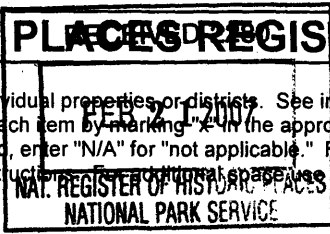


247

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 Blackford-Gray House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 319 Gray Street (formerly 1 Front Street)
city, town Graysville () vicinity of
county Catoosa code GA 047
state Georgia code GA zip code 30726

() not for publication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	3
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	3

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.

W. Ray Luce

2-13-07

Signature of certifying official

Date

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

Elson H. Beall

4.4.07

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

HEALTH CARE: medical business/office

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

OTHER: Georgian Cottage

Materials:

foundation	BRICK, CONCRETE
walls	WOOD: Weatherboard
roof	ASPHALT
other	WOOD

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Blackford-Gray House is a one-and-a-half-story Georgian Cottage house type with Queen Anne elements. Constructed in 1883 with later additions, it faces Front Street and the railroad tracks that pass through the small community of Graysville. The oldest portion of the house is almost square with a symmetrical plan on each floor, consisting of a central hallway with staircase, flanked by two rooms on each side of the hall. It has a weatherboard exterior and a side-gabled asphalt-shingled roof with two brick interior ridgeline chimneys. The foundation is brick and concrete block. Major windows have one-over-one sashes, and the front door contains stained glass panels. The Queen Anne exterior details include an asymmetrical full front porch with spindlework frieze and decorative brackets, a tower with bay windows, and two front-gabled wall dormers. The interior has had some late-20th-century changes, but historic elements that survive include the basic floor plan, woodwork trim, doors, stairs, transom windows with intact hardware, and some of the plaster walls. Nine historic (originally coal-burning) fireplaces remain, although most mantels have been replaced. The downstairs was used initially as the parlor and living areas, with the upstairs reserved for four bedrooms. The house has a 1930s rear addition (modified 1970s) with kitchen (including the ninth fireplace), sunroom, and bathrooms. The property also includes two modern two-car garages and a small shed in the rear. The house sits on a residential town lot, and is surrounded by foundation shrubs, planting beds, mature trees, and a grass lawn.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

FULL DESCRIPTION

The Blackford-Gray House (c.1883 with later additions) is located in the town of Graysville in Catoosa County. This small community lies along the Chickamauga Creek, less than one mile from the Tennessee border near Chattanooga. The house's former address was 1 Front Street, consistent with its orientation toward Front Street and the parallel railroad tracks, but the current address of 319 Gray Street relates to the modern driveway at the rear of the property. There is a small former mercantile store (c.1930s) next door, but most neighboring residences were built in the 1940s and 1950s. Graysville has one cemetery and one house that pre-date the Civil War.

The nominated house is a one-and-a-half-story Georgian Cottage with Queen Anne details (Photographs 1, 2, and 3). House types, as identified in the statewide context, Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings, can be a clue to the period in which a house was constructed. The "type" relates to the overall form, plan, or layout, plus the height. The Georgian Cottage, one of the most popular and long-lived house types in Georgia, was built in almost all periods of the state's history, but most commonly between 1850 and 1890. It is square or nearly square with a central hallway with two rooms on each side. Chimneys were usually in the interior of the house, between each pair of rooms, as in the Blackford-Gray House. Approximately eight percent of historic houses surveyed in Georgia, and ten percent in Catoosa County, are identified as either Georgian Cottage or Georgian House types.

House style refers to decoration and ornamentation, as well as to overall form. The Queen Anne style house was found widely in many variations all over the state from the 1880s to about 1910. It tends to be complex and asymmetrical with a variety of roof and wall shapes. The Blackford-Gray House has several exterior Queen Anne elements, such as the highly decorated porch, but it does not have a typical Queen Anne form. The details appear as almost an afterthought, and it is possible that some of the Queen Anne elements could have been added as upgrades in the years immediately following the 1883 construction date, as its owners gained status and wealth (compare front façade in Photo 3 and side view in Photo 4). Only about five percent of Georgian Cottages in the state have also been identified with the Queen Anne style. The Blackford-Gray House is the only Queen Anne house identified in a 2005 historic resources survey of about 200 buildings and structures in Catoosa County.

The frame house sits on a brick foundation with later concrete block replacement in some areas. (The foundation was re-leveled in 1983 and 2004.) Most of the base of the home has been covered in lattice in recent years, obscuring the foundation. Roofing material is asphalt shingle. The primary roof on the original core is side gabled. The main roof has a wide eave overhang with a box cornice and a wide band of trim below. Decorative brackets are located under the eaves on the front façade, but only under the eave returns on the sides. Two front-gabled dormers and a turret with a spire help break up the main roofline. The roofs on the rear addition include a shed extension and a cross-gabled section, as well as a smaller gable on an upper floor "pop-up" (Photo 4). Two brick chimneys extend from the original ridgeline, and a third chimney is located on the rear (c.1930s) kitchen addition.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

The exterior wall material is wood weatherboard. This had formerly been covered in asbestos siding in the 1950s, which was removed in the 1970s to once again expose the original material. The main façade has a central door flanked by two bays. Wall dormers with tall rectangular windows rise above the entry door and the right bay. The left bay protrudes from the façade to form a small tower or turret with three windows on each of two floors topped by a six-sided spire with a metal finial. All front windows have tall one-over-one double-hung sashes with ropes and weights still intact. They are covered by modern storm windows. The intact historic front door has a stained glass panel and transom, and is now covered by a metal storm door.

The full front porch is asymmetrical in form with a left side that extends forward to skirt the turret (Photo 2). It has the appearance of a wrap-around porch from the late Victorian era, but it is cut off just as it begins to extend around the left corner. The porch no longer has its railings. The support posts are square on bottom and rounded on top. Queen Anne decorative trim includes the brackets and a simplified spindlework frieze. The wooden porch floor was removed around 1950, and replaced with poured concrete.

The rear addition dates from the 1930s, but was extensively remodeled in the 1970s. It is primarily one story in height, although there is a small upper level on one section (Photo 5). This addition is not highly visible from the front of the house. A small covered deck connects the addition to a two-story two-bay garage (non-contributing) that was constructed in 1991 along with the concrete driveway in back. Two other non-contributing buildings in the back yard are a small shed (c.1991) and a second smaller garage built in 2003 (Photos 5 and 6).

The central front entry hall of the Blackford-Gray House is reached by the original wood paneled door, which has square stained glass panels in the rectangular window (Photo 8). The transom has a similar pattern, oriented horizontally. Interior door casings have bull's eye corner blocks. This type of trim is repeated throughout the downstairs in the original portion of the house. The hallway has a single-flight staircase with 20 steps against the right side wall (Photo 7). The newel post also repeats the bull's eye pattern on both floors, and includes other decorative carving. Wood wainscoting with chair rails lines the hallway and many of the other rooms. Most of the woodwork in the house appears to be pine. Historic doors have a four-panel design. Highly decorative metal door hinges survive throughout, and several interior transom windows with original hardware are still intact. Wall-to-wall carpet covers all the wood floors. The 11-foot downstairs ceilings are all covered with non-historic materials. Plaster walls are intact in most places, but have been replaced with drywall where damaged.

Doors off the first-floor hallway lead to two rooms on each side and the addition in the rear. The parlor to the right has a brick (formerly coal-burning) fireplace with replacement mantel (Photo 12). The living room to the left features the three front bay windows (Photo 9) and another brick fireplace with a replacement mantel (Photo 10). This room is connected to the left rear dining room by an arched doorway (Photo 11). The mantel (partially covered in Photo 11) is original to the house. Doors also lead into the hallway and the added rear kitchen. The right rear room on the original house, now used as a bedroom, also has a fireplace with a replacement mantel.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

The back rooms were added in the 1930s to provide a kitchen and rear porch. (The original kitchen may have been detached, and is no longer extant.) The kitchen has the ninth fireplace. The current sunroom was converted in the 1970s from what was then a back porch. Two bathrooms and a utility room were also added at this time. A deck (now a screened porch) was added to the left of the kitchen in 1983.

The Blackford-Gray House, although relatively tall, is considered a one-and-a-half story building because the second floor is partially under the roofline. The second-floor plan follows the main floor room arrangement. Two rooms on each side flank the central hallway (Photo 13). Four fireplaces share the two chimneys with the first-floor fireplaces. One second-floor mantel (Photo 14) is believed to be original to the house. Much of the door and window trim and other woodwork repeat the designs from the main floor (Photos 14 and 15). Each bedroom has a pitched ceiling on one side due to the slant of the roof. Ceilings have been modified for ductwork. The rear addition is much smaller on this floor and includes attic storage space and one bathroom.

Streets with no sidewalks abut the $\frac{3}{4}$ -acre lot on three sides. There is a stone walkway from the Front Street to the front porch. A brick walkway extends from the grassy front lawn through the side yard and around to the back. It was constructed in 1983 with later additions. There is a mix of trees of different ages, including magnolia, dogwood, pecan, holly, box elder, walnut, Bradford pear, and a rare Japanese magnolia. Foundation plantings include small shrubs, and there are a few distinct bedding areas with azaleas, roses, and other blooming plants.

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:

1883-1942

Significant Dates:

1883 - construction of the house

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Unknown

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Blackford-Gray House is significant to the town of Graysville as one of its earliest remaining dwellings, and also for the roles of its first two owners who helped shape the social history and identity of the small community. The building's characteristic late-19th-century architecture combines a common house type with high-style elements favored by wealthier citizens of the time.

The one-and-half-story Blackford-Gray House is significant in the area of architecture as an excellent example of a Georgian Cottage house type with Queen Anne details. It retains its historic floor plan and many of its original materials and details, showing high-quality design and workmanship. Its symmetrical Georgian Cottage plan, as defined in the statewide context Georgia's Living Places, is square or nearly square with a central hallway with two rooms on each side. As is typical, the two chimneys are in the interior of the house, between each pair of rooms. The house is also a good expression of many of the Queen Anne architectural elements popular just before the turn of the 20th century. Its most important character-defining features, such as the large porch with decorative brackets and columns, and the turret with bay windows and spire roof, have retained a high degree of integrity. Other intact features that contribute to the significance include gabled dormer windows, the high-style central staircase, nine fireplaces, door and window hardware, transoms, stained glass in the front door, and consistently designed woodwork throughout the house.

The house is significant in the area of social history for the roles that two early owners played in the social life of the community and their contributions to the general welfare of Graysville. Dr. William T. Blackford (1825-1904), who was one of Graysville's first physicians, built the house on 12 acres that he purchased in 1883. He also operated his medical practice from the home. A Virginian by birth, Blackford had been a delegate to the 1867 Alabama Constitutional Convention after the Civil War. He then practiced medicine in Chattanooga, Tennessee, before establishing his practice in Graysville. During his lifetime the house was the scene of many social events from balls to weddings to funerals. The house, described as "commodious" in one newspaper article, may be seen as evidence of prominence of Dr. Blackford. Small-town physicians played many leadership roles that contributed to the cohesiveness of their communities, including counselor, funeral director, and social events coordinator. Charles A. Gray (1860-1960) purchased the property from Blackford's daughters in 1916. Gray was a member of the town's founding family. He bought and sold land as a member of the family land company, and ran a general mercantile store and grist mill, among other activities during his long life. The house remained in the Gray family until 1942.

National Register Criteria

The Blackford-Gray House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for the roles of its first two owners in the early history of Graysville. Dr. William Blackford was one of the town's first physicians and a local leader. Charles Gray was a well-known merchant and business owner who was also a member of the "founding family" of Graysville. The house is also eligible under Criterion C as an excellent example of a Georgian Cottage house type with high-style Queen Anne elements constructed during the late 19th century.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the house's construction by Dr. Blackford in 1883, and ends in 1942 when the Gray family sold the house.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The house is the one contributing building on the property. The three non-contributing buildings are two garages and one shed that were all built in the back yard of the property after the period of significance.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

****NOTE: Portions of the following history were written by Connie S. Smith, the property owner, November 2004 . On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

The 1832 Land Lottery of Georgia made available for distribution and settlement that part of the Cherokee Indian Nation that was in Georgia, which was generally north of the Chattahoochee River. Even though the lands were distributed by lottery, they were not fully settled for a number of years. After a treaty between the U.S. and the Cherokee Nation on December 29, 1835, the Cherokee left their lands and moved west. In the 1820s, when northwest Georgia was still the stronghold of the Cherokee Nation, Governor Wilson Lumpkin dreamed of connecting the Chattahoochee River and the Tennessee River with a state-owned railroad. The Georgia General Assembly passed two acts in 1848 to hasten the completion of the W&A Railroad to the Tennessee River. State bonds for \$375,000 were authorized and contracts were closed on March 22, 1848 with Allen Cochran, John D. Gray and Company, and Asa Bates and Company. This included all the grading, bridging, superstructure, tunneling, brickwork, trestlework, depots, water stations, turnouts, turntable, engine house and all work as might be required on the railroad between Dalton and Chattanooga, which was to be completed by 1850. While building the railroad, John D. Gray was attracted by the water power at what is now known as Graysville, Georgia. He bought several hundred acres and laid out and named the village of Graysville in 1849 on the east side of Chickamauga Creek. The Indians had known the village and spring as Opelika.

Catoosa County was established December 5, 1853 by act of the Georgia General Assembly from parts of Walker and Whitfield counties. The county was named for the Catoosa Springs, near the county seat of Ringgold. Graysville lies approximately three miles north of Ringgold near the Tennessee border. Early industries in Graysville included mining and water-related activities. Nineteenth-century maps show a depot and water tank on Front Street with lime kilns between the

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

depot and nearby Chickamauga Creek. A limestone quarry with kilns was also located just north of Graysville. Water power from a dam on Chickamauga Creek was used to support a mill and distillery on the west side of the creek, including an associated warehouse and barn.

Dr. William T. Blackford (one of the area's first physicians) purchased 12 acres in Graysville circa 1883, and built his home on the land that is now the nominated property. Born October 1825 in Virginia, Blackford graduated from medical school at New York University in New York City in 1851. He served as a surgeon during the Civil War, and in 1867 he represented Hale County, Alabama at that state's Constitutional Convention. Sometime thereafter, he moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee before arriving in Graysville. During the next 15 years, Dr. Blackford lost his wife to cancer and his son to typhoid fever, leaving him with two daughters. It is believed that Dr. Blackford practiced medicine from his home, as no evidence exists of a separate office. (Subsequent owners have found medicine bottles in the yard.) Due to Dr. Blackford's prominence and role in the community, there were numerous balls, weddings, and wakes that took place in the home. He sold most of the 12 acres in his later years, per court order, to "maintain and support" his two daughters. On July 9, 1904, the hard-of-hearing Dr. Blackford was walking on the railroad tracks when he was struck and killed by a train. His two daughters continued living in the house until 1916.

In June 1916, Dr. Blackford's daughters sold the home to the Charles Arthur Gray, a member of the "first family" of Graysville. Charles was the nephew of John D. Gray, the founder of Graysville and the pioneer of the railroads and railroad tunnels in north Georgia and southeast Tennessee. (John D. Gray is buried in the cemetery at the end of Gray Street, about three blocks from the house.) Charles Gray was a well-known merchant who owned a general store and a grist mill. It was during his ownership that the house was expanded with an added rear kitchen with fireplace and an open porch off the kitchen (c.1930-1940). Charles Gray died in 1960, just before his 100th birthday, and is buried in the Anderson Cemetery in Ringgold.

In 1942 the Charles Gray family (his daughter, "Blessed" Weathers) sold the house to William B. and Mamie Bennett and their family. A chronology of subsequent owners, and known changes to the property follows:

1961 - The Bennetts sold the property to the Jack Lingerfelt family.

1980 - The house was purchased by Sharon and Harty Varnell, and converted to a restaurant called "Graysville House". The business failed shortly thereafter and the structure sat empty and neglected for about three years, while it was owned by the InterFed Savings and Loan Company.

1983 - Carl and Maureen Roberson purchased the property. The Robersons refurbished the house, making such repairs as replacing some damaged plaster with drywall, reframing the windows, replacing rotted window ropes, stripping and staining the woodwork, leveling the foundation, and adding a brick walkway.

1986 - The Robersons sold the home to Dick and Jane Ryans.

1989 - The house was sold to Richard Dwayne and Lydia Wood. In 1991 the Woods added a two-story two-bay garage and an equipment shed to the rear of the property.

1996 - The home was sold to Joel C. and Connie S. Smith. The Smiths added a screened-in porch to the side of the kitchen and built a smaller two-bay garage.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Catoosa County Deed Books and Tax Records. Catoosa County Courthouse, Ringgold, Georgia.

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

Smith, Connie S. Historic Property Information Form. (With supplemental bibliographic information.) On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. 2004.

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): 200794

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately .75 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 669545 Northing 3871895

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is marked with a heavy line, shown as parcel 4 on the enclosed tax map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the entire lot on which the house rests and all that remains associated with the house, up to the pavement of Front Street in the front yard and Blackford Street in the side yard.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Denise P. Messick/National Register Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 34 Peachtree Street, Suite 1600
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303-2316
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** February 2007
e-mail denise_messick@dnr.state.ga.us

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

name/title Connie Sands Smith
organization N/A
mailing address P. O. Box 275
city or town Graysville **state** Georgia **zip code** 30726
telephone 706-891-6257
e-mail 3smiths@vei.net

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

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Connie Sands Smith
organization (if applicable) N/A
mailing address P. O. Box 275
city or town Graysville **state** Georgia **zip code** 30726
e-mail (optional) 3smiths@vei.net

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

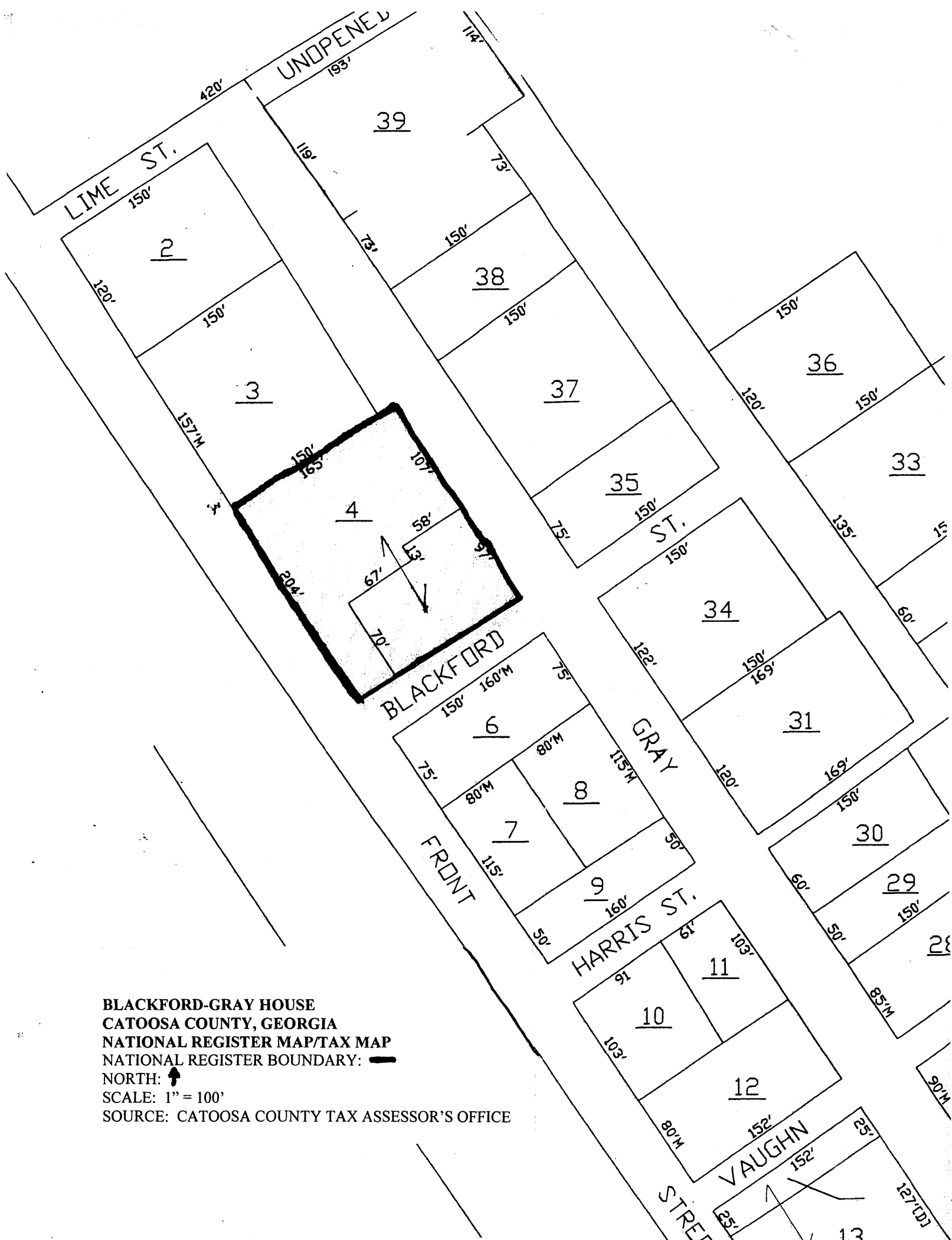
Photographs

Name of Property: Blackford-Gray House
City or Vicinity: Graysville
County: Catoosa
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: July 2005

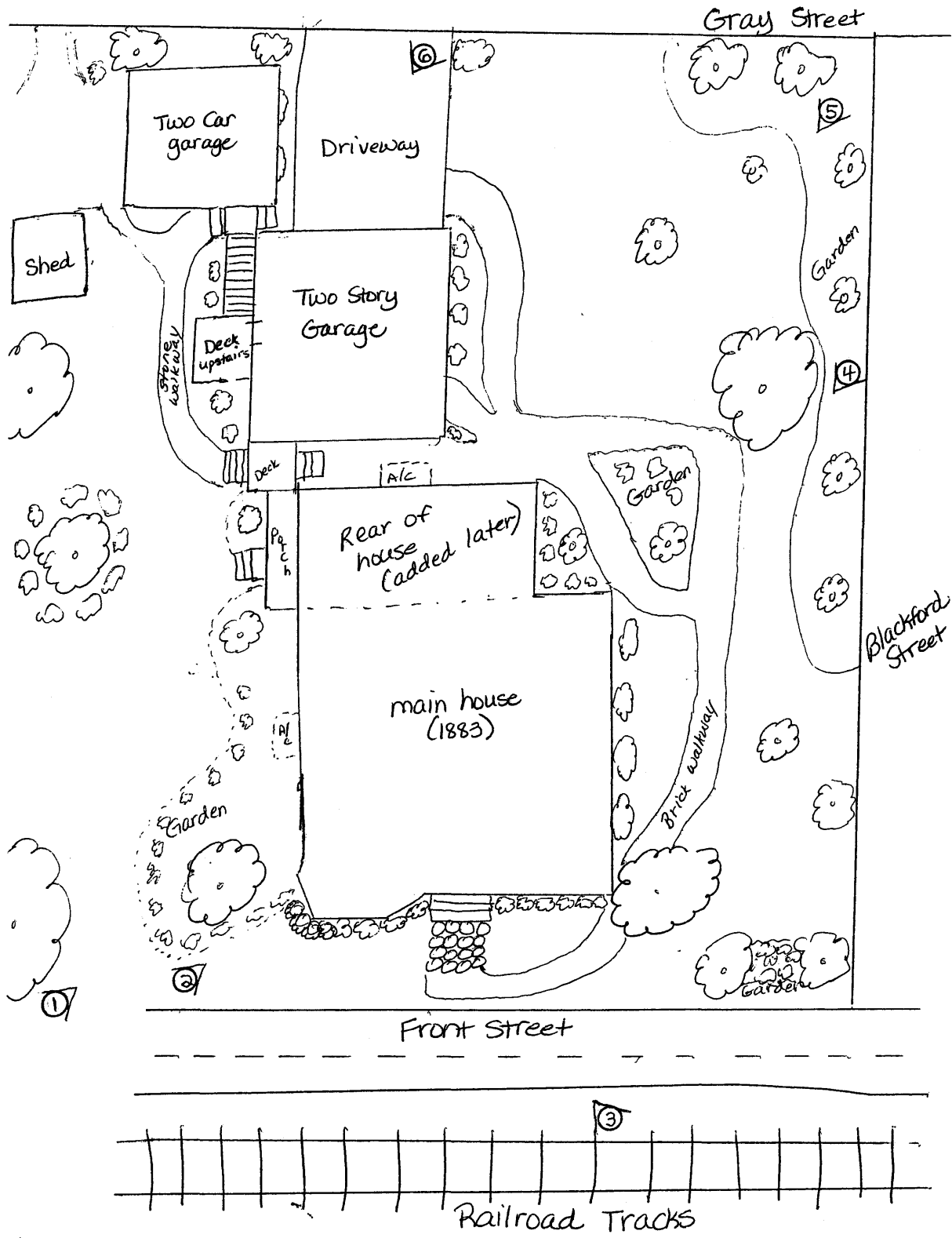
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Number of photographs: 15

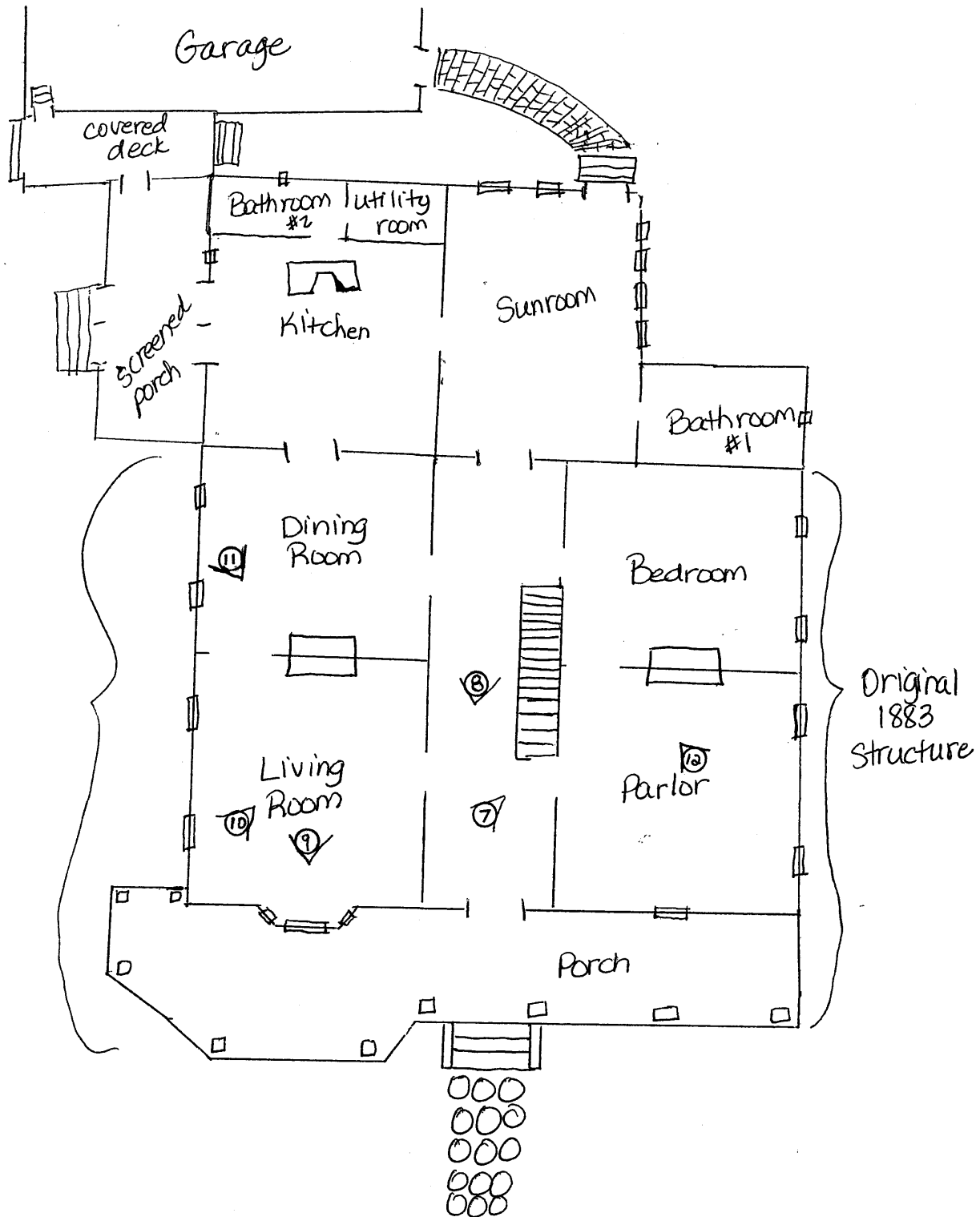
1. Front (main) façade and north side façade; photographer facing east.
2. Front façade, closer look; photographer facing east.
3. Front façade; photographer facing north.
4. South side façade and rear addition; photographer facing west.
5. Rear addition and garage; photographer facing west.
6. Rear driveway, two garages, and shed; photographer facing southwest.
7. Interior, first floor, central hallway, stair, and parlor; photographer facing east.
8. Interior, first floor, central hallway and front door; photographer facing southwest.
9. Interior, first floor, living room bay windows; photographer facing southwest.
10. Interior, first floor, living room fireplace and door; photographer facing east.
11. Interior, first floor, dining room fireplace and view into parlor; photographer facing south.
12. Interior, first floor, parlor fireplace and doors; photographer facing north.
13. Interior, second floor, central hallway and stairs; photographer facing southwest.
14. Interior, second floor, front left bedroom; photographer facing northeast.
15. Interior, second floor, rear right bedroom; photographer facing south.




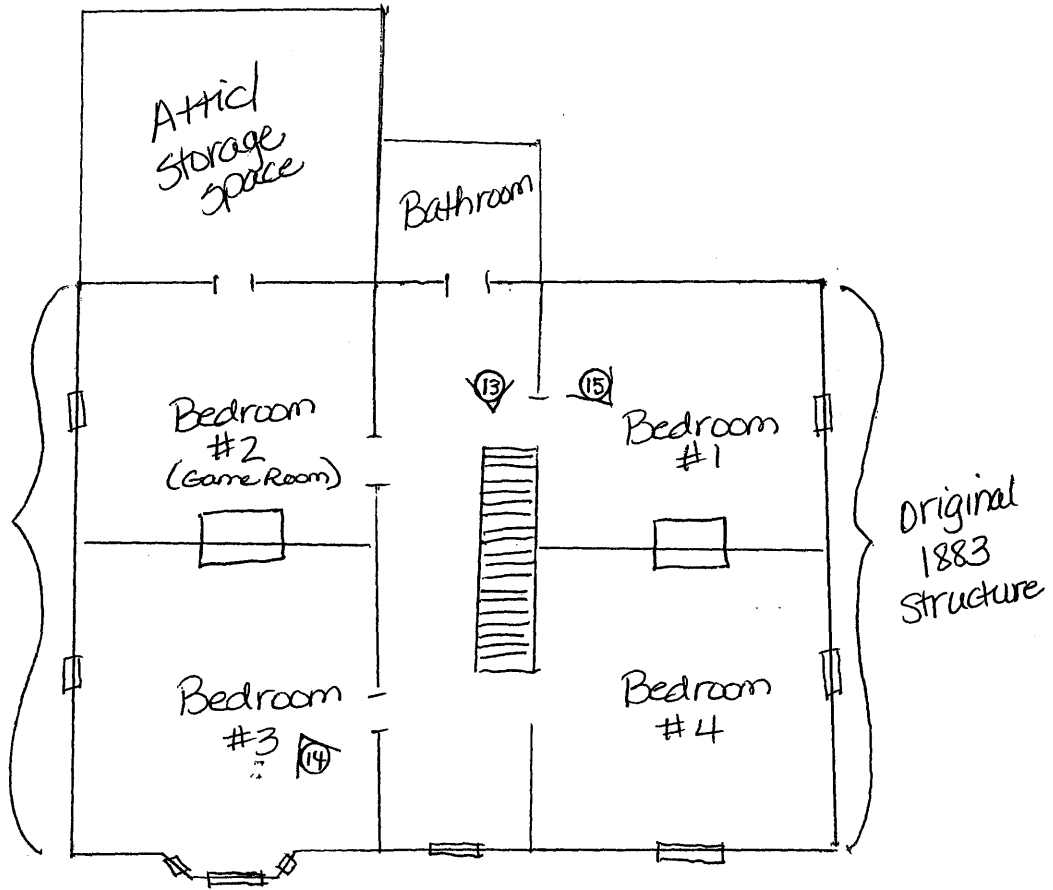
BLACKFORD-GRAY HOUSE
CATOOSA COUNTY, GEORGIA
NATIONAL REGISTER MAP/TAX MAP
NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY: —
 NORTH: ↑
 SCALE: 1" = 100'
 SOURCE: CATOOSA COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE




BLACKFORD-GRAY HOUSE
CATOOSA COUNTY, GEORGIA
SITE PLAN
 NORTH: 
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE
 SOURCE: JOEL AND CONNIE SMITH



BLACKFORD-GRAY HOUSE
CATOOSA COUNTY, GEORGIA
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 NORTH: 
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE
 SOURCE: JOEL AND CONNIE SMITH



BLACKFORD-GRAY HOUSE
CATOOSA COUNTY, GEORGIA
SECOND FLOOR PLAN
 NORTH: 
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE
 SOURCE: JOEL AND CONNIE SMITH