

PH0085111

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Georgia

COUNTY:
Newton

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE
DEC 4 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Floyd Street Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Floyd Street from Elm to just west of Sockwell Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Covington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
10th - Robert G. Stephens, Jr.

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

COUNTY:
Newton

CODE:
217

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Multiple owners

STREET AND NUMBER:
Floyd Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Covington

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Newton County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Covington

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

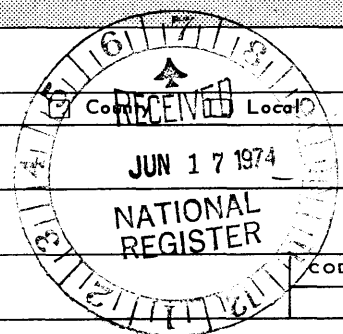
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Covington

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13



STATE: Georgia

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Floyd Street Historic District of Covington was built up during the nineteenth century with houses that range in style from the mid-19th century Greek Revival to the early 20th century Neo-Classical. This district is bounded by Elm Street on the west and stretches along both sides of Floyd Street as far east so as to include vacant lot areas below the Travis and Williams-Adams-Clark Houses, just west of Sockwell Street.

Floyd Street, one of the earliest streets developed in Covington, is a wide, tree lined street with large two story houses lining both sides of the street. Near the corner of Floyd and Elm Streets is the Simms House (1155 Floyd Street). This house, although now used as apartments, still retains much of its interior and exterior original character. An original large portico, however, no longer exists. This portico was replaced by a small columned porch in the 1920's.

Across Floyd Street from the Simms House, is "Swanscombe" (1164 Floyd Street). This two story full porticoed, six columned structure is said to be the oldest weather boarded house in Covington, having been built in 1830 by Cary Wood. In plan the house was originally a two-story, two room central hall structure but later additions of rooms at the rear end of the portico have made it much more complex. An intricate wrought iron fence encloses a boxwood garden and a three gabled, Victorian board and batten cottage that was originally a carriage house now also used as an apartment. The fence stretches westward to include a Neo Classical house that, although erroneous legends say was purchased and remodelled by Olive Swann, was actually built by James H. Porter in 1903, when he married one of Olive Swann's daughters. The Porter-Rogers-Tuck House, as this house is known today, (1146 Floyd Street) is a rambling Neo-Classical Revival building with a hipped roof that features a two story portico which is supported by two groups of three Corinthian columns, a Corinthian pilaster on either side of the door where the triangular roof of the portico joins the wall of the house and a screened in porch on either side of the house.

The Usher House (1187 Floyd Street) is across the street from "Swanscombe". This house is supposed to have been built around 1848 for Robert O. Usher, but the Newton County Deed books do not list Usher as buying substantial amounts of town land before 1851. The Usher House is a square structure with a hipped roof and a widow's walk at the peak of the roof. The roof of this house extends out in front of the house forming a two story portico that is supported by six Doric columns, and a balcony on the first floor over the centered front door. In plan the house has 4 rooms off a central hallway; the early 19th century federal sunburst mantels in the parlor and library were installed in the early 20th century. All other mantels are original and have a simple frieze and pilaster design.

The Judge Floyd House (1184 Floyd Street) is directly across the street from the Usher House and next to "Swanscombe". According to the Newton County Deed Books, Judge John J. Floyd bought land on what was then called the Madison Road around 1837. This deed suggests that the house could date from the early 1840's. The house is constructed with a side pitched roof and a shed type two-story portico that is supported by four Doric columns with a

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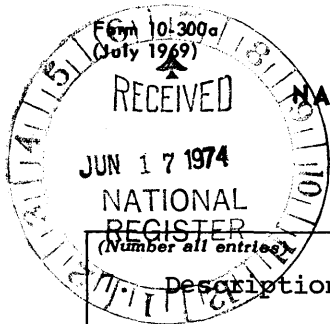
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Georgia	
COUNTY Newton	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE DEC 4 1974



Description

square Doric pier at the outer corners of the portico. The roof and the portico roof are supported by many slender arched brackets. The floor of the portico is reached by steps at the west end of the platform and is enclosed by spindle railing that connects the columns. In plan, the Floyd House is L-shaped with rooms opening into the small, wainscotted central hall. Curved cantilevered steps occur in this hall, as do two original closet areas. The parlor mantels in this house are also of the Adamesque sunburst design.

The Adams-Clark House, now the Wood Apartments, (2130 Floyd Street) is half a block from the Floyd House. This house was built in the early 1920's for L. D. Adams, a local merchant. The house grew slowly into a hipped roof, two story, structure from Adams' original cottage. The roof of this house extends out in front to form a portico that is supported by four Ionic Columns. There is a small balcony under the eaves of this portico over the centered front door.

The Cottage, or the Floyd-Neal-Patterson House, (2149 Floyd Street) is diagonally across the street from the Adams-Clark House. This house was built by McCormick Neal shortly after he married Frances Ann Floyd on land he purchased from Lemuel D. Thompson for \$620.00. This raised cottage is built over a full basement with a wide porch on the street front. The hipped roof extends out over the porch with a dentil cornice and is supported by six small Doric columns. There are also four floor length windows opening off this porch, two on either side of the central front door. The house has a 4 room-central hall plan with stairs leading to the basement kitchen and dining areas from the central hall.

The Travis House (2154 Floyd Street), almost opposite the Cottage, was built around 1868 by Robert Bass Livingston to replace a large columned house that burned down west of the site of the present house which is now occupied by the Adams-Clark House. Today the Travis House is a one and a half story frame building with two projecting wings that come forward at the sides of the building. This house was remodelled after another fire in 1893 and again in 1921. The Travis House has a Federalist Revival fan light over the centered front door and a small pediment with square pilasters surrounding the door.

The Williams-Adams-Cook House near the Cottage and diagonally across the street from the Travis House, was built in 1904 on land that was once part of Judge Floyd's wedding present to the Neals. Like many other houses on Floyd Street, this house is a two-story Neo-Classical Revival structure with a hipped roof that extends out and down one side of the house forming a deep portico which is supported by seven square columns that are connected by an "X" patterned railing. The doorway is built out into this space creating a small balcony on the first floor.

Structures along this section of Floyd Street create a visual history of the Greek Revival style of the mid-nineteenth century and the Neo-Classic Revival of the early twentieth Century.

3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | History |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Floyd Street section of Covington, located just east of the town square, is one of the town's most prominent and most architecturally meritorious streets. Over the course of the 19th century, two major classical revivals are exemplified here in a grand manner.

The district portion of Floyd Street was built up from the 1830's through the turn into the 20th century. The houses in this district exemplify two major styles of architecture - the Greek Revival and the Neo-Classical Revival. Representing the Greek Revival style in its high classical form are the Usher House, the Graham-Simms House, Swanscombe, Judge Floyd's House, and the Cottage. From a town that in 1849 had only 500 to 600 people, this grouping of homes exhibits an unusual wealth of classical structures in relation to Covington as a whole. This district is just one of the main architectural areas in Covington. Around the turn of the century several Neo-Classical homes were built along the street between these mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival homes. The combination of houses that were built during the two revivals of classical architecture are representative of the changes in domestic building between the middle of the nineteenth century and the end of it. Since Floyd Street is still almost entirely residential, the preservation of this street would mean that an area of Greek and Neo-Classical Revival houses would be set aside in a condition approaching their original states.

The prominent families who owned and lived in the mid-19th century Greek Revival and late-19th century Neo-classical houses, add much to the history of Floyd Street. Swanscombe, for instance, is reputed to be the oldest home on Floyd Street. This home was originally built as a smaller structure by Cary Wood who was one of the earliest large planters and merchants of the Covington area of Newton County. He owned, among other tracts of land, the site of the town of Oxford, just north of Covington, that became the original home of Emory University. Other influential owners of Swanscombe have been Civil War General Robert J. Henderson and T. C. Swann, a well-known local industrialist.

The Graham-Simms Home was built by Dr. William P. Graham who was a trustee of the Georgia Methodist Conference Manual Labor School. This school later formed the beginnings of Emory University. This house later became the boyhood home of Civil War General Richard L. Simms, Jr.

The Floyd House was first owned by John J. Floyd who was an early

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Faulkner, Dr. Robert, submitted first draft of of Usher House, now on file at Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources.
 Macgregor, Elizabeth, personal inspection, November 20, 1973.
 Stevens, Carole, Research of courthouse records, on file at Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources.
 Williford, William Bailey, The Glory of Covington, Cherokee Publishing Co., 1973.

NW 17/235 310/3720 970 NW 17/235 310
 SE 17/235 300/3720 910 SE 17/235 300
 SW 17/235 310/3720 820 SW 17/235 310

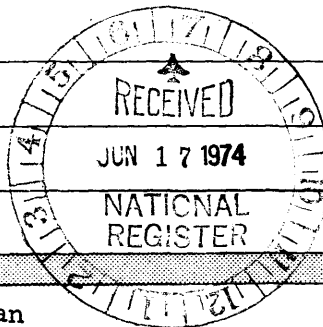
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	33°	35'	50"	83°	51'	31"			
NE	33°	35'	50"	83°	51'	08"			
SE	33°	35'	45"	83°	51'	08"			
SW	33°	35'	45"	83°	51'	31"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **approximately 30 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Elizabeth Z. Macgregor, Architectural Historian
 Carole A. Stevens, Researcher

ORGANIZATION: Historic Preservation Section, Dept. Natural Resources DATE: March 22, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
270 Washington Street, S.W. Room 703C

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Mary Gregory Jurett

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date March 28, 1974

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

A. R. Mortenson
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/4/74

ATTEST:
Andy Perry
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date Dec. 3, 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Georgia	
COUNTY Newton	
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	DEC 4 1974

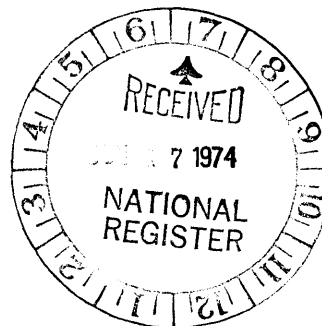
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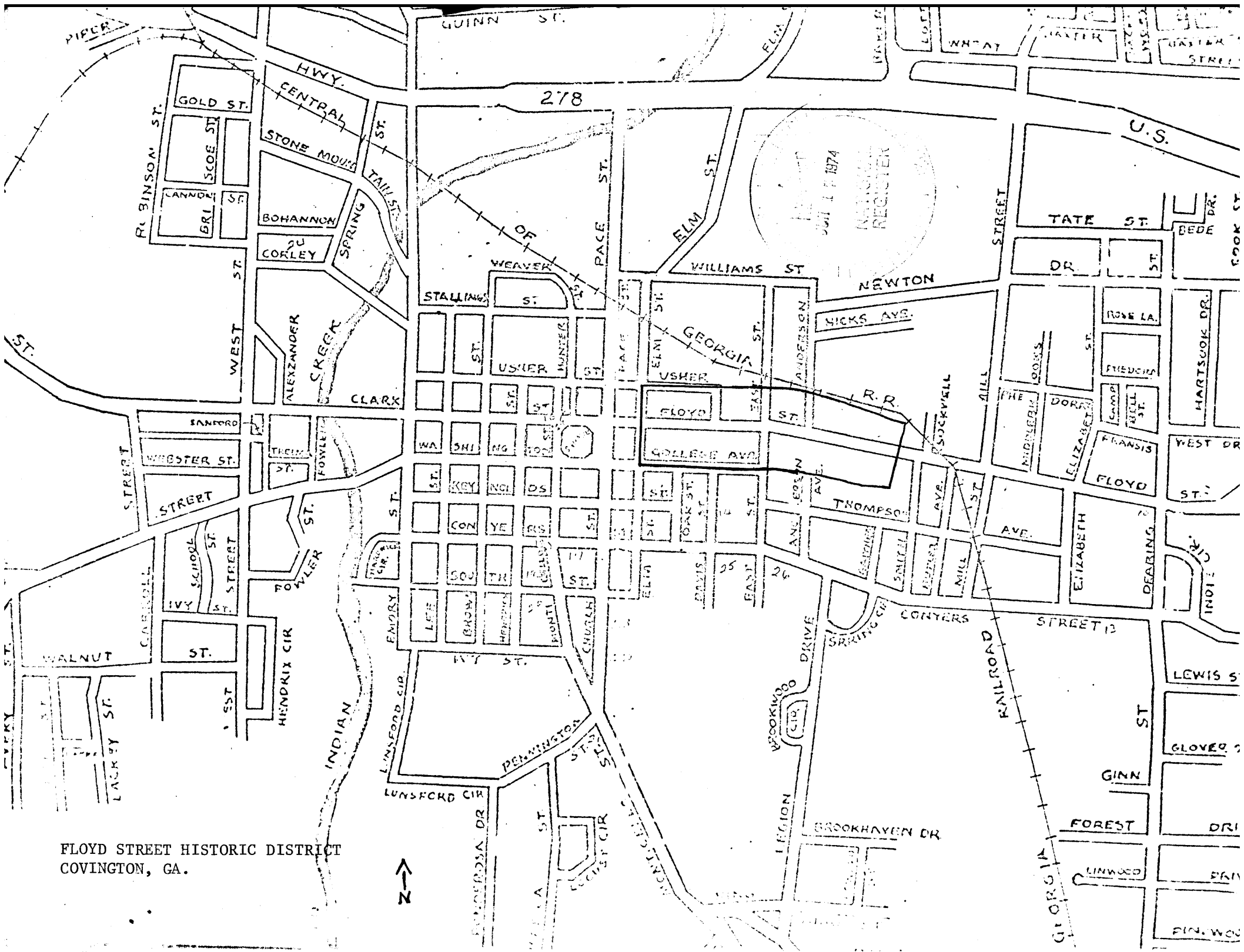
8. Significance

Newton County Judge, lawyer, and state legislator. The Floyd House was later owned by Edward Heard, a merchant in Covington during the 1880's and the 1890's.

The land for the Cottage, down the street from the Floyd House, was given by Judge Floyd to his daughter Frances Anne Floyd when she married McCormick Neal. Neal, like his father-in-law, was a lawyer and later a judge. After the last of the Neals moved out of the house, it was rented to Captain and Mrs. A. R. Bomar of Chapel Hill Plantation in Douglas County and then the Clark family among others.

The richness and fine detailing of these homes was a result of wealth derived from the fertile farmland that surrounds Covington. These farm-related enterprises supported the 500 or 600 people who lived in Covington in 1849 as well as the 3,000 who lived there in 1900 and helped them to build this compact wealth of classical homes that makes Floyd Street in Covington so unique today.





278

REGISTERED
JUL 17 1974
NATIONAL
REGISTER

FLOYD STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
COVINGTON, GA.

