

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 Marsh-Warthen House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number North Main Street
city, town LaFayette () vicinity of
county Walker code GA 295
state Georgia code GA zip code 30728

() not for publication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:	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
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 Clowes
Signature of certifying official

11-23-04
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 1-12-05

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

Current Functions:

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

MID-19TH CENTURY/GREEK REVIVAL
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/COLONIAL REVIVAL
OTHER/GEORGIAN HOUSE

Materials:

foundation	Brick
walls	Wood/Weatherboard
roof	Asphalt
other	N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Marsh-Warthen House is located just north of downtown LaFayette, the county seat of Walker County, in northwest Georgia. It was the home of Spencer Marsh, a prominent local citizen, his family and his descendants from c.1836 until 1989.

The Marsh-Warthen House (photograph 1) was constructed c.1836-1837. It is a wood-framed two-story Georgian-type house on a brick pier foundation that was later infilled. The house is covered with weatherboard, with flush board under the porch, and has an asphalt shingle roof. It exhibits features of the early 19th century Greek Revival style and the early 20th century Colonial Revival style. The character-defining features associated with the Greek Revival style include a low-pitched hipped roof, full-width porch supported by prominent square Doric columns, symmetrical front façade, and a front door surrounded by narrow sidelights and a rectangular line of transom lights above. The Colonial Revival features, which were added to the house c.1935, include gabled roof dormers and a roof balustrade (rebuilt in the 1990s) that were added in the early 20th century. Other features include eave brackets under the porch roof, six-over-six double-hung-sash windows, a second-floor balcony over the entrance on the front façade, and two interior chimneys. The front (south) façade (photographs 1, 2, 3, and 31), which faces the side yard, is five bays wide and features a double entry door with a transom and sidelights (photographs 9 and 10). The second floor of the front façade features a balcony above the entrance door (photograph 9). The door leading to the balcony from the second floor central hall also features a transom and sidelights (photographs 9 and 20). The west façade (photographs 6 and 7) features four windows on each floor and faces the street. The rear (north) façade (photographs 5 and 6) echoes the fenestration of the front façade. The one-

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story entrance porch (photograph 5) is one-bay wide and is supported by Ionic columns with terra cotta capitals. According to family history this porch replaced an earlier smaller porch. The double-door entrance has the same sidelight and transom configuration as the front doors. The early-20th century dormers are featured on this façade (photographs 5 and 6). A wooden ramp was added to this façade of the house in the 1990s to allow handicap access to the first floor. The east façade (photographs 2, 3, 4, and 5) has two additions. The first, a two-story addition (photographs 4 and 5), was constructed c.1895 to 1910, and is connected to the northeast corner of the original house. The second addition (photograph 3) is a one-story porch that has been enclosed. It was constructed in the early 20th century on the south end of the east façade.

The interior of the house is laid out in a Georgian plan. The entrance doors open into a central hall that runs the length of the house with two equal-sized rooms on each side of the hall. Each pair of rooms shares a chimney (see enclosed floor plans). The original stairs are located in the central hall and feature simple, turned balusters, a large tapered newel post, and an ornamental wave-like design along the side. The first floor hall also features 12-inch baseboards and wood crown molding. Floors on the first floor are oak, which was laid over the original pine floors c.1920 to 1940s. Walls and ceilings are plaster. Walls are painted or wallpapered. Doors leading into the four first-floor rooms feature three vertical panels over one horizontal panel.

The living room (photograph 13) features windows with architrave trim with a rectangular offset at the top center and offset, decorative corner blocks; 10 ½-inch baseboards; and simple wood crown molding. Door surrounds are simple. The fireplace has been reopened. The mantel is not historically associated with house and the marble hearth pad was laid in the 1990s. A half-bath was added between the living room and the dining room in the 1940s.

The parlor windows feature trim with keystone-like projections at the center and corners and wood panels beneath windows (photograph 14). Baseboards are similar to the living room baseboards and door surrounds are simple. The fireplace is brick with a gilded mantelshelf. A cast-iron coal insert sits on a hearth pad of Victorian embossed, majolica-type ceramic tile.

The first floor bedroom windows (photograph 15) have same trim and offsets as those in the dining room. The room features 7-inch baseboards and a chair rail. The room includes a coal-burning fireplace with cast-iron insert. Although not original to the house, the mantel, which features a bracketed shelf and fleur-de-lis and foliated design motifs, is historic. The fireplace surround and hearth pad are Victorian embossed, majolica-type ceramic tile of torch, ribbon, and foliage designs. There is a closet on each side of the fireplace with two-panel double-doors.

The dining room (photographs 16 and 17) features windows with architrave trim with top center and corner offsets. Baseboards are 11 ½ inches in height, and the crown molding is vinyl and was installed in the 1990s. The fireplace was reopened and a reproduction mantel, fireplace surround, and hearth pad were installed in the 1990s. A built-in cupboard was replaced by a set of paneled double-doors that leads to the east side addition.

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The second floor plan has the same Georgian-plan arrangement. The stair leads to a central hall that runs the length of the house with two equal-sized rooms on each side of the hall. Each pair of rooms shares a chimney. Floors on the second floor are pine. Walls and ceilings are plaster. Walls are painted or wallpapered. Doors leading into the four second-floor rooms feature two vertical panels over one horizontal panel. Door surrounds are simple.

The central hall (photograph 19) features a stairway that leads to the attic and was installed c.1880 to 1890 along with a paneled door to the attic. The attic was also partially floored at this time. The newel post and balusters are square. The hall also has 13-inch baseboards and vinyl crown molding that was installed in the 1990s. One interesting feature of the central hall is the two built-in, paint-decorated wardrobes at south end of hall (photographs 19, 20, 21; and attachment 1). These wardrobes were installed c.1850 to 1880.

The bathroom located at north end of the second-floor hall (photograph 19) was added c.1905 to 1915. The partition wall separating the bathroom from the hall is beaded board as is the floor. The bathroom features a paneled door, a raised floor, and a built-in linen closet.

The four second-floor rooms all served as bedrooms and all share the following features: 7-inch baseboards, chair rail, simple architrave trim around doors, and windows with architrave trim and plain corner blocks (photographs 22, 25, 26, and 27).

The bedroom located in the southeast corner of the second floor (photograph 22) includes a fireplace with a rectangular opening framed by paneled pilasters, a plain frieze, and a simple mantel shelf with a center offset, a plastered fireplace surround, and an old brick hearth. This bedroom also features grain painting on all wood surfaces with the exception of the floor (photographs 22, 23, and 24).

The southwest bedroom (photograph 25) features a fireplace historically modified for coal burning with a cast-iron coal insert. The mantel is similar to the ones located in the first-floor bedroom and the second-floor northwest bedroom, but may not be historically associated with house.

The bedroom located in the northwest corner of the second floor (photograph 26) also has a fireplace historically modified for coal burning with cast-iron insert and grate. The mantel and fireplace surround are the same as the first-floor bedroom with embossed, majolica-type ceramic tile for fireplace surround and hearth pad. A double-door closet is located on each side of the fireplace. This bedroom also features crown molding.

The fireplace in the northeast bedroom (photograph 27) was historically altered for coal burning with cast iron insert. The fireplace surround and hearth pad are clay tile, and the mantle is simple and the same as the one located in the southeast bedroom. A closet is located on each side of fireplace. Vinyl crown molding was installed in the 1990s. A four-panel door with a transom, located in the original location of a window, leads to the east side addition. This room also has the unusual feature of a grain-painted floor (photograph 28 and attachment 2).

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The two-story addition, which was constructed c.1895 to 1910, was added by Spencer Marsh Warthen (Spencer Marsh's grandson) to provide a kitchen on the first floor and servants' quarters in the unfinished space on the second floor. According to family history, the kitchen was originally located in the basement of the main house, and food was brought upstairs by a dumb waiter. There is a basement area under the two east rooms of the original portion of the house. There is no visible evidence of a kitchen or a dumb waiter. Original walls and ceilings in the addition are beaded board (photographs 18 and 29). The walls and ceilings are painted on the first floor (photograph 18) and unfinished on the second floor (photograph 29). The stairway in the addition features chamfered newel posts and turned balusters. Trim consists of fluted door and window surrounds with bull's eye corner blocks. The first-floor contains two built-in cupboards (photographs 18 and 29). The first floor contains a kitchen, which was updated for commercial use in the 1990s. The second floor, previously unfinished, was converted into a dressing room and bathroom in the 1990s.

According to the 1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance Company Map, there were several outbuildings on the property, including a smokehouse, a carriage house, a well house, and others. These buildings were lost due to fire or demolition between the 1940s and the 1980s. There is an octagonal-shaped patio on the property (photograph 4, right), northeast of the house, which was constructed in the 1990s. There is historic archaeological potential due to the existence at one time of six or more secondary buildings in close proximity to the house, and Civil War activities on property are likely. At the time of this nomination, no archaeological investigation has been undertaken.

Landscaping on the property includes a grass lawn, a brick walkway, and a gravel driveway. Mature trees on the property include magnolia, oak, maple, and cottonwood. Foundation plantings present include azaleas, globe amaranths, privet, boxwoods, and hollies, some planted recently, and ivy groundcover. No evidence of historic landscaping beyond the mature trees is visible on the property.

The Marsh-Warthen House is surrounded by residential and commercial development. On the north is a small vacant lot, with residential development beyond; on the east is residential and commercial development; on the south is the Chattooga Academy property (listed in the National Register of Historic Places on February 15, 1980), and the recently developed Joe Stock Memorial Park; and on the west (across North Main Street) is nonhistoric commercial development (a shopping center).

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
Exploration and Settlement
Social History

Period of Significance:

c.1836-c.1935

Significant Dates:

c.1836-Construction date of the house
c.1895-1910-Construction date of additions to house
c.1935-date of Colonial Revival features

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Spencer Marsh

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Statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Marsh-Warthen House, built by Spencer Marsh, is an early Greek Revival-style home in northwest Georgia. It is significant in the area of architecture as an excellent and intact example of a Georgian-type house with original Greek Revival-style and later Colonial Revival-style details. According to Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in their Landscaped Settings, a statewide context, the Georgian house was popular in Georgia's towns and cities beginning in the early years of the 19th century well into the 20th century. The Greek Revival style, also found more often in towns and cities, was popular from the 1840s through the 1860s and was the first style to appear statewide in Georgia. The Marsh-Warthen house is thus a very early example of the new Greek Revival style of architecture on what was at the time the Georgia frontier. It retains many of its original stylistic features including overall symmetrical massing, low hipped roof, central-hall plan, and architectural details including prominent square Doric columns and a front door surrounded by narrow sidelights and a rectangular line of transom lights above. Due to the known presence of African-American slaves on the property, the early construction date of the house, and the tradition of using slave labor in the antebellum period in Georgia, it is highly likely that Mr. Marsh's slaves were responsible, in part or wholly, for the construction of the house. Spencer Marsh's daughter, Sarah Adaline, married Nathaniel Green Warthen in 1859. After living on a plantation in McLemore Cove (northwest of LaFayette) and retreating to the old Warthen home place in Warthen, Washington County, during the Civil War, the Warthens and their six children moved into the Marsh-Warthen House. Their son, Spencer Marsh Warthen, was responsible for the Colonial Revival elements including the roof dormers added to the house in the early 20th century and for the two additions to the house. According to Georgia's Living Places, the Colonial Revival-style elements were often simply added onto buildings of other styles. The Colonial Revival style was very popular in Georgia from the 1890s through the 1940s and later.

The house is also significant in the area of exploration and settlement. In the 18th and early 19th centuries, the Cherokee Nation inhabited the area that would later become Walker County. The removal of the Cherokee by the federal government and the Georgia Land Lottery of 1832 opened the area to white settlement. Spencer Marsh moved his family to LaFayette c.1835 from Newton County, Georgia, and became one of the pioneers of the county. The home he built c.1836-1837 is one of the few surviving houses from that period of early white settlement.

The Marsh-Warthen House is also significant in the area of social history due to Spencer Marsh's efforts to promote the welfare of the LaFayette area. As a community and business leader in LaFayette and Walker County, Marsh furthered progress in the area in many aspects of life. Mr. Marsh was a local merchant who also helped organize the Trion Factory (in Chattooga County, south of LaFayette) in 1845, one of the earliest factories in northwest Georgia. He served as an Inferior Court justice and as a state senator. He also donated the land for the Chattooga Academy (located just south of the Marsh-Warthen House and listed in the National Register on February 15, 1980) and served as a trustee for the academy and for the LaFayette Female Academy. The Marsh household was typical of those in the South during the mid-19th century. The family coexisted and interacted closely with the African-American slaves who lived on the property during the antebellum period, and

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later with the African-American servants who lived in the main house. Spencer Marsh was thus a prominent local example of the kind of enterprising pioneer who helped settle Georgia's westward-moving frontier during the late 18th and early 19th centuries through diverse contributions to the developing community's social, economic, and cultural life. His family and descendents continued to live in the house and make contributions to community life well into the 20th century.

National Register Criteria

The Marsh-Warthen House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of exploration and settlement for its early construction date and social history for the influence Spencer Marsh had on the LaFayette and Walker County area. It is also eligible for listing under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an excellent and intact example of an early Georgian-type house with Greek Revival-style and Colonial Revival-style details.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Marsh-Warthen House begins c.1836, the construction date of the house, and ends c.1935, the year in which the Colonial Revival-style elements were added to the rear of the house by Spencer Marsh Warthen.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The Marsh-Warthen House is the only contributing resource on the nominated property. There are no noncontributing resources on the property.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

****NOTE: The following history was compiled by Dan H. Latham, Jr., preservation planner at the Coosa Valley Regional Development Center, and Beverly Foster, member of the Walker County African American Historical and Alumni Association, February, 2004. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

Spencer Marsh was born in Chatham County, North Carolina, on November 25, 1799 to Sarah Stewart and William Marsh. William Marsh was a Revolutionary War soldier. Spencer Marsh's middle name, according to family history, is Stewart, but a middle name or initial has not been found historically associated with his name. Spencer Marsh married Ruth (often appears as "Rutha") Terrell Brantley (b. March 4, 1799) in Chatham County, North Carolina, on January 7, 1824. They had two sons, Edwin William (E.W.) (b. December 27, 1824) and Joseph John (b. September 30,

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1830), and two daughters, Mary Ann (b. November 18, 1827) and Emily Elizabeth (b. December 24, 1833) while in Chatham County, North Carolina.

Most accounts indicate the Marshes moved to Georgia c.1833, first locating at Covington, Newton County (southeast of Walker County), where Spencer Marsh entered the mercantile business. The old Marsh family bible records Emily Elizabeth Marsh's place of birth as Chatham County, North Carolina. If the recorded date of her birth is correct, her birth record would suggest that at least some members of the Spencer Marsh family did not migrate to Georgia until sometime after 1833. In c.1835 the Spencer Marsh family moved to Walker County, locating in the vicinity of the new county seat about the time it was being laid out. First called Chattooga, the name of the county seat was officially changed to LaFayette in December 1836. The first known evidence of Spencer Marsh being in Walker County is found in the records of the Baptist Church at LaFayette, organized June, 1835, which indicate that on April 30, 1836, "the Church in session received . . . Bro. Spencer Marsh from the Covington Church, Newton County."

According to family history, Spencer Marsh acquired property for his homestead a short distance north of the courthouse square in Chattooga (LaFayette) and Lot Nos.1 and 2 in the East Range of the town, having a frontage of 112 feet on the east side of the courthouse square, for his mercantile business. In 1836, according to local legend, he donated the land for the construction of Chattooga Academy. This brick, Federal-style building still stands 200 feet southeast of the Marsh house. The Marshes' fifth child and third daughter, Sarah Adaline, was born on November 26, 1836, in Walker County. It is the birth of Sarah Adaline that family legend associates with the construction of the present house by Spencer Marsh in c. 1836-37. In an interview on November 12, 1984, by C. M. Gilbert, Addie Augusta Wert (b.1902-d.1998), Sarah Adaline Marsh's granddaughter, stated that the Marshes lived in a smaller house on the same site for a short time before enlarging or rebuilding the earlier house. In the interview, Miss Wert stated, "I know that they moved out so that this house could be rebuilt and that was when Grandma was born, 1836. I don't know whether the house was in construction or just finished at that time." A similar account appears in a July 22, 1932, *Walker County Messenger* article about the demolition of the Dickerson House on North Main Street, an old LaFayette landmark. In providing a history of the Dickerson House, the article states, in part: ". . . Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Marsh resided in this home while the present Warthen residence was being remodeled, and during this period Mrs. N. G. Warthen was born, some 96 years ago." On August 2, 1839, the Marshes' sixth and final child and third son, James Franklin, was born.

Spencer Marsh quickly established himself as one of the leading citizens of Walker County and LaFayette. An article written by T. A. Cooper in 1892, and reprinted in James A. Sartain's History of Walker County has the following to say about the early history of LaFayette:

William Perry opened the first store in 1836. In 1837, Spencer Marsh, also David Stewart, engaged in the mercantile business there. John Caldwell opened the first hotel at LaFayette and was elected the first clerk of the county. William Fortner was the first sheriff. LaFayette was

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principally settled by Democrats, of whom Marsh, Stewart, Caldwell and Fortner were the most prominent. Perry, the first merchant, was a Whig.

Sartain's History of Walker County, in an article contributed by Captain J. Y. Wood, also states that "Spencer Marsh, John Caldwell, Samuel Fariss and some others were prominent in managing the affairs of the county." An act to incorporate the Western Bank of Georgia, to be located at Rome (south of LaFayette), approved by the General Assembly on December 23, 1836, appointed Spencer Marsh, John Caldwell, and E. G. Rogers commissioners for receiving subscriptions of 500 shares of stock in the town of Chattooga, Walker County. Spencer Marsh served as a justice of the Inferior Court of Walker County from January 20, 1837, to January 15, 1845. By an act of the General Assembly in December 1837, he was appointed a trustee of both Chattooga Academy and LaFayette Female Academy. In February 1850, an act incorporating the LaFayette Female Academy again appointed him as a trustee. He served briefly as the state senator from Walker County, being seated December 15, 1840, to complete the term of James Thompson who died in office. Often referred to as "Judge Spencer Marsh," he later served two additional terms as a justice of the Inferior Court of Walker County, from January 12, 1857, to January 10, 1861 and from March 15, 1862, until January 20, 1866.

After joining the local Baptist church in April 1836, Spencer Marsh served the church in various capacities, including assistant clerk (appointed July 2, 1836), treasurer (appointed April 1847), and clerk (December 1855-January 1858). In 1842 he was appointed to a building committee of five persons for the construction of a new house of worship to replace the log building that had been used since 1835. The new Baptist church was completed in 1845. In August 1842, Ruth Marsh was baptized by Elder Edwin Dyer, pastor of the Baptist Church at LaFayette. Spencer Marsh had been baptized on September 2, 1832, by Elder Noah Richardson, pastor of Reeve's Chapel in Chatham County, North Carolina. The Marshes contributed generously to the support of missions and a pastor, and to supply the needs of the poor, both in the church and community. In his will, Spencer Marsh left, in trust, \$1,250 in city or state bonds, the interest thereon to be paid to the deacons of the LaFayette Baptist Church for the support of a pastor.

On October 12, 1845, three Walker County businessmen, Andrew P. Allgood, Spencer Marsh, and William K. Briers, organized Trion Factory. The first cotton mill in northwest Georgia, it was built on the Chattooga River, in Chattooga County, 11.5 miles south of LaFayette. Trion Factory began production in 1847, and George White, in Historical Collections of Georgia (1854), states that the two-story, 114-foot by 44-foot factory had 864 spindles and 10 looms and employed 45 operatives. Andrew Perry Allgood was Spencer Marsh's son-in-law, having married Mary Ann Marsh on June 21, 1842. The Allgoods located at Trion Factory, where A. P. Allgood served as president of the company.

Emily Elizabeth, second daughter of the Marshes, died on November 23, 1847, at the age of 13 years. In 1850 the Spencer Marsh household consisted of Spencer and Ruth; sons, Edwin, Joseph, and James; and daughter, Sarah Adaline. One unrelated male also lived in the home. Edwin worked in his father's dry goods store, and Joseph was a medical student. According to the slave census for

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1850, Spencer Marsh owned 12 slaves. Seven of these slaves were adults, ages 25 to 35; and five were children, ages 4 to 16. An estimated value of Spencer Marsh's slaves would have been \$16,000. The sixteen-year-old child, a male mulatto, is believed to have been Wiley Marsh, who according to oral history was Spencer Marsh's son. The birth of Wiley Marsh (c. 1834-35) is often quoted in oral histories as the first African-American birth recorded by whites in the LaFayette area of Walker County.

Due to a lack of good transportation facilities to support his business interests in Chattooga and Walker Counties, Spencer Marsh became one of the leading promoters of a railroad into or through the area. An act of the Georgia General Assembly approved in January, 1852 appointed him a commissioner at LaFayette for receiving subscriptions of shares of stock of the Coosa and Chattooga River Railroad Company. This company proposed to construct a railroad from the state road at or near Ringgold, Catoosa County, to the state line of Alabama, through Walker and Chattooga Counties. In March, 1856, he was involved in the incorporation of the Look-Out Rail Road Company, which proposed to construct a railroad from some point on the Western & Atlantic Railroad in Catoosa County to LaFayette in Walker County. Neither effort was successful.

On February 23, 1857, William K. Briers sold his one-fourth interest in Trion Factory to A. P. Allgood. From that point, Spencer Marsh and A. P. Allgood each owned an undivided one-half interest in the land and realty of Trion Factory, and the factory operated under the name of Marsh & Allgood.

The decade of the 1850s saw the death or dispersal of the remaining Marsh children. Edwin William Marsh moved to Chattanooga in 1852, after working in his father's LaFayette store for ten years. In 1853 he formed a partnership with William Adolphus Moore, and they conducted a general dry goods and family grocery business at Chattanooga under the name of Moore & Marsh. On May 17, 1853, E.W. Marsh married Adelaide L. Batts in Covington, Georgia. James Franklin Marsh, the Marshes' third son, died on November 24, 1855, at the age of 16 years. Joseph John Marsh married Florida Taul (b. June 7, 1835) in Talladega County, Alabama, on January 16, 1856, and settled in Catoosa County, Georgia, where he practiced medicine. Sarah Adaline Marsh married Nathaniel Green Warthen in LaFayette on February 15, 1859. Born in Washington County, Georgia, on August 25, 1825, Nathaniel Green Warthen was the first of twelve children of Richard Holliday Warthen and Nancy Faulk Wicker Warthen. On June 1, 1860, Nathaniel Green and Sarah Adaline Warthen lived in the Richard Warthen home in Washington County. According to the 1860 census, Nathaniel G. Warthen was a merchant with a personal estate valued at \$18,133. His father, Richard Warthen (1794-1861), was a wealthy, Washington County farmer, owning real estate valued at \$34,300 and having a personal estate valued at \$112,900.

Spencer Marsh, likewise, was one of his county's wealthiest and most influential citizens. According to the 1860 census, Spencer Marsh owned real estate valued at \$35,000 and had a personal estate valued at \$73,000. The combined value of his real estate and personal estate exceeded every other individual in Walker County. According to the 1860 agricultural census, Spencer Marsh's LaFayette farm contained 200 improved and 1,300 unimproved acres and had a cash value of \$19,000. His livestock, valued at \$700, included 4 mules, 2 milk cows, 5 other cattle, and 30 swine. Produce

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harvested for the year ending June 1, 1860, included 60 bushels of wheat, 100 bushels of oats, and 800 bushels of corn.

Spencer Marsh owned eight slaves in Walker County on June 1, 1860. Seven of those slaves were adults, ages 22 or older, and one was a child, age 10. An estimated value of these slaves would have been \$15,000. There were two slave houses (nonextant) on his property in LaFayette. According to family history, the slave houses were located east of the Marsh house. The slave believed to be Wiley Marsh was not listed among Spencer Marsh's LaFayette, Walker County slaves in 1860. It is believed that Wiley Marsh may have been enslaved at Marsh & Allgood's Trion factory or the associated farm acreage in Chattooga County by Spencer Marsh or his daughter and son-in-law, Mary A. and A. P. Allgood. Another possibility is that he had been manumitted at the age of 21 (c. 1855-56).

In c.1862 the N. G. Warthen family moved from Washington County to Walker County and located on a farm in McLemore Cove, nine miles north of LaFayette (between Pond Spring and Rock Springs). A daughter, Mary Marsh Warthen, was born on May 14, 1861, and on January 8, 1863, a second daughter, Claremonde (Clara) Richard, was born. Nathaniel Green Warthen and his brother, Thomas Warthen (1829-92), apparently inherited this farm from their uncle, James Wicker, and each owned an undivided half interest. Thomas had operated the farm prior to enlisting in Company I, 60th Georgia Infantry Regiment in the spring of 1862. Thomas and Nathaniel Green appear to have operated a store on their Cove farm, as several Civil War-period maps show a "Worthen's Store" at that location.

During the early months of the Civil War, Spencer Marsh's sons both contributed to the Southern cause. Joseph John, the younger son, enlisted as a private with Company G of the 36th Georgia Infantry, which was organized at Tunnel Hill and mustered in on January 20, 1862. According to the Georgia Compiled Service Records, he was absent with leave on sick furlough in Georgia in July, 1862. It appears he later may have taken advantage of his medical training to attain the post of assistant surgeon. Meanwhile, Edwin W. Marsh, Spencer Marsh's older son, who had become a prominent merchant on Chattanooga's Market Street prior to the war, contributed to the Confederate cause by supplying uniforms and completely equipping the company organized by Francis Marion Walker, mustered into service as Company 1 of the 19th Tennessee Infantry. Spencer Marsh, likewise, contributed to the war effort by donating the uniforms for a Walker County company of 125 men raised by G. G. Gordon.

At Trion Factory, the proprietors, Marsh & Allgood, took steps for local defense. Like many other mill communities in Georgia and the South, Trion Factory armed itself. By July 1863, Marsh & Allgood had a guard consisting of several hundred men from Chattooga and Walker Counties divided into eight companies.

The Civil War period from September 1863 until the end of the war, and for some time thereafter, was very disruptive for Walker County and the Marshes. By mid-August 1863, nearby Chattanooga, Tennessee, had become an objective of Union military operations; and on August 16, Union General

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William S. Rosecrans, commanding the Army of the Cumberland, began a movement from middle Tennessee toward Chattanooga. While a small Union force demonstrated along the northern banks of the Tennessee River above Chattanooga, Rosecrans crossed his army over the Tennessee River at several points far to the south. After crossing, the Union troops moved eastward in three widely spaced columns to threaten the supply line of the Confederate Army of Tennessee, encamped at Chattanooga. The center column of the Union army was to cross the Raccoon-Sand Mountain range and concentrate at Trenton before proceeding toward LaFayette via Johnson's Crook, while the right column was to move toward Alpine and Summerville, in Chattooga County. During September 7 and 8, a Union division (Negley's) moved through Johnson's Crook and seized Cooper's and Stevens' Gaps, overlooking McLemore Cove. Realizing the danger Rosecrans' advance posed to his army's rear, Confederate commander Braxton Bragg abandoned Chattanooga on September 8. The Army of Tennessee marched toward LaFayette, where Bragg decided to concentrate in hopes of striking a blow to the Union forces.

It was about this time that the Marsh family members in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and Walker and Chattooga Counties, Georgia, and many of their neighbors abandoned their homes and businesses to flee southward. Moore & Marsh, after conducting business at Chattanooga for ten years, discontinued business, and the partners fled to Georgia. Edwin W. Marsh went directly to Atlanta where he purchased an interest in The Southern Confederacy newspaper. Likewise, the approach of the Union army caused N. G. and Sarah A. Warthen to abandon their home in McLemore Cove and flee with their infant daughters to N. G. Warthen's old family home at Warthen, Washington County. Spencer and Ruth Marsh and A. P. and Mary A. Allgood and family fled LaFayette and Trion, respectively, for Cassville, Georgia (southeast of LaFayette).

On September 16, 1863, Spencer Marsh wrote to his daughter, Sarah A. Warthen, from Cassville, stating that they had left home one week earlier (September 9th), the day a large body of Bragg's army arrived at LaFayette. He continued as follows:

We have just heard that the smokehouse, store and Factory were all gutted, taking all our bacon, lard, molasses, yarn and a large amount of goods in store. I presume from what I hear, we have not left one bushel of corn in ten miles of Trion nor nothing else in the way of eatables. I am much pleased to tell you the Factory is still standing, yet it has been published through the papers that it was destroyed. I want you to write me by first mail and tell me how you and Mr. Warthen got through. From what I learn the most of our old neighbors are gone to parts unknown. Suppose they have all come South. I have this evening heard the Yanks were leaving Walker. If so, I must be on the road home tomorrow.

In a postscript, he stated the following: "We did not bring out anything with us except the buggy and Charlot and Clinton. All my mules having been stole before I left home, so I have one mule only." The slave referred to as "Charlot" is believed to be Aunt Charlotte Wilson (later, married name) who died in Chattanooga in May 1918 at the age of "past eighty." She was an aunt of Ed Marsh and

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Carrie Goree, two of Wiley Marsh's children. Whether she and Wiley Marsh were actual siblings or whether they became "relatives" due to close association during enslavement is uncertain. Her obituary states, in part: "When a child, she was brought as a slave by Spencer Marsh, Mrs. S. A. Warthen's father, and to the end of her life, was devoted to her young mistress and all her 'folks'."

The whereabouts of Spencer and Ruth Marsh after September 16, 1863, are uncertain. It is unlikely that Spencer Marsh returned home the following day. The reports of the Federal forces leaving Walker County were inaccurate, and two days later, the great Battle of Chickamauga raged 12 miles north of LaFayette. From late 1863 until the end of the war, the LaFayette area of Walker County was a lawless "no man's land" with a sporadic Federal presence. On June 24, 1864, Spencer Marsh's house and store building were reputedly damaged during military actions and engagements at LaFayette. In the years following the Civil War, Spencer Marsh was in Chattooga County at the Trion factory.

According to family legend, the Spencer Marshes did not return home until after the war. They found their house rudely treated, with numerous bullets lodged in the outer walls, blood stains on the floor, and hoof marks from Federal cavalry horses in the hallway. They totally restored the house except for one second-story windowpane that a bullet had passed through. It was left unrepaired as a reminder that the house had survived the war. Mary Gordon, who moved to LaFayette in 1848 with her husband, Doctor G. G. Gordon, had the following to say about the town of LaFayette at this time: "After the war everybody was bankrupt. A great many had refugeed, and a great many, like me, had lost everything except their children and a little piece of land. There was scarcely a whole house in the town, everything torn up."

The N. G. Warthens, meanwhile, remained at Warthen, Washington County, for the remainder of the war. In "Reminiscences of a Refugee," Sarah A. (Mrs. N. G.) Warthen wrote that, "My husband's immediate family contributed a generous quota to the Confederate cause. Five of the six sons were in the active and continuous service, the sixth, my husband, being commissioned by the government as commissary agent, besides having in charge large plantations and about one hundred and twenty negroes."

The 1864 census for reorganizing the Georgia militia does show Nathaniel G. Warthen exempt from service as an overseer in the 96th militia district of Washington County. While at the old homestead in Washington County, the Warthens witnessed the passing of "the carriage containing President Davis and his attendants after his arrest" in May 1865. Two months later, on July 13, a son, Spencer Marsh Warthen, was born.

Shortly thereafter, the Warthens returned to Walker County. Describing their return home, Sarah A. Warthen wrote that "our home in McLemore's cove was desolated. The furniture and household goods which had been left carefully stored, had been taken and all that remained of a most excellent library was an almanac."

Little is known about the Spencer Marshes and the N. G. Warthens during the years immediately after the Civil War, although one source places Spencer Marsh in Chattooga County at the Trion

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Factory in the years following the war. It is not known if Spencer Marsh resumed the operation of his store at LaFayette for a time after the war. The 1870 census indicates he was a retired dry goods merchant. His household in June 1870 consisted of only himself, his wife, Rutha, and a 13-year-old black female domestic servant, Clarissa Hall. At this time, N. G. and Sarah A. Warthen and family continued to reside in the northeastern section of McLemore Cove, on the 890-acre farm that N. G. Warthen operated and owned jointly with Thomas Warthen.

Shortly after the war, Edwin W. Marsh, reestablished his partnership with William A. Moore at Atlanta; and under the name of Moore, Marsh and Company, they established a wholesale dry goods and notion house that soon became the largest establishment of its kind south of Baltimore. On May 25, 1868, Edwin wrote his father, Spencer Marsh, about his and W. A. Moore's plans to build a new store in Atlanta at a cost of \$18,000 to \$20,000 and inquired about his father's interest in providing much of the capital. It is not known if Spencer Marsh provided capital for the construction of his son's new wholesale house, but regardless, a magnificent building (nonextant) was constructed at Decatur and Pryor Streets. E. W. Marsh's wife, Adelaide, died at LaFayette on August 3, 1866; and on October 20, 1868, he married Achsah F. Turner at LaGrange, Georgia. In June 1870, E. W. Marsh lived in Atlanta's Fourth Ward. He had three sons and a daughter by his first wife and a daughter by his second wife. He owned real estate valued at \$35,000 and had a personal estate valued at \$75,000. By 1881 the constantly increasing business of Moore, Marsh & Company required enlarged quarters, so a new building (nonextant) was constructed at Pryor Street and Edgewood Avenue "said to be the best adapted to its business in various departments south of New York or Philadelphia." W. A. Moore died in c. 1890 and E. W. Marsh continued the business for a short time under the name of Marsh & Smith before disposing of his interest in the concern in c. 1895. He then gave his attention to other business interests, including those of the Bowden Lithia Springs Company. He was a director of the board of the Trion Manufacturing Company in 1878-79, and he served continuously in that capacity from 1888 until his death on October 7, 1900. From 1895 until his death, he was also vice-president of Trion Manufacturing Company.

Spencer Marsh's younger son, Doctor Joseph J. Marsh, and his wife, Florida, lived in the Chambers District of Catoosa County in June 1870. The J. J. Marshes had a four-year-old daughter, Mary, born in Alabama shortly after the war. No longer a property owner, as he had been in 1860, Doctor Marsh and family lived in the household of Thomas T. Napier. Shortly thereafter, the J. J. Marshes moved to Walker County and located on 480 acres owned by Spencer Marsh in the West Armuchee District. Doctor Marsh eventually inherited this property from his father and resided there until his death on November 29, 1885.

Wiley Marsh, according to the 1870 census, was living in District 870, Trion Factory Post Office, Chattooga County. According to the census, he was 35 years old, a house carpenter, and could apparently read and write. His mulatto complexion was such that many people assumed he was white, including the 1870 census enumerator. Living in his household were Milly Penn Marsh, his wife (age 30), and six children (five born before 1865). Wiley Marsh was an accomplished farmer and a skilled carpenter. He and his sons built many houses, churches, and other buildings in the African-American communities of Chattooga and Walker Counties. By 1880 Wiley Marsh had

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returned to LaFayette. At that time, in addition to his wife, Milly, there were six children living in his household, including a son, Spencer, age 9. Combining the 1870 and 1880 census suggests that he had at least eight to ten children. Wiley Marsh was an associate of Reverend George Washington Wheeler, who started the North Georgia Baptist Association in 1870. In the 1880s, Wiley Marsh, through his association with Rev. Wheeler, whom he probably met during enslavement in Chattooga County, became a preacher. Wiley Marsh, Rev. Wheeler, and a Rev. Bryant started Scuffle-Nuffle Church in the Peavine community in 1885 (later Friendship Missionary Church in Chickamauga). Reverend Wiley Marsh was a minister at Happy Home Missionary Baptist Church in LaFayette and at Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church in Naomi. He died on November 24, 1895.

Though retired as a merchant, Spencer Marsh appears to have remained active as a partner in the firm of Marsh & Allgood to promote the interests of Trion Factory. In February 1869, he and A. P. Allgood were two of the incorporators of the Trion Railroad Company, which proposed to build a railroad from Trion Factory through LaFayette to connect to the Western & Atlantic somewhere near Ringgold, Georgia. In December 1871, the Trion Railroad Company consolidated with the Chattanooga Coal and Iron Railroad Company, to be known as the Chattanooga and Walker Coal and Iron Railway Company. Marsh and Allgood incorporated the Trion Telegraph Company in March 1874 to construct a magnetic telegraph line between Rome, Floyd County, and Trion Factory. Work was to commence by January 1875; but in April 1875, Trion Factory was completely destroyed by fire.

The factory, at the time of the fire, apparently had been greatly enlarged since the early 1850s. Reports of the incident (probable incendiarism) indicate the main building was then four stories in height. The Rome Tri-Weekly Courier described the loss as follows: "This factory was one of the best in the South, and its destruction is a great calamity, that will be felt not alone by the owners and 200 or 300 hands that are turned out of employment, but also by the citizens generally of two or three counties."

The property was insured in several companies for a total of \$50,000, but the loss was estimated at \$150,000 and fell equally upon Spencer Marsh and his son-in-law, A. P. Allgood.

Preparations for rebuilding began almost immediately, and on May 4, 1875, a joint stock company with a capital stock of \$225,000 was formed to rebuild Trion Factory under the name of Trion Manufacturing Company. A board of five directors was elected, as follows: A. P. Allgood, Spencer Marsh, A. R. Steele, C. C. Cleghorn, and W. H. Penn. A. P. Allgood was elected president and general manager, and G. B. Meyers, secretary and treasurer. Spencer Marsh, as one of the firm of Marsh & Allgood, became a major stockholder in Trion Manufacturing Company. The stock subscribed and taken by him was \$37,500 (375 shares) and was to be paid for in real and personal property--an undivided one-half interest in the Trion Factory land (3,875 acres) and realty.

Less than seven months later, on November 30, 1875, Spencer Marsh died. Notice of his death in the December 2, 1875, issue of The Rome Tri-Weekly Courier gives no details of his life but does suggest his significance: "We regret to learn of the demise of Judge Spencer Marsh, one of the

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oldest and best citizens of North Georgia who died at his residence at LaFayette Tuesday night at 9 o'clock. Judge Marsh had been long prominently before the people as one of the most substantial and enterprising men, and by his business sagacity and lavish wealth had done more to develop the industrial resources of his section than perhaps any other man in it."

His will of October 21, 1875, had the following to say about the disposition of his home place: "I give my said wife during her natural life the house and premises whereat we now reside being eighteen acres more or less. . . . But my said daughter Sarah A. Warthen shall have her election to take my said home place and premises after the death of my said wife and account for the same at a fair valuation in the distributions hereinafter provided for."

Nathaniel Green and Sarah Adaline Marsh Warthen and family moved into the Marsh house shortly before or after Spencer Marsh's death. Family correspondence indicates the Warthens lived in the Marsh house by May 1878 and probably did so by 1876 or earlier. A third daughter, Nannie Ruth, was born to the Warthens on April 16, 1872, and on May 14, 1878, a fourth daughter, Addie Green, was born. The oldest Warthen daughter, Mary Marsh, attended Rome Female College in 1876-77.

In June 1880, the Marsh-Warthen household consisted of Nathaniel G. Warthen, farmer and head of the family; his wife, Sarah A. Warthen; four daughters, Mary M., Clara R., Nannie R., and Addie Green; one son, Spencer M.; and his mother-in-law, Ruth Marsh. Also residing in the family were four black servants and a child: Mary Tally (age 70), Martha Nash (age 60), Julia Shaw (age 35), Clinton Shaw (age 35), and Mary Jane Shaw (age 12).

Ruth T. Marsh died at LaFayette on March 25, 1881, at the age of 82. According to her obituary, she moved to LaFayette in 1835 with her husband, Spencer Marsh, and "in the relations of wife and mother, she was devoted, faithful and exemplary. Her house was known as one of more than ordinary hospitality and kindness." According to oral history, Ruth Marsh was confined to a wheel chair for much of her life in LaFayette (45 years), having broken her hip in a fall. About a year later, on April 15, 1882, a fifth daughter, Edwin (Eddie) Lee, was born to the Warthens.

In May 1883, shortly before his eighteenth birthday, Spencer Marsh Warthen purchased, for \$800 from the executors of Spencer Marsh's will, the brick store building and lots formally occupied by his grandfather and namesake, Spencer Marsh. The purchase excluded the upper story of the building that was the Masonic Lodge. In September 1883, Spencer left home to become a boarding student at Professor Neel's school at Kirkwood (five miles east of downtown Atlanta), under the watchful eye of his "Uncle Ed" (Edwin W.) Marsh. He apparently pursued his studies at Professor Neel's school until 1885 or 1886.

By 1884 the Warthens had built and had in operation a waterworks system to provide water to their home in LaFayette. According to family history, a windmill was used to pump water from a spring to the north (near today's Warthen Street) to a water tank that supplied the home place. Family correspondence often mentions the waterworks as "performing admirably," and that the "tank is full to overflowing," or that the family has "a super abundance of water."

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Nathaniel Green Warthen served as a commissioner on the Walker County Board of Commissioners, Roads and Revenue, in 1883-84, and he may have held other local elected positions in the 1880s. His primary occupation, however, was the management of Warthen Farms in McLemore Cove. The farm property had grown to 1,112 acres by the mid-1880s, and operations included crops of corn, wheat, and cotton; horse breeding; and a lumber business.

Warthen family correspondence in 1885 indicates that Spencer M. Warthen wanted to "go into business" in 1886, but his whereabouts and activities from 1886 until 1892 are somewhat uncertain. His name appears (as does his father's) as a incorporator of the Bank of LaFayette in November 1889 and as one of the incorporators of the Southern National Railroad Company in December 1890. This company proposed to build and operate a railroad from the Georgia-Tennessee line, within six miles of Chattanooga, into and through Walker and Catoosa Counties to any points of note within or without the Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Park, subject to permission and consent of the U. S. Department of War which, apparently, was never granted.

In 1892 Spencer M. Warthen entered the mercantile business in LaFayette as a partner in the firm of Patton & Warthen, formerly Patton & Jackson, which advertised as having the largest store and most complete line in Walker County. About March 1894, Aylesberry S. Sparks, who had married Mary Marsh Warthen by December 1888, moved to LaFayette and joined the firm, which then operated under the name of Patton, Warthen & Sparks. In January 1898, this firm was dissolved by mutual consent and the business continued under the firm name of Warthen & Sparks. Their large department store was located on the west side of the courthouse square, bordered on the south by Patton Street.

On March 13, 1895, Nathaniel Green Warthen died at the age of 69 years, leaving his only son, Spencer Marsh Warthen, as head of the family. At the time of his death, daughters Addie Green and Eddie Lee attended Shorter College in Rome, Georgia, from 1894 to 1896, as had older daughter Nannie Ruth. Eddie Lee Warthen also attended Anniston (Alabama) Female College, beginning in September 1898.

According to the 1900 census, the Warthen household consisted of Spencer M. Warthen; his sisters, Nannie Ruth, Addie Green, and Eddie Lee; and his mother, Addie M. (Sarah A.) Warthen, then 63 years old. The census indicates that Addie M. Warthen was the mother of eight children, six of those children living. Family history makes no mention of the birth of two other children. In addition, there were eight unrelated persons living with the family: one white boarder, and seven blacks—two adult, female servants and five children, ages eleven and under. At least five of the blacks residing with the family had the surname "Allgood"—Anna Allgood and her four children.

The Warthen's second daughter, Clara R., had married R. M. W. Glenn, an attorney, by this time. Both married daughters lived just across the road from their mother and siblings. A plat with an April 21, 1897 deed (by which Sarah A. Warthen conveyed to the United States of America 25 feet on the east side of the center line of the LaFayette or state road in Land Lot 27, 7th district, and 4th Section, north of the corporate line of the town of LaFayette, for improving the road from Lee & Gordon's Mill to the town of LaFayette) shows the A. S. Sparks and R. M. W. Glenn houses (nonextant) on the

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west side of the LaFayette Road and just northwest of the Marsh-Warthen House. The plat also shows that the Warthens had a large garden on the east side of the LaFayette Road, immediately north of their house.

On October 10, 1901, Addie Green Warthen married Wallace B. Wert, and on September 17, 1902, she gave birth to a daughter, Addie Augusta Wert. Addie Warthen Wert and her infant daughter were abandoned, and they moved back into the Marsh-Warthen House with her mother, brother, and sisters. The youngest Warthen daughter, Eddie Lee, married William A. Enloe in 1905. William A. Enloe was president of LaFayette Cotton Mills and mayor of LaFayette for 22 years. The Enloes built a house (nonextant) on the east side of the LaFayette Road, just north of the Marsh-Warthen House. Sarah A. Warthen conveyed the lot to W. A. Enloe in October 1905. Note: Sarah A. Warthen was a substantial landowner in north LaFayette and Walker County. Beginning in the 1900s, she subdivided and sold numerous parcels of land in north LaFayette such as the Warthen Addition to the City of LaFayette, which influenced the early-20th-century pattern of development in that section of the town.

According to family history, Spencer M. Warthen built the east-side additions to the house for his mother in c. 1895-1910, to get the kitchen on the main level of the house. The two-story portion of the addition contained an unfinished space (presumably servants' quarters) on the second floor, above the kitchen. According to family lore, the kitchen was originally in the basement, and food was brought upstairs by a dumb waiter. While there is a basement area under the two east-side rooms (living and dining rooms) of the original portion of the house, there is no visible evidence of a kitchen or dumb waiter. The exact date of the east-side additions/alterations also is uncertain. An examination of County Tax Digests suggests c. 1905 as a possible date of construction, but no corroborating information has been found.

The 1910 and 1920 censuses show the Warthen household consisting of Sarah A. Warthen, Spencer M. Warthen, Nannie Ruth Warthen, Addie W. Wert, and Addie Augusta Wert. Interestingly, there were no domestic servants listed as living with the family in either year.

Sarah Adaline Marsh Warthen (Mrs. N. G.) died on March 16, 1926, at the age of 89 years. Her obituary states, in part, that "during the active period of her life she took a prominent part in the community's activities, religious, patriotic, and social, and when she could no longer take active part, her home was a shrine where many warm friends went for advice and encouragement." Spencer Marsh Warthen and Nannie Ruth Warthen never married, and Addie Green Warthen Wert never remarried. These three siblings lived the remainder of their lives in the Marsh-Warthen House, along with Addie Warthen Wert's daughter, Addie Augusta Wert, who also did not marry.

Spencer and Nannie Ruth Warthen continued to make occasional modifications to their house. These changes included the early-20th-century Colonial Revival-style additions to the rear of the house, specifically the three gabled dormers and the small rear entry porch. The roof balustrade may have been added at this time, also. A January 1928 Sanborn map shows six outbuildings (nonextant) in close proximity to the house. These buildings included a well house, smoke house, and a two-story carriage house (burned c.1940). The Marsh-Warthen House was documented by the

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Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) in 1936. Unfortunately, this documentation consists of only one data sheet, with very limited descriptive information, and three photographs, one being of the three outbuildings grouped just northeast of the house. There is no rear view of the house, but the roof balustrade is clearly visible, and a portion of one of the dormer windows is also partially visible. The 1928 Sanborn map does not show the small rear porch, thus suggesting that the Colonial Revival-style additions could have been built c.1928 to 1935.

Spencer Marsh Warthen died in a Chattanooga hospital on January 27, 1946. According to his obituary, he retired from active service with the firm of Warthen & Sparks when it sold out in 1926. He "was one of the promoters of the Bank of LaFayette and was a director for a long number of years. Also he was one of the founders of the Walker County Telephone Company and his business interests included large tracts of farm properties."

Nannie Ruth Warthen died on August 28, 1948, at the age of 78, following a long illness. Addie Green Warthen Wert, who had Parkinson's disease, required the constant care of her daughter. She died six years later, on October 5, 1954, at the age of 76. The failing health of the Warthen sisters in the 1940s resulted in some minor modifications to the house. The living room was converted into a bedroom and a half-bath was installed between the living and dining rooms. A bathtub and lavatory were installed in the first-floor bedroom, and by the late 1940s, the entire second floor of the house was closed off; the remaining occupants living entirely on the first floor.

The Marsh-Warthen House, 1954-Present

Addie Augusta Wert, great granddaughter of Spencer Marsh, inherited the house at her mother's death and continued to reside there until she removed to a nursing home in 1989. She showed a great respect for the property and made few, if any, irreversible changes to the house from 1954 through 1989. In her will, she expressed a desire that the house be preserved as a historic site. The house was sold in 1992 to Patrick R. and Donna O. Clements, marking the end of the occupation of the house by the Spencer Marsh family and its descendants. The Clements family lived in the house for three years and from 1996 to 2001 attempted to operate various businesses in the house, including a bakery and catering service and an antique shop and tearoom. After repeated attempts to preserve and use the house for residential and commercial purposes failed, the Clements sold the property to The Walker County Georgia Historical Foundation, Inc., on February 21, 2003. Shortly thereafter, on August 29, 2003, the Walker County government purchased the property. A Community Task Force is responsible for the restoration and rehabilitation, operation, interpretation, and maintenance of the house.

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Warthen, Mrs. N. G. "Reminiscences of a Refugee." Walker County Messenger, 26 April 1912.

Wilson, Harold S. Confederate Industry: Manufacturers and Quartermasters in the Civil War. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2002.

Wilson, John. Chattanooga's Story. Chattanooga: The Chattanooga News-Free Press, 1980.

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 1.59 acre

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 657416 Northing 3841942

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the proposed nominated property is indicated on the attached map with a heavy black line.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the proposed nominated property follows the current legal boundary and includes the house and the intact portion of land historically associated with the house.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Holly L. Anderson, National Register Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 47 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 414-H
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** November 22, 2004
e-mail holly_anderson@dnr.state.ga.us

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

name/title Dan H. Latham, Jr., Preservation Planner
organization Coosa Valley Regional Development Center
mailing address P.O. Box 1793
city or town Rome **state** Georgia **zip code** 30162-1793
telephone (706)295-6485
e-mail dlatham@cvrdc.org

- () **property owner**
() **consultant**
(X) **regional development center preservation planner**
() **other:**

name/title Beverly Foster
organization Walker County African American Historical & Alumni Association
mailing address P.O. Box 203
city or town Rock Springs **state** GA **zip code** 30739
telephone (770)593-1262
e-mail bfo896134@aol.com

- () **property owner**
(X) **consultant**
() **regional development center preservation planner**
() **other:**

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Clayton Bell, CEO
organization (if applicable) Walker County Georgia Historical Foundation, Inc.
mailing address 305 South Duke Street
city or town LaFayette **state** Georgia **zip code** 30728
e-mail (optional) tcfpg@aol.com

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Marsh-Warthen House
City or Vicinity: LaFayette
County: Walker
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: April, 2004

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 31

1. Front (south) façade; photographer facing north.
2. Front façade and east façade; photographer facing northwest.
3. Front façade and c.1895-1910 additions; photographer facing northwest.
4. East façade; photographer facing west.
5. Rear (north) façade; photographer facing southeast.
6. Rear façade and west façade; photographer facing southeast.
7. West façade and front façade; photographer facing northeast.
8. Front façade, porch detail; photographer facing east.
9. Front façade, entrance detail; photographer facing north.
10. First floor, entrance hall; photographer facing north.
11. First floor, entrance hall; photographer facing southeast.
12. First floor entrance hall into living room; photographer facing east.
13. First floor, living room; photographer facing north.
14. First floor, parlor; photographer facing northwest.
15. First floor bedroom; photographer facing southwest.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

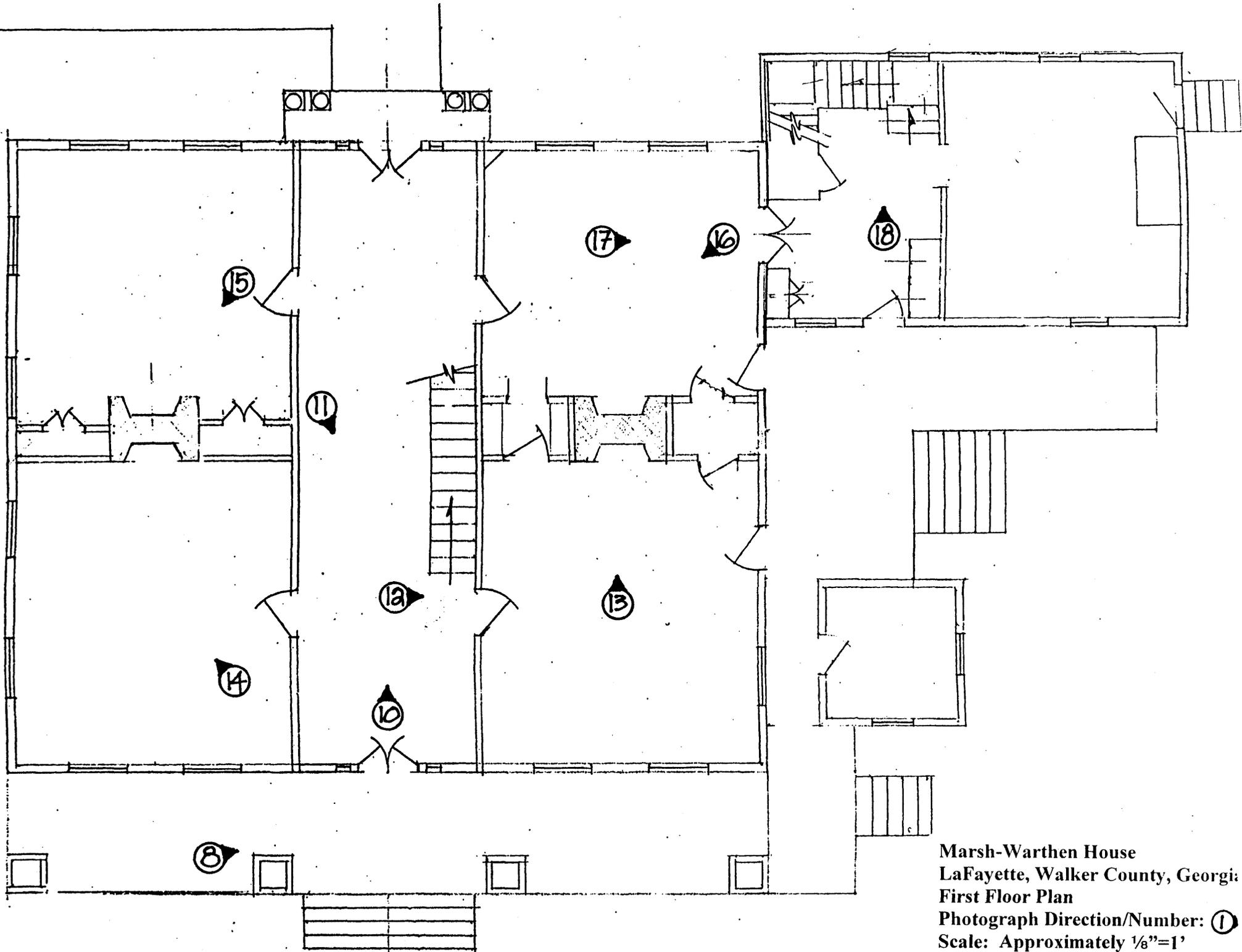
16. First floor, dining room; photographer facing southwest.
17. First floor, dining room; photographer facing east.
18. First floor, addition, back stair hall; photographer facing north.
19. Second floor, stair hall; photographer facing north.
20. Second floor, stair hall, wardrobes; photographer facing southeast.
21. Second floor, stair hall, wardrobe detail; photographer facing west.
22. Second floor, southeast bedroom; photographer facing northeast.
23. Second floor, southeast bedroom, fireplace detail; photographer facing north.
24. Second floor, southeast bedroom, door detail; photographer facing west.
25. Second floor, southwest bedroom; photographer facing northeast.
26. Second floor, northwest bedroom; photographer facing southwest.
27. Second floor, northeast bedroom; photographer facing southwest.
28. Second floor, northeast bedroom, floor detail.
29. Second floor, addition, back stair hall, into northeast bedroom.
30. Attic, framing detail.
31. Front façade; photographer facing northwest.

Description of Attachment(s):

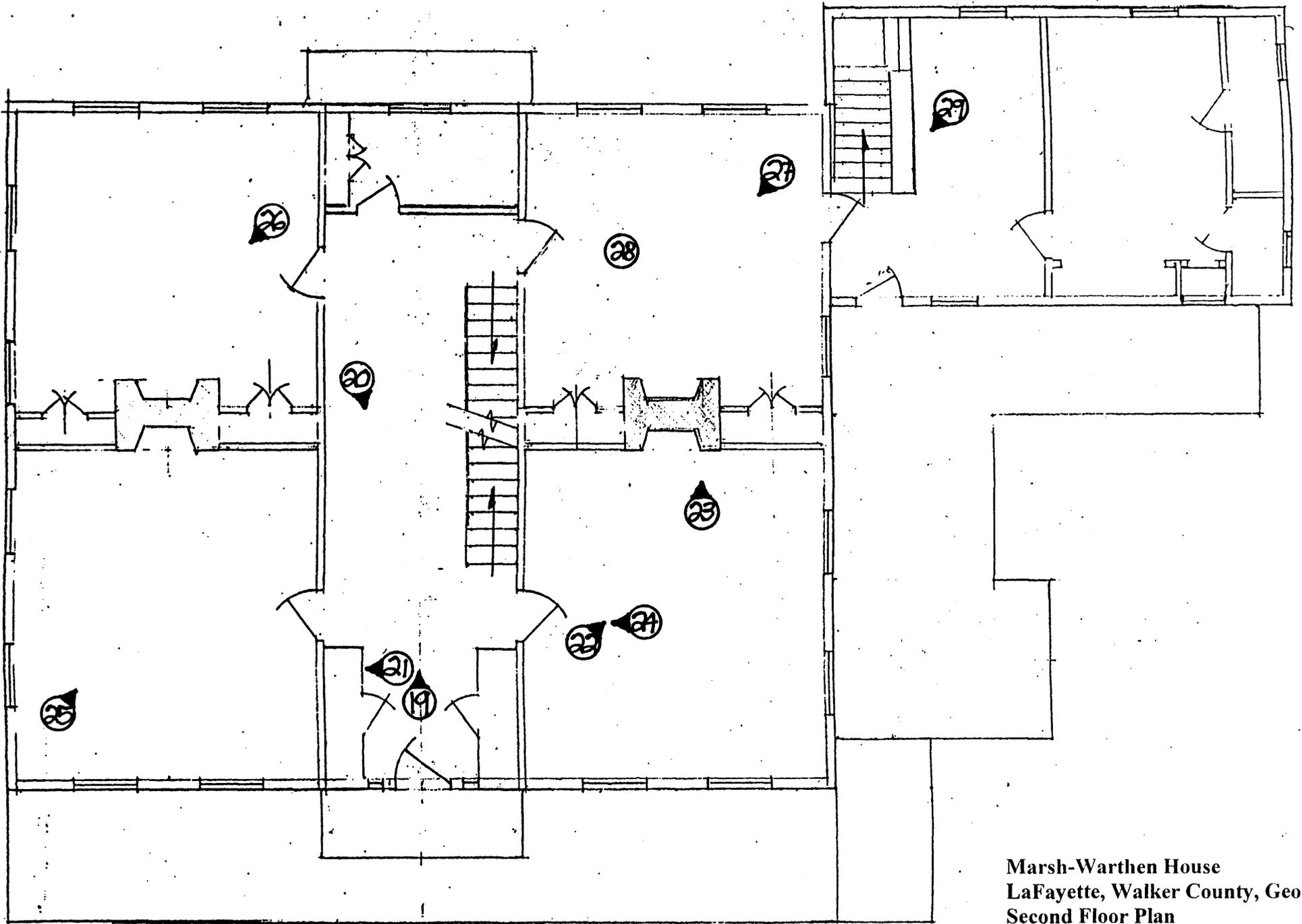
Number of Attachments: 2

1. Second floor, stair hall, wardrobe detail; photographer facing west (same view as photograph 21).
2. Second floor, northeast bedroom, floor detail (same view as photograph 28).

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)



Marsh-Warthen House
 LaFayette, Walker County, Georgia
 First Floor Plan
 Photograph Direction/Number: ①
 Scale: Approximately $\frac{1}{8}''=1'$
 North: ↑ Drawn by: Dan Latham



Marsh-Warthen House
LaFayette, Walker County, Georgia
Second Floor Plan
Photograph Direction/Number: ①
Scale: Approximately 1/8"=1'
North: ↑ Drawn by: Dan Latham



Marsh-Warthen House
LaFayette, Walker County, Georgia
Walker County Tax Map I-31
National Register Boundary: **—————**
Scale: 1" = 100'
North: ↑

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