

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF HARTWELL, HART COUNTY, GEORGIA

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY #13

I. IDENTIFICATION

HISTORIC NAME: Dr. Owen Meredith House
 PROPERTY NAME: Bowers Residence
 STREET ADDRESS: 605 Benson Street
 CITY: Hartwell
 PRESENT OWNER: Hoyt & Sara Bowers
 MAILING ADDRESS: 605 Benson Street
 CITY: Hartwell
 STATE: Georgia
 ZIP CODE: 30643
 CURRENT USE: residence
 ACREAGE: less than one acre
 U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: Hartwell
 U.T.M. REFERENCE: Z17 E322880 N3801880
 V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: H-20-2-5

II. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION:

This house is a one-story, brick, Craftsman-inspired bungalow. It features a low pitched gable roof with a bracketed, gabled dormer containing an attic window flanked by vents. A porch supported by massive brick piers extends the width of the principal facade and continues beyond to form a porte cochere or car port; the porch roof is detailed with brackets and exposed rafter ends. Multiple panes in the upper sashes and a single lower pane characterize the front facade windows which are set in trio flanking the central entrance. In plan, the rooms are arranged around a central hall core. Interior features include wood floors and plaster walls and ceilings.

The house is situated facing Benson Street on a city lot landscaped with large pecan and dogwood trees and informal foundation plantings.

The property is in good condition.

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 74

III. HISTORY

ORIGINAL OWNER: Dr. Owen Meredith
 ORIGINAL USE: residence
 ARCHITECT/BUILDER: C. D. Griffith
 HISTORIC ACREAGE: approximately 2 acres
 DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1923
 DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT):

This property was in the ownership of the Meredith family as early as 1900. Deed references transferring the ownership of the Thornton property located south of this tract mention this property as owned by Mrs. W. E. Meredith. A 1924 map of Hartwell showing property ownership indicates that this residence was constructed at the northwest corner of the original tract fronting on Benson Street. The property was apparently subdivided after 1924; two historic structures now occupy the area between the Rucker-Thornton House and this residence.

The structure was built as the residence for Dr. Owen Meredith, a local physician and a graduate of Emory University School of Medicine. Meredith married Annice Poole of Lavonia in 1920. C. D. Griffin constructed this house as well as an early structure at the Hartwell School. Following Dr. Meredith's death, the property was sold to its present owners in 1963.

IV. SIGNIFICANCE

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL):

This property is significant in terms of architecture as a good intact example of the Craftsman style. Its low, horizontal massing under a single broad roof, prominent porch detailed with massive piers, exposed rafter ends, and brackets, brickmasonry detailing, and window arrangements are hallmarks of the Craftsman style. The inclusion of an integral car port marks the house as a 20th century product. The addition of two wrought-iron posts to the front porch are the only major changes that have been made to the structure. The residence is also important for its associations with C. D. Griffin. Griffin was a local builder who constructed a former school structure to the Hartwell City School site.

CONTRIBUTING/NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES:

Contributing building(s): 1

V. SOURCES

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

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Draft by Mr. & Mrs. Hoyt Bowers; The Hartwell Sun.

FORM PREPARED BY:

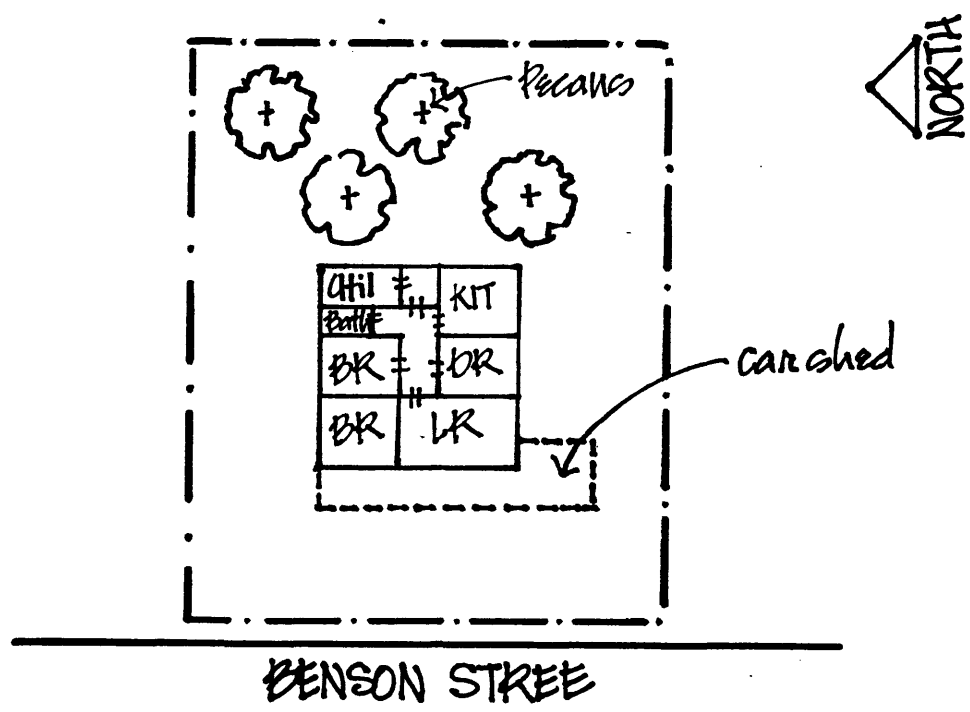
Dale Jaeger
Georgia Mountains Area Planning and Development Commission
Gainesville, Georgia

Donald Rooney
Historic Preservation Consultant
Atlanta, Georgia

Richard Cloues
Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources
Atlanta, Georgia

VI. SITE PLAN/SKETCH MAP/FLOOR PLAN

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



13

SITE & FLOOR PLAN