

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF HARTWELL, HART COUNTY, GEORGIA

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY # 9

I. IDENTIFICATION

HISTORIC NAME: Jackson Morrison House
 PROPERTY NAME: Turner Property
 STREET ADDRESS: 439 Rome Street
 CITY: Hartwell
 PRESENT OWNER: Laura & V. Simpson Turner
 MAILING ADDRESS: 714 Quincy Street
 CITY: Brooklyn
 STATE: New York
 ZIP CODE: 11221
 CURRENT USE: seasonal residence
 ACREAGE: 3.46 acres
 U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: Hartwell, Georgia
 U.T.M. REFERENCE: Z17 E323000 N3803810
 V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: H-5-1-24

II. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION:

This house is a simple, one-story, frame, Plain-style structure featuring a main gable roof with a projecting gable roof covering the rear ell. The principal facade contains a shed-roofed porch supported by four square posts. The entrance is centered and flanked by 2/2 windows of a date later than original. One internal, brick chimney rises from the roof of the rear ell. A formerly open rear porch is now enclosed.

The interior consists of four main rooms, two on either side of a central hall. Interior alterations include the installation of paneling and lowered ceilings.

The house and a contemporary block garage are situated on the highest elevation of the 3.46 acre site. A pecan grove surrounds the house; the remainder of the tract is in pasture.

The property is in good condition.

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 70

III. HISTORY

ORIGINAL OWNER: Jackson Morrison
 ORIGINAL USE: residence
 ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Jackson Morrison
 HISTORIC ACREAGE: 4 acres
 DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1902
 DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS: 1970, 1981

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT):

According to Mrs. Laura Turner, the present owner and grand daughter of the original owner, this structure was built circa 1902 by Jackson Morrison as his residence. Morrison was a black carpenter and a farmer who also handled real estate transactions in the Rome section of Hartwell; Rome was historically the black community of Hartwell. Deed records indicate that between 1920 and 1928, Morrison acquired ten lots in Rome. In 1944, he was the highest bidder for two additional lots. Morrison sold land for others, according to Ms. Annie Armstrong of Rome. The deed records indicate that the land, originally owned by white citizens of the area, was subdivided and sold with Morrison's assistance. Ms. Armstrong notes that one subdivision of the 1940s was known as Lincoln Heights which concurs with deed references dating from Morrison's 1944 purchase. Lincoln Heights was subdivided out of land purchased from the administrators of D. C. Alford's estate.

Morrison used his acreage and his four-acre home site to raise corn, cotton, wheat, and vegetables. His granddaughter states that he farmed additional land in the county. The subdivided lots were eventually sold and the four-acre homeplace was itself divided through the sale of 0.54 acres; a contemporary brick residence was constructed on this small lot.

Mr. and Mrs. Morrison both died in the 1960s. Most of their children and grandchildren are now living in New York or Michigan. In 1977, Mr. and Mrs. V. Simpson Turner purchased the homeplace from the surviving descendents. Mrs. Turner is a grand daughter of Morrison. The Turners use the home for a summer residence. The remaining property serves as pasture. Recent changes to the structure include interior remodeling and alterations to the windows in 1970. A concrete block garage was added behind the house in 1980.

IV. SIGNIFICANCE

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA: A, B, C

AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, community development, black history.

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Jackson Morrison House is historically significant for its associations with Jackson Morrison, an important figure in the black community whose real estate transactions contributed to the development of Rome, the black neighborhood in Hartwell. Through Morrison's real estate deals, blacks were able to obtain land for development from white property owners in the city. Morrison also exemplified the small-town black entrepreneur who made money from farming and carpentry as well as real estate speculation.

Architecturally, the Jackson Morrison House is significant as an example in Hartwell of a modest early 20th century house that documents design principles, building materials, and construction technology associated with Hartwell's black community. In many small Georgia towns, influential black residents lived in relatively simple homes. Morrison's modest house provides valuable commentary on black lifestyle in early 20th century Hartwell.

CONTRIBUTING/NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES:

Contributing building(s): 1
Non-contributing structure(s): 1

V. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Interviews with Ms. Annie Armstrong, Hartwell, Georgia, and Ms. Laura Turner, Brooklyn, New York.

FORM PREPARED BY:

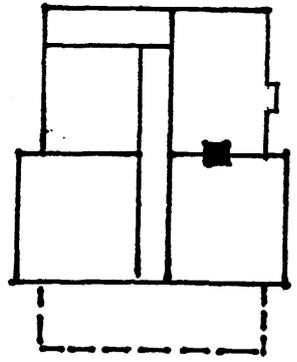
Dale Jaeger
Georgia Mountains Area Planning and Development Commission
Gainesville, Georgia

Donald Rooney
Historic Preservation Consultant
Atlanta, Georgia

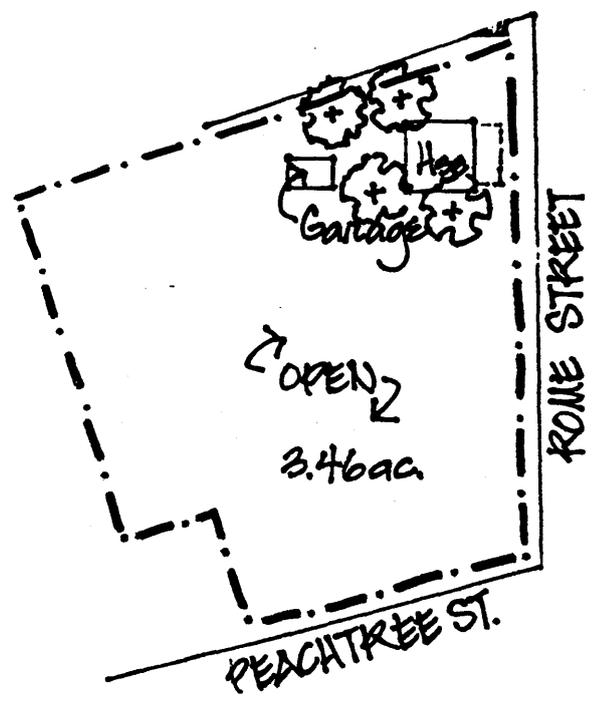
Richard Cloues
Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources
Atlanta, Georgia

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.



FLOOR PLAN



SITE PLAN

