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49

DIVISION OF
NATIONAL REGISTER PROGRAMS
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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 Peterson-Wilbanks House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 404 Jackson St.
city, town Vidalia (N/A) vicinity of
county Toombs code GA 279
state Georgia code GA zip code 30474

(N/A) not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property:

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

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

Current Functions:

COMMERCE/TRADE/ professional

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

CLASSICAL REVIVAL

Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	wood
roof	asphalt shingles
other	N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Peterson-Wilbanks House is a two-story, frame, Neoclassical styled house with a wrap-around porch on the first floor and two monumental wooden columns supporting the two-story entrance portico. It has original corbeled chimneys, one-over-one double-hung sash windows, a hipped roof, and hipped dormer windows. The house is located in Vidalia, Georgia, a small city on the coastal plain in the southeast part of the state. It is situated on a main street in a residential neighborhood made up of a mixture of older and newer houses southwest of the central business district.

The floorplan is that of a central entrance stair hallway flanked by two rooms on either side on the first floor and four original rooms on the second floor. There are plaster walls and tongue-and-groove boarded floors. The two massive exterior front columns measure 20" in diameter, and are 22'4" high. There are original coal fireplaces, mantels, chair rails, and crown molding throughout. Heart of yellow pine was used in most of the house construction.

The house sits on a city lot, approximately one-half acre, with 105 feet fronting Jackson Street extending back 210 feet, with a large back yard landscaped with boxwoods, azaleas and camellias. The lawn grass is centipede. There are no outbuildings.

There is no known archaeological potential.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 7

Changes to the property have been minimal and have been the result of a recent certified rehabilitation. In fact, this recent action replaced the missing balustrades on the front porch and balcony, removed the screened porch, and restored the columns. A small bath was added to the top floor and the widow's walk on top of house was removed over the years and replaced with hip roof to prevent leaking. A modern file vault was added to the house.

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): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance:

1916

Significant Dates:

1916

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Ivey P. Crutchfield (1878-1952), architect

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

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

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Peterson-Wilbanks House is significant in architecture because it is a good vernacular or small-town example of the Neoclassical style which had become prevalent or popular in American architecture at the turn of the century. This style of architecture was particularly popular in Georgia, where almost every community has at least one major example, usually associated with an architect, a prominent builder, and or a socially prominent family. This is one of just two such houses which have been identified and documented to National Register standards in Vidalia; the other is the Crawford W. Brazell House. Significant Neoclassical features include symmetrical massing, monumental columns, and interior detailing. It's construction of heart yellow pine is typical for this type of house and period and shows how locally available construction materials were routinely used. It is also significant as a known work of regional architect Ivey P. Crutchfield (1878-1952), a Georgia native, who did other important commercial, and religious buildings in Vidalia, Glennville, Soperton, and other nearby cities during the first two decades of the 20th century. As such, it stands among the landmark buildings of Vidalia, a community like many in Georgia characterized by vernacular and patternbook architectural designs.

National Register Criteria

The Peterson-Wilbanks House meets National Register Criterion C due to its fine design features which exhibit a localized adaptation of the Neoclassical style found in most cities and especially small towns in Georgia at the turn of the century. This house exemplifies the massing, monumentality and interior detailing of the style. It also is an example of the work of a master who began his career as a locally trained builder who eventually became a regional architect after he mastered the building trade. Several other of his works are already on the National Register.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

National Register of Historic Places
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Section 8

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

1916- date of construction.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

The Peterson-Wilbanks House is located on a city lot in Vidalia, Toombs County, Georgia, known as 404 Jackson Street.

Construction of the house in 1916 corresponded with the first period of major economic growth and development in Vidalia, a city not founded until 1890. Prior to 1890 the community was known as Jenkins Station, named in honor of W. T. Jenkins, one of the founders of Jenkins Station (now Vidalia). Mr. Jenkins' son, W. Frank Jenkins and wife, were the last residential owners of the house.

The house represents a small-town interpretation by a local builder-architect of the fashionable turn of the century neoclassical style. This style achieved wide spread distribution in the New South, just as the Greek revival style had been the symbol of the antebellum South. Around the turn of the century Neoclassical residences were built in nearly every Georgia community by citizens with means and prestige.

The house was designed and built by architect-builder Ivey P. Crutchfield who is credited with designing several other Toombs County residences and five or six downtown Vidalia commercial buildings, including the first bank of Vidalia. He also, by his own admission, by 1916, had designed or constructed buildings in the nearby towns, many of them county seats, of Soperton, Glennville, Mount Vernon, and Cochran, where he had lived as a youth and where he was married in 1906.

Crutchfield, a native of Wilkinson County, Georgia, where he was born in 1878, apparently learned the building trade without any formal training. He moved to Savannah in 1913 and felt qualified by 1916 to hang out his shingle as an architect. Later, he left Georgia and moved to Fort Myers, Florida, where he was a successful architect until his retirement. He died in Fort Myers in 1952 and was buried in Cochran, Georgia. All of his south Georgia works predate this time.

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Vidalia was not established until 1890, when a depot for the newly laid Savannah, Americus and Montgomery Railroad was built there. In 1902, a second railroad arrived in Vidalia making it a regional transportation center. By about 1910, the forward-looking city already had a hospital, police department and electricity prompting not only Mrs. Peterson, but also a number of other well-to-do citizens, to build substantial modern homes.

Prior to its creation in 1905, most of what became Toombs County was part of Montgomery County. The community was first called Jenkins Town, also known as Jenkins Station. Later on, the railroad people began calling it Vidalia, and it is believed that the officials of the railroad company changed the name to Vidalia.

Ada McArthur Peterson Wilbanks, who built the house at 404 Jackson Street, was a half sister of Willie T. McArthur and Dr. J. H. McArthur. She bought her house lot, a one-half acre cotton patch, from her brothers around 1911 and built this house a few years later in 1916.

Ada McArthur first married A. A. Peterson, Jr., who was one of the largest landowners and farmers of Montgomery and Toombs County. He died and Mrs. Peterson married H. P. Wilbanks several years later.

Ada Wilbanks had two daughters by Mr. Peterson and two sons by Mr. Wilbanks, one of whom, John, is still residing in Vidalia. The other son, Bill Wilbanks, lived in Birmingham, Alabama.

Mrs. Wilbanks lost ownership of the house and lot when the loan company foreclosed in 1936 and the house was sold at a public auction that December. At the auction, the house was purchased by the loan company itself.

W. (for Warren) Frank Jenkins bought the house in 1940. W. Frank Jenkins, a grandson of the founder of Vidalia and namesake of the forerunning community, became mayor of Vidalia for the first of two terms during 1946-1947 and served a second term in 1956-1957. Jenkins' diversified career was in the peanut, cotton and oil businesses. The house for many years served the community when the owner rented rooms to school teachers and young couples. He and his wife, the former Katharine Somers, lived in it together until Frank's death in 1983. Then she remained in the home until 1987 when she sold it to the

9. Major Bibliographic References

Andrew, Charles H. Jr., "Mrs. Ada McArthur Wilbanks...", Historic Property Information Form, January 29, 1988. Copy on file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

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:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre.

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 366790 Northing 3564820

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is marked on the enclosed map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is all that which remains associated with the historic house and all which was ever associated with it after the house was built.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian
organization Historic Preservation Section, 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** February 7, 1990

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Photographs 1
Section number _____ Page _____

PETERSON-WILBANKS HOUSE

Vidalia, Toombs County, Georgia

Photographer: James R. Lockhart

Negatives on file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department
of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia

Date: April 1989

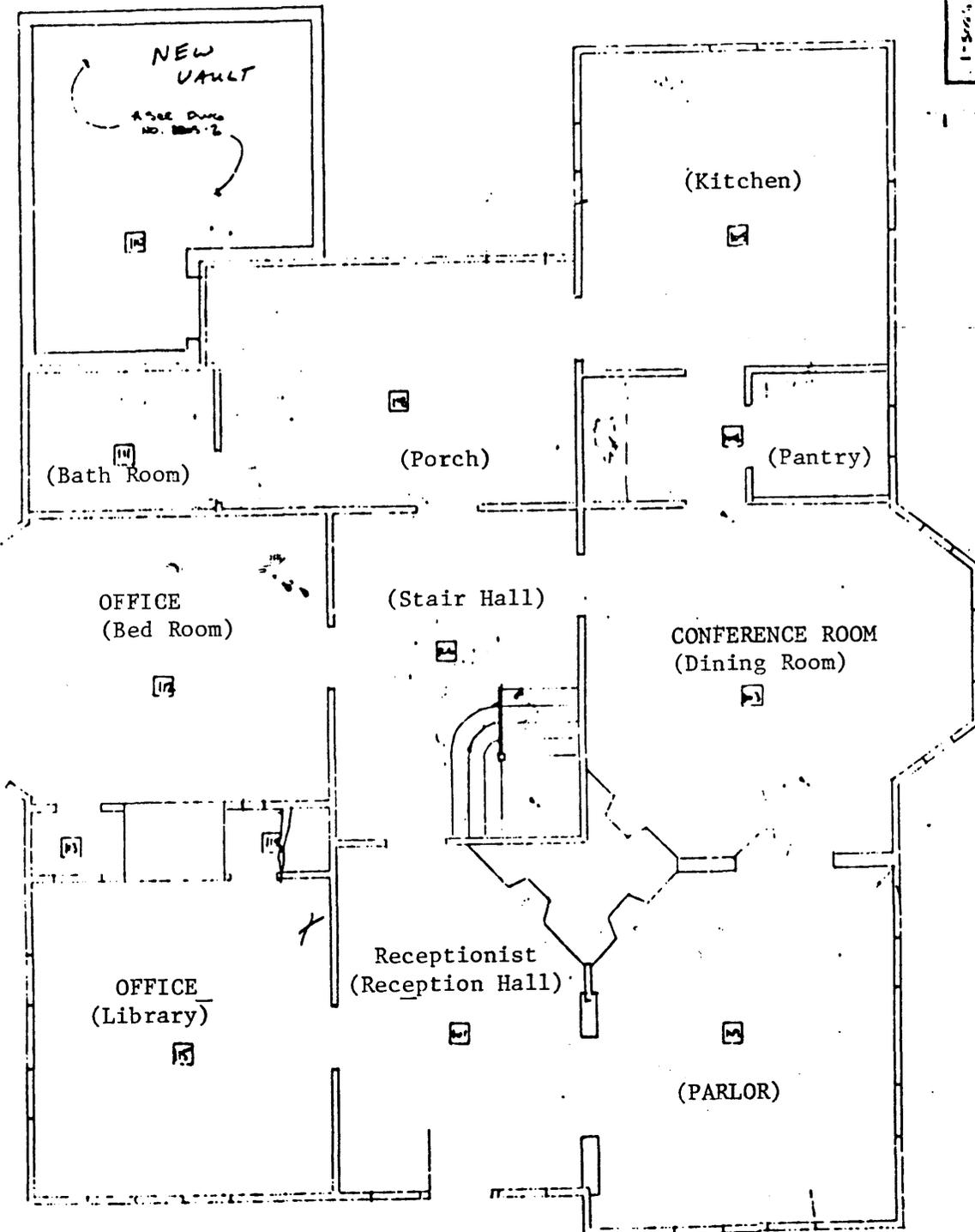
Description:

- 1 of 11: Front Facade. Photographer facing south.
- 2 of 11: Front Facade. Photographer facing northeast.
- 3 of 11: Closeup of Front Facade and front porch. Photographer facing northeast.
- 4 of 11: Rear Facade. Photographer facing west.
- 5 of 11: First Floor, Parlor looking toward Reception Hall (Foyer). Photographer facing northeast.
- 6 of 11: First Floor, Reception Hall (Foyer) looking toward stair hall. Photographer facing southeast.
- 7 of 11: First Floor, Dining Room (Conference Room) looking toward Parlor. Photographer facing west.
- 8 of 11: First Floor, Library (now Office). Photographer facing south.
- 9 of 11: First Floor, Bed Room (left rear office). Photographer facing north.
- 10 of 11: Second Floor, Stair hall from second floor landing. Photographer facing northeast.
- 11 of 11: Second Floor, Bed Room (now Office, above First Floor Bedroom-Office). Photographer facing west.

Current Floorplan
 Peterson-Wilbanks House
 Vidalia, Toombs County, Georgia
 Scale: Approximately same as original floorplan
 Source: Harry Moses Construction Co., Inc.
 Date: c. 1988
 Key: This is the first floor only.
 Original usage in parentheses underneath current usage.



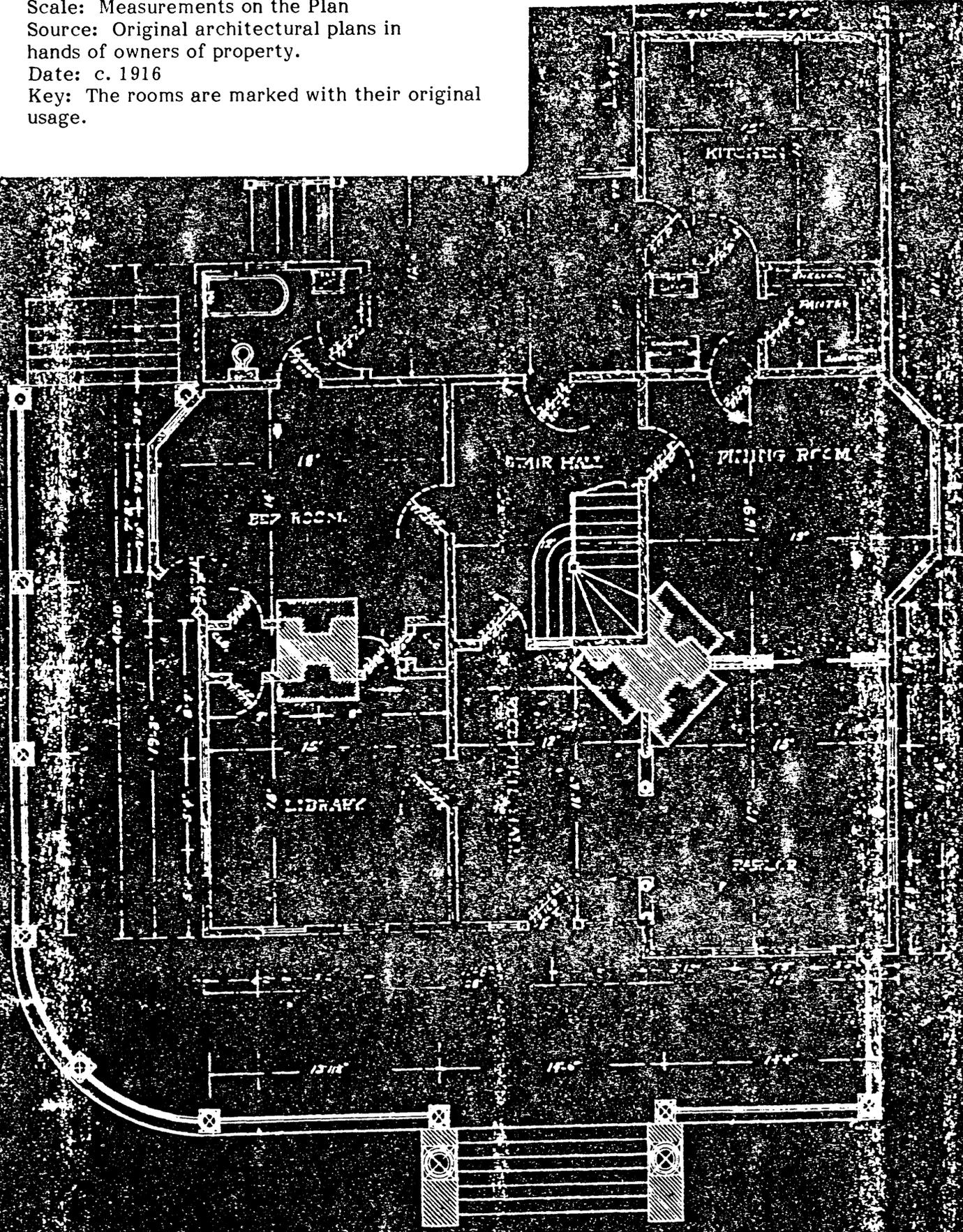
		HARRY MOSES CONSTRUCTION CO. INC. <small>VIDALIA, GA</small>	
APPROVED HARRY MOSES 1-1-88		APPROVED ANNE M. HAYES & SONS LAW OFFICE VIDALIA, GEORGIA	
DRAWN BY HARRY MOSES	DATE 1-1-88	SCALE AS SHOWN	SHEET NO. 1 OF 1



DRAWING # 1
 FIRST FLOOR

Front Door

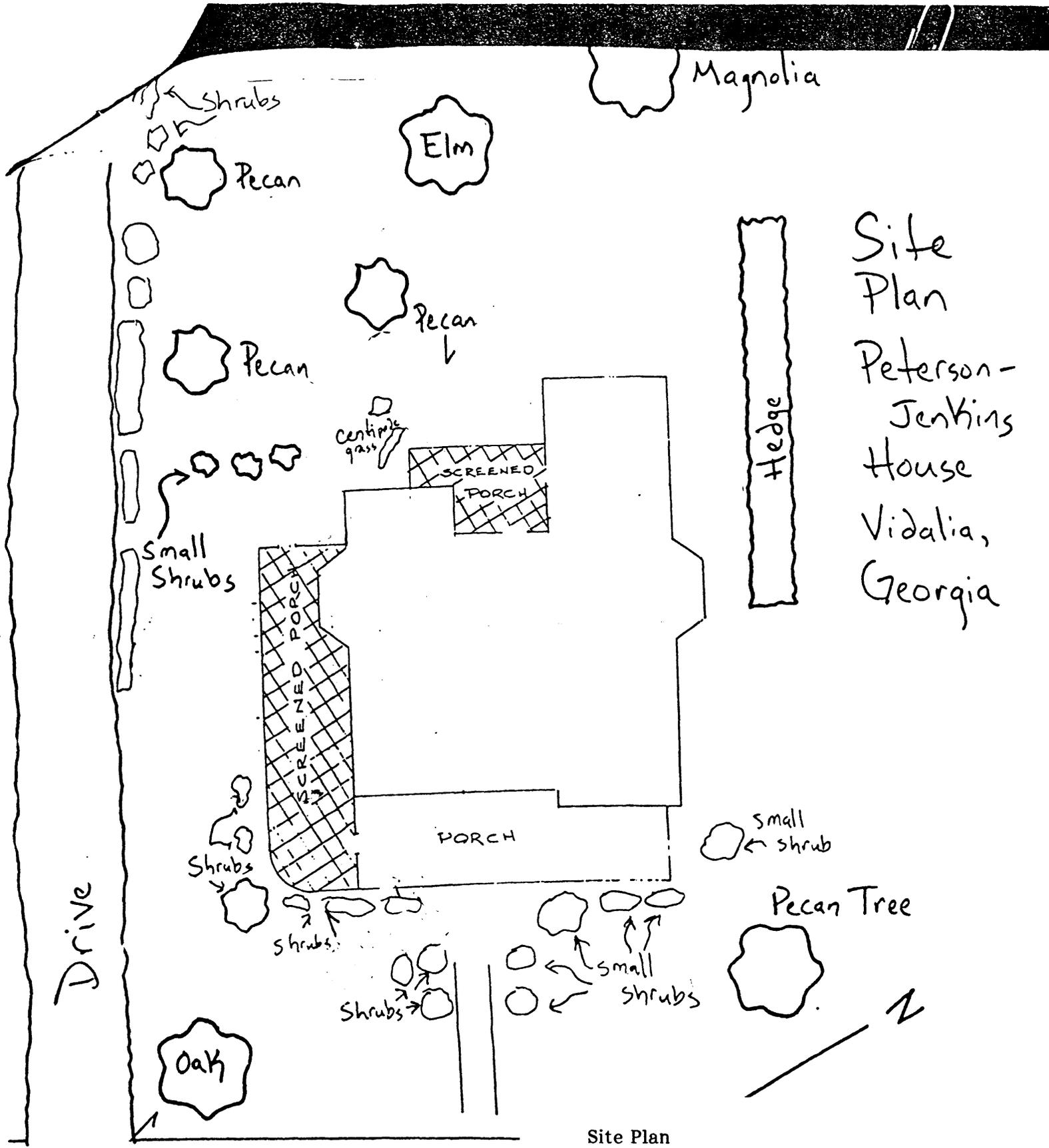
Original Floorplan
 Peterson-Wilbanks House
 Vidalia, Toombs County, Georgia
 Scale: Measurements on the Plan
 Source: Original architectural plans in
 hands of owners of property.
 Date: c. 1916
 Key: The rooms are marked with their original
 usage.



RESIDENCE FOR MRS. A. A. PETERSON, JR.
 VIDALIA, GA.

FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'

I. P. CRUTCHFIELD, ARCHITECT.
 VIDALIA, GA.



Site Plan
 Peterson-
 Jenkins
 House
 Vidalia,
 Georgia

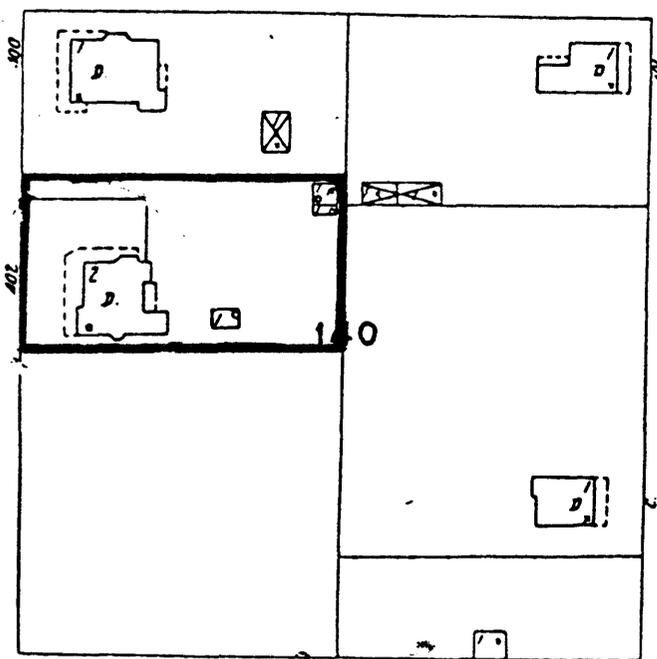
Drive

Hedge

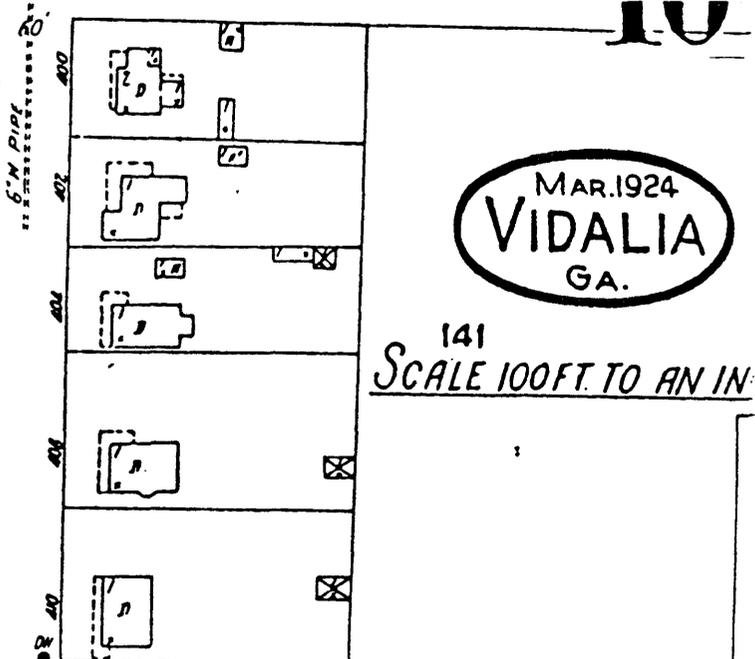
Jackson

Site Plan
 Peterson-Wilbanks House
 Vidalia, Toombs County, Georgia
 Scale: not to scale
 Source: Drawn by Charles H. Andrew, Jr.
 Date: 1988
 Key: Landscape features and street
 are labeled.

North ←

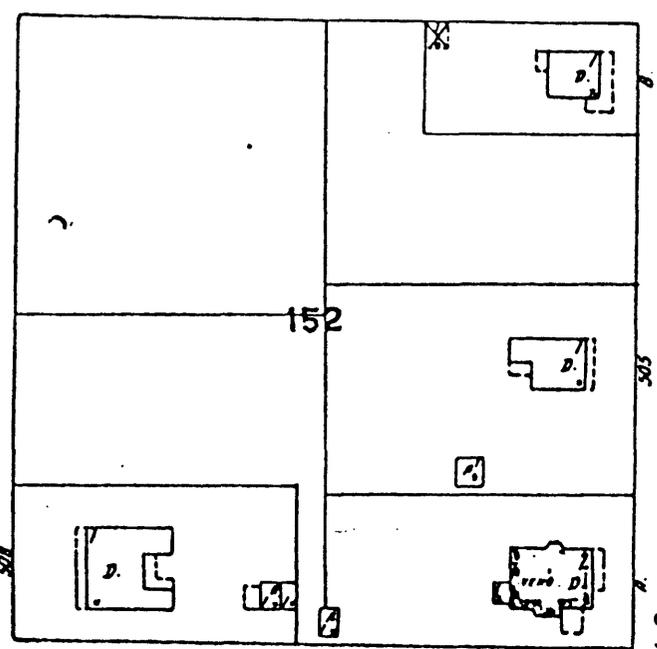


R ST.



MAR. 1924
VIDALIA
 GA.

141
 SCALE 100 FT. TO AN IN.



ST.

DURDEN

Boundary Map
 Peterson-Wilbanks House
 Vidalia, Toombs County, Georgia
 Scale: 0' ————— 100'
 Source: 1924 Sanborn Map
 Date: 1924
 Key: The nominated parcel is that
 rectangle delineated by a heavy
 black line

The boundaries remain the same and
 are verified in Toombs County,
 Georgia Deed Book 244, p. 155, deed
 dated October 13, 1987 to the
 current owners.
 The nominated parcel measures 105' by
 210'
 Outbuildings no longer exist.

North ↑