

## HISTORIC RESOURCES OF HARTWELL, HART COUNTY, GEORGIA

## INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY #3

I. IDENTIFICATION

HISTORIC NAME: Thomas William Teasley House  
 PROPERTY NAME: Teasley-McCurry-Myers Residence  
 STREET ADDRESS: 417 West Howell Street  
 CITY: Hartwell  
 PRESENT OWNER: Elizabeth Myers  
 MAILING ADDRESS: 670 Old Ivy Road, NE  
 CITY: Atlanta  
 STATE: Georgia  
 ZIP CODE: 30342  
 CURRENT USE: rental residence  
 ACREAGE: less than one acre  
 U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: Hartwell, Georgia  
 U.T.M. REFERENCE: Z17 E321740 N3802830  
 V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: H-15-1-10

II. DESCRIPTION

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION:

This house is a one-story, frame, Victorian-eclectic cottage with a gable roof. Two prominent gables extend from the main roof to cover projecting bays on the entrance facade. Paired cornice brackets and narrow diamond-shaped attic vents embellish the gable ends. A shed-roofed porch extends the width of the entrance facade and projects outward beyond the two projecting bays. The porch is supported by turned posts capped with intricate cutwork brackets and contains turned ballisters beneath the rail. Centered between the two bays is a double-door entrance capped by a transom. Period screen doors are decorated with geometric patterns of millwork. Flanking the entrance is tongue-and-groove siding positioned diagonally. Shuttered 2/2 windows on the principal facade are located in the bays and extend to the floor. A secondary entrance positioned at the northeastern end of the porch leads into a one room appendage to the main block of the house; a second appendage, originally containing an open porch which is now enclosed, extends from the rear of the house.

The interior contains original flooring, wainscoting, mantels, and wallcovering. Two central chimneys provide fireplaces to the four rooms of the central block, which are separated by a central hall. The ceilings, in recent years, have been stippled, and bathrooms have been provided.

The house is located on one half of its original lot. The principal facade fronts to Howell Street; the rear boundary of the lot is the railroad. Two historic outbuildings are situated on the property: a brick root cellar is east of the house; an open well shed is west of the house.

Landscape features include a mature oak, a deodar cedar, a crepe myrtle, and a camellia. In addition a grove of five pecan trees is in the back yard. A low privet hedge separates the yard from the sidewalk and Howell Street.

The property is in good condition.

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 64

### III. HISTORY

ORIGINAL OWNER: Thomas William Teasley  
 ORIGINAL USE: residence  
 ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Mr. Bond, Elberton, Georgia  
 HISTORIC ACREAGE: two city lots  
 DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1892  
 DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS: early 1900s

#### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT):

Thomas William Teasley (September 17, 1853--September 12, 1911) and his wife, Elizabeth Jane Sadler, came to Hartwell in the 1880s shortly after their marriage in 1879. Teasley had been raised in southern Hart County, Georgia, in a Teasley homestead now demolished. T. W. Teasley was the nephew of I. A. Teasley. According to a granddaughter, he was the ninth generation to live at that homestead. The Teasley family had migrated to Hart County (originally Elbert County) from Virginia in the 1770s. The History of Hart County notes that the first record of the Teasley family in the United States was John Teasley, who died in Isle of Wight County, Virginia, in 1738. His descendants settled in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Georgia.

T. W. Teasley owned and operated a general mercantile store on the town square: the T. W. Teasley Company, on Howell Street. The structure which housed this business survives as the Bailes and Cobb clothing store. The History of Hart County also describes Teasley as a lawyer, private banker, merchant, planter, and the mayor of Hartwell during 1898-1900.

Deeds indicate that two city lots on Howell Street, then at the western edge of the city, were purchased by the Teasleys in 1892. Their residence was built soon after the purchase. Family members remember a Mr. Bond from Elberton as the builder. The Teasleys raised six children in their home; three of their sons became Hartwell businessmen.

In the 1920s the property was divided. One half of the land (one city lot) was given to Teasley's son Ralph for the site of his home. Following Teasley's death in 1911 and the death of his wife in 1931, the original house passed to their daughter Lily Mae and her husband, William B. McCurry. The McCurrys lived in the house until their deaths at which time the property passed to

their daughter Elizabeth McCurry Myers, who retains ownership today. The Myers use the house from time to time and plan to retire here. The rear of the house has been adapted for a small apartment and the present tenant serves as a caretaker of the property.

#### IV. SIGNIFICANCE

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA: B, C  
 AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Commerce  
 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL):

This structure is architecturally significant as an intact example of a highly detailed Victorian-eclectic residence dating from 1890s and maintaining a diversity of millwork and original fixtures both on the interior and exterior.

In commerce this structure gains significance through its association with T. W. Teasley. Teasley was one of Hartwell's early businessmen. He operated a general mercantile store and was also a lawyer, private banker, planter, and mayor of Hartwell. In addition, three of Teasley's sons, who each became successful businessmen, were raised in this house.

CONTRIBUTING/NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES: 2 structures/0

Contributing building(s): 1  
 Contributing structure(s): 2

#### V. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: Historic Structures Field Survey: Hart County, Georgia

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Draft survey form by Elizabeth Myers

#### FORM PREPARED BY:

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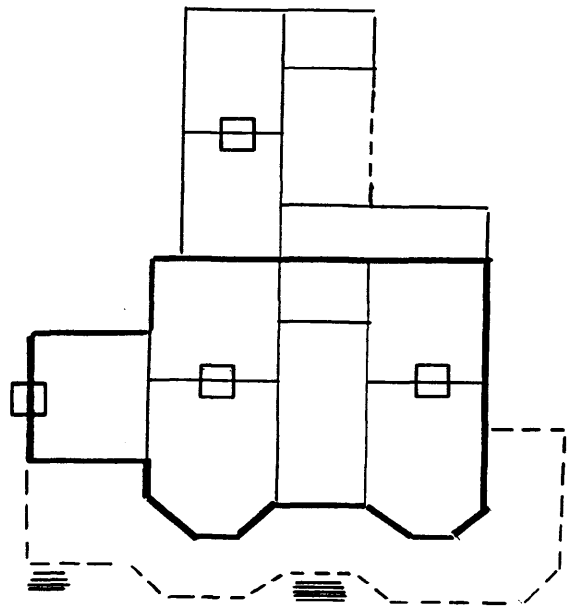
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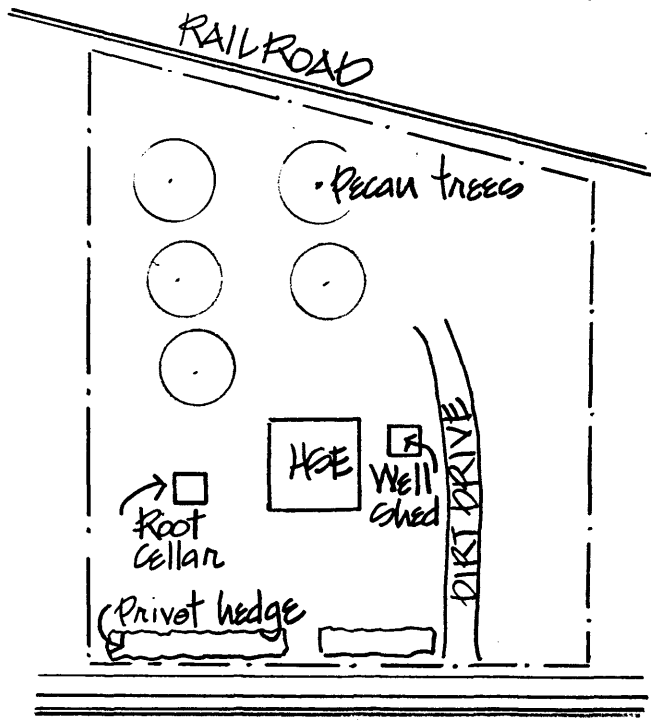
VI. SITE PLAN/SKETCH MAP/FLOOR PLAN

Attached sketches are intended only to help illustrate the nominated property. No scale is provided or implied, unless otherwise noted. Boundary markings are simply general indications of the extent of the nominated property; the actual boundary description, unless otherwise noted, is the current legal description of the property which coincides with the current tax map number cited in Section I of this form. Also, note that the orientation of the various sketches differs from sketch to sketch; each is provided with a north arrow for clarity.

north ↘ 3



FLOOR PLAN



SITE PLAN