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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

MAY 17 1988

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 Hardman, Governor L.G. House
other names/site number Same

2. Location

street & number 208 Elm Street N/A not for publication
city, town Commerce N/A vicinity
state Georgia code GA county Jackson code GA 157 zip code 30529

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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 request for determination of eligibility 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 does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Elizabeth A. Lyon 5/10/88
Signature of certifying official Elizabeth A. Lyon Date
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer/Georgia Department of Natural Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau Atlanta, Georgia

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 and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Elizabeth A. Lyon 6-16-88
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Entered in the National Register

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
OTHER/MEDITERRANEAN REVIVAL

foundation concrete
walls brick
roof tile
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Gov. L. G. Hardman House is a two story, brick, Mediterranean-styled residence with Craftsman detailing. It is situated on approximately five acres of land adjacent to downtown Commerce with only one surviving outbuilding. The house is constructed of buff-colored brick with a hipped roof covered in green glazed tiles. The plan is asymmetrical with an attached porte cochere. A two-story garage apartment, also of buff-colored brick with a green glazed tile roof, is located to the rear of the main house.

Exterior details include limestone trim, a balcony above the entrance door, and a deck (entered from the second floor) on top of the porte cochere. Both the balcony and the porte cochere are supported with square brick columns with simple capitals. Windows throughout the house vary in size and type; some are 3 over 1, others 1 over 1 panes, and there are also sidelights and some glass doors. Most of this glass is beveled. The sun room has windows on three sides.

On entering the house one walks directly into the large living room. On the opposite side of the living room from the entrance is a small stair hall in which is located the main stairway. On the right, just after one enters the front door, are folding doors leading into the dining room. Behind the dining room is a butler's pantry (entered also from the stair hall) and kitchen. To the rear of the living room is a music room and a sun room accessible from both as well as from the porte cochere. On the second floor there is a central, open stair hall, around which there are five bedrooms and a sleeping porch asymmetrically arranged, and a rear stairway.

There is also a full basement made of poured concrete. It is divided into several rooms. One room houses the intact boiler for the steam heat system. Another houses the central vacuum-cleaning system, and the other, with a fireplace, served as the family's storm cellar. Extending from the basement is a room that becomes a greenhouse on the outside.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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The materials used in the house include wood floors and plaster walls and ceilings, with many walls covered in wallpaper. The kitchen was modernized in the 1950s, and is also used as a family room. There is dentil molding on the cornices in the living room and dining room, with an elaborate stone fireplace in the living room. Other mantels contain carved woodwork with marble and tile. Most of the interior, ground-floor doors contain beveled glass. There are French doors as well as folding doors. There is also wainscoting in the dining room.

The five-acre house lot includes grass and wooded areas, all within an irregular boundary. There are large oak and magnolia trees in the front yard and a variety of foundation shrubbery around the house. To the rear of the house the lot slopes off to a wooded area with a pecan grove. There is an elaborate main entrance with brick piers and an iron gate as well as a rear gate. Both the chain link fence and the main entrance gates are recent additions to the property.

The only separate outbuilding is the two-story garage apartment. It contains wood-panel sliding garage doors with multi-paned glass of vertical proportions. There are a pair of garage doors on both sides. The locations of previous outbuildings have been reported by a member of the original family. They included a meat and apple house, a servant's house and a barn. All were frame and are gone. There is also the filled-in site of a 1950s swimming pool in the backyard.

The property is adjacent to Commerce's central business district. Elm Street, on the east, is also U. S. 441, a major highway. Oak Street on the north is a residential street. Along Elm are properties of mixed residential and commercial use. New brick city offices are nearby, and on the west is a residential area.

Changes to the property have been minimal. The most noticeable are those in the kitchen. The house is being rehabilitated by the present owners.

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) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

architecture
 politics/government

Period of Significance

1921
 1927-1931

Significant Dates

1921
 1927

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Hardman, Gov. L. G.

Architect/Builder

Hart, Leroy C., architect

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Governor L. G. Hardman House is significant in architecture and politics/government. It is significant in architecture because it is a fine example in Georgia of the use of the Mediterranean style for a domestic structure. Elements of this style seen in the Hardman house include a tile roof with wide eaves, the extensive use of windows to admit the maximum amount of light, and buff-colored brick. It features elaborate cornices with dentil molding, a large stone living room mantel reminiscent of a great house in Europe, and a central stair hall. These features reflect the work of a trained architect, LeRoy Collier Hart (1885 - 1955). The house is significant as one of the few surviving works of Hart, a Georgia-born and Georgia-educated architect, who was more of an engineer than an architect and spent the latter years of his career in government service. He designed this house while living in Athens, Georgia and attempting independent practice before teaching at the University of Georgia.

The house is also significant in politics/government because it was the home of L. G. Hardman (1856 - 1937) who served as Governor of Georgia from 1927 to 1931. While he had been an active and involved citizen of Commerce before being called into state politics, his term saw several significant events. Events of lasting importance during his term include the creation of the Allen Commission, the first commission established to study the reorganization of Georgia State government; the acceptance of the first permanent home for the Department of Archives and History; and passage of the first income tax law. Both his terms took place while he lived in this house.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Jaeger, Dale. "L. G. Hardman Residence." Historic Property Information Form, November 19, 1986. On file at the Historic Preservation Section Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Turbeville, Robert. Eminent Georgians, Vol. I Atlanta: 1937. Biographical Sketch of Gov. Hardman appears on pages 561-564.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS): 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:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property five acres

UTM References

A

1	7
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2	7	3	6	8	0
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3	7	8	7	0	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property, parcel 20 on Tax Map C-13, is marked on the enclosed excerpt from that map.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is the intact, remaining historic acreage associated with the house.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian

organization Historic Preservation Section date April 27, 1988

street & number Georgia Department of Natural Resources telephone 404-656-2840

city or town 205 Butler Street, Suite 1462 state Georgia zip code 30334

Atlanta

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Criteria Justification:

The Gov. L. G. Hardman House meets National Register Criteria B, association with "persons significant in our past", because it was the home of L. G. Hardman, a two-term governor of Georgia. He is evaluated as one of 1,000 significant Georgians in the work the Dictionary of Georgia Biography (1983), the state's equivalent of the Dictionary of American Biography. He was also the only medical doctor to serve as governor of Georgia since before 1800. During his term he secured the services of the Allen Commission to recommend needed reorganizational changes; saw the passage of the state's first income tax law; and accepted the donation of the A. G. Rhodes Home as the first permanent location for the Department of Archives and History, among other events. The state also fell into the depths of the Depression during his term, following the effects of the boll weevil on the cotton crops as well.

Criteria C is also met by this property since it is the work of a trained architect and thus exemplifies the "work of a master" as well as having "distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction..." The house is a fine example of the use of the Mediterranean Style for the house of an important person in the community. While this style is quite prevalent in larger cities in Georgia, such as Atlanta, in the smaller towns, such as Commerce, it would have been used on this scale for only a few houses, if even more than one. The use of the tile roof with wide eaves directly hints toward a Mediterranean source, as does the large stone fireplace, and the use of numerous windows and French doors throughout to allow as much light as possible. The use of the deck, sun room, and sleeping porch all hint toward allowing more light and fresh air into the house. Many of these features might also reflect the health-conscious nature of a doctor and his concern for his family's wellbeing. The house as a work of a little-known but well-trained architect, LeRoy Collier Hart, of nearby Athens, Georgia, is also significant, because it reflects his highly trained nature in not only the use of quality materials, but also in the eclectic details he included within the structure, from the lack of a central hall, to the inclusion of a deck atop the porte cochere, the asymmetrical arrangement of bedrooms, and the unusual greenhouse extending from the basement.

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Section number 8 Page 3

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The relationship between the Hardman family and the town of Commerce began when Governor Hardman's father, W. B. J. Hardman (1822 - 1878), a native of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, and himself a doctor, settled here in the early 1850s. He practiced until 1878. He and his wife had eleven children of which Dr. L. G. Hardman was their third child.

Lamartine Griffin Hardman (1856 - 1937), who was born in Harmony Grove (now Commerce), graduated in 1876 from the Medical College of Georgia in Augusta and later from Bellevue Hospital in New York in 1877. He returned to Harmony Grove (the earlier name for Commerce) at age 20. Dr. L. G. Hardman later built a brick doctor's office which included a drug store next door. He also had other investments, including several farms. His first house built c. 1880 was later used as a hotel. In 1903, he purchased the famed Nichols-Hunnicut House in the Nacoochee Valley of north Georgia, which is still owned by his descendants. Dr. L. G. Hardman did not marry until 1907, when he was over fifty years old. His wife was Emma Griffin, and they first lived at the hotel which was located on the site of the nominated property. It was moved to the rear of the property when the nominated house was built, and is now gone.

The announcement that the plans for the present house were being presented for bids appeared in the Manufacturers' Record on October 2, 1919, indicating that the house would soon be built. The item stated simply:

GA. Commerce. - Dr. L. G. Hardman; \$40,000 residence:
16 rooms; brick; tile roof; hardwood and rift pine
floors; L. C. Hart, Archt., Athens, GA.; day labor.

Family tradition states that the house was not completed until 1921 due to Dr. Hardman's insistence on certain details, such as that the walls be 18 inches thick as a precaution against storms. His concern for storms also caused him to build a cyclone pit in the back yard and the storm cellar in the basement.

Originally there were several other outbuildings, all recalled by a daughter of Dr. Hardman. These were: meat/apple house, a servant's house, and a barn, in addition to the relocated original residence and cyclone pit. The family cook lived in the servant's house, while the family nurse and her husband, the chauffeur, lived in the garage apartment.

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Dr. Hardman was not only a noted physician in the town but also a successful businessman and later a politician. In 1900 he built the Hardman Sanatorium (a small hospital) in downtown Commerce. In 1892, he and others organized the Northeastern Banking Company of Commerce, and the local telephone company in 1897. He served as president of the Harmony Grove Cotton Mills, a company owned by his family, for 39 years. He also owned several farms as well as the local Central Hotel, and was involved in numerous other business ventures.

His successful political career began when he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives, serving from 1902 to 1906 and again, from 1909 to 1910. He served in the Georgia State Senate from 1907 to 1908. While in the state legislature he was the author or co-author of several important pieces of legislation. Two that related directly to his medical career were the establishment of the State Board of Health and the establishment of the state tuberculosis sanatorium. He also was the sponsor for the state prohibition legislation, known as the Hardman-Covington-Neel Bill, and for the establishment of the State Highway Department. He first tried for governor in 1915, but lost. Over a decade later he was elected in 1926 and again in 1928, serving from 1927 to 1931. While governor, he lived part-time in the governor's mansion in Atlanta, always returning to this house in Commerce whenever possible. He was also governor when the Depression began and the state tried to come to grips with the situation which followed so closely the devastation of the cotton farming from the boll weevil. At the end of his governorship, a large plaque summarizing the important aspects of his career was placed in the Georgia State Capitol in Atlanta.

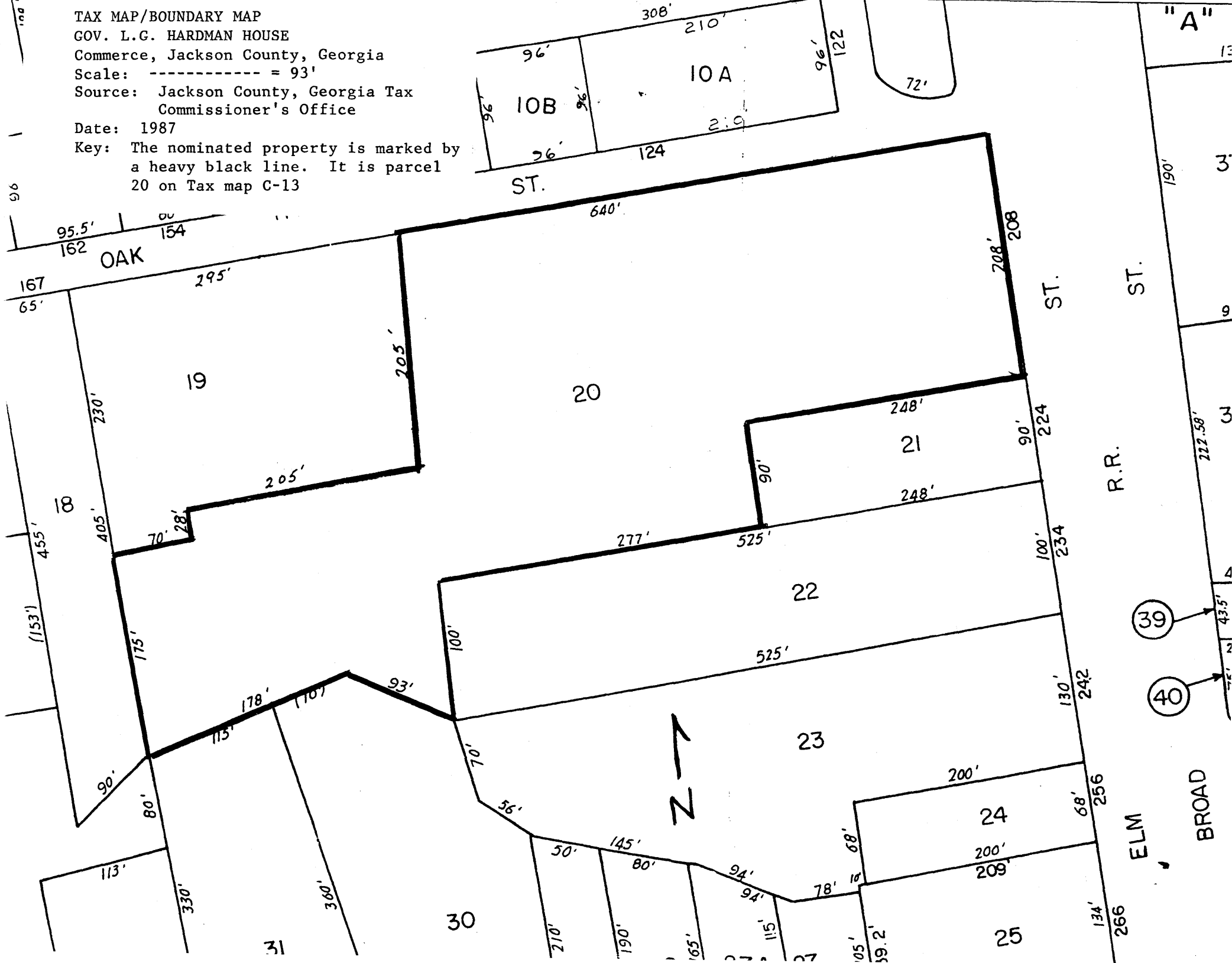
Gov. Hardman served as President of the Board of Trustees of Shorter College in Rome, Georgia. A Baptist supported school, it was where his daughters attended. He was also an active member of the local Baptist church.

Gov. Hardman died in 1937 at a hospital in Atlanta and his widow continued to live in this house until her own death in 1953. The house and 5.29 acres were then sold to W. L. New and family in 1955 by the heirs. It was the News who added the chain link fence to the property and remodeled the kitchen into more of a family room. In 1969, the house was sold to the Bass family who added the brick entrance piers and gates. A change in plans caused the Besses to move and leave the house vacant. After a long period of vacancy and neglect, the house was sold in 1986 to the current owner, Dr. A. L. Minish.

TAX MAP/BOUNDARY MAP
GOV. L.G. HARDMAN HOUSE
Commerce, Jackson County, Georgia
Scale: ----- = 93'
Source: Jackson County, Georgia Tax
Commissioner's Office

Date: 1987

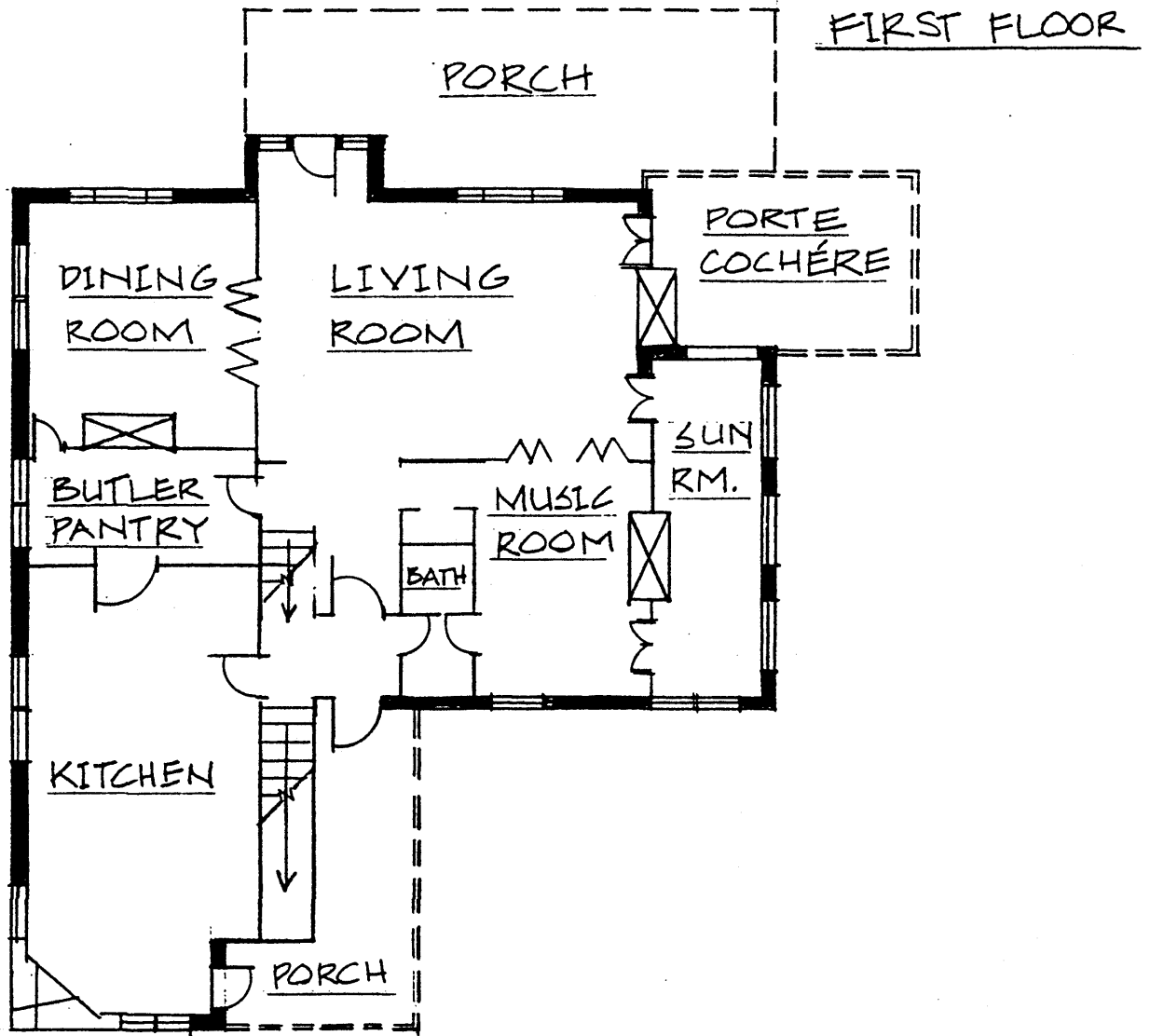
Key: The nominated property is marked by
a heavy black line. It is parcel
20 on Tax map C-13



FLOOR PLAN

GOV. L.G. HARDMAN HOUSE
Commerce, Jackson County, Georgia
Scale: not to scale
Source: drawn by Dale Jaeger
Date: 1986
Key: as marked on the plan, which
is of the First Floor only.

L.G.HARDMAN RESIDENCE
COMMERCE, GA.



← NORTH

NO SCALE

SITE PLAN

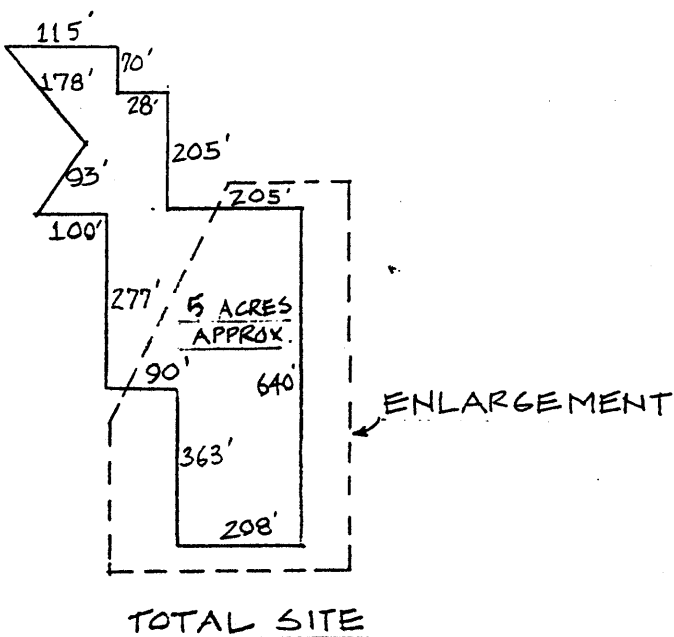
GOV. L.G. HARDMAN HOUSE
Commerce, Jackson County, Georgia

Scale: not to scale

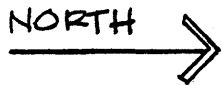
Source: drawn by Dale Jaeger

Date: 1987

Key: this is a site plan of the southern portion of the nominated property, see inset

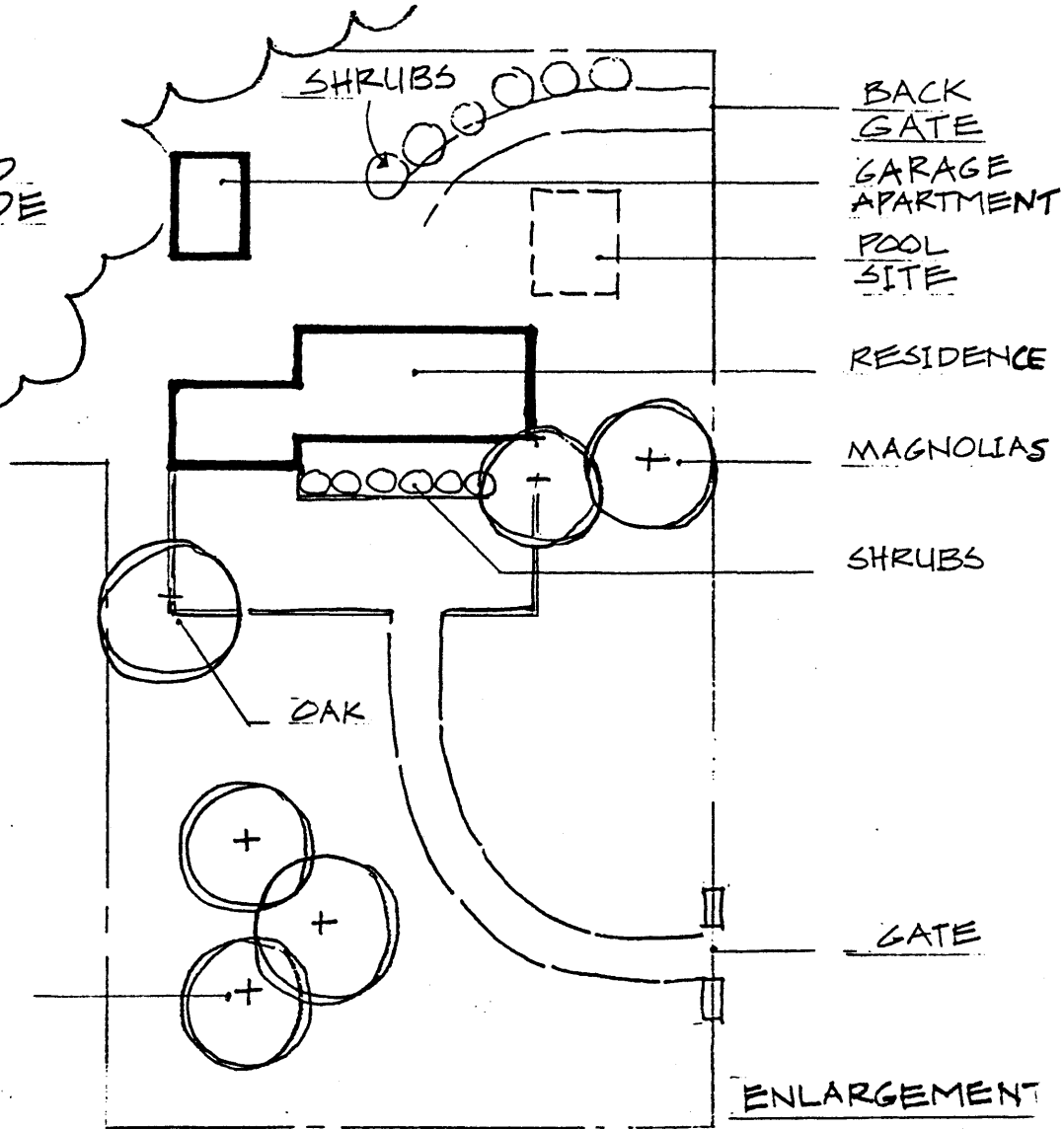


SITE PLAN



NO SCALE

WOODED HILLSIDE



ELM STREET
U.S. HWY 441