

<b>I. IDENTIFICATION</b>	PROPERTY NAME: York House STREET ADDRESS: Bridge Street ✓ PRESENT OWNER: Mrs. W.P. Rhyne CITY: Albany CURRENT USE: Vacation residence U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE Clarkesville V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: CL-16-21	HISTORIC NAME: <u>Porter-York House</u> CITY: Clarkesville ✓ MAILING ADDRESS: 631 5th Avenue STATE: Georgia ZIP CODE: 31701 ACREAGE: Approximately 3 acres U.T.M. REFERENCE: Z17 E268280 N3833350
<b>II. DESCRIPTION</b>	ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION: Greek Revival styled residence; L-shaped plan with central hall, two over two arrangement with dining room and kitchen extending to the rear to form an L plan; interior details include bracketed staircase, window and door mouldings, carved mantels, relatively low ceilings; exterior details include a two-story recessed porch, supported by square, hand-fluted columns, hipped roof, cantilevered balcony with delicate cutwork in balustrade, flushboard under porch on front facade highlights these classical details, exterior end chimneys; simple landscape setting, house facing Bridge Street with remainder of acreage to rear sloping to a branch; house remains virtually unaltered, in good condition.	
<b>III. HISTORY</b>	ORIGINAL OWNER: John Porter ORIGINAL USE: Residence ARCHITECT/BUILDER: John Porter HISTORIC ACREAGE: 1 3/8 acre(1860), 2 5/8 acre (1902) DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1861-1863 DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS: Bath-1930; Heat added kitchen fireplace enclosed-1962. HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT): Deed references and interviews with descendants of the original owner suggest that this structure was built between 1861-1863. James G. Porter, believed to have been the architect and builder of the house, purchased a 1 and 3/8 acre tract along Bridge Street from the estate of a local land speculator, James Wyly, in December 1860. Porter evidently died shortly thereafter, reputed by family to be the result of an injury in the Civil War. His widow, Henrietta J. Porter, sold the property in 1863 with a reference made to "a certain house and lot where she now lives". The property passed through several ownerships through the latter 1800's, one owner being from South Carolina. It returned to the Porter family in 1902, when M.C. York, (CONTD)	
<b>IV. SIGNIFICANCE</b>	N.R. AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, commerce, commun- LEVEL: Local ications STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL): Architecturally, this house is significant as a fine and relatively unaltered example of the Greek Revival style in its carpenter-builder mode. Its overall design, details, construction materials and techniques, and workmanship are characteristic of the late antebellum period in Georgia. Such interpretation of high-style architecture is common in north Georgia, but this is the only large Greek Revival structure remaining in Clarkesville. In terms of commerce and communications, the house is significant as the early 20th century home of M.C. York, a local dry goods merchant and founder of the Standard Telephone Company in 1904. Clarkesville's first telephone line was strung between this house and York's downtown (CONTD)	
<b>V. SOURCES</b>	FORM PREPARED BY: A) Dale Jaeger, Planner ORGANIZATION: A) Georgia Mtns APDC B) Richard Cloues, Architectural Historian B) Historic Preser. Sec, DNR ADDRESS: A) P.O. Box 1720, Gainesville, GA TELEPHONE NUMBER: A) 404/536-3431 B) 270 Washington St. Atlanta B) 404/656-2840 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: Historic Structures Field Survey: Habersham County, Georgia - #74 SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Deeds Mrs. W.P. Rhyne, Henry Davis	



PHOTOGRAPHER: James R. Lockhart

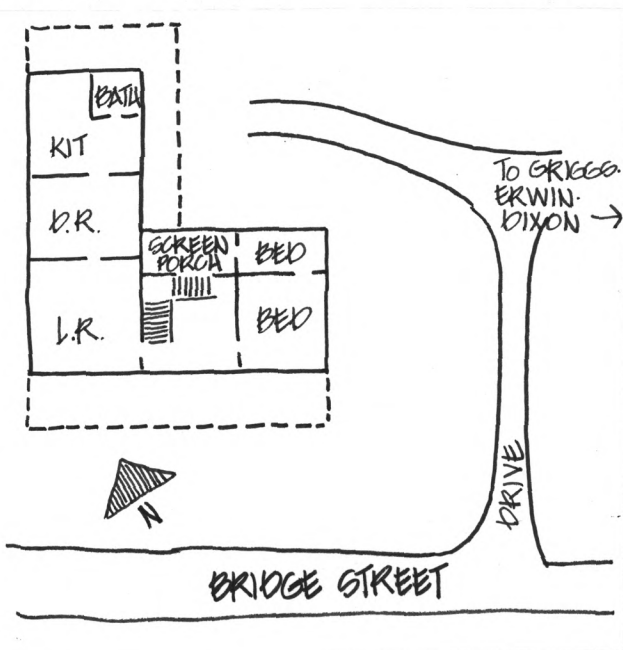
DATE: November, 1980

#7 of 35

ROLL NO. -- FRAME NO. ---NEGATIVES FILED: Georgia Department of Natural Resources

DIRECTION PHOTOGRAPHER FACING: North

USE SPACE BELOW FOR CONTINUATION FROM FRONT, SKETCH PLANS OR MAPS, ADDITIONAL COMMENTS, ETC.



Property Porter-York House

No. 1 Page 2

CONTINUATION

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE:

a Porter descendant, purchased the property at public auction. The land acreage had been increased to a 2 and 5/8 acre tract by the time of 1902 purchase. York, a leader in the Clarkesville community, founder of the Standard Telephone Company, and owner of a dry goods store, resided in this home. The structure still remains in ownership of the York family and is used as a summer residence.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

store. From this modest beginning took shape an independent telephone company that now serves a seven-county area. For years the company's switchboard was located in the second floor of a downtown commercial building.