

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF HARTWELL, HART COUNTY, GEORGIA

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY #15

I. IDENTIFICATION

HISTORIC NAME: Temple-Skelton House
CURRENT NAME: Schell Residence
STREET ADDRESS: 201 Athens Street
CITY: Hartwell
PRESENT OWNER: Clifford Frank & Janet T. Schell
MAILING ADDRESS: 201 Athens Street
CITY: Hartwell
STATE: Georgia
ZIP CODE: 30643
CURRENT USE: residence
ACREAGE: less than one acre
U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: Hartwell, Georgia
U.T.M. REFERENCE: Z17 E321440 N3802430
V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: H-23-1-4

II. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION:

This one-story, frame house features both original Victorian-eclectic features and later Craftsman-inspired features. The hipped roof includes multiple projecting gables covering shallow bays. The gable ends are decorated with a frieze of panels at their base, include a half timbering motif, and are capped by triangular attic vents. The "L" shaped porch is supported on truncated, bungalow columns resting on brick piers. The porch floor is poured concrete. The half-glazed entrance door, flanked by sidelights, leads from the porch into the residence. The rooms are asymmetrically arranged around a central hall core. Interior features include Craftsman style wainscoting and chair rails, and tongue-and-groove ceilings. Victorian trim remains over the doors and window openings. Alterations include the front porch and Craftsman features dating from circa 1918 and addition of bathrooms in the rear porch and a portion of the rear hall. A patio was added to the rear of the structure in the 1970s.

The house is situated on a city lot at the intersection of two streets. The original landscaping features include pecan trees defining the property boundaries at the streets. A non-historic garage is located near the rear of the property.

The property is in good condition.

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 76

III. HISTORY

ORIGINAL OWNER: John William Temple
 ORIGINAL USE: residence
 ARCHITECT/BUILDER: John William Temple
 HISTORIC ACREAGE: one city block
 DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1912
 DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS: ca. 1920

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT):

John William Temple (1869-1958) built this home for his residence when his parents' home, the adjacent structure to the north, became too small for his growing family. The house was constructed in 1912 on a plot of land occupying one city block. Temple was the owner of the Temple Lumber Company. He designed and built a number of structures within the multiple resource area. He and his wife had eight children. Their seven sons each entered into the building trades.

Temple lost the house circa 1918 as a result of a bad business deal. The house was acquired by Mr. and Mrs. Augustus Skelton. The Skeltons made several changes to the house, ironically using the Temple family as contractors; these changes include the Craftsman-style alterations to the front porch and the interior. (The present owner has evidence that intricate wooden brackets once existed on the porch.) Augustus Skelton was a civic-minded resident of Hartwell. He was instrumental in establishing the Ty Cobb Memorial Hospital at nearby Royston in Hart County. According to Mrs. Skelton, Ty Cobb contacted Skelton about his desire to contribute to a hospital (Cobb, a noted major league baseball player, was a native of Royston). Mr. and Mrs. Skelton traveled to California to receive a \$100,000 check from Cobb as the first donation for the hospital. Through these experiences, Skelton gained expertise which allowed him to coordinate the first Federal housing program in Hartwell. The program, developed in the 1930s, resulted in the creation of the Hartwell Housing Authority which is still in existence under the guidance of Skelton's daughter. In 1948, the Skelton house was sold to Ruth Nelms and went through several other sales before acquisition in 1980 by Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Schell.

IV. SIGNIFICANCE

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA: B, C
 AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Social history
 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL):

The architectural evolution exhibited by this structure contributes to its architectural significance. The original Victorian design of 1912, still evident in the overall massing of

the house, its hipped roof, and detailed gables, was altered with the addition of a Craftsman-inspired porch and interior Craftsman-style details in ca. 1920. J. W. Temple was the original owner and builder of this structure. He also was responsible for the ca. 1920 alterations. The alterations reflect similiar changes made to the Adams-Matheson Residence also located on Athens Street and are indicative of the design influences J. W. Temple gained from constructing other dwellings in Hartwell. These include the Matheson-Morris Residence and the Linder-Huckaby Residence also on Athens Street.

The house is significant in local social history from its associations with the first two owners. J. W. Temple was the owner of the Temple Lumber Company as well as a designer and builder. Temple and his sons are responsible for numerous structures within the multiple resource area. The second owner, Augustus Skelton, contributed to the establishment of the Hartwell Housing Authority and the Ty Cobb Memorial Hospital, both established in the 1930s.

CONTRIBUTING/NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES:

Contributing building(s): 1
Non-contributing structures(s): 1

V. SOURCES

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: Historic Structures Field Survey: Hart County, Georgia

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Draft survey form by Janet Schell & Ann Carswell; interviews with Temple descendants & Mrs. Augustus Skelton; Hart County Courthouse, records; Temple Lumber Company, records.

FORM PREPARED BY:

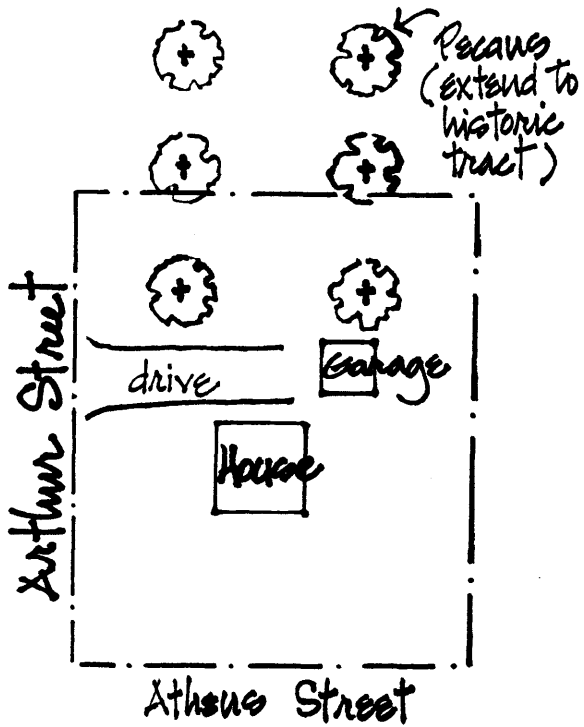
Dale Jaeger
Georgia Mountains Area Planning and Development Commission
Gainesville, Georgia

Donald Rooney
Historic Preservation Consultant
Atlanta, Georgia

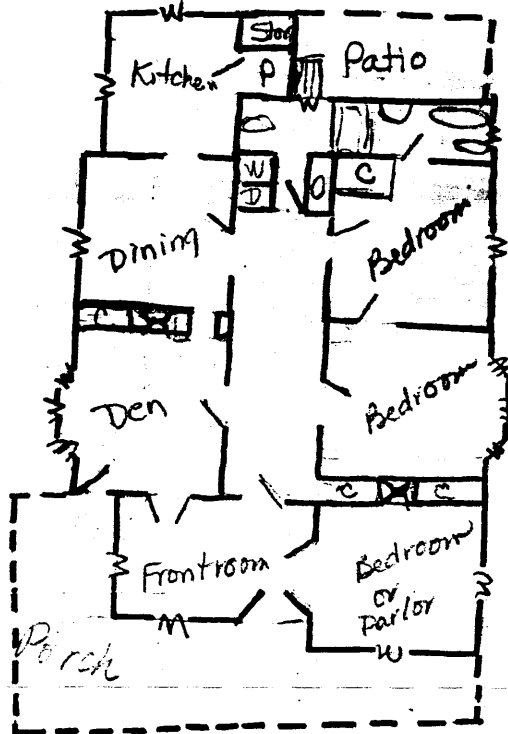
Richard Cloues
Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources
Atlanta, Georgia

VI. SITE PLAN/SKETCH MAP/FLOOR PLAN

Attached sketches are intended only to help illustrate the nominated property. No scale is provided or implied, unless otherwise noted. Boundary markings are simply general indications of the extent of the nominated property; the actual boundary description, unless otherwise noted, is the current legal description of the property which coincides with the current tax map number cited in Section I of this form. Also, note that the orientation of the various sketches differs from sketch to sketch; each is provided with a north arrow for clarity.



SITE PLAN



FLOOR PLAN

W = wind
 L = Door
 C = Closet
 X = Double Fireplace

