

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 91000908

Date Listed: 8/1/91

Brown House
Property Name

Henry
County

GEORGIA
State

Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patrick Andrus

Signature of the Keeper

8/2/91

Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 8

This nomination was amended to show the period of significance as 1883-1941 and to delete 1826 as a significant date.

The change was confirmed by phone with the Georgia SHPO (8/2/91).

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

NATIONAL REGISTER

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

historic name BROWN HOUSE
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 71 Macon Street
city, town McDonough (N/A) vicinity of
county Henry code GA 151
state Georgia code GA zip code 30253

(N/A) not for publication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:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

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.

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Signature of certifying official

6/10/91
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon
State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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

Patrick Andrews 8/1/91

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

ja
Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/hotel
DOMESTIC/single family

Current Functions:

SOCIAL/clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

N/A. No architectural style, an evolved house type.

Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	wood
roof	asphalt shingles
other	n/a

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Brown House sits a block south of the central business district of McDonough, a county-seat community, approximately thirty miles south of Atlanta.

The Brown House is a two-story, frame, evolved eclectic building with a two-story portico, exterior end chimneys, and a rear ell. The original structure is believed to have been a one-story, four-room house built c. 1830. It was built in the plain style, with major additions and changes made in 1883 when the second story was added and it became a hotel. A rear "ell" wing was also added.

The exterior has lapped wood siding, gable-end chimneys (two on the left or south side, one on the right or north side), and, on the lower level, windows (front) that have two-over-two sash (c. 1890). All other windows are nine-over-nine. Most windows are historic.

Other exterior details include the lower-level window facings. The railing on the second level of the front portico has scroll cut pickets. These are recycled from an earlier two-tier full-length Victorian front porch, c. 1883. There is an original, six-panel front door with cast-iron pull lock. The front entrance has divided sidelights and transom.

The plan of the lower level contains four rooms with central hall and right rear "ell." On the upper level the hall goes perpendicular or transverse to the downstairs central hall. The upstairs is reached by a narrow stair on the north side of the central hall. The floor plan of the upstairs includes three rooms facing the front facade or east side, two rooms on the other side of the hallway facing the west

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side, plus two rooms in right rear "ell," one of which is a large dormitory-style room.

There are wide (6") heart-of-pine floors. The left front room has wide (12") wood wall boards. All other rooms have plaster walls and ceilings. Before restoration, there was modern paneling in many rooms, but plans are to remove this as restoration continues.

The first-floor, left or south front room has a chair rail and wainscot. The right or north front room has wooden panels under the windows. There are angled corner fireplaces. In the rear "ell" there are simple vernacular mantles.

The house has heavy timber (pine) house framing with mortise and tenon joints.

The historical heating system was open wood burning fireplaces. Present heating (until restoration) is gas space heaters. There is no air conditioning. The plumbing system is relatively modern. The electrical system was added at various times in the twentieth century.

The terrain is relatively flat with a two-step rise from the front sidewalk. There are large pecan trees in the left and right side yards and a large magnolia in the front yard.

There are no extant outbuildings. The archaeological potential is unknown, but definitely exists due to the site's 150-year habitation.

The Brown House is located only a block from the town's courthouse square, in the midst of a mixed institutional and residential area. A nearby church is very close to the nominated property.

Changes to the house include the right rear "ell" additions; the addition of the second floor in 1883; and the various changes to the front porch, now reduced to a two-tier portico c. 1989. The right rear kitchen was added c. 1940.

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):

ARCHITECTURE; COMMERCE AND TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance:

1826-1941

Significant Dates:

1826; 1883

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Unknown

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Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Brown House is a historic hotel located just off the town square in a small Georgia county seat community. The building's location contributed to its use and accessibility. The Brown House is significant in commerce and transportation because it was an important local hotel serving travelers and businessmen in the small county-seat town of McDonough, founded in 1823. Serving as a hotel after 1883, it was voted by travelers of the times as "the most hospitable and home-like hotel between Macon and Atlanta." The hotel was owned and operated by Mrs. Sallie Knott Brown, a widow, and reflects one of the few occupations open to single women in the late 19th century. It was built shortly following the 1882 arrival of the railroad to McDonough, opening the city up to more outside commerce through the new transportation link. It was to meet this new commercial need, that is the business brought by the railroad, that Mrs. Brown expanded her hotel to include a second floor with a large dormitory-like room for travelers as well as individual rooms. Although hotels like this one were once common, they are now relatively rare; this is one of two surviving hotels in McDonough associated with the town's history of transportation and commerce. It is also significant in architecture because, even though its front porch has been severely altered, it is a good example of a small-town wood-framed hotel building and still reflects a house/hotel on the interior, with the small, second-story rooms and the second floor itself, made from recycled parts of the original house. The hotel retains much of its original materials including wide, hand-planed floor and wall boards, simple mantels, angled fireplaces, and an original, simple staircase. Such hotels were once common landmarks in small Georgia towns, but owing to their wood construction and location adjacent to expanding central business districts, relatively few have survived to show what these historic small-town hotels were like.

National Register Criteria

The Brown House meets National Register criterion A because it reflects the "broad patterns of our history" in that it was a hotel built and expanded to meet the needs of travelers who were flocking to this county seat community because of the recent advent of the railroad. The owner, a widow, ran the hotel as her occupation, thus supporting herself and any of her unmarried daughters who remained at home, a common family commercial venture for the late 19th century.

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The hotel became well known in later years as a boarding house and dining room where important townspeople gathered for lunch, in effect a local club of sorts. During the construction of the new county courthouse, the second floor "dormitory" room also served as a temporary location for the county's superior court. A later owner, J. A. Fouche, was both the local newspaper owner/editor at various times as well as clerk of the Superior Court, both very important community positions. All of these various uses of this property reflect its important role within the community and small town life, so basic a part of American history.

The Brown House also meets National Register criterion C because it contains many original features of its two-phase construction, including hand-planed boards, original windows, doors, wainscoting, and window panels as well as its typical first-floor central hall plan and its unusual second-floor hotel-room arrangement. It also is important because it is a surviving frame hotel building, most of which were lost due to fires in many communities. Its second floor shows the utilitarian function underlying its construction. It has five small rooms for guests and a large, dormitory-like room where guests could stay for cheaper rates. These rooms were only built so that they could be rented out for travelers.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

The period of significance from the proposed construction date of the house/hotel in its original configuration (1826) until 1941, the end of the historic period. It was used as a house for the owners from the beginning through the historic period. During the latter near 60 years it was used continuously as a hotel, boarding house, and community dining room/restaurant.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if applicable)

N/A

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Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

McDonough's historic Brown House Hotel is among the oldest surviving buildings in Henry County, Georgia. Built sometime about 1826, or soon thereafter, for Andrew McBride, the Brown House was a private dwelling throughout most of the 19th century, and evidence suggests that it was originally a one and one-half story cottage of a type often found in the south in its day. The original structure contained four major rooms with a central hall and likely a room or two in the long roof gable upstairs. These original rooms were floored, walled and ceiled with boards of heart pine. Beneath the southwest corner room remains the cellar, whose fireplace indicates that it may have served as a kitchen. Both the front and back entrances contained double doors which, when opened, allowed cooling breezes to pass through the house, thereby making the central hall a pleasant sitting room in hot summer weather.

Andrew McBride was a Revolutionary War veteran who came from Abbeville District, South Carolina, first to Jasper County, Georgia, where he was a prominent citizen, and then soon after its creation in 1821, to Henry County. He was among the original purchasers of town lots in the village of McDonough on May 12, 1823, and he has been described as a well-to-do gentleman of the community. Aside from his lot and house in town, he owned a farm of 127 acres, purchased in 1825, just beyond the southwest limits of McDonough on what was early called the Burnt Mill Road, now Georgia Highway 20.

McBride made his will in 1836, shortly before his death. References in the will to grape cuttings suggest that he grew improved varieties of grapes for wine making and it is possible that he did so for commercial purposes, although unlikely on a large scale. McBride was unmarried and left no children, whereby his property was divided among his nieces and nephews, the children of his sister, Sarah McBride Brown. As had Andrew McBride, the Browns came from Abbeville District, South Carolina, to Jasper County, Georgia and to Henry County in its earliest settlement. It must be noted in this connection that these Brown heirs of Andrew McBride were an entirely different family from the Browns who later owned the McDonough house and who operated it as a hotel.

In 1837, Robert Brown, Esquire, of Jasper County, as Executor of the Estate of Andrew McBride, deceased, sold this property including this house to Henry W. Tindall for \$1220. Tindall held the property until 1841, when it was sold at a Sheriff's sale to Hendley Varner, a wealthy citizen of the county. No doubt the fact that this was a forced sale accounts for the sale price of \$700. Hendley Varner often bought and sold real estate as part of his usual business activities

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and after less than three months, and for the sum of \$800, he sold the house to William Markham.

William Markham (1811-1890) had come from Connecticut and was the maker of the well-known Markham Clock. He was married to Miss Amanda Berry of Henry County in 1839, and while there is no record, it is possible that they rented the house from Tindall and Varner until they purchased it in 1841. Several of the Markham children were born there, but the house proved a rather temporary residence as a few years after buying it, Markham began construction of "White Chimneys," his country estate on the Fayetteville Road several miles west of McDonough. In 1852, Markham sold this house in McDonough, which he had undoubtedly rented out after his move to White Chimneys, and about 1853 the Markhams removed to Atlanta and became prominent in that city's early development. Their properties included Atlanta's noted Markham House Hotel.

The 1852 purchaser of the property was Asa R. Brown, from whose family the Brown House acquired its present name. Asa Brown was a son of Benjamin Brown, a native of Scotland who had settled at Peachstone Shoals in Newton County, just across the Henry County line at South River. Asa Brown was married to the former Sarah Knott (1823-1898), daughter of James Knott who owned McDonough's Globe Hotel, one of the town's very first hotels and which still stands near the Court Square at 20 Jonesboro Street. The Globe Hotel was listed on the National Register in 1985. Asa Brown was a businessman with commercial property in McDonough, and as he had six daughters, it seems certain that the Brown House was a private residence for his family during his lifetime. Its use as a hotel appears to date from after his death in 1874. The Asa Brown family occupied the Brown House during the Civil War (1861-1865) when McDonough witnessed many stirring scenes and suffered the effects of invasion by Union Forces in 1864.

The earliest known reference to the Brown House as a hotel is found in March of 1883 when the local newspaper noted that Mrs. Asa Brown was having a second floor added to the house, which was identified as her "hotel building." Thus the history of this building as a hotel dates from sometime between 1874 and 1883. In the process of installing the full second floor, Mrs. Brown had the old heart-pine walls and ceilings removed from several of the original downstairs rooms and used their boards to make flooring for the new additions. This causes the second floor rooms to appear older than they really are. The 1883 changes undoubtedly included the construction of the two-tiered front porch, with Victorian trim, which marked the front facade of the house until it was removed in 1954. A one-level front porch existed for a number of decades until the present porch was

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reconstructed in 1989. Balusters from the 1883 porch are incorporated into the present upper level of the two-story portico.

An item in the Henry County Weekly of July 21, 1893 states:

"The old reliable Brown House is voted by the traveling public to be the most hospitable and home like hotel between Macon and Atlanta. There is no better hostess than Aunt Sallie Brown and no more genial and clever gentleman than Alex Lemon."

Alexander A. Lemon (1861-1904) had married Eudora Brown (1859-1901), one of Mrs. Brown's daughters, and he assisted in the hotel's operation. It is clear that as the daughter of McDonough's old hotel-keeper, James Knott, Mrs. Brown was well qualified to conduct her business at the Brown House. This business no doubt prospered when the East Tennessee, Virginia and Georgia Railroad was opened through McDonough in 1882, bringing a burst of commercial activity to the town which it had not experienced since it had been bypassed by the old Macon and Western Railroad in 1843. Between 1843 and 1882, McDonough business had been in decline while the railroad towns had prospered, but in 1882, this completely changed and it accounted for Mrs. Brown's enlarging her hotel in 1883. McDonough continued to prosper, with several relatively minor interruptions, until the great Cotton Crash of 1921 and subsequent Great Depression of 1929 and beyond.

Among Mrs. Brown's additions to the hotel was the large upstairs back room which served a needed and historic purpose for Henry County during the year 1897 when the Superior Court met there while the new courthouse was under construction. This room was undoubtedly built to contain several beds which could be rented at lower rates than the private rooms. Under later ownership by the Fouche family, it is known that six or seven beds were kept in this room. Such facilities were common in old taverns and hotels and Mrs. Brown had undoubtedly seen this done at the old Globe Hotel in McDonough's early history. Early travelers' accounts often refer not only to several beds in a common room, but often, at crowded times, to several occupants in each bed.

After Mrs. Brown's death in 1898, her daughter Eudora and her husband, Alex Lemon, continued to operate the Brown House until they died. She was killed in a train wreck in 1901, he died in 1904, whereupon their children sold the place to Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Fouche of Dawson, Georgia. Under the Fouche ownership, and according to the needs of the times, the Brown House served as a private residence for the Fouche family, as a hotel, and as a boarding house. After the Great Depression, it was primarily a private residence and boarding

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house, and a major feature of the establishment was the Brown House dining room which occupied a kitchen and dining wing added off the south rear of the house and connected by the back porch. (This wing was removed in 1954.) During the years of its service, the large dining room contained three long tables and one family table, all covered with white linens, and seated perhaps as many as fifty persons at one time. The Henry County Grand Jury habitually took meals there, as did many businessmen of the community. According to the custom of the day, it primarily served gentlemen as ladies seldom took meals in public or even semipublic establishments. Breakfast and dinner, as the large midday meal was then called, were the meals customarily served to the public. A standard and popular feature of breakfast was corn cakes, and a regular item on the dinner table was a particularly good pickled coleslaw. This midday dinner was a substantial affair consisting, not only in public rooms, but in private houses as well, of several large platters of meats of different kinds, a large variety of vegetables, fresh breads, sweetmeats and a variety of cakes and pies.

A feature of the grounds for generations has been the big magnolia tree which still flourishes beside the front porch and which Mrs. Fouche remembered as being in full bloom in the year of her 18th birthday. Mrs. Fouche's interests included ornamental gardening and one of her prizes was a green rose, so called because its blooms bore a green cast. Under the Fouche ownership, the house contained fine and valuable pieces of old furniture and porcelain which had been passed down in the Fouche family since the 18th century.

Mr. J. A. Fouche was owner and editor from time to time of the local newspaper, the Henry County Weekly, his brother-in-law James Brown having been editor as well. Mr. Fouche served Henry County as Clerk of the Superior Court from 1906 to 1914, and again from 1922 until his death on March 4, 1923. His daughter, Miss Bess Fouche, served as clerk from 1923 to 1925, and again from 1950 to 1968. She became the heir to the Brown House and sold it in 1954 to Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Goodhue who used the building as their residence and as a law office for Mrs. Goodhue, who was the well-known Hattie Lewis Goodhue of McDonough. The Goodhues made several changes to the house, including the removal of the long, two-tiered Victorian porch and its replacement with a different porch. Interior walls were covered with paneling, the kitchen and dining wing was removed and other changes were made.

In 1982, Marshall Goodhue sold the Brown House to Deitrick Spille, who with his wife occupied the house for four years. In 1986, the Spilles sold the property to Mr. and Mrs. William R. Smith of McDonough who on November 8, 1987, deeded the historic building to

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Henry County Landmarks, Inc., for use as a county museum and as a memorial to their daughter, Frances Smith Belcher.

The local historical organization, recently renamed the Henry County Historical Society, is restoring the building. Plans call for part of it to be the Henry County Museum. The facility will be used for receptions, as well as meeting space for other local organizations. One of the front parlors has been restored with period furniture and decor by Mr. and Mrs. William R. Smith, the donors.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Brown, Bernice; Mack Moseley and Bud Firebaugh. [Brown House], Historic Property Information Form, October 17, 1989, including essay on "The Brown House" by Joseph H. H. Moore. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) 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 #

Primary location of additional data:

- (X) State historic preservation office
- () Other State Agency
- () Federal agency
- () Local government
- () University
- (X) Other, Specify Repository: Henry County Historical Society, McDonough, GA.

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre.

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 765250 Northing 3704130

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is marked on the enclosed 1983 plat as a portion of the property owned by the owners.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is that part of the parcel owned by the owners which was the original house lot with a 66 foot frontage on Macon Street.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian.
organization Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334
telephone 404-656-2840 **date** June 6, 1991

(HPS form version 11-02-90)

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National Park Service

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Photographs

Name of Property: Brown House
City or Vicinity: McDonough
County: Henry
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: August, 1990

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 10: Front facade, photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 10: Front facade, closeup of front portico. Photographer facing west.
- 3 of 10: South facade, photographer facing north.
- 4 of 10: Rear or west facade, north side. Photographer facing southeast.
- 5 of 10: Rear or west facade, south side. Photographer facing northeast.
- 6 of 10: First floor, central hall. Photographer facing east.
- 7 of 10: First floor, southeast parlor. Photographer facing southeast.
- 8 of 10: First floor, middle room in ell with angle fireplace (covered over). Photographer facing west.
- 9 of 10: Second floor, stair landing. Photographer facing north.
- 10 of 10: Second floor, northeast corner room on the front (east) side. Photographer facing northeast.

Floor Plan

Brown House

McDonough, Henry County, Georgia

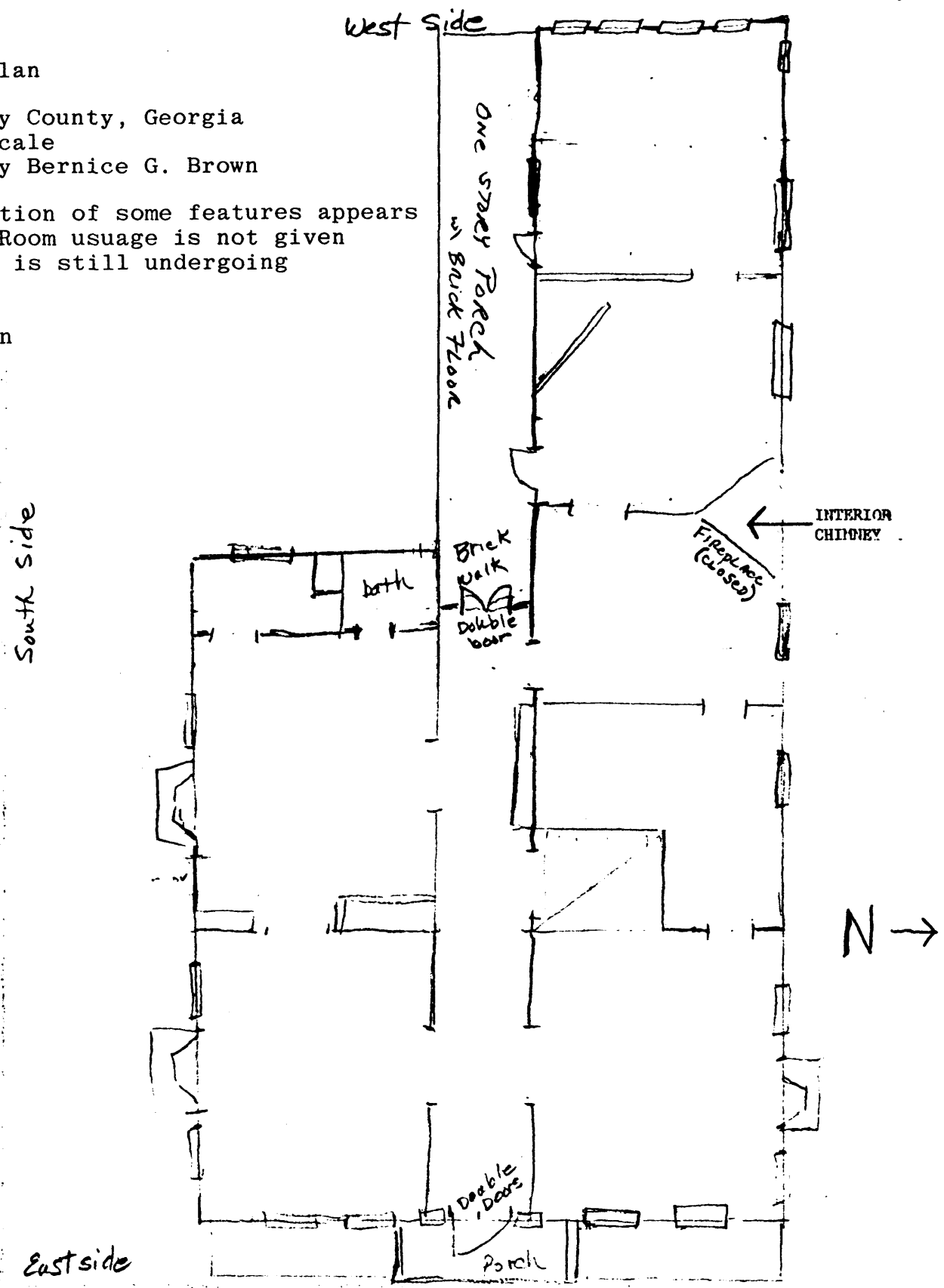
Scale: not to scale

Source: Drawn by Bernice G. Brown

Date: 1989

Key: Identification of some features appears on the plan. Room usage is not given since property is still undergoing restoration.

First Floor Plan



west side

Floor Plan

Brown House

McDonough, Henry County, Georgia

Scale: not to scale

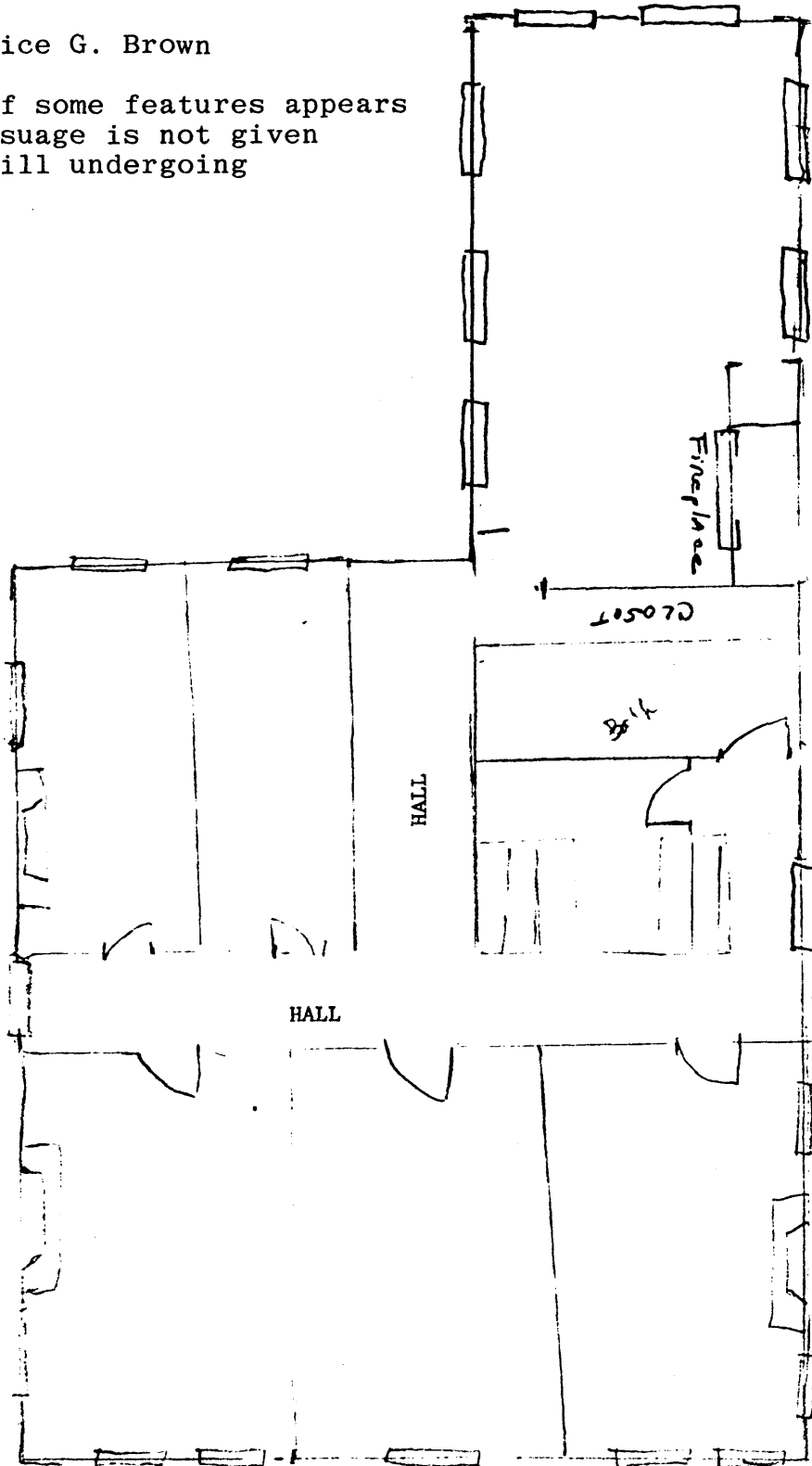
Source: Drawn by Bernice G. Brown

Date: 1989

Key: Identification of some features appears on the plan. Room usage is not given since property is still undergoing restoration.

Second Floor Plan

South side



N →

East side

30

Plat Map
 Brown House
 McDonough, Henry County, Georgia
 Scale: 1" = 40' as marked on the plat
 Source: Drawn by W. R. Franks, land surveyor
 Date: 1983

Key: The nominated property is that part of the parcel marked by a heavy black line and fronting 66' on Macon Street.

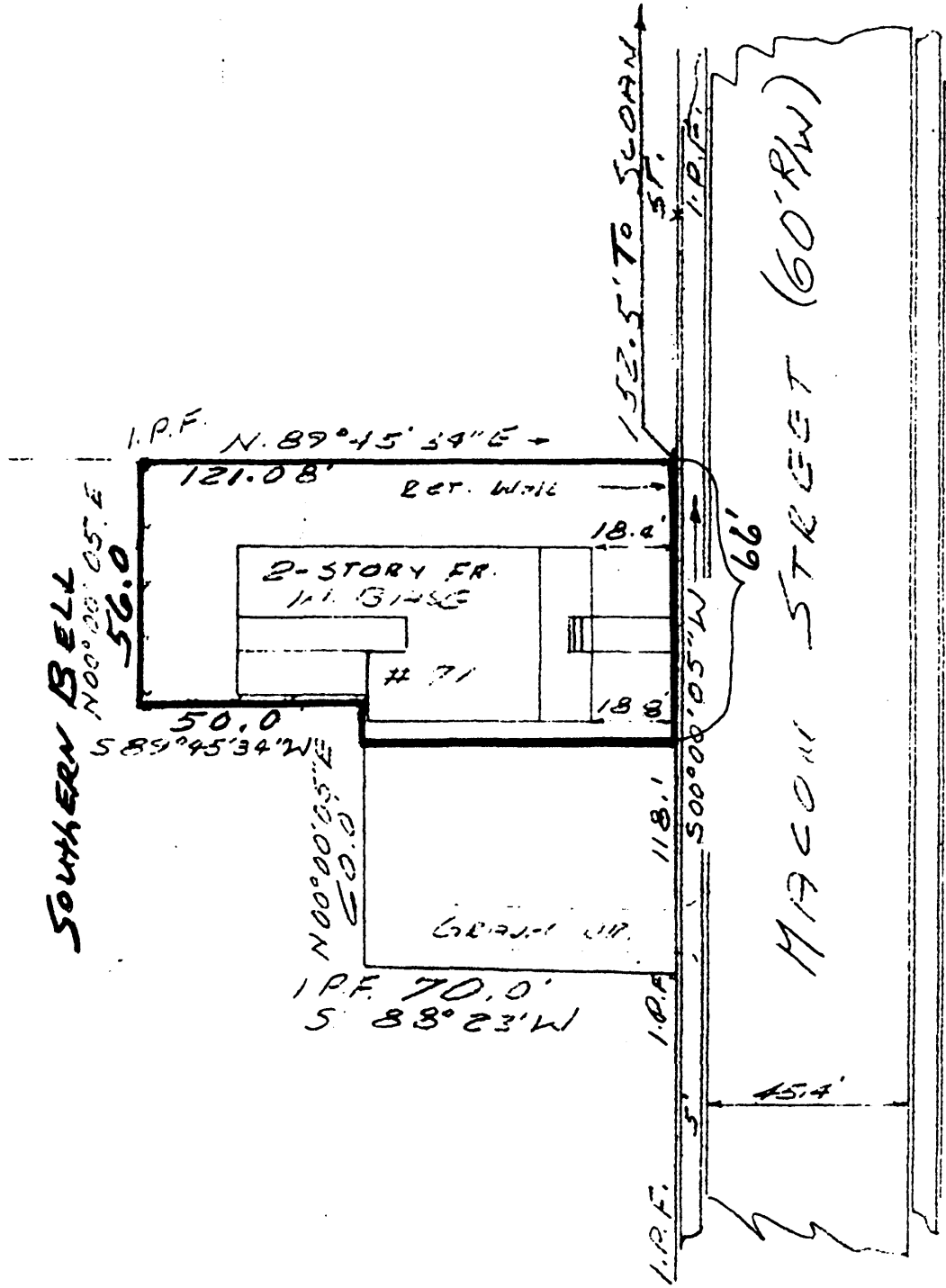


In my opinion, this plat is a correct representation of the land platted and has been prepared in conformity with the minimum standards and requirements of law.

[Signature]
 Reg. No. 871

BASED ON THE INFORMATION SHOWN ON THE FLOOD HAZARD BOUNDARY MAPS FURNISHED BY THE DEPT. OF H. U. D. THROUGH THE FEDERAL INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION, IT IS MY OPINION THAT THE PROPERTY SHOWN HEREON IS *Outside* OF THE FLOOD HAZARD AREA.

[Signature]



MIDNIGHT NORTH