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NPS Form 10-900 United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

UEC 3 0 1994

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eli**bitION**/AloPAindividual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Fulletin 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	Hiram	Butler House			
other names/site	number	Gilbert-Smith	House,	Thornton	House,
		"Longleaf"			

2. Location

street & number 2382 Pine Mountain Road, NW
city, town Kennesaw
county Cobb code GA 067
state Georgia code GA zip code 30144

(X) vicinity of

1637

() not for publication

3. Classification

**Ownership of Property:** 

(X) private

- () public-local
- () public-state
- () public-federal

Category of Property

(X) building(s)

- () district
- () site
- () structure
- () object

Number of Resources within Property:

	<u>Contributing</u>	Noncontributing	
buildings	1	2	
sites	0	0	
structures	0	0	
objects	0	0	
total	1	2	

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: n/a

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

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.

Sia

Mark R. Edwards State Historic Preservation Officer, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

In my opinion, the property ( ) meets ( ) does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

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

	Entrel in the Tational Register	<u> </u>
Signature,	Keeper of the National Register	Date

111

Date

### 6. Function or Use

#### Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

#### Current Functions:

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

### Architectural Classification:

MID 19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival VICTORIAN: Italianate

# Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	brick
roof	asphalt
other	n/a

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Located on Pine Mountain Road to the west of the town Kennesaw in Cobb County, Georgia, the Hiram Butler House is a one-story, brick, Georgian-plan house believed to have been constructed in the 1870s (photo #1). The house has an unusual form and plan: a Georgian-plan main block with an original L-shaped rear wing that gives the house a rectangular shape; this entire rectangular plan is covered by a large hipped roof with a ridge line that runs from the front to the rear of the house (see floor plan). An unusual originally open, "room" was formed between the main block and rear wing that was apparently used as outdoor living space and has since been enclosed with glass windows (photo #2). In 1952, a screened porch was added to the rear of the house (photo #3).

The house has features that show an Italianate stylistic influence, including segmentally arched window openings and a front door with arched panels. The flat-headed transom and sidelights on the front and rear entrances reflect the Greek Revival influence. The brick walls of the house have penciled mortar joints, and the original sixover-six windows remain intact. In a 1952 renovation, a classical pedimented portico and door surround replaced the original, Greek Revival-influenced doorway and existing c.1930s wooden porch at the house's front entrance (photo #4).

On the interior, the Georgian plan with central hallway with two rooms on either side is intact (photo #5). Original wide-board floors and ceilings and many of the moldings also remain (photos #6 and #7). All of the mantles have been replaced since the original ones were missing when the Thorntons bought the property in 1952. Minor floor plan modifications in 1952 and later 1970s renovations were made to provide

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for the addition of baths, closets, and kitchen space. The enclosed reception hall is currently used as living room (photo #8).

The house faces north-northeast on a gently sloping 13-acre lot with the house situated in an open space that is surrounded by wooded areas, secluding it from the road (photo #9). Landscaped gardens, a greenhouse, and garage have been recently added to the property (photo #10). There is also nonhistoric outdoor sculpture on the grounds (photo #11). No intact historic outbuildings remain. 

8. Statement of Significance
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:
() nationally () statewide (X) locally
Applicable National Register Criteria:
() A () B (X) C () D
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): (X) 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 - House was constructed.
Significant Person(s):
n/a
Cultural Affiliation:
n/a
Architect(s)/Builder(s):
Unknown

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### Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

#### Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Hiram Butler House is a significant example of the Italianate and Greek Revival styles of architecture popular during the middle and late 19th century, as well as for its modified central hall floor plan. The house is significant in the area of <u>architecture</u>, which supports National Register eligibility under Criterion C.

The c.1870s one-story, brick Hiram Butler House is architecturally significant as a representative example of the "Georgian Cottage" house type, popular in Georgia from the eighteenth century through the early twentieth century, as identified in <u>Georgia's Living Places:</u> <u>Historic Houses in their Landscaped Settings</u>. Although the traditional Georgian floor plan features a central hallway with two rooms on either side, the Hiram Butler House is atypical. This house demonstrates a modified central hall plan with its original rear Lshaped wing.

The combination of the Georgian-plan main block with an L-shaped rear wing that resulted in a rectangular-shaped plan is unusual in Georgia. The carefully crafted details of the brick walls with pencilled mortar joints, arched windows, large hipped roof that encompasses the entire house, and original interior features make this house a fine and unusual example of 1870s design and construction.

The cottage is also significant in the area of architecture for its Italianate and Greek Revival stylistic influences. The segmentally arched window openings and original front door with arched panels reflecting the Italianate influence and the flat-headed transom and sidelights on the front and rear entrances reflecting the Greek Revival influence. The original wood floors, ceilings, chair rails, and baseboards also contribute to the architectural significance of the house. It is uncertain who actually designed or built the house.

In Cobb County, the Hiram Butler house also stands out because of its relatively large size, formality of design, brick construction, and stylistic detailing. Most of Cobb County's rural residential architecture is more modest, wood-framed vernacular housing.

Hiram Butler (1833-1913) purchased this property in 1880 and resided in the house longer than any other resident, giving the house its name. Butler worked for the Western and Atlantic Railroad from 1849 until his retirement in 1907. According to the 1880 agricultural census, he owned approximately 350 acres of land and grew corn, oats, NPS Form 10-900-a

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wheat, apples, and peaches on 80 acres. A number of subsequent owners have lived in the house. A 1952 renovation was done by the William Thorntons.

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### National Register Criteria

The Hiram Butler House is eligible under Criterion C as an unusual and intact example of a Georgian-type house with L-shaped wing and Greek Revival and Italianate detailing.

### Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

### Period of significance (justification)

The house was constructed in the 1870s.

### Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The house retains its overall integrity of form, plan, construction materials, and interior materials. The greenhouse and garage are nonhistoric.

### Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

### Note: The following history was prepared by Donald R. Rooney, July 24, 1990. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

The distribution of landlot 178 in the 20th District, 2nd Section of Cherokee land occurred during the 1832 Gold Lottery; the 160 acre lot was originally drawn by David Kellum of Emanuel County, (Hollins District) Georgia. Matthew Whitfield purchased all of this landlot at auction on January 11, 1847 as was the customary procedure for disposing of unclaimed land grants. The Whitfield family owned additional land along Pine Mountain Road and within the Big Shanty Militia District. No evidence was located which credits construction of the Gilbert Residence to the Whitfield family.

The Whitfield House [sometime mislabeled "Whiteside," "Whitefield," and "Whitelock"] appears on the Official Atlas Plates and within correspondence of Brigadier General Richard W. Johnson. Johnson reported on June 11, 1864, "Our skirmishers connect and the line is in good condition. Scribner's right rests on the road near Whitfield's" (Official Record, Series I, Volume XXXVI, Part 1, page 455.)

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In early June, Major-General William T. Sherman began massing his troops along the W & A Railroad between Big Shanty and Acworth and searched for the Confederate lines to the south. Joseph E. Johnston's "Lost Mountain Line" or "First Kennesaw" line was located by the Federal cavalry and stretched ten miles from the west to Lost Mountain, across the Western & Atlantic Railroad, and eastward to Brushy Mountain. Major General William B. Bate's Confederate Division was posted on Pine Mountain. On June 14, the Federals attacked the Pine Mountain Salient with John W. Geary's 2nd Division of Hooker's XX Corps advancing from the west, Major General Oliver O. Howard's IV Corps and Major John M. Palmer's XIV Corps advancing from the direction of Big Shanty and the Pine Mountain Road (northeast of Pine Mountain). Johnston abandoned Pine Mountain on the night of June 14th after losses of about 200 Confederates and 300 Federals occurred including the death of Lt. General Leonidas Polk. (Scaife, William CAMPAIGN FOR ATLANTA, p. 40-1.)

Brigadier General Richard W. Johnson summarized the operations of the First Division, Fourteenth Army Corps under his command which included their activity at Pine Mountain and within Landlot 178. "On the 11th, under direction of the major-general commanding corps, I moved my troops about one division front to the left forming in two lines along the crest of a wooded ridge, my center resting just in rear of Whitfield's house... late in the evening I was obliged to change my line about one brigade front, to the left and front, to conform to a change in the position of Brigadier-General Davis' division. (Ibid., page 524.)

Fred D. Bentley, attorney, local historian, and long-time resident of Pine Mountain indicates that the Gilbert House had been used as a hospital following the skirmishes at Pine Mountain. No documentary evidence was located to substantiate this claim.

The "Whitfield Place" was dilapidated according to Monroe Jordon whose father Travis purchased a 20 acre tract and the home site in 1920. Monroe Jordan remembers the log house as a boy; it was positioned behind his present home which is located at the southwest juncture of Pine Mountain and Ellis roads. (interviewed by Don Rooney, April 1990.)

The earliest surviving Cobb County Deed records document an 1880 transfer of landlot 178. On January 7, 1880 Hiram Butler purchased all of landlot 178 from J. M. Bennett of Fulton County, Ga. Tax records indicate that John M. Bennett owned the landlot as early as 1874. The sequence of the land's ownership between Matthew Whitfield's purchase and the sale by J. M. Bennett is

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subject to speculation. The Official Atlas Plates and the Kurtz maps locate no house at the site. Kurtz' field notes also, curiously, make no mention of the brick house. At least five Civil War era maps however, locate a house labelled: "Roberts" between the Whitfield House and Big Shanty, Ga. Although no primary documents provided specific information about the Robert's occupancy of this farm, several documents provided clues which support the hypothesis that one of the sons of Wiley Roberts, Sr. owned the farm. The Roberts Family was one of the wealthiest in antebellum Cobb County. In 1851, Wiley Roberts and his sons owned almost 3,000 acres in the area of Big Shanty and collectively owned 93 slaves. Agricultural Census data from 1850 and 1860 indicates that "indian corn" was the predominate crop. No other structure associated with the Roberts family survives in Cobb County.

George C. Roberts provides a brief history of the family and cites the location of several family members in Sarah Gober Temple's THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS:

The Roberts Family came originally from Wales, settled in Virginia and later moved to South Carolina and then to Georgia. Wiley Roberts, son of Willis Roberts, came to Cobb County about 1835 and settled south of the present town of Kennesaw on what is now the Dixie Highway. That portion of highway which was once called the Cassville Road, runs through the original plantation, a part of which is still owned by George C. Roberts of Marietta and occupied by his son. Wiley Roberts married Rhoda Stanley... their children were Benson, George, Willis, John, Thomas, Eliza, and Wiley. Benson was an early hotel keeper in Marietta and moved to Griffin, Georgia shortly before the War Between the States. The other sons owned plantations on Noonday Creek, two of them, Willis and Thomas, moving to Texas shortly before the war. (p. 74)

Census records offer few facts toward reconstructing Robert's land ownership just east of Pine Mountain Road prior to 1880. The 1850 Federal (Population) Census lists Wiley Roberts aged 69, located (in household #652) with his wife Rhoda, aged 67. The next household enumerated (#653) is that of Wiley Roberts [March 22, 1828 - June 15, 1896 ] and his wife Harriet [February 19, 1825 - March 15, 1901] It is known from tax digests that the elder Wiley Robert's home was some distance east of Kennesaw near Noonday Creek. (landlots 136, 137, 167) Because his son's residence was adjacent, information in the 1976 Cobb County Historic Survey which indicates the Gilbert Residence as that of Wiley Roberts is invalid. The Census locates John [S.] Roberts [October 26, 1816 - December 4, 1889] and his wife Lucretia [June 25, 1819 - December 25, 1857] and three young children at household 1531, adjacent to the elder Benjamin Whitfield (b. 1790)

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household (#1529) and younger Benjamin Whitfield [July 27, 1822 -April 11, 1895] household (#1530). This 1850 census data provides the strongest documentation that the Gilbert House was once occupied by John S. Roberts.

The 1860 Federal Census however locates John, aged 40, with personal property valued at \$39,550 and real property valued at \$13,000. on land adjacent to the Thomas F. Summers plantation. Roberts household (#1081) is identified on the Dodge-Ruger map immediately south of Summer's household (#1080). The Summer's farm was situated east of Kennesaw fronting the present Highway 293 at McCollum Airport.

A second "Roberts" household is identified on the Dodge-Ruger map adjacent to Whitfield. One of the two remaining Roberts brothers listed within the Big Shanty District is quite possibly the 1860 owner of the Pine Mountain Road farm labeled "Roberts" just northeast of "Whitfields" on several Civil War-era maps. Willis Roberts, aged 44, owned property (household 1092) valued at \$44,000. and George Roberts, aged 46, owned real property (household 1198) valued at \$10,800. and personal property valued at \$26,880.

Major Hiram Anderson Butler is the longest resident the brick farmhouse. Butler was born March 14, 1833. His father, Thomas Curry Butler operated a gun factory which was located in Gwinnett County near Buford, Georgia. At least one rifle marked: "TCB" survives. Sometime prior to 1849, Thomas Curry Butler purchased a farm on the outskirts of Acworth. Either Thomas C. Butler or his son Hiram is the namesake for Butler Creek which flows from landlot 178 in a northwesterly direction to Acworth and Proctor Creek.

Hiram Butler was given a job for the State-owned Western & Atlantic Railroad in 1849 manned with a dumpcart and a steer from the Acworth farm. After the road was laid across the Noonday Creek fill and cut through the Allatoona mountains toward Cartersville, Butler was transferred to the "bridge gang" and later promoted to section foreman between Marietta and Big Shanty in 1853. He worked for the Railroad for the next 58 years participating in the famous "Andrews Raid", restoring the W & A between Atlanta and Chattanooga just after the war, and later obtaining the position of "Roadmaster" in the 1880s. He retired in 1907.

The State-owned Western & Atlantic Railroad was begun in Atlanta in 1836 and track was laid north to Marietta by September 1845. A national economic depression coupled with state credit problems placed Marietta temporarily at the northern end of the line. Work was resumed under the Irish supervisor Nettie Cullen's who had received a contract to lay rail along the steep grades from Marietta to

Hiram Butler House Cobb County, Georgia

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Cartersville. Cullen's offered Hiram A. Butler a job in 1849. According to Randell W. McBryde, author of THE HISTORIC GENERAL (Chattanooga: MacGowan & Cooke, 1904):

The name [of Kennesaw] originated in the fact that at this point were located shanties for the construction force under Maj. H. A. Butler and being reached by a heavy grade the railroad men called it first the "Big Grade to the Shanties" and finally by an easy evolution: "Big Shanty Grade" and "Big Shanty."

Tax records first specifically mention Hiram Butler's ownership of Landlot 178 in 1880. Hiram Butler is listed on the 1880 Federal Census as head of household at the Kennesaw farm; Thomas Curry Butler, "gunsmith" was living within the household. Neither Temple's THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS, or the First Volume of COBB COUNTY CEMETERIES lists a gravestone reading for Thomas Curry Butler. An 1880 purchase date conflicts with two family reminiscences which place Butler in the brick farmhouse during the 1860s. Albert E. Butler responded to the Staff Director of the Civil War Centennial Commission in January 1967,

"Major Butler... built his brick home which stands today just outside Kennesaw, Georgia where he, his wife Molly Ann Sims of Newnan, Georgia, and family and home saw the ravages of the Civil War with the family refugeeing to Macon, Georgia, on the approach of General Sherman on his March to the Sea. with the Major remaining behind to manage the Western and Atlantic Railroad..."

According to Captain Hugh Butler, "[I] was born July 25, 1867 just a year after Dad bought the Kennesaw farm. Hiram Wallace, and Jesse R. also saw the light of day in the big house where the Major lived until he died." Hugh Butler recounted additional family history in a article authored by Herbert G. Monroe and published in the AMERICAN RAILROAD JOURNAL. According to Hugh Butler, the Butler Family did refugee; he and his half-brother Martin Henry Dooley Butler "were domiciled in an old box car. I remember Old Spencer, a negro who helped mother with the farm, and taught me many childhood games, was also taken along..."

Major Butler remained with the W & A Railroad during the Atlanta Campaign. The following transcription is from an interview Wilbur Kurtz' conducted with Hiram Butler on April 23, 1908. (Kurtz Notebook 1, Page 78)

Major Butler was in Chattanooga the day of the [Andrew's] Raid. He was conductor of a work-train. When Leadbetter heard of the capture of the train, He ordered Major B. to take his engine... and four or five flat cars - no caboose - with armed Confederate troops

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aboard, southward along the W & A to intercept the 'flying' General. Butler was 'boss' of this bunch of men. The train ran 11 miles out, and the men unloaded, after which the train was sent back to the city. The men were divided and placed on each bank of a 15 foot cut. One rail was removed, and a man sent forward 100 yards with a flag. It was about 12 o'clock when he reached the cut. When the news reached Chattanooga that the train had been abandoned, the work-train went out - got the men, and took them back.

Butler resided in the brick farmhouse until shortly before his death at a private sanitarium on October 17, 1913. Major Butler had purchased several additional parcels of land prior to his retirement from the railroad. These parcels include a 40 acre tract from B. H. Whitfield in the northeast corner of landlot 164 in May 1893 for \$240 (Deed Book R, page 133). Butler later purchased land from T. W. Whitfield (April 1902) in landlots 178 and 179. A plat accompanying this transfer shows land to the north, south, and east of H. A. Butler's as belonging to "Mrs B. H. Whitfield's life estate" (Deed Book BB, page 513-4) At the time his Will was probated, Butler's only land holdings were in the Town of Kennesaw. A tract of Butler's land in Kennesaw city limits was donated to the First Baptist Church of The present church is situated on this land. Hiram Butler Kennesaw. was survived by his wife and two daughters: Mrs. B. A. Fite and Mrs. J. W. Adams of Atlanta and three sons: J. R. Butler of Kennesaw H. W. Butler of Savannah, and Hugh E. Butler of Atlanta.

In addition to Hiram Butler's long career in railroading, each of his five sons sought their careers in railroading. Martin Henry Dooly Butler, (named for Martin Henry Dooley who served the Western & Atlantic Roadmaster during the 1860s. At this time, Hiram Butler was serving as trackmaster under Martin Dooley.) Martin Butler began firing engines on the Western & Atlantic RR worktrain in the 1880s. Hiram Wallace (born November 1869) worked for the W & A until 1903 when he went to the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad. He retired in 1940. Hugh E. Butler began railroad work in the 1880s with the East Tennessee, Virginia & Georgia Railroad as a check clerk at the Dallas, Ga. Depot. He later "ran an engine over the [Atlanta to Chattanooga] line" He was promoted to conductor during the Spanish American War, and was named Traveling Conductor in 1904 for the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railroad which had leased the Western & Atlantic beginning in 1890. In 1906, he was named first Trainmaster for the N.C. & St. L. Railroad and retired in 1940. Jesse Riles worked for the N.C. & St. L. Railroad for 48 years prior to his retirement on November 30, 1937. He was wheeling the Dixie Flyer at the time he accepted his pension.

# 9. Major Bibliographic References

Rooney, Donald R. "Hiram Butler House," <u>Historic Property Information</u> <u>Form</u>, July 24, 1990. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, with supplemental information.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X ) N/A

- () preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- () 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:

(X) 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 Approximately 13 acres.

#### UTM References

A)	Zone	16	Easting	718760	Northing	3765700
B)	Zone	16	Easting	719020	Northing	3765710
C)	Zone	16	Easting	719040	Northing	3765420
D)	Zone	16	Easting	718770	Northing	3765430

### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary includes the house, nonhistoric greenhouse and garage, and 13 acres as indicated on the enclosed plat map with a heavy black line, drawn to scale.

### Boundary Justification

The boundary follows the current legal boundaries of the property and provides the house with an appropriate rural setting.

#### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Leslie N. Sharp, National Register Consultant
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of
Natural Resources
street & number 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462
city or town Atlanta state Georgia zip code 30334
telephone (404) 656-2840 date December 21, 1994

(OHP form version 12-08-93)

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property:	Hiram Butler House
City or Vicinity:	Kennesaw
County:	Cobb
State:	Georgia
Photographer:	James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed:	Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed:	March 1993

# Description of Photograph(s):

1 of 11:	Front facade of house; photographer facing southwest.
2 of 11:	East facade of house showing glassed in reception hall and green house; photographer facing west.
3 of 11:	Rear facade of house showing 1952 screened porch; photographer facing northeast.
4 of 11:	Front Entrance detail; photographer facing south- southwest.
5 of 11:	Central hall looking toward front door; photographer facing northeast.
6 of 11:	Dining room; photographer facing southwest.
7 of 11:	Study; photographer facing southwest.
8 of 11:	Enclosed reception hall; photographer facing north.
9 of 11:	Northeast corner of house and lawn with sculpture; photographer facing southwest.
10 of 11:	Southeast corner of house with screened porch and landscaping; photographer facing northwest.
11 of 11:	Sculpture, lawn, east side of house, and green house; photographer facing west.





Hiram Butler House Cobb County, Georgia Plat Map National Register Boundary: Scale: 1" = 100' North:

= /00'

THOMAS E WELLIAMS & ASSOC. 106 FRANCES AVE. MARETTA GA. MARETTA GA.



Hiram Butler House Cobb County, Georgia Floor Plan Photographs/Direction of View: Scale: none North: