

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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

1. Name

historic Seven Oaks

and/or common Col. William P. Price House

2. Location

street & number 403 ~~South Park Street~~ N/A not for publication

city, town Dahlonega N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional District~~ 9th

state Georgia code 013 county Lumpkin code 187

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Frank C. Dunham, Vice Chancellor for Facilities
Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia

street & number 244 Washington Street, SW

city, town Atlanta N/A vicinity of state Georgia 30334

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Lumpkin County Courthouse

city, town Dahlonega state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Structures Field Survey: Lumpkin County, GA has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1976 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

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

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Seven Oaks (The William P. Price House) is a three story frame house built with four rooms on each of the first two floors centered on a central hall. The third floor is an attic room lighted through dormer and gable windows. A Victorian U-shaped porch covers the front of the house. Small, one story frame additions have been placed on either side of the main body of the house. The house sits on a city lot with other residences nearby.

The exterior of the house is wood weatherboard with heavy wood cornices on the front and on the gable ends. The U-shaped porch on the front of the house is supported by thin columns which are interconnected with scalloped ornamentation. Each column rests on a plinth. There are two interior chimneys, one on either side of the main body of the house, and one remaining in the left wing. The rear of the house has a porch on each level, the upper one having a picket fence-like railing. The gable end windows of the third floor have pedimented wooden gables while the front two dormers have arcs over them, with single pane glass moulded to fit this rounded space. Most of the windows in the house appear to be double hung, with six over six panes, set in simple trabeated surrounds.

The interior of the house was originally a symmetrical structure with four rooms on the first two floors bisected by a central hall. To this has been added one story wings on either side of the house. These two rooms are entered from the rear rooms on the first floor. The two rooms on the right and left side of the central hall on both the first and second floors share respective chimneys on their interior walls. The wing on the left of the house also has a fireplace, while the wing on the right, the kitchen, no longer has a chimney or a fireplace. The mantels remain in the eight original rooms and are very simple with classical lines but no ornamentation. There is a central stair rising from the first floor central hall to a similar position in the second floor hall. Below the first floor there is a cellar which contains open shelving.

Seven Oaks has seen numerous changes in the 20th century. Most of the changes to the house have been made since 1933. The change in usage of certain rooms has caused certain earlier features to be lost or forgotten, as in the case of the original dining room (room three on the sketch maps), where a possible connection from the dining room to the lower cellar by stairs has been lost by the addition of a new floor. A later owner, Colonel West, added a coldframe in the cellar in order to raise seedlings in the early spring without the danger of frost. Between 1933 and 1943 the owner of Seven Oaks, John Moore, added the left wing to house an apartment, the kitchen wing on the right side of the first floor, and three bathrooms. The bathrooms were added on the left rear of the house at the end of the back porch, one on top of the other, forming the tower-like feature seen on the back of the house. This placed bathrooms in the cellar, first and second floors. The Clarence Couches, owners after 1943, made additional modifications to divide the house further into apartments. They had the house sheetrocked, new plumbing and wiring added, and had new floors added above the old ones except in one bedroom. In the early 1950's another addition was made behind the

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kitchen that included a bedroom and bath. The Couches also screened in the front porch, poured a concrete floor for the porch, and changed the bases of the columns. Later in the 1950's the Couches added closets to upstairs bedrooms and one down-stairs to create more desirable apartments. This brought the total to four rental units. The Couches also added a series of outbuildings including a garage which served as a smokehouse and a woodshed, a greenhouse, a chicken house and a rabbit house. None of these survive. The house was owned from 1969-1972 by the Cecil Parks family. They continued to rent the four apartments and made very few other changes. In 1972 Mrs. Wandsleigh Fiddler purchased the house and donated it to North Georgia College. She then financed the restoration of the front porch. Eventually the apartments were closed and the house was used for storage pending renovation. Mrs. Fiddler also had the outbuildings removed except for the barn.

Seven Oaks sits on a small, city lot with a level grassy yard in front and large garden in back. Other buildings in the neighborhood are mostly residences, with one church. There is a gravel driveway on the right side of the house leading to an historic one-story wooden barn dating from the 1880s. The known locations of other outbuildings are marked on the enclosed Sketch Map and include a 1950's garage and greenhouse, a c. 1930 chicken house and stables, wellhouse, as well as a c. 1875 outhouse and detached kitchen. The barn is the only remaining extant outbuilding.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The Historic Preservation Section has determined that the photographs taken in February, 1981 still represent the character and appearance of the property. No significant changes have been made since that date.

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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				local history

Specific dates c. 1875 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Seven Oaks, the home of William P. Price, built around 1875, is historically significant in the areas of architecture, education and local history. Architecturally, the Price House is significant because it was built in the four over four central hall plan more prevalent to antebellum houses as opposed to the Victorian era when it was constructed. It is also significant for possessing intact elements of its design, material and workmanship in such features as the Victorian porch details, gabled window lintels, and simple, unornamented mantels. The house is significant in educational history for the role its builder, Colonel William Pierce Price (1835-1908), played in the establishment of North Georgia College. Colonel Price donated land for a black school in 1867 that made it possible to have the U.S. Mint site in Dahlonega donated in 1871 to the trustees of a newly organized college. The college formally opened on January 7, 1873 after having worked out a compromise with the University of Georgia in Athens, of which it became a unit. Price was elected the first President of the Board of Trustees and served over thirty years, 1870-1908. The college was especially important as the first free institute of higher learning to serve citizens of North Georgia. Seven Oaks is significant in local history because of the role of Colonel Price, a native of Dahlonega, in other activities of the community. He served as a state representative in 1868-1870, 1877, and 1894-1895, and as a state senator in 1880-81. He was a U.S. Congressman from 1870-1873 and served on the local city council and county school board. He was also the first mayor elected in 1900 after Dahlonega was officially incorporated as a city in 1899. The house is also significant as the childhood home of Colonel Price's daughter Caroline Price Wilson, who as a Savannah resident became an early leader in genealogy as one of the first to abstract and publish county records and write a genealogical newspaper column. The house was also the home for a short time of Colonel John W. West, President of North Georgia College whose collection of materials was later the basis for Westville, Georgia, a reconstructed historic village of the 1850's. These areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register Criteria A, B and C.

ARCHITECTURE

Seven Oaks is architecturally significant because its architectural style, that of a four over four room, central hall planned house, was more prevalent several decades earlier than the 1870s when it was constructed. The decade of the 1860's with the Civil War in progress saw very little building in Georgia; if any it was the completion of houses and plantations already begun. The aftermath of the war left most people unable to afford new houses. As the 1870's progressed, and reconstruction slowly ended, there were some new houses constructed, many of traditional styles. This house, which can be documented from this era, does not show influences of prevailing styles that might have been built elsewhere in the country but is strongly reminiscent of the type of house the owner, Colonel Price, might have seen in his youth in the 1840's and 1850's. The Victorian wrap-around porch is a significant feature tying it to the more prevalent Victorian tastes of the late 19th century; it may have been added after the house was built. The house retains other significant examples of its original design,

(CONTINUED)

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 896 acres

Quadrangle name Dahlonega, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	7	2	2	6	2	6	0	3	8	2	4	8	7	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is marked on the accompanying plat map filed in 1972. It is all the land remaining associated with the house and all the owner owns at this location.

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

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

organization Historic Preservation Section
Dept of Natural Resources

date May 21, 1982

street & number 270 Washington Street, SW

telephone 404/656-2840

city or town Atlanta

state Georgia

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

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 6/8/82

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

7/15/82

Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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material and workmanship in the gabeled window lintels found on the windows of either side of the third floor, several original but plain mantels, and an original staircase.

EDUCATION AND LOCAL HISTORY

The areas of education and local history can be best elaborated upon by a narrative of the life of Colonel William Pierce Price, the first owner and the builder of the house. The county historian said in the 1930's that Price's mark was written in "bold strokes across every worthy and progressive movement in the county for a generation". Colonel Price was born in Dahlonga in 1835, only a few years after the county itself was created. His father died in 1839. He even learned his first trade at the office of the Dahlonga Times. At the tender age of ten he was hired as a printer's devil by the Times and shortly began to help with typesetting for the paper. From 1850-1866 he lived in Greenville, South Carolina. In Greenville, he established the Southern Enterprise in 1854 and while editing this newspaper also studied law and in 1856 was admitted to the South Carolina bar. That same year he also married Miss Martha A. Martin. One of his South Carolina law partners was James L. Orr and after the latter's election as governor of South Carolina in 1866, Price and his family returned to Dahlonga. Price had enlisted in a South Carolina regiment and served throughout the Civil War. He served in the South Carolina House of Representatives from 1864-1866.

Not long after his return to Dahlonga Price established his law practice. Eventually he numbered among his clients the "Southern Railroad" and several large mining interests in New York.

North Georgia Agricultural College, the first public college built in North Georgia, is a living tribute to the careful planning and steadfast loyalty of Colonel Price. Without his efforts on its behalf, it would probably never have been organized and almost certainly would have died in its infancy. Already looking ahead towards the possibility of locating a land-grant college at Dahlonga, Price donated a site for a new black school in 1867. The building of the new school freed the old U.S. Mint building in Dahlonga from any claims of ownership that the Freedmen's Bureau might have based on their recent use of the mint for a school. Later, as a member of the U.S. Congress, from December 1870 to March 1873, Price enlisted the aid of his personal friend Justin Morrill of Vermont, author of the Morrill Act or land-grant college act, in getting legislation passed in April of 1871 which donated the U.S. Mint to the trustees of North Georgia Argicultural College. The college formally opened January 7, 1873. In 1875 Price donated \$4200 in cash to the college, stipulating that it be invested in state revenue bonds at eight percent interest to generate revenues to pay faculty salaries. The donation was a godsend, for the college had been granted an annual payment of only \$2000 from proceeds of interest on the Land Scrip. Without Price's generosity the college might very well have failed in its first years. Again in 1878, after the mint building was destroyed by fire, Price and other leading citizens succeeded in keeping the college alive. Price was elected the first president of the college's board of trustees and served in that capacity from 1870-1908.

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Price was also a member of the county school board at the turn of the century when a movement for reorganization and modernization of the county school system got underway. Quickly he became one of the chief proponents of the reforms. He and the four other school board members with whom he served deserve credit for giving Lumpkin County its first modern school system.

Throughout his lifetime, Colonel Price was deeply involved in civic and political matters. Price served as a member of the United States Congress, from December 1870 until March 1873. He also served in both the Georgia House of Representatives, in 1868-1870, 1877, and 1894-1895; and in the State Senate in 1880-1881. Besides the state and federal offices that he held, Price served for several years on the city council and on the county school board. Not many years before his death, he was accorded the honor of being elected the first mayor of the newly-incorporated city of Dahlonega in 1900.

William Price was no less dedicated to his community than to his church. When it became obvious that a new church building was needed for the Baptist congregation at Dahlonega, Colonel Price was a natural choice as chairman of the building committee. He soon became the "life and soul of the movement for the new church." His personal contribution of \$1000 to the building fund represented nearly one quarter of the total cost of the building. By managing to obtain copper from illicit stills that had been operated in the Dahlonega area, he helped provide the church with an unusual, copper-lined baptistry. The stained glass memorial window placed by his children in the church continues to serve as a reminder of his commitment to it.

Actually a member of the Presbyterian faith, Colonel Price and the other Presbyterians in Dahlonega were long anxious to have a church of their own even though the Baptist and Methodist churches allowed them use of their facilities. After several abortive attempts, a Presbyterian church was finally erected in 1899. Just as he had earlier when plans were being laid for the new Baptist Church, Colonel Price lent his support to the Presbyterian building effort and played an important role in seeing it to completion. Included among the many buildings remaining in Dahlonega which Price had a hand in building are the Baptist Church of 1897 and the Presbyterian Church of 1899. The Presbyterian Church of 1899 now serves as the local Catholic Church.

The Price House is also significant as the childhood home of Colonel Price's daughter, Caroline, who married William S. Wilson of Savannah. Mrs. Wilson (1860-1936) was an early 20th Century leader in genealogical matters. She was one of the first to abstract and publish county records, in her three volume Annals of Georgia series in 1928-1933, and abstracts of the Chatham County, Georgia wills. Her work with the Daughters of the American Revolution resulted in her writing a weekly genealogical column in the Atlanta Constitution from 1909-1917.

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Colonel John Word West (1876-1959) who was president of North Georgia College from 1925-1933 also lived in this house during his presidency. He is best remembered today as a collector of early Georgia tools, farm equipment and buildings such as cotton gins, and farm houses, that he later placed on exhibit in Jonesboro, Georgia. After his death the collection was purchased in 1966 and moved to Stewart County, Georgia where it became the nucleus for the town of "Westville", a reconstructed village of the 1850's which contains moved antebellum houses, cotton gins, carriages, blacksmith shop, etc. and was named for Colonel West.

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Draft National Register Information Form prepared by Ms. Carolynn Williams Samples, September, 1980.

G. R. Glenn "William Pierce Price" in W. J. Northen, ed., Men of Mark in Georgia, Vol. IV, p. 124ff. Originally published in 1908.

Cain, Andrew W. History of Lumpkin County for the First Hundred Years: 1832-1932. Atlanta: Stein Printing Co., 1933.

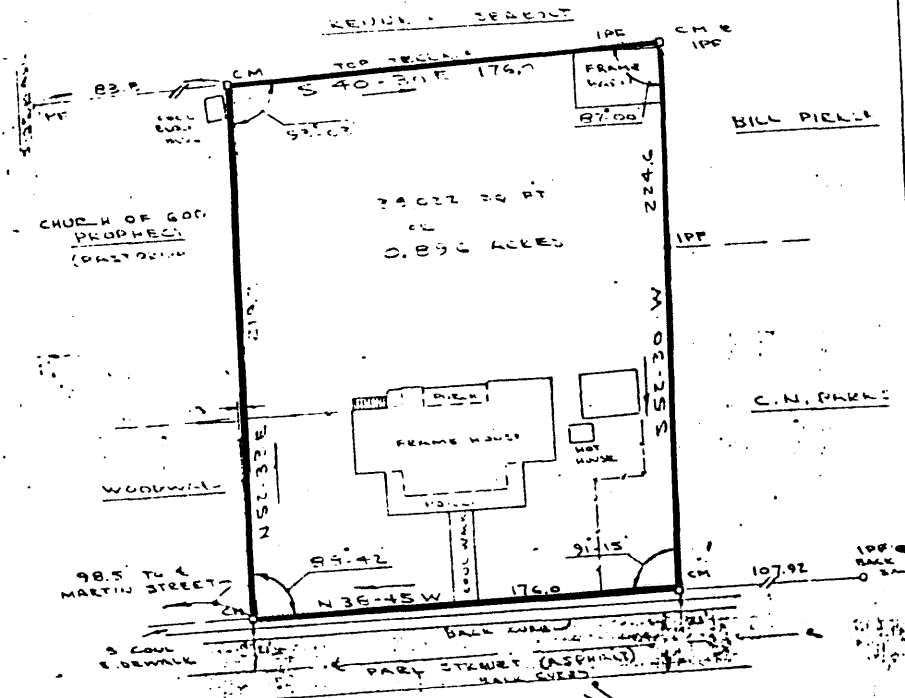
Dobson, Paul G. and Ray C. Rensi. North Georgia College: The Founding Years. Dahlonega, 1976. Bicentennial Pamphlet.

Interviews with Clarence Couch of Sautee, Georgia; Charles Jackson of Dahlonega, Georgia; Polly (Mrs. Cecil Parks) Parks of Dahlonega, Georgia; and Ida Phillips of Dahlonega, Georgia; all in 1980.

EXHIBIT "A"

"I certify (a) that this plat is correct, (b) that all corners of the said property have been established by concrete monuments with bronze dowels on top of each monument, (c) that the plat is complete as to directions and dimensions, (d) that the survey encompasses only the property to be conveyed, (e) that the survey gives courses and distances of all sides, (f) that the survey shows interior angles, (g) that the courses are referenced to magnetic north with suitable notation at the north arrow, (h) that the property is tied into a point considered reasonably permanent by a suitable traverse showing courses, distances and interior angles, (i) that a closure sheet accompanies the survey on which the error of closure is reflected, and (j) that the area has been computed by the double meridian distance method.

Georgia Registered No. 1301



REVISED JULY 28 1972
NP2
FARLEY-COLLINS ASSOC.

SCALE:

SURVEYED FOR RECORDS OF
THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA
PROPERTY OF
CECIL N. PARKS & POLLY E. PARKS

PLAT MAP

SEVEN OAKS

Dahlonega, Lumpkin County, Georgia

Scale: 1"=78'

Source: Plat drawn for sale of property of Cecil Parks.

Date: 1972

Key: The nominated property is marked with a heavy black line.

LOCATIONS OF OUTBUILDINGS AND OTHER EXTERIOR FEATURES

BARN
1880?

GARDEN

OUTHOUSE
1875
TO
1930s

SKETCH MAP OF PROPERTY

SEVEN OAKS
Dahlonega, Lumpkin County, Georgia

Scale: 1"=100'

Source: Prepared by Carolynn Samples
based on current plat map.

Date: c. 1980

Key: The nominated property is shown
and the various outbuildings known
to have existed are marked and
labeled as are other features.

CHICKEN HOUSE/
STABLE
1926-1933
TO
LATE 30's?

WELL HOUSE
1925-1933?
TO
70's

KITCHEN
1875
TO
EARLY 30's?

PORCH
AND
STEPS
1933-1943
TO
EARLY 70's

PORCH

PORCH

FRAME HOUSE

PORCH

GARAGE
EARLY 50's
TO
EARLY 70's

GREEN HOUSE
EARLY 50's
TO
EARLY 70's

FENCE
1950's
TO
?

HOLLY TREE
1880 OR BEFORE

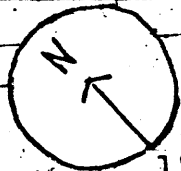
FENCE 1950's TO?

LEGEND

Existing structure or feature

Previously existing structure

Location uncertain



1"=100'

PARK STREET

SEVEN OAKS
Dahlonega, Lumpkin County, Georgia

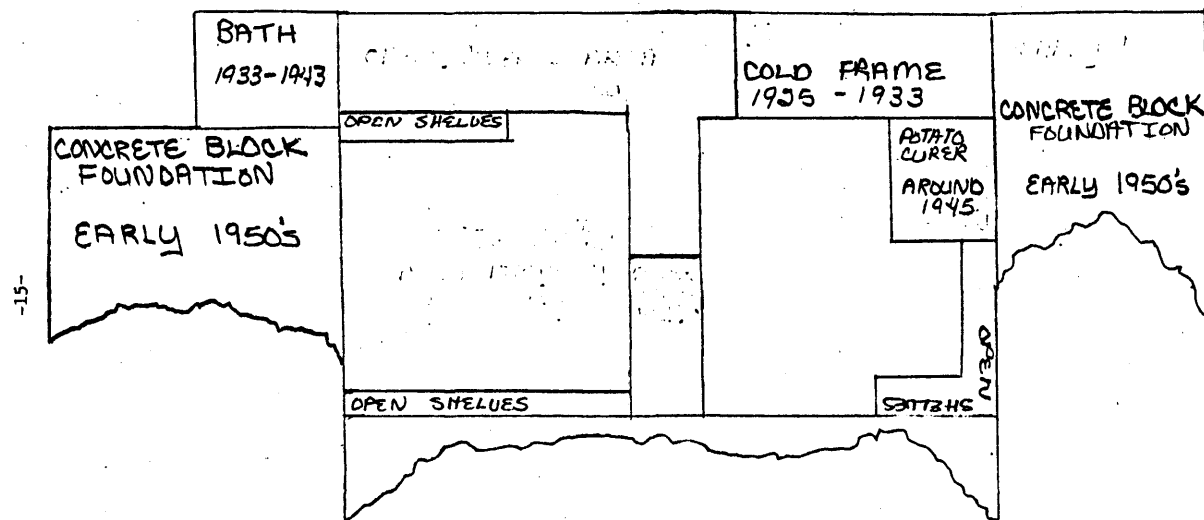
Scale: Not drawn to scale, maps have been
reduced

Source: Prepared by Carolynn Samples

Date: 1980

Key: Cellar, Alterations

ALTERATIONS OF CELLAR SPACE



S. PARK STREET SIDE OF HOUSE

NOTE: ONLY ADDITIONS TO ORIGINAL STRUCTURE LABELED

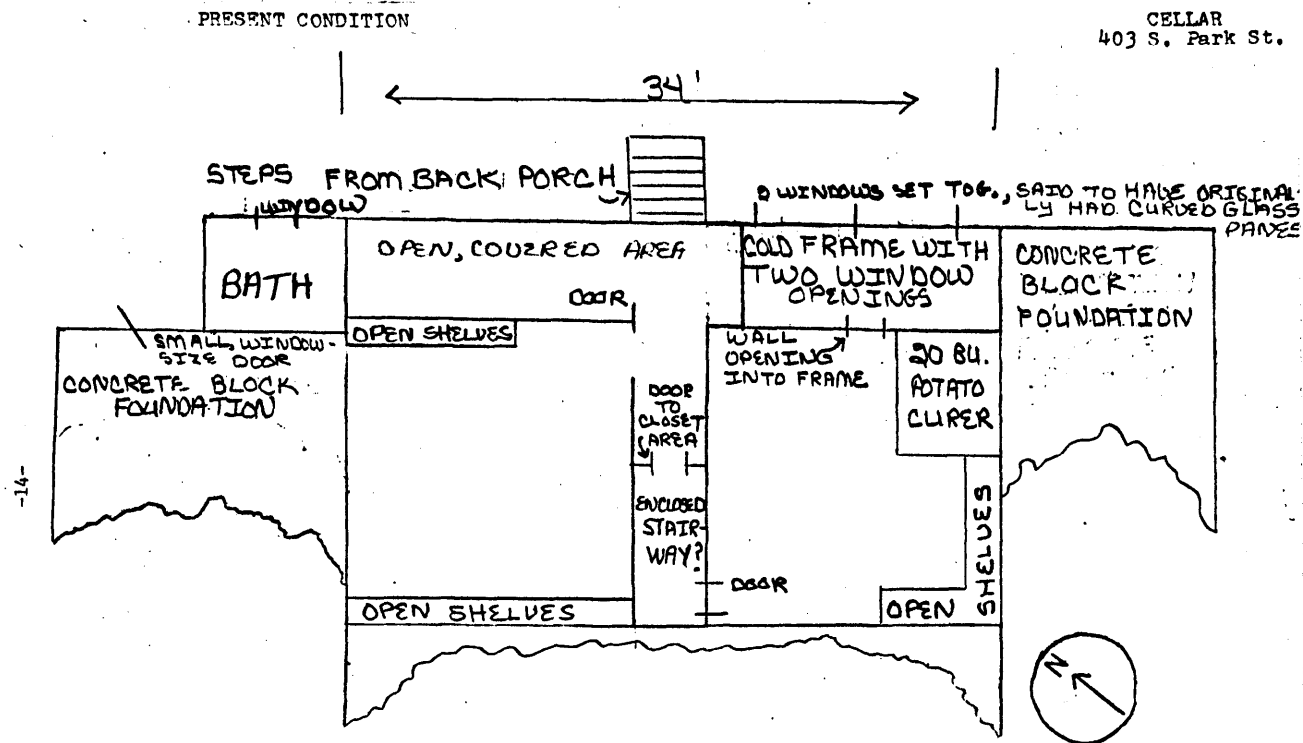
SEVEN OAKS
Dahlonega, Lumpkin County, Georgia

Scale: Not drawn to scale, maps have been
reduced

Source: Prepared by Carolyn Samples

Date: 1980

Key: Cellar, Present Condition

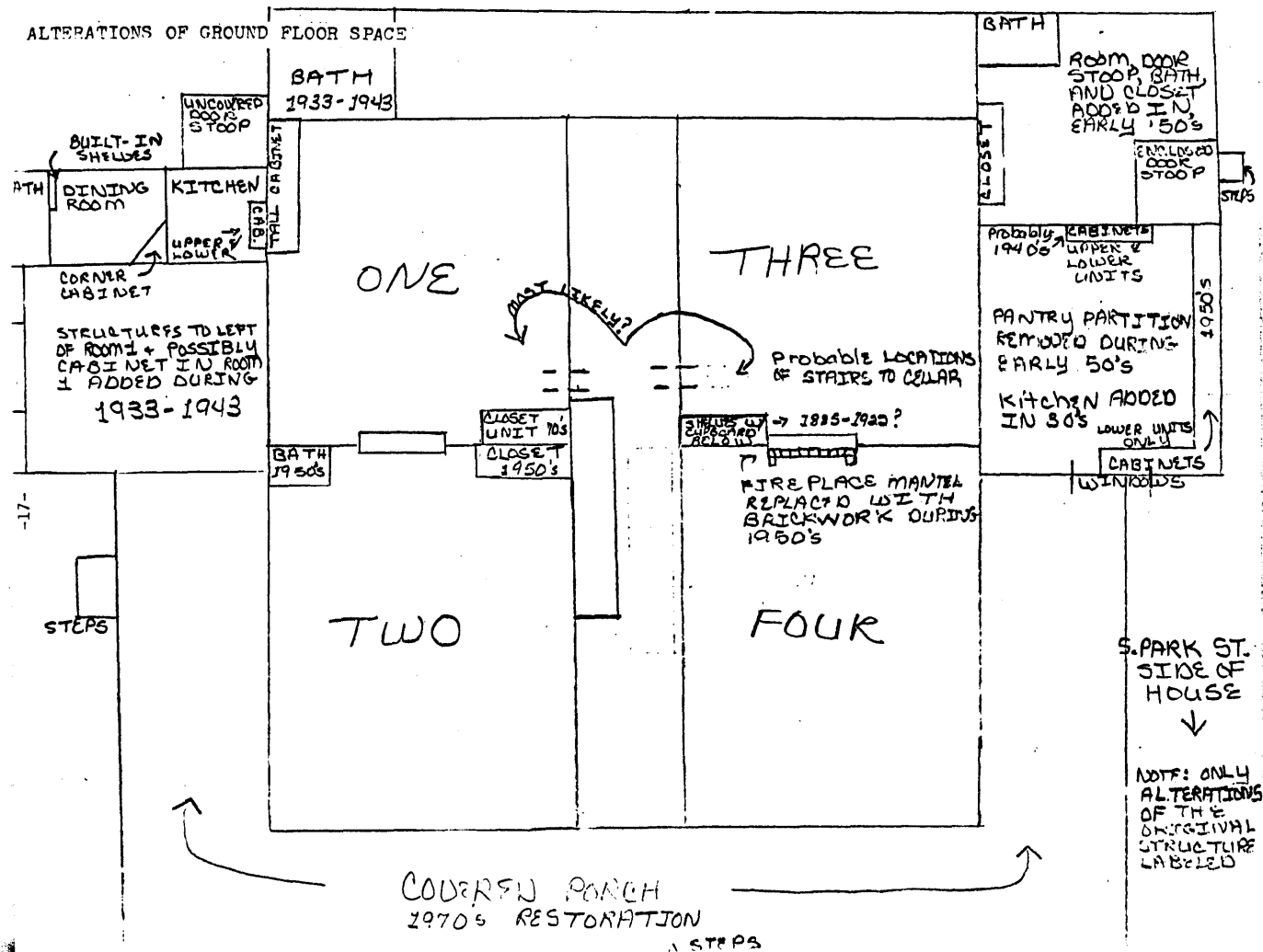


S. PARK STREET SIDE OF HOUSE

Dahlonega, Lumpkin County, Georgia

Source: Prepared by Carolynn Samples

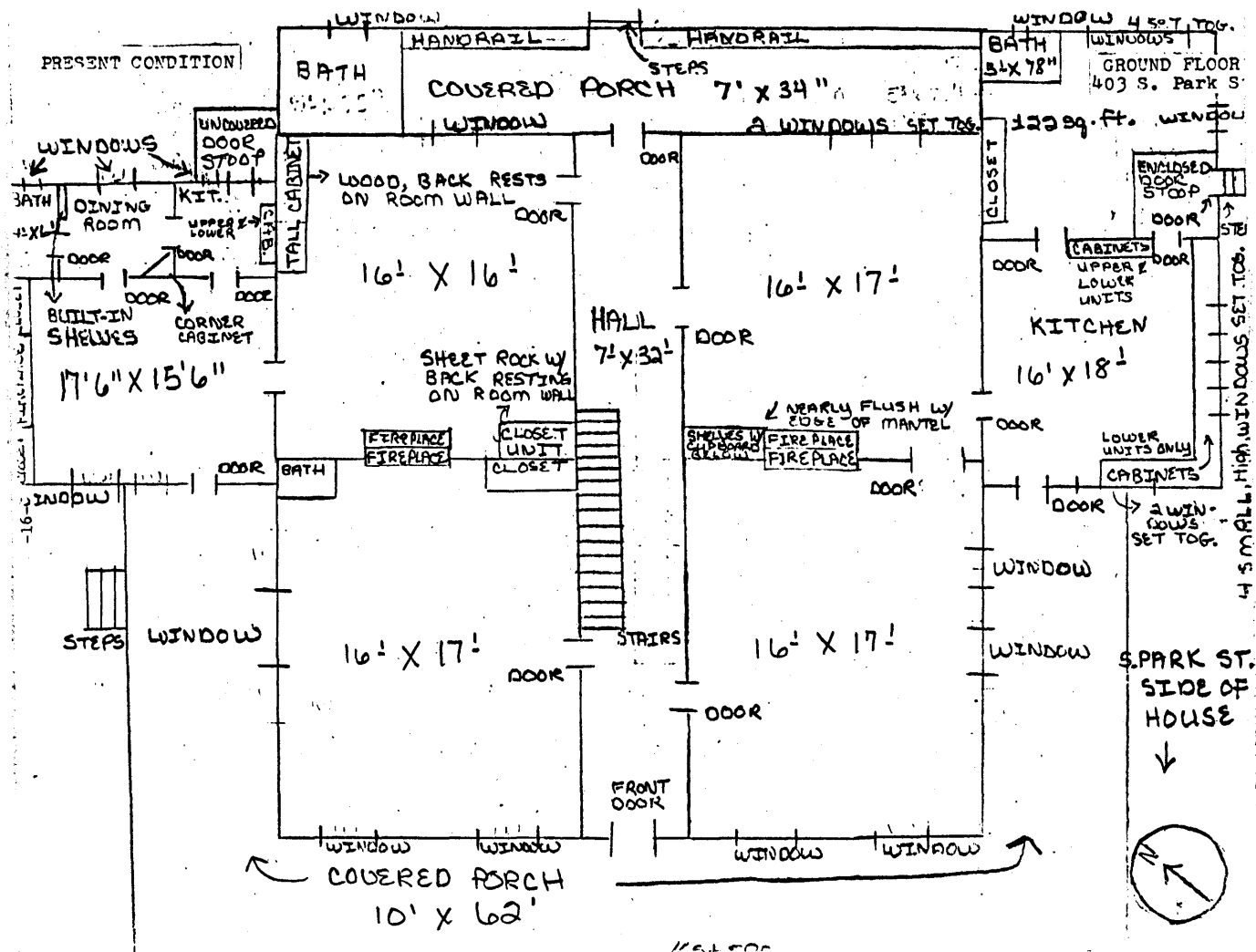
Key: First Floor, Alterations



Dahlonega, Lumpkin County, Georgia

Source: Prepared by Carolynn Samples

Key: First Floor, Present Condition



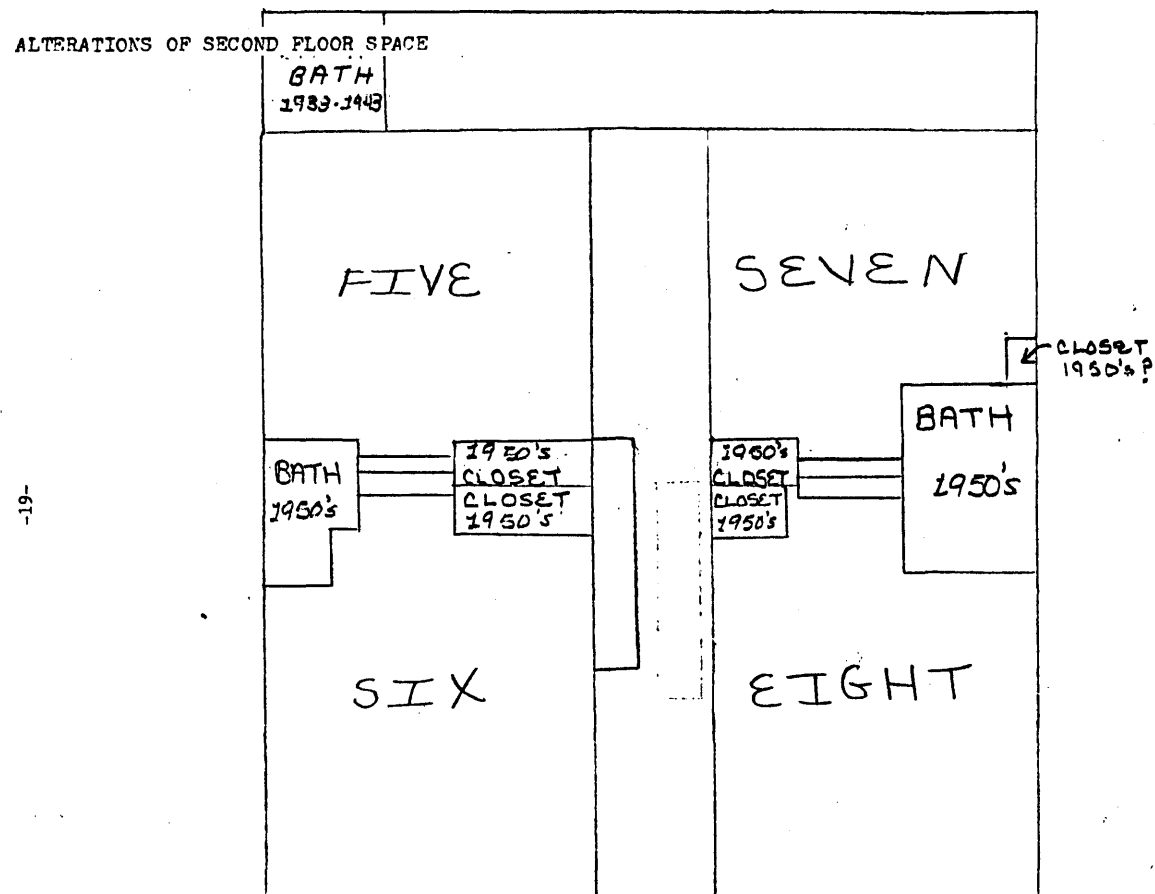
SEVEN OAKS
Dahlonega, Lumpkin County, Georgia

Scale: Not drawn to scale, maps have been
reduced

Source: Prepared by Carolynn Samples

Date: 1980

Key: Second Floor, Alterations

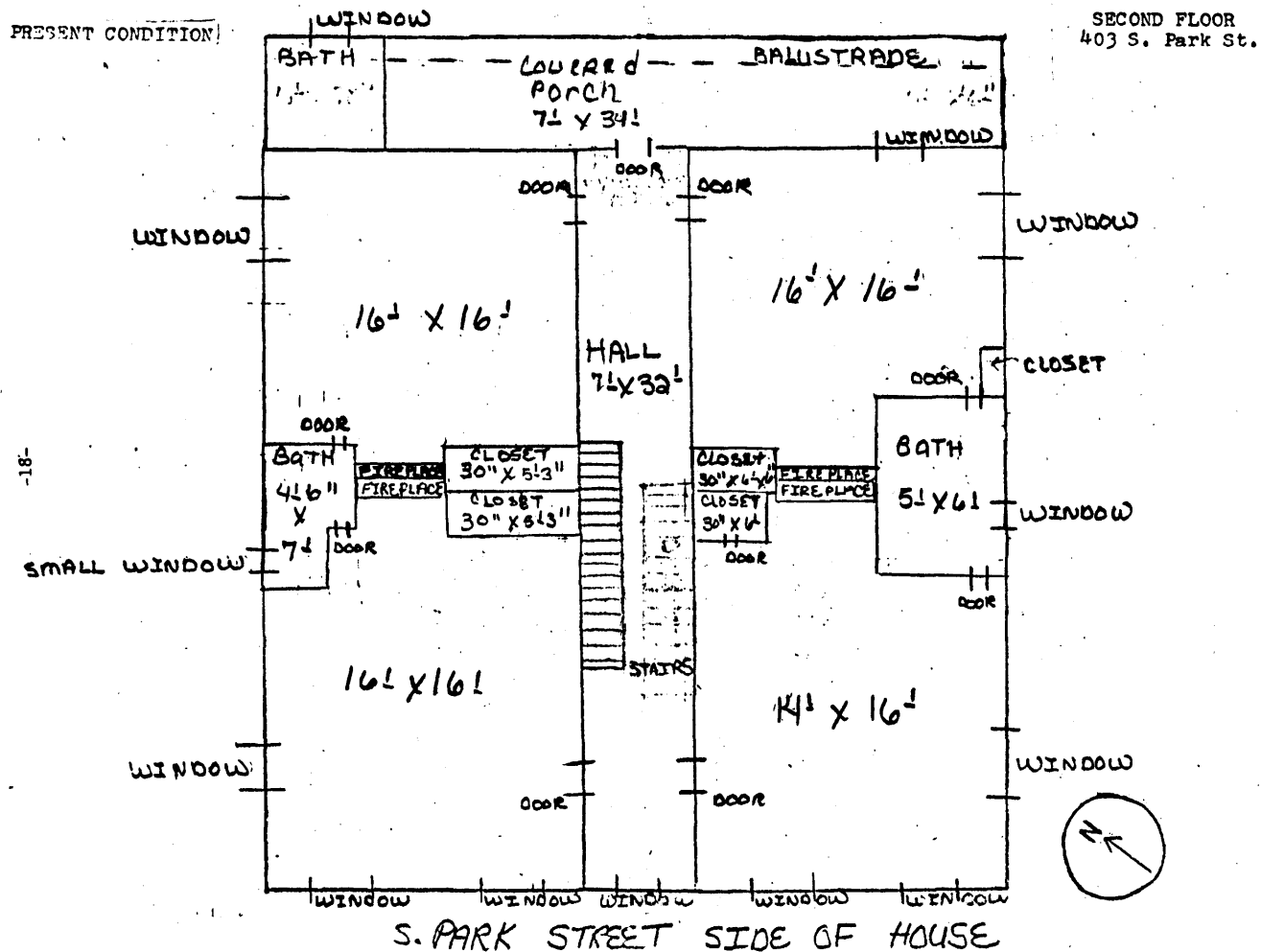


-19-

S. PARK STREET SIDE OF HOUSE

NOTE: ONLY ADDITIONS TO THE ORIGINAL STRUCTURE LABELED

Date: 1980
Key: Second Floor, Present Condition



SEVEN OAKS
Dahlonega, Lumpkin County, Georgia

Scale: not drawn to scale, maps have been reduced

Source: Prepared by Carolynn Samples

Date: 1980

Key: Attic, Present and Original Condition

