

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

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

received NOV 2 1983

date entered SEP 1 1983

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Burns Cottage

and/or common Burns Club of Atlanta

2. Location

street & number 988 Alloway Place, S.E.

N/A not for publication

city, town Atlanta

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia

code 013

county Fulton

code 121

3. Classification

Category

district
 building(s)
 structure
 site
 object

Ownership

public
 private
 both
Public Acquisition
 N/A in process
 being considered

Status

occupied
 unoccupied
 work in progress
Accessible
 yes: restricted
 yes: unrestricted
 no

Present Use

agriculture
 commercial
 educational
 entertainment
 government
 industrial
 military
 museum
 park
 private residence
 religious
 scientific
 transportation
 other:

4. Owner of Property

name Burns Club of Atlanta; Henry D. Frantz, past president

street & number 820 Powder Horn Road

city, town Atlanta

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia 30342

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Fulton County Courthouse

city, town Atlanta

state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

a) Historic Structures Field Survey: Fulton County

title b) Atlanta Historic Resources Workbook has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date a) 1976

b) 1981

federal state county local

depository for survey records a) Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources
b) Atlanta Urban Design Commission, City of Atlanta

city, town Atlanta

state Georgia

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Burns Cottage is a low, one-story, rectangular gray stone structure that is slightly curved in accordance with its being a replica of the poet Robert Burns' original birthplace cottage in Scotland, which was built along a curved road. It is built of Georgia granite and has an asbestos-shingle gable roof with shallow eaves. The gables connect directly to the chimneys. The end walls are of uncoursed, random rubble Georgia granite. A masonic marker on the exterior front wall describes the Burns Club, owner of the cottage. There is also a time capsule in the northeast wall cornerstone. Windows are covered with wooden shutters that open out. There are flat masonry arches atop the windows. Of the three doors on the front of the cottage, only one is used. All windows are small, due to Scottish custom, because windows were taxed.

The interior of the replica follows closely that of the original cottage in Scotland. It has the traditional four areas: but, ben, barn and byre. One enters directly into a large assembly room. In Scotland, this was the cattle room or "byre." Next to it would have been a barn for feed and tools. The assembly room, which replaces the barn and byre, is used for club meetings. At the far end is the "but," which would have been the kitchen, dining room and parents' bedroom; next to it is the "ben," which would have served as the living room and childrens' bedroom. The club kitchen has a stone flagged floor, stone fireplace, and a curtained, recessed bed area. The two rooms are decorated with memorabilia from the life of Robert Burns. Their ceilings are painted white over plaster. The assembly room has a scored concrete floor, a fireplace at each end, and is also decorated in Scottish memorabilia. The ceiling is exposed dark wood and an interior wall is painted white. All three fireplaces are constructed of gray random stone with mortar joints raised and rounded. The one in the center of the cottage has an inset stone plaque in memory of Robert Burns. The fireplace in the replica kitchen is a duplicate of the one in the original cottage. Two marble medallions carved by Scottish immigrant James Watt (noted for his work on the Cherokee County Courthouse and the State Agriculture Building in Georgia) are found on the interior walls of the assembly room. All three rooms were originally heated only by fireplaces.

The house sits in a natural setting with many dogwood trees blocking part of the view from the nearest main street. The only outbuilding is a one-story stone caretaker's house, originally a log cabin. It was redesigned in 1969 to bear a closer resemblance to the replica cottage. The grounds once covered ten acres and included a dancing pavilion, barbecue pit and shed, a tennis court and a putting green for club use and for rental to other groups. On the reduced acreage there is a wood-and-concrete-block stage for the annual "ceilidh" and a granite retaining wall.

Changes to the cottage include the rear addition of a small, functional kitchen, porch and restrooms. The assembly room's original stone-flagged floor was replaced with a concrete one, a fireplace was added at the far end, and some small windows closed.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) commemorative
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1911 **Builder/Architect** Thomas H. Morgan, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Burns Cottage of Atlanta is significant in architecture as an unusual example of an adaptation to Southern building materials and climate of a Scottish cottage and as a work of Thomas H. Morgan. In social-humanitarian history, it is significant as the meeting house of the Burns Club of Atlanta. In commemorative history, it is significant because it was built specifically to honor poet Robert Burns of Scotland.

Architectural significance rests with both its design and its architect. The cottage was designed by noted Atlanta architect Thomas H. Morgan (1857-1940), founder of the Georgia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, founding editor of The Southern Architect periodical, and a man whose firms designed some of the finest buildings in Georgia. In adapting the design of the original Burns Cottage for its Atlanta replica, he used native Georgia granite in place of Scottish rubble stone, and the mortar was changed from clay and grass to cement. Whereas the original cottage was a residence with an adjacent cattle and storage area, the replica had the barn and related structure adapted into an assembly hall since its primary purpose was to be a clubhouse. Although it was originally built with a thatched roof, it was later replaced by a safer and more easily replaceable asphalt shingle roof.

In social-humanitarian history, the cottage is significant as the clubhouse of the Burns Club of Atlanta. The club was organized in 1896 with one of its goals to hold an annual party on the anniversary of Robert Burns' birthday. This has occurred every year since 1898. The Burns Club of Atlanta was incorporated in 1907 as a social, literary, and memorial society, with its goal being the erection of a memorial cottage-clubhouse. When the site was selected, the street adjacent was named for Burns' birthplace at Alloway. The club is a member of the Burns Federation. Its membership is open to anyone of good citizenship with a love for the poet. They meet monthly. It is one of the oldest clubs in Atlanta.

In commemorative history, the cottage is significant for representing the steps taken by the club to create as close a replica as possible of the cottage of Robert Burns (1759-1796), noted Scot poet. It is said to be the only such replica in the world. An architect in Scotland made detailed drawings of the original cottage, which has been preserved. Thomas H. Morgan, cited above, was a member of the club and designed the replica cottage. It was constructed by Robert M. McWhirter, another member, who was skilled in stonework. It opened on January 25, 1911, the poet's birthday. Throughout the cottage/replica, besides actual duplication of interior items such as the original kitchen fireplace and oven, the poet's bed, and other household effects, a great deal of commemorative memorabilia has been placed.

[continued]

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Taniguchi, Yuichi, Georgia Tech student, "Historic Property Information Form," 1982, based on interviews, published brochures, original floorplans from Scotland, files at the Atlanta Historical Society, files at the Atlanta Urban Design Commission and records from the club itself.
- ~~Morgan, Thomas H., biographical/architects file; Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources, Atlanta.~~

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approx. 2.12 acres

Quadrangle name Southeast Atlanta, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	6	7	4	5	0	3	0	3	7	3	4	8	3	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

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D

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property includes the cottage lot and the caretaker's lot. It is all that remains associated with the Burns Cottage and the Burns Club of Atlanta. It is marked on the enclosed tax map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources

date October 21, 1983

street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W.

telephone (404) 656-2840

city or town Atlanta

state Georgia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 10/25/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

12/1/83

J. Flores Byer
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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

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received
date entered

Continuation sheet Significance Item number 8 Page 2

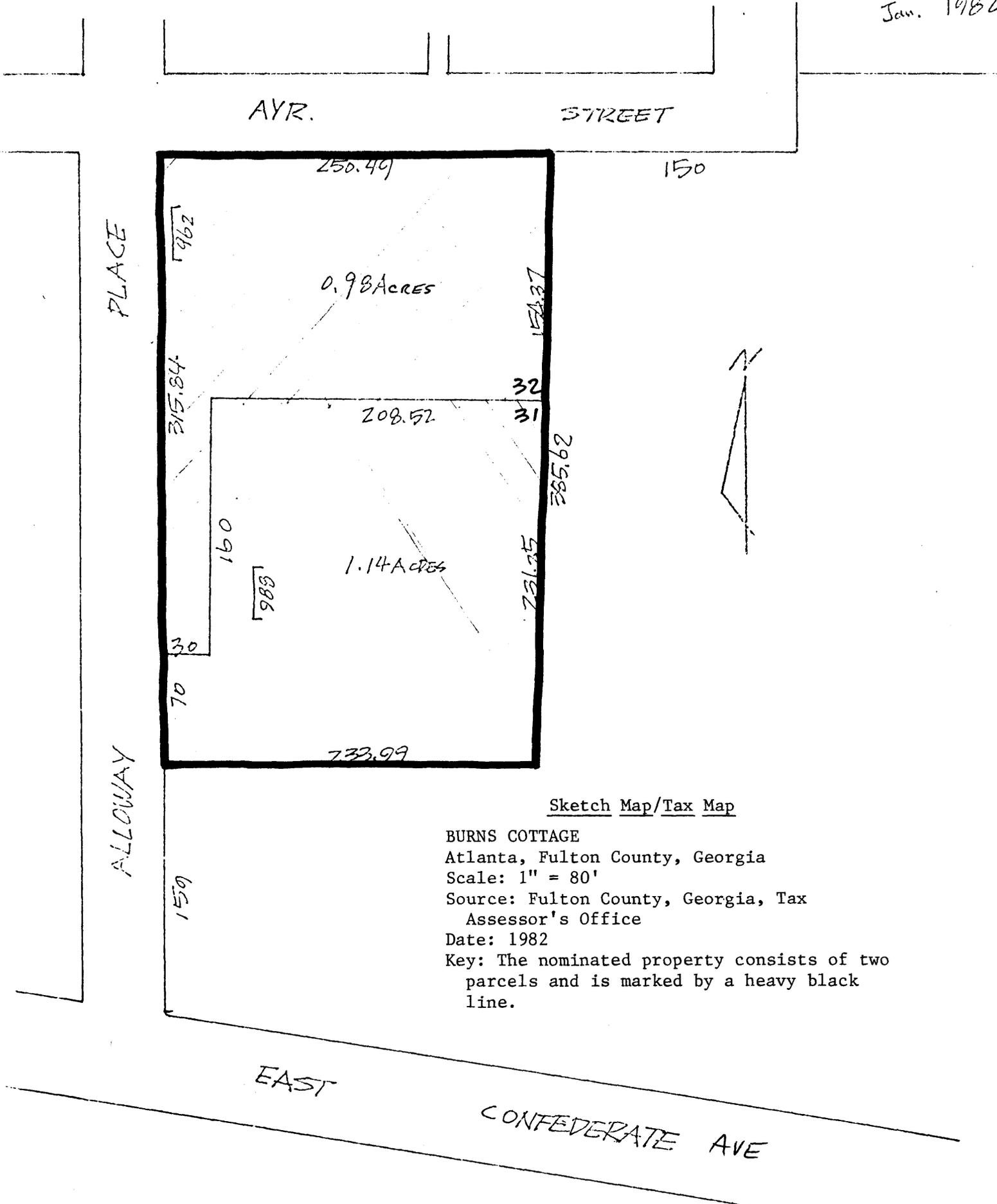
Marble carvings by noted stonecarver James Watt also add to this area of significance. Robert "Bobbie" Burns' poetical works are well known. Among his most famous poems are "The Cotter's Saturday Night," "Tam O'Shanter," "Auld Lang Syne," "Flow Gently, Sweet Afton," and "To A Mouse."

These areas of significance support the property's eligibility under the National Register criteria A, B and C, as well as criteria consideration F.

14-10-6-31-8, C7, A

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ROOM 100. CITY OF ATLANTA FULTON COUNTY.

Jan. 1982



Sketch Map/Tax Map

BURNS COTTAGE
 Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia
 Scale: 1" = 80'
 Source: Fulton County, Georgia, Tax Assessor's Office
 Date: 1982
 Key: The nominated property consists of two parcels and is marked by a heavy black line.

Floor Plan

BURNS COTTAGE

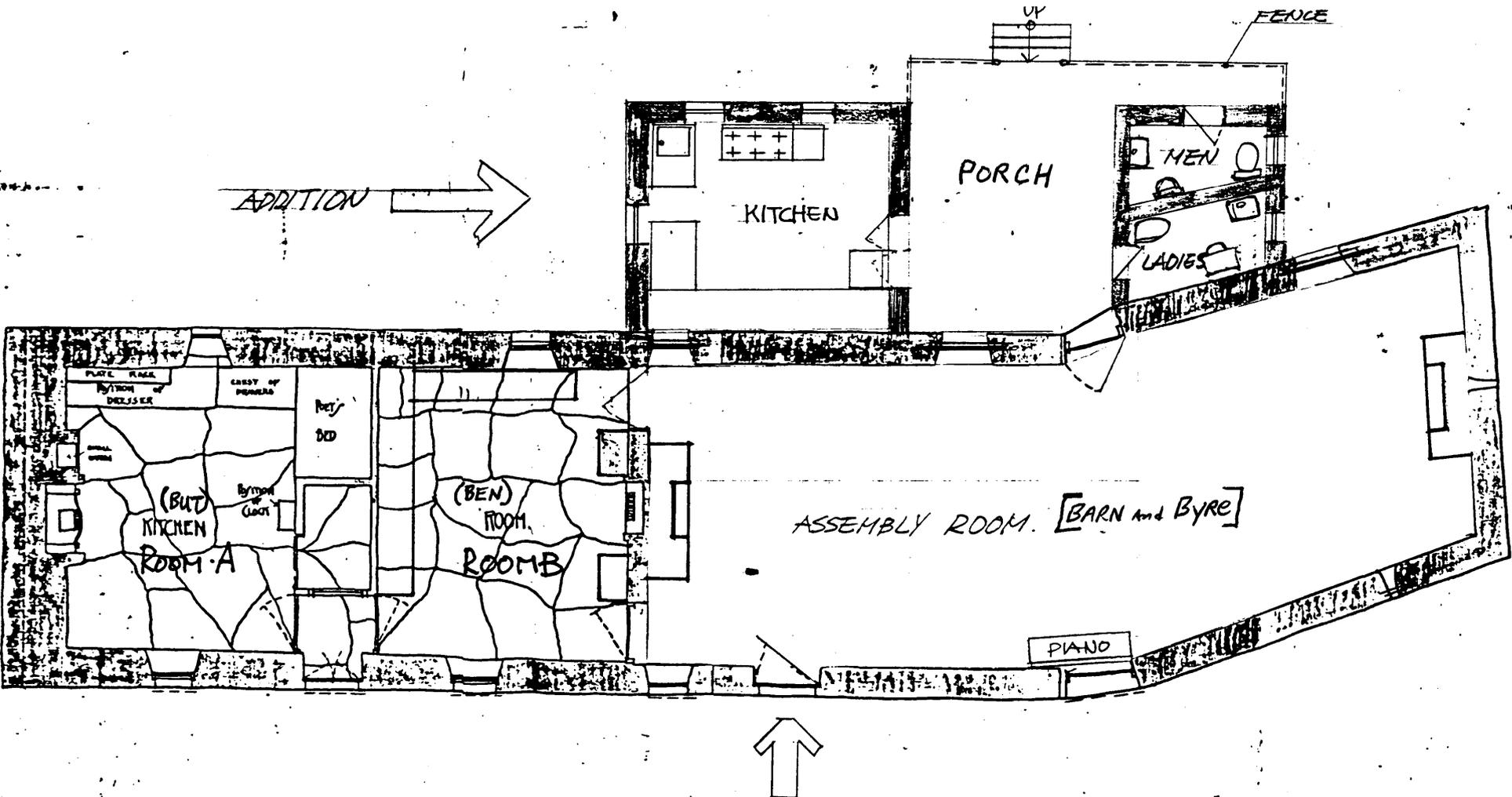
Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia

Scale: Unknown

Source: Based on original 1910 plans

Date: 1982, based on 1910

Key: Use of rooms is shown on the plan.



BURNS COTTAGE FLOOR PLAN