United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

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

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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Description

The William G. Raines House is located on S. Main Street in downtown Statesboro in Bulloch County, Georgia. It is a two-story, wood-framed structure with a brick pier foundation, built around 1904. It has a wrap-around front porch with Doric columns on the first level and a central dormer with projecting portico with front gable and balustrade on the second level. The roof has several gables at different levels, and is covered with stamped metal shingles. Exterior details include two brick chimneys, bracketed porch eaves, one-over-one double-hung sash windows, and a Palladian entrance portal. The rear facade has an enclosed, screened-in back porch with entrance on the first level and a screened-in porch on the second level. The exterior siding material consists of painted longleaf yellow-pine.

The interior arrangement consists of several rooms on both sides of a long central hall with stairway on the first and second floors. The first floor has original coffered pine ceilings, beaded ceilings, wainscoting, mantels, doors and floors. The walls are made of plaster or wallboard. The second floor has original baseboards, horizontal four-paneled doors, mantels, and hardware. The house was remodeled in the 1930s and, recently, has been rehabilitated for use as a historic inn.

The property is landscaped with a central walkway of hexagonal pavers, flanked on either side by a narrow flower bed and a grass yard with informally planted mature trees, and a flower garden to the rear of the house. There are two unrestored deteriorated historic structures to the rear of the main house which include a car barn and a small cook's house.

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Continuation sheet

Representation in Existing Surveys

Item number

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The William G. Raines House received a Preliminary Determination of Individual listing from the National Register Program division of the Southeast Regional National Park Service office on April 24, 1986.

8. Significance

1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agricultureX architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation conservation	landscape architecture law literature military music t philosophy politics/government	e religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	1905	Builder/Architect	unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Statement of Significance

The William G. Raines House is significant in terms of <u>architecture</u> because of its eclectic turn-of-the-century design, combining architectural features from two distinct periods, and because it stands among the largest, most impressive, and most intact historic houses remaining in Statesboro, especially along South Main Street which once was lined with elegant turn-of-the-century houses.

Built in 1905, the Raines House documents the transition between the Victorian era and the Neoclassical period in Statesboro's domestic architecture. In its overall form, the house reflects the Neoclassical preference for symmetry, balance, and relatively large, simple masses. Yet more picturesque late-Victorian influences show in the house's multiple gables, chamfered bays, and bay windows. One of the house's most prominent architectural features--its broad front porch--is by its very nature a Victorian element and yet by its simple balanced design and classical detailing contributes to the Classical Revival qualities of the house. The projecting two-story gabled entrance can be seen both as a simplified picturesque Victorian feature and a rudimentary pedimented portico. The plan of the house is similarly transitional, combining the overall symmetry of the classic four-over-four central-hall plan with Victorian bays and angled fireplaces. Exterior architectural details are relatively restrained and Neoclassical in character-- simple cornice, architrave, and corner moldings, modillions, and Tuscan columns--highlighted by an elaborate Palladian frontentry. Interior detailing and woodwork is either Neoclassical in feeling--the fireplace mantels with their diminuative classical columns, for example, or the extensively coffered ceilings--or eclectic in character.

This combination of Victorian and Neoclassical architectural features is characteristic of much of the turn-of-the-century domestic architecture in Georgia's smaller cities and towns. It is also a characteristic of houses "designed" by builders, probably using stock architectural features, than by architects. It is—or was—found with some frequency in Statesboro which, although founded early in the 19th century, achieved its greatest period of growth and development from the 1890s to the 1920s, fueled by the twin factors of railroad transportation and Sea Island cotton cultivation. At one time, Stateboro's North and South Main Streets were lined with houses like this, some larger and more elaborate (like the John A. McDougald House, listed in the National Register), others smaller and simpler. Only about half a dozen of these houses remain, however, Main Street having become largely a commercial strip since the mid-20th century. Of those that remain, one (being nominated to the National Register) is more Victorian in character and the other (the McDougald House) is more Neoclassical; none better illustrates the characteristic Victorian-Neoclassical transitional house than the Raines House. Indeed, even city-wide there are only perhaps a dozen houses from any late 19th-or early 20th-century period or style that rival the size, extent, distinctive architectural features, and both exterior and interior integrity of the Raines House. An impressive house in its day, it has become even more impressive today with the demise of so many of its contemporaries, especially along South Main Street.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Frondorf, Bill and Greg Williams, "Historic Property Information Form - W.G. Raines House," 1984. (On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural resources.)

0. Geographi	cal Data		
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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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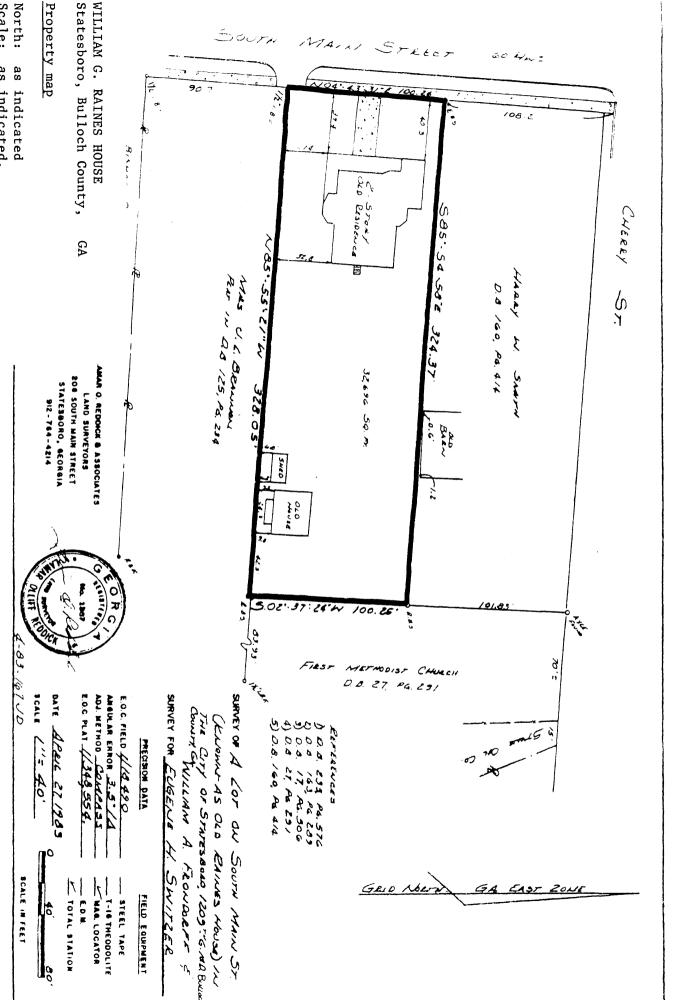
The Raines House also may be significant for its association with William G. Raines (1886-1947), the original owner who lived and worked in Statesboro. Raines owned a local hardware store, the W.G. Raines Hardware Company, which prospered from the 1890s until the 1920s when economic depression fell upon the community. Raines also was active in community life, serving as a city councilman and a founding member of the Ogeechee Lodge #213, Free and Accepted Masons. However, additional documentation and comparative analysis is required to support National Register eligibility under this area of significance.

National Register Criteria

Because of its distinctive architectural qualities, this house meets National Register Criteria "C".

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources

- 1 contributing building (Raines House)
- 2 noncontributing buildings (Outbuildings--deteriorated--loss of integrity)

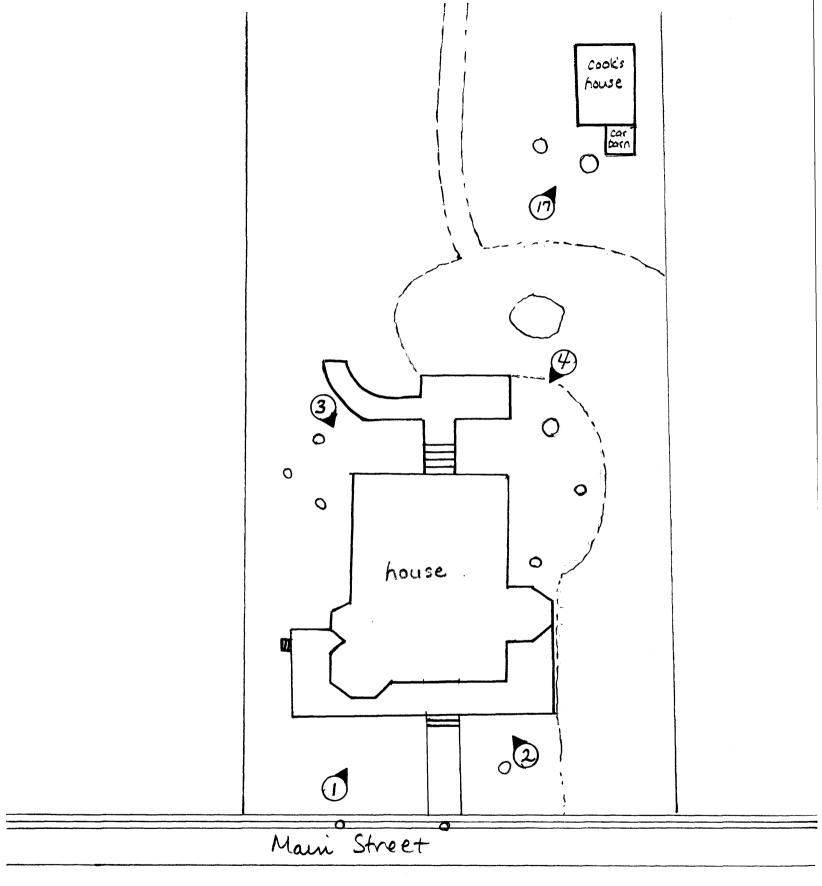


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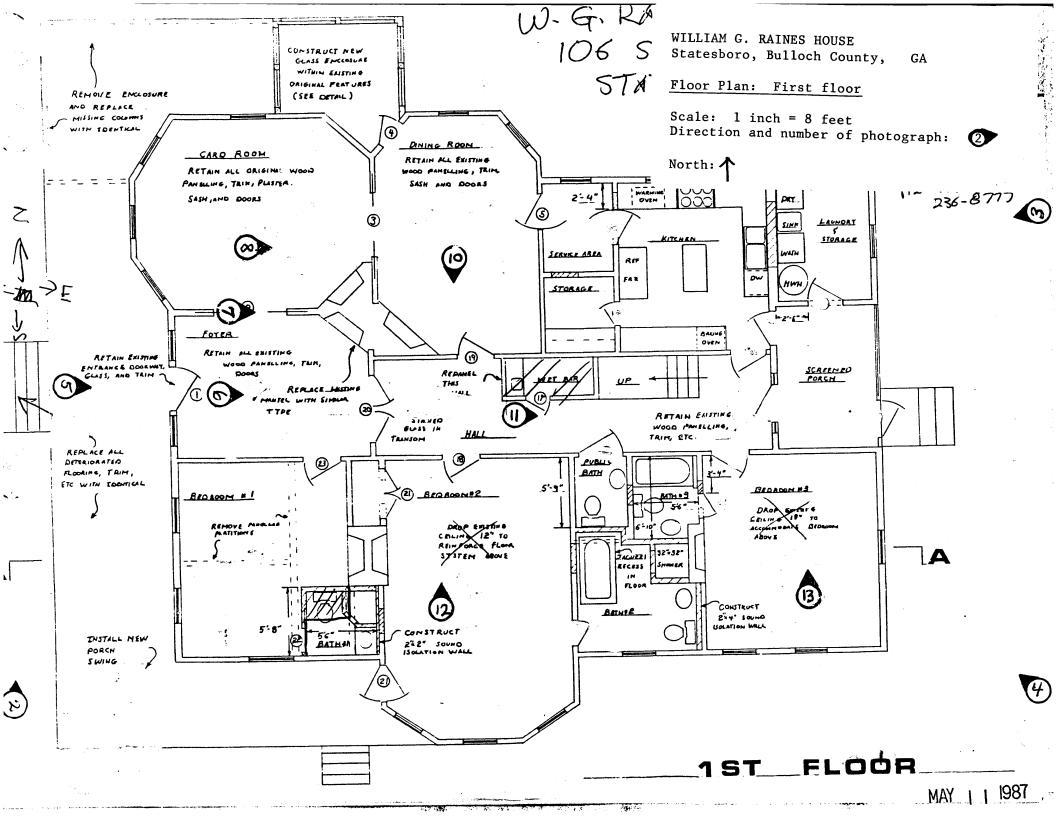


WILLIAM G. RAINES HOUSE Statesboro, Bulloch County, GA

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