

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

received AUG 7 1984

date entered SEP 7 1984

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 Russell Homeplace Historic District

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number U.S. 29 (just east of Winder) N/A not for publication

city, town Russell N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Barrow code 013

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name See Continuation Sheet.

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Barrow County Courthouse

city, town Winder state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Field Survey:

title Barrow County, Georgia has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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 Russell Homeplace Historic District is a family compound containing four family residences, a modern guest house/library, a family cemetery and memorial garden, a grape arbor, and five historic outbuildings, one of which contains an old law office on the second floor. The main house (A), completed in 1912, is a large, two-story, "Four Square" frame house. It is the Russell family home, designed and built by Judge Richard B. Russell, Sr. A small, one-story, frame cottage (B), next to the main house, was built in 1912 to provide living quarters for Judge Russell's young married children while they were building their own homes. The family referred to this as the "honeymoon or weaning house." Another house, the one-story, wood-frame guest house or John Russell House (C), was also built in 1912. No other structures save supplemental outbuildings were added until the two-story, brick house of Georgian Revival style (F) was erected in 1928 for Robert L. Russell. The family cemetery (E) was begun in 1938 at the death of Judge Richard B. Russell, Sr. The library/guest house (D) is a modern, non-historic structure and was completed in 1964. The memorial garden (L) was laid out in 1967.

Five historic outbuildings include two garages (H and I), the latter including a law office of Judge Russell on the top floor; and those labeled (G), (J) and (M), of undetermined usage. There is also a grape arbor (K) just behind the main house.

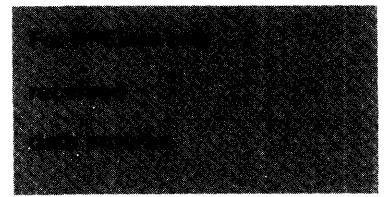
The family compound developed along the railroad line and U.S. 29 and is not interrupted by crossroads other than an unpaved road leading to and past the cemetery area. The main house (the Russell Homeplace) has a substantial setback from the highway, as do the other structures. The other three residences lie to either side of the main house.

Landscaping includes many historic trees and the 1967 memorial garden.

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001
EXP. 1971



Continuation sheet

Owner of Property

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John D. and Perri W. Russell
Route 2, Box 51
Winder, Georgia 30680

Senator Richard B. Russell Estate
c/o Richard B. Russell
P.O. Box 644
Winder, Georgia 30680

Mrs. Sybil Russell Estate
Route 2, Box 51
Winder, Georgia 30680

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1912-1971 **Builder/Architect** various, unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Russell Homeplace Historic District is significant in architecture and in politics and government. In architecture, it is significant for the several homes and outbuildings there as part of a growing family-owned complex from 1912 to the present. They reflect prevailing styles, including "Four Square" and Georgian Revival. Despite their rise in power, the Russells never built anything more pretentious than the "Four Square" house as their main home. In politics/government, the district is significant as the home of one of Georgia's most important political families and two of its most important politicians. Richard B. Russell, Sr. (1861-1938) moved his family to this site in 1902 and began the town named Russell at that time. His most important posts were those of Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court, 1922 to 1938, and chairman of the University of Georgia's Board of Trustees from 1923 to 1931. His son, Richard B. Russell, Jr. (1897-1971), served as governor of Georgia, 1931-33. This was the only time in Georgia history that a father-son team served as head of two of the state's governmental branches at the same time. Richard B. Russell, Jr. also served Georgia in the U.S. Senate from 1933 to 1971. While there, he served on many important committees, and at his death was President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate and, thus, next to the Vice President in the order of succession. Senator Russell owned the main house from 1938 to 1971.

These areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register criteria A, B, C, and Criteria Consideration G.

Historical Narrative

The Russell Homeplace Historic District is significant because it was the home of two of Georgia's leading political figures, Richard Brevard Russell and Richard Brevard Russell, Jr.

In 1893, Richard B. Russell (1861-1938) took his wife, the former Ina Dillard, to live in Winder. Although he was only thirty-two years of age at this time, Russell had already had quite a varied career. After receiving the A.B. and LL.B. degrees from the University of Georgia in 1879 and 1880, respectively, he began practicing law in Athens. In 1882, he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives, where he served until 1888. Before he was thirty, he had helped organize the Athens Savings Bank, the Athens Street Railway, and a telephone company. He also served for three years as editor of the Athens Daily Ledger.

[continued]

9. Major Bibliographical References

Strong, Jeanne M. "Russell Historic District," Historic Property Information Form, August 22, 1983. On file at Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 25 acres

Quadrangle name Winder South, Ga.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	7	2	5	0	0	6	0	3	7	6	2	8	3	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

B

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

C

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

D

1	7	2	4	9	9	6	0	3	7	6	2	4	6	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 nominated property includes the main Russell home and adjacent Russell family homes. This is all that remains in the ownership of the Russell family. It is marked on the enclosed plat.

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 Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

date June 13, 1984

street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W.

telephone (404) 656-2840

city or town Atlanta

state Georgia 30334

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 7/19/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Delores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 9/7/84

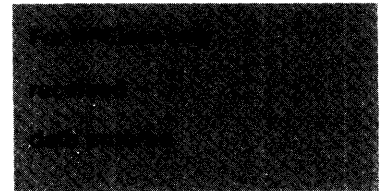
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Significance

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From 1889 to 1897, Richard Russell served as solicitor general of the Western Circuit, and in 1897, he was elected judge of that circuit. He resigned in 1906 and campaigned unsuccessfully for Governor of Georgia as an independent Democrat. Russell was very successful in his campaigns for judge-ships. Only once, in 1904, when he ran for Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Georgia, was he defeated. He was successful in 1922 for the Chief Justice position. He served as Chief Justice of the Georgia Supreme Court from 1922 until his death in 1938.

In all the years when his government positions required that he be in Atlanta, Richard Russell's family remained at the home which he established in 1912 outside Winder in Russell, Georgia. Richard Russell commuted to Atlanta by train.

Richard B. and Ina Russell became the parents of fifteen children. Thirteen of this family went on to make marks in a variety of endeavors. Besides Richard, Jr., their children and grandchildren included a judge, Robert L. Russell (1900-55), whose home is in the district; a U.S. congressman, Hugh Peterson; a professor; a minister; a physician, and another governor, Ernest Vandiver.

Richard Russell, Jr., was born November 2, 1897, in Winder, Georgia. His birthplace was located on Park Avenue, which runs parallel to Main Street, Winder's main business street today. About 1902, the growing family moved to a farm about a mile out of town along the north side of the right-of-way of the Seaboard Railroad. The same year, the city of Russell was chartered by an Act of the Georgia legislature approved on December 18, 1902. The new city was traversed by the Seaboard Railroad, which provided a flag-stop type of station. Richard Russell, in commuting to Atlanta by train, had more occasion to use this facility than anyone else.

In the early years of its history, Russell had some industry. There was a women's hosiery manufacturer and a soft-drink bottling company. Since the founders of the companies had their principle interests in and devoted most of their time to law, education, and politics, the businesses didn't grow.

The city had a board of education, which acquired land in 1904 to build a school which was started but never finished. The city still owns this tract of land and plans to use it for a city hall and park. There is no record of a public school in Russell, but for a while Judge Russell maintained a small school for his own and his neighbor's children. Later, they all attended school in Winder.

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Richard Russell, Jr., was about sixteen years old when his family moved to the Russell House in Russell, Georgia, which was designed by his father. Later, however, when Richard B. Russell died, Richard B. Russell, Jr., bought all the share of the Russell House from the other twelve children. The Russell House became his home about 1938.

After obtaining a law degree from the University of Georgia in 1918, Richard B. Russell, Jr., began to practice law in Winder and soon after became attorney for Barrow County. In 1921, his political career began when he won the position of representative from Barrow County to the Georgia General Assembly. Richard Russell was a member of that body for ten years, the last four of which he served as Speaker of the House of Representatives.

In 1931, young Russell was inaugurated as the sixty-sixth Governor of Georgia. At the age of thirty-three, he was the youngest governor in the nation and one of the youngest chief executives in the history of his state. Shortly before the governor's term expired, the voters elected him to the U.S. Senate, where he was the youngest member of that body. Richard Brevard Russell was the only man in the history of our country to serve more than half his life in the U.S. Senate.

Senator Russell's leadership and seniority made him a key member of the Senate and a leading national figure. At the time of his death, he had served as chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services for over fifteen years. While on the Appropriations Committee, he had continued to serve the armed forces on the Defense Subcommittee.

Senator Richard Russell was brought to national attention by the finesse with which he handled the Committee Investigation of President Truman's dismissal of General Douglas MacArthur as the American Commander of the American forces during the Korean War. He was also one of the seven members selected by President Lyndon B. Johnson to serve on the commission to investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

Since Senator Russell was considered a foremost authority in Congress on military matters, he was often consulted by Presidents, Secretaries of State and of Defense, and other officials on matters affecting the nation's security and international affairs.

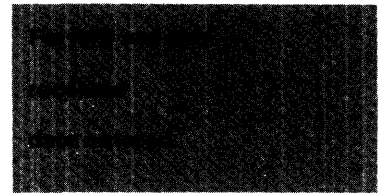
Senator Russell's other achievements benefiting the people and nation were a number of bills he advocated which provided pay raises for members of the armed forces, the authorship of the school lunch program, a number of agriculture, conservation and forestry programs which resulted in an \$11 million agricultural utilization laboratory on the campus of the University of Georgia in

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ORIGINAL
EXPL. 10/1/71

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Continuation sheet

Significance

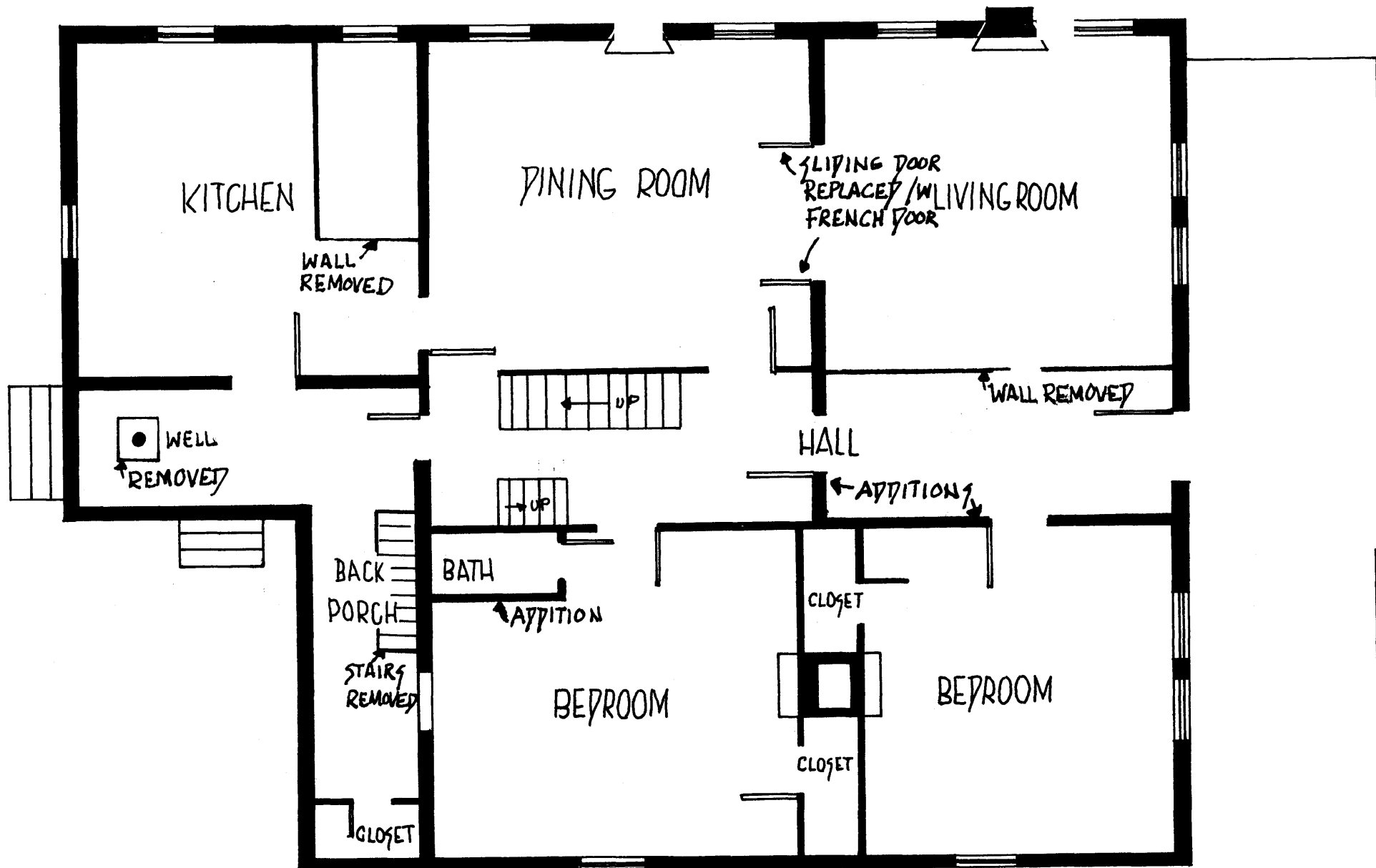
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Athens. This facility bears his name, as does the new federal office building in Atlanta. A statue of Senator Russell stands on the lawn of Georgia's State Capitol.

On two occasions, in 1948 and 1952, Senator Russell was put forward for the Democratic Presidential nomination. At the 1948 Democratic National Convention, he received 263 votes, and in 1952, he received 294.

At his death on January 21, 1971, he was eulogized as one of the most outstanding men ever to grace the halls of Congress. After lying in state in Georgia's Capitol, Senator Richard Brevard Russell, Jr., was returned to Barrow County for burial in the family cemetery in the district.



RUSSELL HOMEPLACE HISTORIC DISTRICT
 Russell, Barrow County, Georgia

FLOOR PLAN

Scale: Not to scale

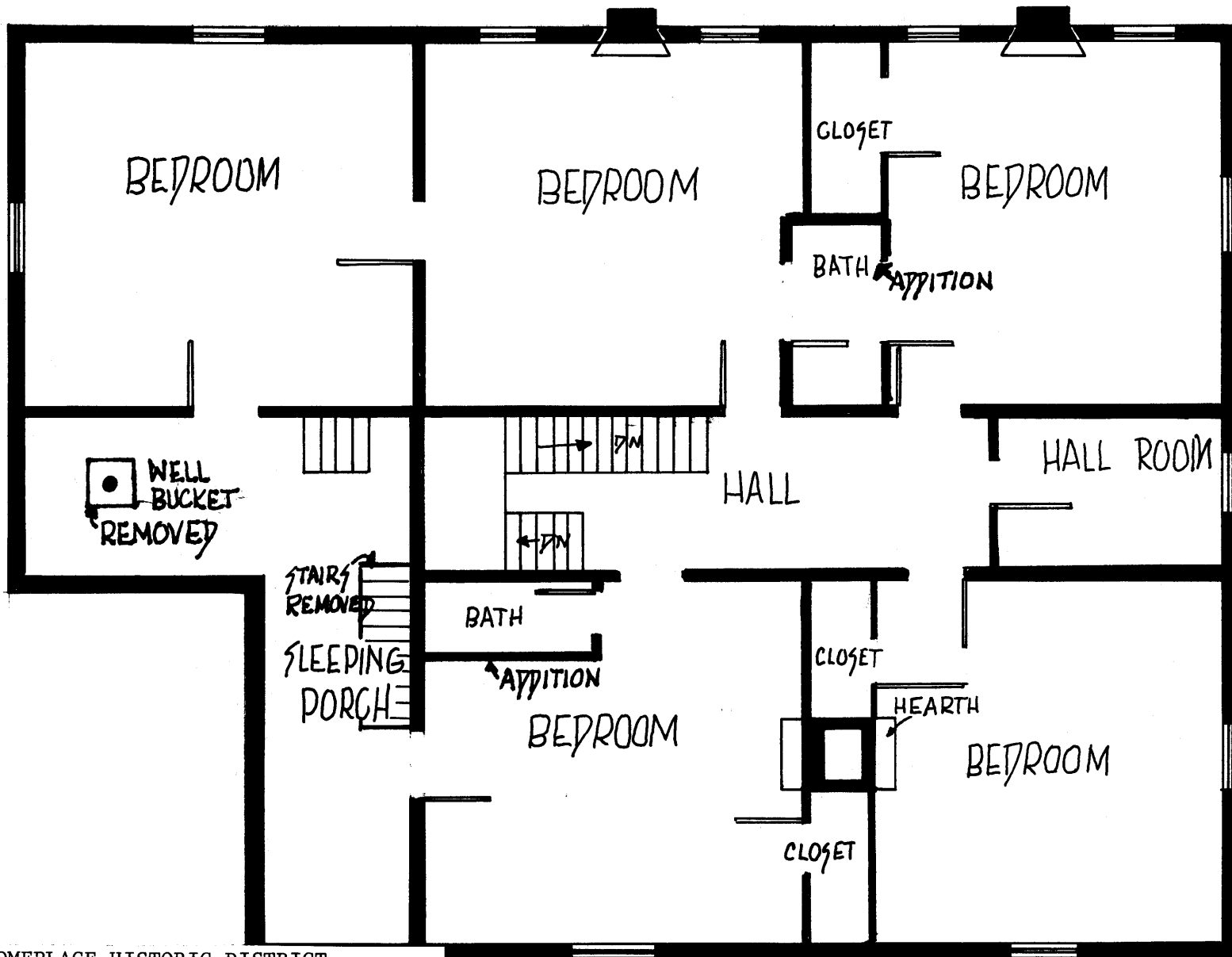
Source: Drawn by Jeanne M. Strong

Date: 1983

Key: First floor, Russell Home (main house)

FIRST FLOOR
 RUSSELL MAIN HOUSE
 RUSSELL HISTORIC DISTRICT

PORCH



SECOND FLOOR
 RUSSELL MAIN HOUSE
 RUSSELL HISTORIC DISTRICT

RUSSELL HOMEPLACE HISTORIC DISTRICT
 Russell, Barrow County, Georgia

FLOOR PLAN

Scale: Not to scale

Source: Drawn by Jeanne M. Strong

Date: 1983

Key: Second floor, Russell Home (main house)