cantilevered porch with Folk Victorian features (see photo 28). The brick commercial store located at the junction of Nicholas Street and Twiggs Road is representative of the type of brick stores located within the neighborhood. The building, constructed c.1920, features a main entrance with double doors oriented towards the intersection; decorative brick design in the cornice; double windows with transoms; and decorative brick design creating the effect of pilasters (see photo 27). A two-story brick commercial building is located next to the above building.

The district is also significant for its good collection of community landmark buildings which include the Bethlehem Center (1912) and several community churches of varying denominations. According to the Historic Black Resources guide: "After emancipation, the church was often the first building constructed in the black community. As black residents began to concentrate in sections outside the central area, so did their churches." The intact historic church buildings are excellent examples of the types of religious facilities built in African-American communities. Historically, urban African-American churches "were larger...and more likely to have a tower centered or to one side or, more typically, twin towers" (Carole Merritt:1984). The historic, urban, African-American churches in Bethlehem are representative of those in other African-American urban neighborhoods, such as the churches in the National Registered-listed Laney-Walker Historic District (located just north of Bethlehem Historic District). The churches in Bethlehem include Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church, built c.1880 (see photo 26); Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, built c.1900 (see photo 25); Church of God of the Evening Light Reformation, built c.1900; Mount Calvary Baptist Church, built c.1927 (see photo 24); and Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, built c.1921 (see photo 23). The church buildings vary in construction materials and design. Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church and Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church are constructed of brick and feature two front towers. Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, constructed of wood, and Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, constructed of brick, are more modest building with short steeples located near the front of the buildings.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

The Bethlehem Community Center, built 1912, was constructed to replace the original Bethlehem Community Center built in the community. The Bethlehem Community Center was originally a two-story wood-framed building. In 1977, a brick veneer was applied to the exterior, transoms over the windows were covered, and a Palladian window was added on the second floor above the main door. However, the interior of the building has not been altered since its original construction. The floor plan and overall arrangement of the interior spaces are virtually unchanged; room dimensions including ceiling heights are essentially unaltered. Original materials include wood floors, wood wainscoting, and plaster walls and ceilings. Original wood trim surrounds doorways and windows. Windows have been replaced, with the exception of the smaller, more decorative ones; original paneled wood doors remain. Historic wood stairways connect the hallways on each floor.

The district is significant in Ethnic Heritage: African-American since the neighborhood historically developed as an African-American neighborhood and exhibits the major character-defining features of such historic neighborhoods. The development of the Bethlehem Historic District is closely related to the location of the brick yards, lumber yards, and railroad yards just east of Railroad Street, the eastern boundary of the district, and to the imposition of legally mandated segregation following the 1913 racial zoning ordinance. The development of the Georgia Compress during the early 20th century continued to support the African-Americans living within the neighborhood. To provide for the needs of those living within the African-American neighborhood churches, stores, and a community center were constructed. The neighborhood has all the characteristic physical features of a historic African-American neighborhood in Georgia as identified through the statewide historic context, Historic Black Resources: a wide variety of house types, styles, and sizes, and a variety of commercial and institutional buildings, all in a relatively small and densely developed area.

The district is significant in community planning and development for the design of the gridiron plan with two main diagonal streets, narrow land lots, development of commercial corner stores, establishment of churches and community center, and construction of late 19th- and early 20th-century urban residences. The Bethlehem neighborhood is an excellent example of a self-sufficient historically African-American neighborhood. According the Historic Black Resources guide: "African-American cultural resources have been among the most threatened, for as an underclass, blacks have had less power over their immediate environment. Their communities have been more vulnerable to development pressures." The community planning and development of the Bethlehem community is significant since the

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

neighborhood has remained African-American since the 1870s. The neighborhood developed as former slaves moved from the rural areas of Georgia into Augusta. The areas outside the historic core of the cities where early industrial development had taken place were the sections settled by these African-Americans. Bethlehem was settled by African-Americans who found jobs working in the brick yards, lumber yards, and railroad yards located just east of the neighborhood. The neighborhood continued to develop as African-American with the development of the Georgia Cotton Compress during the early 20th century. Bethlehem continued to develop as an African-American neighborhood due the passage of the 1913 city ordinance requiring the designation of white blocks and black blocks in Augusta.

The district is significant in landscape architecture for the excellent examples of swept yards within the district. The swept yard is identified in the Georgia's Living Place's context as a significant landscape that is currently disappearing in Georgia. The swept yard features a dirt yard cleanly sept of all grass, weeds, and other ground cover. Almost always it was the front yard that was swept, although the area often extended to the side and rear yards as well. The yard associated with the Georgian Cottage located on Mercier Street is representative of the swept yard landscape within the district. The front, side, and rear yards are cleared of any grass or ground cover. Brick are placed in a decorative design around the front porch and planters are located near the front steps (see photo 11).

National Register Criteria

The Bethlehem Historic District is eligible under Criterion A for its significance in the residential, commercial, and developmental history of the Bethlehem neighborhood. The district is also significant for its association with Augusta's historic African-American communities. The district is eligible under Criterion C for its good representative examples of architectural styles and types from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Bethlehem Historic District begins with the design of the existing grid pattern in the 1870s and ends in 1947, the end of the historic period. Even though development began to slow in 1930, the neighborhood remained African-American and

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

continued to provide jobs and commercial services to the African-Americans living with the neighborhood.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The 626 contributing resources were built before 1947 and retain their historic integrity. The 128 noncontributing buildings were either constructed after 1947 or have lost historic integrity. The Bethlehem Community Center is a contributing resource within in the district; even though the exterior has lost integrity of materials and design, the interior is virtually unchanged, and the building is primarily significant for the social, cultural, and education activities which too place within it. The period of significance extends to 1947, the end of the 50-year historic period, since the neighborhood has remained African-American. Since African-American "communities have been more vulnerable to development pressures" (Merritt: 1984), the neighborhood is significant beyond the 1930s because it remained intact. The brick yard, lumber yards, and railroad yards didn't close until after 1947 and the Georgia Compress, now S. M. Whitney Compress, still functions today as a cotton compress.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

The Bethlehem Historic District is reflected through its collection of residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings. The neighborhood is a historically black neighborhood supported by the presence of the Georgia-Carolina Warehouse and Cotton Company, Central of Georgia rail yard, and brick and lumber yards.

During the 1870s the area of the Bethlehem community was owned by three families; the Jacksons, the Steiners, and the Picquets. By 1876, all three property owners had begun to subdivide their land. The first areas to be subdivided into small lots were located along Wrightsboro Road, Twelfth Street, Nicholas Street, and Dent Street. The area was connected to downtown Augusta by a trolley line which ran down Twiggs Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. (Milledgeville Road). The major reason for the settlement of the area is due to its favorable location. The Central of Georgia Railroad runs along the east side of the neighborhood and two early roads, Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. (Milledgeville Road) and Savannah Road, merge near the center of the neighborhood. Since the area provided both rail-and road-related transportation, industries located within the area. These industries included the Georgia-Carolina Warehouse and Compress Company, the Southeastern Compress and Warehouse Company, brick yards, lumberyards, and Central of Georgia railroad yard. Those settling in the neighborhood were employed by these industries. Of those turn-of-the-century industries, the Georgia-Carolina Warehouse and Compress

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

Company is the only industry with extant buildings still present in the neighborhood.

The residential housing stock was built around the roads and railroad lines. Most of the houses were small, one-story homes so that a high number of houses could fit into a small area; lot sizes were drawn narrow. However, some later and substantial homes were constructed in the neighborhood along Wrightsboro Road and Twiggs Road. The Hornsby House is located on Twiggs Street and is one of the few high style residences located within the neighborhood. Walter S. Hornsby Sr. founded the Pilgrim Health Insurance Company in 1898. It was considered to be the largest African-American business in Augusta at the turn-of-the-century.

Churches were important and vital institutions within the Bethlehem neighborhood. The intact historic churches include Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church (c.1880) on Daniel Street, Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church (c.1900) on Maple Street, Church of God of the Evening Light Reformation (c.1900) on Forest Street, Mount Calvary Baptist Church (c.1927) on Wrightsboro Road, and Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church (c.1921) on Wrightsboro Road. The church in the African-American neighborhood played more of a role than providing religious services. The church also served as a social center and provided a space for those living in the community to discuss political issues, provide education, and support cultural activities.

One of the most significant community landmark buildings remaining within the neighborhood is the Bethlehem Community Center. The center was established by a Methodist women's organization in 1912 to provide day care and educational programs for the youth of the community. The exterior of the building has been significantly altered; however, the interior has maintained its original plan, materials, and workmanship. The neighborhood adopted the Bethlehem name from the community center. Due to the legal segregation in Augusta, African Americans were forced to turn to their own communities for education and other social and economic needs.

9. Major Bibliographic References

- Polatty, Griffith. "Bethlehem Historic District," Historic Preservation Form, December 3, 1996. On file at the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, with supplemental information.
- Callahan, Helen. Augusta: A Pictorial History. Virginia Beach: Donning Company Publishers, 1980.
- Cashin, Edward J. Story of Augusta. Augusta: Richmond County Board of Education, 1980.
- Coleman, Kenneth. A History of Georgia. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1980.
- Dittmer, John. Black Georgia in the Progressive Era 1900-1920. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1977.
- Evans, Lawton B. All About Georgia. New York: American Book Company, 1933.
- Gordon, Asa N. The Negro in Georgia. Ann Arbor: Edwards Brothers, Inc., 1937.
- Westmacott, Richard. African-American Gardens and Yards in the Rural South. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1992.
- Augusta Chronicle
March 9, 1875
January 14, 1892
March 12, 1895
May 9, 1897
May 18, 1897
December 19, 1899
November 3, 1907
January 11, 1911
December 7, 1913
April 30, 1922
June 13, 1928
August 21, 1931
- Richmond County Realty Books
- Augusta City Directory
1900-1942
- Historic Augusta Files
- Interviews
Mr. Wille Cooper
Ms. Edythe Diamond
Mr. S. S. Johnson Jr.
Ms. Addie Scott Powell
Ms. Josephine Richardson
Ms. Charlott Hornsby Watkins

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

- () preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- () previously listed in the National Register
- () 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 250 acres.

UTM References

- A) Zone 17 Easting 409420 Northing 3702300
- B) Zone 17 Easting 408400 Northing 3701630
- C) Zone 17 Easting 407640 Northing 3702920
- D) Zone 17 Easting 407760 Northing 3703120
- E) Zone 17 Easting 409280 Northing 3702480

Verbal Boundary Description

The Bethlehem Historic District is indicated by a heavy black line drawn to scale on the attached USGS map.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encompasses all of the existing contiguous historic development identified in the area associated with the historic Bethlehem community. The boundary reflects a variety of residential homes, commercial buildings, landmark community buildings, domestic landscapes, and transportation related resources. Beyond the boundary is nonhistoric development or historic development associated with other communities.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Griffith Polatty
organization Historic Augusta, Inc.
street & number 111 Tenth Street, P.O. Box 37
city or town Augusta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30903-0037
telephone (706) 724-0436 **date** December, 1993

name/title Amy Pallante
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forysth Street
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 651-2840 **date** October 1997

(HPS form version 10-29-91)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property: Bethlehem Historic District
City or Vicinity: Augusta
County: Richmond
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: April, 1996

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 37 View of McCauley Street; photographer looking north.
- 2 of 37 View of Roulette Lane; photographer looking east.
- 3 of 37 View of abandoned railroad line and shotgun type houses along Anderson Avenue; photographer facing east.
- 4 of 37 View of Augusta Avenue; photographer facing southwest.
- 5 of 37 View of Mill Street; photographer facing east.
- 6 of 37 View of the corner of Mill Street @ Johnson Avenue; photographer facing east.
- 7 of 37 View of Queen Anne house located on Mill Street; photographer facing east.
- 8 of 37 View of Craftsman bungalow on Old Savannah Road; photographer facing east.
- 9 of 37 View of Rossell Street; photographer facing southeast.
- 10 of 37 View of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd (Milledgeville Road); photographer facing northeast.
- 11 of 37 Example of a swept yard on Mercer Street; photographer facing southeast.
- 12 of 37 View of Camille Street; photographer facing north.
- 13 of 37 Shotgun type houses located along Maple Street; photographer facing east.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Photographs

14 of 37 View of double shotgun house Wrightsboro Road; photographer facing west.

15 of 37 View of Wrightsboro Road; photographer facing west.

16 of 37 View of double-pen type house on Chestnut Street; photographer facing north.

17 of 37 View of Craftsman two-story house on Chestnut Street; photographer facing north.

18 of 37 View of shotgun type houses along Twelfth Street; photographer facing north.

19 of 37 View of Colonial Revival two-story house located on Twelfth Street; photographer facing north.

20 of 37 View to two-story Craftsman house located on Picquet Avenue; photographer facing north.

21 of 37 View of the intersection of Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd (Milledgeville Road) @ Old Savannah Road; photographer facing west.

22 of 37 View of Church of God of the Evening Light Reformation; photographer facing northeast.

23 of 37 View of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church; photographer facing west.

24 of 37 View of Mount Calvary Baptist Church; photographer facing west.

25 of 37 View of Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church; photographer facing east.

26 of 37 View of Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church; photographer facing northwest.

27 of 37 View of corner store; photographer facing west.

28 of 37 View of Red and Black Inn; photographer facing north.

29 of 37 View of commercial building located on Twelfth Street; photographer facing north.

30 of 37 View of Pure Oil Station on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. (Milledgeville Road); photographer facing east.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

31 of 37 View of corner store; photographer facing east.

32 of 37 View of corner store; photographer facing south.

33 of 37 View of Bethlehem Community Center; photographer facing south.

34 of 37 View of industrial area located near the intersection of Old Savannah Road and Goodwin Street; photographer facing west.

35 of 37 View of Gulf Oil Refining Company; photographer facing southeast.

36 of 37 View of Georgia-Carolina Warehouse and Compress; photographer facing east.

37 of 37 View of Georgia-Carolina Warehouse and Compress; photographer facing northeast.

Site Plan and Photo Key
Bethlehem Historic District
Augusta, Richmond County, Georgia
Scale is approximately 1"=750'
○ = Photo Number and Direction
Boundary is indicated by a heavy black line

