

## HISTORIC RESOURCES OF HARTWELL, HART COUNTY, GEORGIA

## INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY #21

I. IDENTIFICATION

HISTORIC NAME: Adams-Matheson House  
 PROPERTY NAME: Carswell Residence  
 STREET ADDRESS: 116 Athens Street  
 CITY: Hartwell  
 PRESENT OWNER: Steve F. & Ann T. Carswell  
 MAILING ADDRESS: 116 Athens Street  
 CITY: Hartwell  
 STATE: Georgia  
 ZIP CODE: 30643  
 CURRENT USE: residence  
 ACREAGE: 0.97  
 U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: Hartwell, Georgia  
 U.T.M. REFERENCE: Z17 E321490 N3802650  
 V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: H-14-11-1

II. DESCRIPTION

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION:

This house is a one-story, frame, Victorian-eclectic residence with later alterations which include a Craftsman-inspired porch. The steep, metal-covered pyramidal roof contains multiple projecting gables; a large gable dominates the principal facade and is decorated with fish scale shingles, a cut and turned bargeboard, boxed end returns at the cornice, and bracketed eaves. Low hipped roof dormers are located on the main roof and contain narrow horizontal bands of windows. Two transomed doorways provide entrance from the "L" shaped porch. The porch is supported on square bungalow columns positioned on brick piers. The porch eaves are wide and contain modillions.

The interior is organized around a central hall. Interior features include wood floors and plaster walls. Some of the original 10-foot ceilings have been lowered, and carpeting and linoleum cover some of the original floors. Two rooms were added to the rear of the structure when the front porch was altered in 1919. A central climate control system, modern kitchen, and bathroom fixtures were provided in 1975.

A frame garage, originally serving as a stable, and the foundation to a former servant's residence are located to the rear of the house. The landscaping includes random foundation plantings, several large trees, and a grove of hardwoods to the rear of the house.

The property is in good condition.

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 82

### III. HISTORY

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ORIGINAL OWNER: Mrs. Dessie H. Adams  
ORIGINAL USE: residence  
ARCHITECT/BUILDER: Temple family  
HISTORIC ACREAGE: 1.87 acres  
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1900  
DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS: 1915-20, 1975, 1981

#### HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (FROM ORIGINS TO PRESENT):

This property was part of larger tract originally owned by F. B. Hodges. Hodges had come to Hartwell in 1854 from Clarkesville, Georgia. He was a surveyor and is credited with the original city plan of Hartwell. According to a lifelong resident of Athens Street, Ms. Emma Lee Dickerson, a large residence owned by Hodges and his family was located at the north end of Athens Street. In 1897, Ms. Dessie H. Adams purchased 1.87 acres from Hodges. Shortly after the purchase, J. W. Temple constructed the Adams-Matheson house in the prevailing Victorian-eclectic style. The Adams family operated a business on Depot Street in connection with the cotton industry.

In 1911, the lot and house were mortgaged to Mrs. Lucy E. Nardin, Mrs. Adam's mother, who lived in Anderson, S.C. In 1912, 0.6 acre of the original tract was sold to Lafayette Adams. This land became the site of the Roscoe Conklin Linder house. The deed to the remaining 1.27 acres was secured by Mrs. Nardin in 1915, at which time she sold the property to Mr. Charles E. Matheson. A three year mortgage was negotiated. Mr. Matheson received the deed to the property in 1919. Matheson made several changes to the structure including the addition of two rear rooms and a new front porch. The Temple family constructed these additions, as they had the original house. Matheson, a prominent Hartwell businessman, was a cotton and fertilizer merchant with several land holdings in town and large farm acreage in the county. He served on the Board of Education; his wife, Ethel Benson, was the granddaughter of John B. Benson, a founding father of Hartwell. The property remained in the Matheson family until 1975 when the heirs of Mrs. Ethel Matheson sold it to Mr. and Mrs. J. Douglas Crumley. In March of 1981, the Crumleys sold the property to Mr. and Mrs. Steve F. Carswell.

#### IV. SIGNIFICANCE

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA: B, C  
 AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Social history  
 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL):

Architecturally, this house is significant for its evolved design reflecting the two predominant architectural styles in Hartwell. Originally built in the late 19th century in the prevailing Victorian-eclectic style, the house was updated in the early 20th century with Craftsman features. This architectural evolution is characteristic of Hartwell. In addition, the house features unusually fine late Victorian detailing in the front gable. Contributing further to the architectural significance of the house is its association with the Temple family, local building contractors, designers, and suppliers, who built and remodeled numerous houses and other buildings in Hartwell during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. In this case, the Temple family both built the original 19th century house and remodeled it in the 20th century.

The structure is significant in social history for its associations with the Adams, Matheson, and Benson families. The Adams were cotton merchants and operated a business on Depot Street. Charles Matheson, the second owner of the property, was a cotton merchant and a landowner of city and county properties. The association with the Benson family is through Matheson's wife, Ethel Benson, a granddaughter of one of Hartwell's founding fathers, John B. Benson.

#### CONTRIBUTING/NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES:

Contributing building(s): 1  
 Contributing structure(s): 1  
 Contributing site(s): 1

#### V. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: Draft survey form by Ann Carswell; Baker, John William, The History of Hart County; The Hartwell Sun, various issues; Temple Lumber Company, records; Courthouse records.

**FORM PREPARED BY:**

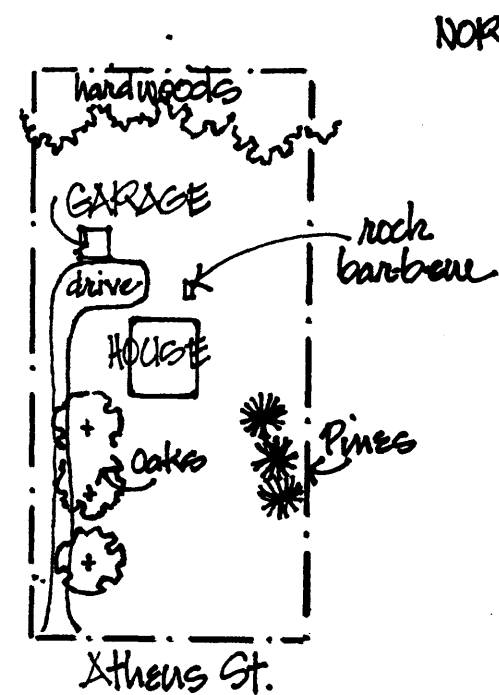
**Dale Jaeger**  
**Georgia Mountains Area Planning and Development Commission**  
**Gainesville, Georgia**

**Donald Rooney**  
**Historic Preservation Consultant**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**

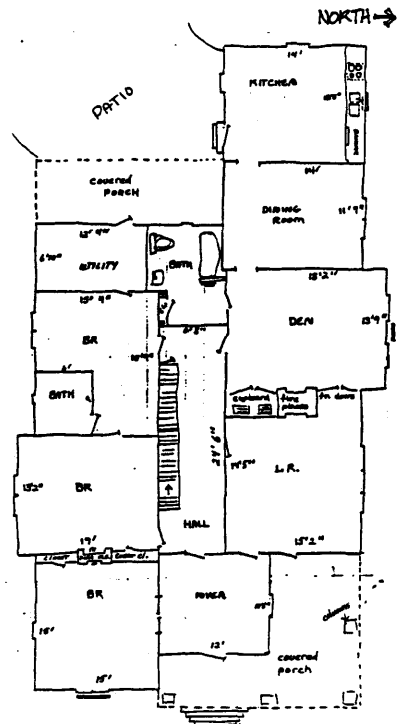
**Richard Cloues**  
**Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**

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  
by Ann & Steve Caronell