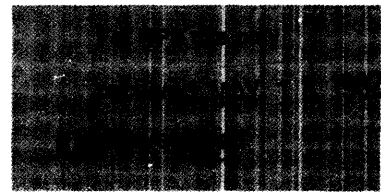


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



## 1. Name

historic Crawford W. Brazell House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 607 Jackson Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Vidalia

N/A vicinity of

~~Congressional district~~

state Georgia

code 013

county Toombs

code 279

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum/gallery
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Garth Brantley, President/Altama Gallery, Ltd.

street & number P.O. Box 33

city, town Vidalia

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia 30474

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Toombs County Courthouse

city, town Lyons

state Georgia

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date N/A federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records None

city, town

state

---

## 7. Description

---

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

---

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

The Crawford W. Brazell House is a two-story, Neo-Classical residence located on a corner city lot in Vidalia, Toombs County, Georgia. It was built in 1911 by architect-builder Ivey P. Crutchfield. The property is extensively landscaped and contains a small historic wood frame garage near the rear of the lot.

The Brazell House is asymmetrically massed with a complex, multi-hipped roof line capped by a small flat, deck area. It is balloon framed, rests on brick piers and is sheathed with weatherboard. The house has four tall brick chimneys with corbelling; two are exterior end chimneys, the other two rise up through the central part of the house. Windows throughout are one-over-one double hung sash with simple wood surrounds. The main exterior feature of the Brazell House is a series of prominent porches. The front facade has a monumental, two-story, pedimented portico and full-width, two-tier porches with simple wood railing on both levels. The gable roofed portico, placed asymmetrically on the front facade is supported by two massive, two-story wood columns and has a louvered, triangular opening in the pediment area. The porches are supported by similarly styled wooden columns arranged in groups of two, those on the first floor being slightly larger than those on the second. The main entrance and an entrance onto the second floor porch are treated identically with, in each case, oversize sidelights and a lighted transom flanking a modest door. Additional front facade entrances near the south end of the porch on both levels lead directly into bedrooms. Just beyond these entrances, on both floors, a portion of the south end of the porch has been enclosed to create two bathrooms. A second two-story porch with identical columns and railing is located along the rear half of the south side of the house. A third one-story, "ell" shaped porch in the corresponding area on the north side of the house serves as the kitchen/service entrance. This porch, originally screened, has been glassed in.

The Brazell House interior has an asymmetrical floor plan with most rooms on both floors opening off a large stairhall. Triple folding doors between the dining room and sitting room, and sitting room and stairhall, create an open flow-through space. The open two-run stairway has a solid-looking railing with square balusters and a large square newel post. Interior details are simple. Walls are plastered and have wood baseboards, chair rails, picture rails and crown moldings. Ceilings are of beaded tongue-and-groove boards. Interior window and door surrounds feature paneled moldings that meet at patera blocks. Interior doors with five horizontal panels are all surmounted by transoms. Woodwork throughout is of heart yellow pine. The four chimneys serve fireplaces in every room. Mantels vary from simple wood ones in most bedrooms to the one in the dining room which has an over-mantel with a shallow compartment fronted with leaded glass doors. The house has two original bathrooms in addition to the two added on the front porch about 1930. Lighting fixtures are original.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet Description

Item number 7

Page 2

The Brazell House sits on a corner, half-acre city lot. The grounds around the house are extensively landscaped. Shrubs serve as foundation planting. A formal garden planted with bulbs, roses and other flowers and partly surrounded by a wrought iron fence is located to the rear of the house. Nearby are two grape arbors and a small historic wood frame garage. Several large trees including a magnolia and oak are scattered around the grassed lot. A very tall "Washingtonia Filifera" palm in front of the house has attracted the attention of Florida's Palm Society. The front walk and the side walk in front of the house are laid with hexagonal concrete paving tiles. The property is located in a residential neighborhood which has had some intrusion. A modern regional library facility is located across Jackson Street on the site of another large residence dating from the same period.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The Historic Preservation Section has determined that the photographs taken in March, 1981 still represent the character and appearance of the property. No significant changes have been made since that date, although some deteriorated front porch columns have been replaced.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1911

**Builder/Architect** Ivey P. Cruthfield.

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Crawford W. Brazell House is historically significant in the areas of architecture, landscape architecture and local history. Architecturally, it is a good example of a locally designed Neo-Classical style residence in South Georgia and the only one remaining in that style in Vidalia. In terms of local history, the house is significant as the home of Crawford W. Brazell, a locally prominent naval stores operator. The construction of the Brazell House, in 1911, corresponded to the first period of major economic growth and development in Vidalia, a city not founded until 1889. These areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register criteria B and C.

In terms of architecture, the Brazell House represents a small-town interpretation by a local builder/architect of the fashionable turn-of-the-century Neo-Classical style. This style achieved a widespread popularity in this country, following its introduction at the 1893 Chicago Columbian Exposition. In Georgia, it became the symbol of the post-Reconstruction New South, just as the Greek Revival style had been the symbol of the antebellum period. Around the turn-of-the-century, Neo-Classical residences were built in nearly every Georgia Community by men of means and prestige. In Vidalia three such houses were built; the Brazell House is the only one remaining.

The monumental pedimented portico, porch detailing and a few interior mantel details identify the house as "Neo-Classical", but the asymmetrical massing of the house with its projecting bay, the irregular, open floor plan and the off-center location of the stair hall are all holdovers from the Victorian period. The extensive use of porches is a local adaptation of the style to accommodate Southern climate and living styles. Detailing throughout is simple and lacks the elaboration and refinement often present in high-style Neo-Classical residences. However, as the extant specifications indicate, the house was intended to be a fine one, constructed of the best locally available materials. Yellow heart pine, a strong, dry, fine quality, knot-free lumber obtained from Mr. Brazell's timberland, was used throughout.

The house was built by architect/builder Ivey P. Cruthfield who is credited with designing several other Toombs County residences and five or six downtown Vidalia commercial buildings, including the First Bank of Vidalia.

(Continued)

IMAGE NOT REPRODUCIBLE  
IMAGE NOT REPRODUCIBLE

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately one-half acre.

Quadrangle name Vidalia, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A 

1	7	3	6	6	5	9	5	3	5	6	4	5	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property constitutes the historic acreage associated with the house; this acreage also coincides with the current legal description for the property.

*See map*

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date February 26, 1982

street & number 270 Washington Street telephone 404 656-2840

city or town Atlanta, state Georgia

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Elizabeth A. Lyon*  
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4/30/82

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 6/17/82

*Melous Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet    Significance    Item number    8    Page    2

In terms of landscape architecture, the rather informally laid out grounds reflect the predominant landscaping practices of the early twentieth century. Flowering trees, fruit trees, shade trees and a magnificent palm tree are placed casually, yet strategically around the property. A grand-daughter recalls that Mrs. Brazell planted scuppernongs, muscadines and peach trees to the rear of the house shortly after moving in. Two arbors still remain. The hexagonal concrete paving tiles used in the front walk and sidewalks are also very typical of early twentieth century street landscaping.

For two reasons the Brazell House is historically significant in the area of local history. For over fifty years the Brazell family played a role in the local community. Crawford W. Brazell, who brought his family to Vidalia from their farm on the Altamaha River in 1911, was a prominent dealer in naval stores, one of the most profitable industries in South Georgia in the early twentieth century. He died four years after the house was built, but his daughters lived in the house until recently. Several of them held jobs in Vidalia, and after 1944, when their mother died, they further contributed to the community by renting rooms to school teachers and young couples.

Crawford Brazell built his house and moved his family to Vidalia during the city's first major period of economic growth and development. Vidalia was not established until 1889, when a depot for the newly laid Savannah, Americus and Montgomery Railroad was built there. In 1902, a second railroad arrived in Vidalia making it a regional transportation center. By about 1910 the forward-looking city already had a hospital, police department and electricity, prompting not only Brazell, but also a number of other well-to-do citizens, to build substantial modern homes there.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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Continuation sheet

Bibliography

Item number

9

Page

2

Brantley, Mrs. Garth and Susan Ham. "Brazell Home Application, Vidalia, Georgia".  
December, 1980. This document, on file at the Historic Preservation  
Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, contains descriptive and  
historical material on the Brazell House and the Brazell family.

Brazell House Building Specifications. Dated April 10, 1911.

Graham, Elizabeth (granddaughter of Crawford W. Brazell). Written statement and  
personal interviews, 1980.

RENTAL RESIDENCE.

RESIDENCE USED AS TWO OFFICES

CRAWFORD W. BRAZELL HOUSE  
Vidalia, Toombs County, Georgia

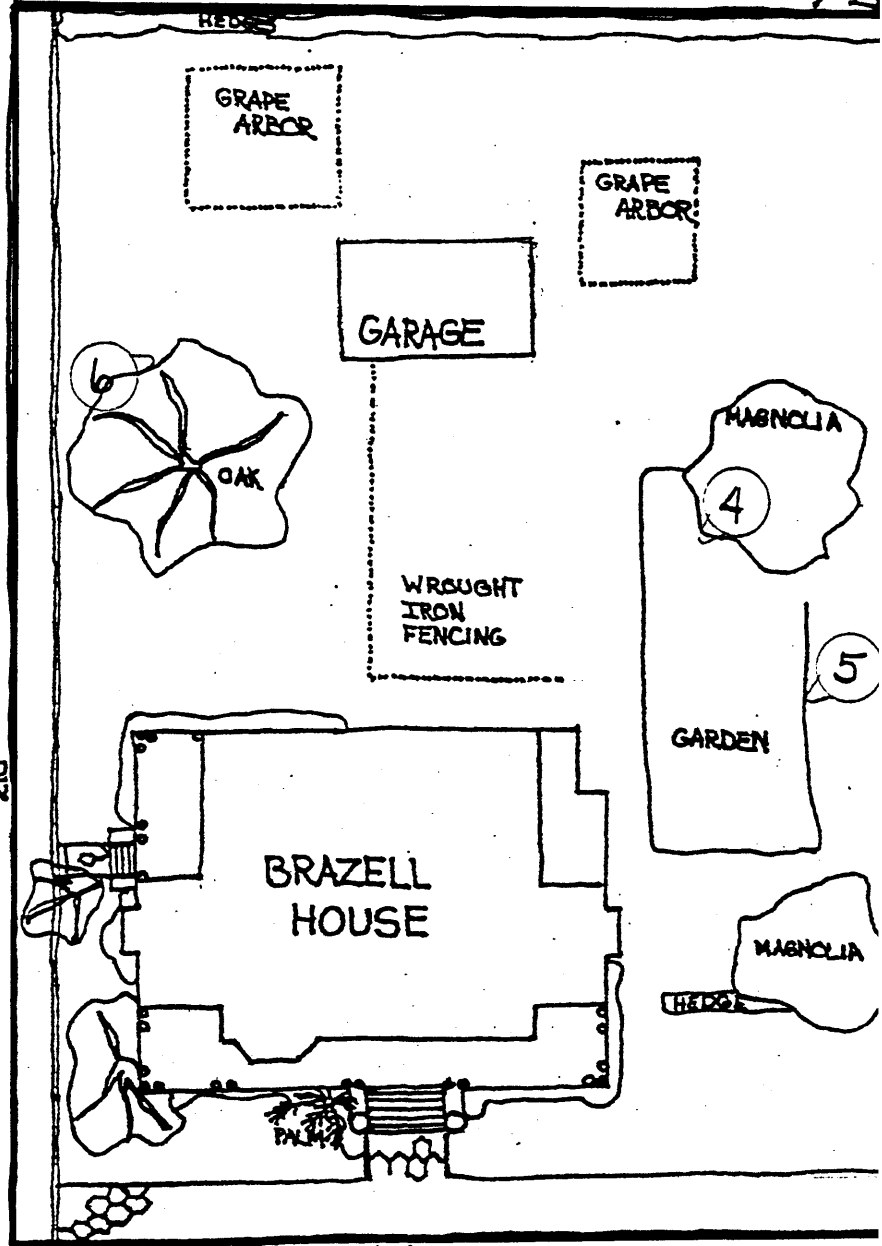
PROPERTY/SKETCH MAP

Not to scale

North: ↗

Property Boundary: —————

Date: Unknown



2

6TH ST.

210'

7

140'

3

→ N

CANT LOT

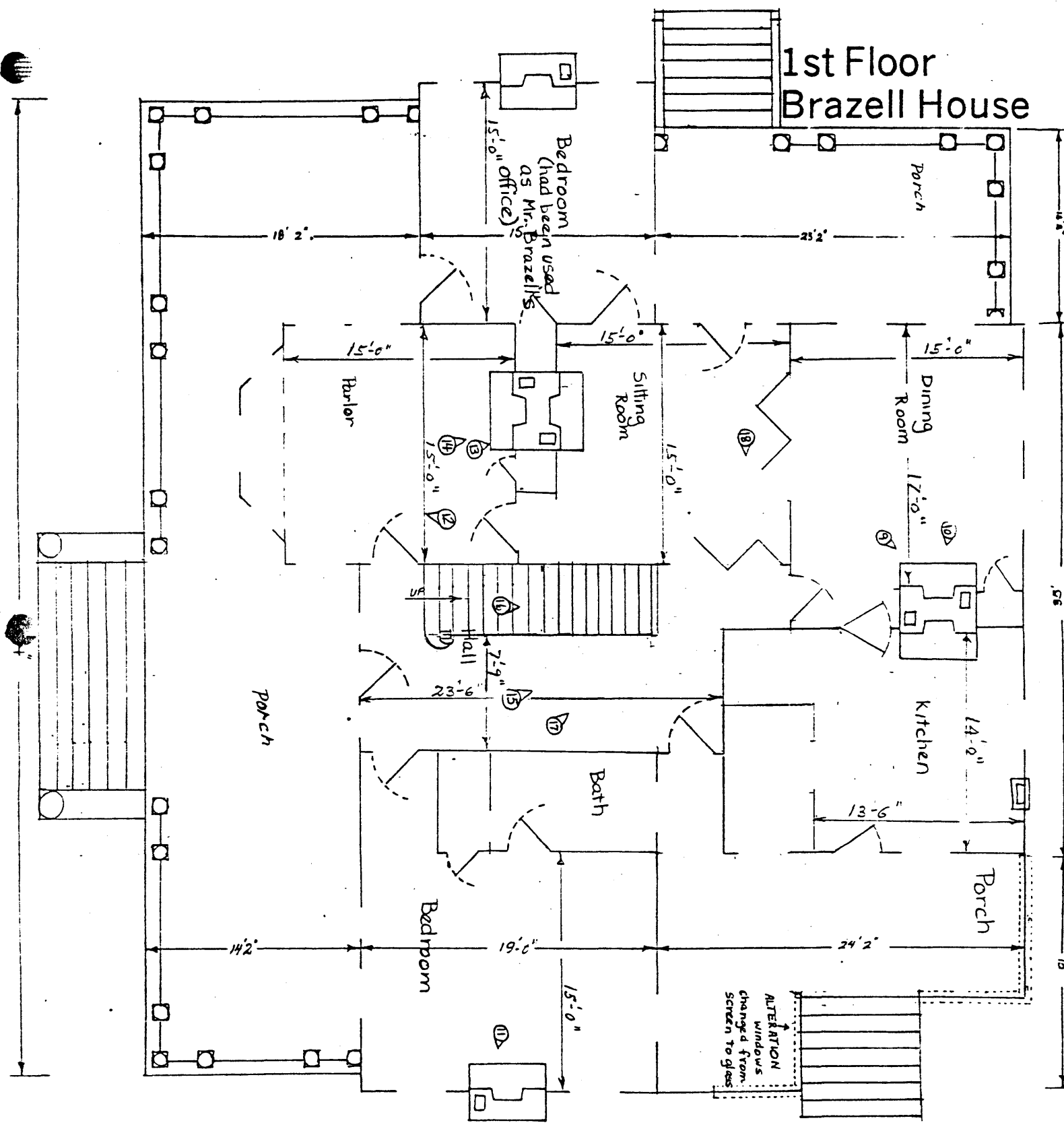
JACKSON ST.

1

NATT RESIDENCE

REGIONAL LIBRARY





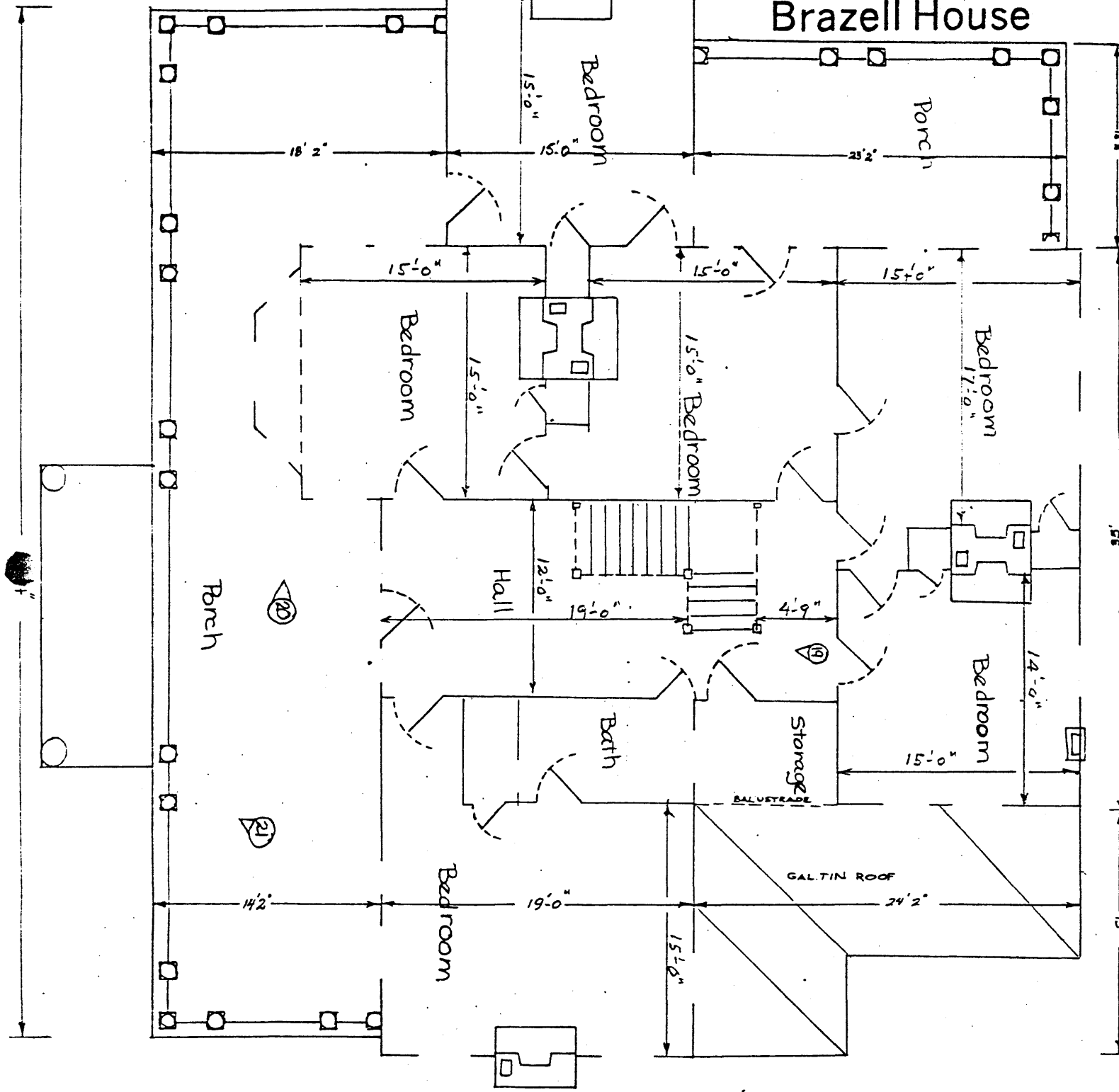
1st Floor  
Brazell House

CRAWFORD W. BRAZELL HOUSE  
Vidalia, Toombs County, Georgia

FIRST FLOOR PLAN (APPROXIMATE)  
Scale: Not to scale  
Date: Unknown  
North:



# 2nd Floor Brazell House



CRAWFORD W. BRAZELL HOUSE  
 Vidalia, Toombs County, Georgia

SECOND FLOOR PLAN (APPROXIMATE)

Scale: Not to scale

Date: Unknown

North: ↓

CRAWFORD W. BRAZELL HOUSE  
Vidalia, Toombs County, Georgia

TAX MAP

Source: Toombs County Tax Map 9, Block 22

North: ↑

Property Boundary: ———

Date: Unknown

