

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Orange Hill Road Historic District

other names/site number NA

2. Location

street & number see inventory not for publication N/A  
city or town Grove Hill vicinity N/A  
state Alabama code AL county Clarke code 025 zip code 36451

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this      nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide      locally. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	sites
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	structures
<u>    </u>	<u>    </u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Italianate

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

Late Victorian

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete

roof Asphalt

walls Brick

Wood: weatherboard

other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition on continuation sheet/s.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance 1845-1915

Significant Dates N/A

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Newman, James (attributed)

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain significance on continuation sheet/s.)

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Section 7 Page 1

Orange Hill Road Historic District  
name of property  
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county and State

=====

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition on continuation sheet/s.)

*Orange Hill Road*

The district includes one block of ~~Cobb Street~~ <sup>*Orange Hill Road*</sup> from Church Street on the west to a sharp curve in ~~Cobb Street~~ on the east and contains four houses, three contributing and one noncontributing. There are three houses on the north side of the street, and no houses along the south side. The south side is actually a wide median between Orange Hill Road and Dickinson Streets. The fourth house in the district sits at the Y created by the opposing curves in Orange Hill Road and Dickinson Street. The setbacks are typical of residential areas during the period of significance, and driveways to the side of the houses are the rule. Mature trees, grass lawns, and native shrubs and flowers complement the district. The median is devoid of planned landscaping, consisting of grass.

The contributing houses in the district date from 1845 to 1915. The non-contributing house was built in the 1960s. The primary building material is brick and the roofs are asphalt shingle. Many of the trees survive, creating a mature landscape.

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Orange Hill Road  
COBB STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY

(The following information was supplied by on-site observation, the Clarke County Standing Structure Survey located in the Alabama Historical Commission offices, and the Dickinson House National Register nomination on file at the offices of the Alabama Historical Commission.)

1. NE corner <sup>Orange Hill</sup> ~~Orange Hill~~ Road & Church. ca. 1886-1915. <sup>Gabled ell - colored glass not original in side lights</sup> L-Cottage form. One story, frame, L-shaped house with <sup>gable on hip / complex roof</sup> hipped roof and front projecting gable. ~~The shallow, angled bay beneath the projecting gable on this house has the typical corner brackets. The house has an asymmetrical plan with a projecting front bay. The shed-roof porch fits into the L formed by the front bay and has good examples of turned posts and banisters and lace-like brackets.~~ (C)
2. N side Cobb, E of Church. ca. <sup>C. 1960</sup> 1960. One story, brick ranch style house with gable roof, <sup>one</sup> projecting gabled bay with picture window. (NC) <sup>gable over picture window</sup>
3. N side Orange Hill Road, E of Church. ca. 1886-1915. <sup>complex gable</sup> Hip roof with projecting gables. 2-story, frame house with a hipped roof and two projecting front gables. A 1-story, shed roof porch extends across the entire front of the house. (C) <sup>2 1/2" sq. porch posts, aluminum siding</sup>
4. W end of Orange Hill Road. ca. 1845. Italianate style. The simple four-room, two story, frame house features the central hall plan commonly used for structures in the area, but it was embellished with the application of Italianate details. On the exterior these appear in the intricately carved doorway, paired windows, bracketed cornice and central wall gable, while on the interior they are found in the octagonal parlor and marble mantel. The main entrance is a round-arched doorway with an intricately carved fanlight. The red and blue glass in the fanlight and sidelights is original. <sup>one</sup>

Symmetrically arranged on the three bay facade are pairs of round-arched windows, two on each side of the doorway and three upstairs. Each window is framed with the same carved molding as that around the doorway. A center gable on the hipped roof and a circular attic window adorn the front facade. The original porch has been replaced. Around 1900, a one story addition was constructed on the east end of the house.

The house was constructed for Colonel James Shelton Dickinson, one of Clarke County's leading mid-19th century citizens. Dickinson came to Clarke County from Virginia with his parents when he was three years old. His father, Richard Dickinson, operated a successful plantation and was active in state politics. As a child, the younger Dickinson was educated by private tutors and in private schools, and himself taught at a school near Grove Hill. He completed his education at the University of Virginia, and was awarded a law degree in 1844. That same year he married his cousin, Mary Frances Dickinson, and came back to Grove Hill. Shortly after returning, he contracted for construction of their home.

Check NR Nom

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During his career, Dickinson operated a law practice and involved himself in politics. In 1853 and 1854 he served in the Alabama Senate, and from 1863 to 1865 he was a member of the Confederate Congress in Richmond. At the onset of the Civil War, he organized and financed a Confederate company from Grove Hill called the "Dickinson Guards". The company was actively engaged throughout the war, and Dickinson himself rose to the rank of colonel. At the close of the war, he returned to Grove Hill and practiced law with the firm of Dickinson and Kilpatrick. After the death of his first wife, he married Alice Savage and continued to live in Grove Hill for the remainder of his life. The Dickinson House continues to be occupied by descendants of James S. Dickinson.

The architect of the house is believed to have been an English-born carpenter named James Newman. After working as a builder in Virginia, Newman moved to Grove Hill to construct the home for Dickinson. His carpentering skills are visible in the Italianate ornamentation. The Dickinson House is an early example of the Italianate style in an era when Greek Revival prevailed in Alabama. This is the only Italianate style house in the county.<sup>1</sup> (C)

CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

The Cobb Street Historic District is comprised of four building that are representative of local residential architectural styles during the time of significance. Character-defining elements include the following:

- ~~Uniform setbacks of the buidings along Cobb Street~~
- Driveways to the sides of the buildings
- Landscaping consisting of shrubs, mature trees, and grass typical of residential areas
- ~~Absence of sidewalks~~ *Presence of sidewalk*

<sup>1</sup> Dickinson House National Register of Historic Places nomination and file, on file at the Alabama Historical Commission.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain significance on continuation sheet/s.)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Orange Hill Road Historic District is being nominated to the Alabama Register for Criterion C, Architecture. The district contains four houses and lies to the east of the courthouse square.

Criterion C, Residential Architecture:

The Orange Hill Road Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C with the area of significance being architecture. Three of the four resources located in the district are contributing. The fourth is a 1960s ranch style house. The contributing resources each retain a high degree of architectural integrity. They represent how national trends in domestic design were interpreted within the local context of Clarke County. The earliest contributing resource, the Colonel James Shelton Dickinson House (~~1845~~), is the only Italianate style house in the county. The other contributing resources consist of an L-shaped, Queen Anne cottage and a two story, Victorian vernacular house.

The houses in this district are good and intact local examples of architecture typically built between 1845 and 1915. They retain integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling and association.

Period of Significance:

The period of significance for the Orange Hill Road Historic District is from ca. 1845, the date of the Dickinson House, to ca. 1915, the date of the remaining contributing structures.

Historical Summary:

Grove Hill, located in almost the geographical center of the County, has been the county seat since 1832. For many years the area went by two names, Smithville or Macon. In T. H. Ball's history, he states that the Clarke County Courthouse was moved from Clarkesville to Smithville in 1832. However, the minutes of the Orphan's Court show that court was held at Macon on February 4, 1833. These minutes continue to mention Macon as the place of the court from that time until 1850, except for one entry on April 6, 1835, where Smithville is named as the place to appear before the court. Ball states that the name of the town was established<sup>2</sup> as Grove Hill about 1850 when the Grove Hill Post Office was moved to the courthouse vicinity.

The population in Grove Hill grew steadily during the period of significance. As the county became more urban with less emphasis on tenant farms, towns such as Grove Hill saw an increase in growth. This neighborhood reflects that development.

<sup>2</sup> Clarke County Historic Structure Survey, in files at the Alabama Historical Commission.

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Grove Hill was incorporated in 1929. The effort to incorporate was led by the Lions Club, which listed several benefits to be gained by incorporating, including street improvements, issuing an order to keep livestock off the streets, the addition of street lights, and the securing of a telegraph. The issue was put to a vote and the election results were 89 for and 31 against. Despite incorporation, Grove Hill still did not have some of the amenities hoped for by 1940. As an historic photo shows, (see photos) Highway 43 was the only paved road around the courthouse in the 1940s. Nevertheless, the community continued to expand and grow, and most of the homes in the Cobb Street district date from right before the time of incorporation. During the 1950s and 1960s, some historic buildings near the square were removed or remodeled to make way for new styles and functions, but the Orange Hill Road historic district retained almost complete integrity. Today, the Orange Hill Road Historic District retains its integrity of location, design, setting, material workmanship, feeling and association.

<sup>3</sup> Various articles and photographs, The Clarke County Democrat, 25 November 1982, pp. 2C, 5C, 7C and 11C.



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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Alabama Historical Commission

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreege of Property \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	—	_____	_____	3	—	_____
2	—	_____	_____	4	—	_____
	— See continuation sheet.					

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Mary Kay Buwalda, Research Coordinator, and Susan Enzweiler, AR and NR Coordinator

organization Alabama Historical Commission date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 468 S. Perry Street telephone (205) 242-3184

city or town Montgomery state AL zip code 36104

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Orange Hill Road Historic District  
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Major Bibliographical References:

Ball, Rev. Th.H. "Clarke County Alabama and Its Surroundings." Grove Hill, AL: T.H. Ball, 1882;  
reprint ed., Grove Hill, AL: Clarke County Historical Society, 1973.

Unpublished research conducted by Clarke County Historical Society.

Information contained in the standing structure survey of Clarke County, Alabama Historical  
Commission files.

Dickinson House National Register nomination on file at the Alabama Historical Commission.

USDI/NPS Registration Form  
Property Name Orange Hill Road Historic District  
County and State Clarke County, Alabama

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Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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Property Owner

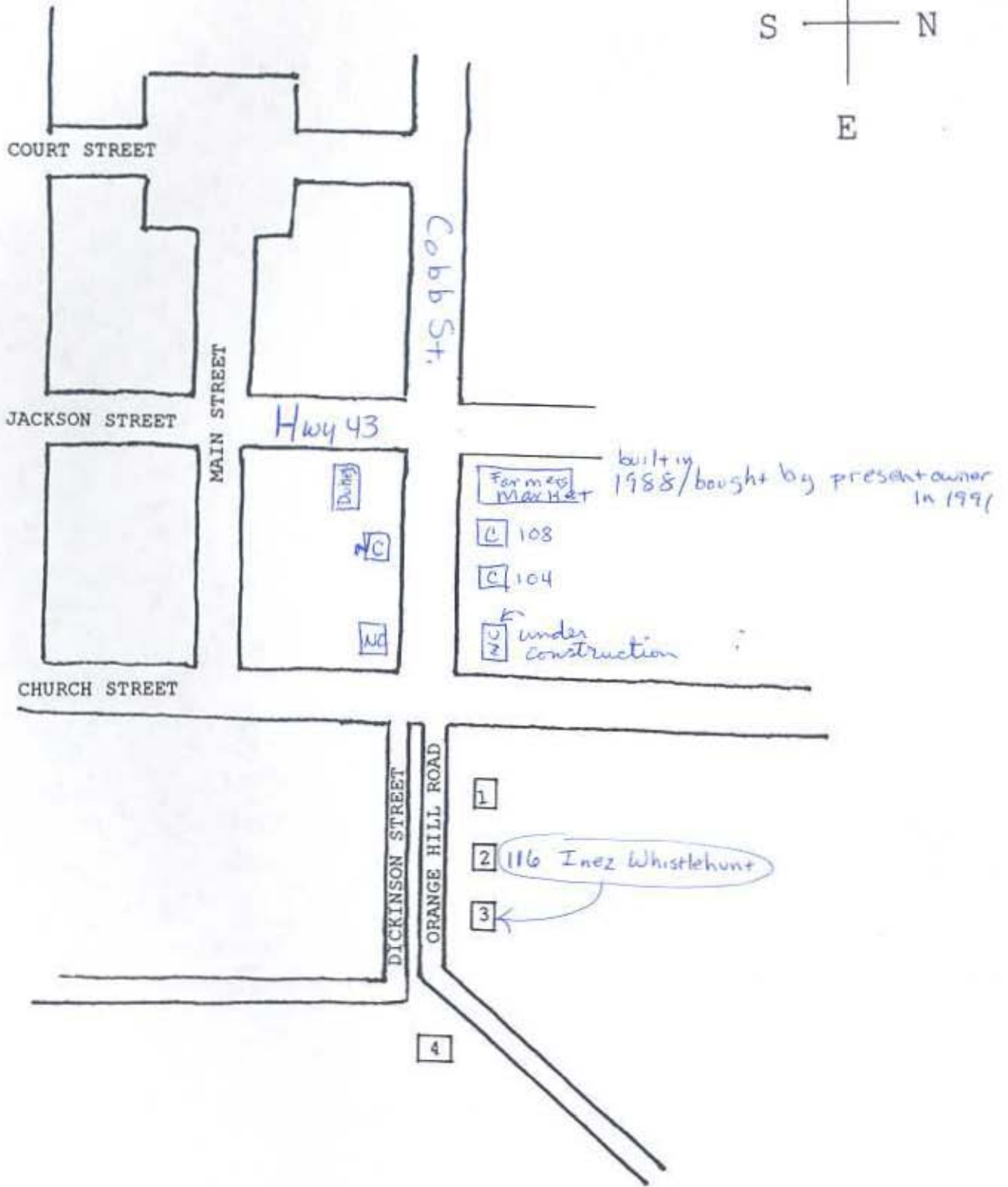
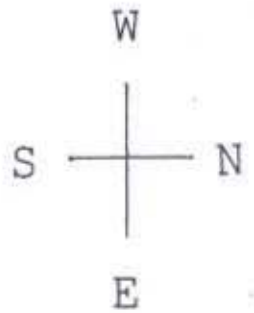
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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_



ORANGE HILL ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT

GROVE HILL, ALABAMA


NOT TO SCALE

- 108 Cobb St.

Judy Webb 275-8259  
(Dickinson House)

1 story, 3x4 bay, gable-oriented, frame bungalow clad in vinyl siding on concrete foundation. FF = wraparound front porch that is partially screened in + has concrete parapet wall + battered pillars. In porch area is a s-l, multi-light entrance w/ multi-light sidelights. Most windows are paired v. 4/1 DHS. On W side is a big picture window + a small addition.

- 104 Cobb St.

1 story, 4x3 bay, gable-oriented, frame bungalow clad in vinyl siding on concrete foundation. Most of its windows are paired or tripartite . Gable-front, wraparound porch has pillars on brick piers. 2 s-l entrances in porch area. 2 outbldgs.

- NWc of Church + Cobb St.

New bldg under construction. Probably a bank.

- S side of Cobb St. (behind Duke's)

1 story, 4x3 bay, side-gabled, frame house clad in vinyl siding + on concrete foundation. Windows are  $\frac{6}{6}$  DHS, vinyl replacements. 3 bay wide front porch has concrete <sup>brick</sup> pillars supporting a shed roof w/a front gable + a s-l door flanked by paired windows. Interior chimney

- SWc of Cobb + Church Strs.

Bungled bungalow w/ new siding + new vinyl windows.

3x5 bay.

1. 1 story, 4 bay wide, frame, QA cottage w/ gable on hip roof. Front gabled wing has imbricated shingles. Wraparound porch has been enclosed on side ele. Has ~~beveled~~ beveled posts w/ pierced corner brackets & jigsaw balustrade.  
Various additions

- 115 Orange Hill Rd.

Tudor Rev. frame cottage w/ side gable roof. Long, rear gabled wing. 3 x 4 bay on brick foundation.

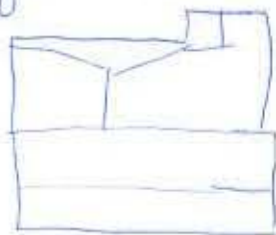
Ff has an exterior brick chimney + a gable which contains a round-arched, s-l, wood door on a small stoop + a multi-light casement window. Porch has been glassed in. Shed-roofed dormer on ff. Most windows are 6/6 DHS

- 1 W of 115 Orange Hill Rd.

1 story, 3 x 4 bay, brick, Tudor Rev house w/a ~~complex gable~~ <sup>complex roof.</sup>

Ff = large gable w/ tripartite window; smaller, central gable w/ half-timbering + s-l door; brick exterior chimney + casement window. Across 3/4 of ff is a terrace w/ a wrought iron balustrade

Variety of windows, but many are 4/4 DHS



- SEC of Orange Hill + Church St. (fire in 1960s) NC  
2 story, frame, Col Rev house has central, 2 story block, w/ 1 story side gabled wings

## COBB STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

### DESCRIPTION

The district includes one block of Cobb Street, from Church Street on the west to a sharp curve in Cobb Street on the east and contains four houses. There are three houses on the north side of the street, and no houses along the south side. The south side is actually a wide median between Cobb and Dickinson Streets. The fourth house in the district sits at the Y created by the opposing curves in Cobb Street and Dickinson Street. The setbacks are typical of residential areas during the period of significance, and driveways to the side of the houses are the rule. Mature trees, grass lawns, and native shrubs and flowers compliment the district. The median is devoid of planned landscaping, consisting of grass.

### CHARACTER-DEFINING ELEMENTS

The Cobb Street Historic District is comprised of four buildings that are representative of local residential architectural styles during the time of significance. Character-defining elements include the following:

- Uniform setbacks of the buildings along Cobb Street
- Driveways to the sides of the buildings
- Landscaping consisting of shrubs, mature trees, and grass typical of residential areas
- Absence of sidewalks (check)
- (check on streetlights)

### INVENTORY

1. NE corner Cobb & Church (Survey #614) ca. 1886-1915. One story, frame, L-shaped house with hipped roof and front projecting gables. The shallow, angled bay beneath the projecting gable on this house has the typical corner brackets. The house has an asymmetrical plan with a projecting front bay. The shed-roof porch fits into the L formed by the front bay and has good examples of spindlework frieze, post and banisters, as well as lace-like brackets. (C)
2. N side Cobb, E of Church (not in survey), ca. 1960. One story, brick ranch style house with gable roof, one projecting gabled bay with picture window. (NC)
3. N side Cobb, E of Church (Survey #615) ca. 1886-1915. One story, frame house with a high hipped roof. The shed roof porch fits within the L formed by the projecting front bay. The pedimented gable over the slightly angled bay is typical of a Victorian style found throughout the county. (C)



4. W end of Dickinson Street (Survey #618) ca. 1860. The simple four-room, two story, frame house features the central hall plan commonly used for structures in the area, but it was embellished with the application of Italianate details. On the exterior these appear in the intricately carved doorway, paired windows, bracketed cornice and central wall gable, while on the interior they are found in the octagonal parlor and marble mantel. The main entrance is a round-arched doorway with an intricately carved fanlight. The red and blue glass in the fanlight and sidelights is original.

Symmetrically arranged on the three bay facade are pairs of round-arched windows, two on each side of the doorway and three upstairs. Each window is framed with the same carved molding as that around the doorway. A center gable on the hipped roof and a circular attic window adorn the front facade. The original porch has been replaced. Around 1900, a one story addition was constructed on the east end of the house.

#### CRITERION C, ARCHITECTURE

The houses in this district are good and intact local examples of architecture typically built between 1860 and 1915. They retain integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling and association.

#### PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

The period of significance for the Cobb Street Historic District is from ca. 1860, the date of the Dickinson House, to ca. 1915, the date of the remaining contributing structures.

#### HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Grove Hill, located in almost the geographical center of the County, was chosen as the county seat of Clarke County in 1832. Local tradition says that the name of Grove Hill was chosen because of the stand of oaks on the plateau upon which the settlement was made.

The first settlement of whites in the vicinity of what is today Grove Hill was called Magoffin's Store. James Magoffin came to St. Stephens from Philadelphia in 1809. He represented Washington County in the legislature of the Mississippi Territory prior to coming to the Grove Hill area in 1815. According to historian T.H. Ball in his CLARKE COUNTY, ALABAMA AND ITS SURROUNDINGS, Magoffin established a store, about two miles north of the present courthouse and that this store was listed as a voting place in 1819.

A post office, known as Post Oak Level, was established there on April 21, 1820, with James Magoffin as postmaster. The name of

the post office was changed to Grove Hill on April 16, 1828. Magoffin had returned to St. Stephens by 1836, after representing Clarke County in the convention to form a state constitution in 1819 and in the legislature in 1821.

Besides Magoffin's Store, there was another small settlement in the Grove Hill area. This settlement was in the vicinity of the present Clarke County Courthouse and was known as both Smithville and Macon. T. H. Ball, in his history, states that the Clarke County Courthouse was moved from Clarkesville to Smithville in 1832. However, the minutes of the Orphan's Court show that court was held at Macon on February 4, 1833. These minutes continue to mention Macon as the place of the court from that time until 1850, except for one entry on April 6, 1835, where Smithville is named as the place to appear before the court. Ball states that the name of the town was established as Grove Hill about 1850 when the Grove Hill Post Office was moved to the courthouse vicinity.

There was little activity in the village of Grove Hill prior to 1832 when it became the county seat. At that time all county office holders at Clarkesville moved to Grove Hill. Because the government jobs at the time did not pay much, most of the office holders had to continue with their other jobs, whether farming or professional, when not conducting county business.

When the county seat was moved to Grove Hill, a 1-story frame courthouse was built with a log jail behind it and a town well nearby. In 1899 the frame courthouse was replaced with a two story brick building which served as the courthouse until 1955 when it was replaced with the present structure.

(look at late Sanborns at archives and describe the condition of the area at the turn of the century)

✓ Residence

615

Photo 27/33

1886-1915

N side Cobb, E of Church

Grove Hill

1-story, frame house with a high hipped roof. The shed roof porch fits within the L formed by the projecting front bay. The pedimented gable over the slightly angled bay is typical of a victorian style found throughout Clarke County.

Residence

617

Photo 24/34

1886-1915

N side Cobb, E of Church

Grove Hill

2-story, frame house with a hipped roof and 2 projecting front gables. A 1-story, shed roof porch extends across the entire front of the house.

✓ Dickinson House

618

Photo 24/36a

c. 1860

W end of Dickinson Street

Grove Hill

34/36a 35/0-7 41/16-18

The Dickinson House is an example of the influence of Italianate Style. The house was constructed for Colonel James Shelton Dickinson, one of Clarke County's leading mid-19th century citizens. The architect is believed to have been an English-born carpenter named James Newman. After working as a builder in Virginia, Newman moved to Grove Hill to construct this home for Dickinson. It appears that Dickinson and Newman based the house on Italianate forms and details taken from Samuel Sloan's pattern book, The Model Architect.

The simple 4-room, 2-story, frame house features the central hall plan commonly used for structures in the area, but it was embellished with the application of Italianate details. On the exterior these appear in the intricately carved doorway, paired windows, bracketed cornice and central wall gable, while on the interior they are found in the octagonal parlor.

The most elaborate of the Italianate details is the round-arched doorway with its intricately carved fanlight. The double doors are of heart pine, featuring round-arched and circular panels. The rich red and blue glass in the fanlight and sidelights is original. An arched moulding encased the doorway.

Symmetrically arranged on the 3 bay facade are pairs of round-arched windows, 2 on each side of the doorway and 3 upstairs. The ground floor ones are 4/6 double hung sashes, while the second story ones are similar but have only 4 lights in the lower sashes. Each window is framed with the same carved moulding as that around the doorway. In addition, a rectangular casing groups the pairs of windows, featuring a plain lug sill below and carved spandrels above. Similar windows are repeated on the single bays of the north and south.

Further enhancing the facade symmetry are the center gable of the hipped roof and the circular attic window. Originally, a full width porch extended across the facade. Although the exact style and number of stories of the porch is not known, one based on the earliest known photograph has been built during the house's restoration. Intricately carved brackets support a plain cornice which extends around the original portion of the house. Together with the fanlight, these give the house its characterizing delicacy.

The interior has for the most part been maintained in its original condition. It features a simple central hall plan, with an octagonal parlor and a bedroom downstairs and 2 more bedrooms upstairs. 2 interior chimneys on the east have fireplaces opening into each room. The parlor mantel is made of white Italian marble, with the rest being of pine. The beautiful walnut circular stair in the central hall highlights the interior and reflects the carpentering background of the architect. All flooring and woodworking is of naturally finished heart pine. The octagonal shape of the parlor, the marble mantel, and the circular stair give a distinctive quality to the otherwise simple interior.

Around 1900 a 1-story addition was constructed on the east end of the house to provide more comfortable living quarters. The second story addition and east and south porches appear to have been added at a later date.

In 1821 James S. Dickinson (1818-1882) came to Clarke County from Virginia with his parents. His father, Richard Dickinson, operated a successful plantation and was active in state politics. As a child, the younger Dickinson was educated by private tutors and in private schools, and himself taught at a school near Grove Hill. He completed his education at the University of Virginia, where in 1844 he was awarded a law degree. In that same year, in Louisa County, Virginia, he married his cousin Mary Frances Dickinson, and shortly after settling in Grove Hill they contracted for the construction of their home.

During his career, Dickinson operated a law practice as well as involved himself in political affairs. In 1853 and 1854 he served in the Alabama Senate, and from 1863-65 he was a member of the Confederate Congress in Richmond. At the onset of the Civil War, Dickinson organized and financed a Confederate company from Grove Hill known as the "Dickinson Guards". The company was actively engaged throughout the war, and Dickinson himself rose to the rank of colonel, presumably a state militia title. At the close of the war, he returned to Grove Hill and practiced law with the firm of Dickinson and Kilpatrick. He married Alice Savage following the death of his first wife in 1864. He continued to live in Grove Hill for the remainder of his life.

the 1850s he was one of only 2 physicians in the area. It is believed that he maintained his medical office on the property also, but no evidence of the structure remains. The house was sold to Alfred Y. Bettis in 1867, when Alston moved to Orrville, a Dallas county community.

Alfred Bettis was the son of Judge Zachariah L. Bettis, probate judge of Clarke County. After studying medicine at the University of Louisiana in New Orleans, the younger Bettis returned to Grove Hill in 1861 as a physician. In 1867 he acquired the Alston House, and like Alston, is believed to have located his medical office on the lot. A decade later he moved to a plantation in the northern part of the county and by 1882 he had left Clarke County for Texas.

Around 1880, the house passed to Enoch S. Cobb, a wealthy landowner whose father had settled in Clarke County in the 1830s. When Cobb died in 1891, he willed the house to his youngest son, Jesse M. Cobb, and it remained in the Cobb family until the mid-1970s. The Clarke County Historical Society purchased the house and restored it as a local history museum.

Residence

610

Photo 27/11

1886-1915

NE corner Cobb & Jackson

Grove Hill

1-story, frame, L-shaped house with cross-gable roof. House has an asymmetrical plan with a projecting front bay. The house retains its original L-shaped porch.

Residence

612

Photo 27/12

1886-1915

NW corner Cobb & Church

Grove Hill

1-story, frame, L-shaped house with cross-gable roof. House has an asymmetrical plan with a projecting front bay. The original shed-roof porch fits within the L formed by the bay.

Residence

614

Photo 27/13

1886-1915

NE corner Cobb & Church

Grove Hill

A 1-story, frame, L-shaped house with hipped roof and front projecting gables. The shallow, angled bay beneath the projecting gable on this house has the typical corner brackets. House has an asymmetrical plan with a projecting front bay. The shed-roof porch fits into the L formed by the front bay and has good examples of spindlework frieze, post and banisters, as well as lace-like brackets.

Residence

613

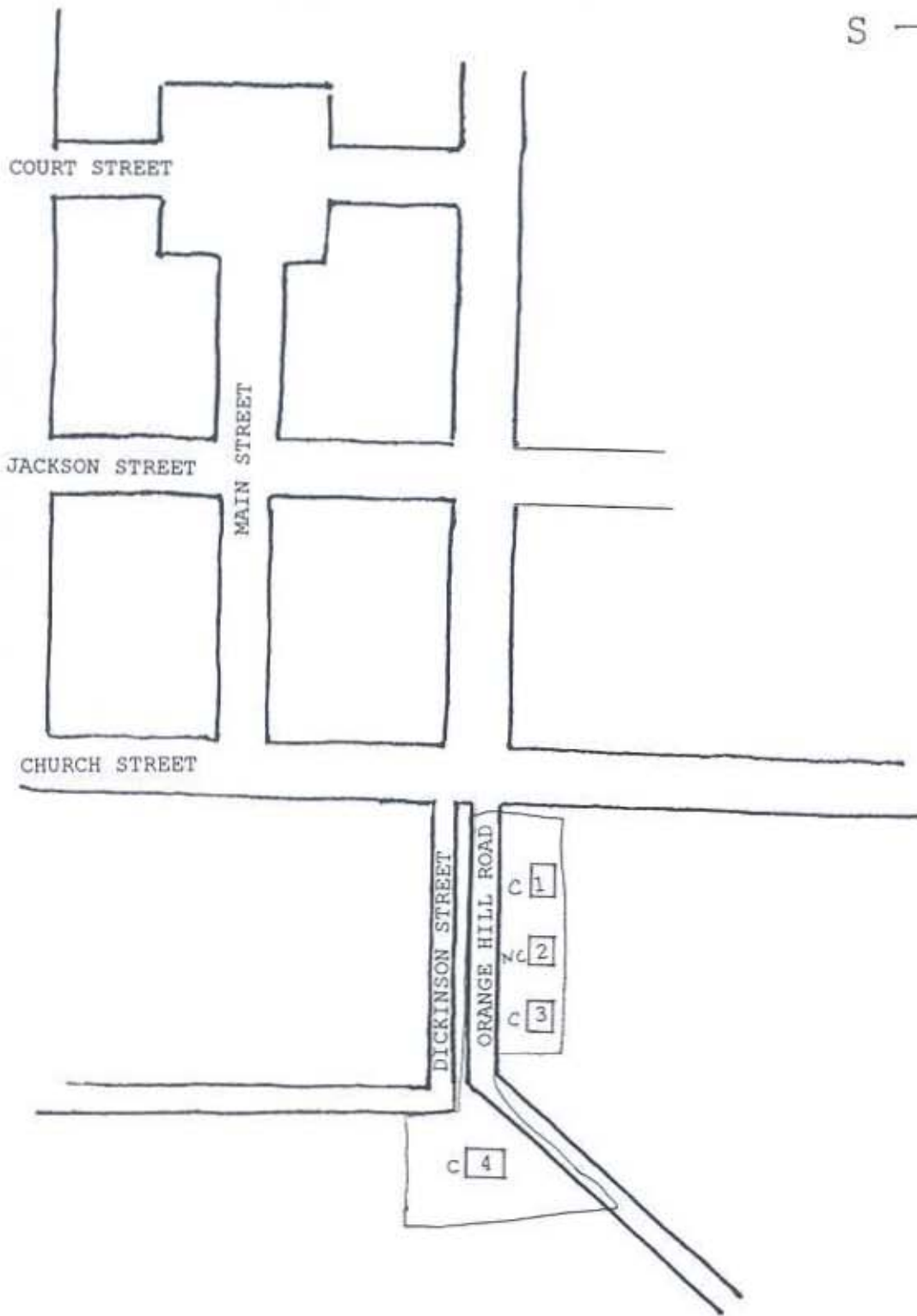
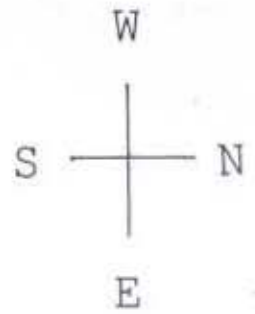
Photo 27/14

1916-1930

S side Cobb between US 43 & Church

Grove Hill

Simple, rectangular, frame house with a side gable roof. The original attached shed-roofed porch has plain square post.

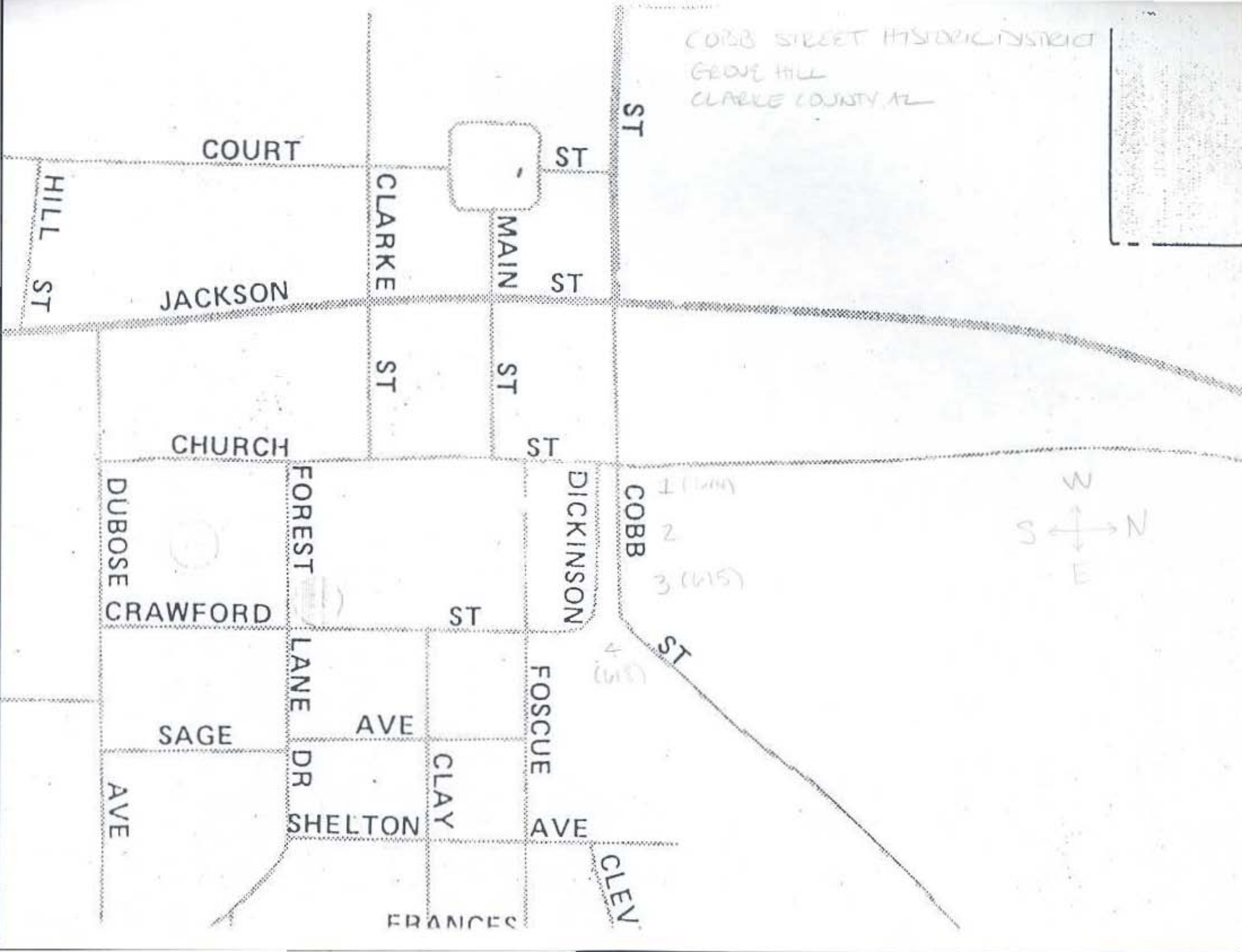


ORANGE HILL ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT

GROVE HILL, ALABAMA

NOT TO SCALE

COBB STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT  
GROVE HILL  
CLARKE COUNTY, AL



COURT ST

ST

ST

HILL ST

CLARKE ST

MAIN ST

ST

JACKSON ST

ST

ST

CHURCH ST

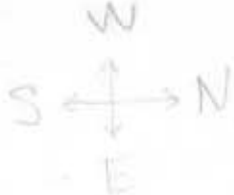
ST

COBB ST

1 (1744)

2

3 (1615)



DUBOSE AVE

FOREST LANE DR

DICKINSON ST

4 (1615)

CRAWFORD ST

ST

FOSCUE AVE

SAGE AVE

AVE

LANE DR

CLAY AVE

AVE

AVE

SHELTON AVE

CLEVEN ST

FRANCES ST