

## Ivytown (Ivorytown)

### Introduction

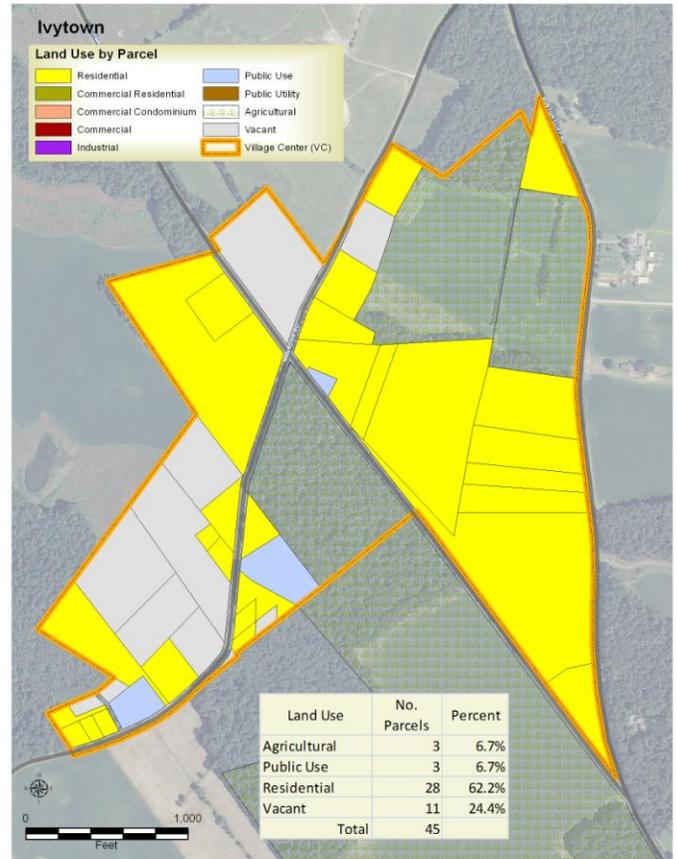
#### History

The oral history notes the village called Ivytown was settled by Free Blacks and former slaves, who were brought to these shores from the West Coast of Africa -- in particular "The Ivory Coast." It has been an African American village since the late 1700's.

The hub of this community is the New Queen Esther AME Church. Many of the residents were related to one another and attended the church. Oral and documented history tells the story of Richard Allen, founder of the AME church, traveling to this area to settle a disagreement between Queen Esther and its sister congregation, Bethel AME church in Easton.

During the early 1930s through 1950s, many small lots near the church were populated with small homes. Later these were demolished and the lots sold to one owner. The church has a cemetery adjacent to the acreage which is owned by the members under the direction of the Trustee Board. This cemetery contains the graves of various fallen soldiers who served in several wars.

There was a strong agricultural tradition in the community, with the Brice family cultivating crops and small numbers of farm animals for personal use. Each family had cows, pigs a few chickens, as well as a small garden to feed their families. The practice of helping one another was very strong in the village at



that time.

Recently, properties have been sold and purchased by non-family members and subsequently the community is now multi-racial in its makeup.

#### Characteristics

Present day Ivytown is a quiet hamlet where residents continue to watch out for each other in the community as they have traditionally done. The preservation of the peaceful rural setting and individual family dwellings is important to those who reside in the village.

Most of the land in the community is either residential or farmland. Presently the village is made up of approximately 17

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single family homes and the local church.

There is some light commercial business in the village, including: a truck driver who stores his vehicle at home, and an in-home business (daycare). Crops are still cultivated

and harvested in the village. One resident has built barns and corrals to house 4 horses. Most of the residents are working families, retirees and few children.

Although not considered residents in the proper sense, the church has an average of 40 members, a few who live in the community. The majority of the congregation lives elsewhere but have family ties to the area and commute to worship in the village.

### Vision Statement

#### Objectives

- Preserve the Character of the Village;
- Limit commercial activities;
- Cultivate and maintain the sense of community;
- Make the village peaceful, safe and secure for residents;
- Address traffic concerns.

In order to keep this idyllic setting without the encroachment of development, planning is necessary.

On nearby Schwaniger Road, a small



development was planned but residences are not yet built. The property has been auctioned but new owners have left the land idle. The property was formerly used as farm/crop lands. The proximity and availability of

farms fields in the village of Ivytown creates the potential for the same scenario to occur.

The use of septic systems in the area prohibits a large development to be planned in the village, unless public sewer lines are brought to this area.

#### Concerns & Plan of Action

Concern - Large scale development in undeveloped farmland within Village boundaries.

Action – Choose zoning that would prohibit large scale development within village boundary. Suggested zone VH.

Concern - Heavy traffic load and speeding.

Action – Address the situation through County Law enforcement and State Police.

Concern – Re-instill the sense of a close knit community among all neighbors.

Action – Develop a “Welcoming” committee and official neighborhood watch.