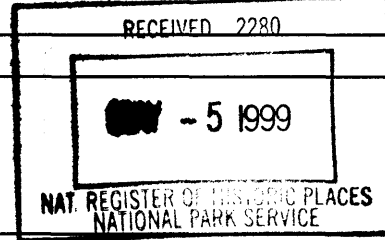


## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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 James W. Baugh Homeplace  
other names/site number Baugh House Museum



### 2. Location

street & number Southeast corner of West First Street and Messer Street.  
city, town Blue Ridge (n/a) vicinity of  
county Fannin code GA 111  
state Georgia code GA zip code 30513

(n/a) not for publication

### 3. Classification

#### Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

#### Category of Property:

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property:	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: n/a

Name of previous listing: n/a

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

**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 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 the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

Richard C. Cloues 4.28.99  
Signature of certifying official Date

for W. Ray Luce  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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 or bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Edson H. Beal 6/3/99

( ) determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

( ) determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

( ) removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

( ) other, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) see continuation sheet \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of the National Register Date

---

## 6. Function or Use

---

### Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

### Current Functions:

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

---

## 7. Description

---

### Architectural Classification:

OTHER/Folk Victorian

OTHER/I-House

### Materials:

<b>foundation</b>	Brick
<b>walls</b>	Brick
<b>roof</b>	Asphalt
<b>other</b>	wood

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The James W. Baugh Homeplace, constructed in 1893, is located in the small town of Blue Ridge in Fannin County. The house is located near the center of town and situated on a corner lot. The property is landscaped with mature hardwood trees and some foundation plants. The house is a two-story I-house with a central hallway plan featuring load-bearing brick construction. The house features a common brick bonding system consisting of six stretcher rows per header row, steeply pitched gabled roof, long narrow four-over-four double-hung windows with flat arches, two gable-end chimneys, and wide cornice trim in the gable ends. Originally, a two-story full-facade wood porch featuring chamfered porch posts and balusters adorned the front facade. The existing one-bay double porch replaced the original full-length portico sometime between 1900 and 1915. An original exterior staircase located along a side of the house was removed c.1915. A one-story rear addition consists of the original detached kitchen, which was originally located behind the house. The kitchen was constructed during the 1890s and attached to the rear of the house during the early 20th century. Nonhistoric alterations to the exterior consist of the application of storm windows over the original windows in 1995.

The interior of the house has retained most of its original floor plan and many of its historic features. The first floor consists of two equal rooms flanking a central hallway and the second floor consists of two unequal rooms in which one room incorporates the equivalent space of the first-floor central hallway. A dogleg staircase, which replaced the exterior staircase, was constructed c.1915 towards the rear of the central hallway. The original rear door located at the back of the hallway was enclosed during the installation of the staircase. The crown molding and baseboards are hand-planed and the interior plaster was applied directly to the load-bearing brickwork without the use of

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section 7--Description**

---

stud walls or an internal cavity. Other original features including window and door surrounds, paneled doors, windows, floors, and mantels.

The landscaping of the house consists of mature hardwood trees and foundation plantings. The original property consisted of a 0.5 acre lot and was acquired by Andrew Geisler from Stephen Griffin in 1893. This half-acre lot remained intact until 1987 when the 0.25 acre section featuring the James W. Baugh Homeplace was deeded to the City of Blue Ridge.

---

**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):**  N/A

A    B    C    D    E    F    G

**Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):**

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance:**

1893-1915

**Significant Dates:**

1893            The date of construction.  
c.1915        Addition of kitchen, alteration of front porch, removal of exterior staircase, and addition of interior staircase.

**Significant Person(s):**

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation:**

n/a

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

James W. Baugh

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### Section 8--Statement of Significance

---

#### **Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The James W. Baugh Homeplace is a rare masonry residence located in a small north Georgia community. James W. Baugh (1862-1915) moved to Blue Ridge from Polk County, Tennessee c.1890 with his wife, Mary Theresa Geisler (1871-1962). The house was built in 1893 by James W. Baugh and his brothers, who were skilled masons, with bricks made on the site. The Baugh family also constructed several masonry buildings in Mineral Bluff, north of Blue Ridge. The James W. Baugh Homeplace is significant in the area of architecture as an excellent example of a rare, two-story, masonry I-house residence with Folk Victorian-style elements. According to the *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings* context, the I-house was uncommon in many parts of Georgia, including the mountain region (as were two-story houses in general), and was primarily built in small towns in the Piedmont and Upper Coastal Plain regions. Appearing sporadically in Georgia throughout the 19th century, most of the remaining I-houses were built in the 1840s, 1850s, 1870s, and 1880s. The I-house type is characterized by its one-room deep by two-rooms wide floor plan. The various floor plans of I-houses determine the subtype: central hallway, hall-parlor, double-pen, and saddlebag.

The James W. Baugh Homeplace is an excellent representative example of the I-house type with a central hallway plan. The character-defining features consist of a first floor with two equal rooms flanking a central hallway and the second floor consists of two unequal rooms in which one room incorporates the equivalent space of the first-floor central hallway. Other interior character-defining features which are significant for their craftsmanship include the hand-planed boards along the ceiling, baseboards, window and door surrounds, and mantels. The interior plaster was applied directly to the load-bearing brickwork without the use of stud walls or an internal cavity.

The significant exterior character-defining stylistic elements of the house represent the Folk Victorian style. According to the *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings* context, the Folk Victorian style is actually more a way of decorating a house than a precise stylistic category; however, the Folk Victorian phenomenon is so widespread that it demands a name. This detailing generally was taken from the elaborate styles, such as Queen Anne or Italianate, that were popular during the mid- to late 19th century. Features were added onto such places as porches and roof gables. This provided some hint of stylistic detailing on what was otherwise an unadorned traditional house form. The style was commonly found in both urban and rural parts of the state and date from the 1870s to the 1910s. The James W. Baugh Homeplace is a good example of a I-house with Folk Victorian-style elements applied to the front portico. These elements include the chamfered porch supports, decorative brackets located at the top of the porch supports, and second-story balustrade.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### Section 8--Statement of Significance

---

Brick residences in Georgia are relatively rare; however, brick I-house residences are even more rare. According to the Georgia Historic Resources Survey, which encompasses one-third of the state, less than one percent of the buildings surveyed represent the I-house type with brick-bearing construction.

#### **National Register Criteria**

The James W. Baugh Homeplace is architecturally significant under Criterion C as an excellent example of an I-house, a relatively rare house type in Georgia, with Folk Victorian stylistic features, and as an excellent example of a relatively rare brick house.

#### **Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

n/a

#### **Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance for the James W. Baugh Homeplace begins in 1893, the year the house was constructed and ends c.1915, the year the last major additions and alterations were completed to the house.

#### **Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

The James W. Baugh Homeplace is the only contributing resource in this nomination.

#### **Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)**

Blue Ridge, Georgia was incorporated in 1887 and made the county seat in 1895 after voters passed a proposal to relocate the county seat from Morganton to Blue Ridge. Prior to its incorporation, Blue Ridge barely existed as a community; a description from 1885 refers to only one settler's cabin in the vicinity. Blue Ridge experienced remarkable growth following the announcement in 1886 that the Marietta and North Georgia Railroad would be constructed through the town. Once the railroad company constructed the first depot in 1887, other buildings were erected by men associated with the railroad. Blue Ridge was incorporated in 1887 and continued to experience great growth in population and size. Between 1890 and 1900, the population grew from 264 to 1,184 people with a large number of residents working in railroad-related vocations. The railroad repair shops constructed c.1900 provided a large number of jobs for families settling in Blue Ridge. The growth in the population and size of Blue Ridge resulted in the passage of a 1895 referendum moving the county seat from Morganton, in eastern Fannin County, to Blue Ridge.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### Section 8--Statement of Significance

---

In 1893, James W. Baugh with his wife, Mary Theresa Geisler, and daughter, Nona, moved to Blue Ridge from Isabella, Tennessee and constructed the James W. Baugh Homeplace. Other members of the Baugh family were already living in Blue Ridge and helped James build his house. James' family members were involved in the masonry business and were responsible for the construction of several masonry buildings in Mineral Bluff. James W. Baugh was not a mason but worked for the Marietta and North Georgia Railroad before becoming a farmer in nearby Hemptown Creek in Fannin County.

Although the house is known as the James W. Baugh Homeplace, James Baugh never owned the property. Andrew Geisler, Mary Teresa Geisler Baugh's father, retained ownership until his death, sometime prior to 1915, at which time the property passed to his heirs, including his wife Teresa Geisler. When James W. Baugh died in 1915, Mary Baugh purchased the property from Andrew Geisler's heirs for \$1500.00 to obtain sole ownership. Mary Baugh continued to live in the house but never worked. She apparently managed to live off the estate and was also supported by her children. Mary died in 1962 at the age of 91. One of her daughters continued to live in the house until 1962 when she sold it to the City of Blue Ridge to be developed as a museum.



---

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

---

Fannin County Deed Records.

Kissane, Amy and John Kissane. "Historic Resources in Fannin County, Georgia." A Multiple Property Documentation Form, December 5, 1994.

Jones, Ethylene Dyer and Dale Dyer, eds. Facets of Fannin: A History of Fannin County, Georgia. Dallas, Texas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1989.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division. Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings. 1991.

Nichols, John. Family member, Interviews, 1992.

Thompson, Kathleen M., ed. In touch with the Past. Orlando, Florida: Daniels Publishers, 1982.

Thompson, Kathleen M., ed. Touching Home. Orlando, Florida: Daniels Publishers, 1976.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS): (x) N/A**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued  
date issued:
- 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:

**Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** FN-B-12 (Fannin County)

---

**10. Geographical Data**

---

**Acreeage of Property**                      Approximately 0.25 acre.

**UTM References**

A)    Zone 16        Easting 744640        Northing 3861420

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary for the James W. Baugh Homeplace is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached USGS topographical map.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary for the James W. Baugh Homeplace includes the two-story I-house and remaining historic yard.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

**State Historic Preservation Office**

**name/title** Amy Pallante/National Register Specialist  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**street & number** 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303  
**telephone** (404) 651-6033 **date** April 1999

**Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable)**                      ( ) not applicable

**name/title** Amy C. Kissane/consultant  
**organization** The Jaeger Company  
**street and number** 119 Washington Street  
**city or town** Gainesville **state** Georgia **zip code** 30501  
**telephone** (770) 534-0506

(x) **consultant**  
( ) **regional development center preservation planner**  
( ) **other:**

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Photographs**

---

**Name of Property:** James W. Baugh Homeplace  
**City or Vicinity:** Blue Ridge  
**County:** Fannin  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** March 1997

**Description of Photograph(s):**

- 1 of 11 View of the front facade of the James W. Baugh Homeplace; photographer looking southeast.
- 2 of 11 View of side elevation of the house and rear kitchen; photographer looking south.
- 3 of 11 View of rear facade of the house; photographer looking northwest.
- 4 of 11 Detail view of rear facade of the house; photographer looking northwest.
- 5 of 11 View of side elevation of the house and kitchen; photographer looking north.
- 6 of 11 Detail view of the front facade of the house; photographer looking east.
- 7 of 11 View of interior front room; photographer looking north.
- 8 of 11 View of interior front room; photographer looking northeast.
- 9 of 11 View of staircase in central hallway; photographer looking southeast.
- 10 of 11 View of second-floor room and staircase; photographer looking southwest.
- 11 of 11 View of second-floor room; photographer facing northeast.

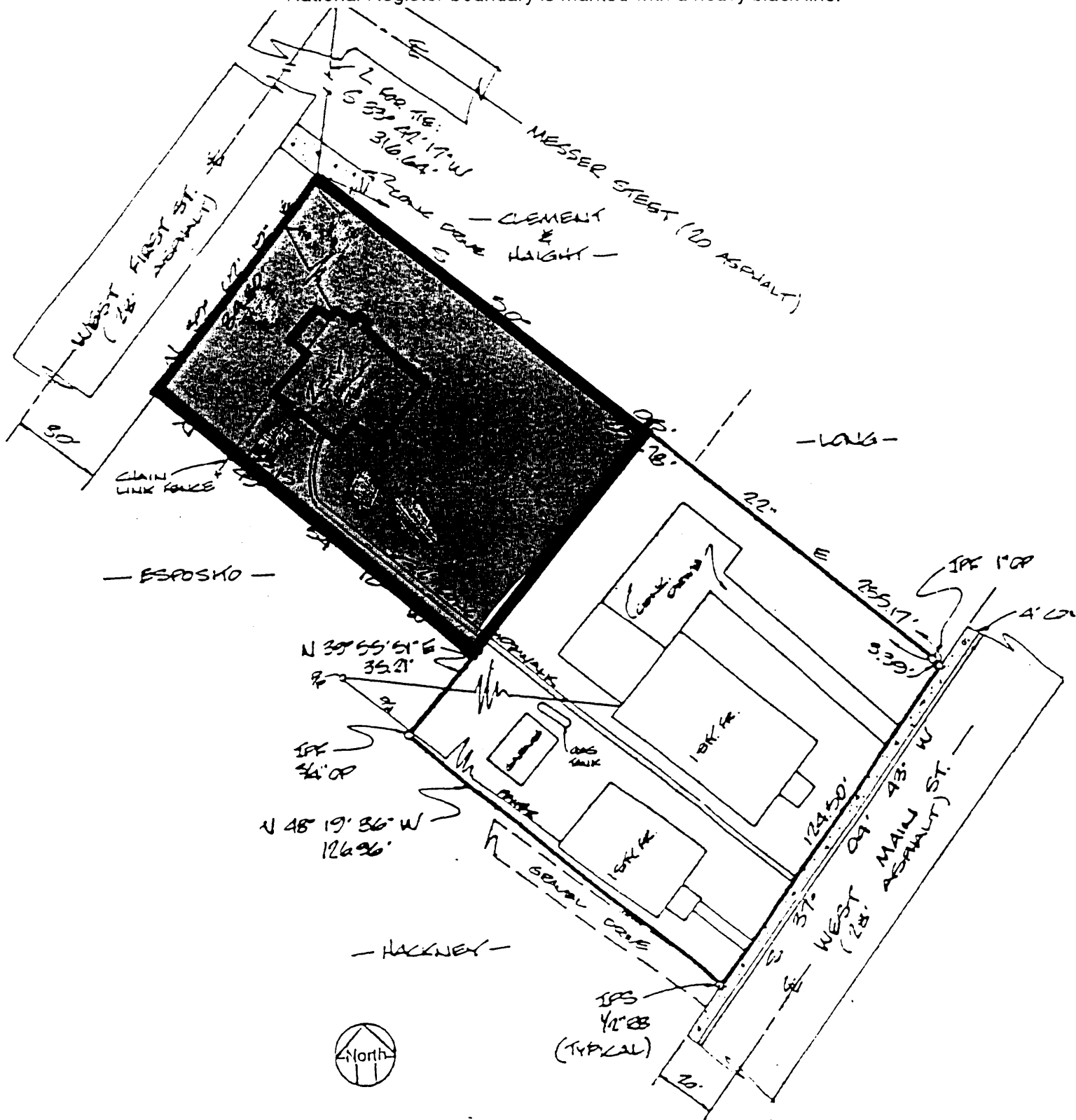
NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY MAP

James W. Baugh Homeplace  
Blue Ridge, Fannin County, Georgia

Source: Plat Map

Scale: 1" = 40'

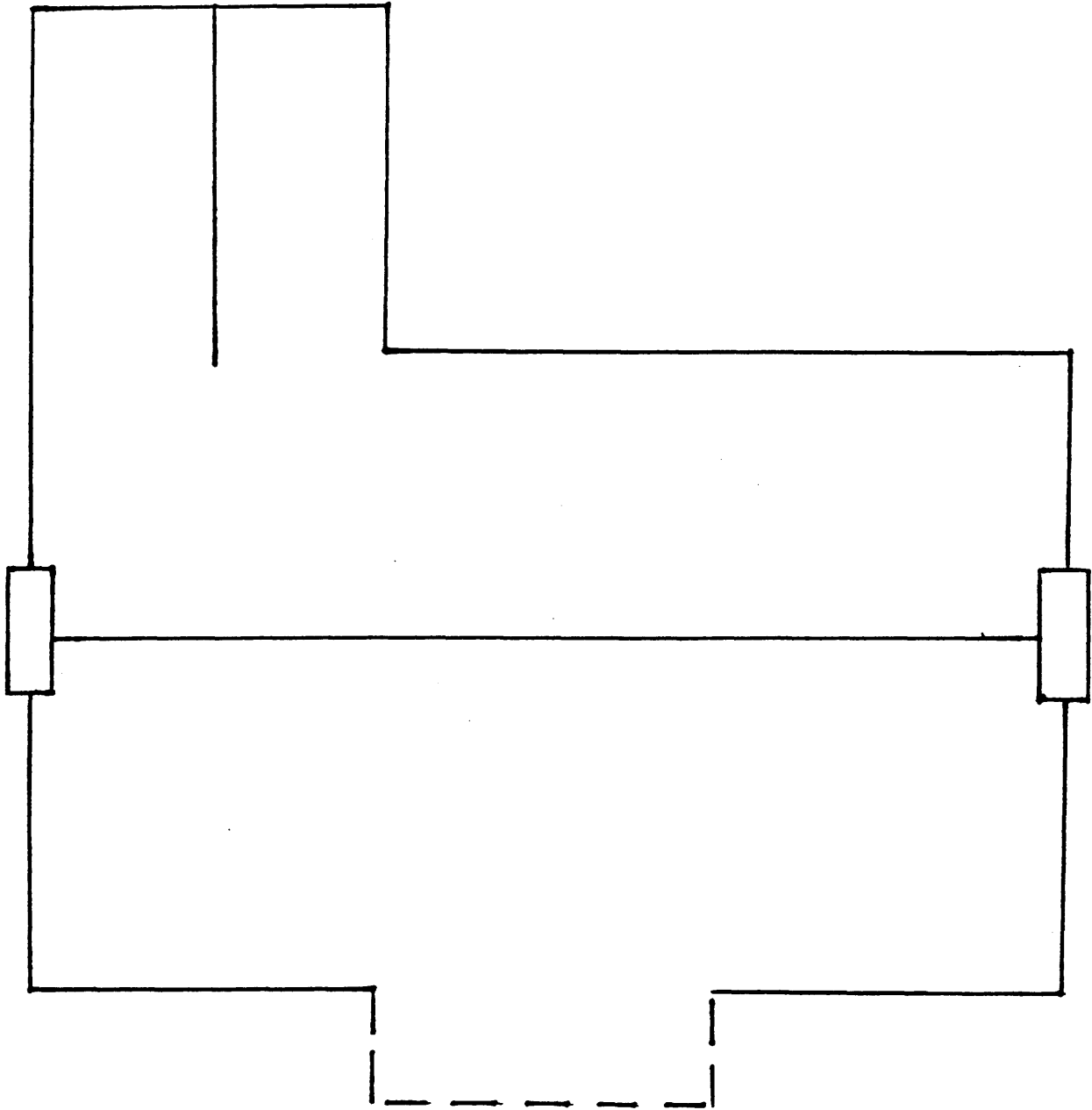
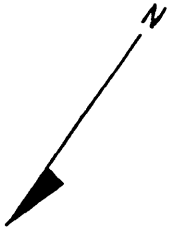
National Register boundary is marked with a heavy black line.



NATIONAL REGISTER MAP/EXTERIOR PHOTO KEY

③ James W. Baugh Homeplace  
Blue Ridge, Fannin County, Georgia  
Not drawn to scale

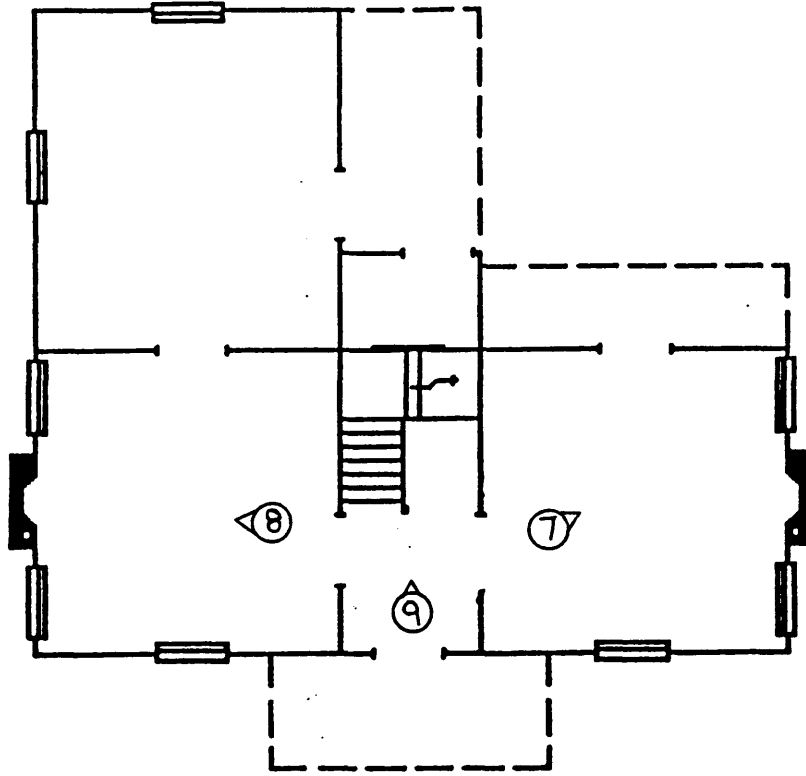
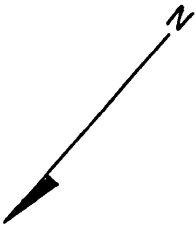
○ = Photo number and direction



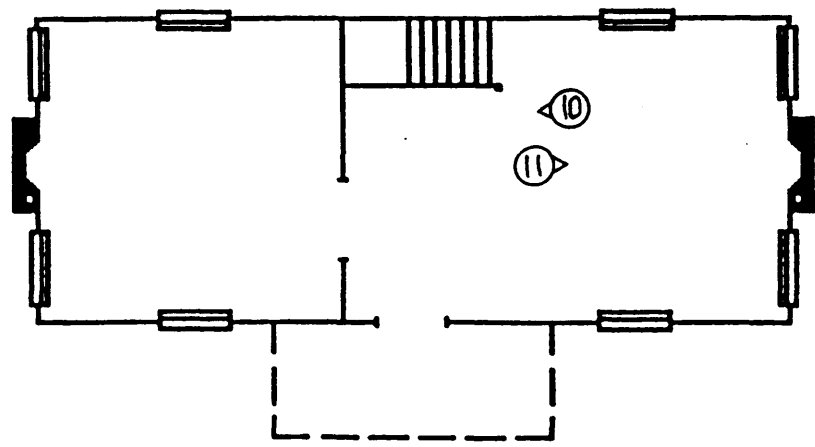
**NATIONAL REGISTER MAP/FLOOR PLAN AND PHOTO KEY**

James W. Baugh Homeplace  
Blue Ridge, Fannin County, Georgia  
Not drawn to scale

○ = Photo number and direction



**First Floor Plan**



**Second Floor Plan**