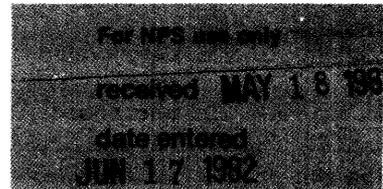


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 The Alexander Hotel

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 204 West Brazell Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Reidsville

N/A vicinity of

congressional district

state Georgia

code 013

county Tattnall

code 267

3. Classification

Category

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

Ownership

- public
 - private
 - both
- Public Acquisition**
- N/A in process
 - being considered

Status

- occupied
 - unoccupied
 - work in progress
- Accessible**
- yes: restricted
 - yes: unrestricted
 - no

Present Use

- agriculture
- commercial
- educational
- entertainment
- government
- industrial
- military
- museum
- park
- private residence
- religious
- scientific
- transportation
- other: Vacant

4. Owner of Property

name A) L.A. Stanfield and Helen S. White
B) Jack Hill, President/Tattnall County Historic Preservation, Inc.

street & number A) 1301 Weston Drive
B) P.O. Box 496

city, town A) Decatur
B) Reidsville

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia 30023
30454

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Tattnall County Courthouse

city, town Reidsville

state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records None

city, town

state

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Alexander Hotel, built in 1892, is a two-story wood frame Victorian structure with two twentieth century additions. It sits on an eleven-acre property on West Brazell Street in the center of Reidsville, Tattnell County, Georgia. Six historic outbuildings, including a barn, tool shed, servant quarters, storage building, chicken coop and flower pit are located near the hotel.

The Alexander Hotel is a gable-roofed, wood-frame building that rests on brick piers. The original 1892 structure is a long rectangular building paralleling Brazell Street with a wing that extends forward near the north-east end. Two-story "L" shaped porches flank both sides of this wing and the long axis of the hotel. The main entrance, a door flanked by rectangular side lights and overlights, is located on the southeast porch. In the 1920's a second wing, also with two story porch, was added to the northwest side. In the 1930's the first floor of the porch along the southwest side was enclosed and extended outward to create more enclosed interior space. The original structure and the 1920's wing are sheathed with German or novelty siding; the 1930's addition has simple weatherboarding. Three interior chimneys rise through the original structure and a fourth exterior chimney is located on the west wall of the 1920's wing. In the 1892 section, the two-over-two windows and the doors are capped with pediment-like moldings.

The basically plain-style building is embellished with a number of decorative elements which give it a Victorian "gingerbread" character. The main roof covering is pressed metal shingles. Two gable ends in the 1892 section have decorative cut shingles and turned brackets under the eaves. The 1892 porches and two hooded balconies on the first floor feature elaborate jig-saw and spindle work in the frieze area; turned, bracketed columns; and railing with turned balusters and a handrail with decorative cutouts. The balcony hoods are crowned with additional spindle work, and the effect is lacy and decorative. Considering the general state of the building, the trim is remarkably well preserved, but many areas have some damage.

The hotel has an irregular floor plan. In the 1892 portion of the building the first floor includes a foyer with stairway, living room, dining room, a kitchen and two bedrooms. The second floor has four small "guest" bedrooms and three larger ones. The 1920's addition has an office, small foyer and bathroom on the first floor, a kitchen area, foyer and another small room on the second. Interior finish details are simple. Walls and ceilings in the 1892 portion of the building are sheathed with beaded tongue and groove boards, laid diagonally below a wide chair rail and vertically above. The same wide, beaded molding with patera blocks is used for the downstairs chair rail, most window and door surrounds and many mantel elements.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
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Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 2

Six historic outbuildings are located near the hotel. To the west are a tool shed/storehouse, servant quarters and hen house, all in very dilapidated condition. The gable-roofed frame tool shed/storehouse has a dog trot plan and is located on the site of a smokehouse. The servant quarters, which may have originally been a detached cookhouse, is a small frame structure sheathed with crude weatherboards and finished inside with tongue-and-groove boards. To the southwest of the hotel, close to Brazell Street, is a brick flower pit, originally glassed on three sides, with a door on the fourth, and with a sunken wood floor. Beyond the flower pit are a storage shed, completely covered with corrugated tin, and a small, wood-frame barn. The barn is open through the center, with animal stalls on one side, feed cribs on the other and a hayloft above.

The Alexander Hotel property, once landscaped with flower and vegetable gardens, is now overgrown with vines, young trees and brush, except in the immediate area of the hotel. A few flowering bulbs remain from beds that were scattered throughout the yard. Behind the 1920's wing were located a grape arbor, the family's large vegetable garden and an even larger field for growing corn and peas. A white picket fence once separated the hotel from Brazell Street.

The Alexander Hotel property is located in the commercial area of downtown Reidsville. Immediately to the northeast, on the adjoining property, is the Tattnall County Courthouse, the County Jail and several other small county office buildings. Across Brazell Street are an auto parts store, a gas station and several office buildings. The terrain drops off suddenly on the north side into a swampy, overgrown area known as Buzzard Bay.

BOUNDARY

The boundary of the nominated property includes the acreage historically associated with the Alexander Hotel. This is outlined with a heavy black line on the enclosed Tattnall County Tax Map. The nominated property includes the approximately one acre area where the hotel sits which was recently deeded to Tattnall County Historic Preservation, Inc. and the surrounding ten acres owned by L. A. Stanfield and Helen S. White.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The Historic Preservation Section has determined that the photographs taken in March, 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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
Specific dates 1892	Builder/Architect D. J. Nobles			

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Alexander Hotel built in 1892, is historically significant in the areas of architecture, commerce and local history. Architecturally, the hotel is a rare remaining example of a small, wood late-nineteenth century Victorian Eclectic hotel in Georgia. In terms of commercial history the hotel is a good example of the small hotels established in Georgia's County seats to serve people in town for county government business. In terms of local history the hotel is significant as the home of Dr. Orlando L. Alexander, a prominent local physician, and his family, who built and managed the hotel and resided there for many years. The above areas of significance support property Eligibility under National Register criteria A, B, and C.

The Alexander Hotel, is the best remaining example of a Victorian Eclectic style building in Reidsville, where, during the 1890's, many structures were built in this style. It is one of the few small town hotels, designed in the Victorian Eclectic style remaining in the state. The basically simple building with irregular floor plan and exterior wood decoration is typical of this style as interpreted by small town builder/architects. The Alexander Hotel is particularly important because of the quality and abundance of its decorative trim which includes cut wood shingles in the gables and turned columns, sawn work and spindle work on the porches and balconies. The hotel was designed and built by D. J. Nobles, a "master carpenter" from nearby Hagan, in Evans County. Nobles is known to have designed over twenty extant buildings in Hagan and as many more in the surrounding area. His residential work is typified by his lavish use of decorative wood trim on exterior porches and by his extensive use of tongue-and-groove boarding for interior finish work. The presence of so many of the historic outbuildings associated with the hotel adds to the property's architectural significance.

The Alexander Hotel is significant in the area of commercial history as an important local example of the small hotels that served Georgia's county seats before the arrival of the automobile. The building served a dual function as residence of the Alexander family and as small town hotel, a combination that seems quite common for the period. The Alexander Hotel was completed in 1892, the same year Reidsville, because of its central location, was named the new county seat of Tattnall County. It is probably the oldest remaining commercial building in the town. The hotel was the grandest of several such hotels built in Reidsville during the 1890's, a period of rapid growth for the town. It is the only one surviving. The proximity of the Alexander Hotel to the Courthouse, and the modern conveniences provided by the Alexanders made it the most popular in town. The building was the first in

(continued)

DATE NOT RECORDED
ACREAGE NOT RECORDED

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached Sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 11 acres
Quadrangle name Reidsville East, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	7	3	9	4	1	0	0	3	5	5	0	2	9	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	7	3	9	4	2	6	5	3	5	5	0	4	6	5
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	7	3	9	4	4	3	0	3	5	5	0	3	3	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

1	7	3	9	4	2	5	5	3	5	5	0	1	3	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification The property boundary is outlined with a heavy black line on the enclosed Tattnall County Tax Map and is described and justified in Section 7.

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

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date March 5, 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 4/30/82

For NPS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	Entered in the
<u>Delores Byers</u>	National Register
Keeper of the National Register	date <u>6/17/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Continuation sheet Significance Item number 8 Page 2

Tattnall County to have electricity (provided by a Delco Plant in the yard) and a telephone. The living room and dining room were the largest in town and made the hotel a popular meeting place for clubs and private parties. Judges and lawyers from as far away as Atlanta stayed there when in Reidsville for court week.

By the 1930's, when the hotel passed into the hands of the Alexander's daughter and her husband, Judge and Mrs. D. L. Stanfield, pervasive use of the automobile had all but eliminated the need for hotel room space in Reidsville. In addition to serving as their residence and the judge's office, the house was run by the Stanfield's as an apartment house for unmarried teachers who worked at the school which adjoined the property.

In the area of local history, the Alexander Hotel is significant as the home of its original owner, Dr. Orlando L. Alexander (1852-1920) and his family. Dr. Alexander was a locally prominent physician, trained at Johns Hopkins University, who in 1905 was appointed a delegate to serve on a state-wide medical conference. It was his wife Emma who urged him to build the combined residence-hotel and who managed the hotel.

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Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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date entered

Continuation sheet Bibliography

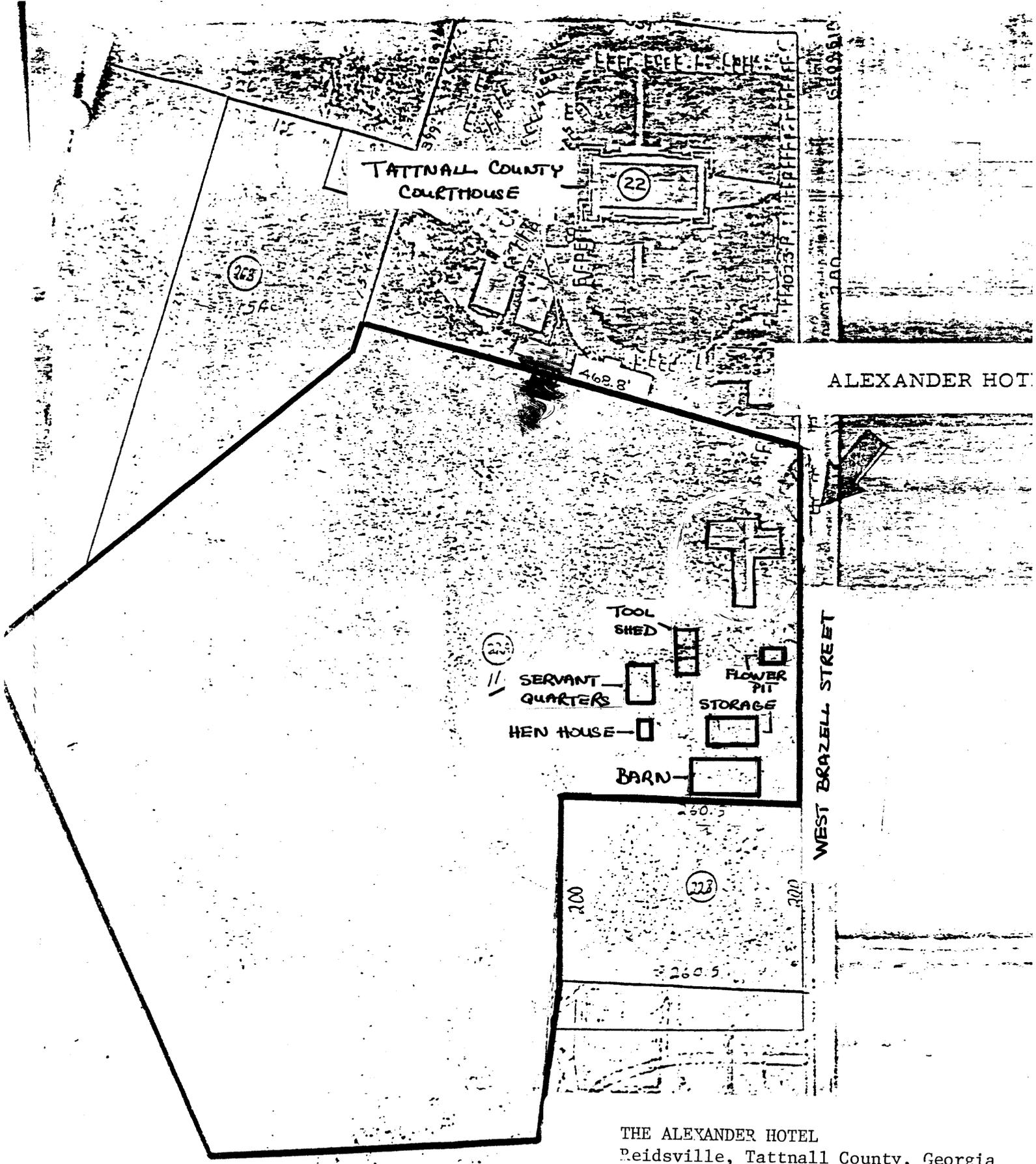
Item number 9

Page 2

Hill, Jack. "The Alexander Hotel: National Register Information Outline."
December 29, 1980. On file Historic Preservation Section, Georgia
Department of Natural Resources.

Stanfield, Mrs. D. L. (daughter of Dr. Alexander). Personal interview conducted
by Susan Ham. October 30, 1980.

The Tattnell Journal. July, 1912; September, 1943; February, 1980; April 17, 1980.



THE ALEXANDER HOTEL
 Reidsville, Tattnall County, Georgia

PROPERTY SKETCH MAP
 Scale: Not to scale
 North: ↗

THE ALEXANDER HOTEL
Reidsville, Tattnall County, Georgia

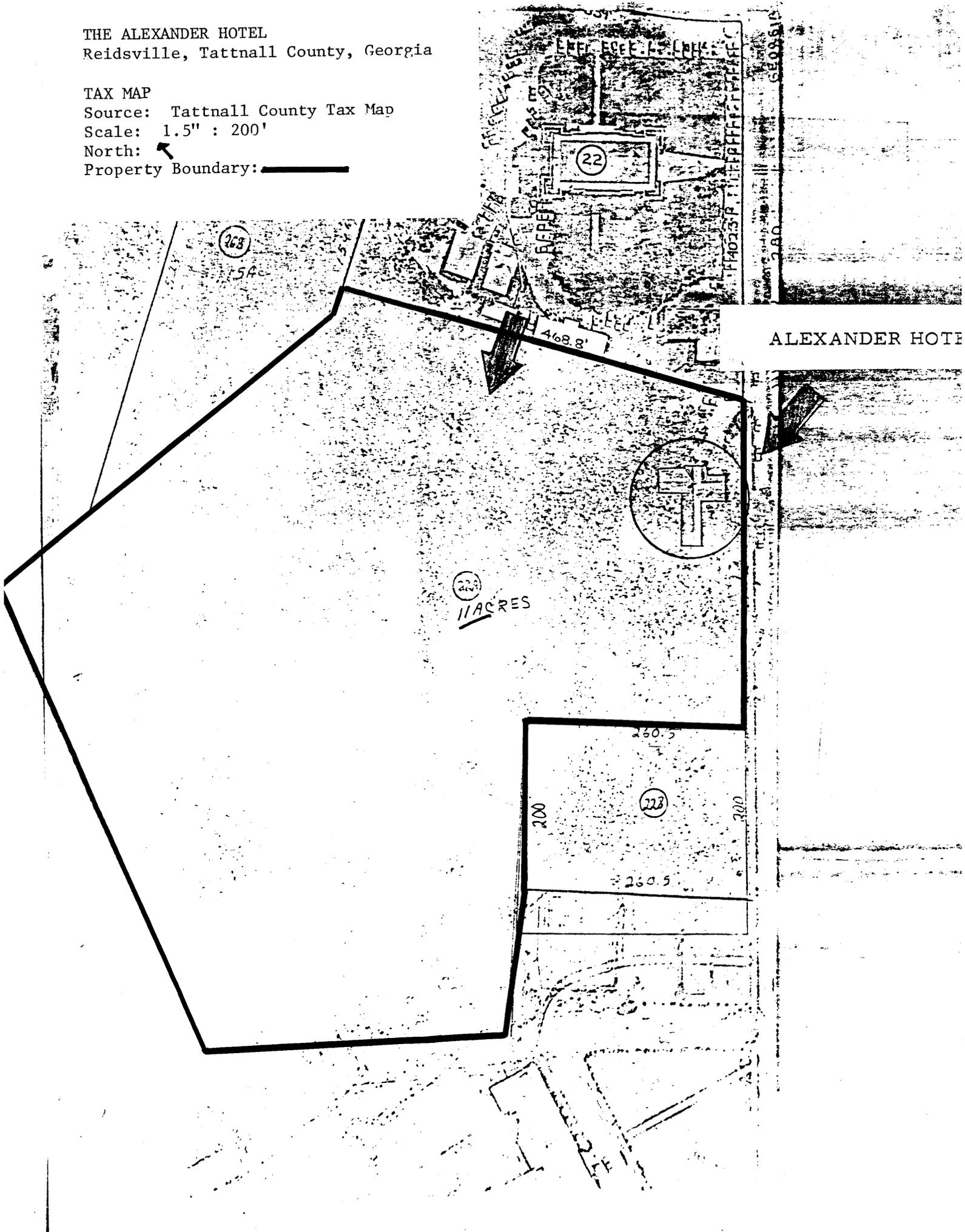
TAX MAP

Source: Tattnall County Tax Map

Scale: 1.5" : 200'

North: ↖

Property Boundary: ————



ALEXANDER HOTEL

223
11 ACRES

228

260.5

260.5

200

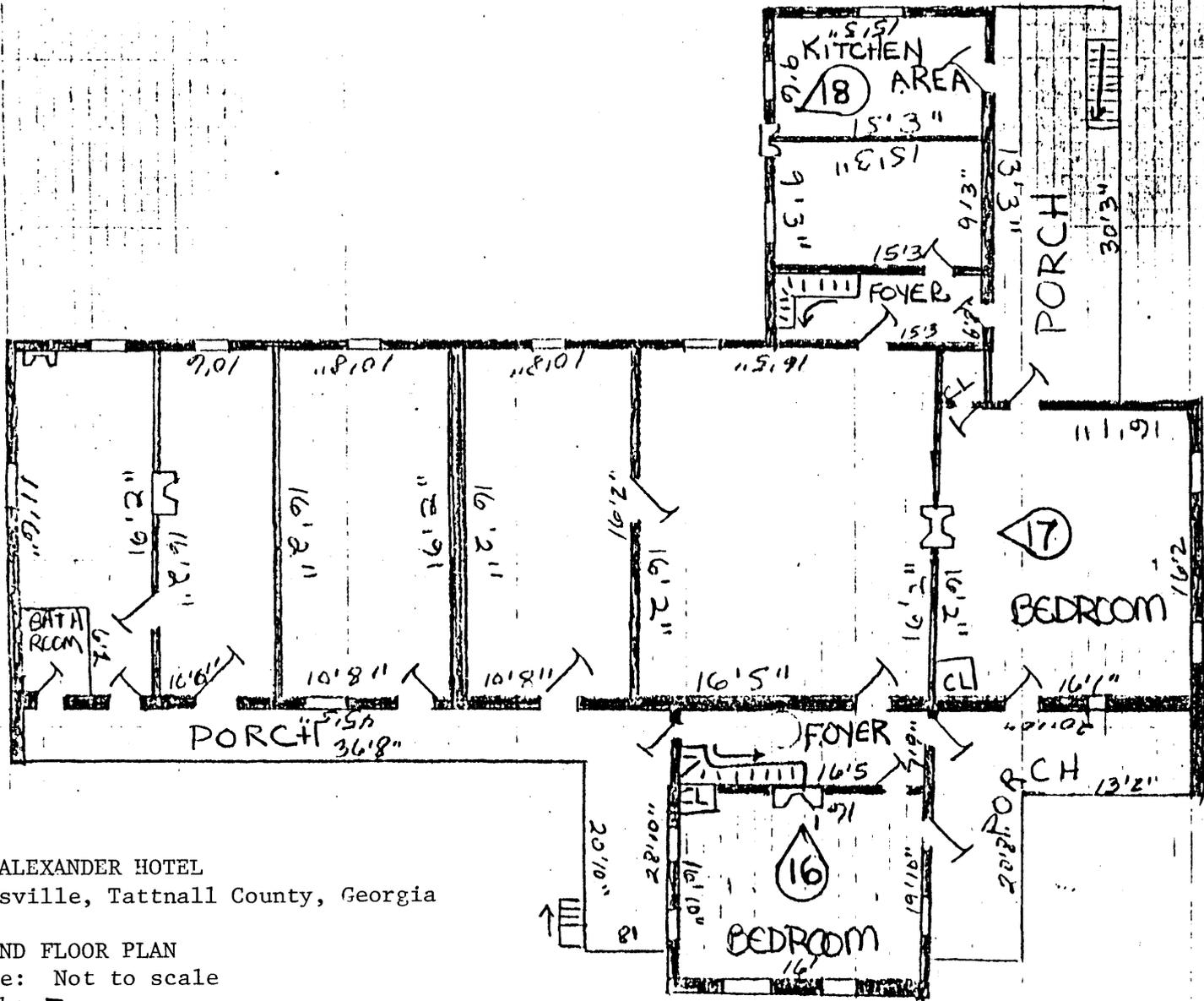
200

468.8'

268

1.54

22



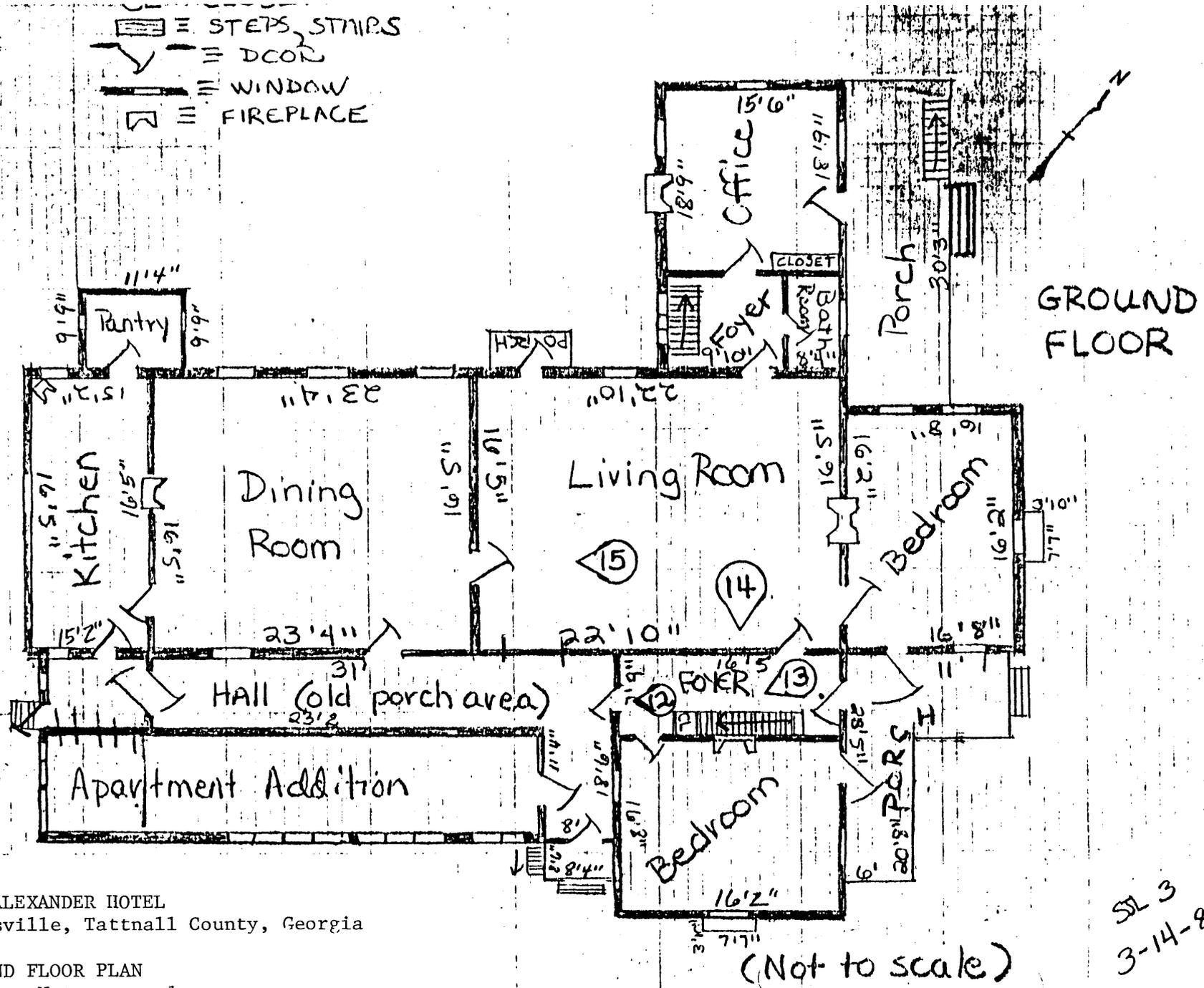
SECOND FLOOR

THE ALEXANDER HOTEL
 Reidsville, Tattnall County, Georgia

SECOND FLOOR PLAN
 Scale: Not to scale
 North: ↗

(NOT TO SCALE)

SJL3
 3-14-80



THE ALEXANDER HOTEL
 Reidsville, Tattall County, Georgia

GROUND FLOOR PLAN
 Scale: Not to scale
 North: ↗

SL 3
 3-14-80