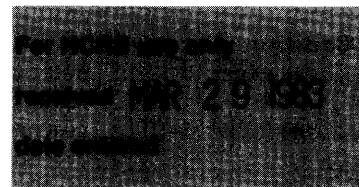


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Converse-Dalton House

and/or common Converse-Dalton House; Old Colonial Home

**2. Location**

street & number 305 N. Patterson St. N/A not for publication

city, town Valdosta N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Georgia code 013 county Lowndes code 185

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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	<u>N/A</u> 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: club head- quarters

**4. Owner of Property**

name Susan Mackey, President  
Valdosta Junior Service League, Inc.

street & number P. O. Box 2043

city, town Valdosta N/A vicinity of GA state 31601

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Lowndes County Courthouse

city, town Valdosta state Georgia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historic Structures Field Survey: Lowndes County, Georgia  
has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

## 7. Description

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

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

The Converse-Dalton House is a large, three story, turn-of-the-century, Neoclassical house with a wrap-around portico located in a downtown commercial area that was once a fashionable residential street in Valdosta.

The house is three stories high and polygonally shaped. It features a monumental two story front portico that wraps around the front, curving at the corners. Neoclassical detailing is extensive and includes one and two story Ionic columns; two projecting second-floor balustraded balconies supported by elaborate ancones; first floor 1/1 windows with dentiled lintels; an enriched cornice and entablature with dentil ranges, garlanded frieze, and enriched modillion brackets; and paneled wood on the underside of the front-entry canopy. Clear, bevel-edged, leaded glass fills many of the above windows. The hipped slate roof of the house features a decorated ridge board and hip knobs, with four pedimented dormers on each side. The interior of the house features a spacious, wide entry hall, polygonal and rectangular rooms, wide doorways, and generally open, free-flowing spaces. The interior is elaborately detailed with Neoclassically styled Tennessee curly golden oak paneled wainscoting, Corinthian columns and pilasters, cornices and lintels, and paneled and beamed ceilings. Fireplaces and mantels are all different, but generally include elaborately carved, framed, mirror overmantels and exposed glazed firebricks. Ceilings include the domed and plastered living room, parlor, and hall; the oak beamed and paneled dining room; and the tongue-and-groove wooden second and third floor bedrooms. For the most part the walls have original wallpaper over plaster. The stairway, which is off the side from the center entry hall, is paneled and balustraded, as are its upper and lower landings. The bathrooms are tiled or finished in ceramic brick. On the first floor, a parlor, living room, dining room, and kitchen flank the central hallway. Windows in the front two rooms feature built-in moveable-sash wooden interior louvered blinds. The dining room features a projecting bay, recessed china cabinet, beamed and molded ceiling, large chandelier, and a ten foot mantel. The central hall is partitioned from the back hall by a curtained doorway with center mirror and coatracks. Thus, the elaborate front part of the house is separated from the essentially utilitarian rear, which contains the kitchen, closed in back porch, bathrooms, and storage rooms. The second floor upstairs hall is flanked by seven bedrooms and leads to an apparently enclosed 12' x 15' back porch and, to the front, the door to the balcony. The third floor of the house consists of a large ballroom with four alcoves once used for orchestra, chaperones, refreshments, and coats. The house was constructed with a balloon frame and is sheathed in weatherboards. The foundations consist of hard, pressed brick and cut stone. The roof is surfaced with slate. The monumental curved portico is cantilevered from the structural framework of the main house; the wooden Ionic columns, resting on sandstone piers, are non-loadbearing. The house is generally in fair to good condition. The structure is generally sound, with some deterioration of the roof and the wood floor of the front portico. Interior alterations made to the house include the addition of six bathrooms, erection of a few temporary plywood partitions, some remodeling of the kitchen, and possible enclosure of a recessed back porch. The

(Continued)

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surroundings and grounds of the house have changed greatly over the years. Now surrounded by commercial development, the house had original grounds that included a lawn extending south to Valley Street (facing the Lowndes County Courthouse) and east to Ashley Street, with a large barn and stables in the rear. The east (rear) grounds were sold before 1920 for commercial development; the spacious south side lawn was sold in 1946, including the land beneath marble steps that led to the side entrance. The side steps were removed and a jewelry store was erected with its side wall directly touching the columns on the south portico of the house. The last of the north lawn was sold in 1957; this portion of the original lot is now a parking lot for neighboring businesses. The house faces, across Patterson Street, a contemporary bank building. To the rear are more parking lots and commercial structures. There are no outbuildings.

# 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/ 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1902 **Builder/Architect** Stephen F. Fulgham/Alexander F. N. Everett

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Converse-Dalton House is significant primarily in terms of the architectural history of Valdosta and the State of Georgia as an exceptionally fine and well-preserved turn-of-the-century Neoclassical house. The Converse-Dalton House is also significant in local history as the home of Thomas B. Converse, a prominent Valdostan.

Architectural Significance

The Converse-Dalton House is an exceptionally fine turn-of-the-century Neoclassical house. Salient Neoclassical features include compact, regular massing, the curved monumental portico, an interior organized around a central stair hall, and period detailing ranging from the monumental Ionic columns of the portico to the delicate garlands on the enriched entablature. In terms of design, the Converse-Dalton House is exceptional for its sheer size, the range, scale, and elaborateness of its detailing, and the combination of awesome formality and contemporary informality in its exterior arrangement and interior layout. Three-story houses of twenty to thirty rooms are relatively rare in Georgia and the southeast. Equally unusual are houses as stylishly designed and elaborately ornamented as the Converse-Dalton House. The only comparable houses in Valdosta are the Crescent built in 1898 and listed on the National Register in 1980, with similarly outstanding materials, craftsmanship, elaboration of detailing, a third floor ballroom, and overall impressiveness of exterior, and the Barber-Pittman House, built in 1915, another excellent example of early 20th century architecture. The materials and craftsmanship of both the Crescent and the Converse-Dalton House were noted in an 1901 edition of the Valdosta Times as clearly exceptional, even for their day. Building progress on the Converse-Dalton House was noted nearly every week, from the furnishing of the marble steps by Valdosta Marble works, the finishing of the fine interior woodwork "done by Messrs. Youngblood, Miller and Crosby," and the massive portico: ". . . The veranda to the new residence. . .to be one of the longest in the state on a residence. . ." The January 11, 1902 Valdosta Times article entitled "A Magnificent New Home: The Residence of Mr. T. B. Converse, is Now Nearing Completion" added that "the home will cost \$16,000 and it is a magnificent one in every respect." While some of Valdosta's most outstanding residences of the day featured heart-pine or rare curly pine wood interior detailing, the Converse-Dalton House was exceptional for its elaborate Tennessee Golden Curly oak woodwork and paneling "custom made in Grand Rapids, Michigan." Other woodwork in the house has been painted and hand-grained to resemble fine oak. Over and above its intrinsic architectural elements, the Converse-Dalton House is significant as an example of an important type of house in Georgia. Neoclassical houses were built in nearly every community and almost always they were built by men of means and prestige. Just as the Greek Revival plantation house is a symbol of antebellum Georgia, so the Neoclassical house is a symbol representing the

(Continued)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Valdosta, GA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

**UMT References**

A 

1	7	2	8	1	9	2	0	3	4	1	3	1	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 is marked by a heavy black line on the attached tax map. This boundary corresponds to the current legal description of the property and is all that remains associated with the house.

**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 a) Haley Blanchard, regional preservation planner; and  
Bion Williams, graduate intern

organization b) Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian date March 2, 1983

street & number a) South Georgia APDC  
b) Historic Preservation Section a) 912-247-3494  
a) P. O. Box 1223 telephone b) 404-656-2840

city or town b) 270 Washington Street S. W.  
a) Valdosta, b) Atlanta state Georgia

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Elizabeth A. Lyon*

title Elizabeth A. Lyon date 3/18/83

State Historic Preservation Officer

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the
<i>for Melissa Byers</i>	National Register
Keeper of the National Register	date 4/28/83
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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post-Reconstruction New South. The Converse-Dalton House, like its contemporary, The Crescent, is among the earliest, largest, and most impressive Neoclassical houses in Georgia. At the same time, the Converse-Dalton House was built to meet the social and everyday practical needs of the Thomas Briggs Converse family, including their 13 children. The house reflects a Valdosta lifestyle that included dances in the ballroom, summer evenings sitting on the wide porch, family weddings, and 35-40 people for a typical Christmas dinner. The Converse-Dalton House is also architecturally significant because of its association with Atlanta architect Alexander F. N. Everett (1881-1937) and Valdosta builder Stephen Fagan Fulgham (1856-1928). Architect Alexander Everett, who worked in Valdosta with Fulgham around 1900-1902, married Valdostan Susie Griffin on January 19, 1901. (The newspaper notes that Everett had moved to Valdosta from Atlanta several months earlier). By 1903, Everett had returned to Atlanta. The 1908 Atlanta City Directory shows Everett working in the firm of Bruce and Everett, with Atlanta's famous A. C. Bruce. The only known work of that short-lived firm is the First Congregational Church on 105 Courtland Street, Atlanta. Everett remained in Atlanta as a practicing architect until his death in February 1937, at the age of 56. Stephen Fagan Fulgham, architect and builder, was born in Washington County, Georgia, one of six sons of a builder. Beginning work at age 16, Fulgham was said to have studied under "a celebrated Baltimore architect and builder." He came to Valdosta from Macon in 1895. An October 23, 1900 article in the Valdosta Times lavished praise on Fulgham, noting that he was responsible for "most of the past five years' construction of businesses and homes in Valdosta, including the Baptist Church, three story commercial Converse building, W. F. Monroe house, and many other structures. According to the article, Fulgham also designed a college dormitory in Sylvania, Georgia, and "heavy construction work, such as cotton mills, hotels, courthouses, and public buildings." From Valdosta, Fulgham moved to Macon, and died at age 71 in Pensacola, Florida in January, 1928.

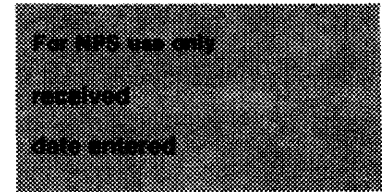
Local Historical Significance

The Converse-Dalton House is historically significant in local history as the home of Thomas Briggs Converse, Sr. (1854-1932), a South Georgia businessman, farmer, and prominent local citizen. Thomas Briggs Converse, Sr. was born on December 12, 1854, in Troupville, Georgia, then the county seat of Lowndes County. He died in Valdosta on August 31, 1932. In 1860, when he was six years old, Thomas moved with his parents from Troupville to the new county seat, Valdosta. He received his education at the Valdosta Institute, and became associated with his father, Albert Sr., and with his younger brothers, William Loraine and Albert in the merchandising firm known as Converse Brothers. In December, 1882, Converse married Minnie Keller of Bryan County. From this marriage, 13 children were born. Converse's first Valdosta home was completed in October 1883. The Converse-Dalton house, completed in 1902, was designed to meet the needs of his large family. Lumber in the house was grown and cut at a sawmill on the family's country farm. Informal family life and practicality characterized life at the big house. A biographer

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reports that when a locksmith approached Converse and tried to sell him locks for the house he replied: "I don't need any locks on my doors . . . I have eight sons, one coming in every hour of the night." A daughter reports: "My mother wouldn't plant any flowers or shrubbery much because we always had a yard full of boys playing. Some of the businessmen . . . used to leave their stores in the afternoons to come down and sit on the side porch to watch the boys play ball . . ." By 1915, Converse had sold his interest in the family clothing business to devote himself full time to farming - something he had always loved. He sold the house and moved to "Oakwood", two miles northeast of Valdosta, later destroyed by fire. Converse was said to be "a very compassionate individual who sensed and understood the needs of others." A Savannah Morning News editorial of September 1, 1932, said of him: ". . . It was a source of genuine sorrow last night for Savannah to learn of the death of one of the great pioneer leaders of Lowndes County and the City of Valdosta, T. B. Converse . . . He was for years a leader in business - in merchandising, in property ownership, in building, in developing, in all lines of civic life, a leader and a constructive force." After June 23, 1915, when T. B. Converse moved his family to their new home east of the city, T. B. Varn occupied the Converse house as a boarding house. The house was sold to O. D. Dalton in 1923. The Dalton family lived in the house and rented out rooms through the 1950s, even though the Citizen and Southern Bank served a foreclosure deed on Mr. O. D. Dalton in 1931. Postcards from this era advertise the house as the "Old Colonial Home" and noted that it was on the "best residential street . . . One block from business district . . . One block off U. S. Route 41 . . . Beautyrest Mattresses - Private baths and showers . . . Heated Rooms." The Citizen and Southern Bank continued to own the house until 1955 when Mrs. Emma Dalton and Miss Vallie Ferrell purchased the house. The house was bought by the Valdosta Junior Service League in May 1982. Current plans call for the restoration of the house and its reuse as club headquarters, visual screening clinic for children, and possibly for concerts and art exhibits. Preservation and restoration of this significant house should serve as a catalyst for revitalization efforts of downtown Valdosta.

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Continuation sheet Bibliographical References Item number 9

Page 2

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"A Magnificent New Home. The Residence of Mr. T. B. Converse is Now Nearing Completion," Valdosta Daily Times, January 11, 1902.

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"Contractor S. F. Fulgham," Valdosta Daily Times, October 23, 1900.

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Spartanburg, South Carolina: The Reprint Company, Publisher, 1978.

"He Didn't Need Any Locks," Valdosta Daily Times, June 30, 1972.

"Marble for Two Handsome Buildings", Valdosta Daily Times, August 20, 1901.

"Mr. Stephen Fulgham Died in Florida", Valdosta Daily Times, January 28, 1928.

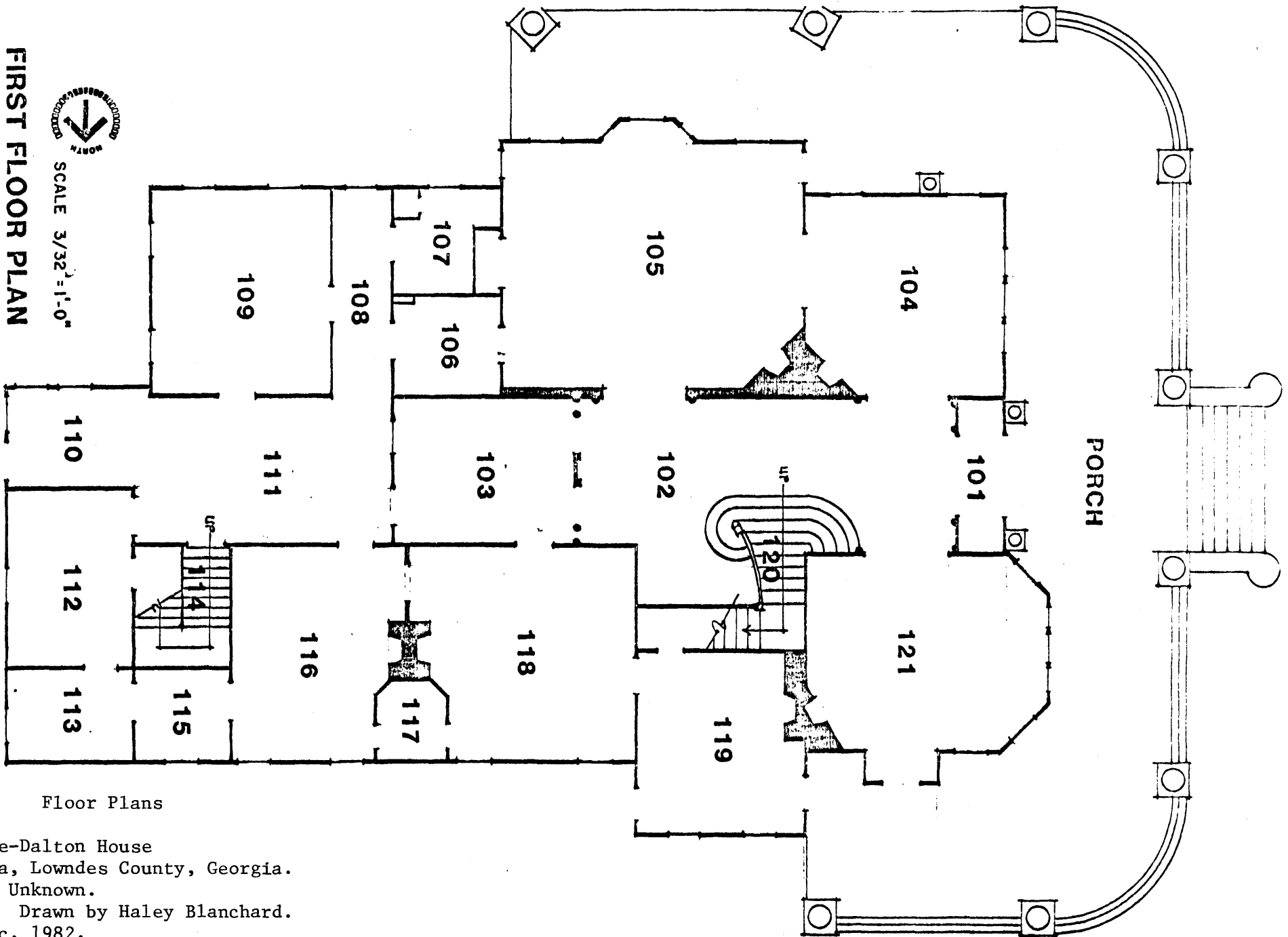
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Thomas, Susan Converse McKey. The Converse Family. Lowndes County Historical Society, Vol. IX, No. 5, March 1980.

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Interviews with Susan McKey Thomas of Valdosta, October 1981 - May 1982.





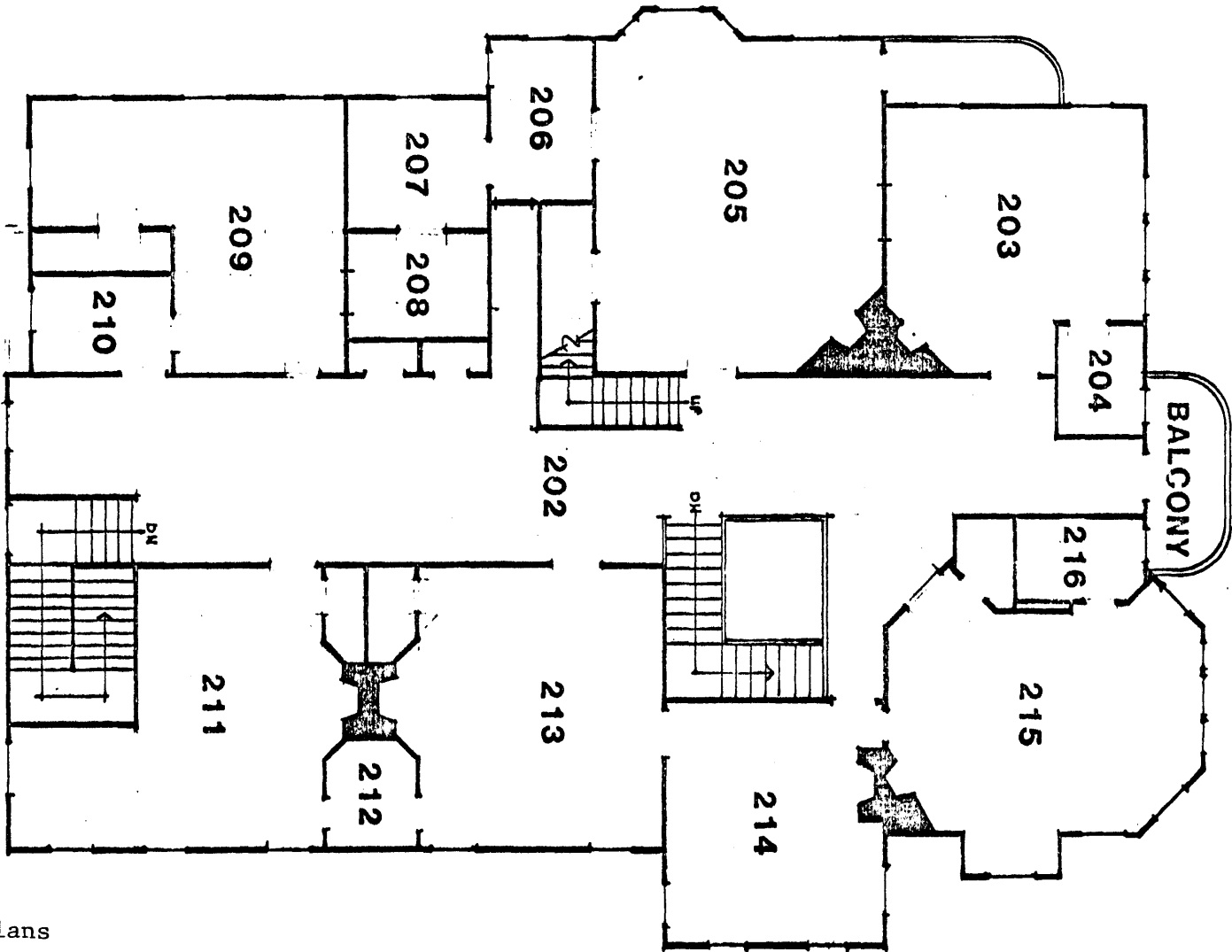
CONVERSE-DALTON-FERRELL HOUSE  
Valdosta, Georgia

Floor Plans

Converse-Dalton House  
Valdosta, Lowndes County, Georgia.  
Scale: Unknown.  
Source: Drawn by Haley Blanchard.  
Date: c. 1982.  
Key: First floor plan.

**SECOND FLOOR PLAN**

CONVERSE-DALTON-FERRILL HOUSE  
Valdosta, Georgia

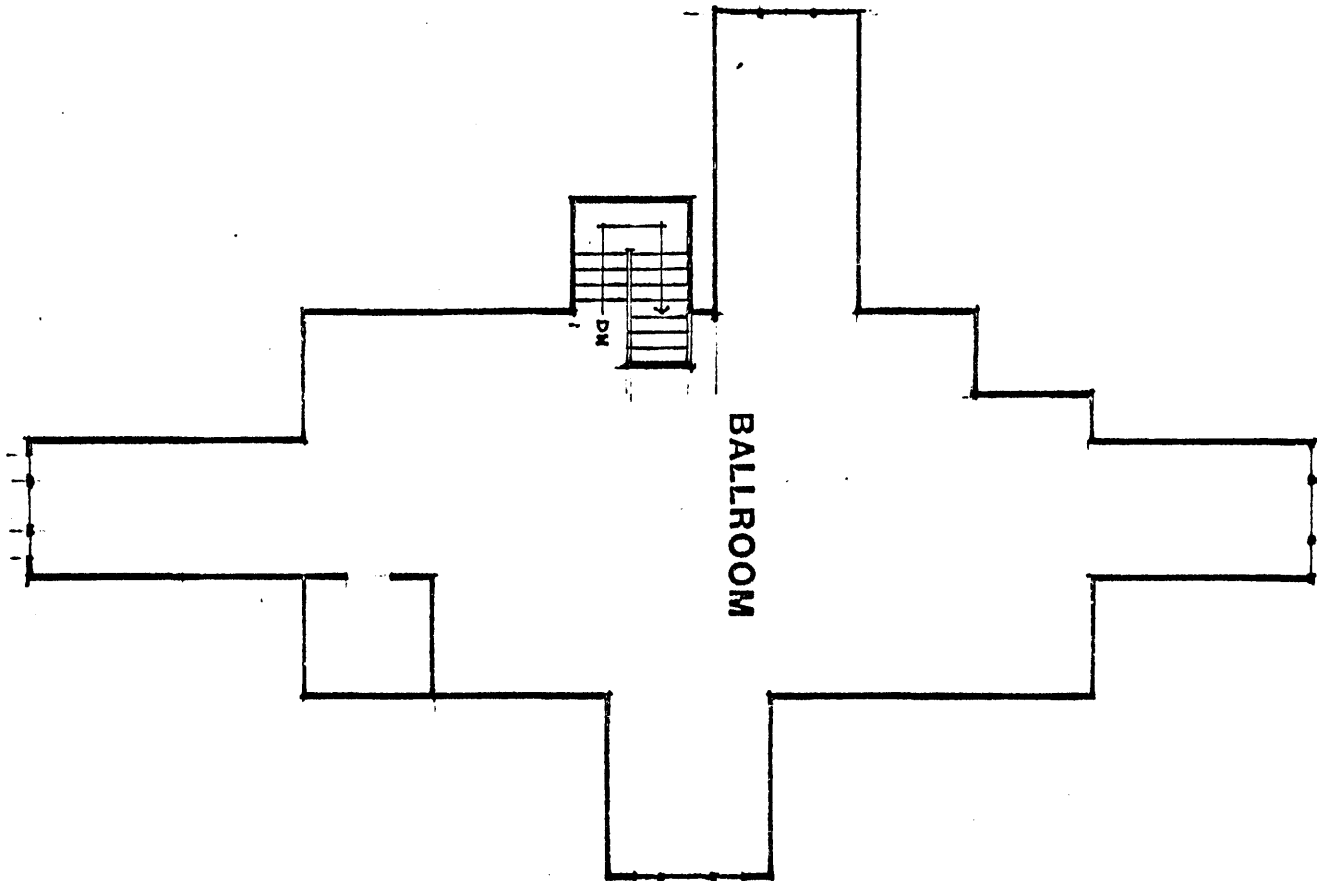


Floor Plans

Converse-Dalton House  
Valdosta, Lowndes County, Georgia.  
Scale: Unknown.  
Source: Drawn by Haley Blanchard.  
Date: c. 1982.  
Key: Second Floor plan.

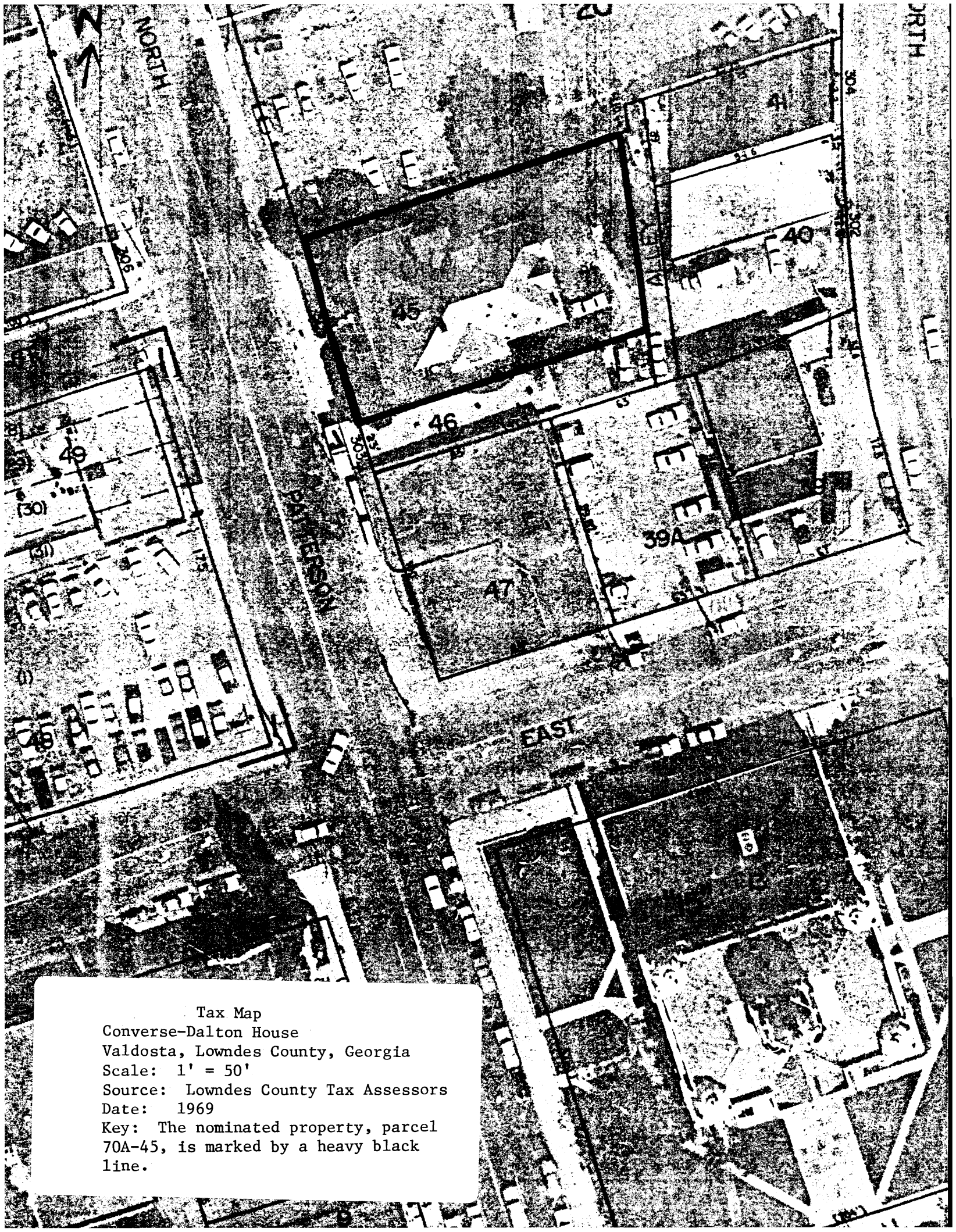
**THIRD FLOOR PLAN**

**CONVERSE-DALTON-FERRELL HOUSE**  
Valdosta, Georgia



Floor Plans

Converse-Dalton House  
Valdosta, Lowndes County, Georgia  
Scale: Unknown.  
Source: Drawn by Haley Blanchard.  
Date: c. 1982.  
Key: Third Floor plan.



Tax Map  
Converse-Dalton House  
Valdosta, Lowndes County, Georgia  
Scale: 1' = 50'  
Source: Lowndes County Tax Assessors  
Date: 1969  
Key: The nominated property, parcel  
70A-45, is marked by a heavy black  
line.