

City of Douglas Georgia

Est. 1895



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July 1, 2022

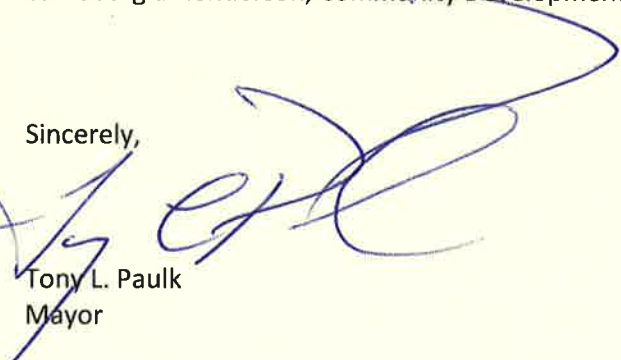
Dr. David Crass, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
DNR Historic Preservation Division
Jewett Center for Historic Preservation
2610 GA Hwy 155, SW
Stockbridge, GA 30281

Dear Dr. Crass:

The City of Douglas hereby submit its report to aid in the local historic designation of Gaskin Avenue as provided for in the City of Douglas' ordinance.

As the chief elected official of the City of Douglas, I understand that it will be necessary for our local government, along with Douglas' Historic Preservation Committee, to satisfy the requirements of having a local designated district as spelled out in Georgia's Procedures for local districts. Accompanying this letter are all the documents requested to aid in the process of designating a local district. Should you need any additional materials or have any questions, please call Georgia Henderson, Community Development Director at (912) 383-0277.

Sincerely,


Tony L. Paulk
Mayor

GASKIN AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Gaskin Avenue Local Historic District is an area of approximately fourteen square blocks spanning north to south, and approximately eight blocks spanning west to east. The district is located near Downtown Douglas and sits on the northeast side of the city. The area is roughly bound by Church Street on the north; Cross Street on the east; Hunter Street on the south; and Madison Avenue on the west. The grid pattern area is primarily residential with a few commercial and community buildings.

The district follows the exact boundaries as submitted and approved for the National Registry of Gaskin Avenue Historic District, in 1993. PLEASE FOLLOW ALONG THE ATTACHED PROPOSED LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT MAP, as the exact boundaries are explained. The first parcel of the district begins at the southeast corner of the N. Madison Avenue and Church Street intersection.

The district continues south on N. Madison Avenue encompassing the five (5) parcels of the next block on the east side and the last three (3) parcels of the opposing block on the west side. Continuing south on Madison Avenue, the west side of the next block consists of the first three (3) parcels and encloses the boundary. The opposing block on the east side of Madison Avenue includes the four (4) parcels along Madison Avenue and the two (2) parcels headed east directly behind the four (4) parcels located on E Walker Street. All eight (8) parcels of the opposing block on E. Walker Street are included as well. The adjacent block heading west on Walker Street encloses the district's boundary while including the three (3) parcels on the southwest side of Madison Avenue and E. Walker Street intersection. The entire next east side block, headed south on Madison Avenue, extends the boundary line of the district.

The next block heading east on E. Jefferson Street of the previous block encloses the district with the two (2) parcels located on the southeast side of the intersection of N. Pearl Avenue and E. Jefferson Street. Continuing to head south on N. Pearl Avenue, the district resumes and includes the entire southwest block at the intersection of N. Pearl Avenue and E. Schley Street. Continuing south on Pearl Avenue, the entire next block located on the west side is included in the district along with the opposing east side block on Pearl Avenue which encloses the district with the one (1) parcel located on the northeast side of the Pearl Avenue and E. Franklin Street intersection. Although the boundary line excludes the rest of that block, proceeding east it resumes on the next block, beginning at 411 E Franklin Street. Also included in the district as it extends are 415 E. Franklin Street; 501, 519, and 521 N. Gaskin Avenue; and 418 and 412 E. Gordon Street.

The district continues on the opposing east side block of N. Gaskin Avenue. That entire block encloses the district with exception of the parcels located at 514 and 516 Gordon Street. These two (2) parcels are located north of the two (2) parcels located at 515 and 519 E. Franklin Street, which are included in the district. Proceeding to head south on Coweta Avenue, the district encompasses the three (3) parcels on the east side of the avenue. Heading back west from Coweta Avenue, every parcel of every block is included in the district until Madison Avenue. The district ends and only envelops one (1) parcel on the west side of Madison Avenue, parcel number D012 137. This parcel is partially vacant. 404 N. Peterson Avenue sits on the non-vacant side of the parcel.

Going back to Madison Avenue and heading south, the entire next block on the east side extends the boundary line of the district. Continuing east, every parcel of every block extending to N. Coweta Avenue is included in the district. The next block east of N. Coweta Avenue encloses the district and encompasses only the properties located at 308 N. Coweta Avenue, the vacant lot that sits behind 308 N. Coweta Avenue, 601, 605, 607, 619, and 621 E. Jackson Street. The entire opposing block south of E. Jackson Street is included in the district.

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Enclosing the district east of the previous block are the properties located at 214 and 216 Dewey Avenue, as well as 713 and 715 E. Sellers Street.

Heading back west along the grid pattern block, every parcel of every block extending from N. Coweta Avenue to Madison Avenue is included in the district. The boundary ends at Madison Avenue. The opposing block south of Madison Avenue is excluded from the district. However, the entire next block heading east towards Coffee Avenue resumes the district. Heading east, every parcel of each block between Coffee Avenue and N. Dewey Avenue is included in the district.

Eastbound, the entire block that extends from 701 Ward Street to McDonald Avenue broadens the district. However, the block north of 701 Ward Street encloses the district including all parcels with the exceptions of 720 and 724 Sellers Street which neighbor north of 817 Cleveland Street. The district also excludes 820 and 821 Cleveland Street which neighbor south of 720 and 724 Sellers Street. The entire block south of the previous block is also included in the district.

Headed east, the district continues but only includes 901, 909, and 917 E Ward Street. Crossing Dart Street, the district ends and only includes 1001, 1019, and 1023 Ward Street. The south opposing block continues to boundary the district and includes the vacant lot (104 McDonald Avenue) that sits on the southeast corner of Ward Street and McDonald Avenue, as well as 908, 910, 916, 1002, 1008, 1012, and 1016 Ward Street. To the south of those addresses, 106 and 120 McDonald Avenue and 907, 911, and 913 Ethel Street continue to outline the district.

Headed west from the enclosure parcels, every parcel of the entire next block between McDonald Avenue and Gaskin Avenue is included in the district. Proceeding west, every parcel in the subsequent block between Gaskin Avenue and Coffee Avenue is included in the district. Headed back east, every block between Gaskin Avenue and McDonald Avenue and bound between Ethel Street and Bryan Street are included in the district. The district is then enclosed on the block proceeding. Enclosing the district are 902 Ethel Street which borders the southeast corner of the intersection of N. McDonald Avenue and Ethel Street, the vacant lot at the northeast corner of the intersection of McDonald Avenue and Bryan Street, as well as 905 and 907 Bryan Street.

The block south of the previous block continues to enclose the district and is bound by seven (7) parcels. The block begins with 302 S. McDonald Avenue and extends eastward, encompassing the next parcel, 908 and 1220 E. Bryan Street. The district concludes at 314 Academy Drive, along with the two (2) small parcels south and east of 314. The Eastside school building sits on these two (2) smaller parcels.

Headed west along the border of the district includes every parcel of the entire next block. Continuing west, every parcel of every block until Gaskin Avenue is included in the district. The district is concluded with the southwest block located at S. Gaskin Avenue and E. Bryan Street including addresses 414, 416, 418, and 420 Bryan Street, as well as 403, 407, and 411 S. Gaskin Avenue.

The district began development in the 1890s through 1972 on an extension of the same grid pattern that was established at the town's founding in the 1850s. As the district was approved and established through the National Registry, the city and its residents would nominate the same area and boundary line for a Local Historic designation. The district is primarily residential while encompassing commercial, governmental, institutional, and community structures. The district sits in the town center of Douglas. Gaskin Avenue, the actual street, was the epicenter from which prosperity bloomed. The majority of older houses are located

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between the Gaskin Avenue district and the downtown commercial area. Growth of residential development began to the east of this area.

The most stylistic residential structures are along Gaskin Avenue and adjacent streets. The historic buildings in the district include major architectural styles with the most popular being various revival styles. These include Greek Revival, Colonial Revival, Italian Renaissance Revival, Mediterranean Revival, and Spanish Revival. Amongst other popular styles included are; Cape Cod, Italianate, English Cottage, Dutch Colonial, Country, Farmhouse, Folk Victorian, American Bungalow, Queen Anne, Georgian, Ranch, Traditional, American Foursquare, Contemporary Craftsman, and Craftsman. Modest housing developed on the north side of the district on Madison Avenue and in the area between Sellars Street and Gordon Street, as well as on the south side of the district between Sellars Street and the Chessie Seaboard Consolidated (CSX) railroad tracks. Although this district has a plethora of styles, most of the buildings are wood-framed; but there are also examples of brick-veneered, cement siding, stucco buildings, as well as a few shingled examples.

The commercial buildings within the district have a heavier concentration along Madison Avenue. Some of the commercial buildings are original housing built in the area, however, local businesses have helped in keeping the housing intact by re-purposing the houses for commercial use. Although the original houses are contributing resources, the commercial buildings along Madison Avenue, add to the district by being non-contributing resources. These include a Burger King on the southwest corner of N. Madison Avenue at E. Walker Street as well as South Georgia Cosmetic & General Dentistry located at the intersection of N. Madison Avenue and Wilson Street.

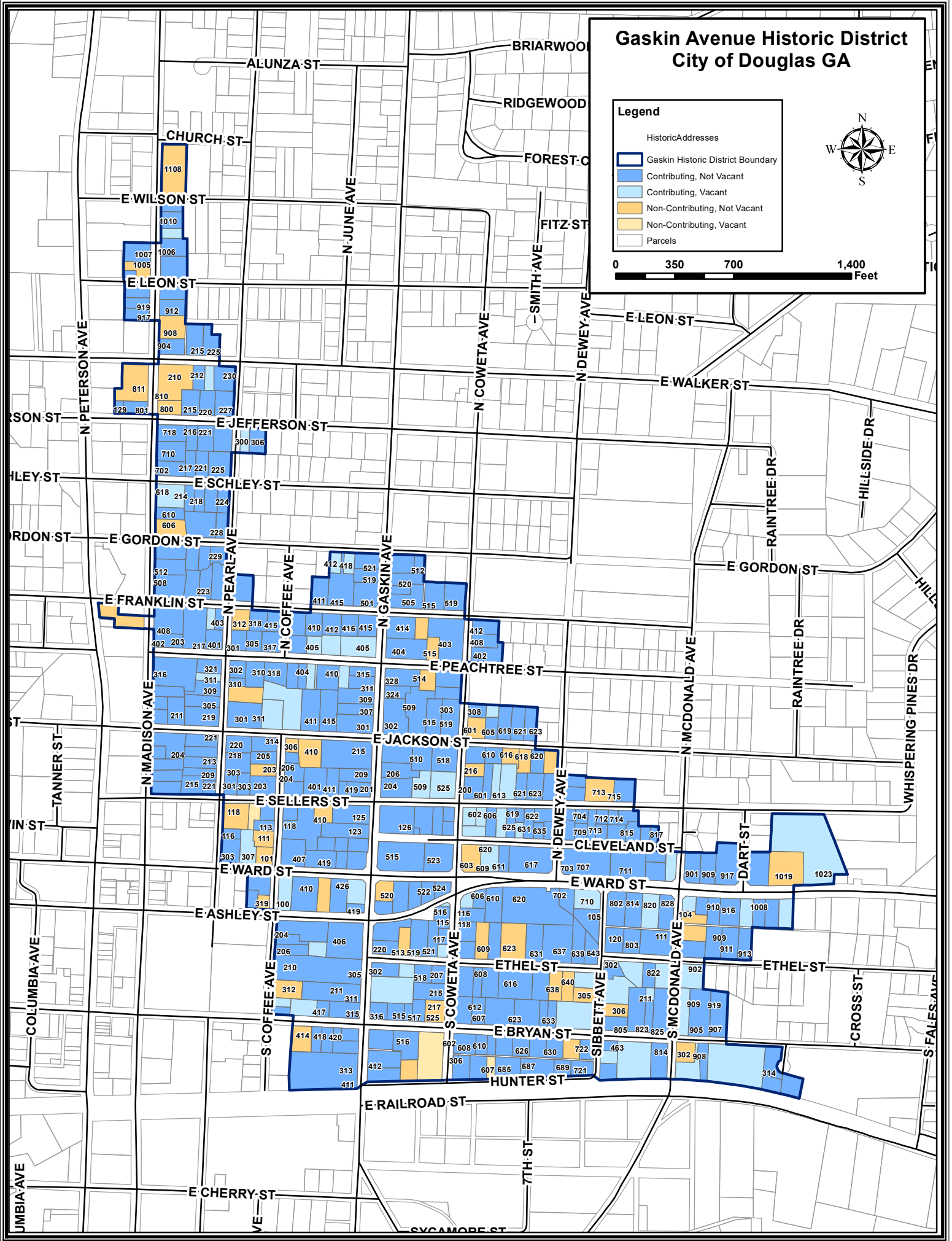
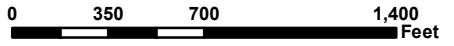
Our community buildings in the district include churches, a social clubhouse, and a former hospital. Although several churches are within the district, only one is a contributing resource. This wood-framed Colonial-Revival-style Catholic church was constructed in the late 1930s on the northwest corner of the intersection of Ward Street and Coweta Avenue. In the 1930s, the local Douglas Woman's Club constructed its Craftsman-style clubhouse on Coffee Avenue and Sellers Street. The clubhouse still stands today at that very corner. The former hospital is a one-story stucco building on Ward Street at Dewey Avenue. It was constructed in the 1930s and is currently owned by the Coffee County Board of Education which once operated at this location.

Although Douglas had its economic start in turpentine, timber, and tobacco, these products also aided in the natural landscaping of the district. Douglas has varied little from the original vegetation. The majority of landscaping within the district conforms to what has been identified as the 19th-century New South Landscape form of the residential neighborhood. Created from the composite of individually landscaped yards, and from the results of new community landscaping activities by local governments and civic organizations, the landscape of 19th-century neighborhoods took on many of the characteristics; many of which are still associated with them today. These characteristics include tree-lined streets, bordered by curbs and sidewalks, uniformly set-back houses, and spacious front yards informally landscaped and blended together, all creating the appearance of a large landscaped park. This landscape form can be most clearly seen along some of the major streets in the district: Madison Avenue, Pearl Avenue, Coffee Avenue, Gaskin Avenue, Coweta Avenue, Dewey Avenue, Sibbett Avenue, and McDonald Avenue. Simpler versions of the same landscaping idea are found on the area's minor streets.

Gaskin Avenue Historic District City of Douglas GA

Legend

- HistoricAddresses
- Gaskin Historic District Boundary
- Contributing, Not Vacant
- Contributing, Vacant
- Non-Contributing, Not Vacant
- Non-Contributing, Vacant
- Parcels



417 Sellers Street
D020 026

Contributing



Residential: built in 1929

1012 Madison Avenue
D011 210

Contributing



Commercial: built in 1935

206 S Coffee Avenue
D013 209

Contributing



Residential: built between 1890 and 1940s

303 Sellers Street
D012 208

Contributing



Residential: built 1945

1108 Madison Avenue
D010 022

Non-contributing



Commercial: built in 2005

211 Gaskin Avenue
D021 001

Contributing



Residential: built in 1900

407 Ward Street
D012 199

Contributing



Community: built in 1900

328 Gaskin Avenue
D020 164

Contributing



Residential: built in 1926

229 Gordon Street
D011 092

Contributing



Residential: built between 1890 and 1940s

221 Sellers Street
D012 177

Contributing



Commercial: built in 1969

619 Jackson Street
D020 153

Contributing



Residential: built in 1955

919 Madison Avenue
D011 180

Contributing



Commercial: built between 1890 and 1940s

318 E Ward Street
D013 194

Contributing



Residential: built between 1890 and 1940s

801 Madison Avenue
D011 135

Contributing



Commercial: built in 1900

302 S Gaskin Avenue
D021 125

Contributing



Community: built in 1965

306 Coweta Avenue
D021 044

Contributing



Residential: built between 1890 and 1940

605 Jackson Street
D020 157

Contributing



Residential: built between 1890 and 1940s

219 Jackson Street
D012 167

Contributing



Residential: built in 1934

404 Gaskin Avenue
D020 214

Contributing



Residential: built in 1913

403 Gaskin Avenue
D021 009

Contributing



Residential: built in 1912

407 Gaskin Avenue
D021 010

Contributing



Residential: built between 1890 and 1940s

412 Gaskin Avenue
D021 042

Contributing



Residential: built between 1890 and 1940s

305 Gaskin Avenue
D021 002

Contributing



Residential: built between 1890 and 1940s

315 Sellers Street
D012 209

Contributing



Residential: built between 1890 and 1940s

204 Gaskin Avenue
D020 114

Contributing



Residential: built in 1905

510 Jackson Street
D020 117

Contributing



Residential: built between 1890 and 1940s

506 Gaskin Avenue
D020 244

Contributing



Residential: built in 1932

515 Jackson Street
D020 160

Contributing



Residential: built between 1890 and 1940s

602 Ethel Street
D021 120

Contributing



Residential: built between 1890 and 1940s

509 Jackson Street
D020 161

Contributing



Residential: built between 1890 and 1940s

317 Peachtree Street
D012 233

Contributing



Residential: built between 1890 and 1940s

631 Bryan Street
D021 081

Contributing



Residential: built between 1890 and 1940s

601 Ethel Street
D021 134

Contributing



Residential: built in 1965

612 Ethel Street
D021 118

Contributing



Residential: built between 1890 and 1940s

115 Gaskin Avenue
D020 030

Contributing



Residential: built between 1890 and 1940s

312 Franklin Street
D012 239

Contributing



Residential: built between 1890 and 1940s

302 Sibbett Avenue
D021 114

Contributing



Residential: built in 1900

415 Gaskin Avenue
D020 011

Contributing



Residential: built between 1890 and 1940s

215 Jefferson Street
D011 137

Contributing



Residential: built between 1890 and 1940s

301 Gaskin Avenue
D020 020

Contributing



Residential: built between 1890 and 1940s

415 Franklin Street
D020 007

Contributing



Residential: built between 1890 and 1940s

301 Jackson Street
D012 220

Contributing



Residential: built between 1890 and 1940s

GASKIN AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT STATEMENT OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Gaskin Avenue Historic District spans and envelops the length of the life of the city of Douglas, Georgia circa 1890-1972. Douglas is one of the larger cities in the Lower Coastal Plain of Georgia and became the seat of Coffee County in 1855. It then went on to charter as a town in 1895. During this time, most of the buildings; residential, commercial, industrial, or otherwise were erected in the Gaskin Avenue Historic District and most remain in the area to the present day. Gaskin Avenue set the standard for all the consequential construction in the area. All the building blocks for the significance and foundation of what Douglas became in terms of economy, commerce, as well as community development, and planning for the city, were forged by the people that inhabited the homes in this area.

The Gaskin Avenue Historic District is the epicenter from which prosperity bloomed. The significance of planning was how Douglas became to be, as it was appointed the county seat for Coffee County. Naturally, the significance of economic growth development followed. Naval stores were very popular at the conception of the city. This made Douglas significant in commerce, as it was the first major area of major commerce for many of the smaller surrounding towns. Progressively, people wanted to plant roots in Douglas for convenience and the impending growth spurt that Douglas would incur and continues to have today. Planting roots, is what spawned the Gaskin Avenue Historic District, as it is primarily residential. Community development became significant as residences began building homes in the area.

This gave the district the most resources of significance as it currently possesses major architectural styles such as Greek Revival, Colonial Revival, Cape Cod, Italian Renaissance Revival, Mediterranean Revival and Spanish Revival. Other popular styles include Italianate, English Cottage, Dutch Colonial, Country, Farmhouse, Folk Victorian, American Bungalow, Queen Anne, Georgian, Ranch, Craftsman, Contemporary Craftsman, Traditional and American Foursquare, amongst others. These structures are moments in time preserved. In terms of architecture, concerning materials, size, designs, and workmanship, these styles were prevalent in other Lower Coastal Plain cities in Georgia likened in age to Douglas. However, Douglas has had the good fortune of nurturing and conserving these visible notches in our timeline. Such homes have aided in being contributing resources in maintaining their physical integrity.

As noted in *From Graveyard Road to Silk Stocking Row*, “The heart of Gaskin Avenue, with the town’s earliest and most architecturally important houses, has happily become a neighborhood trapped in time. Even the fact that it is now called an avenue rather than a street reflects the changes in American society in the late 1800s. In some of the earliest references, Gaskin is recorded as being a street, a word that was just beginning to fall out of favor across the nation in the 1880s. The word street was being displaced by avenue as it was seen to be both more cosmopolitan and an indicator of the growth and vitality of a prosperous community.”

Upon closer inspection, landscaping in the area adheres to the style of the late-nineteenth century and early twentieth century styles with a variety of shrubbery, trees, flowers, and grass. Many of these landscapes have scarcely strayed from their original style of uniformly lined houses with large front yards, informal landscaping, and tree-lined streets with bordering sidewalks.

Four economic factors contributed significantly to the eventual success of our town: timber, turpentine, transportation, and tobacco. The Gaskin Avenue Historic District and the surrounding area boast homes that once belonged to the most prominent men in these contributing fields. However, growth would not have been possible if not for the initial 50-acre sale of land from James A. Pearson in 1854 for \$500. This lot was carved from parts of neighboring counties of Clinch, Ware, Telfair, and Irwin for the county seat of Douglas named after Honorable Stephen A. Douglas, Abraham Lincoln’s opposing presidential candidate. Unfortunately, Douglas would have to wait over forty years to see any culmination of growth.

Douglas was simply conceived as a hamlet at the beginning of its life. It consisted of a courthouse, a jailhouse, two general stores, a hotel, and a doctor’s office/post office/drug store. The owners of these little businesses acted as a cohesive patrol of the area for the next few years. The courthouse was the most promising view of growth that Douglas had with no plans for the railroad coming in the foreseeable future. However, as time marched on, the few residents of the area started to notice a decline in the number of people who traveled to Douglas bi-annually in the fall and spring for court and trading opportunities. In 1887, it was estimated that less

than half a dozen families lived in Douglas. Other nearby towns were thriving due to their proximity to railroads, but Douglas stood in the shadows for almost another decade.

Transportation proved to be vital to our area which was considered a landlocked island of wilderness with little connection to the larger world of civilization. Douglas' chartering as a town in 1895 was no coincidence and was synonymous with the 1895 creation and completion of the 15-mile-long, then named, McDonald and Douglas railroad connecting our city to the Brunswick and Western Railroad. It connected Douglas to the rail line that would eventually bring an abundance of turpentine stills and sawmills, increasing the need for the labor force and the commodities associated with a higher population. It comes as no surprise that this railroad ended just a block shy of the Gaskin Avenue Historic District. Still, this connecting railroad's primary purpose was baptizing Douglas into the hustle of transporting timber as was already routine in the southern and northern parts of the county by this time due to the already operating Macon and Brunswick line in the north and the Brunswick and Western line in the south.

Growth was intense resulting directly from the railroad's creation, and Gaskin Avenue housed some of the most influential and affluent timber, turpentine, and tobacco moguls of the area, many of whom helped fund the project. This goes to show that Gaskin Avenue's proximity to the railroad was no coincidence, either. Among the founding fathers of the swelling prosperity Douglas was now floating in, Edward A. Buck took center stage. He is credited with bringing the turpentine industry to the city limits in 1892, buying the still on Gaskin Avenue previously owned by Sweat & Company. In 1895, Buck financially contributed to creating the McDonald and Douglas Railroad partnering with J.S. Bailey, Benajah Peterson, John Marshall Ashley, and C.A. Ward Jr. Buck had forged his way into Douglas on the premise of pine and lots of it. Buck also went on to construct one of the first and most memorable hotels in Douglas' history near the railroad depot in 1895-1896.

John Marshall Ashley of 211 South Gaskin Avenue, was also heavily involved in the timber and turpentine business. His home, now famously known as the Ashley-Slater House in Douglas, is an intricately designed Italianate-style mansion. He is thought to be one of the earliest operators in the area with estimates of beginning sometime in the 1880s. J.M. Ashley was also credited with bringing the first bank to Douglas in 1898 with a life that spanned until 1930.

The life of this bank would not have been possible without the hard work of Mr. Robert N. McEachren, the architect and contractor who, alongside J.M. Ashley, made the Union Bank a reality. Mr. McEachren lived only a few blocks away from Mr. Ashley in a beautiful Dutch Colonial that still stands at 519 North Gaskin Avenue. Both homes are located in the proposed local historic district. Mr. McEachren is also responsible for paving many of the streets in Douglas, including our very own Gaskin Avenue.

Douglas' contribution to the turpentine and timber industries made it a mainstay in the supply of naval stores at the time. By 1890, Georgia was leading the naval stores production with Savannah and Brunswick being the world's leading ports for their shipment. Despite Douglas' distance from Brunswick's port which was 90 plus miles away, as well as being over 100 miles away from Atlanta or Savannah, the decisions made by many of the people who called this area home are what we owe our lives and livelihood to now. The addition of the railroad, now Chessie Seaboard Consolidated (CSX), to the city, connected the businesses of the families on Gaskin Avenue to the outside world and made great success in establishing itself as a place of modernity in what was now being referred to as the New South.

By 1898, most of the readily accessible timber near, then named Douglas and McDonald rail line, had been exhausted. Operation of the track was no longer profitable, and by 1930, the timber business was almost extinct due to the high cost of production paired with low demand. However, a new crop had already taken timber's place. Tobacco was first introduced to the area in the form of a bountiful crop sown from a mere four (4) acres in Nicholls, GA in 1913. It caught on quickly and by 1917, Douglas had its very own tobacco warehouse on South Gaskin Avenue.

The Red Tobacco Warehouse became an entity in and of itself. In the first year of operation, it sold 335,000 pounds of the product. By 1918, Douglas had two operating warehouses with the second taking up residence in an old cotton compress building. At the time, it was said to be the largest in all of Georgia. What followed was several vows to plant tons of tobacco from farmers all over the county ensuring a surplus of profits. The crop of 1919 yielded \$600,000 in revenue and was reassurance that this was a business that could carry Douglas to greatness. By the 1950s, the warehouse employed 750 workers processing 12,000,000 pounds of tobacco. It's said that one-third of all tobacco farms in Georgia were located within a 30-mile-radius of Douglas, catapulting

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Douglas to the most sought-after location for companies looking to buy increasing business for the new warehouse. Douglas quickly became the center for South Georgia tobacco.

Mr. John F. "Johnnie" Wilkins is credited as a pioneer in the growth, selling, and marketing of tobacco in Douglas. He resided on the corner of Gordon and Gaskin in a one-family Victorian house. Johnnie Wilkins' life in Douglas was all in thanks to the American Tobacco Company where he worked as a "demonstrator" who traveled the country and taught farmers how to grow the plant. Out of all the markets he had a chance to be a part of, he chose Douglas as the place he wanted to raise his child. After the bank closures of the Depression, the Wilkins family was left with nothing, however, his wife, Mrs. Hettie Mae (affectionately referred to as "Het"), began selling meals out of their kitchen and made enough to support the family. After Mr. Wilkins died in 1944, Mrs. "Het" began renting out rooms in their home to tobacco workers, many of whom returned every season.

Sustained significance flooded the community development, residential and economic growth. Coffee County and Douglas continued to grow greatly together through the 1950s. The first (1st) annual Camellia Show was held at the Douglas Woman's Club. There was a new street construction for the entrance of state road; Highway 221, which leads into the Gaskin Avenue District in Douglas. Douglas received the first of many Urban Renewal Grants, this affected the Gaskin Avenue District greatly as it provided funds to continue the rehabilitation and restoration of contributing homes in the area. The Parks & Recreation department began establishing parks, and other programs for the community. One of the parks built was Emma Ward Park, which is located in the proposed district. This is the oldest park that still exists and stands in Douglas. The Coffee County Industrial Authority was also created in the 1950s.

Though not as much growth, the 1960s through 1972 spawned more community development, residential and economic growth, validating the significance of the district. New subdivisions were created, which expanded the residential area in the district. In order to sustain the residential growth a new natural gas system facility was built. And tobacco remained to be prevalent in this era. New businesses were brought to Douglas; Elixir and Swift Poultry, being two major companies. The County Commissioners increased from a three (3) to five (5) members board. And the schools in Coffee County were desegregated.

Aside from the amount of history that this area holds for Douglas and the physical marker it places on the boom of growth in how our city came to be, the district also consists of several offices that conduct business from the houses of earlier settlers of the area. Most of these structures remain intact and stand proud. The majority of these businesses are concentrated along Madison Avenue with a few populating the Gaskin Avenue district. Many of the original buildings still stand with the addition of a few more commercial structures. However, this area remains largely residential and survived relatively unscathed by the hands of time. After the turn of the century, Douglas continued to grow and Gaskin Avenue thrived subsequently. In a metaphor, if Douglas was a person, the Gaskin Historic District would be the heart due to a large number of influential factors in the forms of people it introduced to propel our city into the busy epicenter of Coffee County it remains to be today. There would be no life in Douglas without the influence of the people who took to this centralized area.

In 1993, Douglas designated the Historic Preservation Committee as well as the national historic district and overlay. Four years later in 1997, the Historic Preservation Committee adopted the historic preservation ordinance. Guidelines for the historic district were developed and adopted in 2001 and subsequently amended in 2009. All of these factors have contributed heavily and were developed fervidly for the protection of the Gaskin Avenue Historic District and the structures that make this area beautiful.

The families that settled on and around Gaskin Avenue, essentially created the first real suburb of Douglas and unknowingly set the tone for the perception of this area which has historically remained relatively untouched in comparison to the old days save for more growth. Their affairs in business, as well as family, are what guaranteed Douglas' success. Without the contributions from these families, Douglas would have never gotten off the ground or out of the wilderness.

The Gaskin Avenue neighborhood went on to produce twelve mayors of Douglas, twelve doctors and dentists, six pharmacists, eleven lawyers, two Representatives of the State of Georgia, two United States Congressmen, six judges, two school Superintendents, three members of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, and several other outstanding citizens. The women of Gaskin Avenue, wives and daughters of these

aristocrats, set the standards for fashion as well as social relations for the entire town. Together, these families linked arms and charged us forth into the Twentieth Century.