Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC: Robert Taylor-Henry W. Grady House

AND/OR COMMON: Robert Taylor-Henry W. Grady House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER: 634 Prince Avenue — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN: Athens — VICINITY OF — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 10

STATE: Georgia — CODE: 13 — COUNTY: Clarke — CODE: 059

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	X PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	X MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME: City of Athens

STREET & NUMBER: City Hall

CITY, TOWN: Athens — VICINITY OF — STATE: Georgia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Clarke County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER: Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN: Athens — STATE: Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE: 1937 — X FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN: Washington — STATE: D.C.

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
X EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
__GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Erected in the mid-1840's, the Taylor-Grady House is a handsome two-story, Greek Revival dwelling with a raised or daylight basement. Gen. Robert Taylor, a wealthy planter and cotton merchant, built the house, and William S. Grady purchased it from the Taylor estate in 1863. The residence remained in the Grady family only until 1872, but during that time young Henry Woodfin Grady, William's son, formed a firm attachment to the home. In later years Henry referred often to the house and "my native town of Athens."[1] Moreover, according to the Atlanta Historical Society and assistants to the Georgia Historic Preservation Officer, this is the only known extant residence associated with Henry W. Grady. In 1966, the City of Athens purchased the house and leased it 2 years later to the Athens Junior Assembly. Since that time this organization has restored the house to its mid-19th century appearance.

Set back from the street, the Taylor-Grady House is a white-painted frame structure with a two-story high gallery that wraps around three sides. Thirteen massive, white-painted, fluted, Doric columns support the heavy entablature of the gallery. All the columns, of which there are six in the front, three on the east side, and two on the west side, are elevated on white-painted stone piers. Together, the columns are said to represent the original Thirteen States. The gallery displays a black iron railing between the columns and a gray-painted wooden floor raised off the ground by a stuccoed brick foundation. In the front, a brick walk leads from Prince Avenue to six brick steps that surmount to the portico.

The low hipped roof of the Taylor-Grady House is visible from the rear only. On the remaining 3 sides, the entablature of the gallery conceals the actual shape of the roof and creates the impression that the edifice has a flat roof. Basically square in shape, the house has a two-story, hip-roofed, frame extension that passes fully across the rear facade. Extending northward from the northeast corner of this addition is a one-story, hip-roofed, frame, kitchen wing. From it a one-story, hip-roofed porch extends northward across the remainder of the lower portion of the two-story addition. The two-story extension and kitchen wing were added about 1900; the one-story rear porch in 1969. Three brick interior chimneys rise over the main portion of the house. A fourth pierces the roof of the kitchen wing.

On the first-floor level of the house, beneath the gallery

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[1] Henry Grady, The Writings and Speeches of Henry Grady (Savannah, 1971), 11.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

PERIOD

_PREHISTORIC
_1400-1499
_1500-1599
_1600-1699
_1700-1799
X 1800-1899
_1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

_ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	_COMMUNITY PLANNING	_LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	_RELIGION
_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	_CONSERVATION	_LAW	_SCIENCE
_AGRICULTURE	_ECONOMICS	_LITERATURE	_SCULPTURE
_ARCHITECTURE	_EDUCATION	_MILITARY	_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_ART	_ENGINEERING	_MUSIC	_THEATER
_COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	_PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
X COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)
	_INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1863-1872 (1863-1889) BUILDER/ARCHITECT Robert Taylor

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

According to eminent historian Paul H. Buck, Henry W. Grady served as the "master conductor" of the orchestra of national reconciliation in the post-Civil War Era.[1] It is true that he was not the first Southerner to urge harmony between the sections; it is also true that he was motivated in large part by a desire to encourage Northern investment. Nevertheless, in his famous "New South" speech, delivered to the New England Society of New York City on December 22, 1886, Grady pictured a South acquiescent of the changes brought by the war and its aftermath and desirous of industrialization like the rest of the country. Widely reprinted and quoted, the speech struck a responsive chord in the national consciousness and ultimately helped bridge the chasm between North and South. This one speech made Grady, says his biographer Raymond B. Nixon, the "acknowledged spokesman of the Southern spirit of progress and goodwill," a part he played to the hilt until his death 3 years later.[2]

Complementing Grady's role as national conciliator was his nationally recognized leadership in spreading the so-called New South idea which proposed a "new economic and social order based on industry and scientific, diversified agriculture."[3] In the columns of the Atlanta Constitution--which he made a leading regional newspaper while serving as managing editor, at the numerous agricultural and industrial expositions that he organized, and from the lecture platform, Grady preached a gospel of progress in industry and moderation in race relations. He became a hero to his section, says leading Southern historian Francis Butler Simkins, "because without demanding an apology for past mistakes, he strengthened Southerners' hopes that they might share the material prosperity previously regarded as a monopoly of the victorious North."[4]

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1 Paul H. Buck, The Road to Reunion, 1865-1900 (Boston, 1937), 193.

2 Raymond B. Nixon, Henry W. Grady: Spokesman of the New South (New York, 1943), 7.

3 Paul M. Gaston, The New South Creed: A Study in Southern Myth-making (New York, 1970), 7.

4 Francis Butler Simkins, A History of the South, 3d edition (New York, 1967), 319.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Buck, Paul H., The Road to Reunion, 1865-1900 (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1937).

Clark, Thomas D. and Albert D. Kirwan, The South Since Appomattox: A Century of Regional Change (New York: Oxford University Press, 1967).

Ezell, John S., The South Since 1865 (New York: The Macmillan Company, 1963).

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY circa 3 1/2 acres.

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	1 7	2 7 9 3 0 5	3 7 6 1 2 7 0
B			
C			
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated property includes the main house and the outbuildings and coincides with the boundary of the legal tract known as 634 Prince Avenue.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary Jane Gregory and Ralph Christian, Assistant Editors

ORGANIZATION: American Association for State and Local History

DATE: December 1975

STREET & NUMBER: 1400 Eighth Avenue South

TELEPHONE: 615-242-5583

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville

STATE: Tennessee

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

TITLE DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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GPO 892-453

seven six-over-twelve, full-height sash windows grace the exterior walls. There are two on the west side, two on the south side or front, and two on the east side. Most upstairs windows are six-over-six sash. All the windows are framed by louvered, wooden shutters, which are painted dark-green. The front entrance consists of a paneled wooden door topped by a transom and flanked by sidelights and fluted pilasters.

Inside, the Taylor-Grady House, which is built on a central hall plan, has been restored to its mid-19th century appearance and decorated with period furnishings. Ceilings throughout the house are white plaster with simple cornices. Interior walls are cream-painted plaster in most of the rooms, but the central hall is adorned with gold-colored, flocked wallpaper. Baseboards are cream-painted wood, about one foot high. Floors are wood and embellished in many rooms with richly colored Oriental rugs. Interior doorways are framed by cream-painted wooden pilasters and are topped by wooden transom panels. Original plaster ceiling medallions, from which hang light fixtures, adorn the main first-floor rooms.

There are three first-floor rooms in the main section of the house. From the right of the central hall, a doorway opens into the ballroom. There, cream-painted, wooden pilasters flank floor-to-ceiling windows. An elliptical, plaster medallion decorates the ceiling, and two marble fireplaces with wooden mantels adorn the west wall. These feature carved and gilded wood overpanels in a sphinx motif. At one time the ballroom was two separate rooms, but the wall that bisected the long ballroom north-to-south was removed about 1950. Two pilasters and a ceiling beam are all that remain to mark the wall's former location.

To the left of the central hall is a sitting room and a dining room. The former has a marble fireplace with wooden mantel and a plaster ceiling medallion. From the rear wall of the sitting room a paneled door opens into the dining room, which can be entered from the central hall as well. The dining room also has a plaster ceiling medallion and a marble fireplace with wooden mantel.

At the rear of the central hall, on the right, a two-run, open-well, open-string staircase ascends to the second floor. The stair has white-painted wood balusters and ornamental brackets, and a banister of natural wood. On the landing, a cream-painted wooden niche houses the bust of a Roman statesman. Like the first floor, the second also is divided by a central hall with rooms on either side. Upstairs

rooms include a library and three bedrooms, but one of the latter serves now as a committee room. There is a marble fireplace with wooden mantel in each of the two remaining bedrooms and in the library. At the front of the upstairs central hall, a six-over-six sash window flanked by fluted wooden pilasters and sidelights provides daytime illumination. A trap door in the ceiling opens into the attic. Below, on the first floor, a paneled doorway under the staircase leads to a full, daylight basement illuminated by six-over-six sash windows. Caretakers' quarters, a puppet room, a women's exchange, and storage rooms now occupy the basement space.

Except for removal of the first-floor wall noted above and addition of the 1950 extensions and the 1969 portico, the Taylor-Grady House has received only minor alterations. These include addition of new flooring, modern bathrooms, and some closets in the original part of the house.

Behind the main house stand two original outbuildings and an original well that was covered in the 1960's. To the northwest is the dwelling's original kitchen. This small structure has white-painted stucco walls and a low-hipped, shingled roof. East of this building stands a gable-roofed, white-painted, stone smokehouse. Adjacent to it is the wellhouse. It consists of 4 fluted Doric columns supporting an entablature and roof.

Beautifully landscaped, shaded grounds surround the Taylor-Grady House and outbuildings, which occupy a corner lot. Prince Avenue borders the property on the south; Grady Street flanks it on the east. The grounds feature a boxwood garden with patterned gravel paths, benches, and statuary. Located on the east lawn between the main house and Grady Street, the garden is surrounded on three sides by a white picket fence, and on the Grady Street side by a stone wall. Designed by the University of Georgia School of Environmental Design, the garden is authentic to the period of the house.

Grady, Henry, The New South: Writings and Speeches of Henry Grady (Savannah: The Beehive Press, 1971).

Gaston, Paul M., The New South Creed: A Study in Southern Mythmaking (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1970).

Nixon, Raymond B., Henry W. Grady: Spokesman of the New South (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1943).

Simkins, Francis Butler, A History of the South, 3d edition (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1967).

Grady lived in this two-story, frame, Greek Revival house only 9 years, from 1865 to 1872, but throughout his life he referred to it affectionately in his public speeches. In excellent condition and a marvelous symbol of the age from which Grady sprang, the structure is--according to the Atlanta Historical Society and the office of the State Historic Preservation Officer of Georgia--the only known extant residence associated with Grady.

Biography

Henry Woodfin Grady was born May 24, 1850, in Athens, Ga., to William S. and Ann G. Grady. William, a prosperous Athens merchant, provided the family with a comfortable living, and young Henry received an excellent private education. When Georgia seceded from the Union at the start of the Civil War, William formed his own military company and served with distinction in the Confederate Army until he died in 1864 of wounds received at Petersburg. He left his family in rather comfortable circumstances, however, and in 1866 Henry entered the University of Georgia as a sophomore. Graduating in 1868, he enrolled in the University of Virginia that fall for postgraduate work. He considered a career in law and politics, but a particularly galling defeat for class orator soured him on this line of endeavor.

While living in Charlottesville, Grady wrote a series of letters to the Atlanta Constitution describing life at the University. The letters were well-received by Constitution readers, and so Grady decided to become a journalist. In 1869, at age 19, he signed on as a reporter for the Constitution and thus began an association which, with a few interruptions, continued for the rest of his life. On his first assignment to cover a press excursion sponsored by Republican Gov. Rufus Bullock, he accused the Governor of attempting to bribe the press. According to scholars Thomas D. Clark and Albert D. Kirwan, this quickly marked Grady "as a man of force and verve."[5] Later that year, Grady became associate editor of the Rome Courier, but by 1870 he had acquired his own paper in that town, the Southerner and Commercial. At the same time he became one of the leading critics of the State's Republican regime.

Despite his success in Rome, Grady wanted to return to Atlanta, and in 1872 he bought an interest in the Atlanta Herald. Although he had been critical of carpetbaggers and scalawags like former Gov. Joseph

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5 Thomas D. Clark and Albert D. Kirwan, The South Since Appomattox: A Century of Regional Change (New York, 1967), 206.

E. Brown, Grady now began to view them more favorably, especially if they were contributing to the State's economic development. Increasingly in his editorials he emphasized the need for industrialization and agricultural diversification--themes he would reiterate constantly until his death.

In 1876 the Herald folded because of financial difficulties, and Grady failed in two attempts to found new papers. Almost destitute, he became Georgia correspondent for the New York Herald and resumed his post as a reporter with the Atlanta Constitution. He attracted much attention in newspaper circles in December 1876, when he was the first reporter to telegraph his paper the result of the disputed Presidential election in Florida. As a result, by 1878 Grady was freelancing for most of the country's major newspapers. In 1880, while still on the Constitution's payroll to report railroad news, Grady became the private secretary of H. Victor Newcomb, the founder of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad. While accompanying Newcomb on a trip to New York City, Grady met Cyrus W. Field, who lent him $20,000 to buy a quarter interest in the Constitution.

"Convinced that economic betterment was the key to all the South's problems," Grady assumed the post of managing editor and launched a campaign for Southern industrialization and agricultural diversification.[6] This soon made him the leading spokesman for what came to be known as the New South Idea. Motivated, according to historian John S. Ezell, by a desire to "build up industry in the South with Atlanta as its center," Grady labored for the next 9 years through newspaper columns, magazine articles, lectures, and numerous trade and agricultural fairs to achieve his goal.[7] In 1881 he was the moving force behind the First International Cotton Exposition in Atlanta--the first of many such gatherings that encouraged the building of cotton mills and spurred increased investment of Northern capital in the South. Grady's interest in economic progress prompted him to encourage moderation in race relations. Although he believed blacks inferior and supported white supremacy, he argued that the "future prosperity and success of the region depended upon cooperation between the races based on a mutual appreciation of the rewards that lay ahead."[8]

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6 Nixon, Henry W. Grady, 166.

7 John S. Ezell, The South Since 1865 (New York, 1963), 103.

8 Gaston, The New South Creed, 125.

Despite Grady's efforts, Northern investment remained slow because of lingering distrust of the South. In 1886 John Inman, a Southern-born industrialist living in New York City, persuaded his city's New England Society to invite Grady as principal speaker for their annual dinner meeting. He accepted, and on December 22, 1886, he delivered what became known as his "New South" speech. After assuring his audience that the South of secession and rebellion was no more, Grady pictured in glowing terms a South of racial harmony and progress in industry, agriculture, and education. Moreover, he said, the region desired even greater achievements in these areas. Widely reprinted and quoted, Grady's address struck a responsive chord in the national consciousness and helped ultimately to bridge the chasm between North and South. This speech, says historian Paul Gaston, was "no isolated and unimportant incident" for it "created a veritable 'tidal wave of New South sentiment.'"[9] Furthermore, although Grady never claimed to have coined the phrase "New South," it is clear that he put it into wide circulation and that it has been used unceasingly by generation after generation of Southerners to both promote and camouflage a myriad of notions about the South and its relationship with the rest of the Nation.

The "New South" speech made Grady a national figure. During the next 3 years he traveled widely throughout the U.S. speaking and fanning the sentiment for reconciliation. Already a political power in Georgia, Grady received mention as a possible running mate for President Grover Cleveland in 1888, but his high tariff views apparently eliminated him from consideration. Nevertheless he continued to travel and clamor for southern industrial growth and North-South friendship. In 1889 the Republicans in Congress launched a strong effort to pass a Force Bill to supervise southern elections. In December of that year, believing that the measure was unnecessary and fearing that it might pass and do irreparable damage to national harmony, Grady went to Boston to address the Merchant's Association Dinner and urge that the bill be rejected. The trip exhausted Grady, and shortly after returning home he contracted pneumonia. He died on December 23, 1889, at the age of 39.

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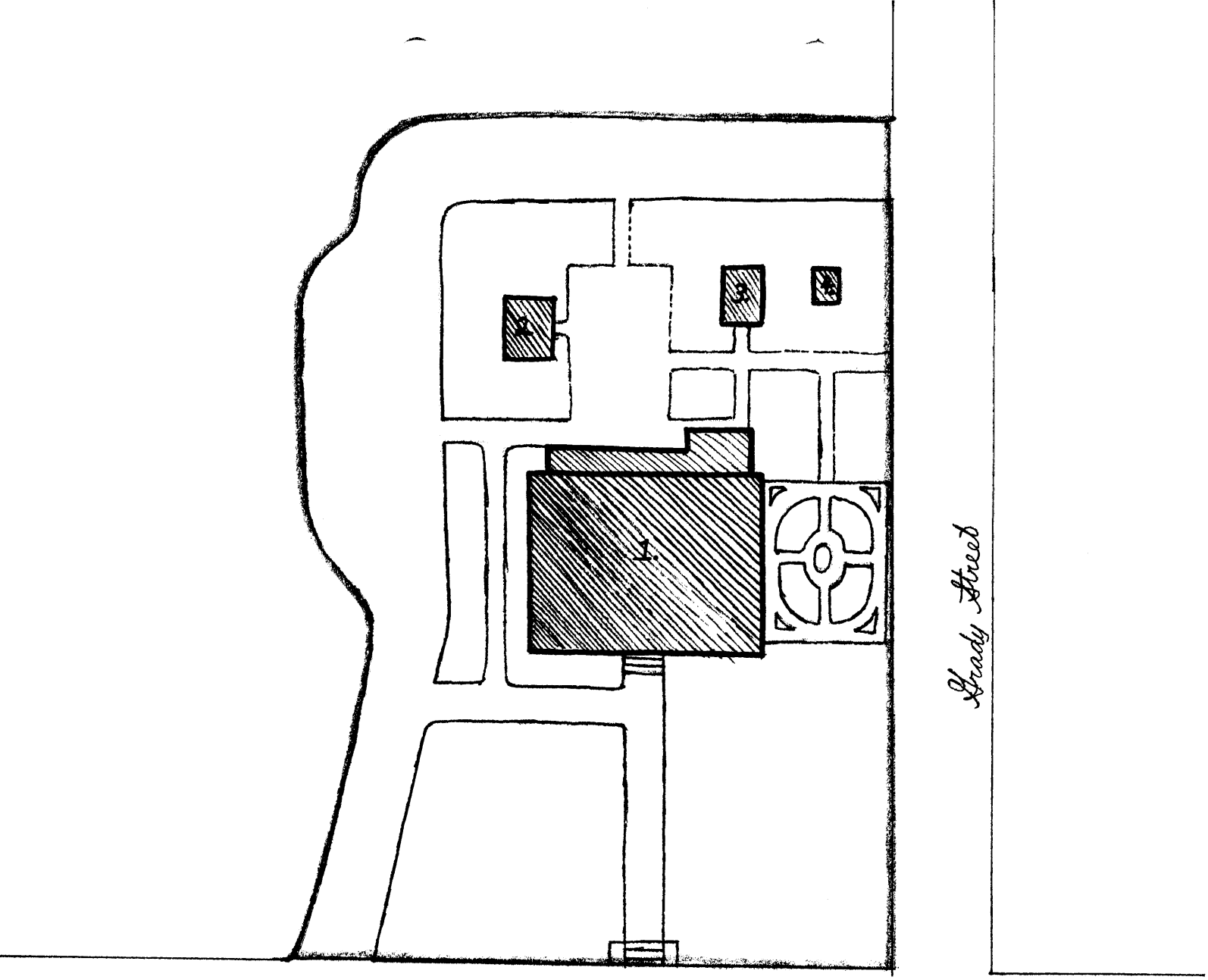
9 Ibid., 90.



1. Robert Taylor - Henry W. Grady House
2. Kitchen - pigeoncote
3. Smokehouse
4. Wellhouse

Robert Taylor - Henry W. Grady House
634 Prince Avenue
Athens, Georgia

Prepared by:
Mary Jane Gregory, HABS, December 1975
(Not to scale)

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