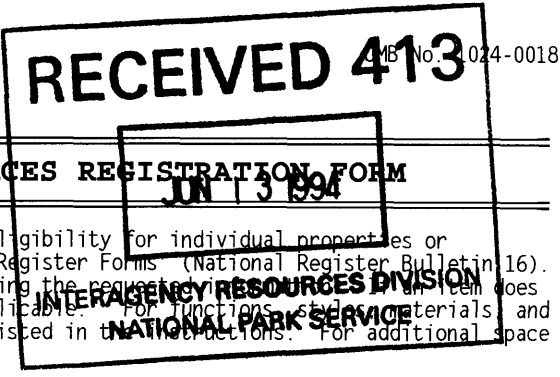


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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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, studies, 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 Thomas W. Smith House
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number 306 North Main Street
city, town Tennille (n.a.) vicinity of
county Washington code GA 303
state Georgia code GA zip code 31089

(n.a.) not for publication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: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Buildings Designed by Charles Edward Choate, Constructed in Washington County, Georgia, between 1896 and 1919

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.

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Signature of certifying official

6/19/94
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon
State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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

Malcolm M. ... 7/28/94

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

Materials:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| foundation | brick |
| walls | wood (weatherboard) |
| roof | asphalt shingle |
| other | n.a. |

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Thomas W. Smith House is a one-story, wood-framed, Queen Anne-style house on a small lot in a residential neighborhood in the small town of Tennille.

The house is a one-story frame residence, on a brick foundation, with a steeply hipped and multi-gabled roof covered in composition shingles and containing two dormer windows. The building reflects two historic stages of construction: the main body of the house, with its Victorian detailing and its hipped and gabled roof, represents the first major phase of construction, while the second stage is manifested by the Craftsman-influenced front porch with short Doric columns on brick piers, which replaced the original, more "Victorian" front porch.

The foundation of the house, which sets the house well up from the ground, is pierced brick and has been replaced in several places. The front doorway has an entablature panel and two sidelights. The porch floor consists of wood slats and extends out from the structure with a flat roof, wide entablature, and cornice line. There are two chimneys, one on either side of the hipped roof; they each contain a base, middle, and corbeled brick top. The windows on the front facade are tri-part and are 4/1 with mullions dividing the three parts. On the south side of the house there is an extended bay window which is rounded and which has a harp-shaped bracket supporting the gabled roof extending over the bay window. There are shingles in the gable and over the bay window. There are double-hung 2/2 sash windows on the sides of the house; each window contains a flat wooden lintel with a simple one-inch reveal. A porte-cochere is located to the north of the front facade (reflecting the arrival of the family's first automobile) and was added in the 1920s when the front porch was

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

altered. Behind the porte cochere on the north wall of the house is another bay window, this one with angled rather than rounded bays.

A one-room addition to the rear right side of the house was made in 1902 for a brother of the homeowner and his children. A back bedroom porch was enclosed in the 1930s, according to the lifetime owner-resident, Laura Will Smith Sheram, in a taped interview.

The house is located on two city-sized corner lots, each facing North Main Street between Adams and Smith streets. The side yard was historically a tennis court. The rear yard is spacious and contains undocumented wooden outbuildings.

The interior of the Thomas W. Smith House features a central hall flanked by three major rooms on each side. The hallway is wider in the front half of the house and narrower toward the rear. The two front rooms on either side of the central hall share fireplaces. The front room to the left (west) features sliding or pocket doors to the hallway. Other interior features include closets and a bathroom, beaded wainscoting, a wooden hall screen, a recessed china cabinet in the dining room, the original butler's pantry, bull's-eye corner blocks, and beaded woodworking. All the doors are paneled. Mantels are varied, some simple with Doric columns and some with mirrors.

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:

1900

Significant Dates:

1900

Significant Person(s):

n.a.

Cultural Affiliation:

n.a.

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Charles E. Choate, architect

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Thomas W. Smith House is significant in architecture as a good representative example of the residential work of the architect Charles E. Choate during the early phase of his career in Washington County, Georgia. The main body of the house, which is essentially intact, typifies exterior composition and interior design characteristic of Choate's turn-of-the-century design work in Sandersville and Tennille.

During the early phase of Choate's architectural career, his residential designs emphasized combinations of traditional house forms and prevailing architectural styles, executed with care for proportion and detail that set them apart from their contemporaries. In this house, for example, Choate combined the plan and form of two closely related house types, the "Georgian Cottage" and the "New South House," to create an eclectic plan-form that reflects each of its precedents yet conforms precisely to neither. Characteristic features of the Georgian Cottage include the compact rectangular massing of the house, its broad and high hipped roof, and its central hall floorplan; characteristic features of the similar New South House include the central hall that is not quite symmetrical, the main rooms that do not quite line up with one another, the multiple gables on the roof, and the bay windows with their geometric projections, all reflecting a more "Victorian" or picturesque approach to residential design reflecting the influence of the Queen Anne style. Significant exterior details include detailed brick chimneys, dormer windows, and bay windows. The interior details which are typical of Choate-designed residences are numerous and include beaded wainscoting, simple as well as ornamental fireplace mantels with Doric columns and mirrors, paneled doors with bull's-eye corner blocks and beaded surrounds, and an ornamental hallway screen or grill. On the exterior, the use of harp-shaped brackets at the rounded bay window reflects the early use of a Choate "signature" motif. Overall, the Thomas W. Smith House typifies Choate's residential architectural designs during the early years of his architectural career.

The rear addition to the house does not detract from its architectural design, nor does it seriously impact its historic integrity. The loss of the Choate-designed original front porch, which spanned just the width of the front facade and which featured turned porch posts and a gazebo-like projection at one end, and its replacement with a "Craftsman" style porch with its extended porte cochere and its shorter, thicker columns on high brick bases, is more significant,

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

because it changes the appearance and proportions of the front or main facade of the house and diminishes the amount of the surviving house directly attributable to Choate. However, porches are among the most frequently replaced architectural elements in historic houses, so the loss of an original porch is not unexpected in a house that is nearly 100 years old, and the replacement porch, while not imitative of the original, is not incompatible in its size, scale, and material, and it does not obscure or compromise the historic architecture of the Choate-designed house behind it. Indeed, the main body of the house, on the exterior and interior, is virtually intact and stands as an excellent example of Choate's early residential architectural design. The changes in the Choate-designed porch and porte cochere and the additions in the rear also reflect the multi-generational, single-family lifestyle of the Smith-Sheram family, a major Tennille family. This family commissioned and occupied the house in varying generational and extended family combinations from the birth of daughter Laura Will Smith Sheram in 1900 until her death in 1985 and were always sympathetic to the integrity of their home.

The existence of floor plans, roof elevations and front facade drawings, in all likelihood the construction documents for the house, is another significant element in the documentation of this structure. Only two other Choate drawings for buildings in Washington County are known to exist at this time.

National Register Criteria

This property meets National Register Criterion C for its architectural significance as a significant work of residential architecture designed by Charles Choate early in his local career. The main body of the house, excepting the replacement front porch, retains its integrity of design, materials, and workmanship on both the exterior and the interior.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n.a.

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

1900--design and construction of the house

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if applicable)

The one contributing resource is the main house. Small domestic outbuildings in the back yard have not been documented (except to know that they were not designed by Charles Choate) or counted in the resource count; even though these outbuildings do not contribute to the architectural theme of this multiple property nomination, they do contribute to the overall residential setting of the property.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

In 1900 Charles E. Choate designed a one-story home for Thomas W. Smith of Tennille. The Sandersville Progress reported in July 1900 that the Smith family had just moved to their "neat and very conveniently arranged" home. "Mr. Choate is the architect for this and several other buildings now underway in Tennille and Sandersville," the paper went on to note. Smith, mayor of Tennille, owned a thriving store downtown. Mrs. Smith was of the Franklin family, pioneer Tennille stock. The building covers two historic stages in the Smith family: livability for extended family and then adapted to the arrival of the motor car. The Smith family owned and occupied the house, opening it to relatives and over-lapping generations for 85 years. They had a high regard for the home, saving the working drawings and always responsible to the upkeep of the structure.

9. Major Bibliographic References

See the bibliography in the multiple property documentation form.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (x) 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:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1.5 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 330740 Northing 3645800

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property coincides with the current legal description of the property associated with the house, as represented by Lot 21 of Tax Map T-7. Its boundaries are described by a heavy black line drawn to scale on the attached tax map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property consists of the parcel of land historically and currently associated with the house.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title (a) Dale Jaeger and Susan Casey (b) Richard Cloues
organization (a) Jaeger/Pyburn (b) Office of Historic Preservation,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number (a) 210 Washington Street (b) 205 Butler Street,
Suite 1462
city or town (a) Gainesville (b) Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code**
(a) 30503 (b) 30334
telephone (a) 706-534-7024 (b) 404-656-2840 **date** June 3, 1994

(HPS form version 11-02-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

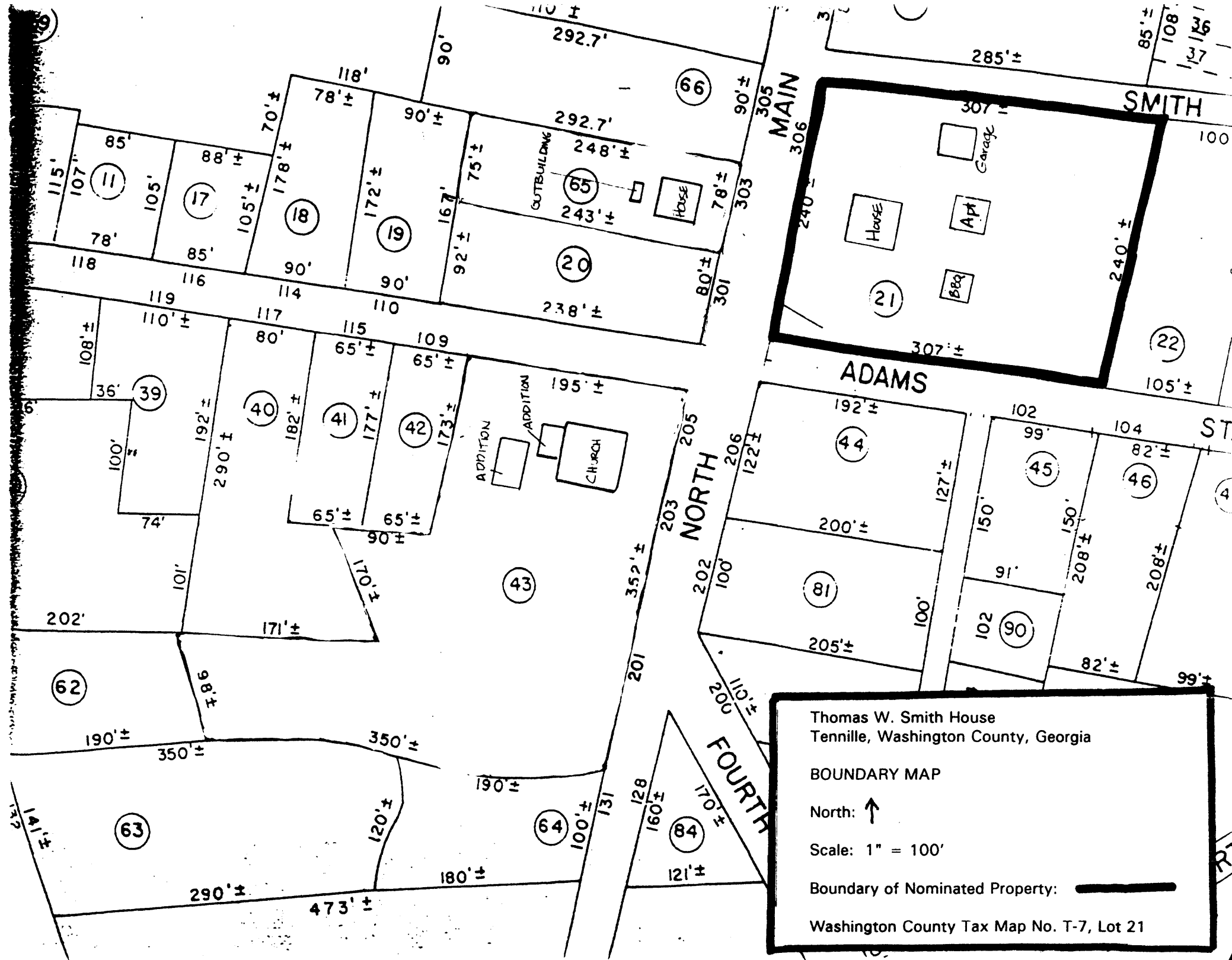
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property: Thomas W. Smith House
City or Vicinity: Tennille
County: Washington
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: September 1992

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 4. Front (north) of house; photographer facing southwest.
- 2 of 4. Rear of house; photographer facing northeast.
- 3 of 4. Central hallway; photographer facing south.
- 4 of 4. Front (northeast) corner room (foreground), with central hallway (background); photographer facing southwest.



Thomas W. Smith House
 Tennille, Washington County, Georgia

BOUNDARY MAP

North: ↑

Scale: 1" = 100'

Boundary of Nominated Property: **—————**

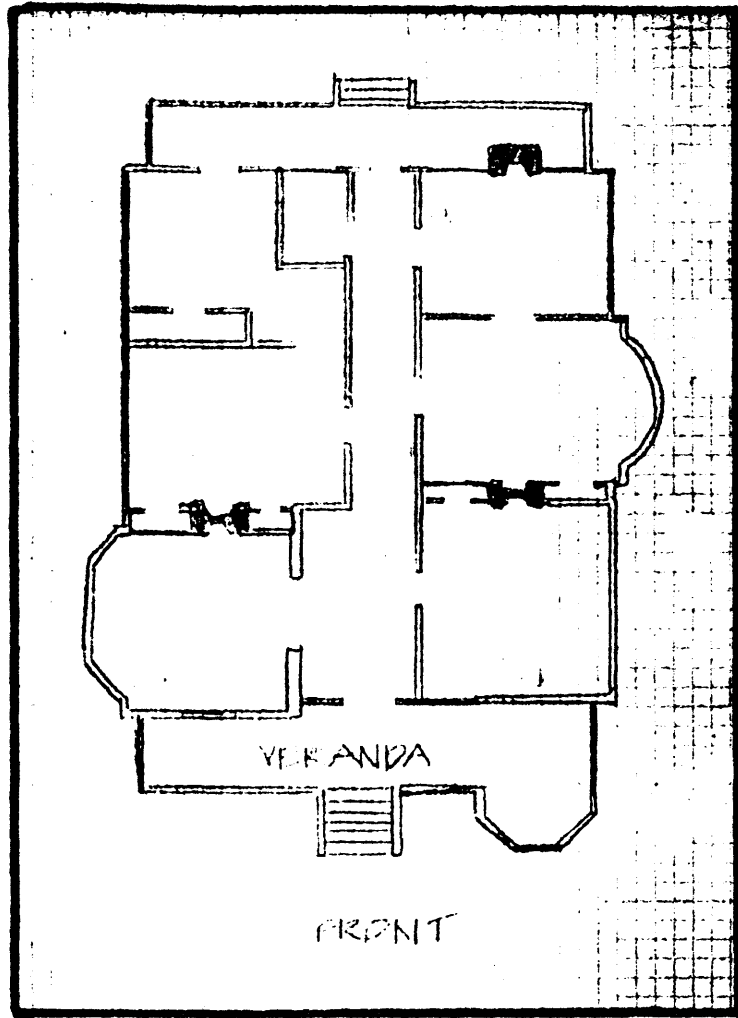
Washington County Tax Map No. T-7, Lot 21

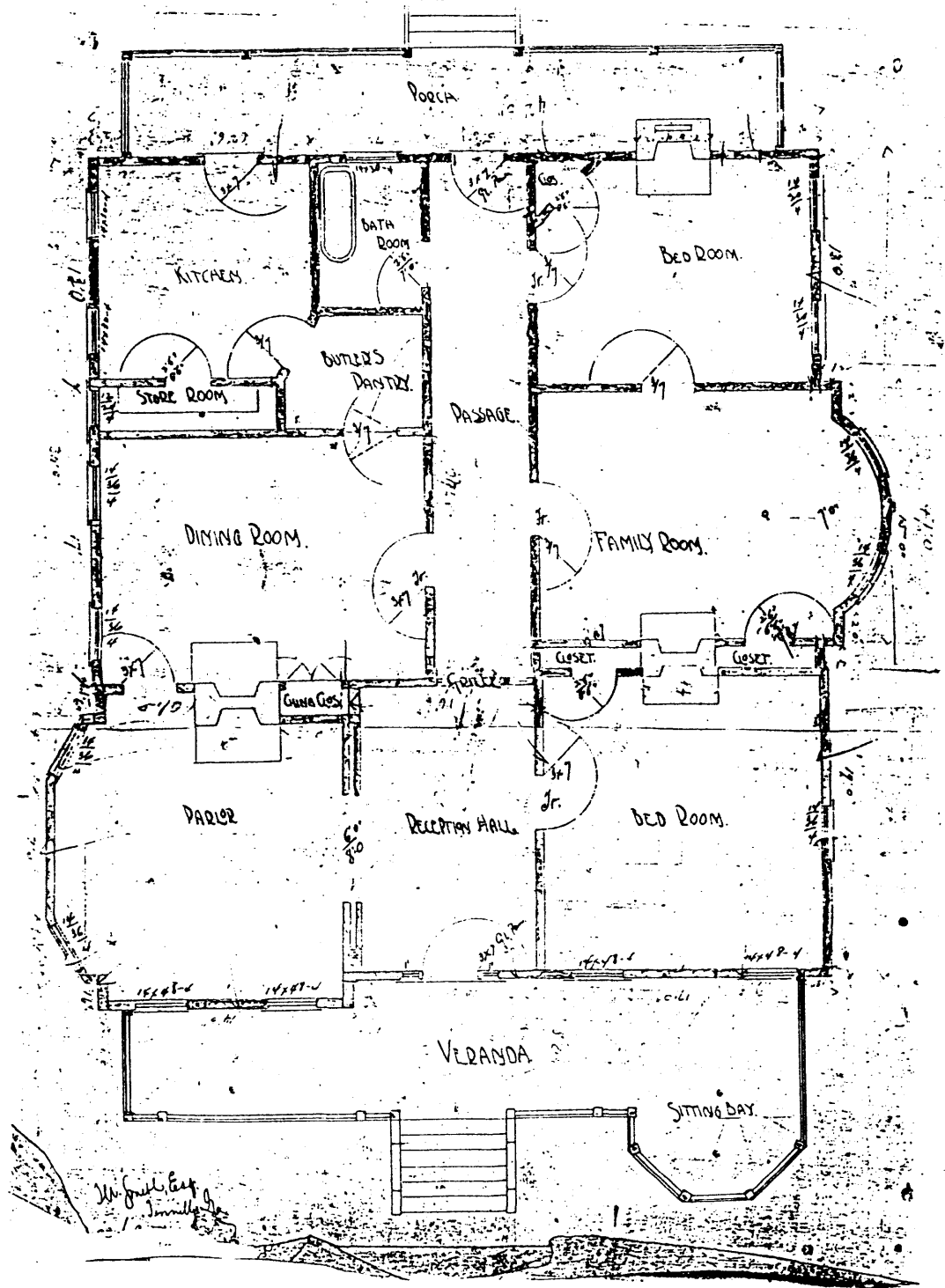
Thomas W. Smith House
Tennille, Washington County, Georgia

FLOOR PLAN

North: ←

Scale: not to scale





Thomas W. Smith House
 Tennille, Washington County, Georgia

ORIGINAL FLOOR PLAN AS DRAWN BY
 CHARLES E. CHOATE, ARCHITECT, 1900

North: ←

Scale: not to scale