DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Marietta has a variety of nineteenth and early twentieth century houses, structures, and sites. The largest predominate historical sphere is concentrated in the northwest quadrant of the city. The historic district in the quadrant has three different categories of historical distinction. Such homes as "Tranquilla" on Kennesaw Avenue and the Glover-Glair-Anderson House on Whitlock Avenue exemplify the aristocratic styles of Marietta's more wealthy citizens. The railroad brought much industry to Marietta, and along the L&N railroad tracks are factories, depots and commercial establishments that were and are important in Marietta's growth and development. With the coming of the railroad Marietta became a middle class community, the remains of which are still prevalent on parts of Church Street and Polk Street.

KENNESAW AVENUE

The Avenue has many omnifarious structures, from the simple and magnificent Greek Revival Style to the elaborate Victorian style structures. The Hansell-Camp-Keller House, or "Tranquilla" as it is often called, (1849), 435 Kennesaw Avenue, is a superb Greek Revival Style house that was once the home of General Andrew J. Hansell, who was adjutant general of Georgia during the War Between the States. The classical design of "Tranquilla," may have been influenced by the Connecticut architect, Willis Ball, who helped design several Greek Revival houses in Roswell, Georgia, a few years before. Another Greek Revival home, the Howell-Sessions-Hallman House, (c.1848), 303 Kennesaw Avenue, about 200 yards south of "Tranquilla", is a monumental two story, porticoed structure with a four room central hall. The Howell-Sessions-Hallman House was used as a headquarters for a Federal General during the Civil War and later, in the 1880's was used as the Harwood Female Seminary; in the 1890's a Moultrie Sessions purchased the property and performed extensive exterior and interior changes.

There are several Plantation Plain homes with Classic and Victorian stylistic overtones on Kennesaw Avenue. The Gignilliat-Cheek-Griffin House, (c. 1840), 243 Kennesaw Avenue, is in the style of a mid 19th century, A. J. Downing - type early Victorian home. Exterior remodeling of the late 19th century has produced some of the Victorian appearance. The use of gingerbread trim on the gabled eaves and veranda and the double hung sashed windows gives the Gignilliat-Cheek-Griffin House a distinctive appearance. About 3/4 mile northwest of the Gignilliat-Cheek-Griffin House is the Garden Center House, (c. 1852), 505 Kennesaw Avenue, "Fair Oaks" has an unusual design with a high and broad gabled front facade with a first floor classical style porch and the Victorian detail on the second floor. The Wilder-Anderson-Goodman House, (c. 1838), 581 Kennesaw Avenue, "Oakton", is mid-Victorian in appearance, but was originally Greek Revival with a single-story circular columns across the front porch. "Oakton" is located near the northern edge of the historic district on Kennesaw Avenue.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

NORTHWEST MARIETTA HISTORIC DISTRICT

Marietta, Georgia, in the face of rapid urban expansion has been able to retain a number of 19th and early 20th century structures and sites. The city was, according to the Georgia historian, Lucian Lamar Knight, named for the famous pioneer town of the Ohio Valley. Marietta was incorporated and made "the site of public buildings," (or the county seat) for Cobb County by an Act of Legislature on December 19, 1834. Life in early Marietta centered on the activities associated with a county seat and as a health resort during the summer for families of the coast of Georgia. Industry and commerce expanded as the old Western and Atlantic Railroad reached the city.

The Western and Atlantic Railroad, which ran the length of Cobb County by 1843 was an important factor in the growth and development of Marietta. By 1850, when the railroad was completed between Chattanooga and Atlanta, Marietta had grown into a transportation and industrial center that depended on and was tied to the benefits of the railroad. Many of the builders of factories and homes in the 1840's and 1850's were there as a direct result of the railroad. After the War Between the States, the railroad still played an important part in the city's industry and commerce Many of the historic structures in the Northwest Marietta Historic District have a direct connection with the railroad.

The city also has a rich historic background incidental to its location on Sherman's route in the Atlanta Campaign in the War Between the States. Marietta was the center of a wide area of heavy fighting during the battles around Kennesaw Sherman was able to capture Marietta on July 3, 1864. While under the Federal occupation of 1864 the city and its citizens suffered a great deal. Many of the skilled factory workers were shipped north to Ohio and most of the factories, commercial buildings, and the Courthouse with all its records in the city were destroyed and/or burnt by Sherman's direct orders. The city did not completely recover from the devastations of the war until well into the 20th Century.

Architecturally, the northwest section of Marietta has some well defined Victorian areas on Kennesaw Avenue, Polk and Church Streets. Interspersed in the area are fine examples of classical design, both mid 19th century and late 19th and early 20th century. As cited in "#7 Description" in this form, the North west Marietta Historic District represents some of the best collections of historic structures and reflects the residential, as well as commercial and industrial

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Many houses along Kennesaw Avenue have a middle and late Victorian style. One of the most impressive Victorian homes is the Brumby-Sibley-Corley House, (c. 1882), 285 Kennesaw Avenue. Built by the first owner of the famous Brumby Chair Factory, James Remley Brumby, this mid-Victorian house is, by the evidence of a 1885 drawing, unchanged in external appearance. The Brumby-Wallace-Dennington House, (c. 1883), 267 Kennesaw Avenue, next to the Brumby-Sibley-Corley House is a two story frame house with a one story porch on two sides and delicate detail on the gabled eaves and along the exterior cornice area. The Brumby-Wallace-Dennington House is in the process of being restored by its present owners.

Interspersed between these and other structures are other Greek Revival and Victorian structures. There are very few non-historic intrusions along the mile and 1/4 length of the historic area of Kennesaw Avenues. The only intrusion that detracts from the historic atmosphere along the avenue is a group of six apartments on the east side of the Avenue across from the intersection of Holland Street and Kennesaw Avenue. Overall there is a historic feeling and presence along this stretch of historic structures which makes Kennesaw Avenue an important part of the Northwest Marietta Historic District.

CHURCH STREET

The section of Church Street between Sessions Street on the north and Polk-Lemon Street on the South has many examples of Greek Revival and Victorian structures. One of the older homes in the area is the Root House, (c. 1840), Lemon Street, behind the Clarke Library Building on Church Street. The Root House, a modest Plain Plantation style house, was the home of one of Marietta's pioneer businessmen. The Clarke Library Building, (c. 1893), Church Street, on the corner of Church Street and Polk-Lemon Street has an octagon shape which was in vogue during the mid 19th century.

On the corner of Kennesaw Avenue and Church Street are two Greek Revival style houses of the late and early periods. The Rogers-Abbott-Fowler House, (c. 1850), Church Street, has a two gallery columned portico, an unusual design for Greek Revival in Georgia. The McLellan-Birney House, (c. 1870), Church Street, shows the prevailing and enduring nature of the Classic Greek style in the south. The McLellan-Birney House was the childhood home of Alice (Allie) McLellan (Birney), 1859-1907, founder of the National Parent

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Teachers Association, P.T.A. Another example of the persistence of the classical style in the South is the McNeal-Hawkins-Hamrich House, (c. 1895), 331 Church Street. The house, which is near the corner of Session and Church Streets, is a neo-classical, two story frame structure with a corinthian portico, full entablature and hip roof.

Most of the structures on Church Street, although not as spectacular as the homes along Kennesaw Avenue, have an historic middle class feeling of early Marietta.

POLK STREET

The north side of Polk Street in the Northwest Marietta District contains some outstanding examples of Victorian architecture. The Nutting-Law House, (c. 1866), 60 Polk Street, on the corner of Polk and Locust Streets is a very interesting house architecturally. The mansard roof and jig saw scroll work trim of the gabled dormers gives the Nutting-Law House a very Victorian appearance. Next to the Nutting-Law House is the Groves-Mims House, (c. 1850), Polk Street. The Groves-Mims House, (c. 1850) is a cottage Greek Revival style with some unusual columns on two sides. The King-Pratt House, (c. 1880), 90 Polk Street, the last house on the north side of Polk on the western edge of the historic district, is a one story frame Victorian cottage style with detailed trim work on the gabled roof.

ALONG THE L&N RAILROAD TRACKS

There are some examples of Marietta's early industry, trade and commerce along the railroad. The northern most structure within the historic district is the Brumby Chair Factory, (c. 1879), 167 Church Street, at which the famous Brumby rocker is produced. Near Whitlock Avenue and along the railroad is the Kennesaw House, (c. 1845), 21 Depot Street. Called the "Breakfast House" between 1845-1855, this structure was built by John H. Glover and sold to a Dix Fletcher in 1855. Fletcher constructed a four-story hotel around the "Breakfast House" and renamed it the "Fletcher House". The Hotel was the quarters used by the Andrews Raiders the night before they stole the Locomotive "General" in the famed Locomotive chase in 1862. Fletcher owned and managed the House until 1864, when the hotel was commandered by the Confederate Government for a hospital and later occupied by Federal Soldiers until November, 1964 when

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it was partially burned. Between 1865-67 the Fletcher House was restored and remodeled into a three story hotel and renamed The Kennesaw House by its new owner, a F. L. Freyer. The hotel has changed owners several times since and has become a center for historic preservation activity in Marietta.

There are many other examples of industry and commerce along the railroad tracks. Two good examples are the Freight and Passenger Depots. On the whole the structures along the L&N Railroad exemplify Marietta's changing business and industry. Although there are several modern industrial and commercial intrusions along the railroad, there are a sufficient number of historic structures to have a historical sense and view.

WHITLOCK AVENUE

Two structures on Whitlock are examples of the wealth in early Marietta; the Nichols-Benson House, (c. 1850), along with the servants quarters and the Glover-Blair-Anderson House, (c. 1851), 81 Whitlock Avenue, smoke house and servants quarters. The Glover-Blair-Anderson House is unquestionably one of the finest antebellum structures in Marietta. This two story brick stuccoed structure has a hipped roof, heavy lintel window treatment and a simple one story East Lake influenced porch. In the 1870's, as a result of a fire in the attic, the house was restored immediately after which resulted in the elaborate Victorian appearance.

The other streets and avenues within the district contain late nineteenth and early twentieth century structures with few non-historic cultural intrusions.

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growth of the 19th century in Marietta.

Marietta did not rapidly expand until after World War II. As late as 1930, the population of the city was only 7638, in 1970 the immediate metropolitan area population was 150,000. During this tremendous growth period, many of the city's historic structures and sites were destroyed or suffered modern intrusions; however, the community has been able to preserve a great deal of its cultural and architectural wealth. The Northwest Marietta Historic District is the largest historic area and has the least intrusions in the city. This will be the only historic district which will contain a cross section of Marietta's early existence, i. e. elaborate and upper class homes, middle class and lower middle class homes, commercial buildings, and industrial complexes. Marietta is very fortunate to have so many historic structures and sites survive the destruction of the Civil War and 20th century urban sprawl.

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 1835.
- Macgregor, Elizabeth Z., Consultant, Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Agnew, David T., personal inspection, March 12, 1975.

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moving along a line 50 yards east of the railroad tracks approximately 360 yards to Whitlock Avenue; moving west approximately 130 yards on Whitlock Avenue to Husk Street; moving South to a point approximately 130 yards on Husk Street; moving west from this point on Husk Street approximately 430 yards to a point that is 98 yards west of McDonald Street and 130 yards due South of Whitlock Avenue; (This is the southern most boundary of this district) from the southwest point of the district move in a northerly direction approximately 875 yards to a point 60 yards north of the intersection of Maple Avenue, Holland Street and Camp Street; moving from the point north of this intersection, move 125 yards in a northeast direction to a point that is approximately 210 yards southwest of Kennesaw Avenue; move north from this point 100 yards to a point approximately 125 yards southwest of Kennesaw Avenue; moving along a line 125 yards southwest of Kennesaw Avenue in a northwest direction for about 1350 yards to the edge of Noses Creek; moving from this point on Noses Creek 250 yards across Kennesaw Avenue in a northeast direction: (This is the northern most point within the district) moving from this point 1270 yards southeast along the east side of Kennesaw Avenue to a point due west approximately 170 yards from the intersection of Campbell Hill Street and Sessions Street; moving from this point move east about 480 yards to the intersection of Church and Sessions Streets. The boundaries as defined are intended to include properties on both sides of designated streets, except Cherokee and Session Streets.

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Amendment to Verbal Boundary Description of the Northwest Marietta Historic District item number 1D, page 2.

Further clearification of the boundary line of the Northwest Marietta Historic District on the Southwestern extremities and along the east side of Kennesaw Avenue.

The Southwest point of the historic district is 130 yards due South of Whitlock Avenue and 98 yards due west of McDonald Street near the back property line of the west side of McDonald Street; from this point move north along the back property line of McDonald Street to and across Whitlock Avenue; the boundary line then follows the back property line of Teem Street, crosses Polk Street about 80 yards due east of Winn Street and continues in a northerly direction to a point about 50 yards north of the intersection of Maple Avenue, Holland Street and Camp Street near the back property line of Holland Street. (this Southwest boundary line is approximately 875 yards long and will not include a cemetery at the Southeast corner of Winn and Polk Street.) From the point that is due north of the intersection of Maple Avenue, Holland Street and Camp Street the boundary line moves 125 yards in a northeast direction along the back property line of Holland Street to a point that is approximately 43 yards due west of Awtry Street; from this point the boundary line moves due north for 100 yards to a point that is 125 yards southwest of Kennesaw Avenue and near the back property line of Kennesaw Avenue and 60 yards due north of Stewart Avenue. The rest of the Western boundary is described in the original description in the nomination.

The eastern boundary of the historic district along Kennesaw Avenue is described as follows: the northern most point of the district is on the east side of Kennesaw Avenue approximately 125 yards northeast of Kennesaw Avenue on Noses Creek. From this point move in a southeast direction along the back property line of the east side of Kennesaw Avenue for approximately 650 yards to the L&N Railroad tracks; from this point the district will include all the property between the L&N Railroad tracks and the east sie of Kennesaw Avenue; the boundary line along the RR tracks will move approximately 250 yards in a southeast direction to a point that is 170 yards due west of the intersection of Campbell Hill Street and Sessions Street. The rest of the eastern boundary is described in the original description.

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DATE ENTERED

Prepared by:

David T. Agnew

Historic Preservation Section

May 9, 1975

Jackson O'Neal Lamb, Chief

State Historic Preservation Officer

May 9, 1975

