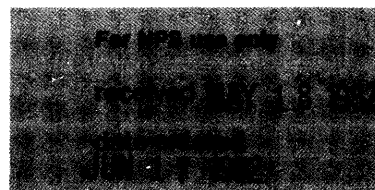


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Walters -Davis House.

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 429 East Tugalo Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Toccoa

N/A vicinity of

~~Congressional district~~

state Georgia

code 013

county Stephens

code 257

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A 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 Miss Martha Davis

street & number 429 East Tugalo Street

city, town Toccoa

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia 30577

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Stephens County Courthouse

city, town Toccoa

state Georgia 30577

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Field Survey:

title Stephens County, GA

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977

federal state county local

Historic Preservation Section

depository for survey records Georgia Department of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta

state Georgia

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 Walters - Davis House, built in 1906, is a one-story late Victorian Eclectic residence located on a city lot in a residential area of Toccoa, Stephens County, Georgia.

The main body of the house is square in plan with high hip roof and four gables. It is backed by a rear section with three rooms and an "L" shaped porch, now enclosed. The house is built with a balloon frame on brick piers and is sheathed in white painted weatherboards. A porch with Ionic columns and a balustrade wraps around the front and both sides of the house. The central portion of the porch on the front facade is extended to form a pedimented portico that accentuates the otherwise plain main entrance. An aluminum shade has been added to the front southeast side of the porch. The four gables are embellished with diamond cut shingles and sawn and turned vergeboards; the two on the front facade each have an oval stained glass window. Two chimneys in the main part of the house have been removed above roof level and replaced with metal stove pipes. Two remain in the rear section.

The house has a traditional floor plan with two rooms to either side of a central hall. The dining room and kitchen are located in the rear ell along with a bath which was created from a portion of the rear "L" porch. A well is also located on this porch. The interior of the house is finished with plaster walls, beaded tongue-and-groove wainscoting and hardwood floors. Door surrounds have unusual corner blocks with a carved fanshaped design. The central hall features two large freestanding columns that support a decorative screen. The carved wood mantels differ from room to room. Those in the parlor, den and dining room are of oak and mahogany and have coal grates, mirrored overmantels and tile trim.

The Walters- Davis House stands on a half acre corner city lot. Landscape elements are simple. A brick retaining wall runs along the entrance frontage. Foundation shrubbery encircles the residence, and large hardwood trees are scattered about the grassed lot. An historic, wood-framed outbuilding with a pitched tin roof is located to the northeast of the house. Built as an outhouse and coal storage area, it is now used as a storage shed. Nearby is a non-historic aluminum carport.

The surrounding neighborhood is predominatly residential, with several commercial encroachments. Other residences are of various ages and styles. The First Methodist Church, a brick structure built in the 1950's, adjoins the property and occupies the remainder of the block. The Toccoa business district is to the west and southwest. A bank and a supermarket are located a block away.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The Historic Preservation Section has determined that the photographs taken in February, 1981 still represent the character and appearance of the property. No significant changes have been made since that date.

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 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 Built 1906

Builder/Architect

E.L. Prater, Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Walters- Davis House is historically significant both architecturally and in the area of local history. Architecturally, the house is a fine and intact local example of the turn-of-the-century Victorian Eclectic residence found throughout Georgia. In terms of local history, the residence is significant as an example of the quality speculative housing built in Toccoa during the city's early twentieth century building boom. In addition, the house was occupied for many years by a prominent local figure, Judge Ben Davis. These areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register criteria B and C.

The house is one of the finest local examples of the Victorian Eclectic style popular throughout Georgia at the turn of the century. Its overall massing, hip roof with gables, central hall plan, rear ell, wrap-around porch, exterior details and interior finishes are all characteristic of this type of house. The gable treatment with diamond shingles and "pattern book" sawn and cut work vergeboards is particularly interesting. The interior detailing, including the mantels, woodwork and hall columns and screen, is unusually fine and very well preserved for a home of this type. Lumber for the mantels and interior columns was transported from the South Georgia Sawmill and timber operation of Augustus Walters, for whom the house was originally built. E.L. Prater, the builder, was an important local contractor responsible for a number of Toccoa residences and public buildings from the same period, including the Stephens County Jail and Sheriff's House, the First Baptist Church, the Willingham House on West Doyle Street, and the Simmons House on West Tugalo Street. He also built the Candler Street School in Gainesville, Georgia.

In terms of local history, the house is significant as an example of the quality speculative housing built in Toccoa in the early twentieth century. Toccoa was designated county seat when Stephens County was created from surrounding counties in 1905, and it experienced a building boom as people flocked to the community. Among them was Augustus Walters, a lumber dealer from South Georgia who moved to town to explore the speculative building market. He had the Walters - Davis House built and lived in the house for a short period before selling it in 1907 to the builder, E.L. Prater, and moving on. The house changed hands again in 1908 and in 1915, illustrating the quick turnover often associated with housing built on speculation.

Judge Ben Davis and his wife, who in 1912 occupied the house and purchased it in 1915, ended the speculative cycle. The Judge raised his family there and lived there until his death. A daughter is the present owner. Judge Davis was a prominent local figure, an influential attorney who served for nearly twenty years as President of the Stephens County Bar Association and in public life as Recorder for the City of Toccoa and Judge of City Police and Justice Courts.

APR 12 1982
 APR 12 1982

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 0.5 acre

Quadrangle name Toccoa, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	7	2	8	6	7	9	0	3	8	2	8	7	6	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 coincides with the current legal description of the property. It is outlined with a heavy black line on the enclosed Stephens County Tax map. The property constitutes the historic city lot upon which the house has always stood.

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 A) Dale Jaeger, Preservation Planner
 B) Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher

organization A) Georgia Mountains Area Planning and Development Commission
 B) Historic Preservation Section, GA DNR **date** February, 12, 1982

street & number A) P.O. Box 1720 **telephone** A) 404/536-4610
 B) 270 Washington Street, SW B) 404/656-2840

city or town A) Gainesville **state** Georgia
 B) Atlanta

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 **date** 4/30/82

title State Historic Preservation Officer

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

Melrose 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**

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet

Bibliography

Item number 9

Page 2

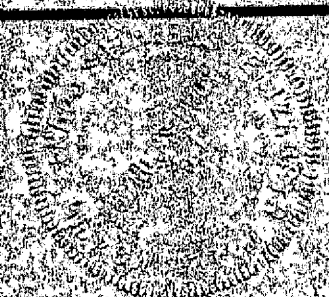
Davis, Martha L. "National Register Nomination Information Form," March 31, 1980. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

The Toccoa Record, various issues from 1905 - 1908.

Trogdon, Kathryn C. The History of Stephens County, Georgia. Toccoa, Georgia: Toccoa Woman's Club, Inc., 1973.

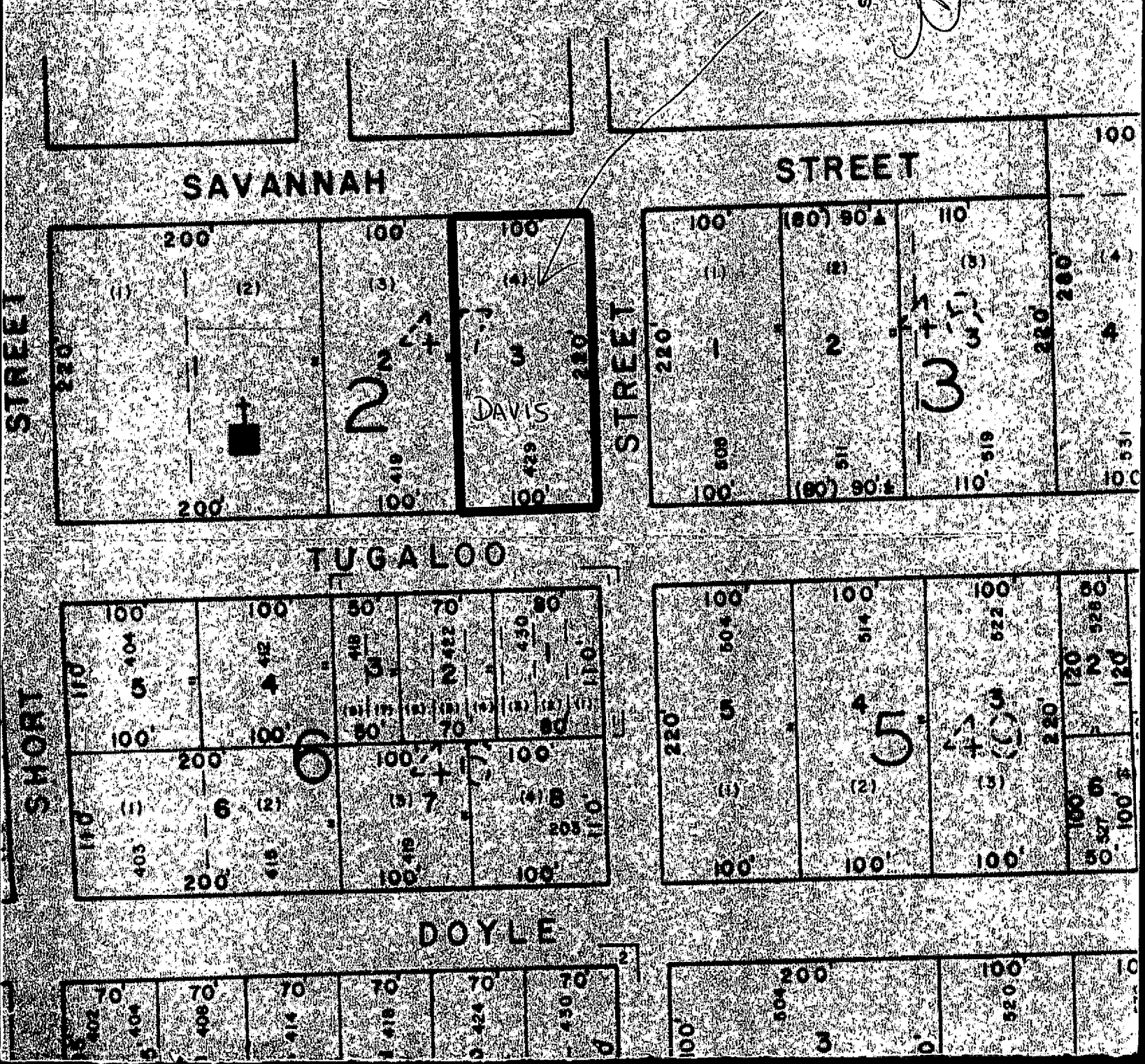
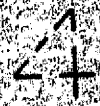
WALTERS - DAVIS HOUSE
Toccoa, Stephens County, Georgia

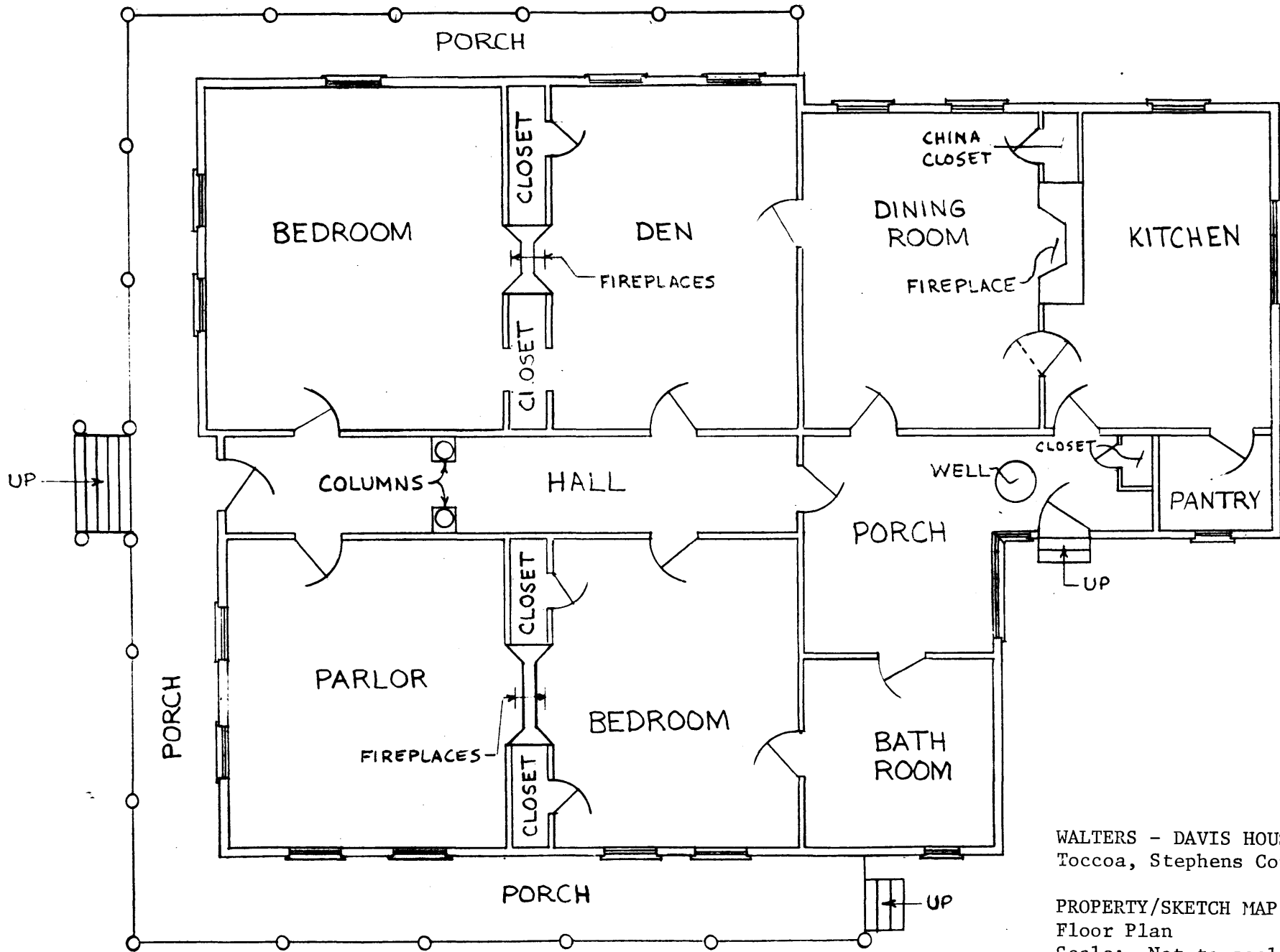
PROPERTY/SKETCH Map
Source: Stephens County Tax Map
Scale: 1" = 100'
North: ↑
Property Boundary: _____




ELIZABETH WILLIAMS
STEPHENS COUNTY TAX COMM.
P. O. BOX 187
TOCCOA, GA. 30577

Elizabeth Williams

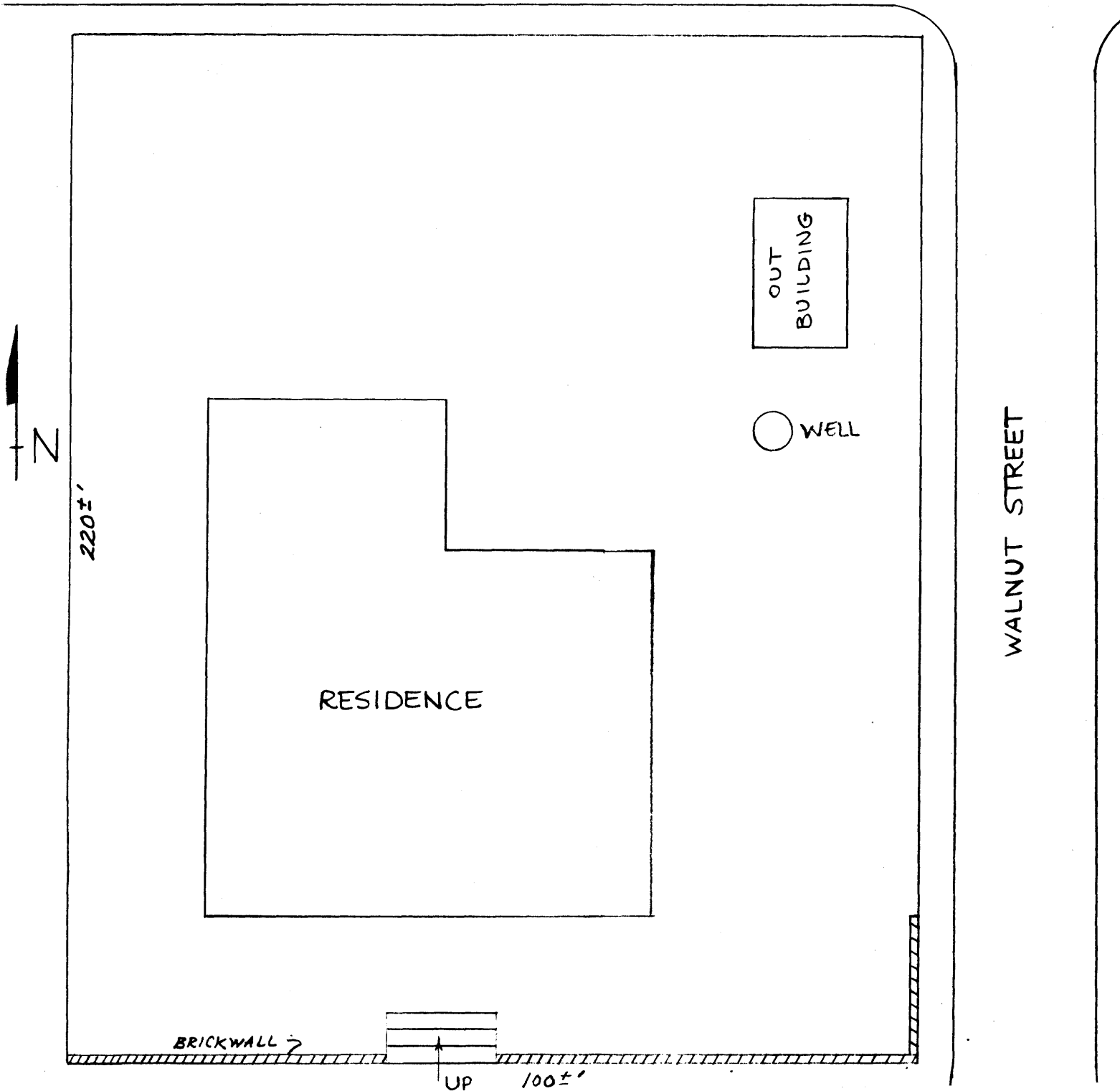




WALTERS - DAVIS HOUSE
Toccoa, Stephens County, Georgia

PROPERTY/SKETCH MAP
Floor Plan
Scale: Not to scale
North: 
Date: December, 1980

E. SAVANNAH STREET



WALNUT STREET

E. TUGALO STREET

WALTERS - DAVIS HOUSE
Toccoa, Stephens County, Georgia

PROPERTY/SKETCH MAP
Site Plan
Scale: Not to scale
North: ↑
Date: December, 1980