

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lovvorn, Dr. James L., House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 113 E. College Street N/A not for publication
city, town Bowdon N/A vicinity
state Georgia code GA county Carroll code GA045 zip code 30108

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	3	0
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		sites
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		structures
		3	0
			objects
			Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. 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. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official *Elizabeth A. Lyon* Elizabeth A. Lyon Date 4/14/88
Decpy State Historic Preservation Officer (Georgia)
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. 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:)

Alton Byers Entered in the National Register 5-19-88

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
 DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
 DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK AND STONE
 walls WOOD/WEATHERBOARD

roof TIN

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Dr. James L. Lovvorn House is a two-story, balloon frame, Queen Anne style house located on the northeastern edge of the business district in downtown Bowdon, a small town in western Carroll County. Plans for the house were obtained from the firm of George F. Barber, architect, of Knoxville, Tennessee, a well-known mail order house for plans. Exterior Queen Anne style features of house include the corner bay window, steeply pitched hipped roof with projecting gables, three irregularly placed chimneys which replaced more ornamental originals, a prominent front porch, and a small inset front porch on the second floor. The house has irregular massing, brackets, and other ornamentation including latticework, spindles, and turned balusters. There are shingles used for ornamentation in the eaves, and a brick-and-stone foundation. The original wood shingle roof was replaced in the 1930s with the present one of sheet metal. There is a stained glass window in one gable, as well as within the front door which retains its original brass hardware and mechanical door bell.

The original plan of the house has all six rooms on each floor coming off the front and rear halls. The front hall expands into a reception area at the front of the house. In this reception hall there is a fireplace with an impressive mirrored mantel and the main staircase leading to the bay window (actually part of a stair landing) and then the second floor. A second, back stair also leads to the second floor. The walls are plaster over lathe, while the ceilings, floors, wainscoting, and moldings are heart pine. The mantels are all pine with the exception of the one in the library which is mahogany. The raised, double-faced doors are all five panel. Interior details include four mantels with large mirrors attached, mother-of-pearl push plate light switches, white rectangular tile around the fireplaces in two rooms, original electric brass chandeliers and wall fixtures, original tub and other fixtures in an upstairs bath, and original bull's-eye molding.

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The house was built on a balloon frame upon brick pillars. Many features remain of previous lighting and heating systems, including the coal grates. The land around the house is essentially flat. There are two pecan trees on the north side of the property that are said to be at least seventy five years old. Several English boxwoods planted by the original owner can be found outside the library window.

Outbuildings include the historic brick generator house (c. 1896) near the northeast corner of the property. Built to house the generator for the gas light system, it is now a tool shed. There is also a garage (c. 1930) on the east side of the house. It is brick with a sheet metal roof.

The house sits at a major intersection in the small town of Bowdon. Across the street is a commercial area, with the nearest residence being on Rome Street. Changes to the property include the aforementioned replacement of the roof and chimneys after a 1930s tornado; the addition of the present-day kitchen, original pantry and laundry room in the 1940s; and conversion of the pantry to a bathroom in 1977 and the original kitchen to a bedroom.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

architecture
social history

Period of Significance

1896-1926

1896-1926

Significant Dates

1896

1919

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Lovvorn, Dr. James L.

Architect/Builder

Barber, George F., Architect

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Dr. James L. Lovvorn House is significant in architecture and social history. The house is significant in architecture because it is an excellent example of an intact Queen Anne style house with Eastlake details. Features of the Queen Anne style found in the house include the irregular massing, irregular floor plan, asymmetrical chimney/fireplace placement, and various exterior ornamentation including shingles. It was constructed in 1896 from plans bought from George F. Barber of Knoxville, Tennessee, a well-known mail order architectural firm. It retains most of its original craftsmanship, mantels, other details and hardware. All of the mantels except one are attributed to John Carden, of Bowdon, Georgia, who produced millwork and furniture. The house is significant in terms of social history because it was the home of Dr. James L. Lovvorn (1862-1926), a major figure in many aspects of the town of Bowdon(population 354 in 1900) during his thirty years of residing in this house. Active in the administration of the local Bowdon College, he served on the Board of Trustees and served as President of the Board from the time it became a state institution until his death, 1919-1926. Many of the college's professors boarded at the Lovvorn House, as did distinguished speakers. Dr. Lovvorn was also involved in almost every other major activity within the town, including founding the Bank of Bowdon (1905) and founding and owning both the Bowdon Oil Mills and the Bowdon Railway (1909-1910), the first rail link for the town, as well as being a physician for nearly forty years and operating a pharmacy.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Clinton, Jane Barr. "Dr. J. L. Lovvorn Home." Historic Property Information Form, Oct. 29, 1986. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. Includes copy of original plans by George F. Barber of Knoxville, Tenn.; and published biographical sketch on Dr. Lovvorn from the National Cyclopedia of American Biography, XX, p. 389.

N/A See continuation sheet

- Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
- 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

Specify repository:

Historic Structures Field Survey:
Carroll County, Georgia

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre

UTM References

A

1	6
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6	6	2	2	0	0
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3	7	1	2	1	3	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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N/A See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of the city lot upon which the house sits and is the current legal boundary for this property. It is designated parcel 7 on the enclosed tax map of Bowdon, Georgia.

N/A See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is all that remains associated with the house, surrounding land having been used for modern development.

N/A See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr./Historian

organization Historic Preservation Section/ date April 5, 1988

Georgia Department of Natural Resources telephone 404/656-2840

street & number 205 Butler Street/Suite 1462 state Georgia zip code 30334

city or town Atlanta

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These areas of significance support the property's eligibility under National Register Criteria B and C. Under Criteria B, "lives of significant persons," this house is eligible because Dr. Lovvorn, the original owner-builder of the house, was involved in a myriad of activities in the small town of Bowdon. He also served as President of the local college, a state-owned institution. Thus this house is significant for his role in the continued operation of this small, but very important, west Georgia college. Dr. Lovvorn was also involved in starting many of the major commercial, financial and transportation endeavors in the town, especially the Bowdon Railroad, which linked the town for the first time to the outside world by rail.

The house meets Criteria C because it is an excellent example of the Queen Anne style of architecture, prevalent in the late 19th century with its irregular massing, gables, irregular floor plan, uses of wood, stained glass and shingles; and also because it is the work of a master, nationally-known George F. Barber, one of the nation's most prolific sources for mail-order architectural plans. It was through firms such as his that styles and quality house plans were distributed regionally, if not nationally, allowing local builders to construct a higher quality house than they might have using local talent.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE/ CONTEXT STATEMENT:

Dr. James L. Lovvorn, the original builder/occupant of this house, was a native of nearby Randolph County, Alabama, where he was born in 1862. He first came to Bowdon to attend the college there, founded in 1857, and after graduating from the Medical College of Georgia in 1886, and other post-graduate work, he returned to Bowdon to establish his practice.

At the turn of the century when this house was built and Dr. Lovvorn was beginning his career, Bowdon was a small agricultural community which had grown up around the college. There were no telephone lines, electricity, town water mains, railroads, or paved highways. Dr. Lovvorn built this house to include all the conveniences to which urban Victorian American had become accustomed. He built a water tank outside the house in order to supply water under pressure for the bathrooms. The footings of this tank are still visible. The generator house (which survives) was built to house the generator for the gas light system. The doctor even had a buzzer installed to connect his house to the liveryman's quarters in case he had a need for a late night call. When telephones were finally installed in Bowdon, Dr. Lovvorn had telephone number one.

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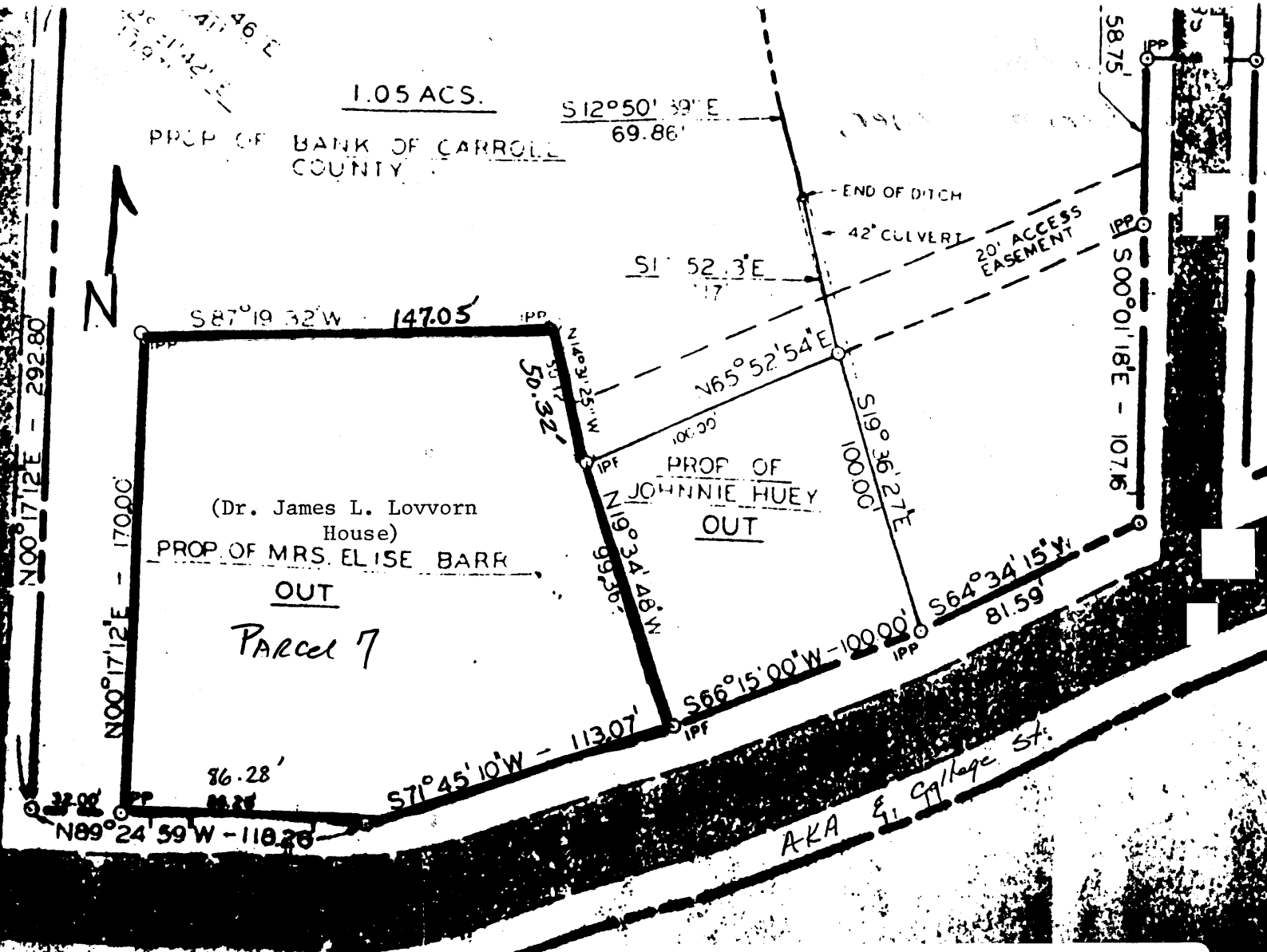
The Lovvorn House was also home to several college professors who taught at the college and often where visiting guest lecturers would stay as well. The Lovvorn House "offered a gracious welcome as hotel and meeting place for the community, out of town traveler, friends and relatives" during the doctor's lifetime, according to a descendant.

Lovvorn's main occupation was that of a physician for nearly forty years until his death in 1926. As late as 1909, there was only one other physician in town. As part of his medical activities, he also operated a pharmacy. He organized the Bank of Bowdon in 1905; he was one of the organizers in 1907 of the Bowdon Oil Mills (of which he was president) and its sole owner after 1916. This latter company manufactured cotton seed products and fertilizer. He organized and served as president of the company which built the Bowdon Railway in 1909-1910. The line ran twelve miles from Bowdon to Bowdon Junction, where it connected to the Central of Georgia Railroad, one of the state's major lines. It was the only rail connection in that area of Georgia and Alabama and opened many horizons for local people, as well as carrying freight. Although active on the college's Board of Trustees, when in 1919 it became state-supported, Dr. Lovvorn became president or chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Bowdon State Normal and Industrial College, which he had attended. As president, he was an ex-officio trustee of the University of Georgia. He was a Mason, a Republican and a Baptist, as well as a member of other professional, fraternal, and local organizations.

After Dr. Lovvorn's death, his widow became a member of the Bowdon College's Board of Trustees and also President of the Bowdon Railroad until 1941. She died in 1959 at age 93.

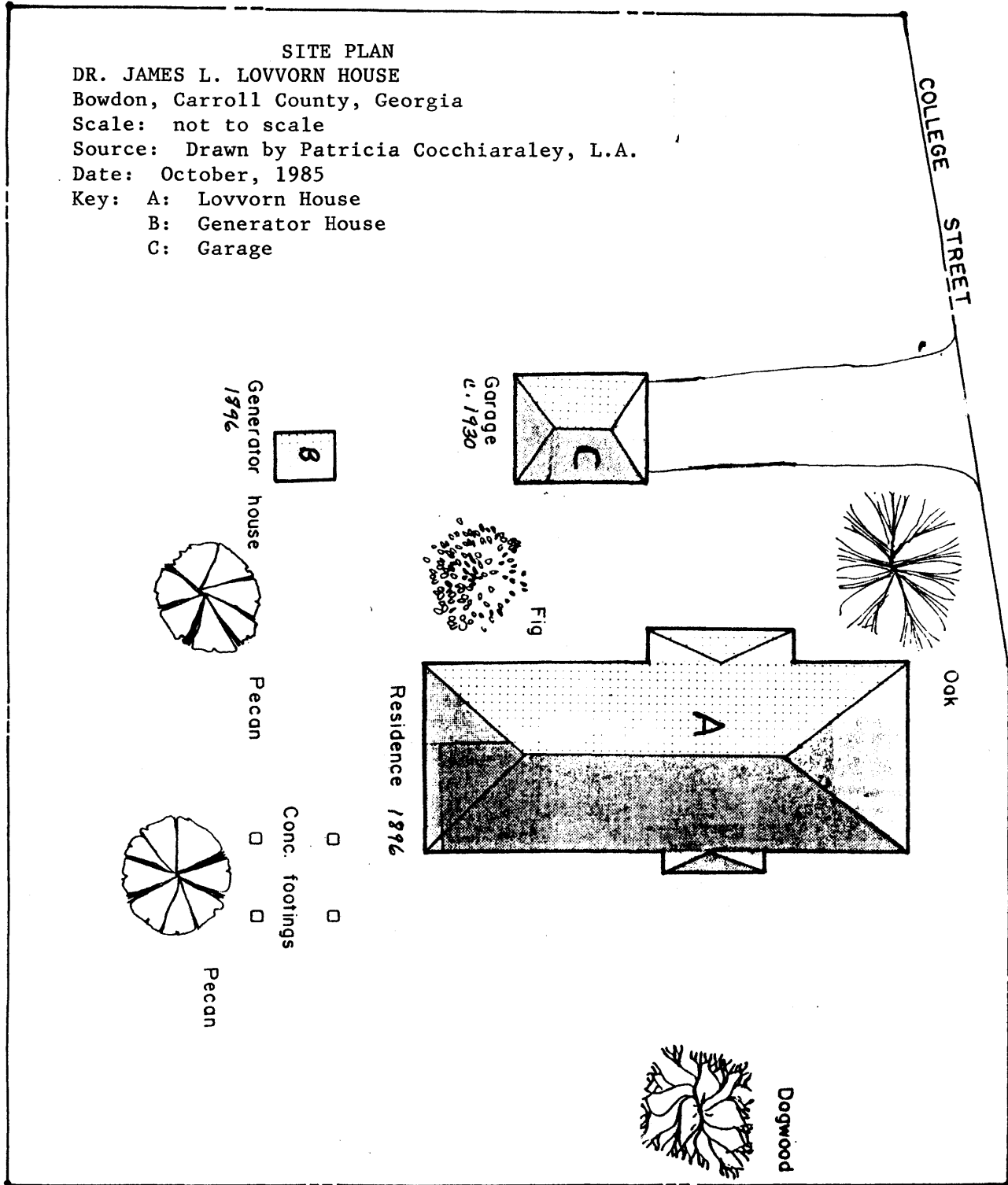
When Lovvorn and his wife, Carrie Johnson, lived in this house, they had three daughters. The house is still owned by their grandchildren.

The most recent historic and cultural event to occur at the Lovvorn House was the meeting in August 1985 of concerned citizens who discussed the formation of a local historical society. After that organizational meeting, the first anniversary of the Bowdon Area Historical Society was also held at the house on August 14, 1986.

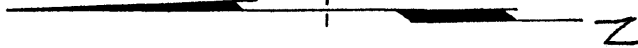


TAX MAP/BOUNDARY MAP
 DR. JAMES L. LOVVORN HOUSE
 Bowdon, Carroll County, Georgia
 Scale: ----- = 53 feet
 Source: Carroll County, Georgia Tax
 Commissioner's Office
 Date: 1986
 Key: The nominated property is marked by
 a heavy black line.

SITE PLAN
DR. JAMES L. LOVVORN HOUSE
 Bowdon, Carroll County, Georgia
 Scale: not to scale
 Source: Drawn by Patricia Cocchiaraley, L.A.
 Date: October, 1985
 Key: A: Lovvorn House
 B: Generator House
 C: Garage



20 0 20 40



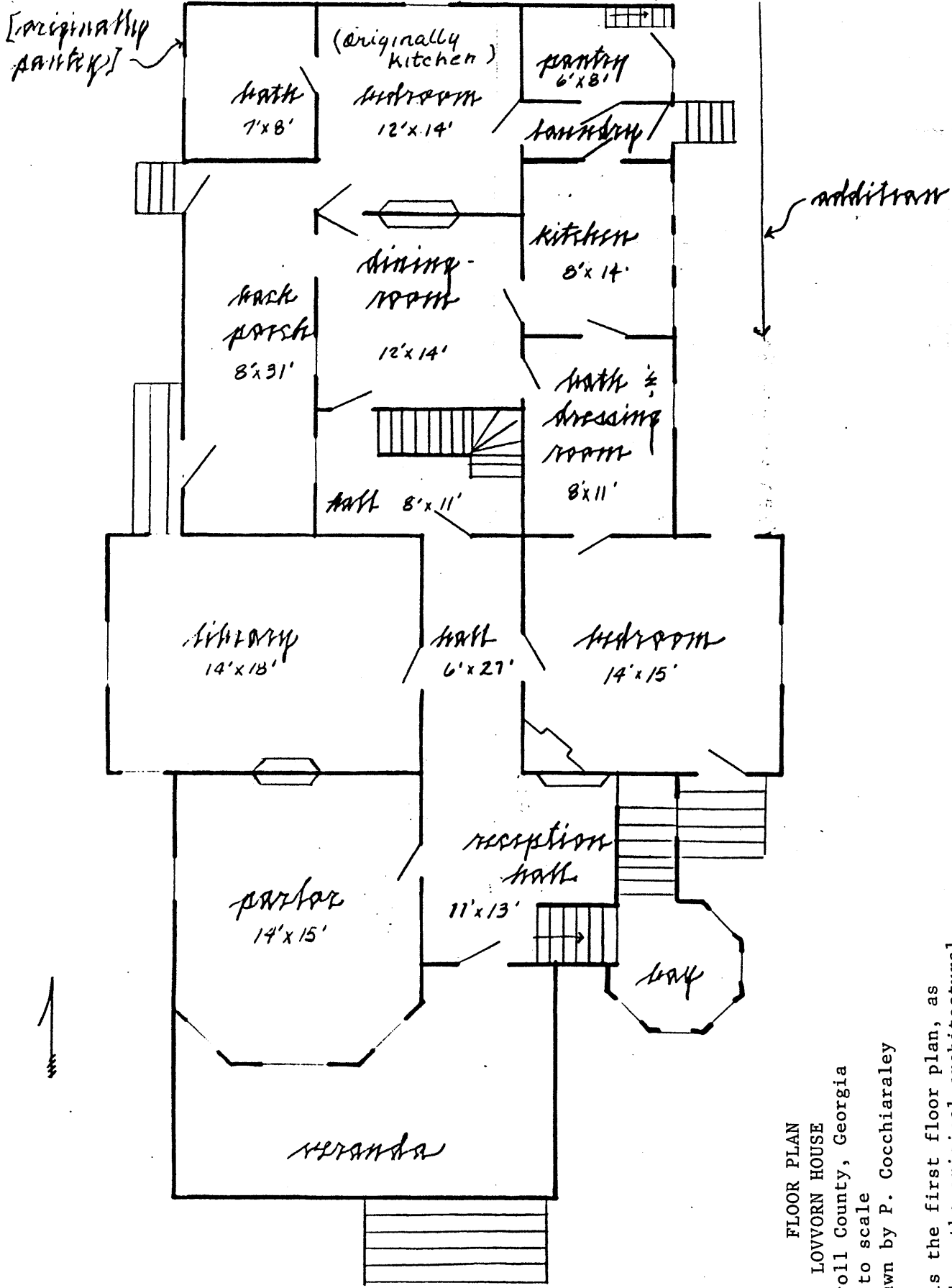
DR. J.L. LOVVORN HOME
 COLLEGE STREET
 BOWDEN, GEORGIA

drawn by, Patricia Cocchiaraley, L.A.
 October 22, 1985

ROME STREET

32'





FLOOR PLAN
 DR. JAMES L. LOVVORN HOUSE

Bowdon, Carroll County, Georgia

Scale: not to scale

Source: Drawn by P. Cocchiaraley

Date: 1986

Key: This is the first floor plan, as built, based on the original architectural plans.

First Floor Plan [as built]

Dr. J. L. Lovvorn House, Dec 1986, drawn by: P.