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HISTORIC AUGUSTA'S REAL ESTATE PROGRAM REVOLVES SHOTGUN HOUSE IN HISTORIC BETHLEHEM NEIGHBORHOOD

Historic Augusta has successfully transferred ownership of 1421 ½ Picquet Avenue, a modest 1916 shotgun style house in Augusta, Georgia, to the Laney Walker Development Corporation. The house was initially donated to Historic Augusta by Elizabeth Gordon of New York City who inherited the property from her mother, Lucy Bell White.

The house is a fine example of the shotgun house type which was prevalent throughout the South in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. Shotgun houses have long narrow plans, usually one-story, with a long hall on one side, and a series of two to four rooms on the other side. This house was constructed in 1916 by William Carpenter, Sr., a prominent African-American grocer and entrepreneur in Augusta. It remained in the Carpenter family as an investment property until 1960.

The Bethlehem Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places December 1, 1997 and is recognized as a significant historically African American urban neighborhood. The neighborhood has suffered considerable blight and disinvestment over the past twenty years, but recent new construction including the Powell Pointe development on nearby Twiggs Circle has gained momentum and renewed focus from both the public and private sectors. Historic Augusta will work closely with Laney Walker Development Corporation, which will rehabilitate 1421 ½ Picquet Street for residential housing following preservation standards.

The mission of Historic Augusta, Inc., is to preserve historically or architecturally significant sites and structures in Augusta and Richmond County, Georgia. Historic Augusta's Real Estate Program works with owners of historic properties to find new investors who will preserve the buildings and put them back into use. A preservation easement is retained by Historic Augusta, which protects historic elements and features in perpetuity.

The Laney Walker Development Corporation was incorporated in 1989 and works within the neighborhood to bring affordable housing and urban renewal to the neighborhood. The organization works to promote homeownership through both new construction and rehabilitation of historic assets.

For more information, call Historic Augusta at 706-724-0436.