

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received APR 3 1985

date entered MAY 2 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Lyons Woman's Club House

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number East Liberty Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Lyons

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia

code

013

county

Toombs

code

279

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Lyons Carden Club, Inc., c/o Mr. Robert L. Garbutt

street & number Route 5, Box 91

city, town Vidalia

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia 30474

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Toombs County Courthouse

city, town Lyons

state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Structures Field Survey:  
Toombs County, Georgia

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1982

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta

state Georgia

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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

The Lyons Woman's Club House is a simple two-story, brick-veneer Georgian Revival-style structure with a pedimented parapet on the roof, an adjacent covered pool, and gardens. The front facade of the building contains a brick vestibule with stairways on either side and a central window rather than the more usual portico and doorway. Stair railings and a first floor entrance gate dated 1934 are decorative wrought iron. The main or entrance level (second floor) contains a meeting room, kitchen, powder room, and bathroom. On this floor, the walls are plaster on metal lathe. A lowered acoustical tile ceiling covers an original plaster one. Carpet covers original hardwood floors. On the first floor, the walls are plaster over brick. The ceiling is embossed metal sheets. There are steel columns that support the upper floor and subdivide the downstairs. The columns have been boxed in and covered with plaster. The floor is poured concrete. The floor contains a large meeting room. Fireplaces are located on the south walls on both floor levels. The grounds are level and planted with magnolias, dogwoods, shrubs, perennials and a large pecan tree. Two sidewalks provide access to the streets. Changes to the property include the covering of the bathing pool in 1968, removal of the semicircular stage from the second floor, and the closing of two doorways. A suspended ceiling was also added on the second floor. The Club House is situated on a busy thoroughfare with commercial properties on three sides and residential property on the south side, yet the property retains a park-like atmosphere amidst the noise and traffic.

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

**Specific dates** 1932 **Builder/Architect** William W. Simmons, architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Lyons Woman's Club House is significant in architecture, and social-humanitarian history. In architecture, the Club House is significant as a representative example of an early 20th-century woman's club house and meeting place. It is a functional building and perhaps due to its being built during the austerity of the Depression years, it exemplifies a restrained approach to architectural detailing. Although originally designed to be in the Spanish style with tile roof, the architect sold the design "subject to changes to suit local conditions." Subsequently the Georgian Revival style was employed with the only details being wrought iron, a parapet, and round-arched windows. It is also significant as a work of William Walter Simmons (1876–1951), a Georgia native, who began his practice in 1905 and eventually worked in Georgia, South Carolina and Florida. By the late 1930s he had moved to Atlanta and at the time of his death was president of the Georgia State Board for Examination, Qualification and Registration of Architects. The Club House is significant in social-humanitarian history for being the meeting place of the Lyons Woman's Club which was established in 1928 after the demise of three other local clubs. The consolidation of earlier club memberships allowed centralization of talents and a combined diversity of interests. The club worked toward a variety of causes including the elimination of adult illiteracy, promoting home economics for school girls, beautifying school grounds, preventing all at-large animals wandering about town, removing unsightly billboards, and sponsoring scholarships, to name but a few. The Club House also was a site for theater productions for the community.

These areas of significance support the property's eligibility under National Register Criteria A and C.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Garbutt, Mrs. Robert L. and Donald R. Rooney. "Lyons Garden Club House." Historic Property Information Form, August 31, 1983. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.  
Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs, Year Book, 1931-1932.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Lyons, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	7	3	7	5	5	4	0	3	5	6	3	4	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property consists of all the land legally owned by the current owners at this location. It is all that remains associated with the club house. It is marked on the enclosed Tax Map.

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian

organization Historic Preservation Section date 3/12/85  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

street & number 270 Washington Street, 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 3/14/85

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

Entered in the National Register date 5/2/85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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Historical Narrative

The history of the Lyons Woman's Club House is also the history of women's organizations in Lyons as well as of the site itself and its place in the community's history.

In July, 1915, the local chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) bought, for \$300, 20 city lots. The property remained vacant and was a local eyesore due to poor drainage and overgrowth. The UDC and another club, the Worth While Club, then began a "beauty of the streets" program which became a city-wide effort. The mayor even proclaimed a "Clean-Up Week" in May, 1923. A year later, in June, 1924, the UDC property was proposed as a public recreational park. Several local groups helped prepare details for a park and a playground. A landscape architect provided extensive plans which were never realized.

The end of the 1920s brought an end to both the UDC chapter, the Worth While Club and another local organization, the New Era Club. This paved the way for a new club to be organized.

The "Lyons Woman's Club" was organized and became a member of the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs in 1928. Many of the same women were members of the new club. It was more effective because local efforts in many areas were now centralized into one club. By being a part of a state-wide organization, it had access to more ideas and leadership.

The club's activities were extremely beneficial to the Depression-affected community. In 1930 one of their projects was to stamp out adult illiteracy. Club members also worked with home economics departments to help school girls in modernizing kitchens in country homes; toward the beautification of the school grounds; and provided books for the school library. They also worked toward turning vacant lots in the city into gardens and asked the city to keep at-large animals out of the city so that they would not harm the un-fenced gardens. The club also attacked signs and billboards which detracted from the view and wanted them removed from the highways. Fundraisers provided money to pay dental bills for needy children, add to the Community Chest, and for scholarships.

All of these activities and many more were done without a permanent meeting place. Having met for several years in the City Hall, club members eventually decided that a club house was needed. It was then that the UDC came forward and offered their abandoned land to the club with the stipulation that it be "dedicated to the UDC and in memory of the Confederate dead." No deed exists legally transferring the property to the club, although the UDC did sell several of the adjacent lots to raise money to help pay for the club house.

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After requesting designs from members, an architect, William Walter Simmons (1876-1951), then of McRae, was hired in 1932 to draw the plans for which he charged \$25.00. His later offer to build the club house was not accepted. Mr. M.H. Fountain of Vidalia was the builder. Mr. Simmons designed a club house with Spanish details but in the final product the architect's tile roof was omitted and the exterior was changed from stucco to brick. The contractor's fee for building the club house and bathing pool was about \$3,500.00.

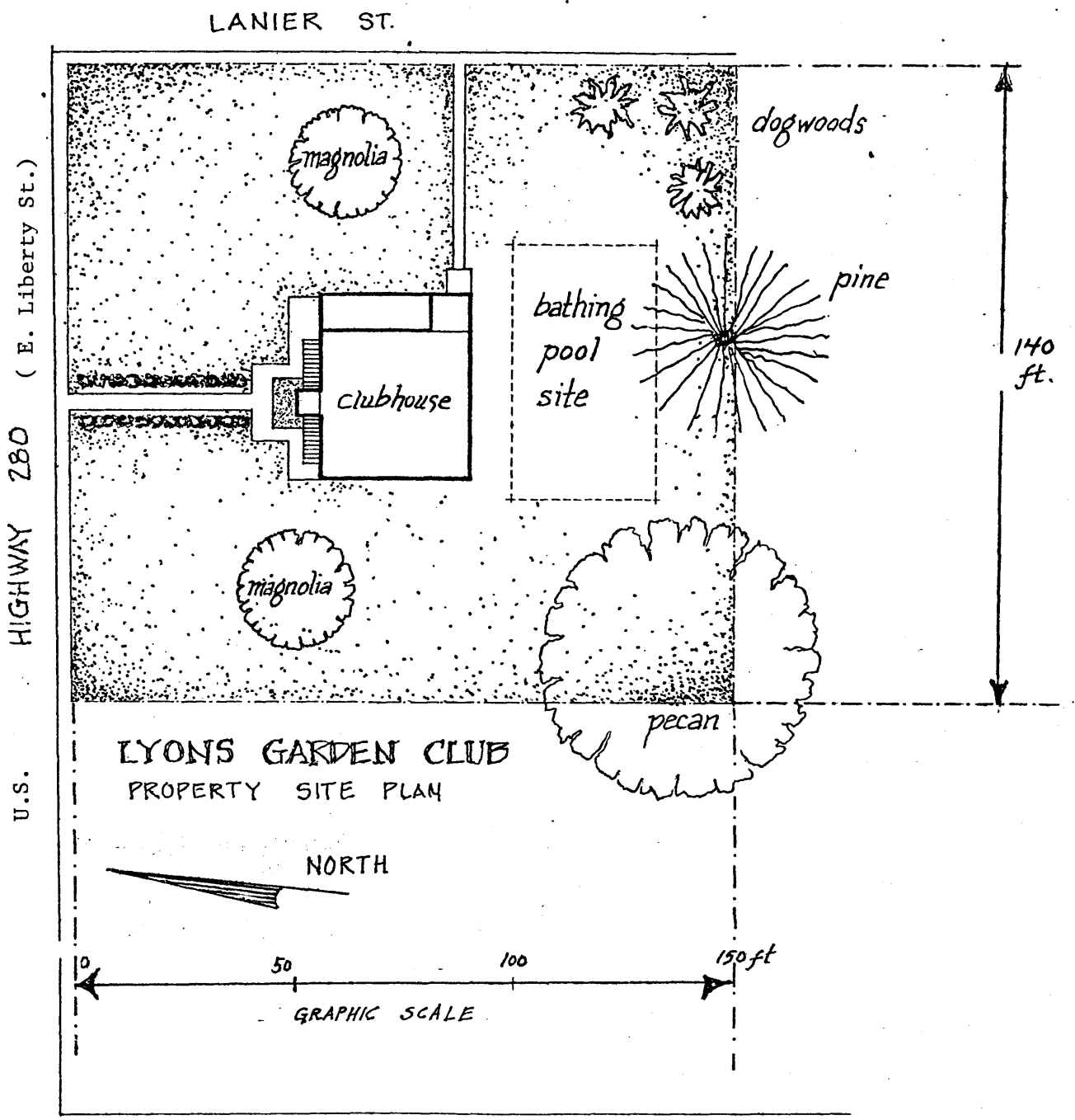
The bathing pool was open every day except Sunday and both individuals and families could join for the season.

As the club began to use the club house, interest once again surfaced for a public park. With the "New Deal" underway, Federal funds were available for a number of civic improvements. As early as May, 1933, 25 men were available to work on turning the grounds into a "memorial park." Club members planted shrubbery, grass and flowers, while the city officials were to place swings and seats at appropriate places.

After 1933, the club house was used by other community groups due to its large meeting hall and the auditorium on the second floor with a stage and "beautiful furnishings." In the 1930s the club also began a book shop in the building. This shop was actually a library, with four books purchased each month, and a children's department. It continued for nearly 30 years.

Naturally, the club house was the center for patriotic activities during World War II, from the sale of American flags to the rolling of bandages. It was also used after the war by the local Kiwanis and Lions clubs as well as for Boy Scouts. In 1947, the community's first radio station, WRQN, went on the air from the basement. The Lyons Woman's Club disbanded around 1945 and the Lyons Garden Club was organized and assumed most of the functions of the previous group.

In 1965 the property was finally officially transferred by the UDC to the Lyons Garden Club and in 1968 the bathing pool was covered over. The building remains today in use as a civic club house.



U.S. HIGHWAY 1

Site Plan

LYONS WOMAN'S CLUB HOUSE  
Lyons, Toombs County, Georgia

Scale: 1" = approx. 40 feet  
Source: Drawn by Donald R. Rooney  
Date: August, 1983

Key: The nominated property is shaded.

Floor Plan

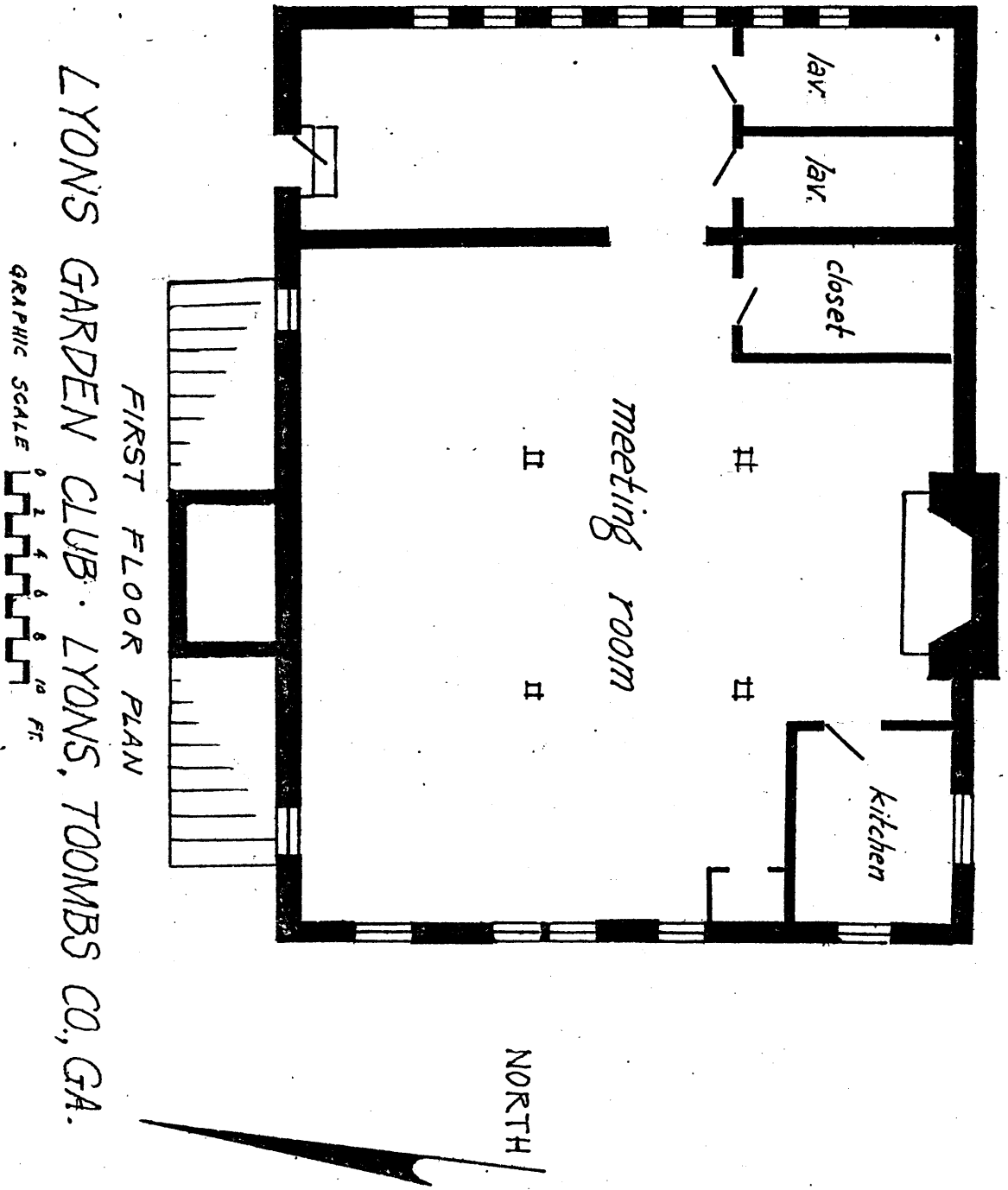
LYONS WOMAN'S CLUB HOUSE  
Lyons, Toombs County, Georgia

Scale: 1" = 8'

Source: Drawn by Donald R. Rooney

Date: 1983

Key: First Floor Plan (Ground Floor)



Floor plan prepared by Donald Rooney,  
Historic Preservation Planner,  
Altamaha Georgia Southern Area Plannir  
and Development Commission  
Drawn: 31 August 1983



Floor Plan

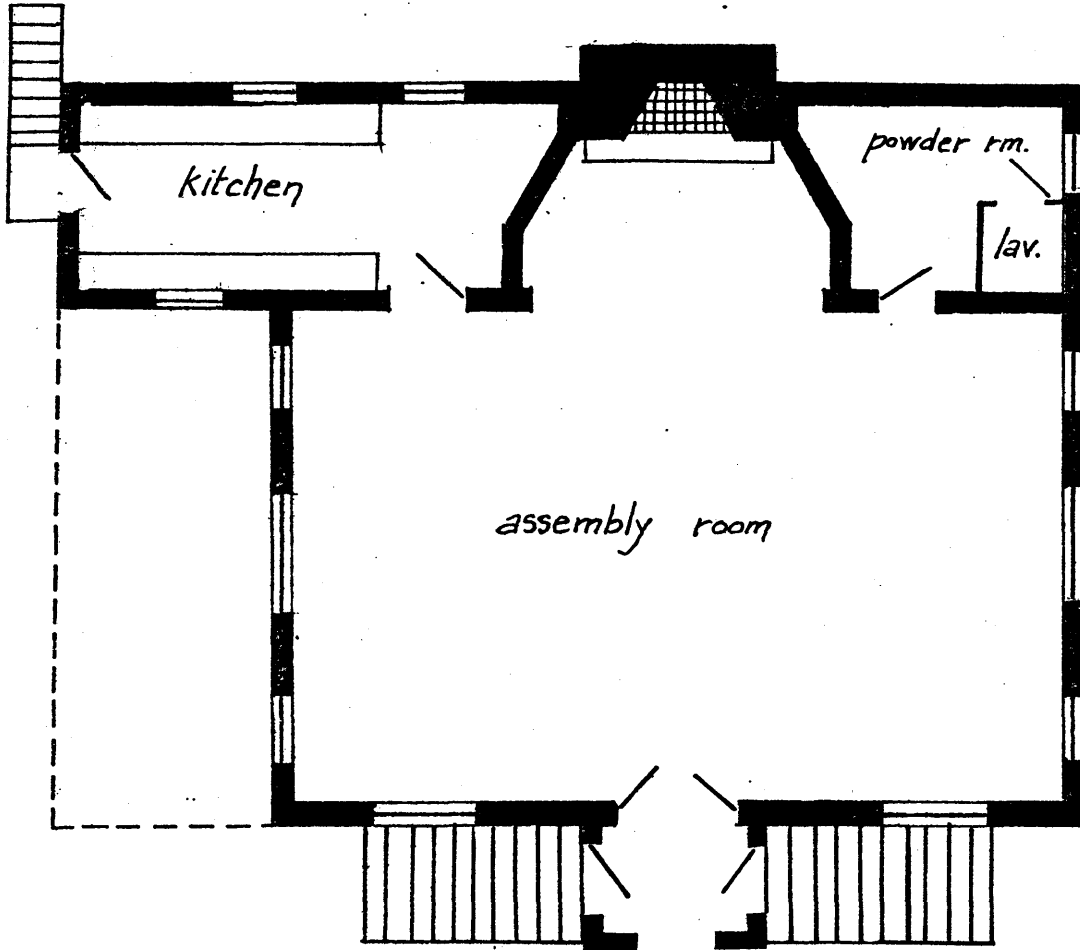
LYONS WOMAN'S CLUB HOUSE  
Lyons, Toombs County, Georgia

Scale: 1" = 8'

Source: Drawn by Donald R. Rooney

Date: 1983

Key: Second Floor Plan



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

LYONS GARDEN CLUB  
LYONS, TOOMBS CO., GA.

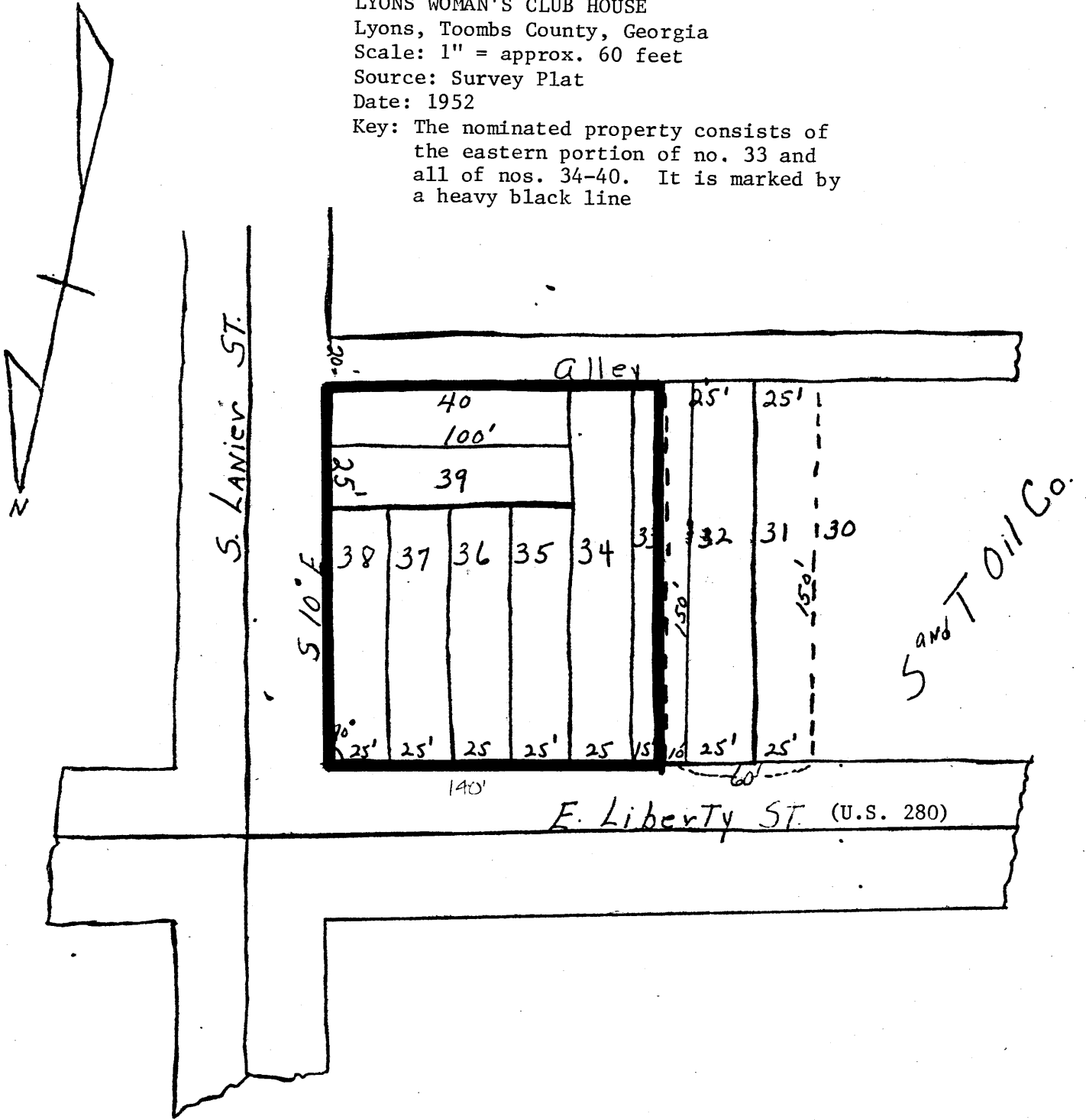


Floor plan prepared by Donald Rooney,  
Historic Preservation Planner, Altamaha Georgi  
Southern APDC. Drawn: 31 August 1983

Tax Map

LYONS WOMAN'S CLUB HOUSE  
Lyons, Toombs County, Georgia  
Scale: 1" = approx. 60 feet  
Source: Survey Plat  
Date: 1952

Key: The nominated property consists of the eastern portion of no. 33 and all of nos. 34-40. It is marked by a heavy black line



State of Georgia. Toombs County.

The above plat represents a portion of Block Fifty-five according to the official maps of the City of Lyons, Ga. showing a lot fifty (60) by one Hundred fifty (150) indicated by dotted lines which consist of all lots thirty one (31) and (32) and ten feet off the western side of lot thirty three (33) Block 55 in the City of Lyons, Ga. Surveyed for the United Daughters of the Confederacy, Toombs Chapter, Lyons, Ga.

Jan. 14, 1952

N. O. Coleman (A. R. K.)

W. L. Graybill, Surveyor  
Toombs County, Georgia