

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 08000832

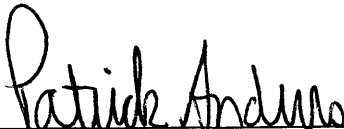
Date Listed: 09/05/08

Property Name: Harris-Ramsey-Norris House

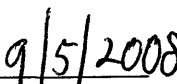
County: Brooks

State: Georgia

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.



Signature of the Keeper



Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

This SLR is issued to amend the registration form revising the total Number of Resources within the property resource count. The historic house and garage are considered two contributing buildings.

The Georgia State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

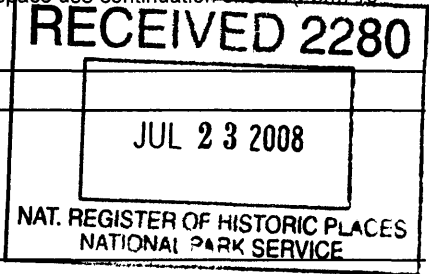
Distribution:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

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 Harris-Ramsey-Norris House 832
 other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1004 West Lafayette Street
 city, town Quitman () vicinity of
 county Brooks code GA 027
 state Georgia code GA zip code 31643

() 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:	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
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.

Richard Luce
Signature of certifying official

7.9.08
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

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

Patricia Andrews
Keeper of the National Register

9/5/2008
Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER: Central hallway cottage type

Materials:

foundation	BRICK
walls	WOOD: Weatherboard
roof	METAL: Tin
other	N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Harris-Ramsey-Norris House is located just outside the western boundary of the National Register-listed Quitman Historic District. The house was not included in the Quitman Historic District, listed in 1982, because of the number of non-historic properties that separated the house from the rest of the district and due to the intrusion of a non-historic commercial row to the south of the house. Quitman is in Brooks County in south central Georgia. The house is a one-story, frame, central hallway cottage with a rear ell (photographs 1-12). The house was constructed c.1870 and features subdued Greek Revival details such as a front portico with a steep pediment supported by four square posts and an entablature, a side-gable roof with gable returns, and a central door with transom and sidelights (photographs 2 and 17). The house retains its weatherboard exterior, six-over-six sash windows, brick piers, and interior brick chimneys (photograph 5). The rear porch was enclosed in 1940 for a sunroom and bathroom (photographs 8 and 9). The interior of the house retains its original wood floors, walls, ceiling, window and door surrounds, four-paneled doors, moldings and baseboards (photographs 18-25). There is a historic wood dog pen under the house, and a historic garage on the property. During the recent rehabilitation of the house, additional piers were added to support the house, electrical and HVAC systems were upgraded, and the house was repainted. The city lot has informal landscaping with foundation plantings and hardwood trees.

The Harris-Ramsey-Norris House is located on West Lafayette Street in a residential area of Quitman. The one-story, frame, central hallway cottage sits on a half-acre lot. It is bounded by North Blair Street to the east, West Stephens Street to the south and a residential property to the west.

The front façade of the house contains one double-hung window in each of the two rooms. The front portico with steep pediment is the primary focal point of the house. Concrete steps lead up to the portico, which has a wood railing and wood flooring, in addition to the four square wood posts.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

Unfluted pilasters, which echo the square posts in styling, edge the portico where it joins the house. In addition to the four-paneled door, there is a wood screen door to admit breezes. Four-pane sidelights and transom surround the door (photograph 17).

The east and west facades each contain two double-hung windows in the main block of the house. The steeply pitched gable roof contains cornice returns, which accent the triangular shape of the gable (photographs 7 and 15). The east façade of the rear ell contains four double-hung windows that are smaller than those in the main block. There is also a wood stair and railing that provide entry into the sunroom (photographs 8 and 9). The south façade of the rear ell mimics the steeply pitched gable roof of the main block. This façade contains one large double-hung window with a small six-pane window on either side of it (photograph 10). The west façade of the rear ell contains three double-hung windows. The middle window is smaller than the other two and slightly off center (photograph 16). The original porch or shed portion of the rear ell contains a single double-hung window on the west façade (photograph 10).

All corners of the house contain decorative wrap-around pilasters with simple capitals reflective of the front portico (photographs 8, 11, and 15). The simple entablature of the front portico is echoed across the front façade of the house and into the returns of the side (photographs 3, 8 and 15). The entablature is also repeated in the rear ell (photographs 11 and 16).

A fire in the 1930s burned the original wood shingle roof. The present metal roof was added at that time. It was recently painted. Before the recent restoration, there was evidence of exterior white paint for only about one foot under the roofline, and the rest of the exterior (except for the 1940 enclosure, which still had plenty of white paint) was weathered pine.

The brick piers have been retained, repaired and some additional piers added for stability. Spaces between the piers contain painted wood lattice screens (photographs 8 and 9).

The original floor plan consisted of two rooms separated by a central hall (photographs 18-22). Shortly after construction, two more rooms were added, creating the rear ell (photographs 23-24). A back porch was also added at this time. The porch was enclosed in 1940 to make a sunroom and a bathroom (photograph 25). The house today retains this floor plan. An outhouse behind the existing garage was used until 1940 when plumbing was installed. The house was wired for electricity in 1946. At that time, a Sears Kenmore electric range replaced the wood stove in the kitchen.

The walls, ceilings and floors throughout the house are original pine boards, as are moldings, baseboards, window and door surrounds. Original doors are paneled mortise-and-tenon construction (photograph 21). The four main rooms each contain a fireplace. Three of the original fireplace mantels are wood, while the fireplace hearth in the kitchen is brick (photographs 18-20 and 24).

In addition to the house, there is a garage (c.1875-1900), which has single doors located on the north and west elevations, and large double doors on the east elevation to accommodate a vehicle (photograph 13). The garage contained three rooms originally. The main room was used for the

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

horse carriage and later the automobile. Most of the walls were removed during the early part of the 20th century to accommodate the family's Model T. The horse stall and haylofts are still intact.

The original well for the house is located on the west side of the house (photograph 15). Since it is no longer in use, a heavy metal plate was placed over the well and the original wooden cover was replaced over this plate.

The city lot is largely flat with wide grassy expanses. Plantings include numerous azaleas, crepe myrtles, camellias, and pecan trees. During much of the 20th century, chickens for household use were raised on the property. There was a small chicken house in the backyard and nearly a quarter of the property was fenced in. The wooden cage under the house was used to pen hunting dogs.

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.1870

Significant Dates:

c. 1870 – date of construction

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Harris-Ramsey-Norris House is located on West Lafayette Street, on the west side of the city of Quitman, Brooks County in south central Georgia. This central hallway cottage was built around 1870 for Richard Harris, a brick mason, who had purchased two city lots in 1866. Harris, his wife Charlotte, and their two young sons occupied the house. In 1874, the house and accompanying lot were sold to Maria R. Ramsey. In 1876, Maria Ramsey was living in Valdosta with her husband and six children and petitioned the court to let her sell the house. In 1881, the house was sold to Jasper and Mary Susan Norris of Warren County. Jasper Norris died in 1886 and Mary Norris continued to live in the house and raise their four children until her death in 1921. The Norris' daughter Francis (Nattie) Norris, lived in the house her entire life, never marrying. After Nattie's death in 1969, her nephew, James William Norris, who lived in Atlanta, owned the house. The house was largely unoccupied from 1965 to 1980. James Norris retired to Quitman in 1980 and lived in the house until his death in 2004.

The Harris-Ramsey-Norris House is significant in the area of architecture as an excellent and intact example of a c.1870 central hallway cottage with rear ell. The house is one of the earliest in Quitman and among the oldest central hallway cottages in Brooks County. According to *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*, central hallway cottages were built throughout Georgia between 1830 and 1930 on farms and in Georgia's towns and cities. The central hallway cottage type has two rooms separated by a central hall and is one room deep. The Harris-Ramsey-Norris House retains its historic exterior and interior finishes and materials and has remained relatively unchanged since its construction.

National Register Criteria

C – The Harris-Ramsey-Norris House is significant at the local level of significance in the area of architecture because it is an excellent and intact example of a central hallway cottage with rear ell. According to *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*, central hallway cottages were built throughout Georgia between 1830 and 1930 on farms and in Georgia's towns.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance is c.1870 for the date of completion of the house.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The Harris-Ramsey-Norris House is the only historic resource associated with this nomination.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

The following historic context is taken from the May 18, 2006 "Harris-Ramsey-Norris House" Historic Property Information Form that was prepared by Tim Reisenwitz. The context was edited by Lynn Speno, Historic Preservation Division. It is on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

The town of Quitman was incorporated in 1859, however due to the advent of the Civil War in 1861, the town really did not begin to grow until the late 1860s. According to the first known deed for the property, on February 26, 1866 Richard D. Harris paid \$300 to David R. Creech, James R. Edmondson, Elijah Wade, and Robert A. Hardee for two one-acre lots, Lot 46 and 47 in Quitman, Georgia. Creech was one of the first persons to purchase property in the newly laid out town in 1859 and by 1860 was listed as living there and operating a mercantile business. Edmondson was a town merchant before the war and a captain in the Brooks County Militia. Wade operated a mercantile business in Quitman. Hardee was also one of the first to acquire property in Quitman and was a Civil War captain. Harris operated a dry goods business. All were prominent citizens of the newly established town.

According to the second deed for the property, M. R. Ramsey paid \$1,000 for Lot 46 to Richard D. Harris on February 14, 1874 (recorded January 24, 1876). A document, dated 1876 (recorded December 22, 1879), describes a petition of Maria R. Ramsey to sell the homestead on Lot 46 in the northwest section of Quitman and to reinvest the proceeds in the purchase of a house and lot in the town of Valdosta, Lowndes County.

The third deed for the property is to Mrs. M. S. Norris. According to this deed, on November 28, 1881 (recorded July 26, 1892), Mrs. M. S. Norris paid \$350 for the property to M. R. Ramsey. Mary Susan (Studstill) Norris (1845-1921) was the wife of Jasper Autrey Norris (1841-1886). He was originally from Warren County, Georgia. The couple had four children, but only one, Frances Antanett (Nattie) Norris, lived in the house through adulthood.

The eldest son, William Pitt Norris (1872-1907), moved from Quitman, Georgia, to Tuscaloosa, Alabama and married Alice Maxwell. They moved to Columbus, Georgia, where he worked at a railroad depot and she worked in the ticket office. He died of consumption in 1907.

The second son, Hugh Norris (1875-1937), left Quitman upon reaching adulthood. Along with Isaac Newton Johnson, Norris became the owner of Manchester, Georgia's newspaper, *The Manchester Mercury*. Around 1927, Norris moved to Thomaston, Georgia, where he owned and operated the newspaper, *The McDuffy Progress*, and also engaged in farming. He died in 1937 leaving a wife and two children.

Nattie Norris (1876-1969) was the only one of the children to live in the house for most of her life. Upon reaching adulthood, her siblings passed ownership to her. Therefore, Nattie is considered to be the second member of the Norris family to own the house. Nattie never married and taught school from 1921-1939. She ended her teaching career in 1939 to raise the family that her youngest brother,

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

James Jasper Norris, left behind upon his death in 1939. Nattie went to an area nursing home in 1965, where she died in 1969.

James Jasper (J.J.) Norris (1879-1939) was the youngest sibling. He married Ruby Lillian Cannon (1905-1992) on September 17, 1921. J.J. worked at various jobs in the south Georgia and north Florida area. After he and his wife divorced in 1934, J.J. became a part-time postal carrier in Quitman until he died in 1939. J.J. had six sons and one daughter, two of whom lived less than one day: James William Norris (1923-2004), Jasper Hugh Norris (1925-2004), Thomas Baker Norris (1927-), Sherwood Stephen Norris (1930-1986), Susan Antanett Norris (September 12, 1932), Autrey Norris (1933-), and John Dudley Norris (February 10, 1939).

The eldest of J.J.'s children, James William Norris (1923-2004), served in World War II and then moved to Atlanta. In Atlanta James worked for a landscaping business and went to art school. He graduated from art school in 1954, went home to Quitman occasionally, and continued to work for the landscaping business in Atlanta until he retired to Quitman around 1980. The house was largely unoccupied from 1965 to 1980 while James lived in Atlanta. James Norris, a bachelor, is considered to be the third and last member of the Norris family to own the house. He owned it from 1969 until his death in 2004. The property remained in the Norris family until Tim Reisenwitz purchased it on March 31, 2005.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Huxford, Folks. *The History of Brooks County Georgia*. Athens, Georgia: The McGregor Company, 1949.

Reisenwitz, Tim. *Historic Property Information Form*. "Harris-Ramsey-Norris House", May 18, 2006. On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, GA.

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

A) Zone 17 Easting 254284 Northing 3408823

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached map.

Boundary Justification

The boundary is the current legal boundary and the remaining acreage historically associated with the house. The house was not included in the Quitman Historic District, listed in 1982, because of the number of non-historic properties that separated the house from the rest of the district and due to the intrusion of a non-historic commercial row to the south of the house.

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, Suite 1600
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** June 2008
e-mail lynn.speno@dnr.state.ga.us

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

name/title N/A
organization N/A
mailing address N/A
city or town N/A **state** N/A **zip code** N/A
telephone N/A
e-mail N/A

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

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Tim Reisenwitz
organization (if applicable) N/A
mailing address 804 North Court Street
city or town Quitman **state** GA **zip code** 31643
e-mail (optional) N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Harris-Ramsey-Norris House
City or Vicinity: Quitman
County: Brooks
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: August 2007

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 25

1. Front façade of house; photographer facing south.
2. Front façade of house; photographer facing southwest.
3. Front façade of house; photographer facing south.
4. Front and side (west) elevations of house; photographer facing southeast.
5. Front and side (east) elevations of house; photographer facing southwest.
6. Front façade of house; photographer facing southwest.
7. East elevation of house; photographer facing west.
8. East elevation of house; photographer facing west.
9. East elevation of house; photographer facing northwest.
10. South elevation of house; photographer facing north.
11. South and west elevations of house; photographer facing northeast.
12. Garage and east elevation of house; photographer facing west.
13. Garage and east elevation of house; photographer facing west.
14. Garage and east elevation of house; photographer facing northwest.
15. West elevation of house; photographer facing east.
16. West elevation of house; photographer facing east.
17. Front entrance and porch of house; photographer facing south.
18. Interior front bedroom; photographer facing northeast.
19. Parlor; photographer facing southwest.
20. Parlor; photographer facing southwest.
21. From parlor looking to dining room; photographer facing south.
22. Foyer towards front door; photographer facing north.
23. Dining room; photographer facing southeast.
24. Kitchen; photographer facing northeast.
25. Hall; photographer facing south.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

WEST STEPHENS STREET

**Harris-Ramsey-Norris House
Brooks County, Georgia
Exterior Photo Key**

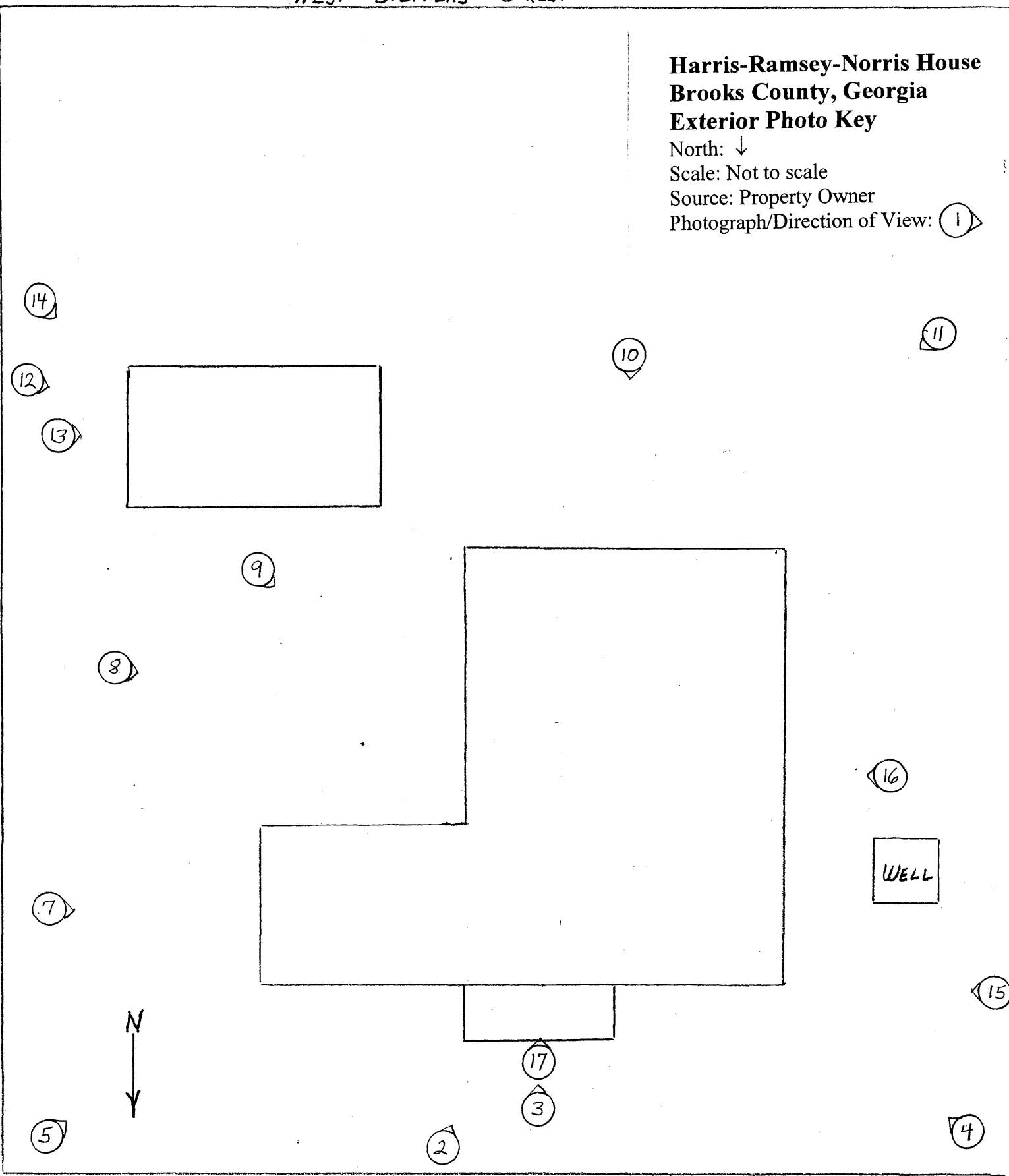
North: ↓

Scale: Not to scale

Source: Property Owner

Photograph/Direction of View: (1) ↗

NORTH BLAIR STREET



WEST LAFAYETTE STREET

(6)

(1)

(4)

(15)

(16)

WELL

(17)

(3)

(2)

(5)

(7)

(8)

(9)

(13)

(12)

(14)

(10)

(11)

Harris-Ramsey-Norris House
Brooks County, Georgia
Interior Photo Key

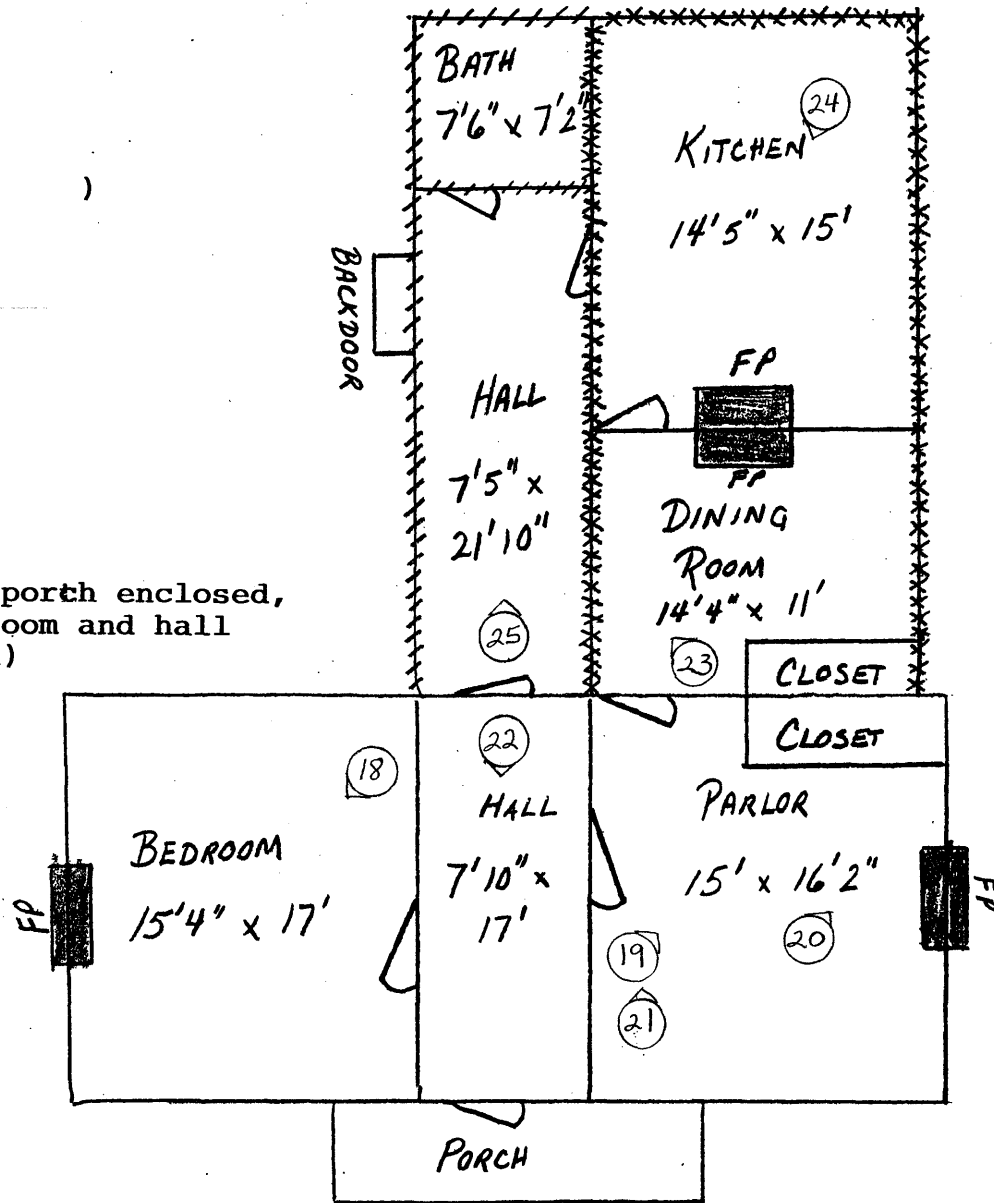
North: ↓

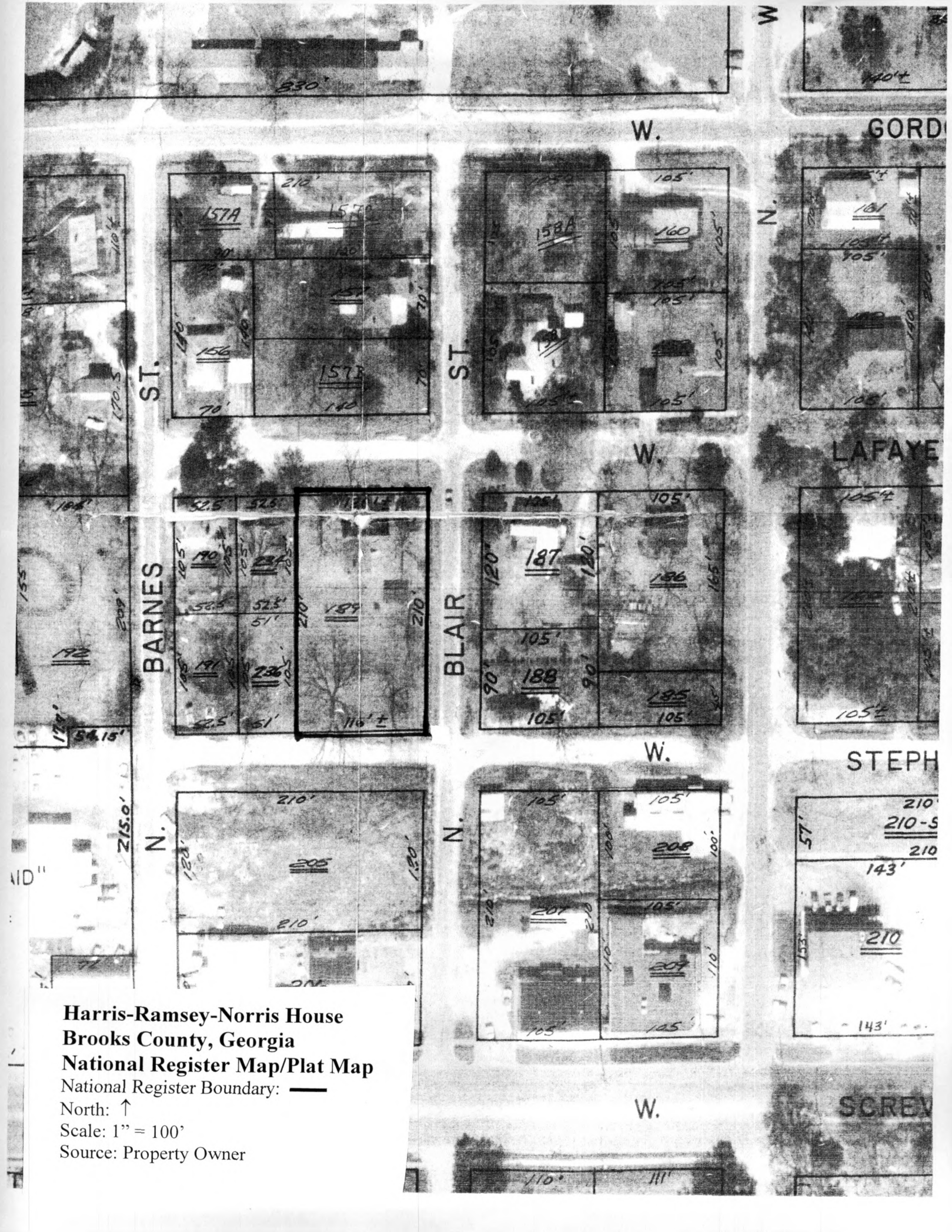
Scale: Not to scale

Source: Property Owner

Photograph/Direction of View: (1) →

++++ 1940 (back porch enclosed, bathroom and hall added)





**Harris-Ramsey-Norris House
Brooks County, Georgia
National Register Map/Plat Map**

National Register Boundary: **—**

North: ↑

Scale: 1" = 100'

Source: Property Owner