

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.

1430

1. Name of Property

historic name Butler, James and Clara, House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 418 College Street
city, town Blakely
county Early code GA 099
state Georgia code GA zip code 31723

(N/A) vicinity of

(N/A) not for publication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:

Contributing

Noncontributing

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.

Ricardo C. Flores
Signature of certifying official

11-06-01
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

Entered in the
National Register

1-11-02

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER: Folk Victorian (style)

OTHER: Georgian cottage (type)

Materials:

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD: weatherboard
VINYL

roof ASPHALT

other N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The James and Clara Butler House is located on a city lot in the historic residential area of Blakely, the county seat of Early County in southwest Georgia.

Built in c.1890, the house is a one-story, frame, Folk Victorian-style, Georgian cottage (photograph 1). The house features a steep side-gable roof, flush-board siding on the front façade and vinyl siding over the original weatherboard on the rest of the exterior, nine-over-nine double-hung windows, and a brick pier foundation. The house has a full-width porch with free-standing chamfered posts on brick piers; the porch floor is recessed (photograph 2). The porch features decorative scrollwork, a turned balustrade, chair rail, and wainscoting (photograph 6). Exterior details include a transom, sidelights, and paneled door surround; double paneled wood doors for the front entrance and a wide, paneled wood door for the rear; scalloped bargeboard on the gable ends; and a gable ornament (photograph 3).

The house retains its original Georgian cottage-type plan with two rooms flanking a center hall. Floors throughout the house are six-inch heart-pine boards and the doors are original paneled wood

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

doors. The center hall features tongue-and-groove walls and ceiling and a decorative fretwork screen (photograph 7). The front right parlor features beaded-board walls and wainscoting. The front left room retains its beaded-board walls (photograph 8). The rear right room and north room in the ell addition retain their wide board walls and tongue-and-groove board ceiling (photograph 10). The rear left room, dining room in the ell addition (photograph 11), and kitchens have been drywalled. There are two original mantels in the house which feature carved geometric shapes and simple pilasters (photograph 9); the other mantels are not original.

The house has had several historic additions (photographs 4 and 5). Prior to the 1930s, a two-room ell was added to the house. A kitchen and bath were added to the left rear of the house and a bath added to the right side between 1937 and 1950, and the rear kitchen was attached to the main house in the 1930s. During the recent certified rehabilitation for an assisted-living home, a bathroom and carpeting were added to each of the four principal rooms (photograph 8 and 9), and the kitchen on the rear left of the building was converted to a caregiver's room. The landscaping includes mature hardwoods and shrubs and an open lawn.

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

Period of Significance:

c.1890

Significant Dates:

c.1890 – construction of the house.

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

N/A

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The James and Clara Butler House is located on a city lot in the historic residential section of Blakely, the county seat of Early County and is representative of late nineteenth century housing found in towns in southwest Georgia.

The James and Clara Butler House is significant in the area of architecture as a good example of a Folk Victorian-style Georgian cottage. According to the Georgia Historic Resources survey, the house is one of only two Folk Victorian-style Georgian cottages in Blakely out of the 127 historic single-family houses surveyed in the city. The house retains its original exterior character-defining features including the Folk Victorian details of the porch with its chamfered posts, scrollwork, unusual wainscoting, and balustrade; sidelights and transom; scrolled bargeboard in the gable ends; and gable things. As defined in Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings, the house retains its Georgian cottage plan with two rooms flanking a center hall with interior chimneys between each pair of rooms. The Georgian cottage was the most popular and long-lived house type in Georgia, with the greatest concentration built between 1850 and 1890. The house also retains its interior features including original wood walls, ceilings, floors, doors, and two original mantels.

National Register Criteria

The James and Clara Butler House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under National Register Criterion C for as a good example of a Folk Victorian-style Georgian cottage.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance corresponds to the construction date of the house, c.1890.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The house is the only building on the property and it is contributing.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

NOTE: The following historical narrative was prepared by Paul Forgey, preservation planner for the Southwest Georgia Regional Development Center. "James and Clara Butler House," Historic Property Information Form, October 7, 1999. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Early County was created by an Act of the State Legislature in 1818. This area in the southwest section of Georgia was part of the Creek Cession of 1814. The county is named for Peter Early (1773-1817), a successful judge, state senator, governor and congressman in Georgia.

In 1818, Judge James Bush first settled in Early County. In 1820, he moved and built the first house in the area where Blakely would develop. Three other white men in the area were Richard Grimsley, Isham Sheffield and Joel Porter.

In 1825, five commissioners were appointed to select a permanent site for the county seat of Early. One of the commissioners, Benjamin Collier, offered 25 acres of his land located in the middle of Early County for the creation of the town of Blakely. The new county seat was named for Captain Johnson Blakely, a young naval hero of the War of 1812. His brig, the Wasp, was lost at sea after several successful engagements. Blakely, a native of County Down, Ireland, was awarded a gold medal by Congress, and his home state, North Carolina, educated his child at state expense. The new town in the southwest Georgia frontier was another tribute to his military career.

The town of Blakely is set upon a knoll, with branches on the north and south and sloping terrain to the east and west. A large swamp to the east hindered development in that direction until this century. Blakely is near the crest of a watershed which divides the Flint and Chattahoochee rivers. The ground is mostly level with a slight hill at the courthouse square.

A residential area separate from the commercial development did not take shape immediately. Both stores and houses were grouped around the square. In 1849, Blakely was described as having 25 to 30 families, a courthouse, a jail, two stores, two hotels and one church. This was what existed around the courthouse square until the 1850s.

In 1854, the Albany Patriot commented that Early County was "fast filling up with substantial planters." The fine timber and land were drawing cotton planters and lumbermen. In September of 1854, a meeting was held to discuss expanding the railroad into Early County. In October, a meeting of the directors of Southwestern Railroad in Americus was attended by delegates representing Early County, including Dr. Hugh Nesbitt, Col. J. E. Maxwell, A. S. C. Alexander and General Robert Taylor.

In 1871, Blakely was incorporated as a town. By 1873, it had 300 people. Court Square had five stores, several offices, hotels, livery stables and dwellings. There was no attempt to separate the uses of the area; development just grew out from the center. Many stores and offices on the square had fenced yards to keep out livestock which roamed the streets. As late as 1877, hogs were observed in the courthouse.

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Especially important to the economic growth of this period were the lumber and turpentine industries. In 1873, the Southwestern Railroad Line was completed from Albany to Arlington. The railroad drew the timber industry deeper into south Georgia, facilitating the transport of timber and naval stores to markets elsewhere.

When the railroad reached Blakely in 1881, a depot was built on North Main Street (no longer extant). The town was described by one observer in 1885 as a town of "a number of intelligent people and a number of rather crude people in the midst of the turpentine region." About 1889, the streets around the Square were paved as well as Main Street running north and south. The population exceeded 1,000.

Prior to the Civil War, there were several sparsely developed homesteads in every direction from the downtown, except for the east, because of a swamp. However, most residences were concentrated around or combined with the commercial development. After the War, the residential development in Blakely gradually moved away from the square. To the south and west of the Court Square, more expensive residences with larger lots developed, while to the east, development was hindered by the swamp. The majority of the middle-income development took place on the west side of the square on the major thoroughfares of River Street (this road leads west from the square to the landing on the Chattahoochee) and College Street (this leads northwest from the square to Fort Gaines also on the Chattahoochee).

Clara L. Fryer Butler was the daughter of Henry Crawford Fryer, a Civil War veteran, representative in the Georgia Legislature, and postmaster of Blakely. Henry Fryer and his second wife, Emma Etheridge Fryer, owned several lots along College Street in Blakely and one of the lots was sold to Clara L. Fryer Butler in 1890. Clara Fryer had married James Butler, who was originally from Whigham in Decatur (now Grady) County and owned a cotton gin and several sawmills in the Blakely area. Clara and James had seven children, four of whom survived to young adulthood. James died at the age of 38, and Clara never remarried. Clara sold the house to her daughter Mattie in 1941. Mattie never married and lived in the house until her death in 1987.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Forgey, Paul. "James and Clara Butler House" Historic Property Information Form, October 7, 1999. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division. Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings. Atlanta: 1991.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): () 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: July 17, 2000
- 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 Less than one acre.

UTM References

Zone 16 Easting 695821 Northing 3473247

Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary of the James and Clara Butler House is indicated on the attached tax map drawn with a heavy black line, drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the current legal boundary of the house, which is the remaining historic acreage associated with the house, and the right-of-way along the south side of College Street from the property line to the curb, including the sidewalk and planting strip.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Gretchen B. Kinnard/National Register Coordinator
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** November 1, 2001
e-mail gretchen_kinnard@mail.dnr.state.ga.us

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable) not applicable

name/title Paul Forgey/Preservation Planner
organization Southwest Georgia Regional Development Center
mailing address P.O. Box 346
city or town Camilla **state** Georgia **zip code** 31730
telephone (229) 522-3552
e-mail N/A

- property owner
 regional preservation planner
 consultant
 other:

Property Owner or Nomination Sponsor Name and Address

name (property owner or contact person) James and Nell Fowler
organization (if applicable) N/A
mailing address 5215 Seward Road
city or town Brentwood **state** Tennessee **zip code** 37027
e-mail N/A

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form **Continuation Sheet**

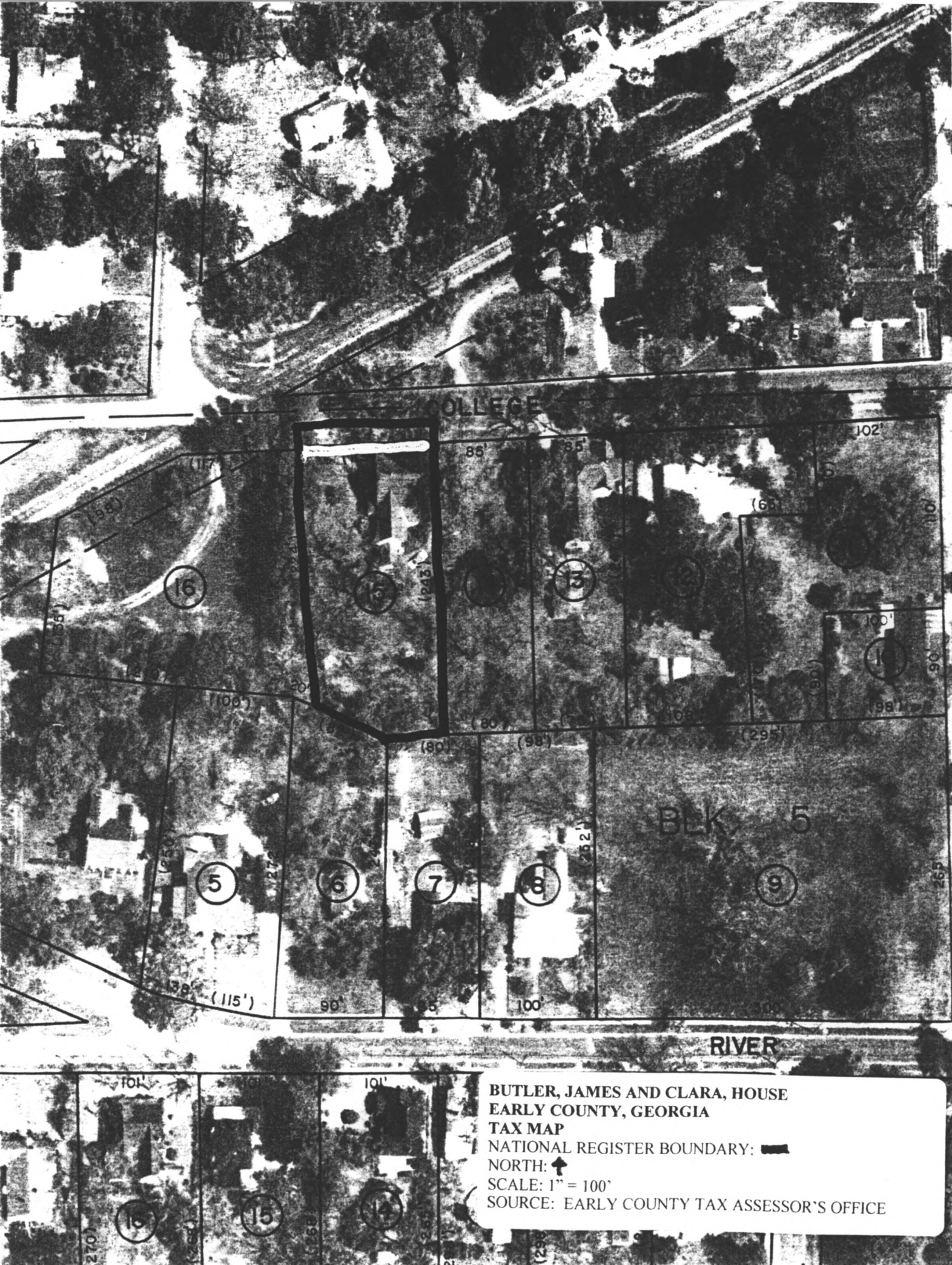
Photographs

Name of Property: Butler, James and Clara, House
City or Vicinity: Blakely
County: Early
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: April 2001

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of Photographs: 11



- 1 of 11: View of front (north) façade; photographer facing south.
- 2 of 11: View of front and west facades; photographer facing southeast.
- 3 of 11: View of front and east facades; photographer facing southwest.
- 4 of 11: View of rear (south) and east facades; photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 11: View of rear and west facades; photographer facing northeast.
- 6 of 11: Detail of front porch; photographer facing west.
- 7 of 11: Interior, view of central hall towards front entrance; photographer facing north.
- 8 of 11: Interior, view of front left parlor; photographer facing southeast.
- 9 of 11: Interior, view of rear right bedroom; photographer facing northeast.
- 10 of 11: Interior, view of rear bedroom; photographer facing south.
- 11 of 11: Interior, view of dining room; photographer facing northwest.

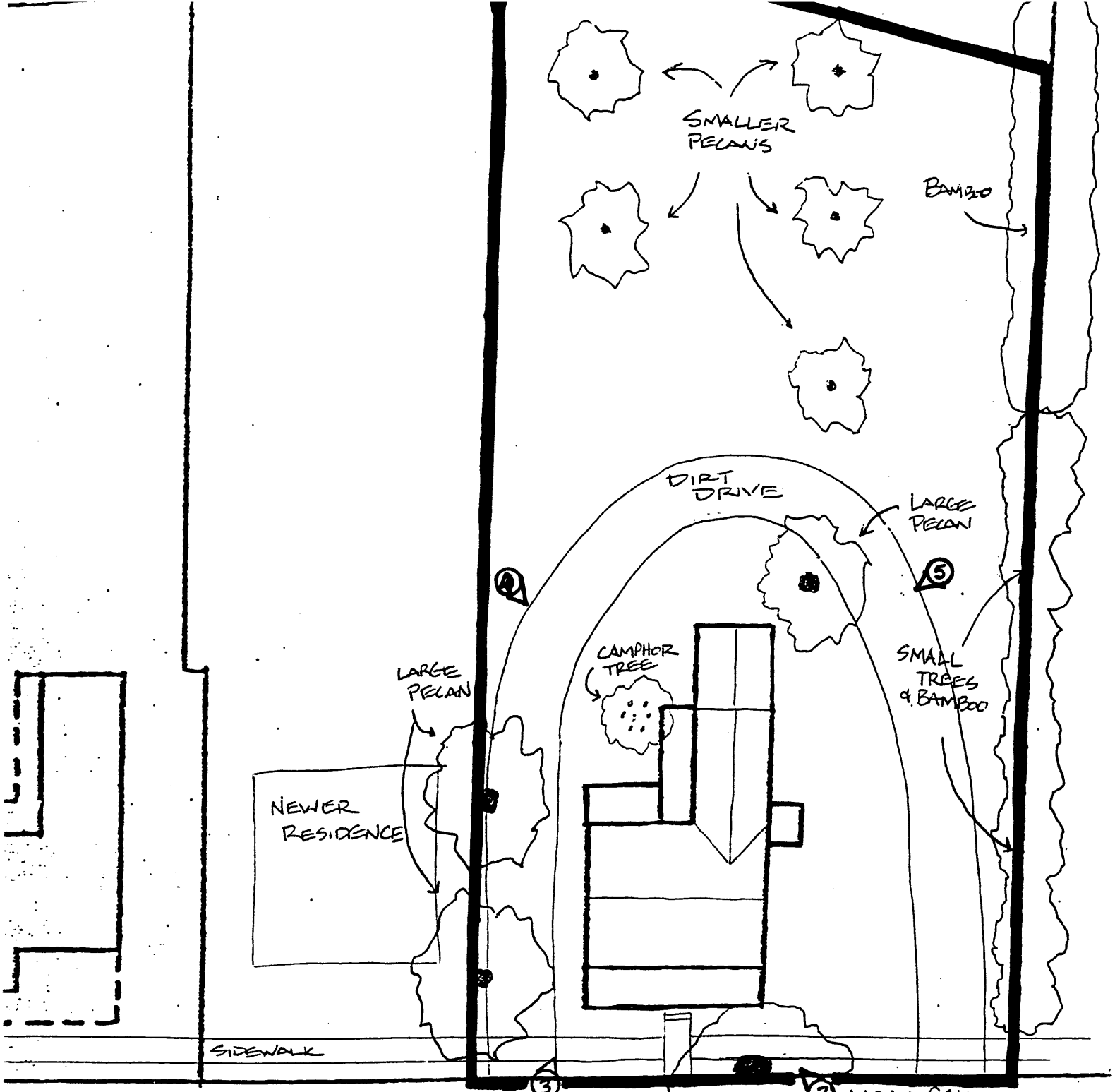


COLLEGE



RIVER

BLK 5

BUTLER, JAMES AND CLARA, HOUSE
EARLY COUNTY, GEORGIA
TAX MAP
NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY: 
NORTH: 
SCALE: 1" = 100'
SOURCE: EARLY COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

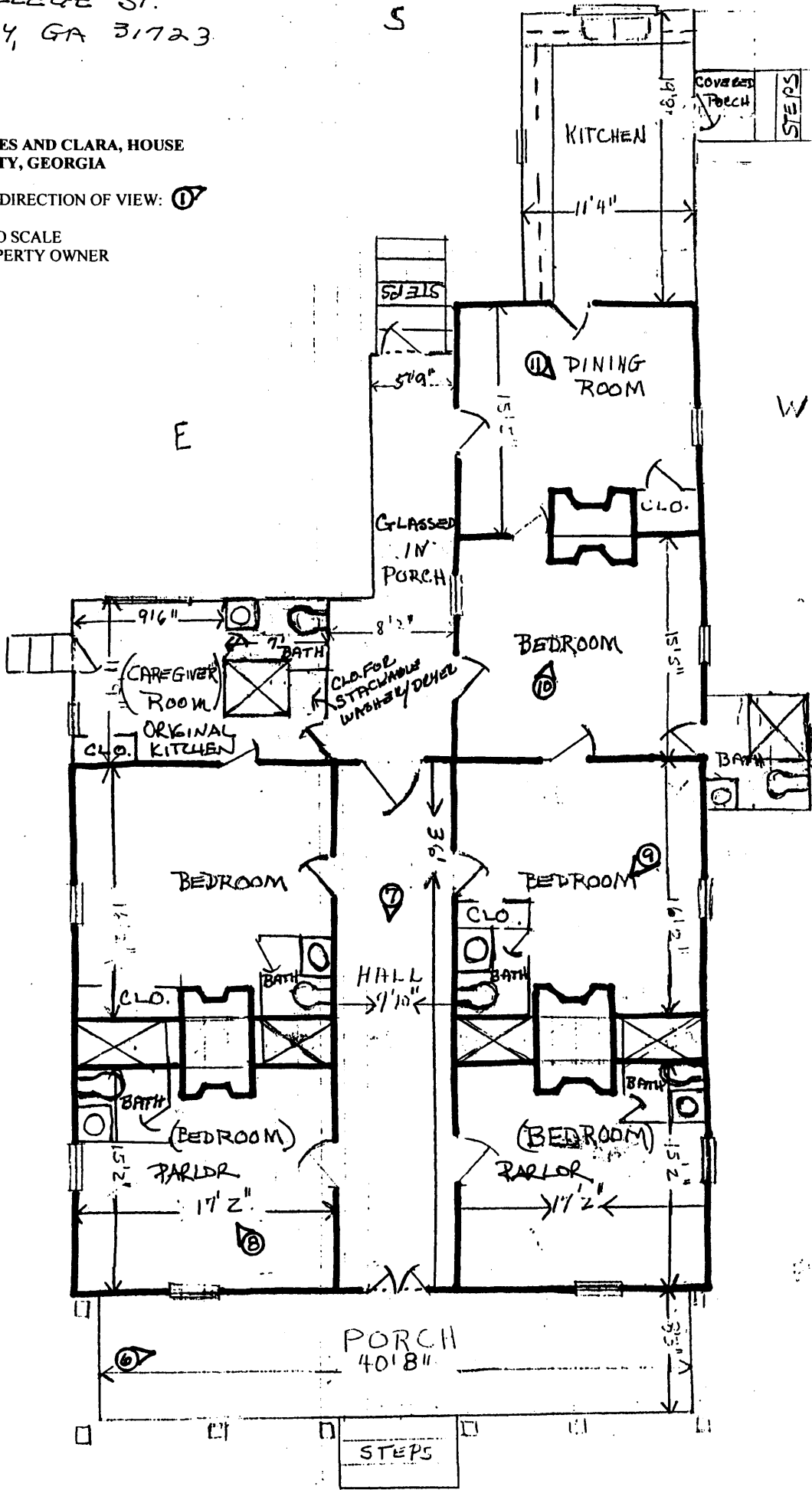


SITE PLAN
 FOR
 418 COLLEGE ST.
 ELABLY, GA.
 NOVEMBER, 1999

BUTLER, JAMES AND CLARA, HOUSE
 EARLY COUNTY, GEORGIA
 SITE MAP
 PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: 
 NORTH: 
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE
 SOURCE: PROPERTY OWNER

BUTLER HOUSE
 418 COLLEGE ST.
 BLAKELY, GA 31723

BUTLER, JAMES AND CLARA, HOUSE
 EARLY COUNTY, GEORGIA
 FLOOR PLAN
 PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: ①
 NORTH: ↓
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE
 SOURCE: PROPERTY OWNER



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