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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 Bailey-Harper House/Doctors Building
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 204 Green Street, N.E.
city, town Gainesville () vicinity of
county Hall code 139
state Georgia code GA zip code 30501

() not for publication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 Coates
Signature of certifying official

4-14-06
Date

for

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

Edson H. Beall 6-14-06

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

for
Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling
Health Care: clinic

Current Functions:

Other: social services facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements: Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials:

foundation	Brick
walls	Wood: weatherboard
roof	Asphalt
other	Glass

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Bailey-Harper House/Doctors Building is a one-story Georgian-plan cottage located two blocks northwest of the courthouse square in downtown Gainesville. The house is situated on a small, flat lot on Green Street between Brenau College and downtown Gainesville. Built in c.1890, the Craftsman-style Bailey-Harper House is clad in weatherboard and covered with a side-gabled roof that includes a central shed dormer. Between 1909 and 1915, a side porch was added to the full-width front porch. By 1930, the front porch was replaced with a one-bay Craftsman-style porch. The center entrance features a transom and sidelights.

The house has been altered since its original construction in c.1890. Between 1909 and 1915, the house included a full-width front porch that wrapped around the south side of the house. Most windows are one-over-one double-hung sashes from ca. 1915 to 1930. The rear ell contains the oldest windows, four-over-four double-hung sashes. A similar window is found on the later kitchen addition. The front door dates from 1915 to 1930 and is flanked by sidelights. A shed-roofed porch was added across the back of the house between 1909 and 1915 to serve as a kitchen. A porch was added to the porch, which was later enclosed and used for storage when Dr. Jesse L. Meeks purchased the house 1929. In addition, Meeks replaced the front porch with an entrance stoop and retained the porch along the south side of the house. These alterations included the shed-roofed dormers with patterned shingles and Craftsman-style brick piers and battered columns to support the front stoop and side porch. The eaves are boxed with a cornice molding and plain frieze along the front and rear of the house and at the returns.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7—Description

The interior Georgian plan is defined by four equal-sized rooms divided by a center hall. The center hall runs the length of the house from the main entrance to the rear entrance and includes a stair to the half story above. Each room is heated by an interior chimney with a Craftsman-style mantel. The four principal rooms served as doctors' offices after 1929. Dr. Meeks' office was located in the room in the northwest corner of the house, opposite the waiting room. The wall between the waiting room and the central hall was removed to enlarge the waiting room and provide direct access from the front door. The waiting room, which originally served as a parlor, includes an original coal-burning fireplace, paired windows, and French doors that provide access to the side porch. The two rear rooms in the main block, the dining room and the game room, were used as a dining room and bedroom and later, doctors' offices. Both rooms include fireplaces with glazed-tile surrounds and wood mantels. French doors separate the game room from the waiting room. Most of the original moldings, plaster walls, doors, windows, and surrounds survive.

The original kitchen ell extends from the dining room and now includes a bathroom, storage room, and bedroom. Between 1909 and 1915, the center hall was extended and a shed-roofed addition was built to the rear to serve as the current kitchen. According to Ms. Eugenia Meeks, whose father purchased the building in 1929, this space was used at the time of purchase as a kitchen. A bathroom was added and a porch was built across the back of the house. A single run of stairs in the center hall provides access to the attic, which is formed by a large open space and four small corner storage rooms.

In 2002 and 2003, the Bailey-Harper House/Doctors Building was rehabilitated for use as a counseling center. The work included updating kitchen appliances and lighting fixtures and ensuring that the building was in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. In addition, walls were resurfaced with a textured plaster because the original plaster and paint were failing to adhere to the walls. Wallpaper covering the beaded-board ceilings was removed and the coal-burning fireplaces were uncovered.

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
Health/Medicine

Period of Significance:

c.1890-1955

Significant Dates:

c.1890 – Mrs. Annie L. Bailey built the house.

1929 – Dr. Jesse L. Meeks purchased the house next to his own residence, which used as his medical office.

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8—Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Bailey-Harper House/Doctors Building is a one-story, frame house that served as a single-family dwelling from the time of its construction in c.1890 until it was purchased by Dr. Jesse L. Meeks in 1929 for use as a medical office. Located on Green Street two blocks northwest of the courthouse square, the house is significant in the area of health and medicine and architecture because of its association with Dr. Meeks and because it is an excellent example of Georgian-plan house built in the Craftsman style.

The Bailey-Harper House/Doctors Building is significant in the area of health and medicine because of its 34-year association with the medical practice of Dr. Jesse L. Meeks. Dr. Meeks' practice was among the largest and most successful practices in northeast Georgia. His practice represents a transition from doctors seeing patients in home offices, long the practice in Georgia, to the establishment of professional buildings near hospitals, which became increasingly common after World War II.

The Bailey-Harper House/Doctors Building is significant in the area of architecture as a representative example of a late 19th-century Georgian cottage, a house type popular in all periods of Georgia history, especially from 1850 to 1890. The Georgian cottage is a one-story house with a Georgian plan, which is defined as four rooms divided by a central hall. The four principal rooms are usually similar in size, interconnected, and heated by a fireplace. The central hall, which was established in colonial North America early in the 18th century, accommodated new patterns of social behavior by permitting specialized uses for rooms, which could be isolated from one another by the hall. The center hall, by limiting access to the interior of the house, defined and reinforced the status of family and visitors.

The Bailey-Harper House/Doctors Building is also significant in the area of architecture because it is a representative example of a Craftsman-style house. The Craftsman style derived from the English Arts and Crafts movement and was popularized in the United States by the California architects Greene & Greene in the 1910s. Characteristics of the style include overall low, horizontal proportions, usually asymmetrical with open plan, low-pitched gable roof with broad overhanging eaves and exposed rafter ends, roof supported by decorative brackets or braces, walls covered with wood siding, shingles, or masonry veneer, and porches that are integral to the design of the house. The porches are often supported by battered posts set on masonry piers. In Georgia, Craftsman-style houses were built in rural, small town, and urban settings from 1910s to 1930s.

National Register Criteria

A—The Bailey-Harper House/Doctors Building is significant in the area of health and medicine because of its association with the innovative medical practice of Dr. Jesse L. Meeks.

C— The Bailey-Harper House/Doctors Building is significant in the area of architecture as a representative example of a late 19th-century Georgian cottage built in the Craftsman style.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8—Statement of Significance

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in c.1890 with the construction of the house in ends in 1955 at the 50-year end date.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The Bailey-Harper House/Doctors Building is the only resource associated with the nomination. There are no noncontributing resources included in the nomination.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

***This developmental history is derived from: LaBrie, Brian W., and Tevi Henson. Historic District Information Form. Doctors Building. On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, Georgia, 2003.*

The Bailey-Harper House/Doctors Building was built as a single-family house by Annie L. Bailey in c.1890.¹ The original Georgian floor plan included four rooms divided by a central hallway with a rear ell formed by two rooms on the northeast corner. According to Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps of 1909 and 1915, Mrs. Bailey added a rear shed-roof addition to the ell in the southeast corner of the house and a rear porch. The full-width front porch was also expanded to form a wraparound porch with access to the interior through French doors.²

After Annie L. Bailey's death in 1923, R. G. Harper purchased the house.³ Before 1930, Mr. Harper replaced the front porch with a smaller Craftsman-style front stoop, added the Craftsman-style battered porch posts to the side porch, the four-over-four-light sash windows were replaced with one-over-one light sash windows, and he added the front and rear Craftsman-style shed-roofed dormers.

In 1929, Dr. Jesse L. Meeks purchased the property from R. G. Harper. Meeks, who resided in the house behind the Bailey-Harper House/Doctors Building, used the house as an office for his growing medical practice, which had begun in Gainesville in 1919. The only major change to the property undertaken by Meeks was the installation of a heating system, which was replaced during the 2002 and 2003 rehabilitation.

1 Marion Eugenia Meeks, daughter of Dr. Jesse L. Meeks, interview by Brian W. LaBrie, author, 13 January 2003.

2 Refer to the 1909 and 1915 Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Gainesville, Georgia, included in Section 5.

3 Ibid.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Dr. Meeks was born in Blairsville, Union County, Georgia, to parents Lanivia Hollingsworth and John Wellborn Meeks. He attended public schools in Blairsville and Hiawassee and graduated from Emory University, School of Medicine in 1915. He interned at Battle Hill Sanatorium and Grady Hospital, both in Atlanta. He served overseas in World War I in the Medical Corps before moving to Gainesville. He was a physician for the selective service during World War II and was known as the "gentlest" of the examining physicians in Gainesville when it came to inoculating the serviceman.⁴ He served as president of the local medical society and was a member of the American Medical Association, the Gainesville Medical Association, and the Hall County Medical Society. Dr. Meeks also worked as the clinical physician for Gainesville Mills. He was involved in civic affairs and was a member of the Elks Club, Kiwanis Club, American Legion, First Methodist Church, and the Chattahoochee County Club.⁵

According to the *Gainesville City Directory* in 1928, Gainesville was the leading medical hub for Northeast Georgia and the city has continued in that role to the present. More than half of the doctors and physicians listed in the 1928 *Gainesville City Directory* were part of Meeks' practice. These doctors were: R. Garner, Bradley Davis, Pratt Cheek, Clarence E. Butler and Eugene Ward.⁶ The prominent Dr. J. H. Downey was part of Dr. Meeks' practice when he worked at 29 East Spring Street, prior to the purchase of the Doctors Building. Dr. Downey later formed Downey Hospital and helped develop modern fracture equipment.⁷ Dr. Garner served as the doctor for the local Chicopee Mills.⁸ Dr. Bradley was the first pediatricians to practice in Hall County.⁹ Of the original 1951 Medical Staff of the Hall County Hospital, later Northeast Georgia Medical Center, doctors Garner, Ward, and Whelchel had been a part of Dr. Meeks' medical practice at the doctors building.¹⁰ Dr. Meeks was known in the medical community as "quite a character," who helped attract high-caliber specialists to the region.¹¹ Dr. Meeks treated both white and African-American patients, though they used separate waiting areas. According to Eugenia Meeks, white patients waited in the waiting room

4 Marion Eugenia Meeks, daughter of Dr. Jesse L. Meeks, interview by Brian W. LaBrie, author, 13 January 2003.

5 "Funeral To Be Held Tuesday for Dr. Jesse L. Meeks," *The Dailey Times* (Gainesville, Georgia), 7 January 1963

6 William L. Norton, Jr., *Historic Gainesville & Hall County* (San Antonio, Texas: Historical Publishing Network, 2001), 74.

7 Marion Eugenia Meeks, daughter of Dr. Jesse L. Meeks, interview by Brian W. LaBrie, author, 13 January 2003

8 Sarah Cooper, "Garner Celebrates 65 Years of Marriage," *The Times* (Gainesville, Georgia), 2 July 1993.

9 Marion Eugenia Meeks, daughter of Dr. Jesse L. Meeks, interview by Brian W. LaBrie, author, 13 January 2003.

10 "1951 - 2001: Northeast Georgia Medical Center, Inc." [On-Line]; available from <http://www.nghs.com/50thanniversary.pdf>; Internet.

11 IBID.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

in the front of the building and blacks waited for treatment in the rear hall. Dr. Meeks practiced medicine for 43 years in Gainesville nearly until his death in 1963.

Ione T. Minks, wife of Dr. Jesse L. Meeks, inherited the house after her husband's death. She gave portions of the property to her daughters Marjorie Meeks Perine, Marion Eugenia Meeks, and to her grandson, Marion Littleton Meeks in 1964 and 1976. The children, who jointly controlled the property until 1990, rented the property to various commercial enterprises, including Dr. Garner, who had previously practiced with Dr. Meeks,¹² Other renters included Dr. Bailey, a dentist, an interior design firm, and Home Federal Savings & Loan, which used the building for additional office space. In 1990, Ione T. Meeks died and the property passed to Marjorie Meeks Perine, Marion Eugenia Meeks, and Marion Littleton Meeks. (The latter signed his interest over to Mrs. Perine and Ms. Meeks.) Various members of the Meeks family used the property as storage. During 2002 and 2003, the property was leased to GAP (Girls Are Priority) to be used as a center for teenage girls to promote self esteem.

12 Sarah Cooper, "Garner Celebrates 65 Years of Marriage," *The Times* (Gainesville, Georgia), 2 July 1993.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Cooper, Sarah. "Garners Celebrate 65 Years of Marriage." *The Times* (Gainesville, Georgia), 2 July 1993.

Duncan, Charles. "Downey Hospital Doubted by Many." *The Times* (Gainesville, Georgia), 2 October 1994.

Duncan, Charles. "Downey: Pioneer Doctor Makes His Mark." *The Times* (Gainesville, Georgia), 2 October 1994.

Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses In Their Landscaped Settings. Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, 1991.

LaBrie, Brian W., and Tevi Henson. Historic District Information Form. Doctors Building. On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, Georgia, 2003.

Meeks, Marion Eugenia, daughter of Dr. Jesse L. Meeks. Interview by Brian W. LaBrie, 13 January 2003, Gainesville, Georgia.

"Funeral To Be Held Tuesday For Dr. Jesse L. Meeks." *The Times* (Gainesville, Georgia), 7 January 1963.

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 0.31 acres.

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 239860 Northing 3799000

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot historically associated with the house.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Steven Moffson, Architectural Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 34 Peachtree Street, N.W., Suite 1601
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** February 28, 2006
e-mail steven_moffson@dnr.state.ga.us

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

name/title Brian W. LaBrie and Tevi Henson
organization The Jaeger Company
mailing address 119 Washington Street
city or town Gainesville **state** GA **zip code** 30501
telephone 770-534-0506
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) Marjorie Meeks Perine and Marion Eugenia Meeks
organization (if applicable) N/A
mailing address 213 Brenau Avenue
city or town Gainesville **state** GA **zip code** 30501
e-mail (optional) N/A

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

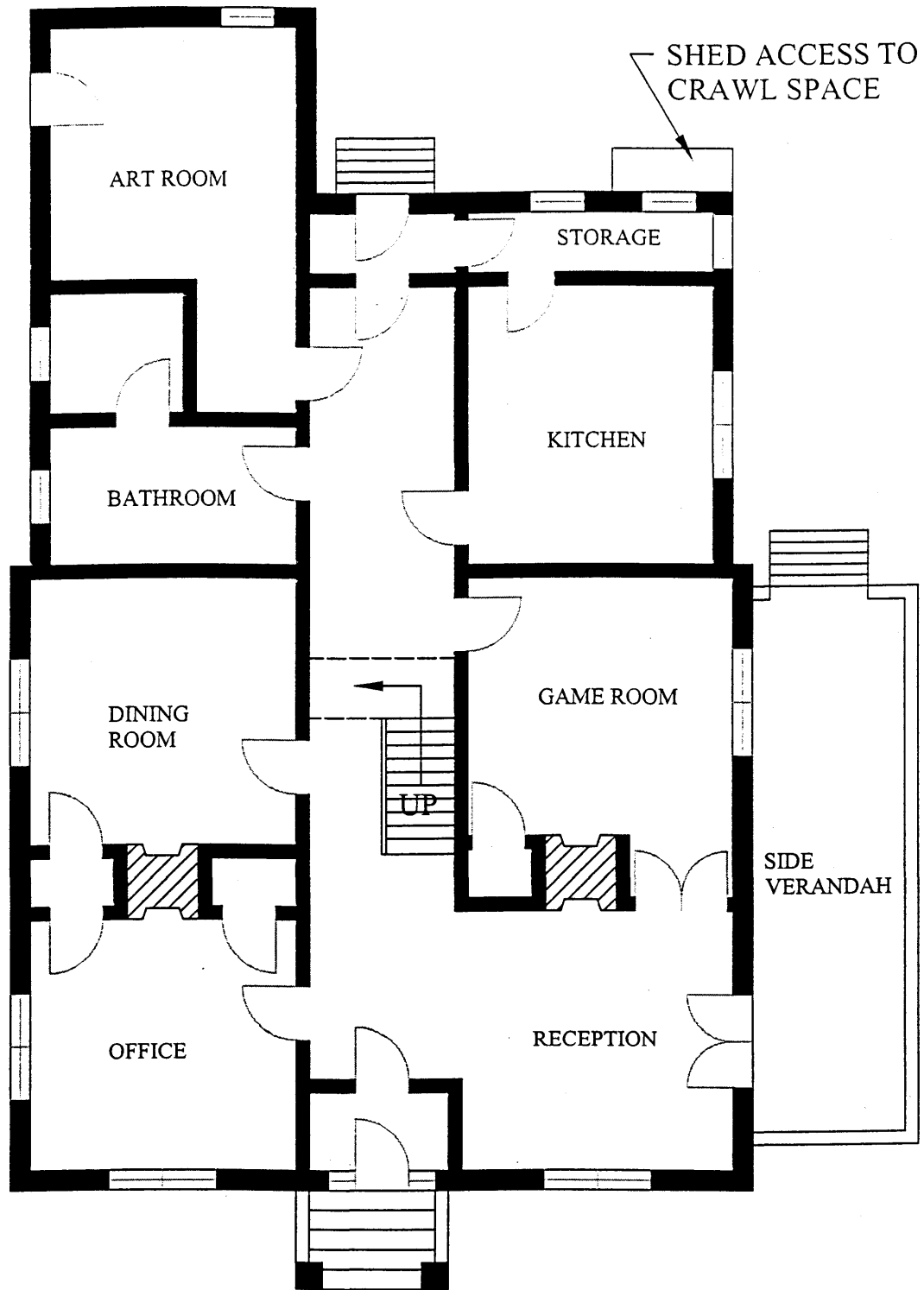
Name of Property: Bailey-Harper House/Doctors Building
City or Vicinity: Gainesville
County: Hall
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: December 2004

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 11

1. Main façade and north side, photographer facing east.
2. Main façade, photographer facing northeast.
3. Main façade and south side, photographer facing north.
4. South side, photographer facing northwest.
5. Interior, first floor, waiting room with view to Dr. Meek's office, photographer facing northwest.
6. Interior, first floor, waiting area, photographer facing southeast.
7. Interior, first floor, Dr. Meek's office, photographer facing northeast.
8. Interior, first floor, game room, photographer facing southwest.
9. Interior, first floor, dining room, photographer facing southwest.
10. Interior, first floor, center hall and stairs, photographer facing northeast.
11. Interior, attic, photographer facing southwest.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

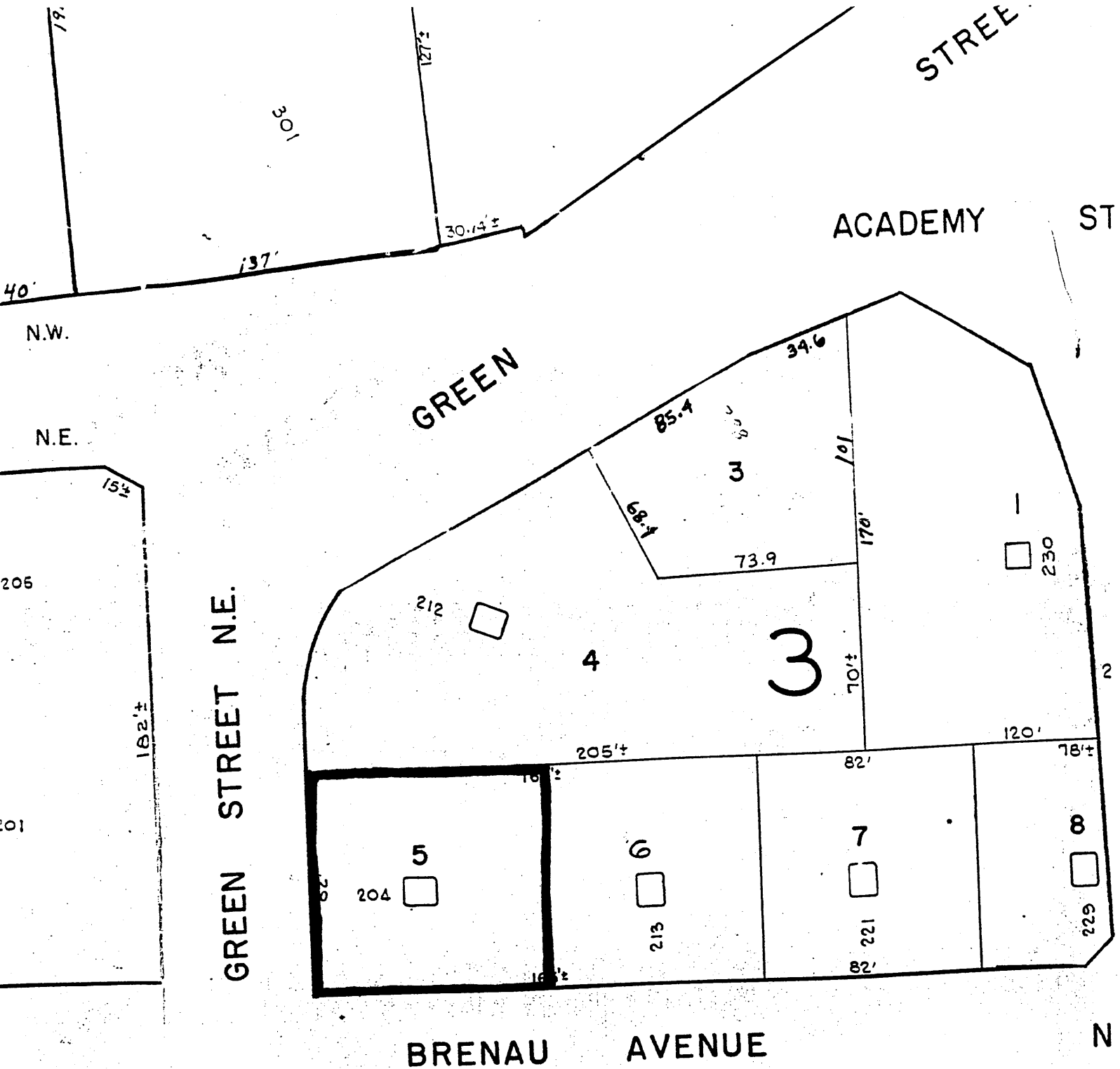


Bailey-Harper House/Doctors Building
 Gainesville, Hall County, Georgia

First Floor Plan

No Scale





Bailey-Harper House/Doctors Building
 Gainesville, Hall County, Georgia
 Site Plan

National Register Boundary **—**

Scale 1" = 50'

