

**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

For NPS use only

received APR 19 1985  
date entered

**1. Name**

historic Roe-Harper House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number	See Continuation Sheet			N/A	not for publication
city, town	Milledgeville	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	vicinity of	Milledgeville	
state	Georgia	code	013	county	Baldwin
					code 009

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
district	public	occupied	agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	private	unoccupied	museum
structure	both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	commercial
site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	educational
object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	entertainment
	being considered	yes: unrestricted	government
		no	industrial
			military
			other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. Joseph F. Specht

street & number P. O. Box 372

city, town Milledgeville N/A vicinity of state Georgia 31061

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Baldwin County Courthouse

city, town Milledgeville state Georgia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title See Continuation Sheet has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town  state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date September 1982

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Roe-Harper House is a one-and-one-half story vernacular house dating from ca. 1800. The approximately square house is a five-room variation on the hall-and-parlor plan. It has a low-pitched gable roof that covers the five rooms and porches on both the front and rear facades. The house has a heavy timber frame with diagonal bracing in some corners. It is sheathed with weatherboards, except in the protected areas under the porches. In these areas brick nogging, which also exists in walls throughout the first floor of the house, is exposed. The house sits on brick piers and has three brick exterior end chimneys -- a main chimney at the center of each side of the house and one smaller chimney located near the northeast corner of the south side. Windows are six-over-six sash except for the two windows flanking the chimney on the north facade. These, which light the largest room, are nine-over-nine sash. Doors, both exterior and interior, are of the six-panel, cross-and-bible type. It is not certain which facade was considered the front of the house originally, but it is assumed that the present west facade with the larger porch may have been. This facade has a half-width porch with a room at the north end. A centrally placed door opens from the porch into the large "hall," and a second door provides access to the porch room. The "rear" (east) facade consists of a central porch flanked by small rooms. A door on this porch open into the main "hall" and a second smaller door provides the only access to the small north room.

The interior of the house is asymmetrical in layout. Two large rooms of unequal size form the core of the house and three smaller rooms open off these in the front and rear porch areas. A single-run boxed staircase with bottom winders leads from the larger "hall" to the loft. Walls in all downstairs rooms are formed of exposed brick nogging which is infilled between timber studs. There is no evidence that the walls were ever covered with plaster. Floors and ceilings are constructed of wide boards. Wood detailing consists of a wide baseboard and a chair rail in all rooms and paneled wainscoting in the largest room. Windows and doors have simple architrave trim. All three fireplaces have their original chimney pieces with simple paneling and high mantel shelves. The loft has new rafters and has recently been finished for the first time with sheetrock. Very wide original floor boards are still in place in the loft.

The Roe-Harper House was moved from its original location in Hancock County, Georgia to its present location in neighboring Baldwin County in 1982. The house has had a number of changes made to it as a result of that move and its subsequent restoration. Also as a result of that move certain key facts about the house have been revealed. The house in its original location had a small wing, dating from the 1830s, extending from its southside. This wing was left behind in the move. The house was in a deteriorated condition before the move, necessitating the replacement of some original materials in the subsequent restoration. Changes to the house are enumerated below:

(Continued)

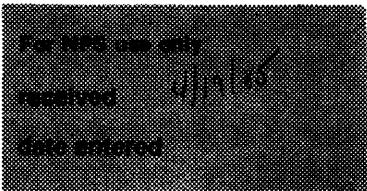
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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Location (#2) and

Continuation sheet Representation in Existing Item number 2, 6 & 9  
Surveys (#6) and Major Bibliographical References (#9)

Page 2



2. Location

The Roe-Harper House is located to the north of Milledgeville in rural Baldwin County, Georgia. The house is situated on a piece of land to the southeast of the junction of U.S. Route 441 and Corral Road.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

The Roe-Harper House was previously listed in the National Register at its original location in Hancock County, Georgia on August 29, 1977. Due to its 1982 move, the nomination is being resubmitted.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Arnold, Robert. "John Roe House." 1984. A paper on the history of the house and its first owner, John Roe. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

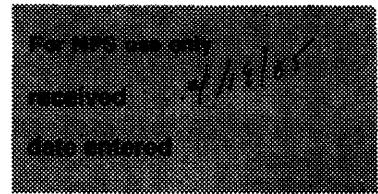
Black, David, Architectural Historian, North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. Telephone interview by Carolyn Brooks, March, 1983.

Chambers, Margaret. "Roe-Harper House." National Register Nomination Form, March, 1976. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Specht, Joseph. Roe-Harper House, Baldwin County. On site interview and tour of house by Carolyn Brooks and Ken Thomas. March 2, 1983.

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



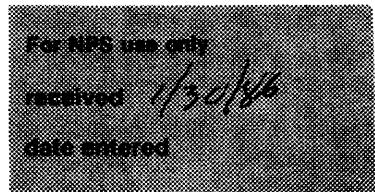
Continuation sheet	Description	Item number	7	Page	2
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- 1) Chimneys had been covered with stucco at the old location. New chimneys were constructed at the present site using the old bricks and copying the configurations of the originals.
- 2) The original brick piers were replaced by concrete piers faced with the original brick.
- 3) At the original site the house had been covered with non-historic asphalt siding, except on the rear facade. Removal of the siding revealed seriously deteriorated weatherboarding which was replaced with new siding specially milled to match the original. The original rear siding remains in place.
- 4) Rotted portions of the main sill and cornice boards were replaced.
- 5) Sash windows were placed in the loft window openings. These had historically been covered only with single wide-plank shutters. (Careful copies of one shutter, believed to be original, are being made for all windows.)
- 6) The southwest window on the south side was reduced in size.
- 7) Front porch columns have been replaced.
- 8) The building's rafters, decking, and metal roof have been replaced.
- 9) Rotted floor boards in portions of some rooms have been replaced.
- 10) Bricks and woodwork have been carefully cleaned in a fairly successful attempt to remove a non-historic blue coloring applied to the entire interior and front porch of the house.
- 11) The loft has been finished with sheetrock.

Two major discoveries were made during the restoration process. A crudely marked brick was found in one chimney with the date 1804 on it. This helps to pin down the construction date of the house which earlier had been bracketed between 1786 and 1808. Perhaps more significant, removal of some original weatherboards revealed mortar pushing up against and conforming to the configuration of the weatherboards. This suggests that the weatherboards were original to the house and installed before the nogging was put in place. This refutes the earlier supposition that the house was originally half-timbered and covered with weatherboards at a later date. Technically this makes the house a heavy timber frame house with brick nogging rather than a half-timbered house.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet	Description	Item number	7	Page 3
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The house now sits on a low rise in the midst of a field dotted with pecan trees. The setting is similar to the original setting, although two family cemeteries and a number of outbuildings, most non-historic, were left behind when the house was moved.

Boundary

Because this house has been moved, because its significance is primarily architectural, and because the current setting has no historic value (although it does constitute a compatible environment for the house), the nominated property consists of the house at the center of a 600' - diameter circle (300' radius). In the absence of other boundary locators, this land establishes a compatible visual setting for the house. It also corresponds to the topography of the site, with the house at the top of a low hill which slopes away gradually on three sides.

## 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/						
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian						
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater						
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation						
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)						

Specific dates ca. 1804      Builder/Architect      Probably John Roe

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Roe-Harper House is an important early 19th-century farmhouse that provides valuable information about early house types in rural Georgia. It is Georgia's single documented example of a house constructed with brick nogging. For these reasons, it has great significance in terms of architecture for the state. These reasons justify its relisting in the National Register in its restored state, following its 1982 move from Hancock to Baldwin County. It meets National Register Criterion C and Criterion Consideration B.

The house is an excellent, although rather atypical, example of vernacular residential architecture associated with the early settlement years of Georgia's inland counties. Relatively few documented houses from this period remain. The house's unusual floor plan can best be described as a variation on the hall-and-parlor type, a Mediaeval European house form that was brought to the United States by early settlers and that traveled with them as they migrated south from New England and the Virginias into the Carolinas and Georgia.

The heavy timber frame, corner diagonal bracing, cross-and-bible type doors, enclosed stairs, and fine interior woodwork are typical of many early Georgia houses. Less typical are the hall-and-parlor plan and the single, low-pitched gable roof covering the main portion of the house and its porches. What makes the house unique is the brick nogging found throughout its first floor.

Like the hall-and-parlor plan and the heavy timber frame, the nogging technology was brought to America by early European settlers. Soft brick nogging was used frequently in 17th- and 18th-century New England structures as a form of insulation and/or vermin proofing. Typically, it was infilled between wall studs and hidden beneath weatherboards on the exterior and a finish layer of plaster over lath on the interior. In North Carolina, to Georgia's north, nogging was used fairly frequently until the mid-19th century. In Georgia, however, the Roe-Harper House provides the single known example of this building technology. It is interesting to note that John Roe, builder and first owner of the house, migrated to Georgia from eastern North Carolina just over ten years before the house was constructed. No doubt, his knowledge of house building derived more from North Carolina than from Georgia traditions. In the previous nomination the house was described as being half timbered, based on a belief that the exterior weatherboarding was a later addition. Recently revealed evidence (discussed in the Description section) establishes the fact that the house is a heavy timber framed house with exterior weatherboarding and exposed brick nogging.

(Continued)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 6.5 acres  
Quadrangle name Lake Sinclair West, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A	1 7	2 8 7 6 2 0	3 6 7 1 8 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 7	2 8 7 6 2 0	3 6 7 1 8 0 0
E	1 7	2 8 7 6 2 0	3 6 7 1 8 0 0
G	1 7	2 8 7 6 2 0	3 6 7 1 8 0 0

B	1 7	2 8 7 6 2 0	3 6 7 1 8 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1 7	2 8 7 6 2 0	3 6 7 1 8 0 0
F	1 7	2 8 7 6 2 0	3 6 7 1 8 0 0
H	1 7	2 8 7 6 2 0	3 6 7 1 8 0 0

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary is described and justified in Section 7.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher

organization Historic Preservation Section  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources date 3/13/85

street & number 270 Washington St. SW telephone 404/656-2840

city or town Atlanta state Georgia 30334

## 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

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4/2/85

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*R. Schlaefel*

date

*3/6/85*

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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received 4/12/85

date entered

Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number

8

Page

2

The Roe-Harper House was moved from Hancock County to neighboring Baldwin County in 1982. At its original location, the house was in serious danger of destruction by neglect. It was situated on an isolated property well back from any main road and surrounded by land owned by paper and timber companies from which all other structures had been removed. The house's occupants had vacated it early in 1982; the likelihood of finding someone to restore the house in this location was remote. Thus, the house was moved to its new site in good faith. It was moved in one piece and was painstakingly restored in its new location. Every effort was made to preserve its significant architectural features. The interior of the house remains almost entirely unchanged; deteriorated exterior elements were replaced in kind. Its present setting resembles very closely the isolated rural one from which it was removed. The house is sited on a slight rise surrounded by open land, just as it was earlier. It retains the same basic east-west orientation. A creek runs through the property at some distance from the house as it did at the previous site. Two family cemeteries, a number of outbuildings, the majority non-historic, and an 1830s wing of the house were left behind in the move. However, the extreme architectural significance of the house for Georgia, its careful restoration, and its compatible new setting justify its relisting in the National Register.

Although changes have been made to this house over the years, most recently as a result of its being moved and restored, these changes have not compromised the integrity of the significant historic architectural features which make the house virtually unique in the state. These features consist of the unusual hall-and-parlor floor plan, the unusual heavy timber frame with brick nogging, boxed stairway, and fine interior wood-work. These features all survive virtually intact: the floorplan is unaltered, the boxed stair and woodwork are original, and, with regard to the structural system, it is intact with the exception of some new sills which replaced rotted sections of the original sills. Alterations to features of the house which do not give it its unique character are listed in Section 7. Most of these changes involve replacement in kind of deteriorated wooden elements. The chimneys were rebuilt after the house was moved using the original brick and along the lines of the originals. The foundation piers of the house, relatively unimportant features, are new, although modeled after the originals.

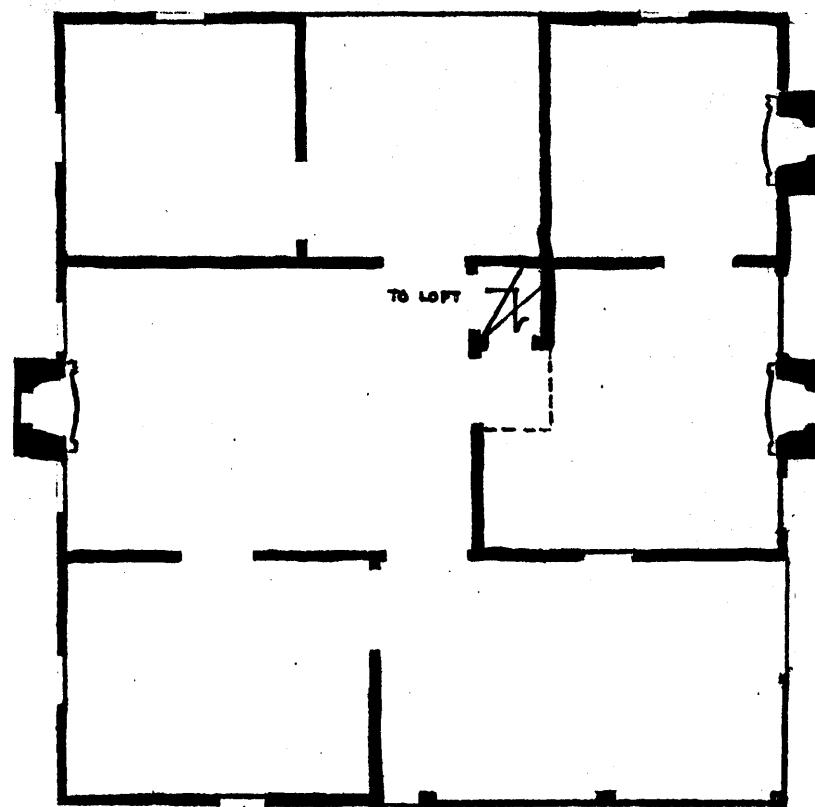
The originally unfinished attic has been made habitable through renovation. All in all, the uniquely significant features of the house are for all intents and purposes intact, while some of the secondary features of the house have been rebuilt or replaced in kind as required.

ROE - HARPER HOUSE  
Milledgeville vicinity, Baldwin Co., Georgia

FLOOR PLAN

Scale: 1/8": 1'

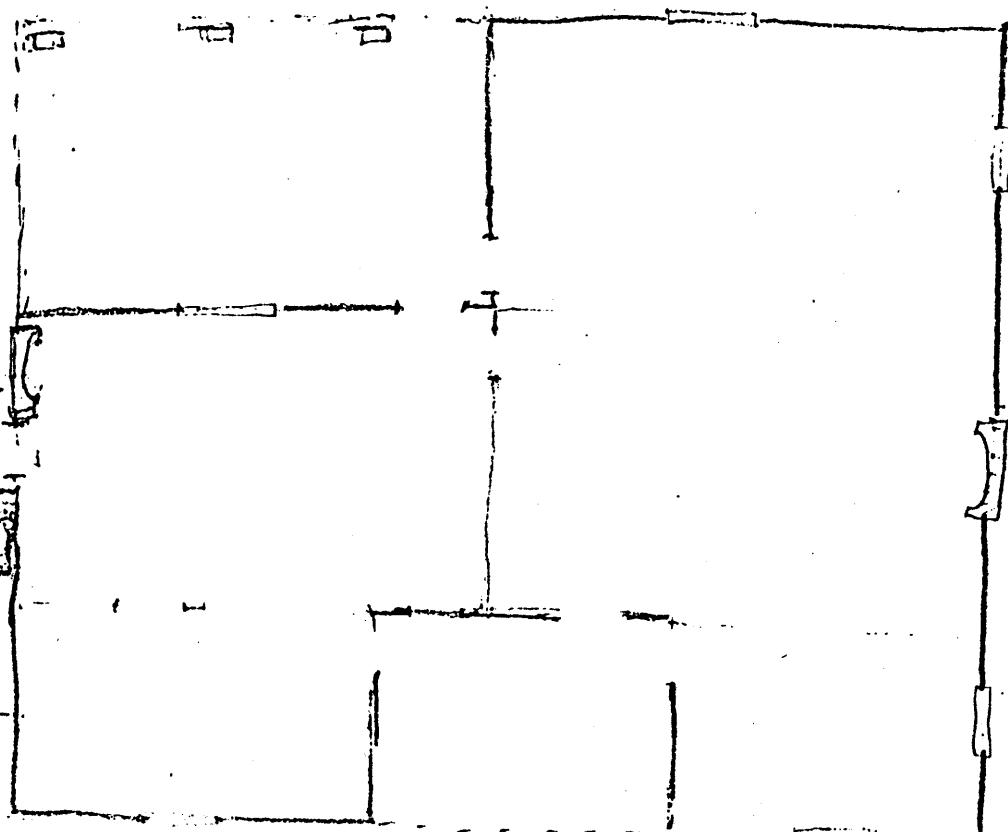
North: ↗



ROE-HARPER HOUSE, BALDWIN COUNTY,  
 $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'$  GEORGIA

Roe-Harper house  
Hancock Co., Ga.

Dock

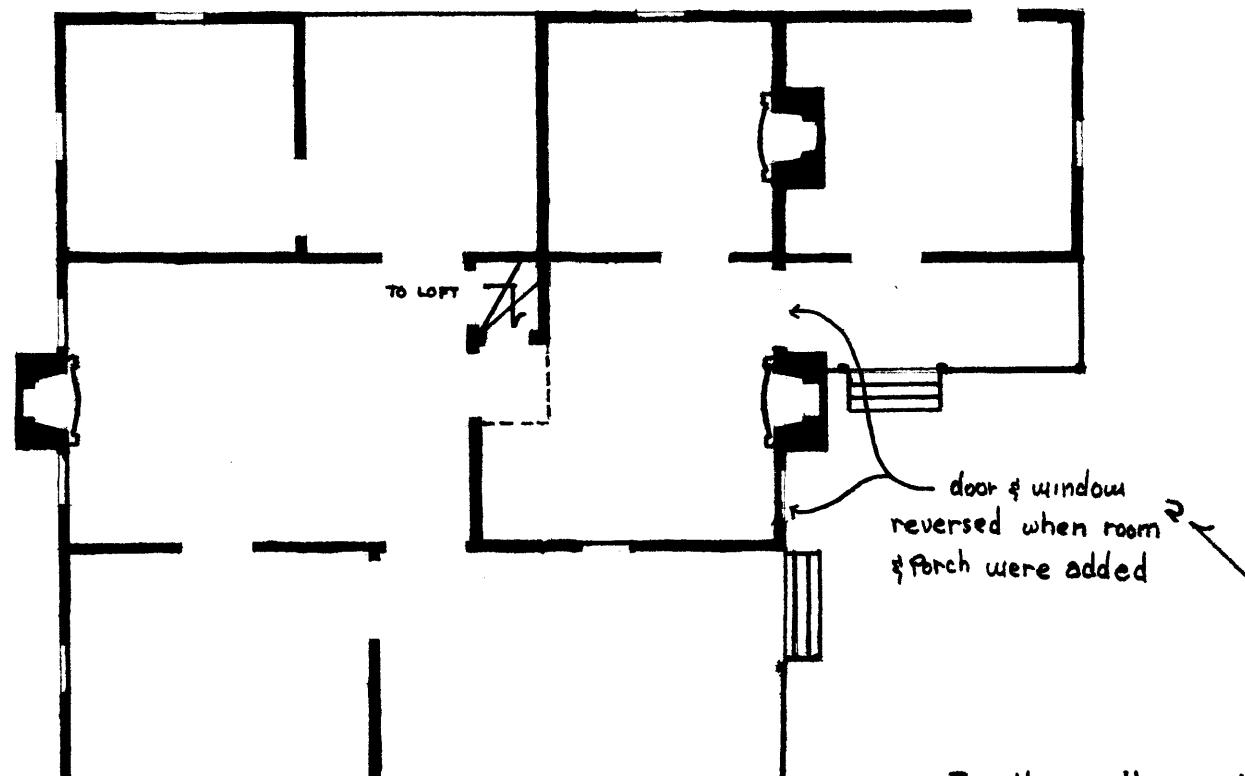


front

↓  
N

I am not sure of the  
stair location. Front porch doors and  
interior partitions tentative.

I have not been in the living room.



Roe-HARPER HOUSE, HANCOCK COUNTY,  
 $\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'$  GEORGIA

Roe-Harper House  
Hancock County, Georgia



N

NOT TO SCALE

