

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NOV 4 1987

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Olliff, William W., Farm
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number New Hope Road N/A not for publication
city, town Register vicinity
state Georgia code GA county Bulloch code GA031 zip code 30452

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>9</u>	<u>3</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>12</u>	_____ objects
			<u>3</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Signature of certifying official Elizabeth A. Lyon Date 10/14/87
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Alvina Byers
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 12-4-87

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling (farm)Agriculture/outbuildingsAgriculture/processingAgriculture/storage

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling (farm)**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian/Italianate

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brickwalls wood/weatherboardroof Asphalt tile

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The William Olliff Farm consists of a large farmhouse, remaining historic outbuildings, and a small amount of acreage. The farm is located in rural Bulloch County, Georgia. The main house is a wood-frame, two-story, L-shaped, Victorian Era farmhouse with Italianate details. It is six bays wide, with a gable roof, original windows, a bay window, and a two-story front porch with elaborate sawn ornamentation. The original pine weatherboarding remains, as do three original chimneys. The front door has a transom and sidelights. Other exterior details include chamfered posts and sawn-wood railings on the porch and paired brackets above the bay window and in the eaves. The house is two rooms deep on the first floor with a large back ell, and only one room deep on the second floor with a small back ell. The front rooms have ornate mantels, wainscoting, and crown molding, while the other rooms have more simple mantels. Original doors and cast-iron lock boxes survive. The house is of wood-frame construction with pegged joints. The landscaping is recent although numerous mature pecan and other types of trees remain, including a magnolia tree planted in 1872 and a large pecan grove to the rear of the house. Also to the rear of the house is a well, newly built brick walks and a new fence. The historic outbuildings consist of several which have been relocated on the property--the boiler shed, wood shed and smokehouse--and those remaining at their original locations including the cotton house (1872), dairy shed near the house, and the barn and shed across the road. The sites of previous outbuildings are known. There is also a historic cane mill unit and a hog gallows near the house. The property is bordered by farmland. Changes to the property include the enclosure of a rear porch, conversion of a bedroom into a bath, the addition of a driveway and carport, the relocation of several outbuildings in the back yard, and the addition of new outbuildings.

The vernacular farmhouse with Italianate details has a two-story porch with paired chamfered posts, sawn-wood porch railing of floral or fleur-de-lis motif, scrollwork brackets, and arched door panels. The windows are 4/4 and 6/6 double-hung sash. The bay window has paired cornice brackets, the window above it has a hood with scroll brackets, and other windows have entablature-like lintels with decorative brackets. The three interior chimneys have decorative brickwork with recessed arches. The weatherboard siding and millwork, made of heart pine, have been sandblasted to remove multiple layers of paint. The roof is asphalt shingle and the foundation brick. There is a new iron and brick fence in front of the house. The brickwork of the fence replicates that of the chimneys and the iron is original fencing materials from the property. The house has a balloon frame and the sills are held together with wooden pegs. Square nails are found elsewhere and two tie rods have been implanted in the frame for extra protection against hurricanes or earthquakes.

The house has a central foyer with a staircase. The main block of the house is two rooms deep on the first floor with a wing four rooms deep. The second floor main block is one room deep with a wing two rooms deep. The floors and the vertical and horizontal wall paneling are hand-hewn heart pine.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

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Wainscoting, crown molding, and paneled doors with cast-iron lock boxes are also found throughout the house. In the front public rooms the mantels are ornately decorated with scroll brackets, panels, and Classical columns motifs. The other mantels have only a simple Classical column motif. The transom and sidelights of the entry foyer have etched glass lights. The walnut staircase in the foyer has a large carved newel post, decorative turned spindles, and carved or applique scroll motifs in the string. In the living room the bay window is set apart from the room by an elliptical arch supported by square pillars. The kitchen has exposed ceiling beams.

A few changes have been made to the house since it was built in 1872. It is believed that in 1917 the staircase was reduced in width to enlarge the size of the current study. About 1925 the rear porch was enclosed and then in 1976-77 a screened porch was added to the back of the house. At this time the former enclosed porch, became part of the current eat-in-kitchen. Also in 1976-77 a fireplace was added to the family room and an upstairs bedroom was converted to a bathroom. The electrical wiring was installed in the mid 1930s, the plumbing in the 1950s, and in 1977 modern HVAC.

On the property are several large old pecan trees as well as a large pecan grove behind the house. In the back yard, by the screened porch, is a large magnolia tree supposedly planted in 1872 by the first owner's wife. The present landscaping was done by the current owner. Among the outbuildings constructed ca. 1872 or shortly thereafter, and still in their original locations, are the barn and storage shed located across the road from the house, both in poor condition, the cotton house located south of the house, also in poor condition, and the well and dairy shed located behind the house and in good condition. There are also several other buildings on the property built about 1872 which have been moved and/or restored in 1977. These buildings are a wood shed, smokehouse, boiler shed, hog gallows and cane grinder. A few chicken houses and a privy have been completely removed and a historic grape arbor has been replaced by a new smaller one. In 1977, the current owners added to the property a storage building, carport, brick walks constructed of old brick, a brick and iron fence designed by the current owner, a paved driveway, and a covered walkway to the carport.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Commerce
agriculture
Transportation

Period of Significance

1872-1893

Significant Dates

1872

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

William W. "Bill" Olliff

Architect/Builder

Builder/Edward Ringwald

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The William W. Olliff Farm is significant in architecture, because the house is an excellent example of a Victorian Era vernacular farmhouse with Italianate details on its two-story front porch. Eve brackets, an original bay window, exterior detailing, and in the interior the stairs, mantels, wainscoting, walls, doors, locks and more are of exceptional quality in this county. The farm also is architecturally significant for its unusual number of surviving historic outbuildings which document outbuilding types and construction methods and materials in this part of south Georgia. The farm is significant in commerce, agriculture, and transportation for the role the owner, William W. "Bill" Olliff (1848-1893), played in local activities from the time the house was completed in 1872 until his death in 1893. He owned and operated the largest general store in the area from which he served people in a three-county region. From this store, he was one of the first two men in the county to sell fertilizer. Mr. Olliff also was an incorporator of a company that became a large lumber and naval stores concern and which built the first two railroads in the county, that eventually opened the county for more development. William Olliff also helped lay out the nearby town of Excelsior in 1875. In addition he was the largest landowner in the county.

The Olliff House is a landmark example of Victorian-era architecture in Bulloch County. In a sparsely developed rural county where small unpainted weatherboard houses predominate, this two-story, twelve-room farmhouse with its elaborate Italianate detail stands as an exceptional example of late 19th-century Victorian architecture in this area. Moreover, the house stands as an important example of Italianate-style architecture in the state. Popular nationally from the 1850s through the 1870s, in Georgia the Italianate style was overshadowed by the Greek Revival style before the Civil War. During the Reconstruction period, few large houses were built in the state, and even fewer in the Italianate style. Most of the materials for this house came from the area around the building site. The house was built by master carpenter Edward Ringwald (1840s-1901), an immigrant from Germany who is believed to have built other houses in the area.

The Olliff farm is significant in agriculture, commerce, and transportation for its association with the merchant/farmer, William W. Olliff (1848-1983), who built the house in 1872 and lived there until his death in 1893. After the Civil War, when William Olliff first left his family's farm to start his own, his father gave him a small amount of money to get started. Through good management and hard work he made enough money to buy 100 acres of land. He began to build his house in 1872.

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At about this time he opened a general store located across the road from his house (the store no longer exists). The store served a three-county area and became the largest general store in the area. At the store Olliff carried such items as mules, wagons, furniture, dress goods, cotton, fertilizer, and foods. Mr. Olliff regularly brought in merchandise from Savannah, Georgia and also New York City to supply his store. Of particular importance to the agricultural history of the area is the fact that Olliff was the first to sell commercial fertilizer to farmers in the area. Fertilizer revolutionized agriculture by overcoming the effects of soil depletion and increasing productivity at a time when agriculture was helping the Southern economy recover after the Civil War. William Olliff also became involved in J.W. Olliff and Company, his son's mercantile establishment in Statesboro, and the E.E. Foy Manufacturing Company, a lumber and naval stores business headquartered in Egypt, Effingham County, Georgia. Along with E.E. Foy and John E. Foy, William Olliff was responsible for building Bulloch County's first two railroads. These railroads brought convenient transportation to this rural part of the state for the first time and led to increased settlement of the countryside. They also facilitated both agriculture and commerce by making it easier to transport agricultural products and commodities to markets. The exact landholdings of William Olliff are not known, but it is believed that he was one of the largest landowners, and one of the richest men of Bulloch County.

National Register Criteria

The outstanding architectural qualities of the William W. Olliff house—particularly its relatively large size, elaborate detailing, and Italianate styling—make it eligible for the National Register in terms of Criteria C. Adding to the architectural significance of the property are the number and variety of historic outbuildings. These document once-common but now relatively rare types of historic domestic and agricultural outbuildings, their design, and their construction materials and techniques. The fact that some of the outbuildings have been moved around in the back yard does not diminish their significance as unusual surviving examples of historic outbuildings. Contributing to the architectural significance of these buildings is the fact that they remain in a largely intact historic "landscape" setting including the characteristic south Georgia pecan grove.

The property's association with William W. Olliff supports National Register eligibility in terms of Criteria B. Olliff was a wealthy and influential landowner—believed to have been the largest landowner in Bulloch County at the time. His pioneering activities in the areas of railroads and commerce helped open the area to viable agricultural development and helped sustain that rural development. In particular, his leadership in establishing Bulloch County's first railroads and in promoting commerce—particularly the sale of commercial fertilizer—contributed significantly to the development of a viable agricultural economy in the region during the second half of the 19th century. William Olliff's farm is the only historic property in the region associated with him and his achievements in the areas of transportation, commerce, and agriculture.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Sheley, Dr. Clayton D., and Brown, Robin. "Historic Property Information Form: William W. Olliff Farm, Bulloch County, Georgia" On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A
 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 12

UTM References

A

1	7	4	1	2	9	2	0	3	5	7	3	0	0	0
Zone		East	ing		North	ing								

C

1	7	4	1	2	7	0	0	3	5	7	2	6	6	0
Zone		East	ing		North	ing								

B

1	7	4	1	2	6	6	0	3	5	7	2	7	8	0
Zone		East	ing		North	ing								

D

1	7	4	1	1	0	0	0	3	5	7	2	9	0	0
Zone		East	ing		North	ing								

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the nominated property is described by a heavy black line on the attached property map.

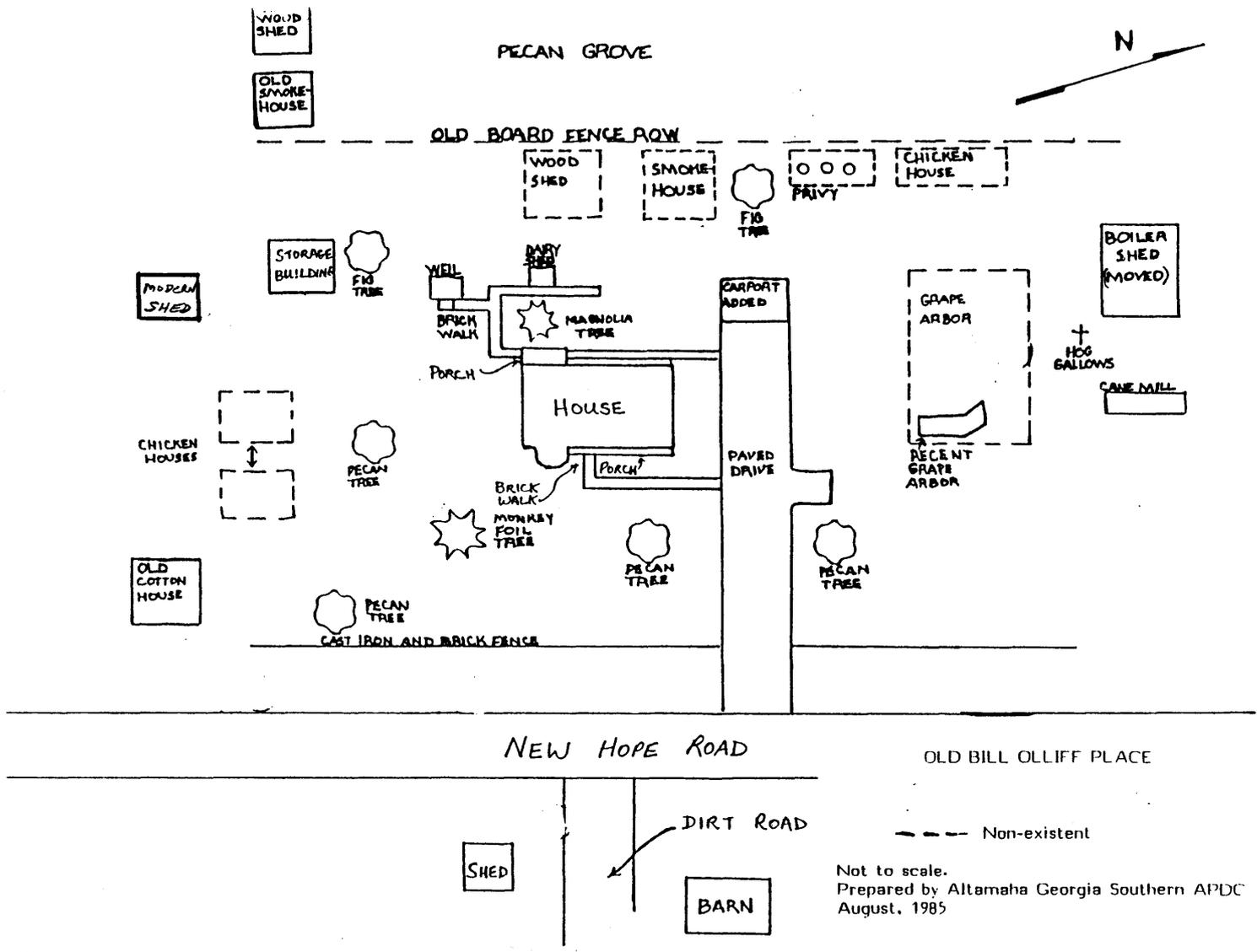
See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification The nominated property consists of the main house, the surviving outbuildings on both sides of the road, and a small amount of land. It is the intact, historic portion of the large amount of acreage once owned by the original owner. It is a small portion of what the current owners own, but the most intact historic part of the acreage.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Catherine Wilson-Martin, National Register Researcher
 organization HPS/NPS (Historic Preservation Section) date July 15, 1987
 street & number 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462 telephone (404) 656-2840
 city or town Atlanta state Georgia zip code 30334



WILLIAM W. OLLIFF FARM
 Bulloch County, Georgia

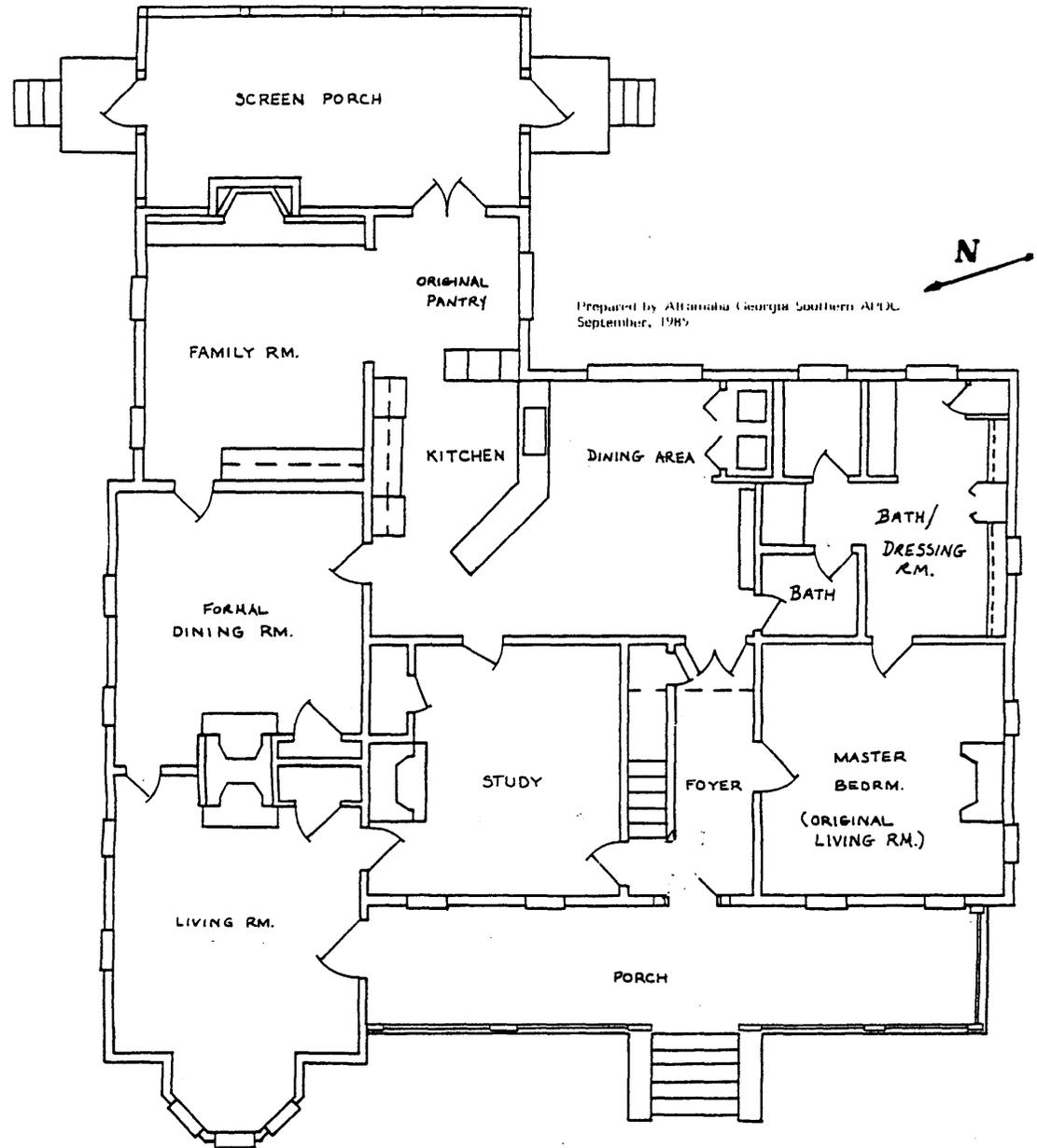
SKETCH PLAN OF PROPERTY
 Scale: Not to scale
 Legend: As marked

Not to scale.
 Prepared by Altamaha Georgia Southern APDC
 August, 1985

WILLIAM W. OLLIFF FARM
Bulloch County, Georgia

FIRST-FLOOR PLAN, FARMHOUSE

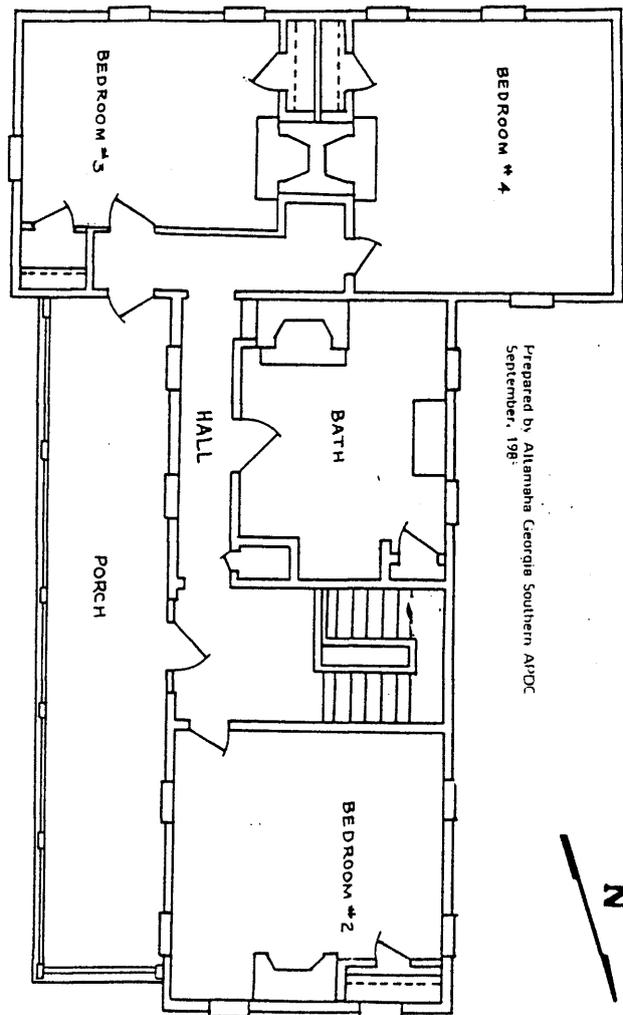
North: As indicated
Scale: Not to scale



WILLIAM W. OLLIFF FARM
Bulloch County, Georgia

SECOND-FLOOR PLAN, FARMHOUSE

North: As indicated
Scale: Not to scale



Prepared by Atlanta Georgia Southern APDC
September, 198

