United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



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

1. Nam	le	Jie Sections			
historic Day	vson Street Resi	dential Histo	ric Distr	ict	-
and/or common					
	ation Roug	ly boun	ded by	worth Glad, and Hansell	Madison, Jock
street & number	See Continuat				A not for publication
	nomasville	<u> </u>	cinity of	congressional district	275
state Georgia	sification	code 013	county	Thomas	code 275
Category X district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public private both Public Acquisition N/A in process being considere	Accessib $ ilde{X}$ yes: re	cupied in progress ie	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park X private residence X religious scientific transportation other:
name Multi	ole owners (more	than 50)			
city, town		vi	cinity of	state	
	tion of Le			on	
	stry of deeds, etc.	Superior Cou			
street & number	Thomas County	Courthouse			
city, town The	omasville			state	Georgia
6. Repr	esentatio	n in Exi	sting	Surveys	
	ic Structures Fic County [See Con	•	has this pro	pperty been determined ei	egible? yes _X_ no
date 1976		sireet.j		federal X stat	e county local
depository for su	rvey records Histo	ric Preservat	ion Secti	on, Georgia Dept. o	f Natural Resources
city, town At	lanta			state	Georgia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
X excellent X good X fair	deteriorated ruins unexposed	unaltered _X_altered	X original site moved date

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Dawson Street Residential Historic District encompasses a large and varied area of intown historic housing dating from the 1830s to the 1930s. Also located within the district are a number of churches, pecan orchards associated with several of the houses, two historic cemeteries, one for whites and one for blacks, and a historic city park. The district has a gridiron plan with predominantly large square blocks subdivided in some cases into many small rectangular lots and in other cases into as few as one or two properties. North Dawson Street and North Broad Street, with a ravine between them .along North Crawford Street, form the spine of the district with land sloping away from them in most directions. In general, the largest houses with the most land are located along North Dawson Street. More modest houses are concentrated in an area of predominantly early-twentieth-century white middleclass housing located northeast of North Young Street and in two historic black settlements (one at the northwest edge of the district along North Broad and North Crawford streets, and the other at the intersection of East Calhoun and Hardeway streets). Houses range from some single- and double-pen cottages in the Broad Street/Crawford Street black settlement to two- and a few threestory mansions along North Dawson Street. Wood is the principal building material used both structurally and decoratively. Antebellum houses are constructed with heavy timber frames; postbellum houses generally feature balloon frames. Most houses are weatherboarded and have one- or two-story front porches with appropriate wood trim. A very few houses and a number of the historic churches are brick veneered. One building at 314 North Dawson, originally associated with Young's Female College, is constructed of "concrete stone." Architectural styles represented in the district include Greek Revival, Victorian Eclectic, Neoclassical, Georgian Revival, and Bungalow/Craftsman. There are also some simple styleless vernacular cottages. Landscaping. in the district is extensive. Most of the houses have front yards informally landscaped with shade trees, flowering trees and shrubs, and grass. A few yards are contained by historic wood and cast-iron fences. Streets are lined with sidewalks and large shade trees, many of them live oaks. The two historic cemeteries are landscaped with trees and ornamental shrubbery, and the white cemetery is enclosed with brick walls and a cast-iron fence. The "Big Oak," a three-hundred-year-old landmark live oak tree, is located in a small park on North Crawford Street.

Non-contributing Structures

There are relatively few non-contributing structures in the district. Major intrusions include about a dozen incompatible commercial structures, primarily along North Broad Street and at the southern edge of the district near Thomasville's commercial center, and several apartment buildings of recent construction. Non-historic structures include a scattering of compatible houses not yet fifty years old and some altered historic houses. A few vacant lots are scattered throughout the district. Non-contributing structures and vacant lots are identified on the attached maps.

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Location & Representation Item number

2. Location

The Dawson Street Residential Historic District in Thomasville, Thomas County, Georgia, is a large area north of the central business district. It is bounded approximately by Madison Street and Broad Street on the west, North Boulevard on the north, North Hansell Street on the east, and East Jackson Street and East Washington Street on the south.

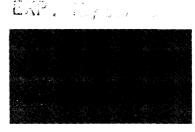
Representation in Existing Surveys

Two houses in this district are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places. These include the Bryan-Davis House (312 North Broad Street--more commonly known as the Hardy Bryan House) and the Lapham-Patterson House (626 North Dawson Street), both listed in the National Register on August 12, 1970. The Lapham-Patterson House was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1974.

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Description

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Boundary

The district encompasses the intact historic residential structures in this large area of Thomasville that developed to the north of the city's commercial center and courthouse square. Recent commercial intrusions and non-historic residential development in the area determine the boundaries.

8. Significance

1400–1499 1500–1599	J ,	X community planning conservation economics X education engineering exploration/settlement	music	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation X other (specify)
Specific dates	1830s-1930s	Builder/Architect Mult	iple	local history

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Dawson Street Residential Historic District is Thomasville's largest intact historic neighborhood. It contains a broad range of residential resources associated with both the black and white communities. In terms of community planning and development, the district is a good example of an incrementally developed neighborhood that grew up as early landholdings were subdivided. In terms of architecture, the district is significant for its wide range of architectural types and styles that provide excellent examples of nearly a century of residential building technology and design practices in Thomasville. In terms of landscape architecture, the district is significant for its extensive landscaping of yards, streets, and cemeteries and for the location within the district of a landmark live oak tree, the "Big Oak." In terms of education, the district is significant for containing the two remaining buildings associated with Young's Female College, an important early school located in the district on Dawson Street. In terms of local history, the district is significant for containing the historic homes of a wide crosssection of Thomasville's citizens, both white and black. These areas of significance support district eligibility under National Register criteria A, B, and C.

Community Planning and Development

Thomasville was laid out as the county seat of newly established Thomas County in 1826 and incorporated in 1831. Its gridiron plan, focused around the courthouse square, is typical of many of Georgia's nineteenth-century county seats. From 1826 to 1853, as the city developed and the county commissioners sold off blocks, the gridded area was extended to include all of Land Lot 39. The Dawson Street Residential Historic District lies almost entirely within Land Lot 39. In fact, it is the ridges of land running along Broad Street and Dawson Street that are probably responsible for the somewhat unique angled orientation of the Thomasville gridiron plan.

Thomasville flourished early in its development and by the 1850s was a bustling center for the surrounding plantation economy. It became the terminus for the Atlantic and Gulf Railroad from Savannah in 1861 and, during the Civil War, served as a supply center for Savannah and a resettlement point for families who had fled from other parts of Georgia. Its economic recovery after the war was unusually rapid for a small Georgia town due to the development there of a winter resort industry. Beginning in the 1870s and climaxing in the late 1880s and 1890s, winter vacationers from the North discovered

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

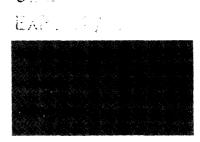
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10.	Geograph	licai pat	<u>a </u>		
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c 1 7		314 115 21710 314 116 41010		7 2 12 114 51910	314 115 41710
G			нЦ		
Verbal bo	undary descriptio	n and justification)n		
	e boundary, out I justified in		neavy black lin	e on the enclose	d map, is described
37.14		for properties o	verlapping state o	r county boundaries	 5
state N/A	.	code	county		code
state		code	county		code
	Carolyn Brooks Historic Pre Georgia Dept	servation Sect	ion	er date June 13, 1	984
street & nun	nber 270 Washin	gton Street, S	S.W.	telephone (404)	656-2840
city or town	Atlanta			state Georgia 3	0334
12. S	tate His	toric Pre	servatio	Officer C	ertification
The evaluate	ed significance of th	nis property within t	the state is:		
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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.					
	ic Preservation Official te Historic Pr	Eli	likll zabeth A. Lyon icer	a. Jym date	7/19/84
For HCRS	•				/////
I heret	by certify that this p	/ 100	tared In the		G 7-01/
Keeper of	the National Registe		tional Regists:	date date	7-104
Attest:		4		date	
Chief of Re	aletration				

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Thomasville's healthy and moderate winter climate and rapidly growing stock of hotels and boarding houses. Many became semi-permanent residents building "cottages" in town for the winter season.

The houses in the district date from every period of Thomasville's historic development from the 1830s to the 1930s and document a pattern of incremental residential development which is typical of many of Georgia's communities. The neighborhood grew as blocks of land were platted and put up for sale and, later, as early landholdings were subdivided. Early houses are scattered through the district and surrounded by houses of later dates. The majority of structures date from the 1880s to the 1910s and coincide with Thomasville's boom years as a winter resort. The district, which includes historic black and white areas, documents a building pattern typical of many of Georgia towns in which affluent white neighborhoods exist in close proximity to more modest black neighborhoods.

Architecture

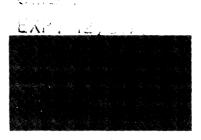
The district contains examples of a wide range of styles and types of houses that document every period of building activity in Thomasville's history. These houses are associated with both the black and white communities. They date from the 1830s to the 1930s and provide excellent examples of a century of building technology and design practices in Thomasville. Included in the district are good examples of the antebellum Greek Revival, the mid- to late-nineteenth-century Victorian Eclectic, the turn-of-the-century Neoclassical, and the early-twentieth-century Georgian Revival and Bungalow/Craftsman styles, as well as examples of simple vernacular cottages. These styles are manifested in both high style and carpenter/builder structures and in a variety of house sizes. Particularly well represented are the many Victorian Eclectic and Neoclassical houses built in the district during Thomasville's winter resort years. Of special note are a few rather rare examples of singlepen houses on Broad Street and Lutten Lane in one of the black areas; the 1830s Hardy Bryan House (312 North Broad Street), a carpenter/builder Greek Revival house believed to be one of the earliest extant houses in Thomasville; the 1856 Hardeway House (526 North Dawson Street) designed by Thomasville's noted builder/architect, John Wind; the 1885 Lapham-Patterson House (626 North Dawson Street) attributed to Tudor Rommerdall, an architect active in Thomasville in the 1880s; and the 1905 "concrete stone" building at 312 North Dawson Street, originally built as the administration building for Young's Female Academy. In addition, there are a number of historic churches in the district associated with both the black and white communities.

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Landscape Architecture

In terms of landscape architecture, the Dawson Street Residential Historic District is significant for its variety of late-nineteenth- and earlytwentieth-century landscaping features which are characteristic of smalltown landscaping throughout Georgia and the entire country during this per-Informally landscaped front yards planted with large shade trees, flowering trees and shrubs, and grass combine with tree-lined streets to create a public park-like environment in the district. Live oaks, found frequently as shade trees in south Georgia, are abundant in both yards and along streets. The "Big Oak," a three-hundred-year-old landmark live oak tree, is located in the district in a small non-historic city park. Two historic cemeteries in the district provide further examples of the typical late-nineteenth- and earlytwentieth-century use of shade trees and shrubs to attain an informal naturalistic setting. Several pecan orchards are associated with houses at the north, less-developed edge of the district and document this popular early-twentiethcentury use of spare land. Of special interest are a number of historic retaining walls and fences, including a brick wall and cast-iron fence around the Old (white) Cemetery, and wood, stone, and cast-iron fences that provide typical examples of late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century front yard enclosures.

Education

In terms of education, the district is significant for the location within its midst of the two remaining buildings associated with Young's Female College, an important early educational institution for women in Thomasville. The school opened on North Dawson Street in 1871 and before closing in 1914 grew to encompass a fifteen-acre campus and a number of buildings. Still extant are the Ponder House (324 North Dawson Street), an antebellum house that was purchased by the college trustees as the school's first dormitory, and 312 North Dawson Street, constructed in 1905 as the College Administration Building. Young's Female College, administered by the Presbyterian Church, documents the important role played by religious institutions in early educational facilities in Georgia. Historically, Thomasville was an educational center in southwest Georgia with a number of important schools and colleges for whites and blacks located in the town. The extant school-associated buildings in this district are among the very few historic school-related structures remaining in Thomasville.

Local History

In terms of local history, the district is significant for containing the historic homes of a wide cross-section of Thomasville's citizens, both white

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Significance

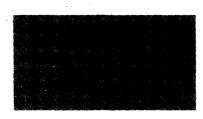
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and black. These included prominent winter vacationers, doctors, judges, educators, clerks, policemen, and servants. Several of the winter vacationers who located in the district are of particular note. Charles W. Lapham, a wealthy Chicago shoe merchant, built the Lapham-Patterson House in 1885 and during his brief association with Thomasville worked toward civic and cultural improvements in the community. Marcus Hanna, a retired Ohio industrialist active in national politics, leased 830 North Dawson Street from 1894 to 1899. In 1895 and again in 1899, President William McKinley and his wife were guests at the house.

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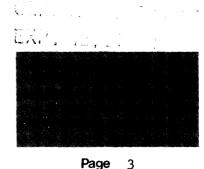
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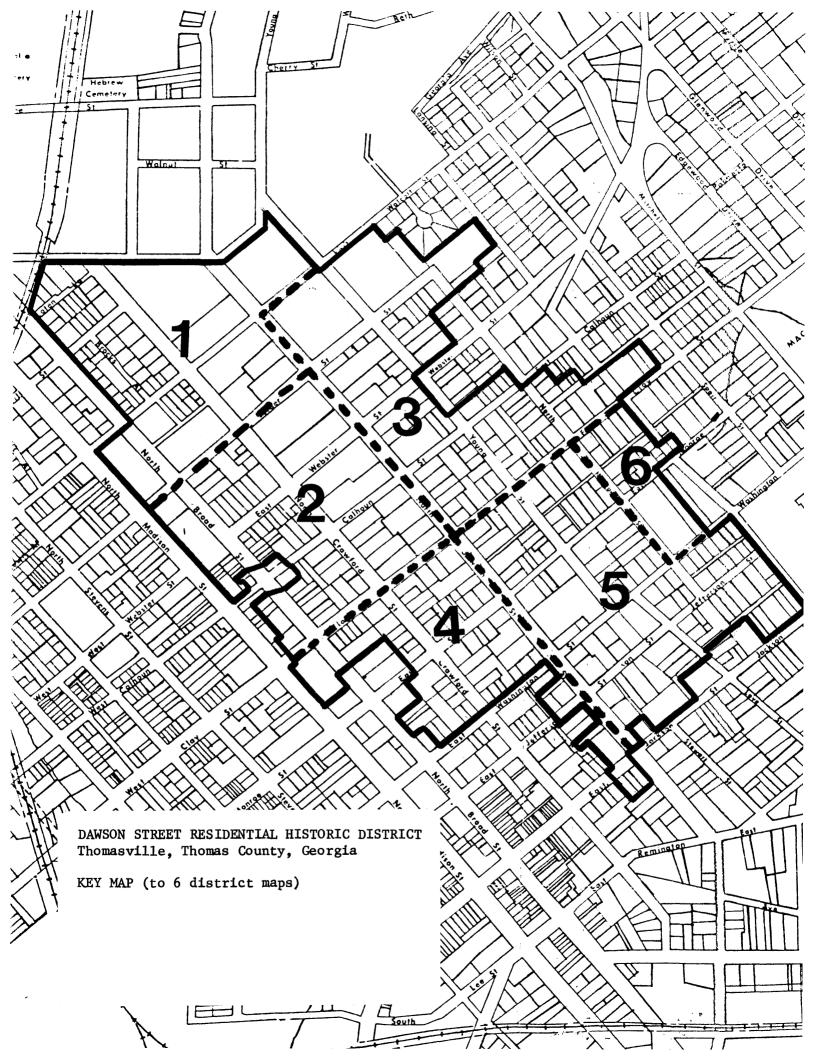
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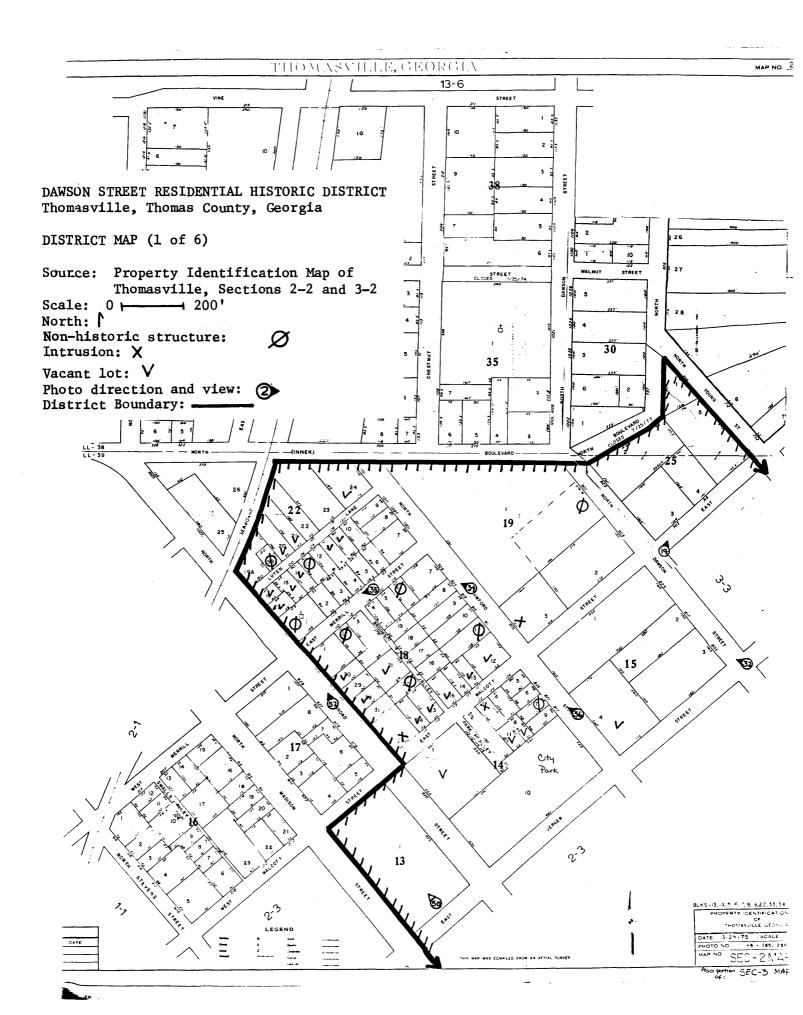
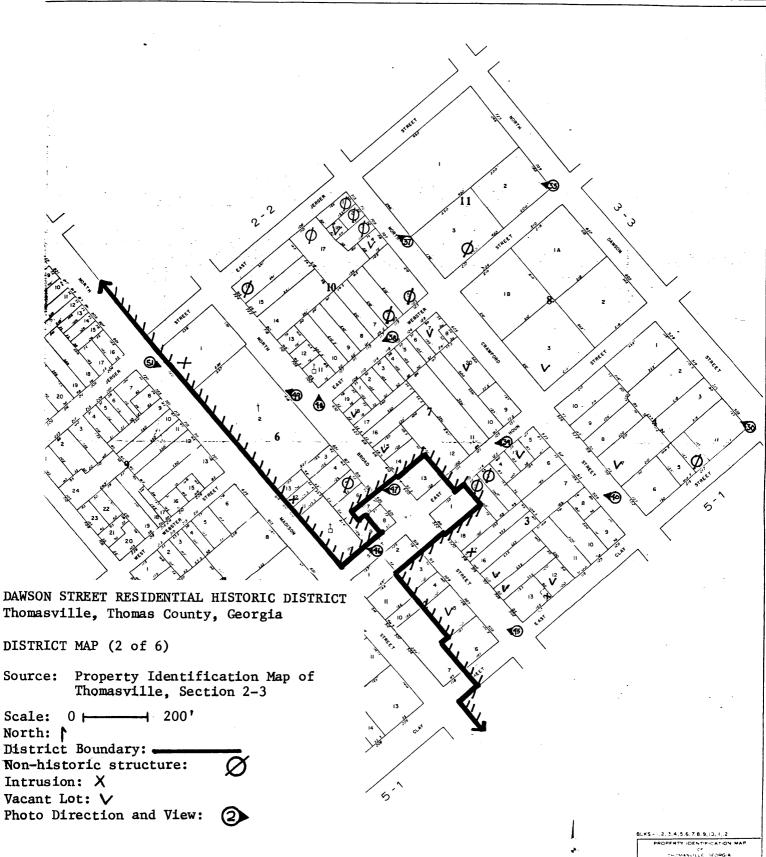
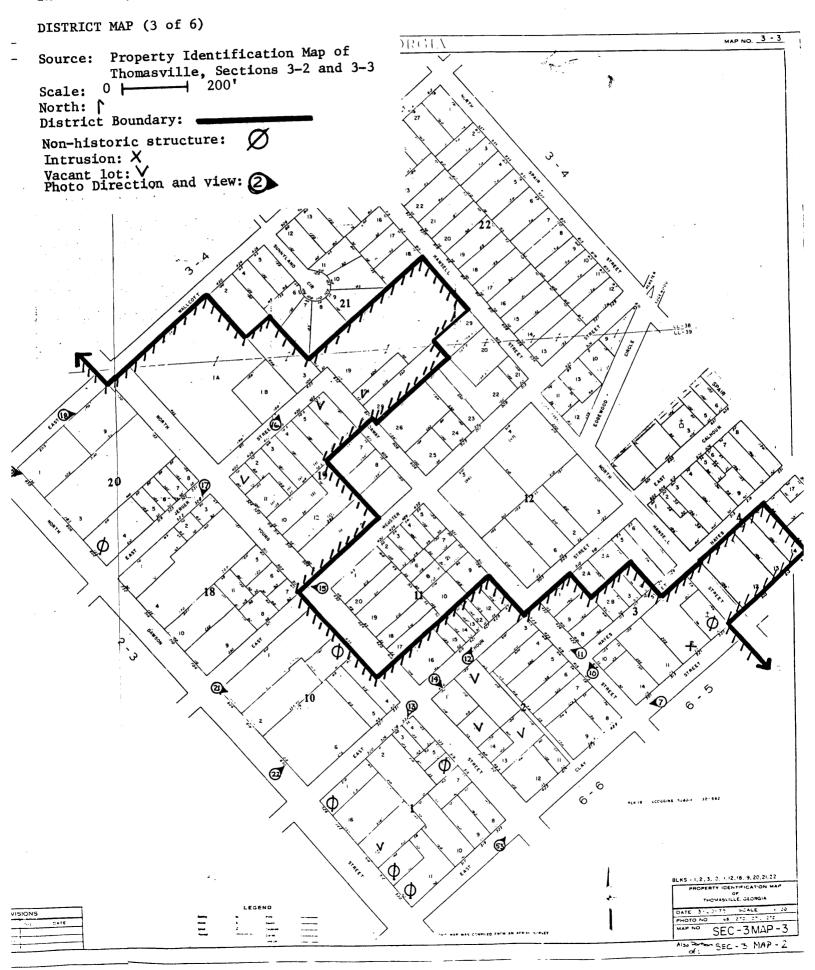
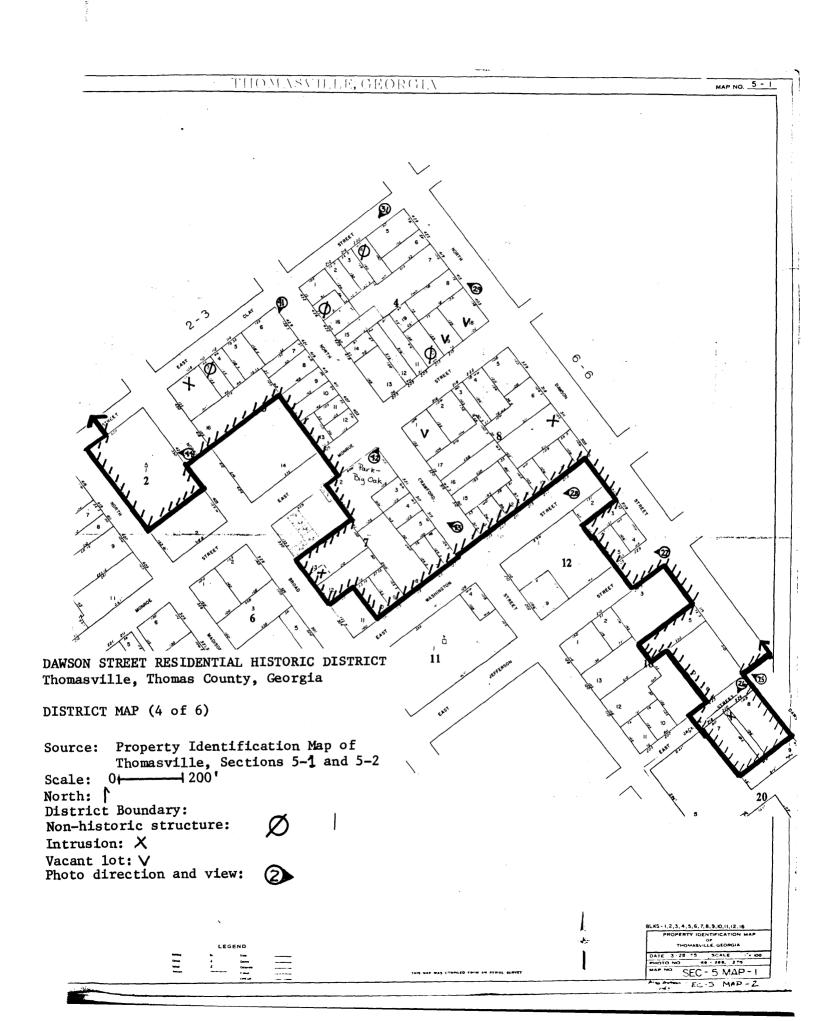


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DAWSON STREET RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT Thomasville, Thomas County, Georgia







DAWSON STREET RESIDENTIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT Thomasville, Thomas County, Georgia

