

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF HARTWELL, HART COUNTY, GEORGIA

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY #7

I. IDENTIFICATION

HISTORIC NAME: J. Pearl Jones House
CURRENT NAME: White Columns
STREET ADDRESS: 401 Athens Street
CITY: Hartwell
PRESENT OWNER: Lettie S. Williams
MAILING ADDRESS: P. O. Box 544
CITY: Hartwell
STATE: Georgia
ZIP CODE: 30643
CURRENT USE: residence
ACREAGE: 1.61 acres
U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: Hartwell, Georgia
U.T.M. REFERENCE: Z17 E321230 N3801960
V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: H-25-2-3

II. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION:

This two-story, frame, Neo-classical structure is dominated by a quatrastyle, monumental, Ionic portico that extends the full width of the principal facade. A clapboard frieze and wide, bracketed eaves extend from the three-bay front which contains centered doorways. The doorways contain leaded glass transom and sidelights. The second-floor door leads onto a cantilevered balcony which is the width of one bay. Windows are 1/1 on the principal facade. Internal chimneys and a hipped roof dormer extend from the roof line.

Interior features include wood floors, plaster walls, decorative woodwork including wainscoting, interior columns, and tongue-and-groove wall and ceiling surfaces. Alterations made in 1964-1965 include the removal of the back staircase and enclosure of the rear porch; an appendage 10 feet wide was provided and contains the kitchen. A concrete porch which once extended from the north elevation has been removed.

The landscaping includes mature pecan trees informally situated on flat lawn. Pine trees are planted along the Athens Street property line. Non-historic outbuildings include a one-story frame structure and frame garage.

The property is in good condition.

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 68

III. HISTORY

ORIGINAL OWNER: J. Pearl Jones
 ORIGINAL USE: residence
 ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Lon Jones
 HISTORIC ACREAGE: 8.5 acres
 DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1913-1914
 DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS: 1964-1965

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT):

Mr. J. Pearl Jones built this house as his family residence in 1913-1914. The builder was his brother, Lon Jones, with his sons assisting with construction. The house was built from lumber cut on Jones' farm near Eagle Grove nearby in Hart County. Specifications for the structure were exact, given the fact that lumber was cut to fit and brought to the site. The original lot consisted of 8.5 acres. Jones was a farmer who owned approximately 20 acres near his home. Jones sold the property in 1964 to Carl and Evelyn Torrence. They undertook extensive rehabilitation of the structure and added a frame building on the site for an antique business. The house remained vacant for several years after the Torrences relocated. In 1978 following the death of her husband, Mrs. Lettie William, a Hart County native, purchased the property for her residence.

IV. SIGNIFICANCE

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA: C
 AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture
 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL):

The J. Pearl Jones House is architecturally significant as an intact example of a high style Neo-classical design. Neo-classical architecture was popular throughout Georgia during the first two decades of the 20th century, and virtually every town has at least one fine house in this style. This is one of the few examples of this style in the Hartwell multiple resource area. Characteristic features include the prominent monumental columned front facade, classically inspired exterior detailing, and the compact, regular massing of the house. The interior of the house exhibits Craftsman-inspired decorative features adapted by the local builders, again a characteristic of this style and type of house in small towns.

CONTRIBUTING/NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES:

Contributing building(s): 1
 Non-contributing structure(s): 2

V. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: Historic Structures Field Survey: Hart County, Georgia

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Draft survey form by Mrs. Lettie S. Williams; Family of Pearl Jones; Mrs. Carl Torrence; Hart County Courthouse records.

FORM PREPARED BY:

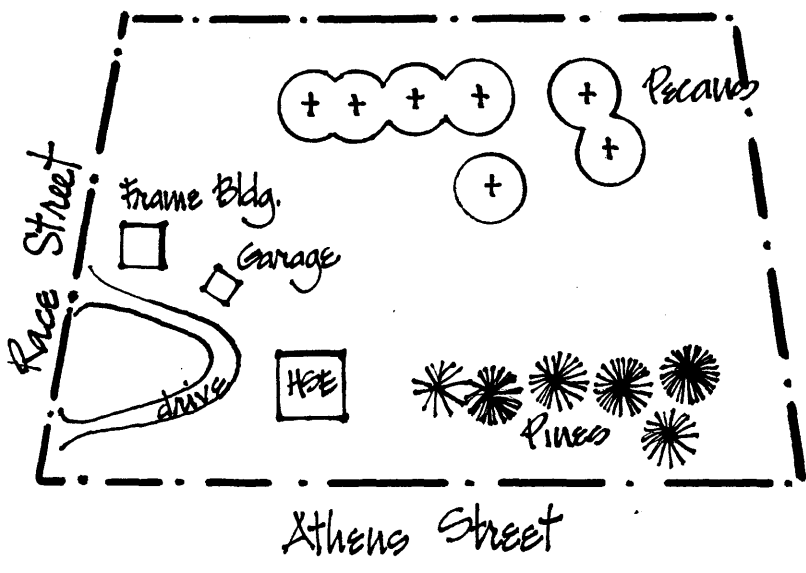
Dale Jaeger
Georgia Mountains Area Planning and Development Commission
Gainesville, Georgia

Donald Rooney
Historic Preservation Consultant
Atlanta, Georgia

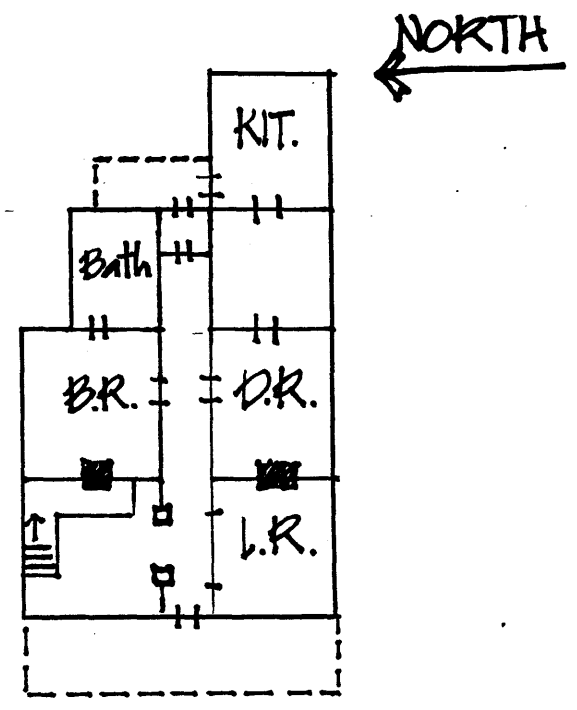
Richard Cloues
Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources
Atlanta, Georgia

VI. SITE PLAN/SKETCH MAP/FLOOR PLAN

Attached sketches are intended only to help illustrate the nominated property. No scale is provided or implied, unless otherwise noted. Boundary markings are simply general indications of the extent of the nominated property; the actual boundary description, unless otherwise noted, is the current legal description of the property which coincides with the current tax map number cited in Section I of this form. Also, note that the orientation of the various sketches differs from sketch to sketch; each is provided with a north arrow for clarity.



SITE PLAN



FLOOR PLAN