

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**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      Box Hall Plantation  
other names/site number      n/a

**2. Location**

street & number      Lower Cairo Road at Pinetree Boulevard  
city, town      Thomasville      (n/a) vicinity of  
county      Thomas      code      GA 275  
state      Georgia      code      GA      zip code      31792

(n/a) not for publication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	7	0
sites	1	0
structures	2	0
objects	0	0
total	10	0

**Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0**

**Name of related multiple property listing: n/a**



---

## **6. Function or Use**

---

### **Historic Functions:**

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

### **Current Functions:**

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

---

## **7. Description**

---

### **Architectural Classification:**

Georgian Revival

### **Materials:**

<b>foundation</b>	brick
<b>walls</b>	brick
<b>roof</b>	slate
<b>other</b>	n/a

### **Description of present and historic physical appearance:**

#### Description

Box Hall Plantation consists of a 135-acre tract which includes a two-story Georgian Revival house built in 1930-1931 and numerous outbuildings and landscape features, including a large pond. It is located on the southwestern outskirts of Thomasville, in extreme south Georgia, a town known for its plantations and seasonal homes.

The main house is built of grained brick, with white wood trim, dark green shutters, and a slate roof. It is built in a basic rectangular shape with a suggestion of wings at each end. The gable ends face the front with their decorative cornice trim. The gable roof has two gable dormers extending from the attic floor. There are three brick chimneys. The central entrance has wood louvered double-doors below a fine arched-light transom above. A polygonal window/light, typical of the Georgian Revival style, is set above the central door. The pineapple motif in the pediment over the central entrance door signifies hospitality to the visitor. An unenclosed terrace of old brick runs the length of the west and south sides of the house except for the enclosed porch off the living room. On the west and south sides, floor length windows and French doors open to the terrace. Six over six, double-hung sash windows face the east or front. The exterior wood cornice is decorated with dentils and lane return.

The room arrangement centers on the two halls which intersect just inside the central entrance. One of these halls runs from the entrance to the rear terrace, the other forms the passageway from the living room/drawing room to the kitchen. Access to the second floor is on each side of the entrance, either by an enclosed elevator or the circular stairway. There are arched doorways in the central hallway.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 7

---

Fireplaces are in each of the main rooms at the opposite end of the room from the entrance for effect. Light and ventilation are provided to the utmost by the French doors which lead to the open brick terrace.

On the north end, the first floor dining porch has been enclosed to provide additional dining space as a family dining room. The brick walls have retained and painted. The hallway to the right of the front entrance leads to a pantry, the kitchen, and the laundry room. The downstairs powder room and bathroom are beside the elevator enclosure, to the left of the front entrance.

The upstairs is arranged with five bedrooms leading off of the central hallway, as well as bathrooms, and walk-in closets. The former servants' rooms on the north end are now combined to form a "shooting wing."

The interior walls are plastered, wall-papered and, in the dining room, paneled in the formal Georgian style. The floors are of oak except in the halls which are of squares of red Italian tile.

Built-in wood bookcases in the living room and library are in the Georgian motif with arched details. Careful detail work has been carried out throughout the interior. The mantels are of imported Italian black marble. Within the circular stairway are two windows joined vertically by a decorative wood panel. The original lock on the front door could not be unlocked from the outside, requiring the presence of a butler at the door.

The house is on a brick foundation with a large basement furnished as a bomb shelter which includes a kitchen and a bath.

The fireplaces are intact in all rooms. A central heating and air conditioning system was installed in 1965.

There is extensive landscaping dating from the building of the main house in 1930-1931 at which time the architectural firm which designed the house also designed a landscape plan which has been maintained. Important features of this plan which remain include the front gates which include a curved brick wall with a decorative wood fence giving access to the tree-lined drive, the entrance row or allee of trees, and the formal gardens immediately adjacent to the main house, including a reflecting pool and a fountain. The main house front entrance is surrounded at the entrance by a low brick curved wall and circular parking area leading to the front door.

The exterior of the house is trimmed by a "Fig Vine." Large live oaks, which surround the yard and other shrubs and trees which were

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7

---

brought in full-grown, are set along the entrance drive forming the allee. The historic swimming pool and pool house are surrounded by large trees.

Historic outbuildings, many of which predate the house, are shown on the attached sketch map. These include, besides the swimming pool and its pool house, a historic, two-story, brick Georgian Revival style guest house with four bedrooms; a one story, brick garage with four automobile spaces and an office; a one and one-half story, frame barn with three entrance openings; a one story, frame tank house; a one story, frame, pond house; and two frame servants' houses, the southernmost one with a central chimney and a pyramidal roof, the other having two wings and a connecting central block with a front porch.

There are no known archaeological resources.

The surroundings are rural in nature with a few high-income homes in the vicinity. A dirt road approaches the gates and a paved road runs the length of the fence.

The only major changes have been, as mentioned above, the enclosure of the end of the dining room porch for additional dining room space, improvements in the basement, paneling the dining room and making a "shooting wing" from the servants' quarters on the second floor. There are no structural changes and all changes were in keeping with the style of the house.

---

**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  
Social History

**Period of Significance:**

1930-1936

**Significant Dates:**

1930-1931

**Significant Person(s):**

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation:**

n/a

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

Delano and Aldrich of New York City

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

---

**Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:**

**Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)**

Box Hall Plantation is significant in architecture and social history. It is similar to many such estates in southwest Georgia. While its roots evolve from a true, antebellum plantation tract which has lost its antebellum "big house", its later preservation as a landholding as well as most of its current structures date from a more recent, Northern owner who came here for leisure purposes.

This plantation is significant in architecture because the current, 1930 house was designed by the New York firm of Delano and Aldrich, one of the nation's premier architectural firms, noted for some of the finest house designs in the country. Their firm built not only homes for such notables as John D. Rockefeller, but also a variety of public buildings, and airports. The house exemplifies the best qualities of the Georgian Revival style in the use of brick, plaster, detailing, built-in paneling and other features. Its symmetrical design and siting on the land was part of their over-all landscaping plan as well. While the planned landscaping forms the historic setting of the property, it has not been assessed specifically because little is known about domestic landscaping from the 1930s in Georgia.

It is significant in social history because it exemplifies the role in southwest Georgia, and especially in Thomas County, of Northern investors who came to relax on a seasonal basis, and thus purchased, redeveloped and preserved antebellum plantation tracts as viable 20th century estates. This estate is one of many that surround Thomasville. This house was built in 1930-1931 as the winter estate for Alvin K. Lawrie (1852-1936), of New York City who summered in Williamstown, Massachusetts, a retired employee and member of the Board of Directors of the Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA). He had been associated with the company for forty years at the time of his death. After Mrs. Lawrie's death in 1951, it was sold to local residents, the L. H. Singletarys, and to the present owners in 1964. Many important local social events have occurred here.

National Register Criteria

This nomination meets National Register criterion A for its association with "broad patterns of our history" because it is one of the significant plantation homes occupied, refurbished, and, in this case, totally rebuilt after a fire, by a Northern investor who came to Thomasville for the winter, along with many others, to spend half of the year there. It is part of the late 19th century phenomena of the

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section 8**

---

migratory wealthy who had summer and winter homes, some for their health, others for investments, and others just to "be seen". While Georgia had other resort areas, the only place similar to Thomasville and its influx of Northerners was Jekyll Island and the Jekyll Island Club, founded in 1886. In Thomasville there was a transition from the antebellum plantations that formed a ring around this county on Georgia's southernmost boundary with Florida to the homes occupied and refurbished for hunting, polo, other sports, as well as some farming, but mostly for relaxation.

This meets criterion C for its being a fine creation of the Georgian Revival style, very prevalent in the United States in the 1920s. The main house and guest house were designed by the New York based firm of Delano and Aldrich, one of the nation's premier architectural firm, who also did the formal landscaping to tie in with the house. The Georgian Revival details are seen in the use of brick, the symmetrical design, the details of the front entrance, as well as many interior details in the paneling and the plasterwork. The house was superbly sited on a pre-existing house site, making maximum use of the entrance tree-lined drive as the axis. The firm of Delano and Aldrich were best known for their "free interpretations or modifications of the more severe Georgian styles...and always in good taste". Delano's penchant for stressing "traditionalist philosophy during the period when modernism was ascendant" is certainly exemplified in this property.

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

n/a

**Period of significance (justification, if applicable)**

The dates 1930-1936 were chosen because they cover the period of time from the beginning of the construction of the house to the death of the original owner/builder.

**Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)**

Box Hall Plantation sits near Georgia's southernmost boundary, only a few miles from the Florida border. The area was opened for settlement through the 1820 Land Lottery and the county, Thomas County, was created shortly thereafter. In 1856, 153 acres of Land Lot 160 were purchased from the estate of Michael Young by A. T. MacIntyre, a son-in-law. MacIntyre and his wife, the former America Young, built the first "big house" here in 1857. It survived until burned in a fire around 1929.



National Register of Historic Places  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

---

Named Box Hall by the MacIntyres, it was sold in 1905 to Mrs. Julia Tower of Lexington County, Massachusetts, who sold it herself in 1913 to H. M. Hanna, owner of another large plantation just down the road. He owned Box Hall only briefly, selling it within a few weeks to William H. Sage of Albany, New York.

Sage owned it until his death and it was sold by his executors in 1925 to Mrs. John L. (Fannie S.) Phillips. It was during her ownership that the big house burned around 1929. After this fire, the house and acreage were sold to A. K. Lawrie.

Alvah K. Lawrie (1852-1936) was a native of West Roxbury, Massachusetts, born to a Scottish-born father. A. K. Lawrie was educated in Boston and at Amherst College, Class of 1873. His early employment included working with a railroad construction company as secretary to the owner, and later in San Diego in the insurance and brokerage business, and later in real estate. He began a forty year association when, in 1895, he joined a company in Chicago who represented the Pittsburgh Reduction Company. Later when that company went out of business, he moved in 1897 to New Kensington, Pennsylvania, to work for the home office of the Pittsburgh Reduction Company, which after 1907 was known as the Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA). He became general sales manager, and in 1899 was elected a director. In 1910, he became second vice president, but three months later resigned and retired "from business life", although he remained on the board of directors until 1933. He was a member of many private clubs in various cities. He divided his time between New York City, his summer home in Williamstown, Massachusetts and Box Hall, his winter home. His major philanthropic endeavors were for education of young people, giving generously to Amherst College, his alma mater, and institutions in Williamstown. His hobbies included landscape gardening and golf.

Lawrie had married in 1911 Frances Innes, of Frankfort, Kentucky, daughter of a Kentucky state official. He died without issue in Thomasville December 24, 1936. His estate was evaluated at nearly fourteen million dollars within a year of his death. Later nearly half of it would go to pay estate taxes.

After the death of Mrs. Lawrie on October 19, 1951 while she was enroute to Box Hall, the plantation was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Hall Singletary, of Thomasville. After a thirteen year ownership, they sold the estate in 1964 to the current owners, Thomas MacComb Hines and Louise Jeanes Hines. The Hineses moved to Thomasville after he retired in Milledgeville, Georgia. They have worked extensively with the rose garden which is known throughout the

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

---

southeast. Mrs. Hines has served as President of the Thomasville Rose Society.

---

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

---

Hines, Louise Jeanes. "Box Hall Plantation." Historic Property Information Form, October, 1980. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Biographical sketch of A. K. Lawrie, National Cyclopedia of American Biography, XXXI, 236-237. This volume was published in 1944.

Biographical sketch of William A. Delano, Dictionary of American Biography, Supplement Six, 1956-1960. Published in 1980.

"A. K. Lawrie, Noted Winter Resident, Dies Here Today" and editorial entitled "The Passing of A. K. Lawrie", Thomasville Times-Enterprise, December 24, 1936.

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

- ( ) 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 #

Primary location of additional data:

- (x) 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** approx. 135 acres.

**UTM References**

A) Zone 16 Easting 784980 Northing 3414690  
B) Zone 16 Easting 785900 Northing 3414560  
C) Zone 16 Easting 785860 Northing 3414150  
D) Zone 16 Easting 785280 Northing 3413730

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is marked on the enclosed Thomas County, Georgia Tax Map as parcel 86-4.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property is all that has remained associated with the plantation since the current house was built in 1930-1931.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

**name/title** Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian,  
**organization** Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of  
Natural Resources  
**street & number** 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334  
**telephone** 404-656-2840 **date** September 26, 1989

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ PHOTOGRAPHS Page 1

## BOXHALL

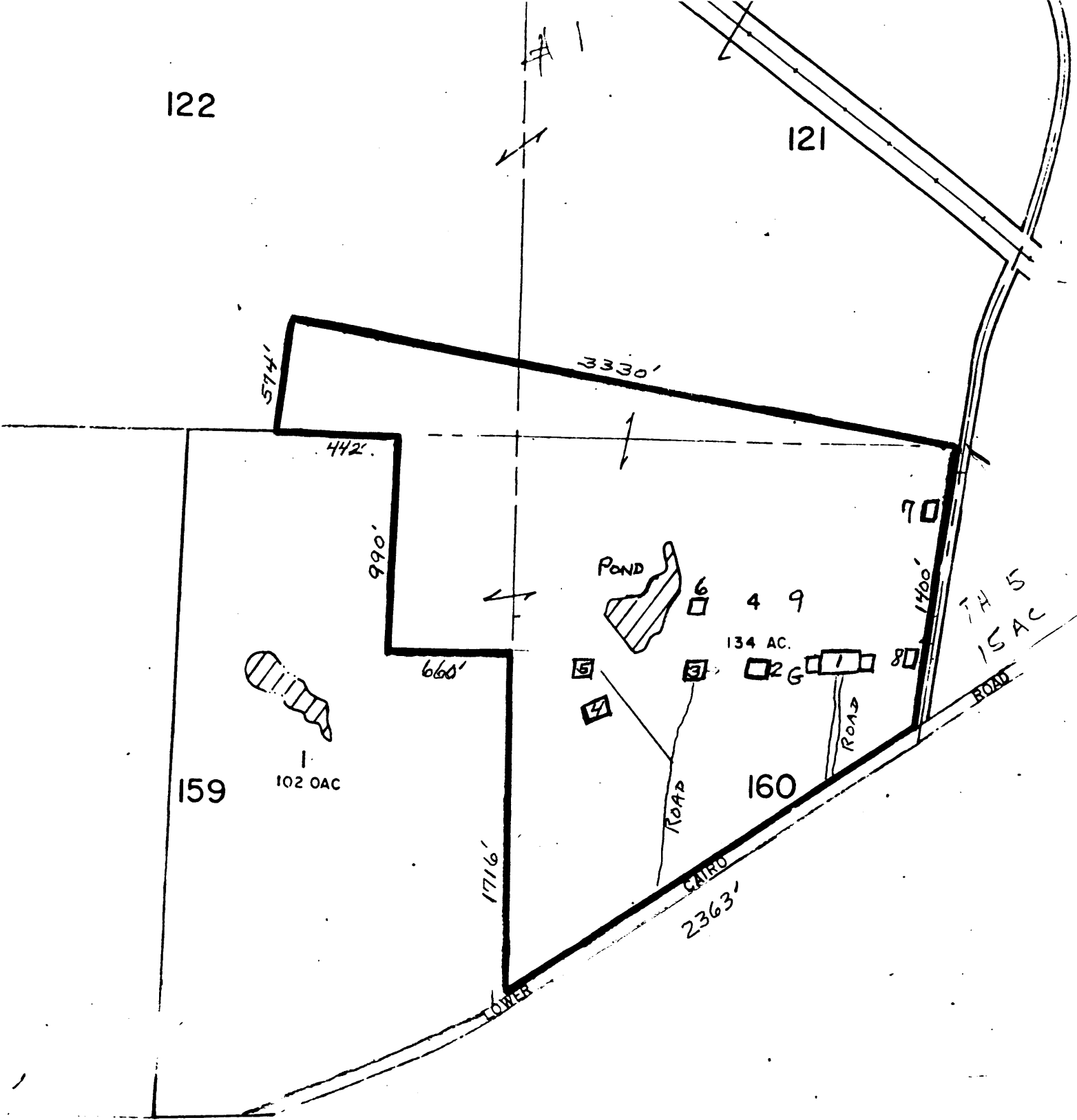
Thomasville, Thomas County, Georgia

Photographer: James R. Lockhart

Negatives filed at Georgia Department of Natural Resources

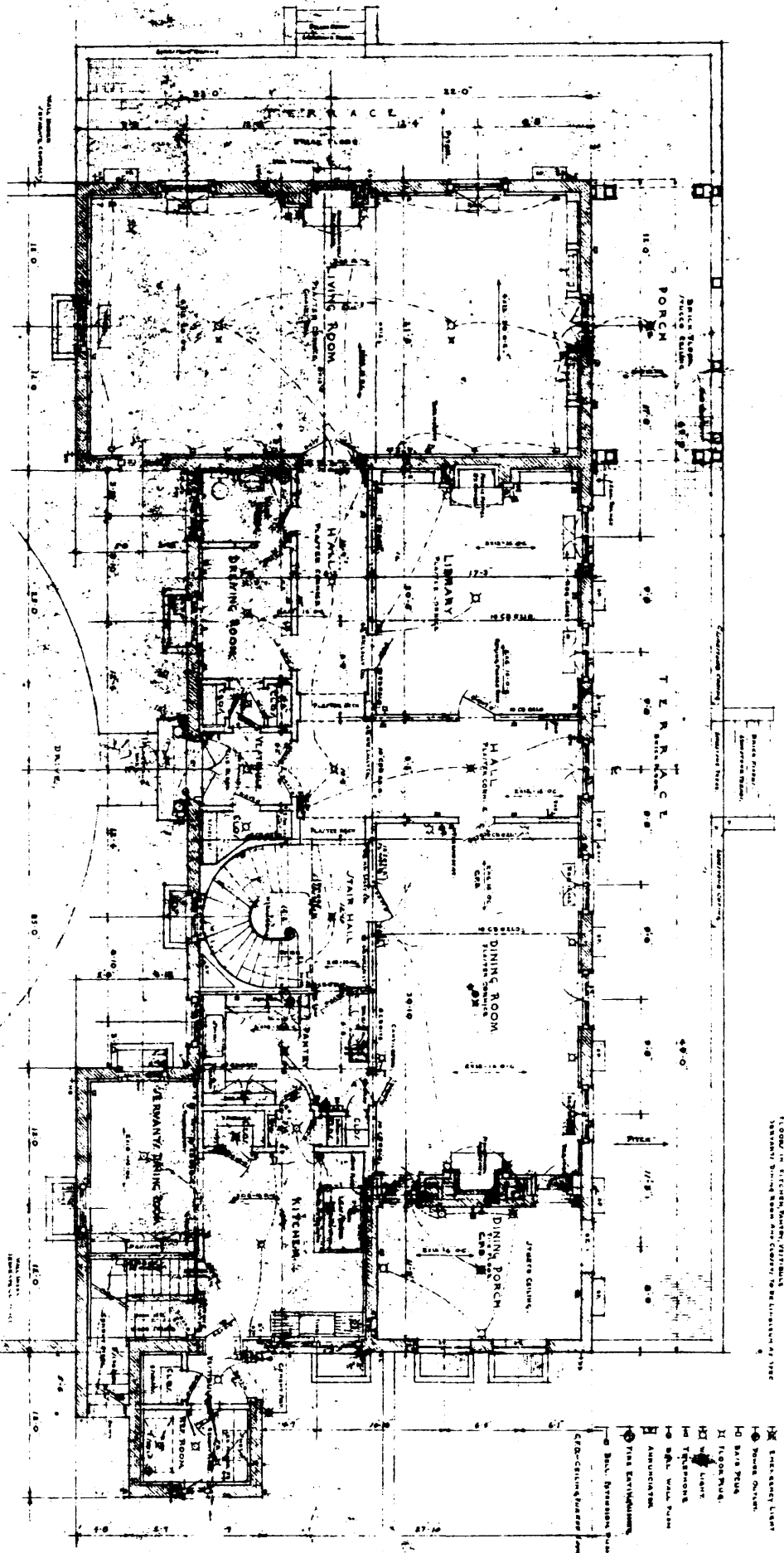
Date Photographed: November, 1988

Description:	Photographer Facing:
1 of 18. Entrance gates, Lower Cairo Road.	Northwest
2 of 18: Front facade as seen from entrance drive.	North
3 of 18: Front facade, entrance detail.	Northeast
4 of 18: South Facade and rose garden.	Northeast
5 of 18: West Facade, showing terrace and garden.	East
6 of 18: West Facade, showing fountain and garden.	South
7 of 18: Stair hall, central staircase.	Southwest
8 of 18: Living Room (Drawing Room).	Northwest
9 of 18: Library.	Northwest
10 of 18: Dining Room.	Northeast
11 of 18: Second Floor, bedroom above dining room.	Northeast
12 of 18: Garage (No.2 on Sketch Map).	Northeast
13 of 18: Guest House (No. 3 on Sketch Map).	Northwest
14 of 18: Barn (No. 4 on Sketch Map) and Tank House (No. 5 on Sketch Map).	Northwest
15 of 18: Pond House (No. 6 on Sketch Map).	Northwest
16 of 18: Servants' House (No. 7 on Sketch Map).	North
17 of 18: Servants' House (No. 8 on Sketch Map).	Northeast
18 of 18: Pool and pool house (No. 9 on Sketch Map)	Northeast



Tax Map/Sketch Map  
 Box Hall Plantation  
 Thomasville, Thomas County, Georgia  
 Scale:  $\text{---} = 700'$   
 Source: Thomas County, Georgia  
 Tax Assessors Office, maps showing  
 parcel TH-4 and drawing by  
 Mrs. Thomas M. Hines  
 Date: 1982

- Key:
- 1 Main House
  - 2 Garage
  - 3 Guest House
  - 4 Barn
  - 5 Tank House
  - 6 Pond House
  - 7 Servants' House
  - 8 Servants' House
  - 9 Swimming Pool
  - G Rose Garden and Reflecting Pool



FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
 J. CALLESA  
 HOUSE FOR A. N. LAWRIE ESQ.  
 THOMASVILLE, GEORGIA

Floor Plan  
 Box Hall Plantation  
 Thomasville, Thomas County, Georgia  
 Scale: Unknown  
 Source: Original in possession of  
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Hines

Date: 1930 (original drawing date)  
 Key: The rooms are labelled on this  
 original drawing. All uses are  
 essentially the same.



APR 20 1930