

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received DEC 16 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Crestwood

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 502 Eager Road

N/A not for publication

city, town Valdosta

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia

code 013

county Lowndes

code 185

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. William G. Eager, Jr./ Mrs. William G. Eager, Sr., Trust
William G. Eager, Jr., Trustee

street & number 502 Eager Road

city, town Valdosta

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia 31601

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Lowndes County Courthouse

city, town Valdosta

state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Field Survey:

title Lowndes County, Georgia [See Continuation Sheet.] has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta

state Georgia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

"Crestwood" is a two-story wood-frame farmhouse in the Neoclassical style with a one-story wing to the rear and a 1928 two-story addition to the west. The house is weatherboarded and has a two-part low hipped roof which is pierced by three large interior chimneys with corbeled caps. A flat-roofed porch with a roofline balustrade and fluted columns extends across the original portion of the front facade and wraps around the east side, terminating in a porte cochere. The front is dominated by a massive two-story pedimented portico, supported by two tall fluted columns, which extend out beyond the porch. Centered beneath the portico is the main entrance with its double Craftsman-style beveled glass doors and Craftsman-style transom above. To the west, balancing the side porch and porte cochere, and set back slightly from the front plane, is the 1928 wing. This has a secondary front entrance with similar Craftsman-style doors and transom and a frontispiece-type portico. Windows are one-over-one double-hung sash.

The house has an open-plan, asymmetrical layout with the front doors opening directly into a large living room. From here, French doors lead into the dining room and a wide arched opening leads to the stairhall. Floors in the house are, for the most part, hardwood, and walls and ceilings are plastered. Significant interior features in the main part of the house include wainscoting in the main downstairs rooms and stairhall, an open-well, three-run stairway with finely crafted newels and square balusters, a variety of Neoclassical-style mantels, and Craftsman-style paneled doors. In the library, located in the 1928 wing, are a beamed ceiling, a massive limestone fireplace, a classical frieze over French doors leading to the dining room, and two doors with leaded and stained glass designed in a spider-web motif leading to a rear stairhall. The house has seven bedrooms and four original bathrooms. Many original lighting and bathroom fixtures remain in place. Significant alterations include the addition of a large room and carport at the rear in 1960, and the enclosure of the rear porch and the second-floor northeast room, which was originally a sleeping porch.

"Crestwood" is located on a finely landscaped property amidst the remaining acreage of a large pecan plantation. Recent residential development surrounds the property. The house is approached from a drive centered on the front portico, which is marked at its entrance by brick gateposts and lined with thirty-foot palm trees. Pecan orchards flank the palms and drive, and immediately surrounding the house are an informal collection of mature trees and shrubs, including camphor, ginkgo, magnolia, crepe myrtle and live oak trees and camellias. Behind the house are three outbuildings, a 1915 wood-frame garage, a ca. 1922 nut house historically used for cleaning, sorting and packing pecans, and a non-historic horse barn.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1915, 1928 **Builder/Architect** Builder, William G. Eager, Sr.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Crestwood is a fine, intact example of an early-twentieth-century pecan plantation. In terms of architecture, it is significant as a well-preserved example of a substantial early-twentieth-century farmhouse. In terms of landscape architecture, the property is significant for its intact historic setting which illustrates the relationship between the main house, outbuildings, and orchards of an early-twentieth-century pecan plantation. In terms of agriculture, the property is significant as the location of a major pecan plantation in south Georgia. In terms of military history and engineering, the property is significant for its association with William C. Eager, Sr., the builder and first owner of the house, who was a mechanical engineer credited with developing the sawed-off shotgun used in trench warfare during World War I. These areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register criteria A, B, and C.

Architecture

Crestwood is distinguished by its Neoclassical portico and porch, its up-to-date open-plan layout, and a number of fine interior details, many of them in the Craftsman style. Typically for many houses of the period, Crestwood has no central hall, its main entrance leading directly into the living room with a small stairhall at the rear separated only by a wide arched opening. Craftsman-style paneled doors throughout the house and two library doors with fine leaded and stained-glass panels in a spider-web motif, simple but finely crafted mantels and a classically inspired frieze in the library are among the significant features. The house, located on the crest of a low hill with woods in the distance (hence "Crestwood"), has been a landmark since its construction when it was the only large house in the area.

Landscape Architecture

The palm-lined entrance drive, the fine collection of informally planted shade and ornamental trees and bushes in the immediate vicinity of the house, and the carefully laid out pecan orchard planted at the same time the house was constructed are all important elements in Crestwood's overall landscape design. The pecan orchard, together with the main house and "nut shed," illustrate the relationship among the various parts of an early-twentieth-century pecan plantation. The palm-lined entrance drive and house plantings illustrate both formal and informal landscaping practices typical of the early-twentieth century.

[continued]

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 12.41 acres

Quadrangle name Valdosta, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	7
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2	7	9	9	6	0
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3	4	1	7	3	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

1	7
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2	7	9	9	6	0
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3	4	1	7	1	3	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

1	7
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2	7	9	6	9	0
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3	4	1	7	1	3	0
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D

1	7
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2	7	9	7	9	0
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3	4	1	7	3	5	0
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E

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F

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property, outlined with a heavy black line on the enclosed survey map, includes the house, historic outbuildings and a portion of the pecan orchard associated with Crestwood.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

date December 5, 1983

street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W.

telephone (404) 656-2840

city or town Atlanta

state Georgia 30334

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon, Ph.D.

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12/9/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

**Entered in the
National Register**

date 1/12/84

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
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Representation in Surveys,
Continuation sheet Major Bibliography Item number 6, 9

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Representation in Existing Surveys

National Register Status: On April 12, 1983, the National Register Programs Division of the National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, issued a preliminary certification of significance for this property. One day earlier, on April 11, 1983, they determined that the completed rehabilitation of Crestwood meets the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for Rehabilitation."

Major Bibliographical References

Eager, William G., Jr. "Historic Property Information Form: Crestwood," June, 1982. On file at State Historic Preservation Office, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Georgia Homes and Landmarks, Southern Features Syndicate, 1929.

Merritt, Carol. "Preliminary Study Unit: Pecan Culture in Georgia, 1800-present." On file at State Historic Preservation Office, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

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Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

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Agriculture

Crestwood is a major pecan plantation which, during its peak years of production in the late 1920s, produced up to 30,000 pounds of nuts annually. Pecans, introduced commercially about 1905 as part of the state's crop diversification effort, rapidly became an important cash crop in the southwest area of the state around Albany and including Valdosta. The nut shed behind the main house, where nuts were cleaned, graded and packaged for shipment, documents the early phase of commercial pecan growing before local companies and cooperative exchanges took over the shelling and marketing of the pecans.

Military History and Engineering

William G. Eager, Sr. (1885-1946), the builder and first owner of the house, was trained as a mechanical engineer and during World War I gained notoriety for proposing the use of the sawed-off shotgun in trench warfare. The Trench Shotgun is credited with repelling the final German assault on Paris in 1918. Eager moved to Valdosta in 1912 to serve as manager of the local electric-power company. Following the war, he returned to Crestwood and made significant contributions to the area economy by establishing several ice plants and cold-storage facilities that served local farms, earlier plagued by meat spoilage. Eager was a member of the Societies of Electrical Engineers, Military Engineers, and Refrigeration Engineers.

CRESTWOOD
 Valdosta, Lowndes County, Georgia

PROPERTY SKETCH MAP

Source: Surveyor's Map
 Scale: 0 _____ 200'
 North: →
 Property Boundary: _____

COUNTRY CLUB ROAD 80'R/W

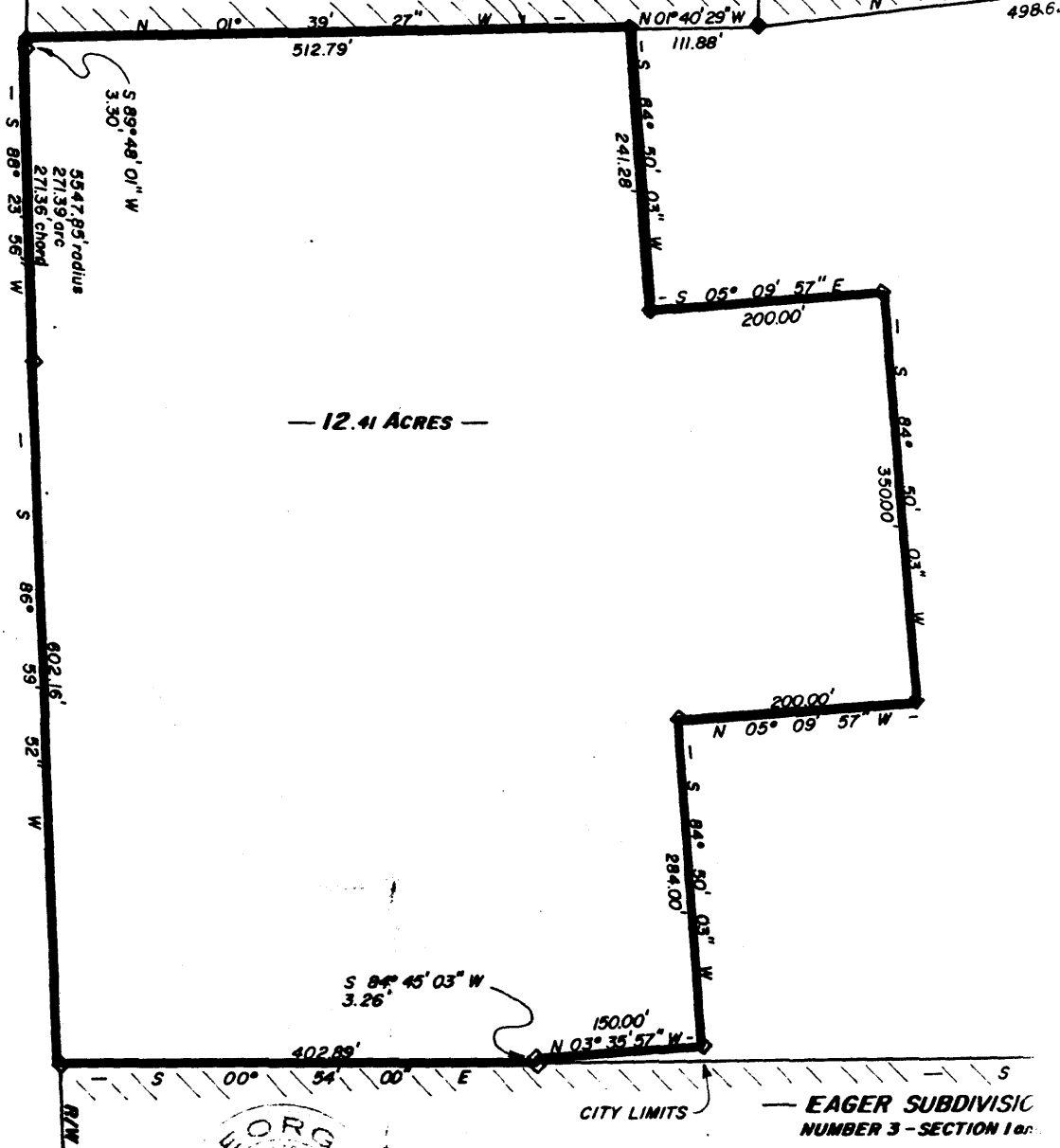
08" W — N 01° 36' 460

— 4.40 ACRES

EAGER ROAD 80'R/W

CITY LIMITS

LEGEND
 ◆ = Found Concrete Monument
 □ = Set Concrete Monument



— 12.41 ACRES —

BERKLEY DRIVE

EAGER SUBDIVISION NUMBER 3 - SECTION 1



DEVANE ASSOCIATES

PLANNERS / SURVEYORS / ENGINEERS

P.O. Box 92 - PHONE 912-263-8585

The bearings shown hereon have been calculated from angles turned and are based upon Magnetic North from previous survey.
 The field data upon which this map or plat is based is as follows:
 Closure precision of one foot in 20,574 feet.
 Angle precision per angle point 3 seconds.
 Adjustment rule used Compass.
 This map or plat has been calculated for closure and is accurate within one foot in 10,000 feet.
 In my opinion this plat is a correct representation of the land plotted and is intended to conform with minimum standards of Georgia Law.

EA
 LA
 LO

CRESTWOOD
Valdosta, Lowndes County, Georgia

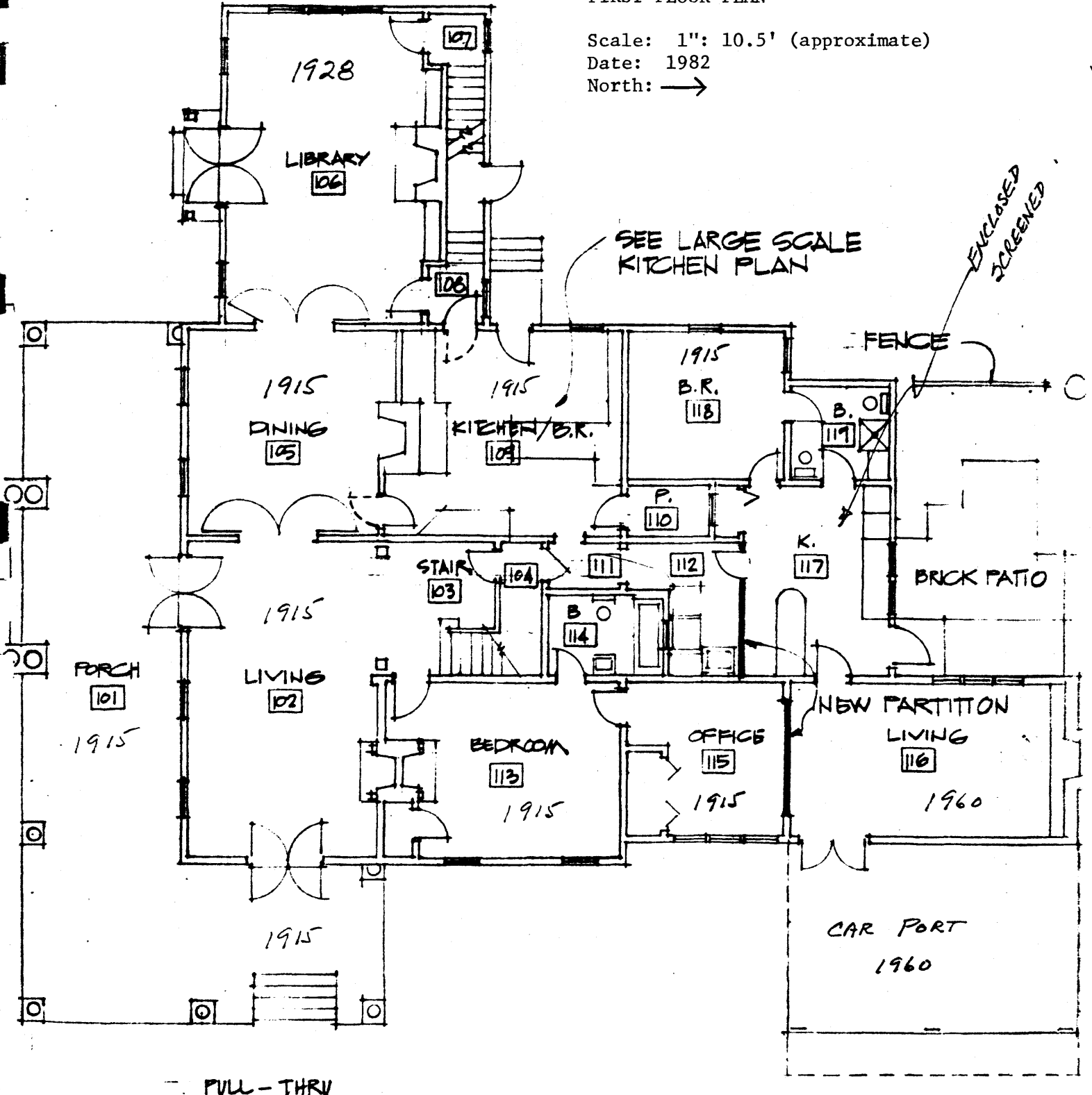
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Scale: 1" = 10.5' (approximate)

Date: 1982

North: →

1960



PULL-THRU

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

3/32" = 1'-0"

ALTERATIONS TO THE EAGER RESIDENCE

THIS WING ADDED 1928.

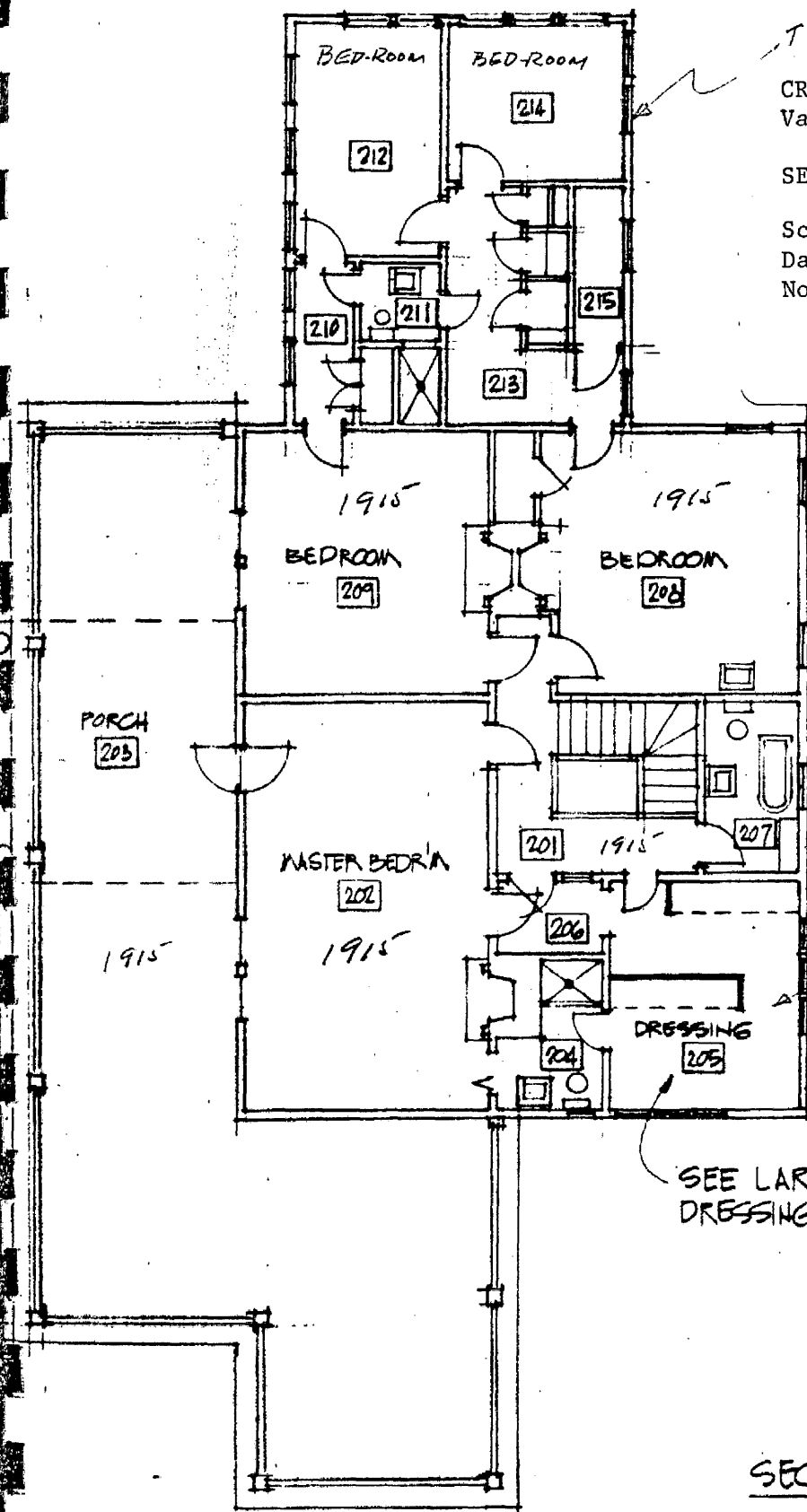
CRESTWOOD
Valdosta, Lowndes County, Georgia

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

Scale: 1" = 10.5' (approximate)

Date: 1982

North: →



THIS WAS SCREENED SLEEPING PORCH. CONVERTED TO BEDROOM DURING 1950'S.

SEE LARGE SCALE DRESSING RM PLAN

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

$\frac{3}{32}'' = 1'-0''$