

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF GREENSBORO, GREENE COUNTY, GEORGIA

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY #5

I. IDENTIFICATION

NAME OF PROPERTY: Phillip Poullain House
LOCATION: Penfield Road
CITY: Greensboro
COUNTY: Greene (code 133)
STATE: Georgia (code 013)
ZIP CODE: 30642
OWNER: Dr. J. Lee Parker
OWNER ADDRESS: Penfield Road, Greensboro, Georgia 30642
CLASSIFICATION: Building
CURRENT USE: Residence
ACREAGE: 8 acres approximately
U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: Greensboro, Ga.
U.T.M. REFERENCE: Z17 E297860 N3718040
V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: 117-2 (partial--see attached map)

II. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Two-story, frame, Italianate-style house, sheathed in weatherboard covered with vinyl siding; L-shaped plan with rear ell and intersecting gable roofs; one-story wrap-around porch with lattice-work brackets on chamfered posts; three-story square-sectioned tower with round- and square-headed windows and finial-capped pyramidal roof, centered on structure at interior elbow of L-shaped plan, designates entrance and main interior stairs; prominent bay window, decorative attic vents in gable ends, bracketed eaves, interior chimneys with heavy corbeled brick cornice caps, 2/2 windows with architrave trim; asymmetrical interior plan features entrance foyer with central staircase, plaster walls and ceilings, wide plank floors, paneled doors, and window molding; one front room recently altered with addition of wood paneling, stippled ceiling, and carpeting; portion of side porch enclosed with tongue-and-groove paneling to create small room; vinyl siding added in 1980; house is situated on several hundred acre tract, area proposed for nomination includes only entrance drive and front, side, and rear yards, (remaining acreage includes no historic resources associated with the house and is in field and forest); informal landscaping; good condition.

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBERS: 104-105

III. HISTORY

ORIGINAL OWNER: Phillip Poullain
ORIGINAL USE: Residential
ARCHITECT/BUILDER: possibly J. O. Barnwell

HISTORIC ACREAGE: varied

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: 1853-1860 or 1865-1875 (best: ca. 1868)

DATE(S) OF MAJOR ALTERATIONS: 1920 (side porch), 1980 (siding)

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (from origins to present):

The property on which the Phillip Poullain house was later built was sold in 1842 from James B. Nicholson to Dr. Thomas N. Poullain. Dr. Poullain, an extraordinarily wealthy Greene County planter and industrialist, owned property and a large house (destroyed by fire in ca. 1905) across the street from this tract of land. In 1853, Dr. Poullain deeded the Nicholson tract to his son, Phillip Poullain. Apparently Phillip was living on the property at this time, but he may not have been living in this house; local records indicate that a smaller and possibly older house existed behind this house and was destroyed years ago. In 1878 Phillip Poullain sold his house and land to James B. Park, Sr., an attorney and industrialist who lived in the county. Park almost immediately deeded a half interest in most of this property to his son, James B. Park, Jr. Park, Jr., also was a local attorney who in 1880 married Anna M. Poullain, granddaughter of Dr. Thomas Poullain. By 1897, Park, Jr., was living in another house on West Broad Street in Greensboro, and in 1899 his Penfield Road property was sold to James L. Wheeler. Wheeler operated a dairy farm on the property. The property later was acquired by Mrs. Clemmon Pickett who sold it to J. A. Starr in 1918. Starr was from Covington, Georgia, and raised cotton on the property. The property was owned by Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, the Greensboro Land and Development Company, and D. B. Taylor between 1930 and 1950. In 1950, Dr. Parker purchased the property containing 371 acres from D.B. Taylor; Dr. Parker continues to own the property today.

The exact date of construction of this house is not known. Although Phillip Poullain is believed to have been living on this property in 1853 when it was deeded to him from his father, he most likely was living in a smaller house or in a portion of this house. Judging from the size and architectural style of the house, it likely was built between 1853 when Phillip obtained title to the land and 1860 when the Civil War brought a halt to most building activity or between the end of hostilities in 1865 and the mid-1870s when Phillip became disassociated with the property and eventually sold it to James B. Park, Sr., in 1878. It is possible that the house was built earlier by Phillip Poullain, or even by his father, Dr. Thomas Poullain, although this seems unlikely given the fully developed Italianate character of the house; Italianate houses are rare in Georgia and virtually unheard of outside Savannah before the mid- to late 1850s. It is probable that this house was built ca. 1868; in that year, the architect/builder J. O. Barnwell from Rome, Georgia, came to Greensboro to design and build the stylish Gothic Revival Church of the Redeemer (property #2 in this nomination), and while in Greensboro he stayed at the home of Dr. Thomas Poullain, Phillip's father. It is possible, although

unlikely, that the house was built as late as ca. 1880 by James B. Park, Sr., or James B. Park, Jr. However, the architectural style of the house suggests an earlier date--a major house from ca. 1880 most likely would have featured more up-to-date Queen Anne, Eastlake, or Stick Style features--and such an attribution to the Park family is not supported by local or family records.

IV. SIGNIFICANCE:

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA: C

AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture

SIGNIFICANT DATE(S): 1853-1860, 1865-1875 (best date: ca. 1868)

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Architecture. The Phillip Poullain House is significant in terms of architecture as an excellent and unusual example of mid-19th-century Italianate-style residential architecture in Greensboro and Georgia. In its small-town setting, the house is a fully developed example of the Italianate-style residence. Its characteristic Italianate-style features include its L-shaped plan with projecting tower, its picturesque massing and asymmetrical layout, its pronounced vertical proportions emphasized by the tall tower and steep gable roofs, its combination of round- and square-headed windows, its tall corbeled chimneys, and its bracketed cornices. All these features characterized the Italianate style nationwide during the period 1850-1880. A typical Southern feature of the house is its broad, wrap-around porch or veranda. New vinyl siding--the only major change to the house--mimics in width and appearance the original wood siding which remains underneath the new sheathing and does not seriously compromise the historic architectural qualities of the building as a representative work of the Italianate style. The house is located in an informally landscaped setting which compliments the picturesque qualities of its architectural design. This house is one of less than half a dozen Italianate-style houses in Greensboro; most are relatively modest one-story Victorian cottages, while another similarly large example has been extensively altered on the interior and the exterior. Moreover, Italianate-style houses are relatively rare throughout Georgia; few communities have more than a few examples of such houses, and many communities have none. The style became popular nationally at a time when residential architecture in Georgia was dominated by the continuing influence of the Greek Revival style. The Italianate style remained popular nationally during the Civil War and Reconstruction periods which, in Georgia, were years of relatively little building. When the state's economy recovered after Reconstruction, architectural fashion had moved on to other Victorian styles including the Queen Anne, Eastlake, and Stick

styles. Thus, this house stands as a historical record of an architectural style which is relatively weakly represented in the historic architecture of Georgia.

CONTRIBUTING/NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES:

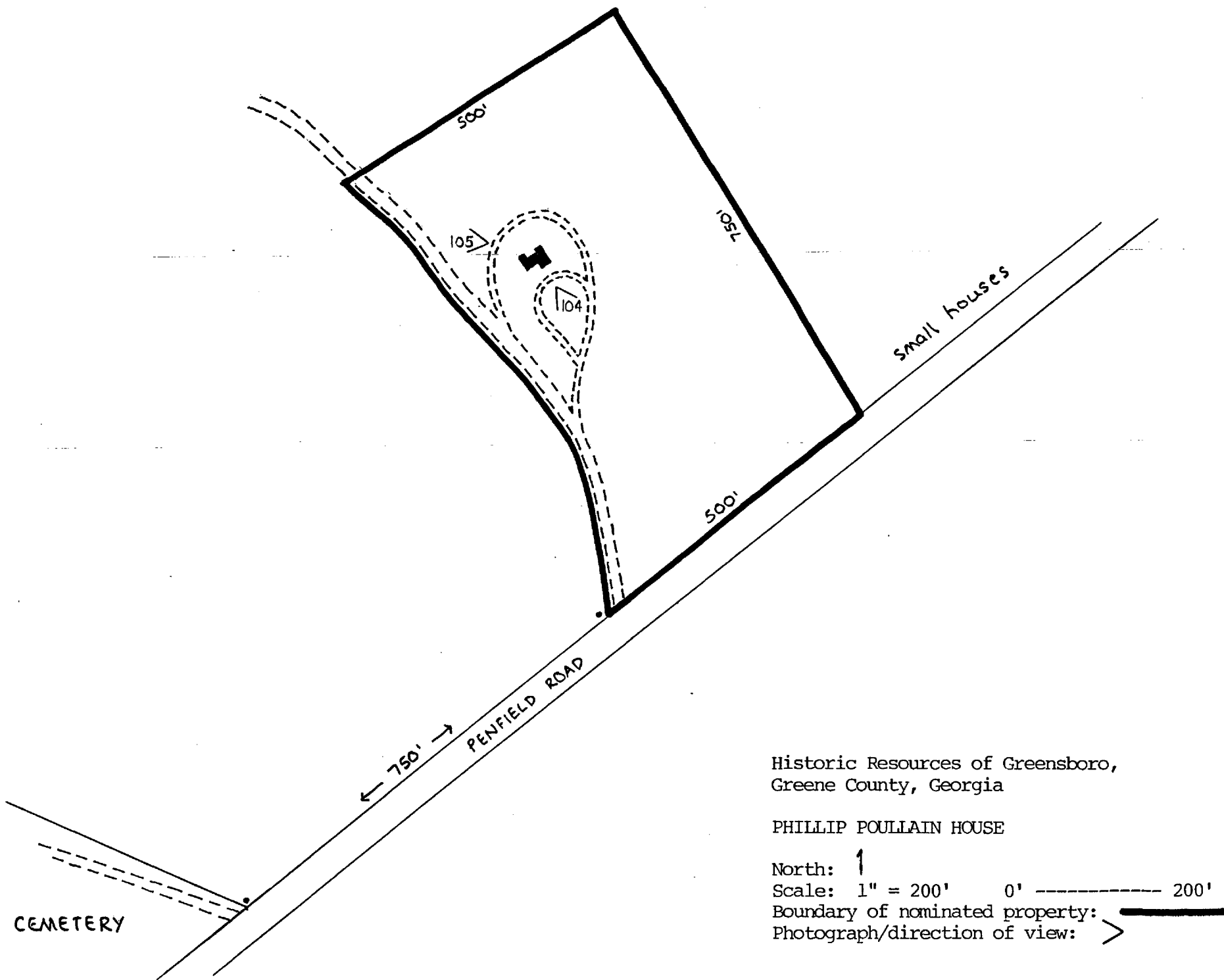
1 contributing building

VII. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS: Historic Structures Field Survey: Greene County, Georgia (state-level survey)

BIBLIOGRAPHY: SEE Bibliography, Section 9, National Register Nomination Form

FORM PREPARED BY: SEE Form Prepared By, Section 11, National Register Nomination Form



Historic Resources of Greensboro,
Greene County, Georgia

PHILLIP POUILLAIN HOUSE

North: ↑
 Scale: 1" = 200' 0' ----- 200'
 Boundary of nominated property: **—————**
 Photograph/direction of view: >