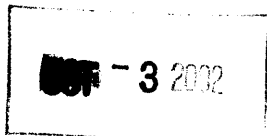


1299



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, styles, 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 Stephen D. Cowen House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 4940 Cowan Road
city, town Acworth () vicinity of
county Cobb code 067
state Georgia code GA zip code 30101

() not for publication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:

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of previous listing: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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.

Richard Luce
Signature of certifying official

9-25-02
Date

tu W. Ray Luce
Historic Preservation Division Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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

Eden K. Beall

11.15.02

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

Eden K. Beall
Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions:

Recreation and Culture: museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Other: Plantation plain, I-house.

Materials:

foundation	Brick
walls	Wood: weatherboard
roof	Metal
other	Concrete

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Stephen D. Cowen House is a two-story, plantation plain-type house located on a small lot on Cowan Road in the city of Acworth in northwest Cobb County, Georgia. Built in c.1854, the house survives with a high level of historic integrity. The five-bay house features four principal rooms on the first floor divided by a central hall. The rear ell, built in c.1900, contains the dining room and kitchen. The front parlors and second-floor bedrooms are located in the two-story main block. The two rear bedrooms on the main floor are located in a rear shed-roofed ell that was built as part of the original house. In profile, the two-story main block flanked by the front porch, now missing, and the rear shed-roofed ell gives the Cowen house its distinctive plantation plain form. Classical Revival-style elements include the corner boards, wide entablature, and the double-leaf entrance with sidelights and transom. The three-bay hip-roofed porch, which replaced an earlier one-bay entrance porch, is missing.

The house is set on brick and stone piers that have been partially infilled with concrete block. The hewn sills and braced frame are fastened with mortise-and-tenon joints. Smaller, circular-sawn studs are set in place with cut nails. The floor structure consists of 2 by 6-inch joists that measure 16-feet long. These were placed on 24-inch centers and run from the front of the house to the rear. The floor system in the rear ell is not brace framed as in the rest of the house, but instead is constructed with ledger boards and notched joists that have been toenailed into place. The hip roof, which is covered with crimped sheet metal, is supported by wood rafters that meet without a ridgepole.

The house is clad in weatherboard, except around the main entrance where flush sheathing indicates the extent of the original one-bay one-story porch. The sash windows are mostly six-over-six-light double-hung sashes with some larger nine-over-six-light windows on the main façade. The

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

surrounds are plain.

The floor plan features four principal rooms and a central hall that runs the full depth of the main block. Two exterior chimneys heated the front parlors. The two rear bedrooms on the first floor are located in a shed-roofed ell. Although these bedrooms are not heated, they were built as part of the original house. A small cellar for cold storage is located beneath the east parlor. Stairs in the central hall provide access to the two second-floor bedrooms, which were heated by stoves. Electrical wiring and indoor plumbing were added in the first decades of the 20th century.

In c.1900, a one-story, gable-roofed ell was added to the rear of the house. The two-room ell included a kitchen and dining room with a porch that faced northeast. The chimney on the rear ell is missing but its profile is clearly seen in the discolored weatherboard. The corbel-capped portion of the west parlor chimney is also missing.

Most interior finishes are plain and remain intact. Horizontal sheathing was used on most floors, walls, and ceilings. The floors consist of quarter-sawn oak or pine six- to eight-inches wide and joined with tongue-and-groove notches. The walls are covered with notched-wood panels with little decorative trim. The stairway retains its plain balusters and rail, and most interior door surrounds survive. The floorboards in the two second-floor bedrooms have been removed, exposing the floor joists.

Two mature cedar trees that stand in front of the house and remnants of a brick walk are the only surviving elements of the historic setting. As development in Cobb County, a suburb of Atlanta, increased, land in the vicinity of the Cowen house has been subdivided and developed. A street lined with new houses was recently built to the rear of the Cowen house and commercial development associated with the nearby Interstate 75 interchange has moved closer the Cowen property. As a result, none of the outbuildings or agricultural fields associated with the plantation that once totaled nearly 600 acres survives and much of the historic setting has been lost.

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:

1854-c.1900

Significant Dates:

1854 – Stephen D. Cowen built his two-story frame house.

c.1900 – The Cowens built the one-story rear ell.

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Unknown

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Stephen D. Cowen House is significant in the area of architecture as an excellent example of a pre-Civil War plantation plain-type house that retains its historic design, craftsmanship, and materials. The plantation plain is a version of what is more commonly called an I-house: a two-story house at least two-rooms wide and one-room deep and covered with a side gable roof. Plantation plains are distinguished by their symmetrical profile that is formed by a shed-roofed rear ell and a shed-roofed front porch balanced on either side of two-story single-pile main block. This variant of the more common I-house was widely popular in the south, especially in Georgia.

I-houses can be found in every state in the eastern United States and though details vary from region to region, the form remains constant. The I-house was popular because its balanced, symmetrical façade appealed to an increasing interest in classicism and because the I-house came to be viewed by farmers as a symbol of economic attainment. Most I-houses were built between 1790 and 1850. In Georgia, the few surviving plantation plains were built mostly between 1820 and 1850 in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain regions. The Stephen D. Cowen House is exceptionally important because of its high level of historic integrity and because it is among the few antebellum plantation plains that have survived in the growing metropolitan Atlanta region.

National Register Criteria

C-- The Stephen D. Cowen House is significant in the area of architecture as an excellent example of a pre-Civil War plantation plain-type house, a type of dwelling built in Georgia mostly between 1820 and 1850.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1854 when Stephen D. Cowen built his two-story frame house and ends in c.1900 when the Cowens built the rear ell. The construction of the rear ell is the last major change to the house during the historic period.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The Cowen house is the only resource associated with the nomination. There are no noncontributing resources included in the nomination.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

Stephen D. Cowen was born in 1824 and by 1850 was farming in Jackson County, Georgia. In the
Stephen D. Cowen House, Cobb County, Georgia

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

early 1850s, he moved to Acworth with his wife, Eliza Anntinett, his three children, India, Ann, and Edward, and his eight young slaves. In 1854, he purchased land lots 10 and 29 and soon after built his two-story frame house. Two more children, Arch and Steven, were born before Eliza died in 1855. Cowen married Elizabeth Ann Tanner in 1856 or 1857 and had six children, T.R., Ella, Henry, Girtie, William, and Cora, before Elizabeth Ann died in 1874. Cowen married his third wife, Mary Elizabeth Davenport, in 1876 and had two children, Emory and Clara.

As a yeoman farmer in the Georgia Piedmont, Stephen D. Cowen owned land and cultivated a variety of crops, including wheat, corn, oats, cotton, peas and beans, and potatoes. His livestock included mules, milk cows, cattle, and swine. In 1860, Cowen prospered with land valued at \$4,000 and personal wealth, which included eight slaves, valued at \$7,500. By 1880, his land holdings had increased to 100 acres of improved land and 475 acres of woodland, orchards, and "old fields." After Stephen's death in 1900 and Mary Elizabeth's death in 1912, the property was divided among his heirs, and in 1918 the house was sold out of the Cowen family.

In 1918, W. H. Kemp purchased the Cowen house and land. The Kemps farmed the property until W. H. Kemp died in 1937. The widow Althea Kemp owned the property from 1937 to 1950. After passing through a series of owners, the Lannings purchased the property in 1959. The Lannings, who kept chickens and a few cows, were the last owners to practice agriculture on the property. The Lannings sold the property in 1995. The Acworth Historical Society eventually acquired the house in the late 1990s and is currently rehabilitating the Cowen house to serve as a welcome center, museum, and historical society offices.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Reinberger, Mark and Ashish Mishra. Historic Property Information Form. The Stephen D. Cowen House. 1997. School of Environmental Design, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (x) N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued
date issued:
- 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): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.62 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 716400 Northing 3772570

Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached map, which is drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary follows the current legal boundary for the Stephen D. Cowen House property. The National Register boundary includes the Cowen house and the surviving 2.62 acres from the Cowen farm, which once totaled nearly 600 acres.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Steven H. Moffson

organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

mailing address 156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101

city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303

telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** September 20, 2002

e-mail steven_moffson@dnr.state.ga.us

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable) () not applicable

name/title Mark Reinberger and Ashish Mishra

organization School of Environmental Design, University of Georgia

mailing address 609 Caldwell Hall

city or town Athens **state** GA **zip code** 30602

telephone (706) 542-0061

e-mail N/A

() **property owner**

(x) **consultant**

() **regional development center preservation planner**

() **other:**

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Abbie T. Parks, President

organization (if applicable) Acworth Society for Historic Preservation

mailing address 4671 Collins Avenue

city or town Acworth **state** GA **zip code** 30101

e-mail (optional) N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Stephen D. Cowen House
City or Vicinity: Acworth
County: Cobb
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: January 2002

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 16

1. Main façade and northeast side, photographer facing southeast.
2. Main façade and northeast side, photographer facing southeast.
3. Northeast side, photographer facing southwest.
4. Rear view with ell, photographer facing west.
5. Rear ell, photographer facing northwest.
6. Rear ell, photographer facing north.
7. Southwest side, photographer facing northeast.
8. Main façade and southwest side, photographer facing east.
9. Main façade and southwest side, photographer facing east.
10. Interior, first floor, central hall, photographer facing southeast.
11. Interior, first floor, east parlor, photographer facing northeast.
12. Interior, first floor, west parlor, photographer facing west.
13. Interior, first floor, west bedroom with view to west parlor, photographer facing north.
14. Interior, first floor, dining room with view to west bedroom, photographer facing northwest.
15. Interior, second floor, east bedroom, photographer facing east.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

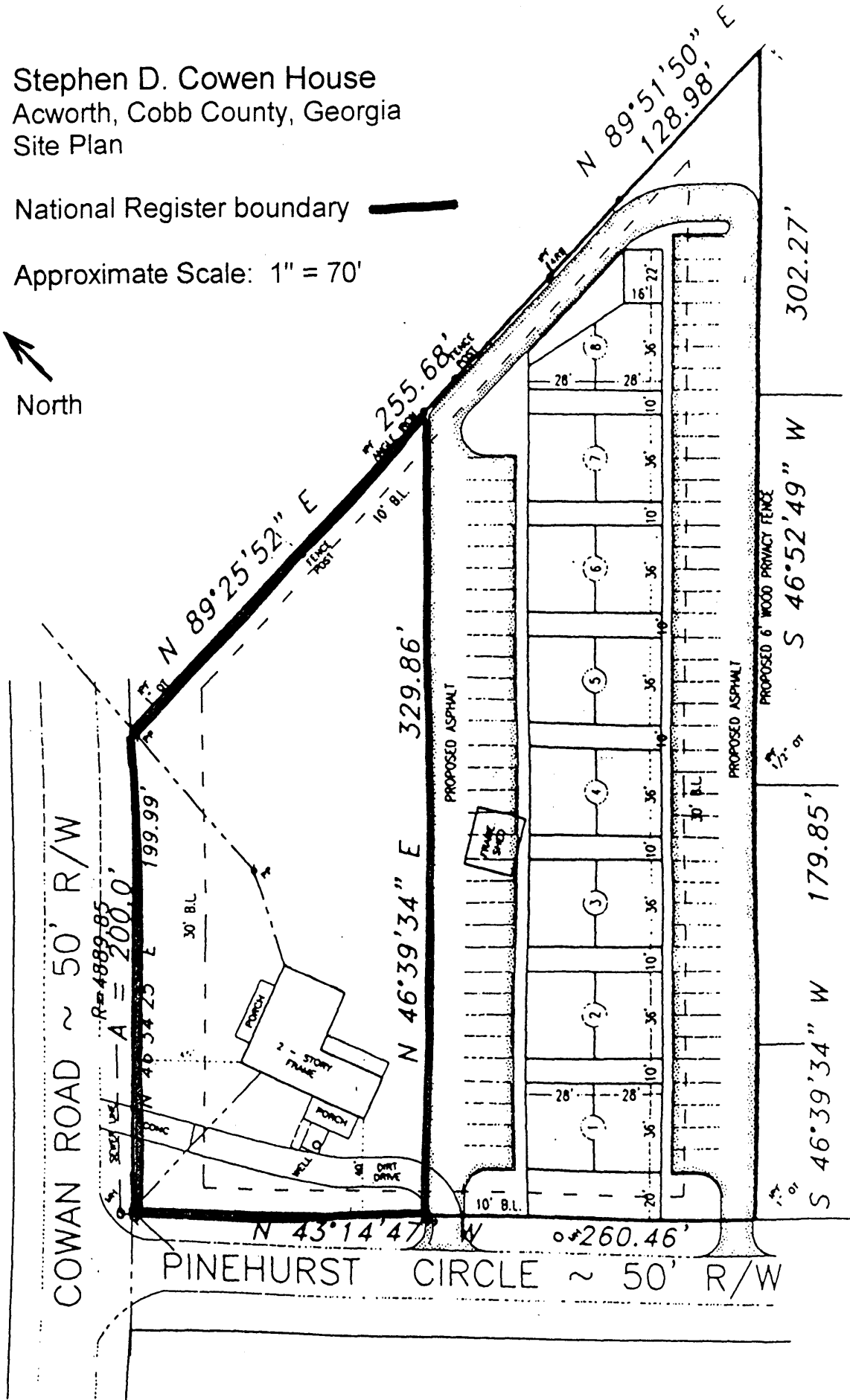
Photographs

16. Interior, second floor, west bedroom, photographer facing southwest. (HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

Stephen D. Cowen House
 Acworth, Cobb County, Georgia
 Site Plan

National Register boundary

Approximate Scale: 1" = 70'



COWAN ROAD ~ 50' R/W

PINEHURST CIRCLE ~ 50' R/W

$R = 4889.85$
 $A = 200.0$

N 46°34'25" E 199.99'

30' B.L.

N 89°25'52" E

FENCE POST

N 255.68'

FENCE POST

N 46°39'34" E 329.86'

PROPOSED ASPHALT



10' B.L.

N 43°14'47" W 260.46'

7.5m

N 89°51'50" E
 128.98'

28'

28'

10'

36'

36'

10'

36'

36'

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36'

36'

10'

36'

36'

PROPOSED ASPHALT

PROPOSED 6" WOOD PRIVACY FENCE

S 46°52'49" W

302.27'

179.85'

S 46°39'34" W

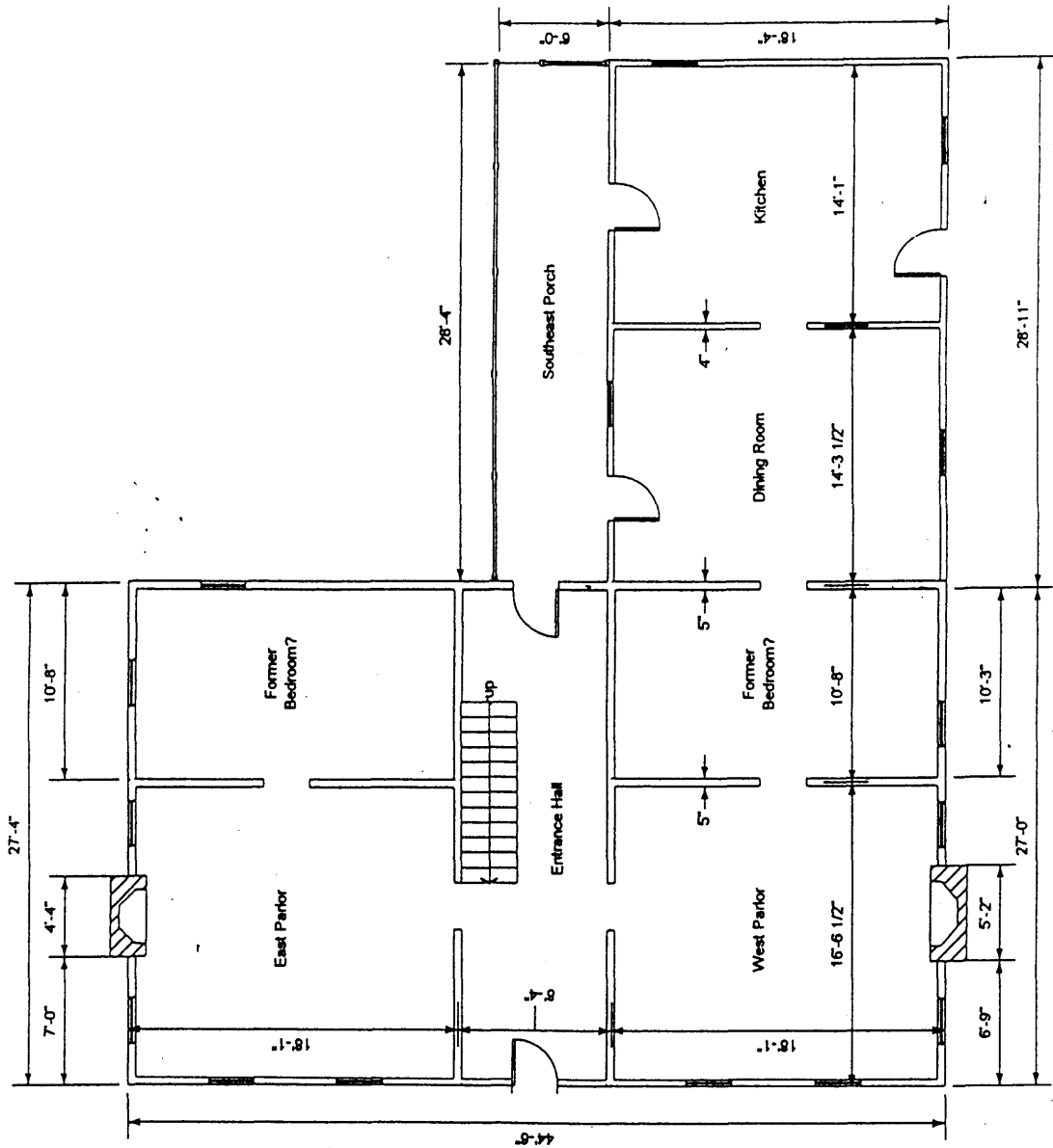
10'

S 46°39'34" W

10'

S 46°39'34" W

10'

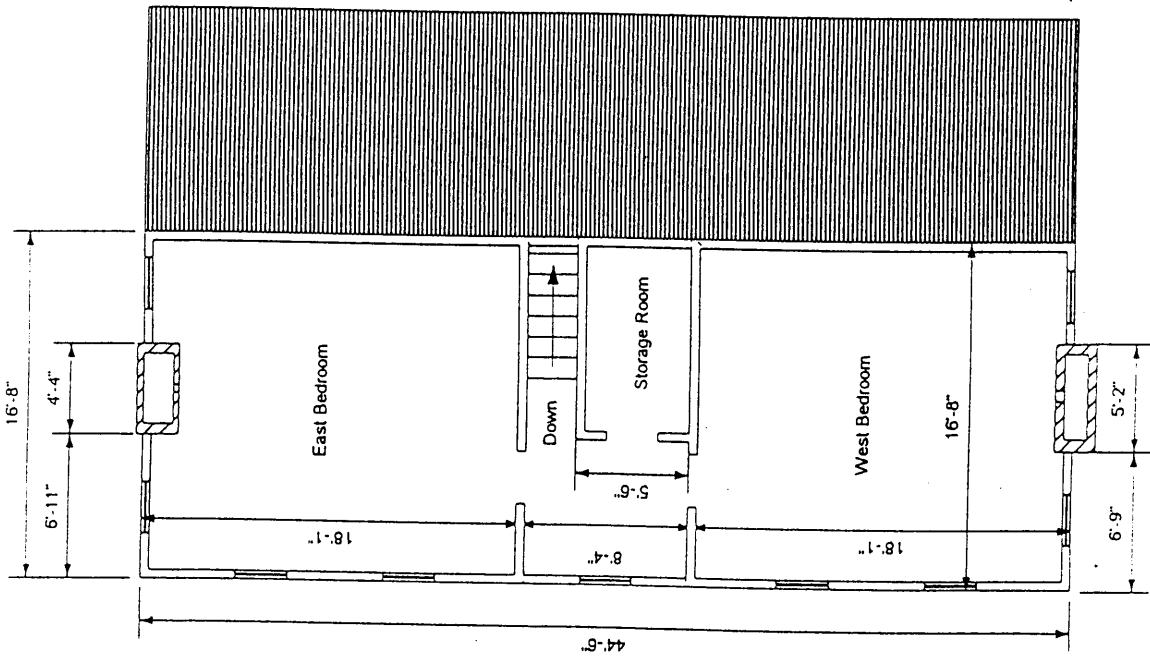


Stephen D. Cowen House
Acworth, Cobb County, Georgia

First-Floor Plan

Scale: 1" = 10'





Stephen D. Cowen House
 Acworth, Cobb County, Georgia

Second-Floor Plan

Approximate Scale: 1" = 10'

