

## HISTORIC RESOURCES OF HARTWELL, HART COUNTY, GEORGIA

## INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY #14

I. IDENTIFICATION

HISTORIC NAME: John Roland Temple House  
CURRENT NAME: Temple Homestead  
STREET ADDRESS: 129 Athens Street  
CITY: Hartwell  
PRESENT OWNER: Mrs. Jule Temple, Sr.  
MAILING ADDRESS: 129 Athens Street  
CITY: Hartwell  
STATE: Georgia  
ZIP CODE: 30643  
CURRENT USE: residence  
ACREAGE: one acre  
U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: Hartwell, Georgia  
U.T.M. REFERENCE: Z17 E321440 N3802470  
V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: H-15-1-22

II. DESCRIPTION

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION:

This house is a one-story, frame, Victorian structure. It features a gable roof with a cross gable projecting to cover a rear ell. The entrance facade features a porch with elaborate combinations of turned and cutwork detailing extending the width of the three-bay facade. The turned porch posts are capped with brackets which support an openwork architrave. A decorated frieze beneath the porch cornice contains additional applied millwork. The ballustrade contains a variety of turned and sawn infill. Eastlake characteristics dominate the porch style. The single door entrance is enframed by transom and sidelights. Flanking the doorway are two 6/6 windows. The house contains one end and one internal brick chimney.

The interior of the house features a central hall plan which has been modified by merging the hall with the rooms on the south side of the house. An ell extends to the rear (east) of the house. Interior detailing includes Doric columns and diagonal tongue-and-groove wainscoting in the entrance area, square columns in the central hall, and period mantels. Alterations include the addition of pine paneling and acoustical ceiling tile to the rear bedroom in the 1950s. Sheetrock covers some wall surfaces. Bathrooms were provided in the 1940s. The rear porch was enclosed in the 1950s.

The house is situated on a one-acre lot which contains two rows of large pecan trees in the rear yard and is surrounded by a privet hedge. The house fronts to Athens Street. A historic smoke house and three contemporary structures are located to the rear of the house near the north property line.

The property is in good condition.

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 75

### III. HISTORY

ORIGINAL OWNER: John Roland Temple  
 ORIGINAL USE: residence  
 ARCHITECT/BUILDER: John Roland Temple  
 HISTORIC ACREAGE: several acres  
 DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1892  
 DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS: 1950

#### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT):

John Roland Temple (1846-1918), a Hart County native, and his wife, Phoebe Eloise ("Ella") Walker (1851-1940) who was originally from Habersham County, built this house as their residence in 1892. Temple was the architect and builder of the structure with assistance from his only son, John William ("Will"). John and Ella had purchased the land from Louisa Townsend, a large landowner in the western section of the community. The original lot extended several blocks in depth to the present Health Center property.

The property functioned as a small-scale family farm. Temple raised a small amount of cotton and his wife sold extra milk, eggs, and butter to residents of the nearby Hartwell Mill village. Several outbuildings were associated with the farming operation, including a coal house (on the present tract), barn (east of the existing alley), and a stable (also located east of the alley); none survive except possibly the extant smokehouse. Temple derived his primary income from the building trades. He owned and operated a saw mill on the Savannah River that produced lumber for many of Hartwell's early structures. He designed and built several structures in Hartwell. According to descendants, he had no formal construction training.

The Temples' only son, Will, married Cora Cunningham of Hart County in 1897. The couple resided initially with the elder Temples. As Will and Cora Temple's family grew, they constructed a house next door to his parents. Will and Cora, who eventually had seven sons and one daughter, remained in their Athens Street home until they lost the structure in a business deal. They relocated but were able to purchase another house on Athens Street in the 1920s and return to a location close to the then widowed Mrs. John Roland Temple.

### IV. SIGNIFICANCE

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL):

This building is historically significant as the original residence of the Temple family. This house was the residence of the elder member of the Temple family in Hartwell who designed and built this and other houses in town. John Roland Temple was the first family member to enter the building trade. He inspired his son, John William, and seven grandchildren to enter the building trade. The seven grandchildren who were involved in building include: Walker, a contractor; Luther M., an architect; Jule, a contractor; Clarence Benjamin, a painter; John William, Jr., a builder; John Roland, an electrical contractor; and Frank Lee, an architect. These men literally left their mark on Hartwell's historic architecture, building and remodeling numerous residences and other structures in the Victorian Eclectic and Craftsman styles and providing building materials and services to others in the community.

This building is architecturally significant as a good local example of Victorian Eclectic design upgraded on the interior to reflect the later Craftsman style. A relatively simple and straightforward late 19th century house with a central hall plan and gabled roof, it is distinguished by its Eastlake-style front porch with its variety of cut and turned woodwork.

CONTRIBUTING/NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES:

Contributing building(s): 1 (house)  
 Contributing structure(s): 1 (smokehouse)  
 Non-contributing building(s): 2 (office, classroom)  
 Non-contributing structure(s): 1 (garage)

V. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Draft form by Mrs. Jule Temple; Courthouse records.

FORM PREPARED BY:

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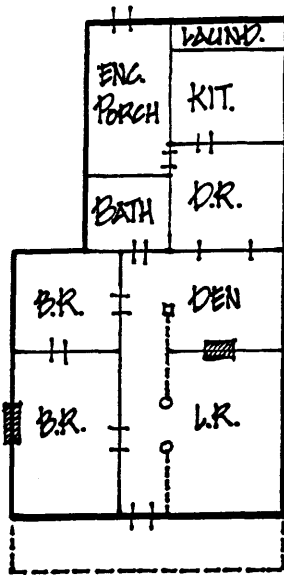
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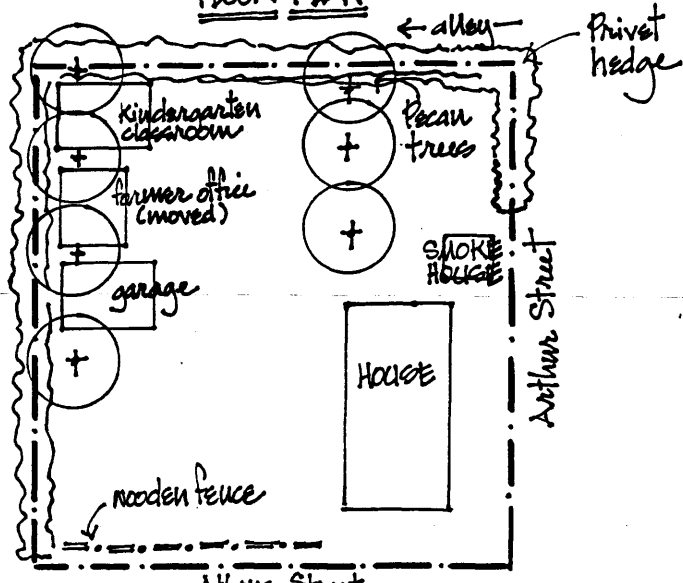
VI. SITE PLAN/SKETCH MAP/FLOOR PLAN

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.

← NORTH



FLOOR PLAN



SITE PLAN