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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 Owens, Hubert Bond, House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 215 West Rutherford Street
city, town Athens () **vicinity of**
county Clarke **code** GA 059
state Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 30605

() not for publication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	1	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	2	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 Cross
Signature of certifying official

3-28-08
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

Patrick Andrews 5/14/2008

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:

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

Materials:

foundation	BRICK
walls	BRICK
roof	STONE/slate; ASPHALT
other	CONCRETE

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The following description is taken from the June 10, 2005 "Hubert Bond Owens House" Historic Property Information Form that was prepared by John Kissane, consultant and edited by Lynn Speno, Historic Preservation Division. It is on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

The Hubert Bond Owens House is located on the south side of West Rutherford Street one block west of South Lumpkin Street in Athens, Clarke County, Georgia. Athens is a university town located in north Georgia, about 75 miles east of Atlanta. The house is situated near the Bloomfield Street National Register Historic District and the South Milledge Avenue Historic District, both residential districts. The University of Georgia campus is a short distance away, further east across South Lumpkin Street.

The Hubert Bond Owens House is a two-story, Colonial Revival-style brick residence built in 1941. The owner established the gardens shortly thereafter. Georgia architect Edwin Jerome Wade designed the house and landscape architect Hubert Bond Owens, the property's original owner, designed the surrounding landscaped gardens.

The house is located near the front of a long, narrow lot and faces West Rutherford Street (photograph 1). The main block of the house is side-gabled and nearly square. There are small, one-story, side-gabled wings on either side of the main block. The house has a slate roof and tall, interior-end brick chimneys at the ridgeline of the main block. There is also a third chimney on the right or west wing. A small, gable-roofed, brick garage is attached to the east wing (photographs 2 and 3). A small c.1952 one-room addition is located on the west side of the house (photograph 6).

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Section 7--Description

The main entrance to the house, with fanlight and sidelights surrounding double doors, is from a c.1822 Athens home that was demolished (photographs 4 and 5). The first floor windows have wide stone lintels (photograph 5). The south (rear) façade is constructed of concrete block with a full-width screened porch (photograph 6). The interior retains original plaster walls, hardwood floors, various doors and hallways. There are also two Federal-style mantels salvaged from the c.1822 Athens home. The original wooden stairway remains, with its walnut balustrade. The 1952 one-room addition attached to the right (west) side wing is unusual in that it appears to be a rectangle upon initial inspection, but in fact has not a single right (90-degree) angle. A larger, gabled-roof garage replaced the original one-car, flat-roofed garage in 1991. Local Athens architect David Metheny designed the new garage. It is side-gabled with asphalt shingle roofing and is attached to the east wing and set back somewhat.

The primary elevation of the house is dominated by an early 19th-century entrance that was taken from the c.1822 Reeves House, originally located on Jackson Street just north of downtown Athens. When that house was demolished in 1937, Owens salvaged the doorway, as well as the sheaf-of-wheat-designed railing, and incorporated these features into his new house. The entrance features a fanlight with keystone surround and sidelights that encircle the double doors (photograph 5). Brick steps lead to the wide, front brick patio, which is bounded by the sheaf-of-wheat railing.

Windows on the first floor of the front facade consist of one six-over-six double-hung sash window on either side of the entrance and one eight-over-eight double-hung sash window on each of the two side wings (photograph 4). Wide stone lintels with stylized Greek-fret motifs are set over the window openings on the main block (photograph 5). Three small windows on the second floor are located behind decorative stylized Greek-fret grilles (photograph 5). The side wings, which come forward somewhat, do not have upper level windows on the front facade (photograph 1).

The rear of the house is constructed of concrete block. A full-width, one-story, screened porch with a low-pitched hip roof extends across this facade. Each of the side wings has a dormer with a six-over-six window facing the rear garden. Upper-level windows in the main portion of the house are nine-over-six (photographs 6-8).

On the interior, the Hubert Bond Owens House features a massed plan with plastered walls and hardwood floors. A small entry hall opens into the living room and into a narrow hall that leads to the dining room, the pantry and kitchen (photographs 9 and 10). This entry hall also opens to a second hall providing access to storage areas, the study and conservatory, from which one may continue into the c.1952 addition (photograph 14). Access to the rear porch is from a pair of double doors at the south end of the living room and one double door at the south end of the dining room. Of special note are the Federal-style mantels in the two main rooms, both of which were salvaged from the Reeves House (photographs 11-13).

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The entry hall contains the original wooden stairway (photograph 10). The balustrade and handrail were crafted from walnut trees from the Owens' family farm in Canon, Georgia, where Owens spent his childhood.

The second floor consists of a large master bedroom and secondary bedroom, both with fireplaces and Federal-style mantels (photographs 16 and 17). Each of the side wings contains a small bedroom with a dormer window providing a view to the back gardens.

The lot occupied by the Hubert Bond Owens House is long and narrow, measuring approximately 100 feet at its widest point where the property fronts West Rutherford Street and approximately 250 feet deep. The house itself sits somewhat above street grade and well toward the front of the lot. Brick steps rise from the sidewalk along the street up to the small front yard space, which is bisected by a walkway leading to a second low flight of steps and a stone and brick terrace at the front entrance of the house (photograph 4). The lot rises approximately 12 feet from front to back. While the gardens do not appear exactly as they did during Owens' period of residence (1941-1989), they have not changed significantly. The most significant change is the recent loss of a very large oak tree at the center of the rear garden (photograph 18).

In front of the house, architect Wade had planned a boxwood parterre, but Owens planted a yaupon hedge instead. Wade also envisioned the house separated from the sidewalk by a brick retaining wall approximately four feet high. Owens chose to omit the retaining wall and planted the bank with hellebores, ferns and vinca. Specimen trees planted by Owens include a plena dogwood and an American smoke tree. Owens included mondo grass in his front and rear gardens, a plant that he apparently introduced to the Athens, Georgia area.

Early photographs of the property show that the rear garden was divided into three areas. The first, close to the house, was planted in mondo grass. Paths and a small patio area to the west were of concrete block pavers, a material Owens also used in University of Georgia gardens of the same time period. A fence provided background to the deciduous perennial-biennial border to the west. The fence was constructed of wood and painted a light green. The border was fronted by a row of small English boxwood. Foxgloves and hellebores were the pride of this border. The landscape of the second area was dominated by the recently lost water oak and a large freeform stone terrace. Ivy, heavily under-planted with spring bulbs, and shrub plantings completed this area. The third area was a vegetable and cutting garden. Historic photographs indicate that it was strictly utilitarian, although it was enclosed on three sides by a handsome low rock wall in front of which Owens planted many camellias, ten of which survive to this day. These three major landscaped areas have survived today, along with much of their terracing, paving materials, and retaining walls, although the large oak tree and other lesser plantings have been lost or replaced (photographs 6, 7, 18, 19).

No formal drawings of the garden are known to exist, and it is possible that Owens may not have actually drawn detailed plans. Although Owens' original ideas for the gardens are not known, he did

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communicate some thoughts about the property through a series of letters with writer Anita Mobley, who was planning an article on the house and gardens for *Southern Accents* magazine. (The article was apparently never published.) In one of those letters Owens provided a concise description of the garden design.

The garden is a skillful blend of traditional and free-form modern landscape design. It includes box-edged herbaceous borders of foxglove, sweet William, and other biennials and perennials, a small vegetable-cut flower garden, a cast aluminum sculpture, and lawn areas of dwarf liriopse instead of grass. A series of paved walks, stepping stones and sitting areas help to provide a unifying element in this garden.

Among the carefully chosen and arranged plantings are camellias, box, woody hydrangeas, and such rare species as *Franklinia alatamaha*, *Chimonanthus praecox*, *Cornus kousa*, *Neviusia alabamensis*, *Calycanthus floridus viridissimus*, *Laurus nobilis*, Chinese snowball, Carolina jessamine, *Alstroemeria*, *Amsonia* and many *Helleborus orientalis*.

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
Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance:

1941-1973

Significant Dates:

1941 – date of construction

Significant Person(s):

Owens, Hubert Bond

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Owens, Hubert Bond – landscape architect
Wade, Edwin Jerome - architect

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

Hubert Bond Owens (1905-1989) established and developed the first professional landscape architecture program in the South. His success in this endeavor at the University of Georgia in Athens led to the program becoming one of the leading landscape architecture programs in the United States. He directed the program from its inception in 1928 until his retirement in 1973. Owens taught and directed the program, served on national and international landscape architecture committees, provided guidance to garden clubs throughout the country, and maintained a private design practice. Owens' contributions to the landscape architecture profession in Georgia, the South and the United States are significant to this property since it was here that he lived for nearly 50 years, during the most productive years of his professional life. Designed by Edwin Jerome Wade, the two-story, Colonial Revival-style brick Owens House was constructed in 1941, and Owens designed the gardens shortly thereafter. Owens collaborated with Wade on other residential projects in Athens and Augusta, Georgia.

The house is significant in landscape architecture at the national level for its direct association with Hubert Bond Owens who was the driving force behind the creation of the landscape architecture program at the University of Georgia, the first such program in the South. It began offering a diploma in the field beginning in 1928. Owens spent 45 years building the landscape architecture program while serving as department head. In 1969, when the program was moved to the newly created School of Environmental Design, he served as dean until his retirement in 1973. The environmental design program became one of the largest of its kind in the U. S. and expanded to offer a degree in historic preservation in 1983. Owens was involved in many national and international landscape architecture organizations and events. He served as president of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA). He designed landscapes all over Georgia and the Southeast and served as landscape architect with the Georgia Highway Commission from 1936 to 1938. The recipient of many honors, he was also the subject of a masters thesis in 1997 and was included in the 1993 work *Pioneers of American Landscape Design: An Annotated Bibliography*. He wrote his own book, *Personal History of Landscape Architecture in the Last Sixty Years, 1922-1982*, which was published in 1983.

In addition to these roles, Owens was the landscape architect for many private homes, including his own. Based upon comparison with historic photos of his home and garden, the essential layout and some of the plant material remain from his home's gardens. Since Owens designed and maintained the gardens, they contribute to the significance of this property in the area of landscape architecture. Owens' skillful selection of plant materials, his use of spatial arrangements, the juxtaposition of cleared areas bordered with plantings, and the interspersed of hardscapes show his masterful adeptness at landscape design.

In general, the landscape design of the Hubert Bond Owens House is very characteristic of the early 20th century in Georgia, when it was typical for historic styles to be adapted to specific needs and situations. The spatial arrangement of the grounds is representative of the period. Front yards often consisted of an open area with a variety of shrubs planted close to the house and a scattering of trees planted close to the street. The back garden follows early 20th century preferences for a generally

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open lawn area bordered by trees and shrubs. Hubert Owens' adept selection of plant materials and their relative placements is what sets the garden apart, however, as he utilized many plant varieties not typical of the period. Owens did not believe it was essential to utilize only plantings from the Colonial and ante-bellum eras, but the majority of the plant materials in his plans were true to these periods.

The Hubert Bond Owens House is significant in architecture at the state level of significance as a good example of the Colonial Revival style. The two-story brick house includes its original form and workmanship details, including mantels and a front entrance salvaged from an earlier house. The symmetrical balancing of windows and central door, in addition to the highly accentuated front entrance with fanlight and sidelights, are characteristic features of the style. The 1941 construction date of the house makes it a later example of the Colonial Revival style. According to *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*, the Colonial Revival style in Georgia was popular from the 1890s through the 1940s and beyond. The house is also significant as a work of architect, Edwin Jerome Wade (1907-1974), of Athens and Augusta, with whom Owens worked on other residential projects.

National Register Criteria

The Hubert Bond Owens House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B at the national level for the contributions made by Hubert Bond Owens to the study and profession of landscape architecture. Owens was a prominent 20th-century landscape architect widely known as the founder of the landscape architecture program and first dean of the School of Environmental Design at the University of Georgia. He played a key role in shaping the landscape architecture profession in Georgia and the southeastern United States through a career of teaching and private practice that spanned nearly half a century. Owens held numerous national and international offices within the landscape profession and was respected around the world as a leader in the field.

The Hubert Bond Owens House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C at the state level in the areas of architecture and landscape architecture. The property is eligible in the area of architecture as a good example of a mid-20th-century Colonial Revival-style house. The property is eligible in the area of landscape architecture for the surviving gardens and landscape features designed by Owens.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

G – The period of significance extends to 1973, which was the year of Owens' retirement, to encompass the entire period of time during which Owens was a nationally renowned landscape architect and educator.

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Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the date of construction of the house in 1941 and ends in 1973 with Owens' retirement from the University of Georgia.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

The following historic context is taken from the June 10, 2005 "Hubert Bond Owens House" Historic Property Information Form that was prepared by John Kissane, consultant. It is on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Hubert Bond Owens -- Education and Background

Hubert Bond Owens was born on August 23, 1905 in the small, northeast Georgia town of Canon, in Franklin County, and graduated from the University of Georgia in 1926 with a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture. After teaching briefly at Berry Junior College, now Berry College, in Mount Berry, Georgia, just outside Rome, the University of Georgia (UGA) hired Owens in 1928 as an adjunct professor of landscape architecture. Charged with establishing and developing the first professional landscape architecture program in the state, Owens successfully built one of the leading landscape architecture programs in the United States, which he directed until his retirement as dean emeritus in 1973. In addition to a bachelor's degree, Owens also completed a Master of Arts degree in education/art history at the University of Georgia in 1933 and participated in summer courses in landscape architecture at Cornell University (1928) and Harvard University (1929, 1932, 1935, and 1940).

Owens developed his initial interest in nature and plants as a child on his father's farm. He also benefited from spending his senior year of high school in Beaumont, Texas, where he lived with his married sister, Eula. Much later, Owens spoke of how the parents of two Beaumont classmates brought a landscape architect from New York to design the grounds of their suburban homes. Owens' observation of the process inspired him to pursue a career in landscape architecture. In the spring of 1922, Owens was accepted for admittance to the University of Georgia. At this time, he was under the impression that a degree program in landscape architecture would begin in September of that year, but during the summer, the Georgia Legislature decided against appropriating funds for such a program. Owens was advised to register in the horticulture/landscape gardening major, since the courses would be similar to those of a first-year professional landscape architecture degree program. He talked with his father at the beginning of the semester about transferring to Cornell University, since no institution in the South offered a landscape architecture degree, but by the Christmas holidays, Owens was enjoying his studies and new friendships and decided to remain in Athens. Each fall of the next three years he hoped to learn that the landscape program would begin at UGA. Each fall he was disappointed, but decided to continue with his agricultural studies. In the

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spring of 1926, Owens completed his studies and was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture. Shortly thereafter he accepted a teaching position at Berry Junior College where he taught agriculture, biology and landscape gardening courses.¹

In early 1928, the Georgia Legislature voted to appropriate funds necessary to establish a professional landscape architecture program at the University of Georgia. Dr. T. H. McHatton, chairman of the Horticulture Division within UGA's College of Agriculture, wrote to Owens about the development. McHatton indicated his interest in Owens and stated that, given his relevant teaching experience at Berry, Owens should consider applying to head up the new program. There apparently was no hesitation, for in late April of 1928 Owens reported to UGA and began his assignment as adjunct professor of landscape architecture. Owens immediately took over the landscape gardening course McHatton had taught since 1908 and began preparations for a full curriculum in professional landscape architecture that would be ready by September of 1928.²

During the summer of 1928, Owens visited several northeastern universities where landscape architecture was part of the curriculum. This included a stay of more than a month at Cornell University, where Owens undertook a course in architectural and landscape design. Owens also attended a special two-day session of the American Society of Landscape Architects at Cornell. The meeting marked the first time that teachers and practitioners of landscape architecture had gathered together in an official capacity, with prepared talks given on education and much discussion about instructors' qualifications and a variety of matters related to professional training. Owens reported on how much he benefited from attending other sessions of the conference on instruction in landscape architecture, and that others in attendance were sincerely interested to know that the South's first professional landscape architecture program was being established at the University of Georgia.³

Owens began teaching and directing UGA's new landscape architecture program in the fall of 1928. It was unfortunate that the Great Depression set in with the program still in its infancy, for UGA was unable to providing adequate funding or expansion of the program in any way. For the first nine years, Owens taught the majority of the courses, which included history, theory, design, planting design, and plant materials. He was able to draw on other departments to teach surveying, construction, dendrology, horticulture, freehand drawing, and art history. The landscape program was moved from the College of Agriculture to the College of Fine Arts in 1932, and Owens became chairman of the Department of Landscape Architecture. He continued to be the only full-time faculty member in the landscape program until 1937. Enrollment remained low, with only 50 students graduating with a major in landscape architecture between 1928 and 1941. But after World War II, the department experienced considerable growth, largely as a result of students entering college under the G. I. Bill. Faculty were added and the program's curriculum was brought up to standards

¹Hubert B. Owens, *Personal History of Landscape Architecture in the Last Sixty Years* (Athens: University of Georgia Alumni Society, 1983), pp. 15-16.

²*Ibid.*, p. 18.

³*Ibid.*, pp.18-19.

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established by the ASLA and the National Commission on Accrediting. The program was moved back into the College of Agriculture, with Owens as department chair, and in 1951 became only the 10th in the nation to receive accreditation. In 1969, UGA established the School of Environmental Design, and Owens was appointed as its first dean. By this time, the University of Georgia's landscape architecture program had developed into one of the largest in the United States. Today professional degrees are offered at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Hubert Bond Owens - Local Influence

Along with his responsibilities at the University of Georgia and at the state, national and international levels, Owens also developed his own private practice in landscape architecture. During a design career that spanned almost half a century, Owens was responsible for the design of home landscapes, subdivisions, public housing projects, school grounds, industrial sites, hospital grounds, parks, college campus sites, and roadside development projects throughout the Southeast. One of his earliest significant undertakings was serving as landscape architect with the Georgia Highway Commission from 1936 to 1938. Owens was also involved with early planning and design work for Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Georgia. From 1940 to 1941, he assisted with Parkview Homes, the first public housing project in Athens, located just west of the University of Georgia. This particular project was one of Owens' first collaborations with architect Edwin Jerome Wade, with whom he would work on several residential projects in Athens during the 1940s. Among the college campuses that Owens helped design are the University of Georgia (Athens, Georgia), Berry College (Rome, Georgia), Wesleyan College (Macon, Georgia), and The University of the South (Sewanee, Tennessee). He was also involved with landscape design at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (Oak Ridge, Tennessee) from 1953 to 1964.⁴ An early advocate for billboard control legislation in Georgia, Owens gave numerous lectures on roadway improvements and was a member of President Lyndon Johnson's Citizens Advisory Committee on Highway Beautification from 1965 to 1967.⁵

Among the most notable of the Owens-Wade undertakings is a property known as Honeysuckle Hill, built in 1941 at 570 Springdale Street in the Cloverhurst-Springdale Historic District in Athens. The house was built for Hugh Hodgson, then the chairman of the Music Department at the University of Georgia. Owens apparently considered Honeysuckle Hill one of his most successful projects and would often bring friends by to view the house and gardens.⁶ Another Athens project was the rear garden of the 1858 President's Home on Prince Avenue, which Owens redesigned for entertaining large groups of guests.

⁴Charles A. Birnbaum and Lisa E. Crowder, editors, *Pioneers of American Landscape Design: An Annotated Bibliography* (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service Preservation Assistance Division, 1993), p. 89.

⁵Susan Lee Hitchcock, *The Colonial Revival Gardens of Hubert Bond Owens*, MHP thesis, University of Georgia (Athens, GA: University of Georgia, 1997): p.11.

⁶*Ibid.*, p. 57.

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Owens suggested the development of the Athens Founder's Memorial Garden as a cooperative project between the Garden Club of Georgia and UGA in honor of the 12 founders of the first garden club in America, the Ladies' Garden Club, founded in Athens, Georgia, 1891. The garden was developed over a period of time from 1939 to 1946 and is recognized as a memorial to the birth of the garden club movement and the culture that made it possible. In 1955, the *Atlanta Constitution* described the garden as "a spot of beauty, charm and tranquility . . . one of the floral showplaces of the nation." It remains as such today.

In addition to his work and advocacy in landscape architecture, Owens was also interested in historic preservation. He was a founding member of the Society for the Preservation of Old Athens (1959) and served on the Board of Directors of the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, Georgia's statewide nonprofit historic preservation organization which is one of the largest and most successful in the nation. In 1981, Owens was presented with two awards for his many contributions to historic preservation in Georgia, one from the Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation and the other from the Georgia Trust. Owens played a supportive role in the establishment of a historic preservation masters degree program at UGA's School of Environmental Design in 1983.

Owens retired from his position with the University of Georgia in 1973, but continued to serve as dean emeritus of the School of Environmental Design until his death in Athens on March 13, 1989.

Hubert Bond Owens -- National and World Influence

Over the years, Owens gradually assumed positions of great prominence within both the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) and the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA). He served as secretary of the Southeastern Chapter of ASLA beginning in 1948 and was elected an ASLA Fellow in 1955. From 1965 to 1967 Owens served as ASLA president and also president of the ASLA Foundation from 1967 to 1969. Owens' involvement with IFLA began in 1954 when he was chosen as ASLA delegate to the Biennial Congress in Vienna that year. His service to the organization culminated with his 1974 selection as IFLA president and service from 1978 to 1980 as coordinator of International Landscape Architecture Education. Owens was also extensively involved with garden clubs in Georgia and the nation, work that enhanced his position as a national leader in the fields of landscape architecture and design. In 1977, the National Council of State Garden Clubs awarded Owens its Gold Seal Award, the highest recognition awarded at the organization's annual meeting.⁷

Hubert Bond Owens House and Gardens

The Hubert Bond Owens House was designed for Owens by friend and sometimes colleague Edwin Jerome Wade (1907-1974). Wade, a Springfield, Missouri, native was educated at Yale University. He established a practice in Athens before relocating to Augusta, Georgia, in 1945, and thereafter was a partner in the firm of Kuhlke and Wade. Wade designed the Hubert Bond Owens House in

⁷Ibid., pp. 9-11.

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1940 and construction was completed in early 1941. Notable buildings designed by Wade include the City-County Building, University Hospital, the Home Federal Building, and the First Federal Building, all in Augusta.

In the early 1950s, a guest bedroom was added to the west side of the Owens house. The addition is unusual for having no right (90-degree) angles, a necessity because of the cramped space on the west side of the original house. In order to maximize available space the addition was designed in its unusual form, but from the interior, as well as from West Rutherford Street, one does not easily notice.

Historic Preservation

In 1985, the Bloomfield Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This district is bounded by Peabody Street on the north, by University of Georgia properties on the east, by West Rutherford Street on the south, and by properties fronting South Milledge Avenue on the west. The National Register district did not include the Hubert Bond Owens House, since in 1985 the property was only 44 years old, Owens was still alive, and his career had not been fully documented. A locally designated Bloomfield Historic District has been established more recently and does include the Owens house. Owens resided in the house from its completion in 1941 until his death in 1989. Owens' wife and children also resided in the house. Stan and Martha Henderson purchased the Hubert Bond Owens House in early 1991. The Hendersons undertook an interior restoration of the house and also had the original small, flat-roofed garage demolished in 1991. That same year, a larger, two-car garage, designed by Athens architect David Metheny, was constructed in its place. Current owner Lynn Bryant acquired the Hubert Bond Owens House in 2003.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Augusta Chronicle. Editorial and obituary on Edwin Jerome Wade. January 26, 1974 issue.

Birnbaum, Charles A., and Lisa E. Crowder, editors. *Pioneers of American Landscape Design: An Annotated Bibliography*. Washington, D. C., National Park Service Preservation Assistance Division, 1993.

Bryant, Lynn. Owner of the Hubert Bond Owens House. Interviews by John Kissane, 2004 and 2005.

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

Hitchcock, Susan Lee. "The Colonial Revival Gardens of Hubert Bond Owens." Master's thesis, University of Georgia, 1997.

Kissane, John. *Historic Property Information Form*. "Hubert Bond Owens House", June 10, 2005. On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, Georgia.

Montgomery, Erick. Executive Director, Historic Augusta, Inc. Interview by John Kissane, May 2005.

Nichols, Frederick Doveton, and Francis Benjamin Johnston. *The Early Architecture of Georgia*. Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1957.

Owens, Hubert Bond. *Personal History of Landscape Architecture in the Last Sixty Years, 1922-1982*. Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Alumni Society, 1983.

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 Less than one acre

UTM References

Zone 17 Easting 279447 Northing 3758173

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Hubert Bond Owens House is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached map.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Hubert Bond Owens House is the present and historic legal boundary of the property and contains the historic house and landscaped gardens.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Lynn Speno, Survey and Register Specialist
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 34 Peachtree Street
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** March 2008
e-mail lynn.speno@dnr.state.ga.us

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

name/title John Kissane
organization Consultant
mailing address 310 Three Oaks Drive
city or town Athens **state** GA **zip code** 30607
telephone 706-613-7307
e-mail

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

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Lynn Bryant
organization (if applicable) owner
mailing address 215 West Rutherford Street
city or town Athens **state** GA **zip code** 30605
e-mail (optional)

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Hubert Bond Owens House
City or Vicinity: Athens
County: Clarke
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: March 2006

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 19

1. Front façade of the Owens House; photographer is facing south.
2. Front façade of the house; photographer is facing southwest.
3. Front façade of the house; photographer is facing south.
4. Front façade of the house; photographer is facing south.
5. Front entry of the house; photographer is facing south.
6. Back façade of the house; photographer is facing north.
7. Back façade of the house; photographer is facing north.
8. Back façade of the house; photographer is facing northwest.
9. Entry hall on the first floor; photographer is facing northeast.
10. Entry hall on the first floor; photographer is facing northeast.
11. Living room; photographer is facing west.
12. Living room; photographer is facing south.
13. Dining room; photographer is facing east.
14. 1952 addition; photographer is facing west.
15. Second floor hallway; photographer is facing east.
16. Second floor master bedroom; photographer is facing west.

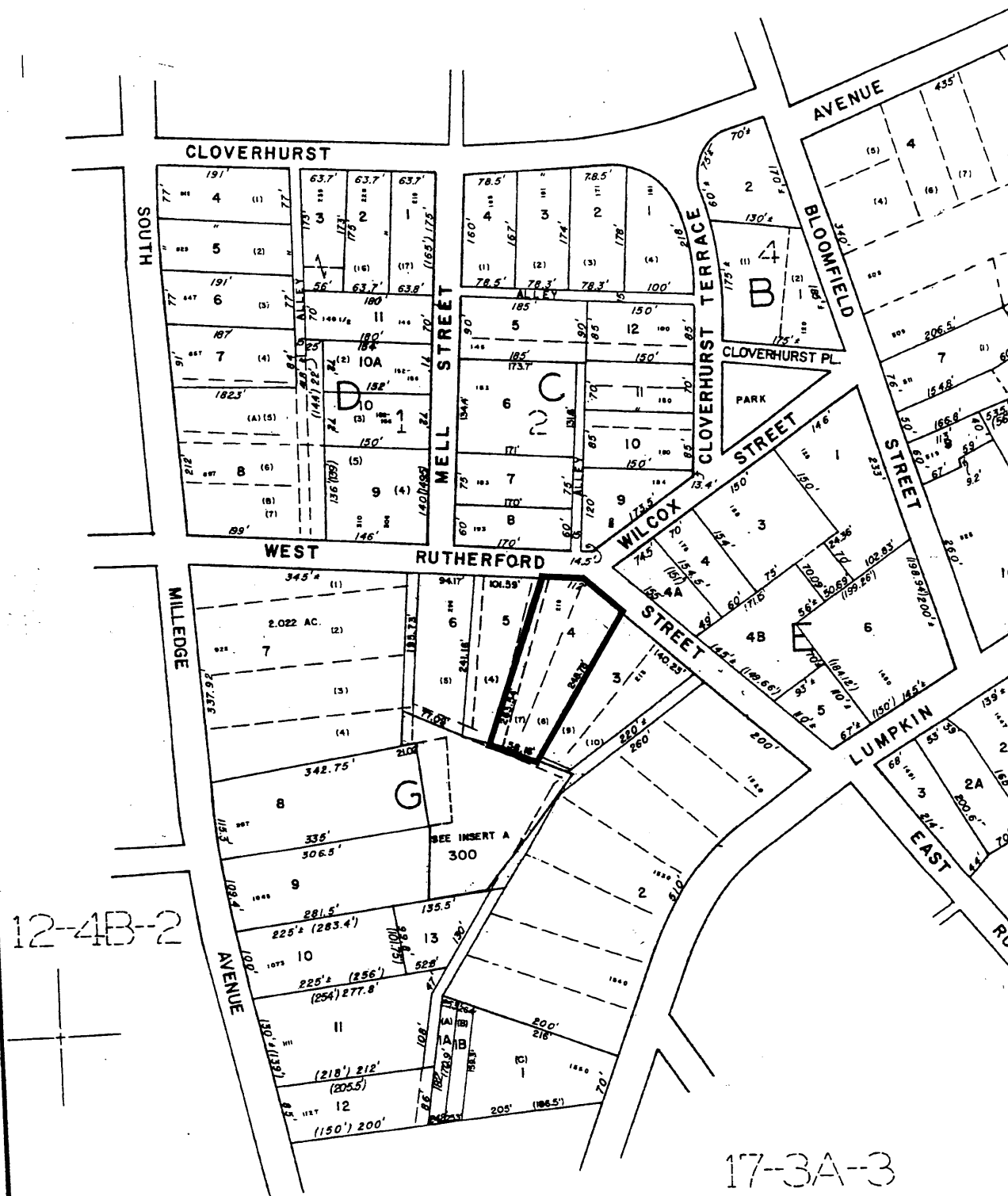
National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

17. Second floor bedroom; photographer is facing southeast.
18. Back garden; photographer is facing south.
19. Back garden; photographer is facing west.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

Owens, Hubert Bond, House
 Clarke County, Georgia
 National Register Map/Plat Map
 National Register Boundary: —
 North: ↑
 Scale: 1" = 217'



12-4B-2

17-3A-3

366

LEGEND: NUMBER IN () INDICATES ORIGINAL SUBDIVISION LOT NO.
 OPEN NUMBER INDICATES THIS MAP LOT NUMBER.
 --- (DASHED LINE) IS ORIGINAL SUBDIVISION LOT LINE.
 --- (DOTTED LINE) IS BOUNDARY LINE IN ABSENCE OF SURVEY.
 --- (SOLID LINE) IS BOUNDARY OF OVERSEAS.

NOTE:
 THIS MAP WAS COMPILED FROM AN A.C.L. SURVEY.
 IT IS TO BE USED FOR TAX PURPOSES ONLY. THE
 LIABILITY FOR THE ACCURACY OF THE INFORMATION
 CONTAINED HEREIN IS SOLELY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE
 SURVEYOR.

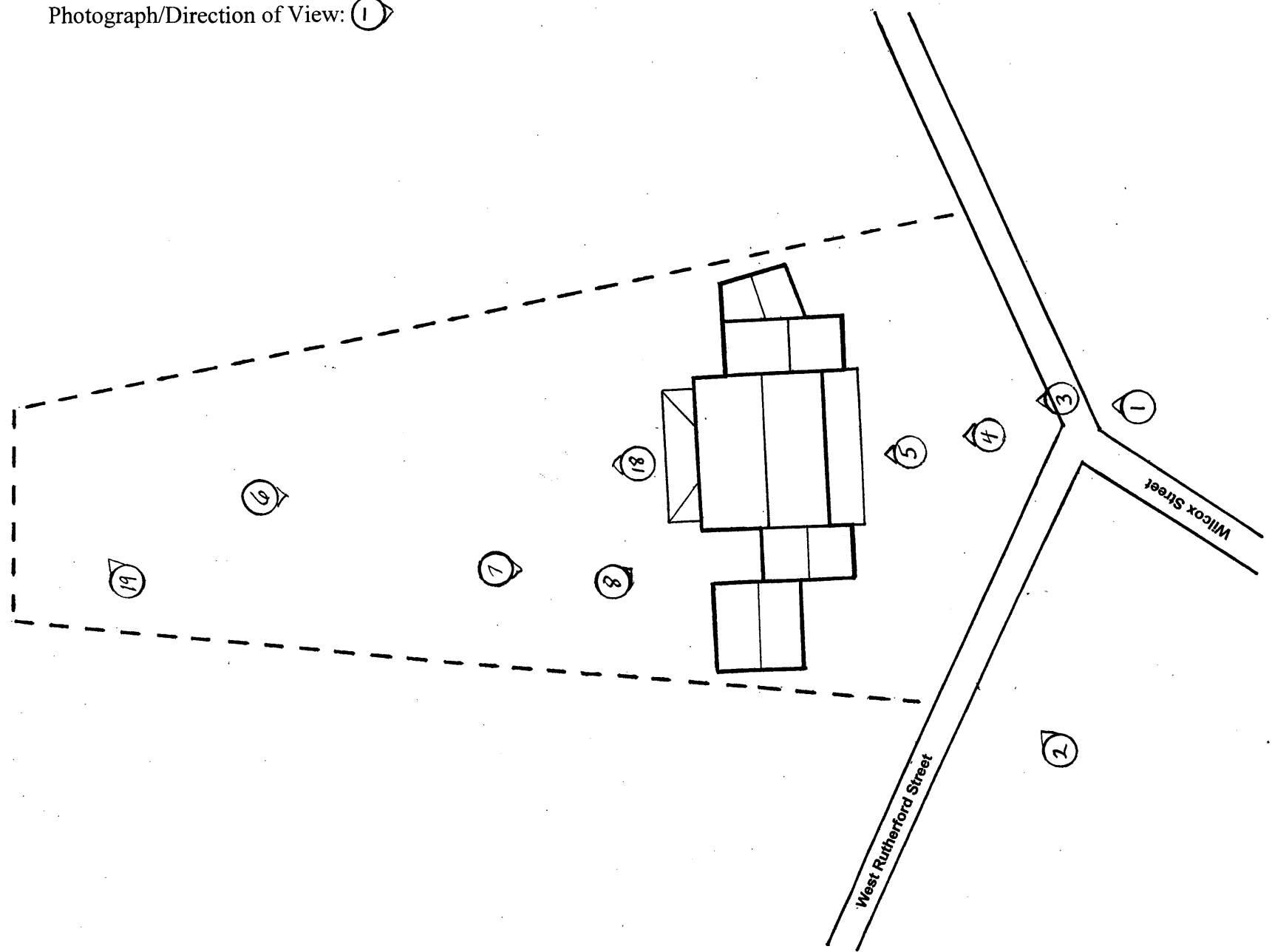
Map 17-3A-1

Owens, Hubert Bond, House
Clarke County, Georgia
Site Plan

North: →

Scale: Not to Scale

Photograph/Direction of View: ①

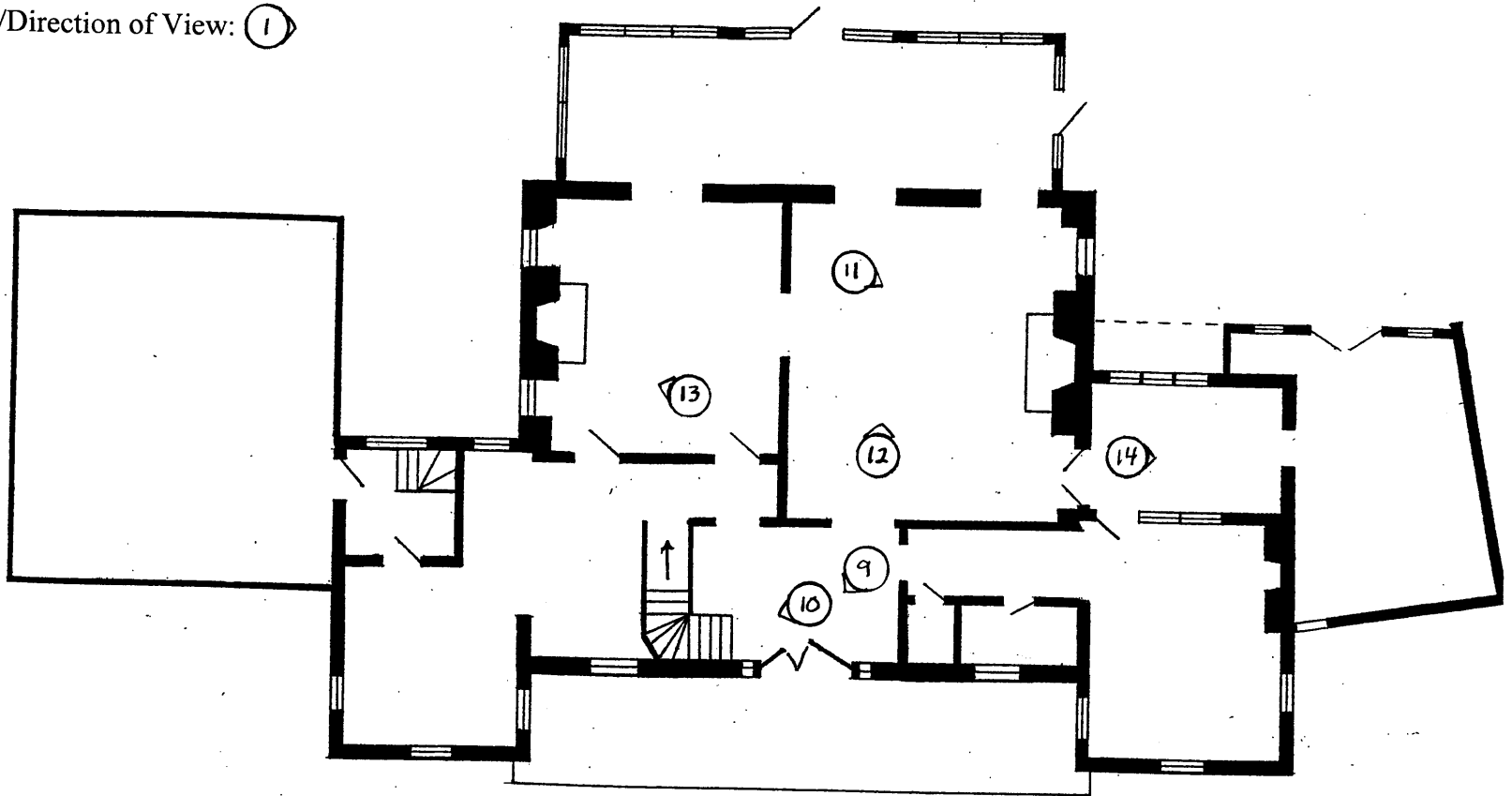


Owens, Hubert Bond, House
Clarke County, Georgia
First Floor Plan

North: ↓

Scale: Not to Scale

Photograph/Direction of View: (1)



Owens, Hubert Bond, House
Clarke County, Georgia
Second Floor Plan

North: ↓

Scale: Not to Scale

Photograph/Direction of View: ①

