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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Roberts-Bush-Roberts House

other names/site number Angle View

## 2. Location

street & number 157 Eatonton Highway

not for publication

city or town Gray

vicinity

state Georgia code GA county Jones code 169 zip code 31032

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility 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  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national  statewide  local

*W. R. Hoover*

William R. Hoover

11 May 2015

Signature of certifying official/<sup>FBI</sup> Title Dr. David C. Crass/Historic Preservation Division Director/Deputy SHPO Date

Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

*Joe Edmund H. Beall*

6-30-15

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Roberts-Bush-Roberts House  
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**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
 (Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
9	0	buildings
1	1	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
10	1	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC: single dwelling
- DOMESTIC: secondary structures
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuildings
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural field

**Current Functions**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

- DOMESTIC: single dwelling
- DOMESTIC: secondary structures

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

- LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival
- OTHER: Georgian Cottage

**Materials**  
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

- foundation: BRICK;STONE;CONCRETE
- walls: WOOD: weatherboard
- BRICK
- METAL
- roof: METAL: tin
- other:

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### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

The Roberts-Bush-Roberts House is an approximately 14.5-acre property that includes a c.1904 one-story Georgian cottage, with a rear adjoining c.1897 two-room building, and several outbuildings. It is believed that the c.1904 house was built in front of the earlier building and joined to it by a porch or breezeway. The house and outbuildings are situated close to Highway 157, approximately one-quarter mile north of the Jones County Courthouse. The Central of Georgia Railroad (today Norfolk Southern Corporation) line marks the western boundary of the property. The boundary extends across the highway to include 3.5 acres of property historically associated with the house. The wood-frame house retains its original Georgian cottage floorplan and finishes including wood flooring, mantels, wainscot, doors and door surrounds, and some beadboard ceilings and walls. Outbuildings include a brick well house (c.1904), brick garage (c.1904), smokehouse (pre-1904), outhouse (c.1904), barn (pre-1926), truck shed (pre-1934), tractor shelter/feed storage (pre-1934), and potting shed (post-1934). Large oak, pecan, and fruit trees and vegetable garden sites surround the house. The surrounding gardens contain azaleas, camellias, roses, hollies, daffodils, quince, acuba, nandinas, boxwoods, elaeagnus, and other plants, many dating from the 1940s or earlier. All of the buildings and landscape retains integrity.

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### Narrative Description

*The following description is taken from the November 23, 2011 "Roberts-Bush-Roberts House" Historic Property Information Form that was prepared by Maryel Battin. The description was edited by Lynn Speno, Historic Preservation Division. It is on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, Stockbridge, Georgia.*

The Roberts-Bush-Roberts House, located in the small town of Gray in Jones County, Georgia, consists of a 14.5-acre complex that includes a c.1904 Georgian cottage, with a rear adjoining c.1897 two-room building, a complex of outbuildings, and surrounding gardens. The house and eight outbuildings are situated close to the west side of Highway 157 North, approximately one-quarter mile north of the Jones County Courthouse. The Central of Georgia Railroad line (today Norfolk Southern) marks the western boundary of the property. The property line extends across the highway to include 3.5 acres of property historically associated with the house. One of the two kitchen gardens was located east of the highway. The landscape is counted as one contributing site.

There are no Sanborn maps covering this property and few historic photos, therefore it is impossible to determine the exact dates of the additions that have occurred. Prior to 1934, several changes were made to the house: on the north elevation, a gabled-roof addition was added to accommodate a kitchen; a bay window was installed by 1906 on the south elevation; and behind the bay window, a bedroom was added with an exterior door and steps. Also on the south and west elevations, an open porch was enclosed c.1947 to create a canning kitchen, bathroom, and hallway. Sometime around 1965 the back porch on the west elevation was extended and enclosed to create a family room. It appears that, as the family grew, the second owner, the Bush family, added onto the house prior to losing it to Proctor Trust Company in 1926. It is very unlikely that the Proctor Trust Company made any alterations during its tenure (1926-1934). According to the present owner, her family did not make any major changes when they purchased the property in 1934. It was not until c.1947 and later that alterations were made by her family.

The main house is a one-story, frame, Georgian cottage elevated approximately three feet above ground on a foundation of solid brick and brick piers with brick lattice infill. As defined in a statewide context, *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*, a Georgian cottage floorplan consists of a

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central hallway with two rooms on either side. The original exterior siding is heart pine that was covered at one time with asbestos shingles, which have been recently removed to expose the original siding. Chimneys are interior, between each pair of rooms. The roof is covered with metal embossed shingles and has a central, gabled dormer window on the front or east façade. The gable contains a central nine-light window that is topped by arched molding. Wood slatted vents flank both sides of the window (photograph 1).

The house faces a southeasterly direction. For clarity throughout the nomination, the front or main façade will be defined as the east façade. The front porch with low-pitched hipped roof extends across the entire front façade and is supported by plain cylindrical wood columns with molded cap and base (photographs 1 and 2). A porte-cochere with similar wood supports on brick piers is located at the north end of the porch. A protruding central extension with front-facing gable appears to have been added to the porch prior to 1934. The balustrade surrounding the porch is composed of turned wood balusters. There is a half-column at center front of the extension. The front steps, located to the right of the extension have brick risers, concrete treads, and low brick cheek walls. The porch has tongue-and-groove wood decking and a beadboard ceiling.

From the front porch, the house is accessed by a central door that leads to the front hall (photograph 2). The door has a six-pane, glass insert above wood paneling. There are two, large, double-hung, wood windows with decorative, leaded, diamond-shaped muntins above a single frame that provide light to each of the two front rooms. They are centrally located in each of the rooms. A third slightly smaller window with similar design is located next to the door. Most of the windows throughout the house are 6/6 wood double-hung sashes.

On the north elevation, a gabled-roof ell was added prior to 1934 to accommodate a kitchen. An exterior door to the dining room and steps were added c.1947-1948 (photograph 3). At the rear of the kitchen, on the west elevation of the ell, is an exterior door and brick-supported concrete ramp with metal handrails (photograph 4).

On the north elevation of the back bedroom, there is an additional exterior door. These are brick steps with concrete treads. Both of these rear doors also have a wood screen door and a shed-roof awning (photograph 4).

On the south elevation several changes took place prior to 1934: by 1906 a bay window was installed off of the living room; and behind the bay window a bedroom was added with an exterior door and steps (photograph 7). An open porch, located west of the bedroom, was enclosed c.1947-1948 to provide a canning kitchen, bathroom, and enclosed hallway.

Around 1965 the back porch on the west elevation was extended to create a den. The room now has a row of 4/1 sash windows on the south elevation and an entry door with brick and concrete steps (photograph 5).

On the southwest corner of the back of the house is a shed-roofed addition that contains a bathroom (photograph 4).

### Interior

The house has a Georgian cottage floor plan with a central hallway and four main rooms, as defined in *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*. The living room and a bedroom are located at the front of the house on either side of the hallway. A bedroom and the dining room are located behind these two rooms. An additional bedroom, added prior to 1934 and located on the south side of the house, is accessed from the middle bedroom. Located in what was originally the canning kitchen is a bathroom.

A bay window with decorative screen was added to the south side of the living room by 1906 (photograph 17). Behind the dining room there is a hallway leading to the kitchen that was added on the north side of the house prior to 1934. The hallway may have originally been the location of an open porch.

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Behind the hallway are two bedrooms that are located in the c.1897 portion of the house (photographs 25 and 26). A bathroom is accessed from the rear bedroom. A former back porch, enclosed c.1947, was extended to create a family room c.1965 (photograph 24). It is located behind the central hallway.

The walls of the four main rooms originally were tongue-and-groove paneling. Prior to 1934 the walls were canvassed and covered with wallpaper. These walls are now covered by gypsum board nailed to the paneling. In some spaces such as the kitchen, rear hallway, and the closets, horizontal painted beadboard appears to have been the historic finish. In the dining room the vertical tongue-and-groove paneling and horizontal tongue-and-groove wainscoting remains. These modifications occurred c.1947-1948. Many of the present interior partition walls that were originally exterior walls retain the original exposed wood siding. All baseboards in main rooms and bedrooms are wood.

The nearly 12-foot ceilings in the c.1904 portion of the house originally consisted of beadboard. Prior to 1934, these ceilings were covered with printed ceiling paper over muslin. All ceilings in these rooms were then covered c.1965 with Celotex tiles fastened through the paper to the wood boards. The beadboard ceiling has been uncovered in the middle bedroom. Gypsum board covers the remaining ceilings, installation having occurred at different times from c.1947 on.

Floors throughout the main rooms of the house are heart pine. Floor in the kitchen is red linoleum (photograph 28).

Interior doors are all wood. Most are paneled single doors with the exception of the pocket doors that lead to the living room from the central hallway.

Mantels throughout the house are original; some have been painted (front bedroom and rear c.1897 bedroom), while others (living room, middle bedroom, and dining room) retain wood finish. The mantels are different in design (photographs 18-20). The four main rooms have beveled over-mantel mirrors. All fireplace surrounds and hearths have tile of various colors. A later brick surround and hearth have been installed in the dining room.

In the living room there is a Victorian-style painted openwork wood screen set into the casing leading to the angular bay window; it was installed by 1906 (photograph 17). In the central hallway, there is a low wood wall with a square, molded half-column that divides the hallway in half (photograph 16). It was added prior to 1934.

#### Cistern (Well House)

The cistern is a small, rectangular, brick structure located outside the kitchen to the north of the house, probably constructed c.1904-1905 (photograph 4). The corrugated-metal, gable roof extends past the enclosure at the south end to provide cover for an exterior well. On the east façade is an arched window opening with a diamond-paned wood window. On the west façade are two door openings, one containing a slatted-wood door and the other, a wood-paneled door. A lintel over the wood door and newer brick infill indicate that this was once a larger opening that has been reduced to its current configuration. The building also contains a small tool shed storage area. Some of the interior brick walls are painted.

#### Car Garage

The garage is architecturally similar to the cistern building and probably built c.1904-1905 (photograph 8). It is separated from the north end of the house by a driveway. The building is rectangular with space for two cars. There are two windows similar to the window in the cistern building; one is located on the north elevation, one on the east. A pair of arched garage door openings with double doors in each opening is located on the south façade. The interior walls are pargeted and the ceiling is beadboard. The gable roof is covered with metal roofing panels.

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### Smokehouse

The smokehouse is located approximately 25 feet from the rear of the house (photograph 13). The date of construction is uncertain, but probably predates the main house. It is a small, rectangular, wood-frame building. The gable roof is covered with metal roofing panels and has exposed wood rafter ends. There is a single wood door at the center of the east façade.

### Outhouse/Privy

The date of construction of the privy is uncertain, but it is similar in construction to elements of the main house (photograph 12). A board, found in the outhouse with the name of T. S. Bush, Gray, indicates that the outhouse was constructed by or during Bush's ownership. The outhouse is rectangular, built with wood braced framing and wood lap siding. It is located approximately 100 feet from the rear of the house. There is a single wood door on the east façade and two small wood windows high on the west elevation. The gable roof is covered with metal roofing panels. The rafter ends are exposed. Most of the exterior siding has been replaced recently due to deterioration.

### Truck Shed

Located west of the car garage, the truck shed was constructed prior to 1934 (photograph 9). It is open on both the east and west sides. It is a wood frame structure, clad with corrugated metal panels. The gable roof is covered with a corrugated metal roof.

### Barn

The large, wood frame barn is located north of the house (photograph 10). The date of construction is believed to be pre-1926. The building has a large central bay covered with a gable roof and two smaller shed-roofed bays to either side. The roof is covered with metal panels. The walls are clad with board-and-batten siding.

### Tractor Shelter and Feed Storage

This building, constructed prior to 1934, is located east of the barn (photograph 11). It is a long rectangular building that is divided into five bays. Three bays on its long south façade are open to allow tractors to enter. The building is a wood frame building with board-and-batten siding on its long façade. The short elevations are covered with corrugated metal panels. The gable roof is covered with metal panels.

### Potting Shed

The potting shed was constructed after 1934 (photograph 12). It has a low-pitched metal roof with some sections missing. The walls are covered with metal sheeting; there is some wood siding in the gable.

### Grounds

The residence is surrounded by very large oak and pecan trees. The gardens surrounding the house contain azaleas, camellias, roses, hollies, naturalized daffodils, quince, acuba, nandinas, boxwoods, elaeagnus, and other plants. Most of the garden elements were planted by Ethel Roberts who was a founding member of the Town and Country Garden Club. Many meetings of the club were held at the Roberts house.

Due to the original agricultural and farming use of the property, the house is surrounded by some open field areas, two former vegetable garden sites, and numerous fruit and nut trees. Three-and-a-half acres of the property are located across the highway. A small cemetery located here is counted as a noncontributing site. The graves are either undated or unmarked and predate Annie and John Roberts' ownership of the property. The property no longer sustains any agricultural pursuits.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

c.1897-1965

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

c.1897-construction of two-room building

c.1904-construction of Georgian cottage

\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance extends from c.1897, the date of construction of the earliest portion of the house, to 1965, the end of the historic period and also the date of the last major alteration to the house. The owner of the house was adding new elements to the landscape through the 1960s, which are contributing elements to this nomination.

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**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The c.1897 two-room building on the property was likely built by Annie Belle and John Roberts. After her husband died, Annie Belle Roberts sold the property on June 9, 1904 to Thomas Sheppard Bush, who built the Georgian cottage c.1904. Bush was a farmer, as well as a merchant and businessman. He owned the Bush Supply Company, which sold dry goods, clothing, shoes, notions, shingles, and fertilizers. Bush lost the property in 1926 to the Proctor Trust Company. They owned the property until 1934 when it was sold to Cecil Thomas Roberts (1903-1985), grandfather of the present owner. Cecil and his wife Ethel operated a dairy farm on this, and other nearby properties, and sold their milk to purchasers in nearby Eatonton and other local towns. The period of significance includes the c.1897 house to 1965, the date of the last addition to the house, as well as encompasses the dates of all of the historic landscape elements.

The Roberts-Bush-Roberts House is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a good and intact example in the town of Gray of an early 20th-century Georgian cottage with classical elements that has evolved over the years. According to *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*, Georgian cottages were very popular throughout the state and were built throughout Georgia's history. The house retains its floorplan and exterior and interior character-defining features including the wood siding, chimneys, windows, wood floors, wood trim, and mantels. All of the outbuildings retain integrity. The two brick outbuildings are excellent examples of classical architecture in an agricultural setting.

The property is also significant at the local level under Criterion C in landscape architecture as a good example of New South Landscaping as defined in *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*. The characteristics of New South Landscaping include a large variety of landscape features often massed together with soft lines in an informal layout. While some of the plantings predate homeowner Ethel Roberts, most of the extensive garden was designed and installed by her from the 1930s to the 1960s.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Roberts-Bush-Roberts House is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an excellent intact example in the town of Gray of an early 20th-century Georgian cottage with classical elements that has evolved over the years. According to *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*, Georgian cottages were very popular throughout the state. The floor plan of a Georgian cottage, consisting of a central hallway with two rooms on either side, was built throughout Georgia's history well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The one-story Roberts-Bush-Roberts House, with a rear adjoining c.1897 two-room building, was constructed c.1904. Prior to 1934, several changes were made to the house: on the north elevation, a gabled-roof addition was added to accommodate a kitchen; a bay window was installed by 1906 on the south elevation; and behind the bay window, a bedroom was added with an exterior door and steps. Also on the south and west elevations, an open porch was enclosed c.1947 to create a canning kitchen, bathroom, and hallway. Sometime around 1965 the back porch on the west elevation was extended and enclosed to create a family room. Despite these additions, the house retains its original Georgian cottage floorplan and finishes including wood flooring, mantels, wainscot, doors and door surrounds, and some beadboard ceilings and walls and is



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therefore a good example from its era. Outbuildings include a brick well house (c.1904), brick garage (c.1904), smokehouse (pre-1904), outhouse (c.1904), barn (pre-1926), truck shed (pre-1934), tractor shelter/feed storage (pre-1934), and potting shed (post-1934). All of the outbuildings retain integrity. The two brick outbuildings are excellent examples of classical architecture in an agricultural setting.

The Roberts-Bush Roberts House is significant at the local level under Criterion C in the area of landscape architecture for its surviving landscape features which represent two important forms of historic residential landscaping in Georgia as identified in the statewide historic context *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*. The yard is a good example of the "New South" form of landscaping. The overall effect of the landscape is informal with a wide variety of landscape features. Soft lines and contours, rather than the harder edges of previous styles, are common. The use of hedges, rather than fences, and flower beds highlight the green landscape. The common use of large shade trees (mostly oaks and maples), ornamental trees, ornamental shrubbery and flowering plants, and expanses of lawn define this type of landscape.

Hollies, water oak, roses, and camellias are used in front of the house. The north side of the house is planted heavily with traditional Southern plantings including nandina, roses, hollies, camellias, lilies, quince, crepe myrtle, magnolia, and fig trees. On the south side is a large pasture area where hay was once grown. Plantings here also include pecan trees, Christmas honeysuckle, banana shrub, tea olive, azalea, hollies, dogwood, and camellias.

To the rear of this house, evidences of the once-ubiquitous "landscape of work" survive in the broader open spaces and former outbuildings and outdoor work areas and, also, in the fig, pear, apple, and pecan trees that were planted as part of the food supply of the household but provided shade and ornament as well. A small greenhouse or potting shed, a new type of building popular beginning around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, is located behind the house. A large kitchen garden that produced tomatoes, corn, peas, peppers, and flowers was located here as well. This area also contains thousands of flowering bulbs planted in the 1950s and 1960s, as well as hollies, forsythia, quince, crepe myrtle, dogwood, and roses.

A second kitchen garden was located across the road near the cemetery. This part of the landscape also included spirea, hollies, oaks, crepe myrtle, and flowering bulbs. Most of the garden elements were planted by Ethel Roberts who was a founding member of the Town and Country Garden Club in 1960. Many meetings of the club were held at the Roberts' house. The club was affiliated with the Federated Garden Club of Georgia from 1962 until 1971.

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)**

*The following historic context is taken from the November 23, 2011 "Roberts-Bush-Roberts House" Historic Property Information Form that was prepared by Maryel Battin. The context was edited by Lynn Speno, Historic Preservation Division. It is on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, Stockbridge, Georgia.*

The first reference to an owner of this property was in 1897 when Annie Belle Glawson Roberts, a Gray native, purchased the property for \$550 from the trust of Eugenia Blount. The Blount family was prominent: James H. Blount (Eugenia's husband and trustee) was a U. S. Congressman for 20 years and President Grover Cleveland's commissioner to Hawaii. Annie Roberts acquired additional property north of this tract during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Her husband, John Roberts, was a cotton planter so it would appear that this property was used for cotton production by that family. According to a neighbor, and a daughter of the family, Annie and John Roberts built a two-room house on the property c.1897.

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Annie Roberts, a widow by 1900, sold the property on June 9, 1904 to Thomas Sheppard Bush of Jackson County, Florida. The property consisted of a six-acre tract of land. She had purchased the property for \$550 and sold it for \$1,875 seven years later, which might assume a small improvement on previously vacant land. Bush and his family made numerous additions and changes to both the interior and exterior after his purchase in 1904. The *Jones County News* reported in 1905 that "Mr. T. S. Bush is now engaged in adding to and further beautifying his already pretty home". It was noted in the *Jones County News* that "waterworks in the house" were available in 1907. Some of the outbuildings were probably built by Bush after his acquisition in 1904. The smokehouse may have been built prior to Bush's acquisition.

Thomas Bush (1865-1948) was born in Bladen County, North Carolina, son of William James Carr Bush and Mildred Ann Boswell. According to his obituary, he moved to Wilcox County, Georgia, at age 21 and was a turpentine operator for many years. His wife, Norma Stewart Bush (1871-1968), was a Georgia native.

According to the *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, by 1890 Georgia was the world's leading producer of naval stores. These extracts from Southern pine forests include lumber, railroad ties, resin, and turpentine. Georgia continued that distinction until 1905 when Florida surpassed them. The superintendents in the industry were white men and the majority of the laborers, called woodsmen, were African American. It is probable that Bush moved to Georgia, in order to take advantage of this burgeoning industry and to work with his brother in Wilcox County, before moving to Gray. At that time the peach industry was expanding greatly. Bush appears to have been an entrepreneur who took advantage of industry expansion in a number of fields. After the family moved to Gray, Bush was engaged in the banking, farming, and peach industries, as well as owning a store and other real estate.

Bush was in the center of a growing and progressive town. Although listed on the U.S. Census as a farmer, Bush also had business interests in the town. He owned the Bush Supply Company which was built c.1905 by C. R. Smith. The store, which became Bush & Smith Co. by 1906, sold dry goods, clothing, shoes, notions, shingles, and fertilizers. On the second floor, the store housed a Masonic lodge, a telephone exchange, and a law office. Bush was on the board of directors of the Haddock Bank in the neighboring town of Haddock in 1907. He was also vice president of the Bank of Gray, organized in 1905 as a branch of the Jones County Bank of Haddock. All of the officers were described as "men of prominence". In 1907 Bush was elected a trustee of the Gray school district. Bush was instrumental in organizing the first church for white people in Gray in 1905. His name was also placed on the cornerstone of the Gray Methodist Episcopal Church as a member of the building committee; the church was dedicated in 1915. T. S. Bush was listed as part of a committee to eradicate "blind tigers" from Gray in 1915. This refers to speakeasies that were "a nuisance and unmitigated evil".

Mr. and Mrs. Bush were involved in the social life of Gray. They often had guests and relatives stay at their house which they called 'Angle View'. Norma Bush was involved with the Woman's Missionary Society, a service organization within the Gray Baptist Church "with a record for service as good as that of the church itself." She was also involved with the Gray United Methodist Church where she donated a window as a memorial to her three children.

Bush also had a peach growing business. There are no agricultural census records available to show how much property was in dairy operations or peach production on the Bush land. According to *Appletons' Annual Cyclopaedia and Register of Important Events*, many thousands of peach trees were planted in Georgia, especially Crawford, Elbert, Habersham, and Jones counties in 1902. At the same time, less cotton was being planted.

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Gray was also seeing an increase in population for a number of reasons. Clinton, Georgia, a thriving town located near Gray, established c.1809, was the county seat. In the 1880s the citizens of Clinton did not want the proposed railroad from Macon to Covington to come through their town so it was routed through Gray by 1886. Stock valued at \$200,000 was subscribed by the people of Macon in the Old Covington & Macon Railroad, which later became the Macon & Northern Railroad. The Southern Railroad later controlled the company and it was merged with the Central of Georgia Railroad in 1963.

Population and commerce from Clinton followed the railroad. The Clinton courthouse had been condemned and the jail was substandard. It was decided to move the county seat to Gray where a new courthouse was built in 1905. By 1907 the *Jones County News* reported that building lots in Gray could be bought reasonably and the town was prospering with a population of 800 people. The new courthouse and jail had cost \$42,000. There were numerous lawyers practicing in the town, a new planter's warehouse had been built, and the Bush and Smith Mercantile Co., organized in 1906, was one of the largest in town.

Gray became the center of industry and trade in Jones County. The catalyst for this was the railroad and the development that occurred around it. Many of the larger houses in the center of Gray were built during the period from 1905 to 1915. Between 1907 and 1910 Gray had built a new two-room schoolhouse, the Baptist Church, a gin mill, a hotel, and numerous stores, supplanting Clinton as the commercial core of the county.

With a decline in cotton production due to the boll weevil and the scarcity of laborers, farmers turned to peach farming. The crop was less labor-intensive than cotton production. Many of the laborers, who were former slaves, had left the South to find more lucrative work in other industries.

In 1902 in Jones County 15,000 peach trees were planted and by 1909 the value of the peach crop was \$472,581. In 1909 Bush had 8,000 trees and sold the fruit on them for \$2,500 with the purchaser bearing the expense of gathering, crating, etc. This implies that he had planted peach trees several years before 1909 but did not have employees available to gather his peach crop at that time. Although Bush had a peach packing shed, he did not operate a peach cannery. The first record of an operating cannery is in 1938 when the Cherokee Products Company constructed a 40,000-square-foot building on Georgia Highway 22 east of Haddock. Much of the canned crop was sold to the USDA for shipment to England. The development of a refrigerated rail car by Marshallville peach grower Samuel Rumph allowed more rapid shipment of peaches to Northern U.S. markets.

By the 1920s, Bush's fortunes had started to deteriorate. On December 6, 1921 Bush granted Harry L. Winter Inc., a farm mortgage company of Rutland, Vermont, a security interest in 202.5 acres of real property he owned in Jones County including the six-acre parcel on which his house and outbuildings were located as security for a loan in the amount of \$9,000. On December 12, 1921 Winter assigned his security interest in Bush's real property, the six-acre parcel on which Bush's home and outbuildings are located, to the Proctor Trust Company of Rutland, Vermont.

Bush owned the property until 1926 when the City Court of Macon issued and filed a fi fa on the property in February of that year. At that time the deed references "house, barns, garages, stables, peach packing house and other improvements on six (6) acre tract." No fi fa records for 1926 are available for T. S. Bush at Macon City Hall. In April 1926, a sheriff's deed was issued from the sheriff of Jones County in favor of the Proctor Trust Co. pursuant to foreclosure sale, again referencing the house and outbuildings. Bush is listed in the 1920 census as living in Macon, Georgia, and his occupation is shown as farmer. It is likely that he was living

Roberts-Bush-Roberts House

Name of Property

Jones County, Georgia

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in Macon but still farming the property in Gray. By the 1930 census, at the age of approximately 65, no occupation is listed.

According to the present owner's mother, the house was rented during the Proctor Trust Company's ownership to a tenant named Lee James. The company owned the property until 1934 when it was sold to Cecil Thomas Roberts (1903-1985), grandfather of the present owner, and his wife Ethel Moore (of Gray). Cecil was of Clinton. The couple had married in 1931 and lived in Clinton where he was "engaged in the mercantile business." (This Roberts family was no relation to the previous Roberts family.)

The property has been in this Roberts family since 1934. Cecil Roberts was educated in the Jones County public schools, was a local city councilman, dairy farmer, and businessman in Gray. He was one of nine sons, all of whom were given names starting with "C", of Charlie and Sarah Roberts. Charlie Roberts (born 1858) was a prosperous farmer who owned large amounts of acreage in Jones County near Walnut Creek, known locally as "the Roberts settlement".

Cecil Roberts began a dairy farm on the property in Gray shortly after he purchased it in 1934. On this farm they had numerous dairy cattle. The Roberts sold their milk to purchasers in nearby Eatonton and other local towns. Roberts also had dairy cattle on other nearby property, in addition to another farm of several hundred acres approximately two miles from his home.

Roberts, who also owned a nearby store, continued his dairy farming operation until around 1965, when he stopped his milking operation, but continued raising cattle on the property until he passed away in 1985. The family continued the cattle farming tradition on the property until 2007.

Roberts did not raise peaches on the property, most likely because the peach trees which he inherited had fallen into poor health after the Proctor Trust Company foreclosed on the property in 1926. However, in recognition of the historic use of the property as a peach farming operation, the owner currently has a small peach orchard on the property.

Cecil's wife, Ethel (1907-2006), was a descendent of the family of Berry Americus Moore, one of the original settlers of Jones County. She lived in Jones County her entire life and graduated from Jones County High School and the Georgia State College for Women in 1925. She co-owned Roberts Market with her husband. She was one of the founders of the Town and Country Garden Club of Jones County in 1960. The club was affiliated with the Federated Garden Club of Georgia from 1962 until 1971 when it was decided that affiliation with the state was no longer desired. Beautification and a clean-up program were the goals of the club. The club planted shrubs around the courthouse to screen the front entrance from the business section of downtown Gray and the members maintained this planting. A speaker was invited to each meeting for educational purposes and the club took a variety of trips around Georgia to places of interest to the members. During her time, the club often met at the Roberts' home. The club flower was the peace rose. The Town and Country Garden Club is no longer active.

After her husband's death in 1985, Ethel inherited the property and lived in the house until her death in 2006. Her son-in-law, Elbert Parker, continued to keep cattle on the property until c.2007. In 2007, Ethel Roberts' daughter, Bebe R. Parker, inherited the property from her mother. Bebe R. Parker's daughter, Stephanie Ethel Parker, was given the property by her mother in 2009.

Roberts-Bush-Roberts House  
Name of Property

Jones County, Georgia  
County and State

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

### Courthouse

Jones County, Georgia. Superior Court. Deed Book X (1897): 556.  
Jones County, Georgia. Superior Court. Deed Book X (1897): 627.  
Jones County, Georgia. Superior Court. Deed Book Z (1904): 424.  
Jones County, Georgia. Superior Court. Deed Book DD (1921): 383.  
Jones County, Georgia. Superior Court. Deed Book KK (1921): 270- 271.  
Jones County, Georgia. Superior Court. Deed Book MM (1926): 54-58.

### Maps:

Aerial map 1938. University of Georgia Map Library, Athens, Ga.  
<http://www.libs.uga.edu/maproom/collections/legend.html>

### Newspapers:

#### *Jones County News*

Local and personal columns: December 31, 1903; August 2, 1906; September 6, 1906; January 24, 1907; June 13, 1907; September 12, 1907; January 8, 1908; June 17, 1909; February 10, 1966.  
Public meeting: May 2, 1907; April 17 1931.  
Advertisements: January 31, 1907; December 19, 1907.  
Wilson, Mary T. *Gray, The Beautiful County Seat of Jones County*, September 12, 1907.

*Macon Telegraph*. "Around the Circle." June 13, 1946.

### Books:

Williams, Carolyn White. *History of Jones County 1807-1907*. Fernandina Beach, FL: Wolfe Publishing, 1992.

### Articles:

Jones County History & Heritage Inc. *History of Gray 1886-1920; 1920-1960. Vol. 4, Winter 2007; Vol. 5, Spring 2008.*

Moughon, James Coleman Jr. *The History of Gray United Methodist Church, Gray, Georgia*. May 1972.

Town & Country Garden Club, Jones County. *Yearbooks 1960-1961; 1961-1962; 1962-1963.*

*Appleton's Annual Cyclopaedia and Register of Important Events of the Year 1902*, Third Series, Vol. VII, Whole Series, Vol. XLII, D. Appleton and Company, 436 Fifth Avenue, New York, 1903.

Roberts-Bush-Roberts House  
Name of Property

Jones County, Georgia  
County and State

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 14.5 approximately  
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**  
**Datum if other than WGS84:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                               |                              |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. <b>Latitude:</b> 33.015987 | <b>Longitude:</b> -83.534777 |
| 2. <b>Latitude:</b> 33.015896 | <b>Longitude:</b> -83.532604 |
| 3. <b>Latitude:</b> 33.012559 | <b>Longitude:</b> -83.531601 |
| 4. <b>Latitude:</b> 33.010957 | <b>Longitude:</b> -83.533725 |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

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

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary is the legal boundary that includes the contiguous parcels owned by the property owners. Within the boundary are the house, outbuildings, and historic landscape elements.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Lynn Speno, National Register Specialist  
organization Historic Preservation Division, GA Dept. of Natural Resources date May 2015  
street & number 2610 Georgia Highway 155, SW telephone (770) 389-7842  
city or town Stockbridge state GA zip code 30281  
e-mail Lynn.speno@dnr.ga.gov

Roberts-Bush-Roberts House

Name of Property

Jones County, Georgia

County and State

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### Additional Documentation

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

---

### Photographs:

---

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Roberts-Bush-Roberts House

City or Vicinity: Gray

County: Jones State: Georgia

Photographer: Charlie Miller, Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

Date Photographed: May 28, 2014

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 28. Main or east façade of house. Photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 28. Porch on east façade of house. Photographer facing west.
- 3 of 28. North side elevation. Photographer facing west.
- 4 of 28. Rear elevation. Photographer facing southeast.
- 5 of 28. South elevation. Photographer facing northeast.
- 6 of 28. South elevation. Photographer facing north.
- 7 of 28. South elevation, side door. Photographer facing northwest.
- 8 of 28. Garage. Photographer facing northwest.
- 9 of 28. Truck shed. Photographer facing north.
- 10 of 28. Barn. Photographer facing north.
- 11 of 28. Tractor shelter. Photographer facing west.
- 12 of 28. Potting shed. Photographer facing west.
- 13 of 28. Smokehouse. Photographer facing west.
- 14 of 28. Backyard. Photographer facing west.

Interiors:

- 15 of 28. Central hallway. Photographer facing west.
- 16 of 28. Central hallway. Photographer facing east.
- 17 of 28. Living room. Photographer facing south.
- 18 of 28. Living room. Photographer facing southwest.
- 19 of 28. Front bedroom. Photographer facing northwest.
- 20 of 28. Bedroom. Photographer facing northeast.
- 21 of 28. Canning kitchen/now bathroom. Photographer facing west.
- 22 of 28. Dining room. Photographer facing northeast.

Roberts-Bush-Roberts House

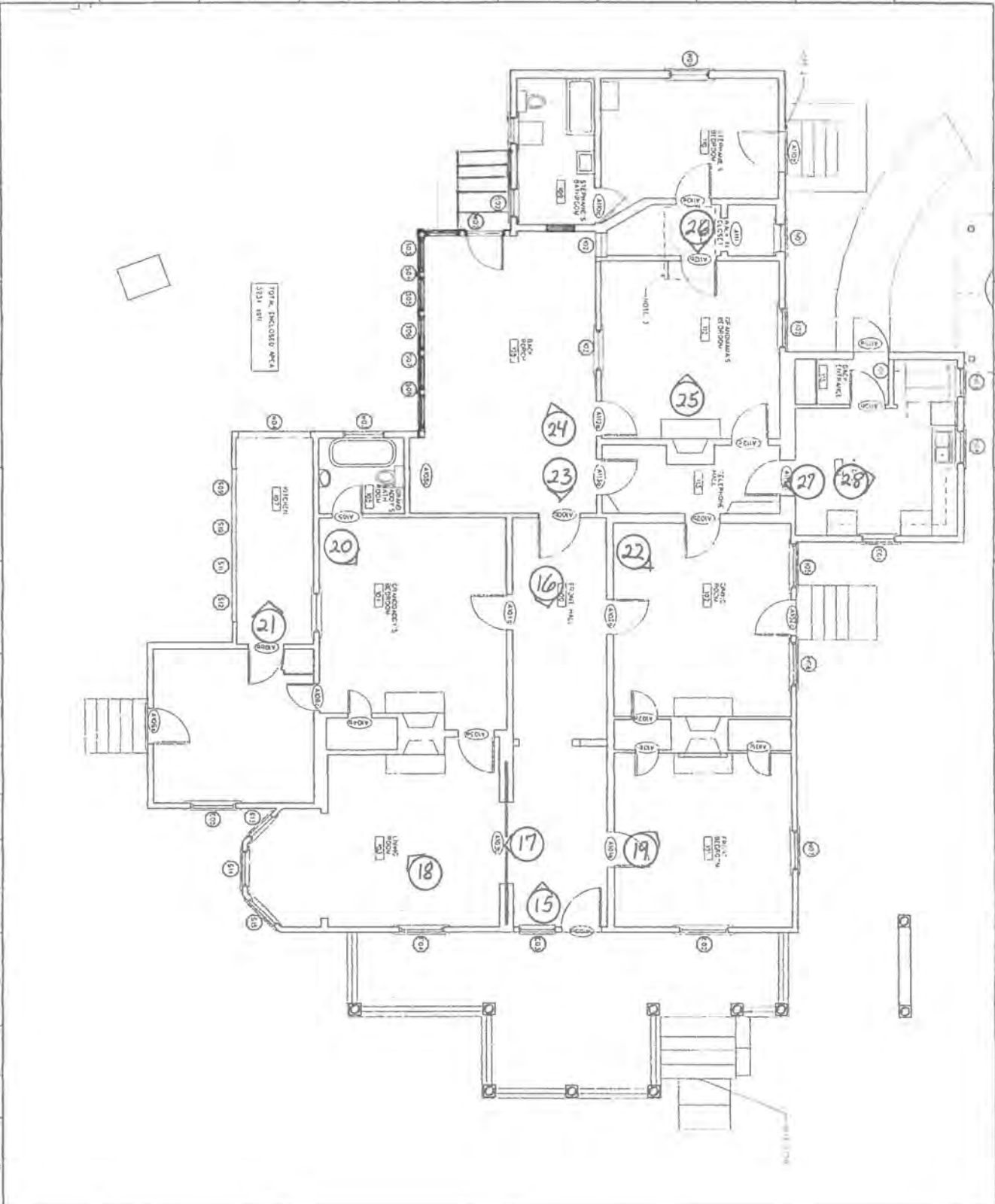
Name of Property

Jones County, Georgia

County and State

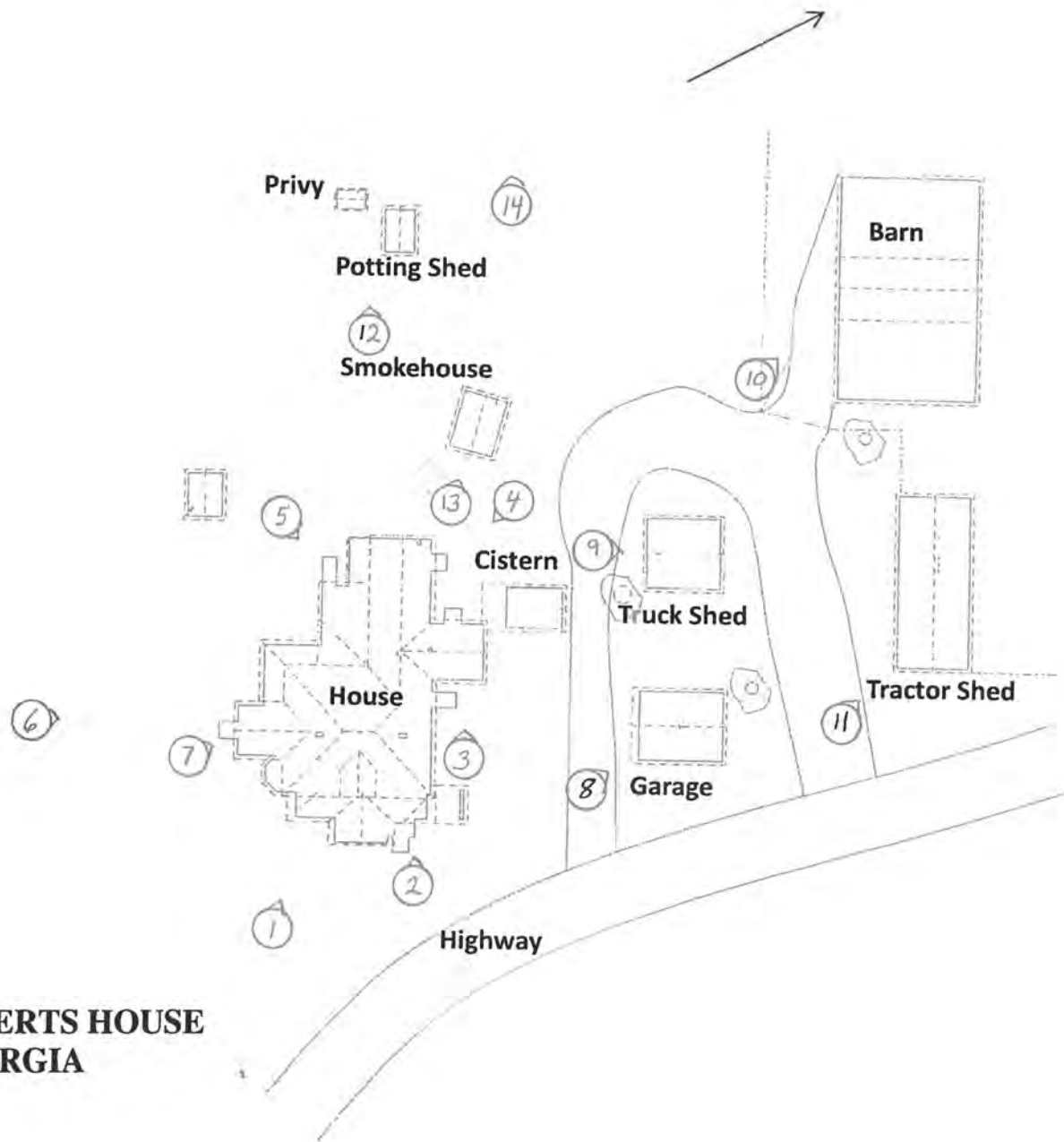
- 23 of 28. Original back door. Photographer facing east.
- 24 of 28. Back porch/now den. Photographer facing west.
- 25 of 28. C.1897 house/now bedroom. Photographer facing west.
- 26 of 28. C.1897 mantel/now bedroom. Photographer facing east.
- 27 of 28. Telephone hall/back hallway. Photographer facing south.
- 28 of 28. Kitchen. Photographer facing north.





SHEET SPECIFIC NOTES 1. SEE SHEET A101 FOR LOCATION OF FOUNDATION WALLS	SHEET NO. 1 MAIN FLOOR PLAN
	DATE: 09/18/2010 DRAWN BY: JAS
PROJECT NAME: Roberts Home Place LOCATION: Gray, Georgia	SHEET NO. A101

**ROBERTS-BUSH-ROBERTS HOUSE**  
**JONES COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**FLOOR PLAN**  
 NORTH: ↗  
 PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: ↗




**ROBERTS-BUSH-ROBERTS HOUSE  
 JONES COUNTY, GEORGIA  
 SITE PLAN**

NORTH: ↗

SCALE: Not to Scale

PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: (#)



**ROBERTS-BUSH-ROBERTS HOUSE**  
**JONES COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**NATIONAL REGISTER TAX MAP**  
**NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY**   
NORTH: ↑  
SCALE: 1 inch = 833 feet  
SOURCE: Jones County qpublic



**Roberts-Bush-Roberts House**

Jones County

- 1: 33.015987 -83.534777
- 2: 33.015896 -83.532604
- 3: 33.012559 -83.531601
- 4: 33.010957 -83.533725

Bing Maps

# ROBERTS-BUSH-ROBERTS HOUSE JONES COUNTY, GEORGIA

**LORD  
AECK  
SARGENT**

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LordAeckSargent.com  
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REVISION

**GENERAL NOTES**

A THROUGHOUT THE YARD, TOO NUMEROUS TO NOTE SWEET AUTUMN CLEMATIS, HUNDREDS OF SPRING FLOWERING BULBS, NARCISUS, DAFFODILS, HYACINTHS, HONEYSUCKLE, PERIWINKLE, IRIS, LILLIES, ROSES AND LIRIOPE.

**LEGEND**

- EVERGREEN TREE
- PLANTING
- PLANTING
- DECIDUOUS TREE
- DECIDUOUS TREE
- APPROXIMATE AREA BOUNDARY

**SHEET SPECIFIC NOTES**

KEY PLAN	SEAL	ISSUE DATE 12/05/14
		JOB NO. 28071-00
		DWG. NO. A100

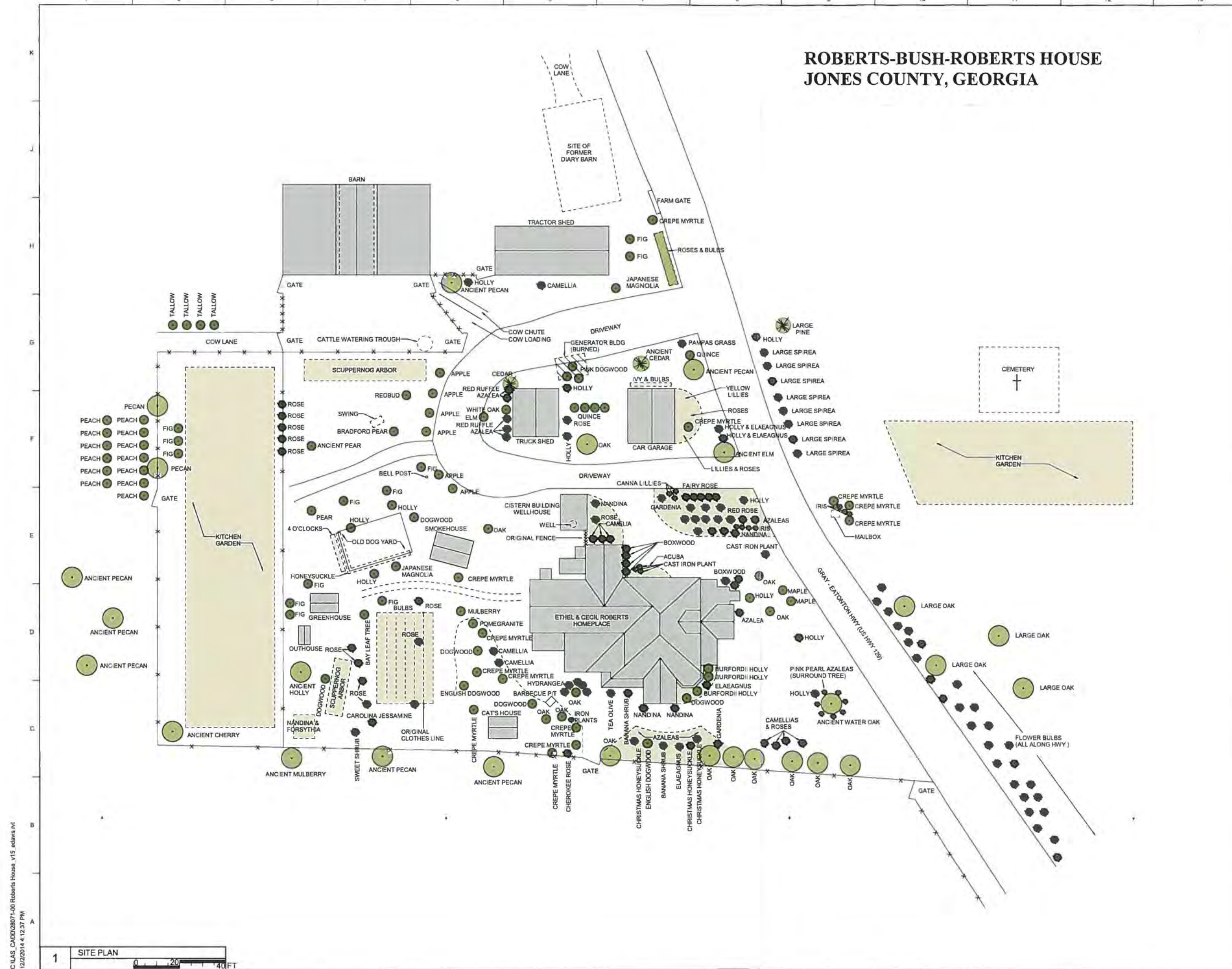
SHEET TITLE  
**SITE PLAN**

JOB NAME  
STEPHANIE PARKER & JAMES C. NOBLES

ROBERTS HOUSE

LOCATION  
157 EATONTON HWY

**NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION**



C:\LAS\_CADD\28071-00\Roberts House\_v15\_edava.rvt  
12/2/2014 4:12:37 PM

1 SITE PLAN



SCALE (INCH) 1"=20'  
1"=40'





157

















NO SMOKING













































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Roberts--Bush--Roberts House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: GEORGIA, Jones

DATE RECEIVED: 5/15/15      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/09/15  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/24/15      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/30/15  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000361

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    6-30-15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

MARK WILLIAMS  
COMMISSIONER

DR. DAVID CRASS  
DIVISION DIRECTOR

May 11, 2015

RECEIVED 2280

MAY 15 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

J. Paul Loether  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" (Eye) Street, N.W. 8th floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disks contain the true and correct copies of the nominations for the **Roberts-Bush-Roberts House in Jones County, Georgia** to the National Register of Historic Places.

- Disk of National Register of Historic Places nomination form and maps as a pdf
- Disk with digital photo images
- Physical signature page
- Original USGS topographic map(s)
- Sketch map(s)/attachment(s)
- Correspondence
- Other:

COMMENTS:

- Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
- This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- The enclosed owner objection(s) do  do not  constitute a majority of property owners.
- Special considerations:

Sincerely,

Lynn Speno  
National Register Specialist

Enclosures