ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE

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				SEP 12	
1. Name	Downtown Com	mercial		15 1998	
historic Au	taugaville Historic Di			XI.	
and/or commo	on A			Historical a	
				Ale. Historical Commission	
2. Location	1				
street & numb					
	own of Autaugaville	vicinity of			
	labama	county Autauga	3	zip 36003	
	7				
3. Classific	ation				
Category X district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public	Status X occupied X unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Useagriculture X_commercialeducationalentertainmentgovernmentindustrialmilitary	museumpark X_private residencereligiousscientifictransportation X_other: Senior Cent	
4. Owner o	of Property				
name Multiple Owners			Phone number		
street & numb	er				
city, town		vicinity of		zip	

5. Floor plan & site plan. Use space below to sketch floor plan and site plan or attach additional sheet.

Attached

Condition	deterioreted	Check one	Check one × original site	
excellent good	deteriorated ruins	x_unaltered × altered	moved date	3

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance.

The Autaugaville Historic District contains seven (7) buildings and one (1) cemetery. Six of the nominated buildings are located on one block of Dutch Bend Street between Autauga Street and North Pickett Street (Autauga County Road 19). The seventh nominated building is located on North Pickett Street (Autauga County Road 19) across from Dutch Bend Street with the cemetery situated directly behind the building.

NOMINATED BUILDING #1

Address: 2412/2416 Dutch Bend Street

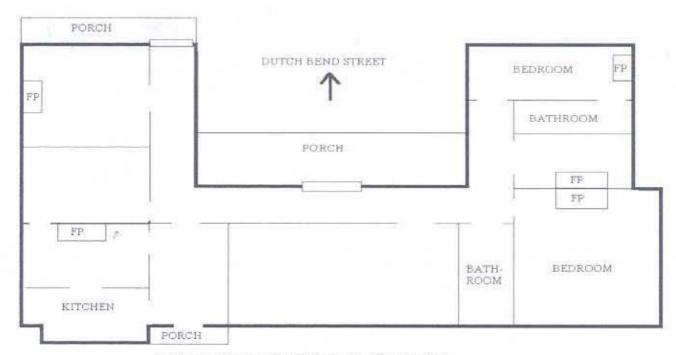
Construction Date: c. 1927

General Description: (refer to floor plan sketches on the following page) brick, one story building with a U-shaped floor plan; basement; gabled roof, original material unknown; gabled front porch over right front entrance; gabled dormer above front center entrance; four chimneys - two exterior and two interior; small enclosed porch off of rear door

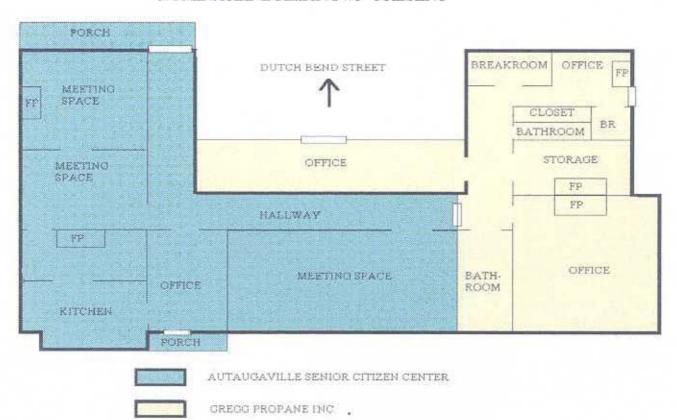
Exterior Alterations: original center front porch enclosed with brick, new front doorway and two windows were installed, brick stoop and steps constructed from entrance to sidewalk (c.1940); handicap ramp constructed leading to front right porch (c.1978); entrance door installed and brick steps constructed on the left side of the building (c.1975)

Interior Alterations (refer to floor plan sketches on the following page): interior doorway installed in rear hallway to create two sections within building (Date unknown, assumed c.1940; original room in front right of building divided into two rooms as was adjacent bathroom (c. 1975); paneled ceiling installed beneath original ceiling on the left side of the building (c.1975)

Former Uses: private residence of Hicks family (c.1927–c.1940); rental house, home divided into two sections and front center porch enclosed (c.1940–c.1950); vacant (c.1950-c.1975); Autaugaville Senior Citizen Center in right section of building (c.1978-present); Autaugaville Health Clinic in the left section of the building (c.1975-c.1985); Gregg Propane, Inc. in left section of the building (c.1996-present)



NOMINATED BUILDING #1 PRESENT



Address: 2408 Dutch Bend Street

Construction Date: c.1914

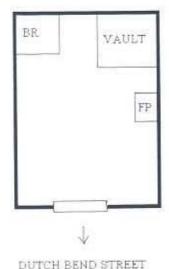
General Description: free standing brick building, rectangular shaped; one story; parapet extending above flat roof (roof material unknown); type of original entrance unknown; type of original windows unknown, currently boarded up; chimney on right side of building

Exterior Alterations: Date unknown on all alterations: original front door removed; existing front door installed; all existing windows boarded up; rear window bricked up

Interior Alterations: Date unknown on all alterations: fireplace bricked over and a platform of brick constructed for wood burning stove; installation of "modern" paneled ceiling below original ceiling; installation of air conditioning unit in window on left side of building; installation of carpet

<u>Former Uses:</u> Autaugaville Citizens Bank(c.1914-c?); United States Post Office (c.1949-c.1975); used as a pharmacy and later an auto parts store (Dates unknown); owned by the Town of Autaugaville and used as storage space (present)

NOMINATED BUILDING #2 PRESENT



Address: 2404 Dutch Bend Street

Construction Date: c.1925

General Description: free standing building, rectangular shaped; one story; type of construction unknown, assumed to be wood, exterior of building is covered by corrugated tin; corrugated tin façade; corrugated tin parapet extends above the gabled roof constructed of tin; front center entrance consists of double doors made of diagonal planks; two screen doors in front entrance; diagonal planks make up the shutters which cover the windows flanking front entrance, shutters secured by an iron bar; canopy of wood and tin construction overhangs front entrance and sidewalk, overhang is supported by four 4" x 4" posts; exterior chimney extends above roof on left side of building; an interior chimney extends above roof

Exterior Alterations: unknown

Interior Alterations: unknown

Former Uses: grocery store (c.1925-c.1950); vacant (present)

Address: 2402 Dutch Bend Street

Construction date: c.1927

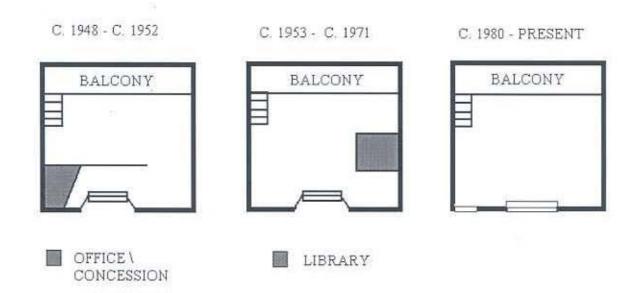
General Description: free standing brick building, rectangular shaped; one-story; flat roof, original material unknown; façade front with cornice; chimney on right side of building; front left entrance is a single doorway of wood construction; front center entrance can be gained through large double doors constructed of sheets of metal; four metal rods still hang from the façade which were once used to sustain a fixed awning of wood and tin construction over the front entrance and sidewalk; majority of façade is boarded up

Exterior Alterations: new roof installed (c.1952 and c.1959); wood and tin awning collapsed from façade due to deterioration, boarded up the front of the building which had a recessed entryway with double doors (material unknown) and two large windows on each side, installation of doorway on front left of building, positioned two large metal doors as a center entrance for larger items to be stored within building (c.1980); appears that there was once a door on the right side of the building which has been filled in (Date unknown)

Interior Alterations: to utilize building as a movie theater, a wall near the front of the building was constructed, a room to the left of the front center entrance was built for concessions and office space, and stairs and a balcony were constructed on the rear wall of the building (c.1948); constructed a room near the front right of building for library and building was rewired (c.1965); library walls removed (Date unknown)

Former Uses: Jones Brothers Grocery Store (c.1927-c.1948); movie theater (c.1948-c.1953); Autaugaville Town Hall and Town Library (c.1954-c.1971); owned by Town of Autaugaville and used as storage space (c.1971-present)

NOMINATED BUILDING #4



Address: 226 North Pickett Street (Autauga County Road 19)

Construction Date: c.1901

General Description: brick and wood construction; one-story; basement; gabled roof; gabled porch over front entrance supported by four wooden columns with brick bases; front porch and sidewalk constructed of stone; single doorway on the right rear of the building (no stairs - inaccessible); carport on the left side of building; storage shed located directly behind building

Exterior Alterations: original section of building constructed - the small section where the front entrance is located, approximately 20' x 40' (c.1901); a large addition was constructed on the left side of building (c.1930)

Former Uses: Dr. J. Lewis Snow's office (c.1901-c.1906); Dr. James Tankersley's office (c.1906-c.1917); Dr. R.S. Shanks' office (c.1917-c.1930); private residence (c.1930-present)

NOMINATED CEMETERY #6

General Description: Located directly behind the storage building of 226 North Pickett Street (Autauga County Road 19) is what is said to be the first cemetery of Autaugaville. The size of the cemetery could not be estimated due to the overgrowth of weeds and grass. According to the Autauga County Cemetery Index found at the Alabama Department of Archives and History, this area is listed as two separate cemeteries: the Autaugaville Cemetery and the cemetery in Autaugaville across from Swift Creek. A copy of the index is attached. The reason for separate listings in the index is unknown because several markers from both lists were recently identified and were in close proximity to one another with no apparent physical boundaries such as fencing. The index reports 31 markers in the vicinity with the oldest marker dated 1840 and the most recent is dated 1918.

There are two enclosed areas within the cemetery, both of which can be seen in the slides. The smaller of the two areas is enclosed by a decorative wrought-iron fence approximately two feet in height. The number of markers within the fence is unknown. The other section is surrounded by a brick fencing approximately three to four feet in height with a brick archway as an entrance. Three markers are located here: Sarah Goddard (d 1851) is featured in one of the slides, Julia Herrman (1839-1875) and Edmund Shackelford (d1857). Incidentally, these three markers are not listed on the attached index of Autaugaville cemeteries.

Address: 2407 Dutch Bend Street

Construction Date: 1925

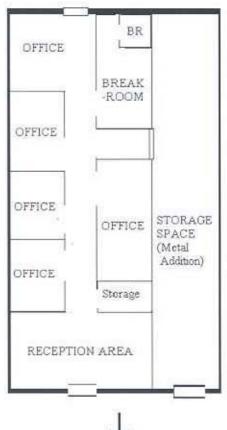
General Description: brick, rectangular shaped building; one story; parapet extends above flat roof constructed of tin; front center entrance consists of two six-panel wooden doors (thought to be original); a four paneled window is above the entrance; single concrete step at entrance with a 1926 U.S.G.S. survey marker embedded in it; all windows except the rear window thought to be original; metal storage shed attached to the right side of the building

Exterior Alterations: metal storage shed erected (c.1954); new tin roof installed, replaced rear entrance doors (double doors similar to existing front entrance doors) with single doorway, replaced broken rear window with large sheet of glass (c.1985)

Interior Alterations: partitioned original open floor space into existing floor plan as shown below (c.1985)

Former Uses: Charlton and Company General Merchandise Store (c.1925-c.1954); Autauga County Board of Education School Bus Garage (c.1954-c.1973); Use unknown, assumed vacant (c.1973-c.1985); Elevator Maintenance and Repair, Inc. (c.1985-present)

NOMINATED BUILDING #7 PRESENT





Dutch Bend Street

Address: 2409 Dutch Bend Street

Construction Date: 1925

General Description: brick (painted); one story; pyramidal roof of tin construction; center front gabled dormer of corrugated tin (assumed there was a window in dormer at one time); center front entrance consists of horizontal-sliding warehouse doors of wooden planks; windows covered with wire mesh flank the front entrance; two dilapidated rooms of brick situated on the right side of building; one of the two original gasoline tanks remain near front entrance

Exterior Alterations: general patching of tin roof (c.1985)

Interior Alterations: Unknown

Former Uses: Pearson's Grocery Store/Gas Station (c.1925-c.1941); Use unknown (c.1941-c.1954); Autauga County Board of Education School Bus Garage (c.1954-c.1973); Use unknown, assumed vacant (c.1973-c.1985); Elevator Maintenance and Repair, Inc. (c.1985-present)

NOMINATED BUILDING #8 PRESENT



Significance (See attached instructions for specific guidelines.) Period Areas of Significance-Check and justify below archeology-prehistoric community planning landscape architecture religion prehistoric 1400-1499 archeology-historic conservation law science 1500-1599 agriculture economics literature sculpture 1600-1799 architecture military social/ education 1700-1799 music humanitarian engineering 1800-1899 philosophy theater exploration/settlement commerce politics/government X 1900communications industry x other (specify) settlement Specific dates Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph).

The Autaugaville Historic District is eligible for listing on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage in the areas of architecture, art and settlement. Several of the nominated buildings embody characteristics of early 20th century architecture, especially the commercial buildings represented within the District. The cemetery is worthy of recognition in the areas of art and settlement, the oldest markers date back to the 1840's when the Town of Autaugaville was beginning to see development and prosperity.

Historical Summary:

The abundant natural resources of the Autaugaville area have lured inhabitants since approximately 500 B.C., when, according to archeological finds made in the 1960's, a large group of Native Americans settled in the Jones Bluff Dam Basin. By 600 A.D., another tribe of Native Americans, one who practiced the custom of tying "flattening boards" to the foreheads of their children, had established themselves in the area. And in the early part of the eighteenth century, French explorers discovered a tribe called Alibamo living in several villages along the Alabama River.

Although the Autaugaville area provided a home to Native Americans for centuries, it was not until the early 19th century that the area saw settlement by white man. An Englishman named Captain William N. Thompson, Sr. is credited as being the "founding father" of the Town of Autaugaville when he constructed a grist and saw mill bordering Swift Creek in 1820. A short time later, Colonel Albert J. Pickett, well known for his History of Alabama, built a three-story brick structure to house the Pickett Corn and Flour Mill. By 1847, most of the people and businesses from the neighboring town of Vernon were attracted to Autaugaville as a center of trade. Vernon, located on the banks of the Alabama River, was frequently threatened by floods and outbreaks of malaria which urged citizens to migrate to Autaugaville both for safety and prosperity. It seemed the foundation was set and the town grew to become known as one of the South's "promising industrial cities."

Organized religion in Autaugaville developed at almost the same pace as industry and commercial activity. A Baptist congregation, first founded at Vernon in the 1820's, soon established themselves in Autaugaville. Another denomination, Methodist Episcopal, was organized in 1822 and met in a log cabin called Asbury Church on what is now known as

Whetstone Hill, three miles west of Vernon. This congregation later became divided into two groups over the issue of lay representation. Half of the congregation remained and the other half organized a Methodist Protestant Church in the German settlement called Dutch Bend located just below Vernon. A few years pass before the congregation meeting in the Asbury Church decided to relocate to Autaugaville because of the deterioration of the log cabin. The Dutch Bend Methodist Protestant congregation also moved to town in 1829 and built a church which was later moved to its present location on Autauga Street. In 1866, the two congregations united to form the Methodist Church of Autaugaville. Its Sunday School, organized in 1825, holds the distinction of being the oldest "evergreen" Sunday School in the United States. "Evergreen" meaning that these meetings were conducted regardless of the season or weather conditions.

By the 1850's, Autaugaville boasted of three general stores, two drug stores, two grocery stores, a candy shop known for its delicious butterscotch candies, a bakery and a tailor shop. For a small town of around 400 citizens, Autaugaville was a bustling area equipped to provide certain creature comforts usually found only in larger cities. One of the prosperous industries during this time, the Planters Cotton Factory, was formed by several wealthy local citizens. It drew attention after beginning its operation on Swift Creek in 1850 by grossing \$107,000. One year later, the factory was featured in a magazine called *De Bow's Review* and Autaugaville was hailed as a manufacturing center in the South. As proof of its growth and success, Autaugaville was home to a large two-story hotel known as the Autauga House. The hotel was advertised in 1853 as a stopping point for stage coaches traveling between Montgomery and Selma. The developing town saw its first local newspaper during this period as well. L.D. Bloom served as editor of the *Autauga Mercury* printed between 1853 and 1854. The *Autaugian*, the second and last locally published newspaper, was initiated by its editor W.B.W. Wyatt in 1856, but ceased publication a only a few years later.

Autaugaville continued to prosper after the Civil War although some businesses were destroyed. In 1875, Theodore Nunn owned and operated Autauga Cotton Mills where sheeting and rope was manufactured. Near the turn of the century, it is noted that a Mr. Zimmerman maintained a lumber mill on the banks of Swift Creek to allow for the timber to be rafted down to the Alabama River and on to Mobile for export. The business was known as the Swift Creek Lumber Company and it operated until 1919. In 1905, another lumber mill named the White Water Lumber Company was attracted to locate on Swift Creek and it operated successfully until the late 1930's. The White Water Lumber Company provided electricity to Autaugaville and every night at 9:45 p.m. the lights throughout the town would blink three times letting everyone know that they had only fifteen more minutes before the power was turned off until the next morning. The Alabama Central Railroad operated in Autaugaville from 1911 to 1937 and carried passengers as well as freight, much of which was lumber.

Efforts involving improving education in Autaugaville became evident around this same time. In 1902, Mrs. Mattie W. McNeel, who lived to be 101 years old, traveled throughout Autauga County in a horse and buggy to organize the graded system in the schools. Three years later, she organized the School Improvement Association in Autaugaville, which later became known as the Parent-Teacher Association (P.T.A.). The town was the first in Autauga County and third within the State to have this type of organization. School was held in small wooden buildings in the late 1800's in various locations in town. In the early 1900's, first through ninth grades were

taught in a two-room building on Dutch Bend Street which was later expanded to include five rooms. This school existed until 1931 when three Hicks brothers (Jay, Tom and Dick) donated land and money to construct a new brick schoolhouse on the same lot. The school was named the Hicks Memorial School and in later years was renamed Autaugaville High School. This school was recently demolished around April of 1998. The Hicks brothers later created a trust fund to supplement one teacher's salary at the school and the fund lasted for several years. Two of the Hicks brothers resided in one of the buildings being nominated, 2416 Dutch Bend Street (Building #1).

From descriptions found about the earliest days of Autaugaville, Dutch Bend Street continued to be the main thoroughfare and center of town through the 1930's, 1940's and into the 1950's. Four of the nominated buildings housed various businesses that existed during these decades. During the 1960's and 1970's, however, this area seemed to lose its appeal to business as Alabama Highway 14 was built through town. Although the town could not retain its fame as one of the manufacturing centers of the South, Autaugaville is still known for its natural resources and is home to over 1,000 people, many of who still share the names of Autaugaville's first settlers.

Major Bibliographical References

Gray, Daniel S. Autauga County, the First Hundred Years, 1818-1918. Prattville, 1972.

Shanks, Mary Lacefield. Autaugaville, Alabama, The Story of a Southern Town. (college paper written in 1973).

Minutes of the meetings of Autaugaville Town Council

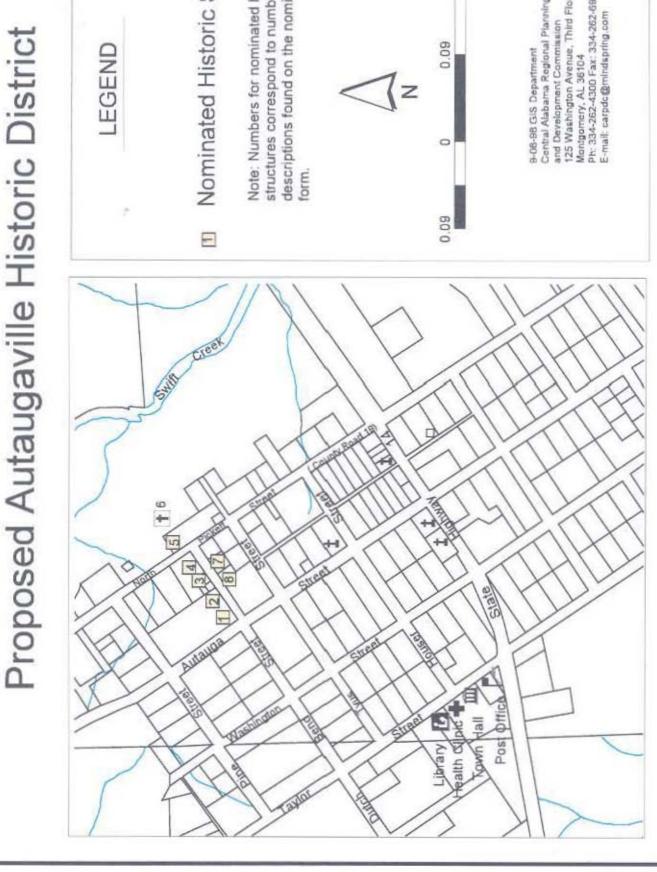
Alabama Department of Archives and History, Autauga County Files and Autauga County Cemetery Index

Interview with Mrs. Margaret Price, August 12, 1998.

Interview with Mrs. Nancy Haines, August 12, 1998

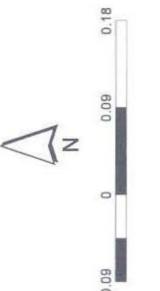
Interview with Mrs. Sandra Scogin, August 14, 1998.

Interview with Mr. and Mrs. James Gregg, September 3, 1998

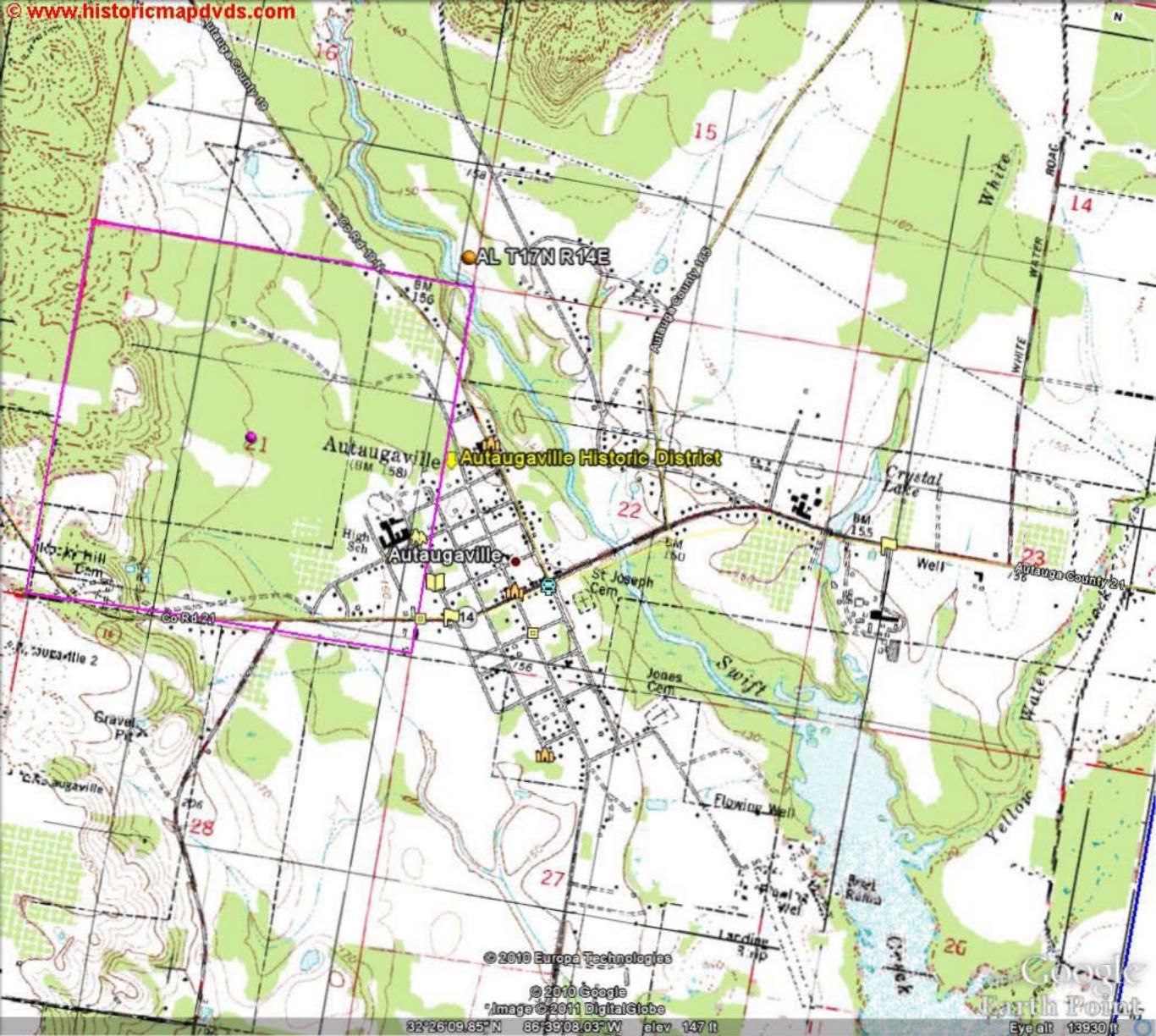


Nominated Historic Structure

Note: Numbers for nominated historic descriptions found on the nomination structures correspond to numbered



and Development Commission 125 Washington Avenue, Third Floor Montgomery, AL 36104 Ph. 334-262-4300 Fax: 334-262-6976 Central Alabama Regional Planning



8. Major Bibliographical References		
9. Geographical Data		
Acreage of nominated property		
Quadrangle name		
Enclose map showing location of property. (city or county m		
10 F P I P		
10. Form Prepared By		
name/title Jennifer Upton / Planner		
organizationCentral Alabama Regional Planning and D	evelopment Com.	date September 11, 1998
street & number 125 Washington Avenue, Third Floor	- 41	telephone (334)262-4300
city or town Montgomery	state AL	zip 36104
11 Disease In the It 11 11 11 12 12 13 14 15 15 15 15 15 15 15		
11. Please submit color slides of the property	with this forn	1
2 1 11 11 11 11 11 11 11		
Color slides are essential to the review process.		

Alabama Register Coordinator Alabama Historical Commission 468 South Perry Street Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

AUTAUGAVILLE DOWNTOWN COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT 2402-2416 Dutch Bend Street, 226 North Picket Street Autaugaville, Autauga County

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY:

The Autaugaville Historic District includes eight resources comprised of 7 buildings and one cemetery. They are clustered in the northeast section of the small town, along Dutch Bend Street, between Autauga and North Pickett Streets, and at the end of Dutch Bend at its intersection with North Picket. Together the district comprises a fine collection of resources depicting the lifestyle of a prosperous early 20th century town. Included are a cemetery, a bank, two grocery stores, a general merchandising store, a service station/general store, a doctor's office, and a residence. An altered shotgun house was omitted from the district and should be added as a contributing structure, as its alterations (asphalt siding) are within the historic period. The doctor's office (#5) dates from c.1860 and remains as the only antebellum period building in the district. Today the majority of buildings are vacant and deteriorated, but overall early 20th century commercial style is strongly evident. The residence has been converted to a commercial use.

The cemetery contains approximately 31 markers, with graves dating from 1840 -1918. Markers include simple upright slabs, decorated upright slabs, and obelisks. Two enclosures, a wrought iron fence and a brick fence, were also found. A local cemetery census separates this burial ground into two sections, the Autaugaville Cemetery and the Cemetery in Autaugaville Across from Swift Creek, though no apparent division of these was evident and was not associated with the decorative enclosures previously described.

The district represents only a small area of AR-eligible historic buildings in the community of Autaugaville. Future expansion of the district should include additional commercial, residential and industrial buildings from the antebellum period through the mid-20th century.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Autaugaville Historic District is eligible for listing on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage under Criteria A and C, in the areas of settlement, commerce, architecture, and funerary art. Together the structures included in the district depict the evolution of the community from the early settlement period to its most prosperous period during the early 20th century, derived in part by the success of the White Water Lumber Company (1905-late 30s) and the Alabama Central Railroad (1911-1937). Dutch Bend Street became the main thoroughfare and center of community life into the mid-century, until the demise of the local mills and construction of Alabama Highway 14 on the south side of town. The resources depict fine examples of early 20th century commercial architecture at the local level. They are currently threatened by deterioration.







































































