

278

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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

MAR - 3

historic name Brazeal, Dr. Brailsford R., House
other names/site number Brazeal House

2. Location

street & number 193 Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard
city, town Atlanta () vicinity of
county Fulton code GA 121
state Georgia code GA zip code 30314

() not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property:

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of previous listing: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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 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 the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Richard Cross
Signature of certifying official

Feb. 25, 2005
Date

for W. Ray Luce
Director, Historic Preservation Division
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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 or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Coral Sheu 4-8-05

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman
OTHER: American Foursquare

Materials:

foundation granite, brick
walls brick
roof asphalt
other

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Dr. Brailsford R. Brazeal House is an early 20th-century house located in a late 19th-to-early 20th-century neighborhood just west of Morehouse College and the larger Atlanta University Center of which it is a part, approximately one-and-a-half miles west of downtown Atlanta. Built in 1927, the house was owned and occupied from 1940 to 1981 by Dr. Brailsford R. Brazeal (b. 1903, d. 1981), a prominent African-American educator at Morehouse College whose academic career spanned from 1928 to 1972. During his lifetime, Dr. Brazeal and his family made minor changes to the 1927 house and added a one-story rear wing in 1962. Today the house is essentially as it was when Dr. Brazeal died in 1981.

The Brazeal House is a two-story, American Foursquare-type house with modest Craftsman-style detailing. It sits on a relatively small lot facing Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard (formerly Ashby Street), a major north-south city street which separates the house and its neighborhood to the west from the Morehouse College campus and Atlanta University Center to the east. (Photograph 1.)

The main body of the 1927 house is two stories high and nearly cubical in form with a low, nearly pyramidal roof. (Photographs 2, 4, 5.) The front of the house features a full-width, one-story porch with a low, half-hipped roof. From the rear of the house extends a long, low, one-story ell added in 1962. (Photographs 8, 9.) Exterior walls are running-bond brick veneer over a wood-framed structure. Ornamentation is limited to brick window sills and a subtle alternating pattern of darker and lighter brickwork at corners. (Photographs 6, 10.) The foundation is brick-veneered stone and concrete. Windows in the main house are mostly six-over-one double-hung sash, arranged singly; windows are grouped in the living room, dining room and rear porch. A window between the first and

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

second floors on the north wall of the house indicates the location of an interior stairway landing; a very small window just below marks the location of the original first-floor lavatory. A banked pair of small windows, also on the north side wall, marks the location of the kitchen. (Photographs 3, 4.) A small, high, second-floor window centered on the rear wall indicates the location of the upstairs bathroom. (Photograph 8.) A simple projecting brick chimney with shoulders at the second-floor level rises along the south side wall; a small brick heating and cooking-stove flue rises along the rear wall. (Photographs 6, 8.) The front porch features full-height square wood posts, shallow eave brackets, a polished concrete floor, and original electric lighting fixtures. (Photograph 10.) The main roof has simple, wide, wood eaves with exposed rafters. To the rear of the main house are a historic one-story sunporch and a 1962 one-story rear ell addition. The sunporch is believed to be an early addition to the house, although it may also be original; it features narrow, banked, six-over-one windows and a low, half-hip roof. (Photographs 7, 8.) The 1962 ell is long and low with a nearly flat roof, wide, overhanging, unadorned eaves, a band of high horizontal windows along the north wall, and a wide banked picture window and sliding glass door under a projecting canopy on the south side. At the rear of the ell is a projecting brick chimney. (Photographs 8, 9.)

The interior of the main house is arranged in the Foursquare manner with four main rooms on the first floor, including a large living room and dining room and a smaller entry/stair hall and kitchen, and four bedrooms and a small bathroom and hallway on the second floor. The interior is largely intact with plaster walls and ceilings, wood floors, simple wood casings around doorways and windows, simple wood baseboards, narrow crown/picture molding, and two-paneled wood doors.

On the first floor, wide cased openings connect the entry/stair hall, living room, and dining room. (Photographs 11, 12, 13.) The entry/stair hall features a wide front door with lower wood panels and upper glassed lights separated by a shallow shelf. An original canister-type lighting fixture hangs from a decorative chain. The stairway in the entry hall has a short banister with a square, paneled newel post. (Photograph 11.) A coat closet is adjacent to the stairway. The living room fireplace has a simple molded wood surround and a marble frieze panel. The living room and the dining room feature original electric candelabra-type chandeliers; the living room also has original electric candle-type sconce lighting on either side of the front window. The kitchen, remodeled in the mid-1950s, features wood cabinets with chromed door handles and hinges and a modern vinyl floor. (Photograph 14.) Between the kitchen and the dining room, along a short corridor, is an original interior butler's pantry and closet. Also between the kitchen and the dining room, along the rear wall of the house, is a mid-1950s bathroom in the space formerly used as a breakfast nook. Underneath the stairway, accessed by a short, dead-end hallway from the kitchen, is the original first-floor lavatory, no longer used. The dead-end hallway originally opened into the living room but was closed off in the mid-20th century.

The four second-floor bedrooms are of varying sizes and shapes. Each contains a built-in closet. The bedroom over the living room has a fireplace with a surround made of paneled wood pilasters, bead-board frieze panel, and corner blocks supporting a shallow mantel shelf. (Photograph 16.) The northeast-corner bedroom was used by Dr. Brazeal as a study and retains his built-in, painted, wood bookshelves. (Photograph 19.) All the bedrooms open onto a centrally located interior hallway with

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

two linen closets. (Photograph 16.) At the west end of the hallway is the bathroom with original hexagonal-tile floor, wood chair rail, and cast-iron bathtub.

The interior of the rear sunporch features banks of tall, narrow windows and a single glassed door to the dining room. The rear ell, added in 1962, features a single large room variously known as the "family room," the "great room," the "study," and the "recreation" or "entertainment" room. It features mahogany-paneled walls, acoustical tile ceiling, and a random-coursed ledgerrock stone fireplace flanked by built-in cabinets and bookcases. (Photograph 15.) Long, narrow, high windows run along the upper portion of the ell's north wall; a bank of plate-glass windows and a sliding glass door opening onto a raised patio comprise much of the ell's south wall. (Photographs 8, 9.)

The house is situated on a small urban lot on the west side of Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard. The lot, which retains its original dimensions, is located near the middle of a short block on a rise of ground. (Photograph 1.) The front yard is landscaped with stone retaining walls, a privet hedge, and a small open lawn. (Photograph 2.) A concrete driveway with cast-concrete steps in the middle cuts through the retaining wall and runs along the north side of the house; once past the house, the driveway consists of two brick tracks now nearly obscured by groundcover. (Photograph 3.) A garage was once located at the northwest rear corner of the lot, at the end of the driveway, but it was torn down years ago and there are now hardwood trees on the site. The side and rear yards are bounded by a chainlink fence and a wood plank fence and contain several tall shade trees and small expanses of lawn. (Photographs 4, 6, 7.) Also in the rear yard is a raised terrace in the angle formed by the original sunporch and the 1962 rear addition. (Photograph 8.) The house lot is surrounded on three sides by a paved church parking lot. A concrete city sidewalk fronts the front yard.

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): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Education
Ethnic Heritage: Black
Architecture

Period of Significance:

1927-1972

Significant Dates:

1927 (construction of house)
1940 (purchase of house as residence by Brailsford R. Brazeal)

Significant Person(s):

Brazeal, Dr. Brailsford R.

Cultural Affiliation:

N.A.

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Adair Construction Company (builder)

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Brazeal House is primarily significant at the national level in the related areas of education and ethnic heritage: black as the long-time home of Dr. Brailsford R. Brazeal, a prominent African-American scholar, teacher, and administrator at nearby Morehouse College, who from the late 1920s through the 1960s made significant contributions to research, publication, teaching, and academic standards at this nationally significant African-American institution of higher learning. This house is the extant historic building most closely associated with the life and career of Dr. Brazeal who lived in the house and had his home office here from its purchase in 1940 to his retirement in 1972. It is located about a block west of, but separated by new development from, the historic Morehouse College campus which was listed in the National Register at the national level of significance as part of the Atlanta University Center Historic District in 1976.

Dr. Brazeal's contributions to African-American higher education can be summarized along three lines: through his own educational odyssey, as a teacher and mentor, and as a scholar.

Dr. Brazeal's personal educational odyssey ranged from childhood schooling in the racially segregated public schools in his hometown of Dublin, Georgia, through his doctoral degree in economics from Columbia University. Along the way he attended a state normal school and earned a bachelor's degree in economics from Morehouse College. Complementing his hard work and personal dedication, he availed himself of opportunities for support and assistance, including two fellowships from the Julius Rosenwald Fund (the Rosenwald fund is better known for its financial support for African-American public schools in the South; its individual fellowship program is less well-known). Through his aspirations, perseverance, and achievements, he stood as a paragon of African-American higher education, a clear testimonial to the possibilities of African-American higher education. And through his constant contact with young African-American students, he served as a clear, influential, and undeniable role model for African-American academic accomplishment.

As a teacher and mentor, Dr. Brazeal influenced and informed the educational careers of several generations of African-American students at a nationally prominent African-American institution of higher learning starting in the late 1920s and continuing until his retirement in 1972. Throughout his career, he was constantly and closely involved with his students. Through his many years of teaching at Morehouse College, first as an instructor and later as a professor, he exposed his students to economics, labor history, social history, and race relations, with a focus on the status and accomplishments of African Americans in these fields. As head of the Department of Economics and Business Administration, he directed courses of studies and helped develop curriculum; as Dean of Academics he promoted high standards for liberal-arts education. Outside the classroom he also mentored generations of students, inviting them into his home for orientation sessions, counseling, tutoring, and discussion. As an elected alumnus member of Columbia University's Delta Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa (1959), he helped make it possible for Morehouse College to be approved for Phi Beta Kappa chapter membership in 1967—the fourth Phi Beta Kappa chapter in Georgia, along with the University of Georgia, Agnes Scott College, and Emory University, thereby enhancing the status of its high-achieving students. In 1961, to further support higher education for African Americans at Morehouse, he served as advisor for the college's new honors program supported by the Woodrow

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Wilson National Fellowship Foundation which became second in the state of Georgia in the number of students receiving Woodrow Wilson fellowships.

As a scholar at Morehouse College, Dr. Brazeal achieved national prominence for what has become his best-known work, *The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters* (1946), a precedent-setting historical and economic account of the Pullman train-car porters and their labor union. Based on his Columbia University dissertation, this study was the first of its kind to explore the origins and importance of the nation's first African-American labor union affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. The book received critical acclaim not only in the field of African-American labor history but also in the broader fields of American economic history and race relations, and it stands as the foundation upon which all subsequent studies of this unique American phenomenon have been based.

In Dr. Brazeal's own words, in the preface to his book, he describes the goals and objectives of his work:

[A Pullman porter] is a member of a group of workers who are traditionally well known to the American traveling public. Nevertheless, caste-class concepts interpose barriers to an understanding of the occupational problems and desires of these American Negro workers. Since 1925, under Negro leadership, they have achieved a unique position in the area of labor economics as the builders of an international labor union, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. They have also pioneered in blasting away some stereotyped racial and labor ideologies which have interfered with co-operation between Negro and white workers. Tactical and organizational procedures used in building the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and in developing techniques for meeting opposition constitute a remarkable contribution to the history of organized labor in the United States.

Leo Wolman, professor of economics at Columbia University and Brazeal's academic advisor, wrote his estimation of the worth of Brazeal's work in the foreword to the book:

Students of American labor history owe a large debt to Dr. Brailsford R. Brazeal for this account of the development of a pioneer union. Unlike many standard labor histories, Dr. Brazeal's findings depend not on inadequate printed records but on wide personal observation, carried on for many years, of the work of the porters and of the life of their union. On these matters he writes with sympathy, understanding, and authority. From this book there is much to be learned, not only about trade unionism in general, but, more important, about the work sleeping car porters do, the special types of issues and grievances their work creates, and the way a minority group sets about solving its own problems in a democratic setting.

Excerpts from some of the independent critical reviews of Dr. Brazeal's work demonstrate its broad scope and the national attention it received (full citations are included in Section 9, Major Bibliographic References, of this nomination form):

Carter G. Woodson, founder of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (1915),

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

first editor of the association's *Journal of Negro History*, and originator of Negro History Week (1926) which has evolved into today's Black History Month, wrote the following in his July 1946 review of Brazeal's book:

This book is an excellent tribute to the leadership of A. Phillip Randolph. It is not a work written in the eulogistic vein but a dispassionate treatment of a hard fought battle and decisive victory of the oppressed over the oppressor. As such it is an important chapter in the history of the Negro No student of American labor history can afford to ignore this volume.

I. De A. Reid, writing in the prestigious Clark Atlanta University periodical *Phylon*, likewise remarked:

Dr. Brazeal has written a solid, factual history of that perilous journey, citing the economic, political and racial hazards encountered and indicating the ideological plans which determined its course. *The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters* is, therefore, more than the history of this nation's first international union of Negro workers affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. It is also the arresting saga of a group of marginal workers doing what most people said could not be done—organize the personal service worker, the equivalent of making bricks out of straw.

William Leiserson, an economist who had served on Franklin D. Roosevelt's Depression-era National Labor Relations Board, had this to say in the *Journal of Economic History*:

Mr. Brazeal describes the origin and development of this unique union with thoroughness and understanding. He traces sympathetically yet with judicious detachment the long struggle of the brotherhood to establish itself as a functioning organization against the bitter and often unprincipled opposition of the Pullman Company.

George Mitchell, writing in the long-running journal of social research *Social Forces*, opined:

Brazeal's is a fascinating story This is as good a case history as is to be found of the delays and obstruction which unwilling management can place in the way of self-organization of its employees

Daniel Bell, the nationally prominent sociologist affiliated with Columbia and Harvard universities, wrote in November 1946 from a somewhat different perspective:

The study is scholarly and thorough in its survey of union advances on wage and hours and seniority, on union structures, and on similar matters.... But one misses, especially here, the flesh-and-blood vitality of the union in operation. From his notes and material, it is evident that Brazeal has talked extensively and conscientiously with the union officials but rarely, it seems, with the union members. In such a union as the

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Brotherhood, this is a sad deficiency, for, more than in most cases, the Negro union is a way of life for many of its members.

[Bell's criticism was misplaced, however, as Dr. Brazeal's daughters state that their father worked several summers on Pullman cars in trains from Atlanta to New York City to gain first-hand knowledge of the Pullman porters and their working environment. Dr. Brazeal worked in the trains' kitchens as an assistant cook and came to know most of the porters and other staff who worked this south-to-north run.]

Thomas Posey, historian and sociologist, writing in the *Journal of Negro Education* in 1947, perhaps best summed up the critical reception given to Brazeal's book:

The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters by Brailsford R. Brazeal is a scholarly but fascinating account of a neglected aspect of Negro history. Although this study was undertaken according to the author "to present the problems of the Pullman porters to the American public as well as to qualify for a doctorate at Columbia University," the study, in the reviewer's opinion, is also significant because it brings out how one group of Negroes, against almost insurmountable odds, selected the trade union approach as a means of solving their problems.

Dr. Brazeal's book on the Pullman porters' union is still required reading in the fields of labor and economic history and race relations, and it has served as the basis for a number of subsequent studies and analyses of this remarkable phenomenon. Subsequent to the publication of his book, Dr. Brazeal wrote an unpublished biography of the Pullman porters' union leader, A. Phillip Randolph, and he also made occasional contributions to *Phylon*, the *Journal of Negro Education*, and the *Quarterly Review of Higher Education Among Negroes*.

This nomination is recommended at the national level of significance due to the significant historic role of Dr. Brazeal in African-American higher education. The nominated property was the home of a nationally prominent scholar associated with a nationally significant educational institution.

The Brazeal House also is significant at the local level in the area of architecture as an excellent and unusually intact example of an early 20th-century American Foursquare house with Craftsman detailing and a distinctive "modern" rear addition. The main house features the two-story height, nearly square ground plan, cubical massing, and low, almost pyramidal roof that are the principal exterior characteristics of this type of historic house. On the interior, the house has the four-rooms-on-each-floor arrangement, with the entry and stair hall serving as one of the downstairs "rooms," that also characterizes the American Foursquare house type. The "carpentered" treatment of the windows, front door, front porch, roof eaves, and stair rail reflects the still-prevailing Craftsman style of architecture which was manifest in Georgia from about 1905 into the 1950s and, in its vernacular forms, is the most common architectural stylistic influence on popular domestic architecture in the state. The rear sunporch is an architectural feature common to not only Craftsman Foursquare

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

houses but many house types and styles in the early 20th century. Adding to the architectural significance of the house is its exceptionally high degree of physical integrity—it is little changed from its original construction and virtually unchanged from the period in which it is associated with Dr. Brazeal. With minor exceptions on the first floor—the dead-ending of a short interior hallway, the conversion of the breakfast nook into a bathroom, and the refurbishing of the kitchen (all of which took place in the historic period)—the floor plan of the house is virtually unchanged, and nearly all the historic building materials and finishes on the exterior and the interior are original. The rear addition, constructed in 1962—within the period of significance for this nomination—likewise reflects the domestic architecture of its time. With its long, low overall form, its high banded windows, its banked plate-glass windows and sliding doors, its red-brick veneer, and its “great room” featuring wood paneling, stone fireplace, acoustical tile ceilings, and built-in cabinets and bookcases, the rear addition reflects the design influences of the mid-20th-century ranch house, the most popular kind of house in the Atlanta metropolitan area during the 1950s and 1960s. Although contrasting dramatically with the main house to which it is attached, the rear addition is a literal “period” piece, just as the American Foursquare main house is. Complementing the architecture of the main house is its early 20th-century domestic landscape including the stone retaining walls, hedge, open lawn, shade trees, and concrete driveway with integral steps; complementing the ranch-style rear addition is the raised patio or terrace just outside the sliding-glass doors. Although the immediate setting outside the intact historic boundaries of the property has changed dramatically, the property remains an integral part of the larger historic neighborhood just west of Morehouse College.

National Register Criteria

This house meets National Register Criterion “B” at the national level of significance for its direct association with Dr. Brailsford R. Brazeal, a nationally prominent African-American educator affiliated with a nationally prominent African-American institution of higher education. This house was the home and served as the home office of Dr. Brazeal during much of his academic career at nearby Morehouse College. It is the historic property most directly associated with his life and career.

This house meets National Register Criterion “C” at the local level of significance for being an excellent and intact variant example of an American Foursquare type of historic house with modest Craftsman-style details. It also is significant for its 1962 rear addition which in its ranch-house design reflects prevailing “modern” ideas about domestic architecture at mid-century.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

The Brazeal House meets National Register Criteria Consideration “G” (achieving or continuing to achieve significance within the past 50 years) for its direct association since 1940 with the productive life of a nationally prominent African-American educator whose career at Morehouse College in Atlanta began with his appointment as economics instructor in 1928 and ended with his retirement as Dean of Academics in 1972.

While Dr. Brazeal’s academic career may have reached a pinnacle of national acclaim in 1946 with his publication of *The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters*, his equally important educational

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

accomplishments as Morehouse College's first academic dean began in the 1940s and continued to his 1972 retirement. Among Dr. Brazeal's more notable accomplishments and acclamations within the past 50 years are three: First, as an elected alumnus member of Columbia University's Delta Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa (1959), he helped make it possible for Morehouse College to be approved for Phi Beta Kappa chapter membership in 1967—the fourth Phi Beta Kappa chapter in Georgia, after the University of Georgia, Agnes Scott College, and Emory University, and the first chapter at an African-American institution of higher education in Georgia. This greatly enhanced the status of Morehouse's liberal-arts educational program and provided further opportunities for its scholars. Second, in 1961, to further support higher education for African Americans at Morehouse, he served as advisor for the college's new honors program supported by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation which had greatly expanded its fellowship program in 1957. Under his advisement, Morehouse College became second in the state of Georgia in the number of students receiving Woodrow Wilson fellowships. It also appears to have been among the first African-American colleges to work closely with the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation as it broadened its fellowship programs in the 1960s and early 1970s to include greater diversity. Third, he received state and national recognition for his education achievements through inclusion in Cornelius Troup's 1962 *Distinguished Negro Georgians*, a "who's who" of prominent African Americans in mid-20th-century Georgia, and the first book of its kind in the United States. Troup not only included a biographical sketch of Dr. Brazeal but also asked him to write the introduction to the book. Brazeal's copy of Troup's book was signed by the author with an aphorism that sums up the high regard in which Dr. Brazeal was held: "To Dr. B. R. Brazeal with sincere gratitude for the invaluable assistance given."

The Brazeal House also reflects Dr. Brazeal's continuing educational activities and interests within the past 50 years. Throughout this period, Dr. Brazeal continued to maintain an office in an upstairs room in the house, and the house continued to serve as a gathering place for students, prospective students, college faculty and officials, and guests. In 1962, to accommodate increasing numbers of guests as well as a growing family, Dr. Brazeal built an addition onto the rear of his house which served as a family room and gathering place for guests. The house reflected up-to-date trends in domestic architecture with its ranch-house styling, rustic stone fireplace, built-in bookcases and cabinets, mahogany paneling, and attached patio.

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1927 with the construction of this architecturally significant house. It extends through 1972 to encompass the nationally significant educational career of Dr. Brailsford R. Brazeal at nearby Morehouse College which began with his appointment as economics instructor in 1928 and continued until his retirement as dean of academics in 1972. Dr. Brazeal purchased this house in 1940 and lived in it until his death in 1981.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

1 – the house

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Developmental history/historic context

The Brazeal House

This house was built in 1927 by the Adair Construction Company and was owned and occupied by members of the Adair family until 1939. It was part of a larger neighborhood that developed in the early 20th century west of a collection of African-American college campuses including nearby Morehouse College. Development of the neighborhood was supported by the presence of the nearby colleges and by a streetcar line which ran along Ashby Street (now Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard). In 1939 the house was leased to Morehouse College acting president Charles Hubert. In 1940 the house was purchased by Brailsford R. Brazeal (1903-1981), a professor at nearby Morehouse College, who used an upstairs front bedroom as his home office. At that time, Brazeal's academic career was in its ascendancy; within the next few years he would publish his best-known work, *The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters* (1946) and he would be appointed as the college's first Dean of Academics. In addition to his teaching and administrative duties, Brazeal hosted students during annual freshman weeks at Morehouse and welcomed alumni to his house. In the mid-1950s, Brazeal updated his house with a new downstairs bathroom and a remodeled kitchen. In 1962 he added a "modern" ranch-house-style rear ell which housed a large, open "family room" used for family recreation and for socializing with Morehouse College students, faculty, alumni, and others. Brazeal retired in 1969 and died at his home in 1981. Few changes have been made to the house since his death.

Dr. Brailsford R. Brazeal

Dr. Brailsford Reese Brazeal (1903-1981) was born and raised in Dublin, Laurens County, Georgia, a small city on the Oconee River just north of today's Interstate 16 between Macon and Savannah. He received his early education in the Dublin public school system and his high school education at Georgia State College and Ballard Normal School in Macon. He is reported to have moved to Atlanta in 1919 or 1920, where he completed his secondary education at Morehouse Academy in 1923. He received his Bachelor's of Art degree with honors from Morehouse College in 1927. While in college, he was interested in journalism and debate. In 1926 he was one of the first staff members of the college's still-published student newspaper, the *Maroon Tiger*. He also served as editor for the *Alumnus*, the college's periodical for graduates. He was a member of the college debating team, which belonged to the Quadrangular Intercollegiate Debating League consisting of Morehouse, Talladega, and Knoxville Colleges and Fisk University, under the tutelage of Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays, who in 1940 would become the sixth president of Morehouse College. In 1928, Brazeal received his master's degree in economics from Columbia University.

Brazeal's broad interests and collegiate record caught the eye of Dr. John Hope, the first African-American president of Morehouse College (from 1906 to 1931) and a strong proponent for liberal arts education, and in September 1928 Brazeal was hired as an economics instructor at the college. In 1934 he was appointed professor of economics, head of the Department of Economics and Business Administration, and Dean of Men. In 1938 Brazeal received his first of two Julius Rosenwald Fund fellowships for advanced studies in the field of economics. In 1940 he purchased the house which is

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

the subject of this nomination (the house previously had been leased by interim Morehouse College president Charles Hubert), and he established a home office in his new house. With financial assistance through the college, Brazeal received his Ph.D. in economics and political science from Columbia University in 1942. In 1946, the new college president and Brazeal's former debating coach Benjamin Mays appointed him as the college's first academic dean, responsible for raising the overall academic standards of the college, one of Mays' long-term goals for the college. Also in 1946, he received his second Rosenwald fellowship for his studies in economics. In addition to his teaching and administrative duties, Brazeal hosted students including Martin Luther King, Jr., during annual freshman weeks at Morehouse College and welcomed alumni to his house.

At various times in his academic career, Dr. Brazeal served as president of the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and the National Association of Collegiate Deans and Registrars, vice-president of the Association of American Baptist Educational Institutions, and member of the Executive Committee of the American Conference of Academic Deans. He also was affiliated with various educational organizations including the American Economic Association, the Academy of Political Science, the Southern Sociological Society, and the Advisory Council of the Academic Freedom Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Locally he was associated with Friendship Baptist Church and a member of the Board of Directors of the Mutual Federal Savings and Loan Association of Atlanta and the Board of Southern Regional Council.

In 1933 Brailsford Brazeal married Ernestine Vivian Erskine of Jackson, Mississippi. Ernestine Brazeal was a graduate of Spelman College, a prominent Atlanta college for African-American women whose campus is adjacent to Morehouse College, and she later earned a master's degree in American history from the University of Chicago. In Atlanta she served as an instructor at Spelman College and as the college's alumnae secretary. The Brazeals had two daughters, Ernestine Walton Brazeal (born in 1940) and Aurelia Erskine Brazeal (born in 1943). Both daughters were born in Chicago, Illinois, because their mother did not want her children born in a segregated hospital in Georgia. Mrs. Brazeal traveled by train to Chicago to have her children and brought them back home once they were a month old. Both girls attended the Northfield School for Girls in Northfield, Massachusetts, and Spelman College in Atlanta. Aurelia Brazeal currently serves as U. S. ambassador to Ethiopia. Ernestine works as a family advocate specialist for Head Start in the greater Atlanta area and lives in the Brazeal House.

In 1946 Dr. Brazeal published his best-known book, *The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters*, a historical and economic account of the Pullman train-car porters and their labor union, based on his Columbia University dissertation, which received critical acclaim not only in the field of African-American labor history but also in the broader fields of American economic history and race relations. He subsequently wrote an unpublished biography of the Pullman porters' union leader, A. Phillip Randolph. In 1959, Dr. Brazeal was elected an honorary alumnus member of Phi Beta Kappa by the Delta Chapter at Columbia University; this paved the way for Morehouse College to be approved for chapter membership in 1967. In 1961 he served as the advisor for Morehouse College's new honors program supported by the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation; under Dr. Brazeal's guidance, Morehouse was second in the state of Georgia in the number of students receiving

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Woodrow Wilson fellowships. In the 1960s Brazeal also actively participated in African-American voter education and registration drives throughout Georgia. He retired from Morehouse College in 1972, and he died at his home on April 22, 1981. He is buried in South View Cemetery off Jonesboro Road in southeast Atlanta.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Brazeal, Brailsford R. *The Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters: Its Origin and Development*. New York: Harper & Brothers, 1946.

Brown, Titus. *Faithful, Firm, and True: African American Education in the South*. Macon, Georgia: Mercer University Press, 2002. (Contains a biographical sketch of Brailsford R. Brazeal, pp. 144-145.)

Embree, Edwin R., and Julia Waxman. *Investment in People: The Story of the Julius Rosenwald Fund*. New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1949.

Troup, Cornelius V. *Distinguished Negro Georgians*. Privately printed in the United States, 1962. (Contains a biography of Brailsford R. Brazeal, pp. 38-40).

Reviews of Brazeal's Work

Bell, Daniel. *American Journal of Sociology*, vol. 52, no. 3 (Nov. 1946), 280-281.

De A. Reid, I. *Phylon*, vol. 7, no. 2 (second quarter, 1946), 203-204.

Leiserson, William M. *The Journal of Economic History*, vol. 6, no. 2 (Nov. 1946), 212-213.

Locke, Alain. *Phylon*, vol. 8, no. 1 (first quarter 1947), 17-27.

Mitchell, Georgia S. *Social Forces*, vol. 25, no. 2 (Dec. 1946), 228-229.

Northrup. *American Academy of Political and Social Sciences*, annual 246 (July 1946), 161.

Posey, Thomas. *The Journal of Negro Education*, vol. 16, no. 1 (Winter 1947), 62-63.

Weaver, Robert C. *The Journal of Negro Education*, vol. 16, no. 2 (Spring 1947), 130-135.

Woodson, Carter G. *The Journal of Negro History*, vol. 31, no. 3 (July 1946), 364-367.

General Reference

Bates, Beth Thompkins. *Pullman Porters and the Rise of Protest Politics in Black America, 1925-1945* (The John Hope Franklin Series in African American History and Culture). Durham: University of North Carolina Press, 2001.

Harris, William H. *Keeping the Faith: A. Philip Randolph, Milton P. Webster, and the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, 1925-37*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1977.

Santino, Jack. *Miles of Smiles, Years of Struggle: Stories of Black Pullman Porters*. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1989.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 9—Major Bibliographic References

Tye, Larry. *Rising from the Rails: Pullman Porters and the Making of the Black Middle Class*. New York: Henry Holt and Co., 2004.

Wilson, Joseph F. *Tearing Down the Color Bar: A Documentary History and Analysis of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1989.

Other Sources

Collins, Dorothy (Milledgeville, Georgia). E-mail communication to Jeanne Cyriaque and Richard Cloues, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, Georgia, August 21, 2003, re: childhood home of Brailsford R. Brazeal.

Palmer, Jonathan (representing the Morehouse College National Alumus Association). *Historic Property Information Form (summary version): Brailsford R. Brazeal House*. May 8, 2003. Supplemented by various subsequent e-mail and letter communications. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested**
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued**
date issued:
- 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 #**

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office**
- Other State Agency**
- Federal agency**
- Local government**
- University**
- Other, Specify Repository:**

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre (city lot)

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 739175 Northing 3737350

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is the current and historic city lot upon which the house was built and stands today at 193 Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard (formerly Ashby Street). The lot is approximately 40 feet wide by 125 feet deep. It is drawn to scale by a heavy black line on the attached "property/sketch map."

Boundary Justification

The boundary is the current and ^{-ic} ~~history~~ _o ₁ boundary for the property associated with the house.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Richard Cloues/Survey and Register Unit Manager, Deputy SHPO
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 47 Trinity Avenue, Suite 414-H
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334
telephone (404) 651-5983 **date** February 25, 2005
e-mail richard_cloues@dnr.state.ga.us

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable) () not applicable

name/title Jonathan Palmer
organization Morehouse College National Alumni Association
mailing address 4100 Sheridan Avenue South
city or town Minneapolis **state** MN **zip code** 55412
telephone 612-529-2502
e-mail jhpalmerjp@aol.com

- () **property owner**
() **consultant**
() **regional development center preservation planner**
(X) **other:**

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Ernestine Brazeal
organization (if applicable)
mailing address 193 Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard
city or town Atlanta **state** GA **zip code** 30314
e-mail (optional)

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Dr. Brailsford R. Brazeal House
City or Vicinity: Atlanta
County: Fulton
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: August 25, 2003

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 19

1. View of house from across Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard (formerly Ashby Street); photographer facing west.
2. House and front yard, from Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard (formerly Ashby Street); photographer facing southwest.
3. Front yard with driveway; photographer facing southwest.
4. North side of house; photographer facing south.
5. Front and south side of house, from across Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard (formerly Ashby Street); photographer facing northwest.
6. Front and south side of house; photographer facing northwest.
7. Rear of house; photographer facing northeast.
8. Rear of house, showing original sunporch (right) and 1962 addition (left); photographer facing northeast.
9. Rear of house, 1962 addition; photographer facing southeast.
10. Front porch; photographer facing southwest.
11. Front entry hall, from living room; photographer facing north.
12. Living room, from entry hall; photographer facing southwest.
13. Dining room, from living room; photographer facing west.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

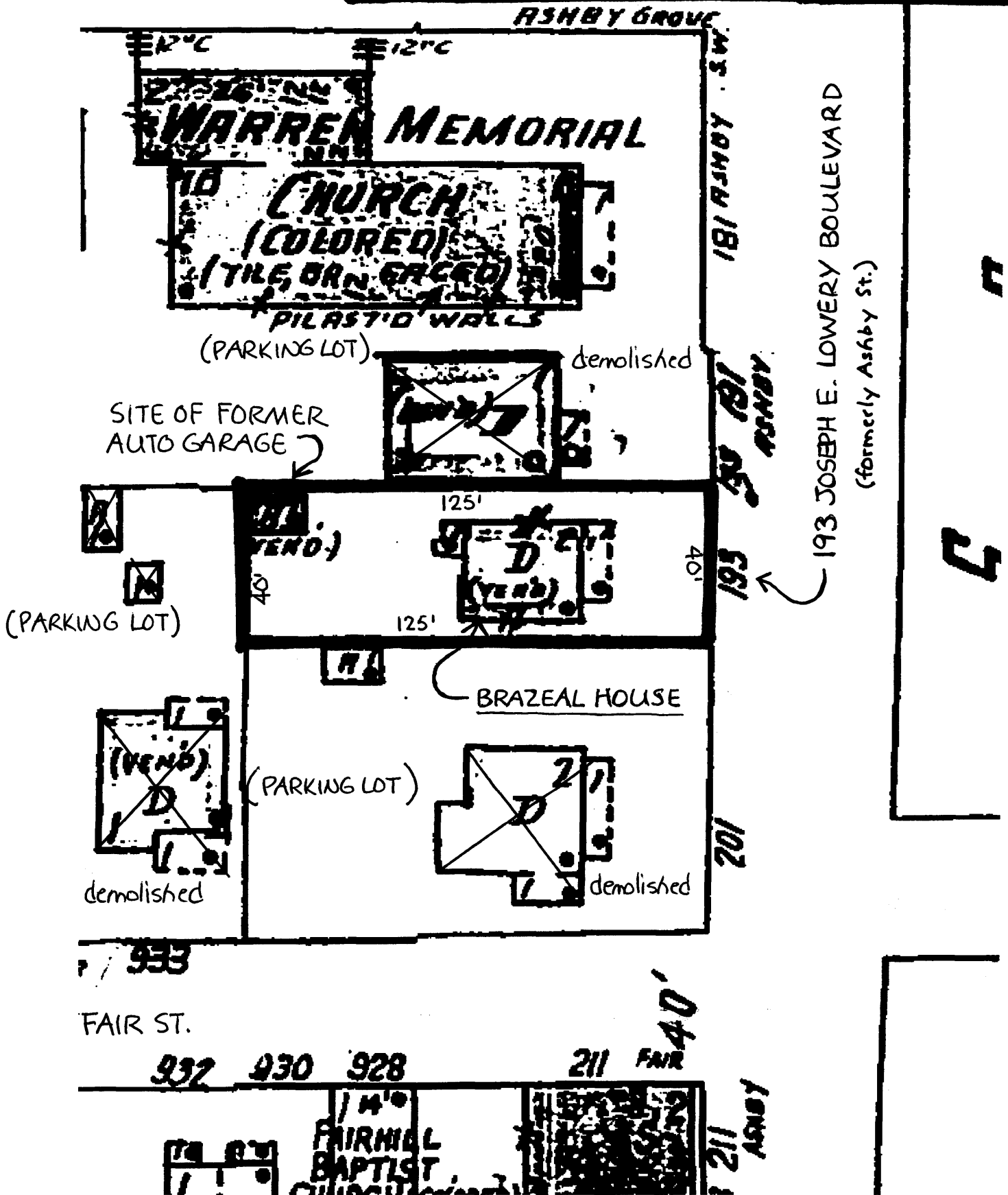
14. Kitchen and butler's pantry, dining room to rear through doorway; photographer facing southeast from kitchen.
15. Stone fireplace, built-in bookcase cabinets, and paneling, south end of 1962 rear addition; photographer facing northwest.
16. Upstairs hallway, stairway on right; photographer facing west.
17. Front bedroom, southeast corner of second floor; photographer facing southwest.
18. Rear bedroom, southwest corner of second floor; photographer facing southwest.
19. Dr. Brailsford S. Brazeal's study (home office) with built-in bookcases, northeast corner of second floor; photographer facing north.

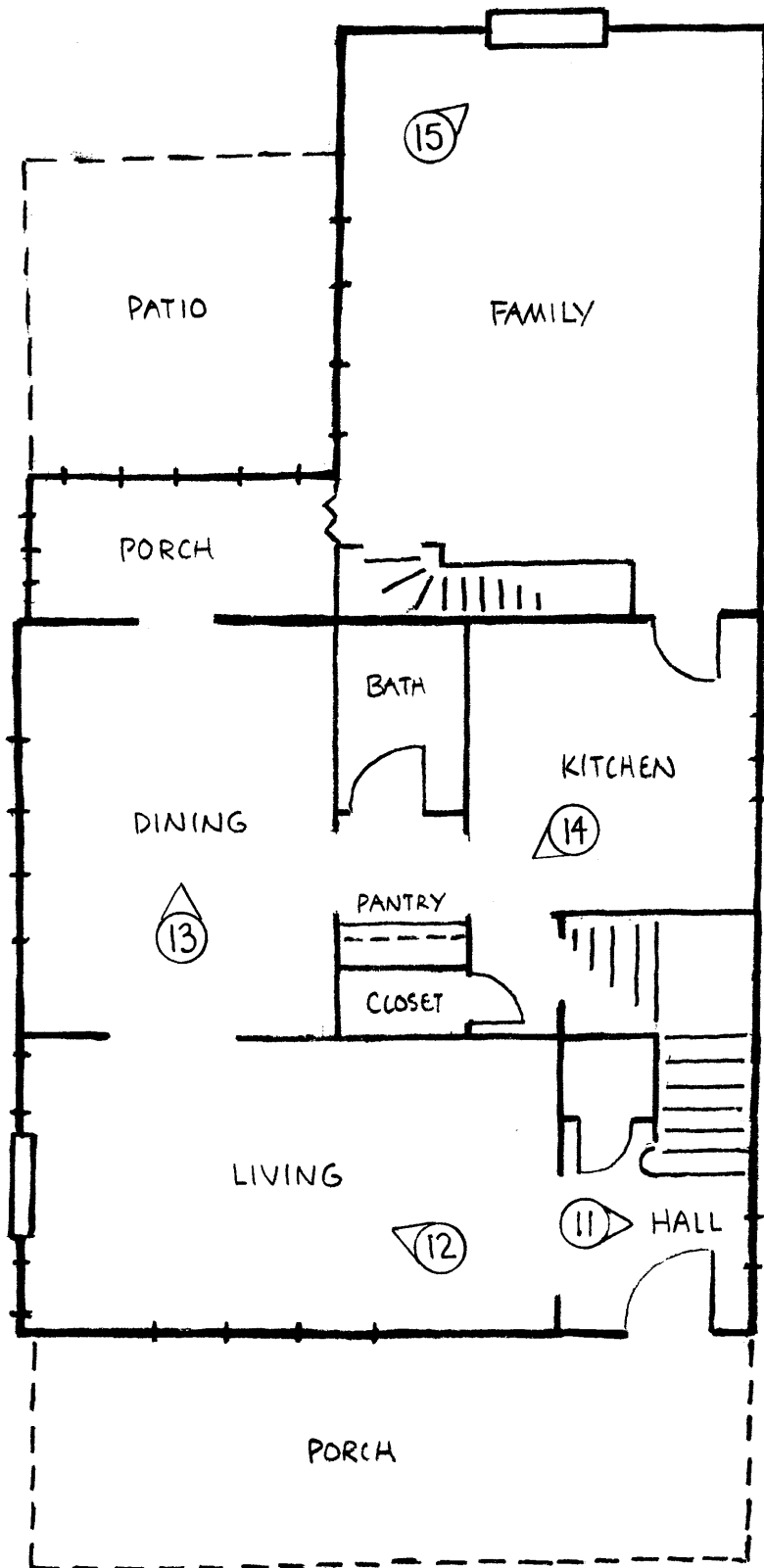
(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

PROPERTY/SKETCH MAP

Scale: 1" = 40' North: ↑ Boundary: ———

ASHBY GROVE





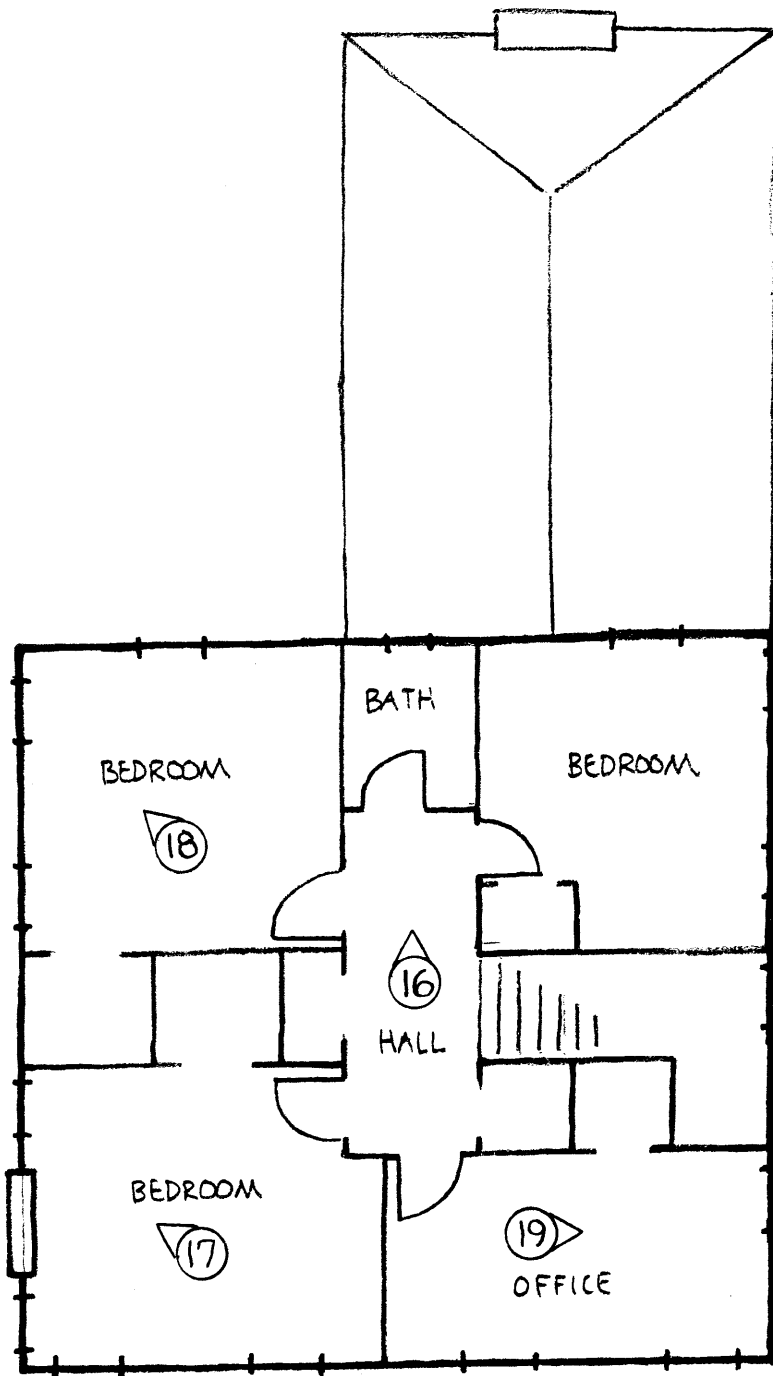
Dr. Brailsford R. Brazeal House
 Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia

FIRST-FLOOR FLOOR PLAN

Scale: not to scale

North: →

Photograph: ○▶



Dr. Brailsford R. Brazeal House
Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia

SECOND-FLOOR FLOOR PLAN

Scale: not to scale

North: →

Photograph: ◐