

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF HARTWELL, HART COUNTY, GEORGIA

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY #6

I. IDENTIFICATION

HISTORIC NAME: Meyer Saul House
 CURRENT NAME: Higginbotham Residence
 STREET ADDRESS: 304 West Johnson Street
 CITY: Hartwell
 PRESENT OWNER: Seth and Libby Higgenbotham
 MAILING ADDRESS: 304 West Johnson Street
 CITY: Hartwell
 STATE: Georgia
 ZIP CODE: 30643
 CURRENT USE: residence
 ACREAGE: city lot, less than 1 acre
 U.S.G.S. QUADRANGLE: Hartwell, Georgia
 U.T.M. REFERENCE: Z17 E321960 N3803050
 V.B.D. OR TAX MAP NUMBER: H-10-1-6

II. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION AND PRESENT CONDITION:

This one and one-half story, frame, Victorian-eclectic structure contains a steep pyramidal tin roof with multiple projecting gables covering first floor bays. The principal facade is dominated by a projecting gable roofed bay. Projecting from the main roof, a gable roofed dormer contains a pair of 1/1 windows. The house contains paired internal chimneys. A shed roofed porch extends the length of the principal facade and contains turned posts and ballusters. Other exterior decorative features include turned millwork within the gable peak and a half-timbered motif within the dormer gable. A portico projecting from the porch marks the entrance to the central hall residence.

Inside, the central hall is intact; the assymmetrically arranged rooms have received recent alterations. The house contains tongue and groove woodwork, original wood floors, and period mantels. Recent alterations include the addition of interior paneling and acoustical tile ceilings in the rooms.

The house is situated on a corner lot which contains large pecan trees and informal plantings. A non-historic car shelter has been added at the rear of the lot.

The property is in good condition.

PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER: 67

III. HISTORY

ORIGINAL OWNER: Myer Saul
 ORIGINAL USE: residence
 ARCHITECT/BUILDER: unknown
 HISTORIC ACREAGE: city lot, less than one acre
 DATE OF CONSTRUCTION: ca. 1902
 DATE(S) OF ALTERATIONS: 1940s, 1960s

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (from origins to present):

Myer Saul (1875-1966), a Jewish merchant born in Europe, had this structure built circa 1902 as his residence. Saul had come to Hartwell circa 1892 to work with his brother, Joe Saul, in an existing retail operation in downtown Hartwell. According to The Hartwell Sun (April 23, 1897), "the J. Saul and Brothers were dealers in clothing, gents furnishings, goods, hats, and shoes." J. Saul was the senior member who previously had been in business in Washington D. C. He had come to Hartwell circa 1890 and established a local business. He also owned additional stores in other Georgia and South Carolina towns. In 1894, he moved to Atlanta and opened a wholesale clothing house and left his brother, Myer, who was described as "quite young," in charge of the Hartwell business. Myer Saul apparently was successful in this endeavor. A 1902 edition of The Hartwell Sun describes him as "a leading dealer in clothing and gent's furnishings and [a] recognized . . . gentleman of fine business qualifications." The article states that Myer Saul employed Mssrs. Jas. H. Land and Carl McCurry in his business. An advertisement in the same paper notes that Myer Saul's store had just received a large shipment from New York; the store is referenced as "the Jew Store" with the yellow front.

The Saul Residence was sold circa 1940 to Bill Haley and a large second floor room was partitioned after the sale. The house served as a rental residence until it was purchased by Miles W. Kay later in the 1940s. Ownership in 1944 passed to a daughter of Kay, Mrs. Higginbotham, who continues to own and reside in the structure today. Changes to the structure include additions of interior paneling and acoustical tile ceilings dating from the 1960s.

IV. SIGNIFICANCE

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA: A, C
 AREA(S) OF SIGNIFICANCE: Architecture, Religion/Social History
 LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The historical significance of the Saul House is derived from its association with Myer Saul. Saul was of the Jewish faith which was highly unusual in a predominantly Protestant region. It is

noteworthy that Saul included his faith in advertisements promoting his business. The property is important in local history for its associations with Saul who was a well-respected businessman in the community and who operated a major commercial enterprise in downtown Hartwell.

The Saul House is architecturally significant as a very good example of the one-story Victorian-eclectic residence found in Hartwell and throughout Georgia. This type of house, with its compact massing, high pyramidal roof, multiple gables, prominent porches, and eclectic detailing typifies the late-Victorian middle-class residence in small Georgia towns.

CONTRIBUTING/NONCONTRIBUTING RESOURCES:

Contributing building(s): 1
Non-contributing structure(s): 1

V. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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

SOURCES OF INFORMATION: The Hartwell Sun, various issues; Interview with Mrs. Libby Higginbotham; see also bibliography, Item 9, National Register nomination form.

FORM PREPARED BY:

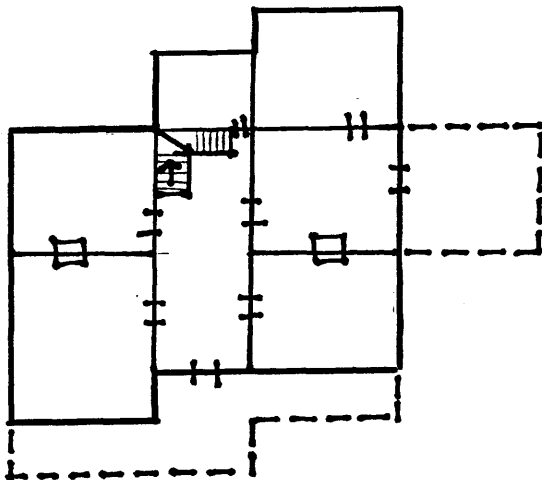
Dale Jaeger
Georgia Mountains Area Planning and Development Commission
Gainesville, Georgia

Donald Rooney
Historic Preservation Consultant
Atlanta, Georgia

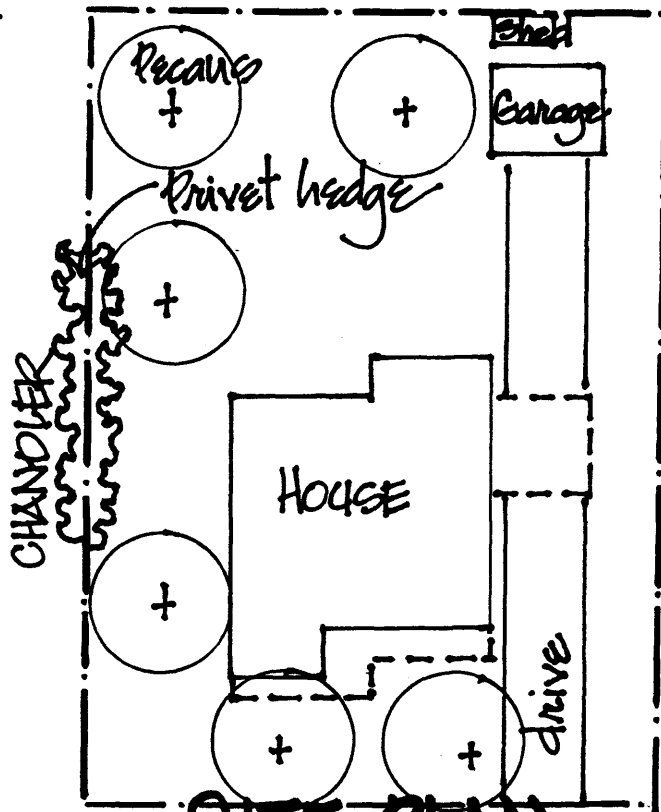
Richard Cloues
Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources
Atlanta, Georgia

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.



FLOOR PLAN



SITE PLAN

JOHNSON