

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 02 1989

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 Roberts, Col. William T., House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 8652 Campbellton Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Douglasville

N/A vicinity

state Georgia

code GA

county Douglas

code GA097

zip code 30133

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
<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</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. N/A See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Elizabeth A. Lyon, Deputy SHPO

Date 1/26/89

Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
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:)

Shelore Byers Entered in the National Register 3/2/89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)
 DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
 RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/
 CLASSICAL REVIVAL

foundation brick
 walls synthetics
 wood
 roof asphalt
 other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Col. William T. Roberts House, a restrained example of the Classical Revival style, is a two-story, wood frame house, built on the central hall, four-over-four room plan. It features two side porches and a full width, one-story front porch with a second story, covered balcony. The original wood exterior of the house has recently been covered with aluminum siding; the porches and railings remain wood. There is pressed metal scrollwork over the front entrance portico and original balusters on all porches. The house rests on a 1.5 acre lot with extensive landscaping. It is located in a residential neighborhood in the small county-seat town of Douglasville.

The first floor plan consists of a central hall with two rooms on each side. The two on the left, an original parlor and a dining room, are separated from each other and the central hall by pocket doors. The two on the right were originally a parlor and a bedroom. A stairway leads to the second floor from the far end of the hall. There is a small conversation area with two facing, built-in seats to the left of the front door, within the hallway. There is also a built-in seat adjacent to the stairway. The front entrance doorway has two doors, each with stained glass. The original heart-of-pine woodwork abounds on the first floor, in the original floors, door surrounds, bull's-eye moldings, chair rails, wainscoting, and dowel screens. The dining room contains a built-in china cabinet with its original door. All the doors and mantels are original. Many mantels are placed in the corners, many contain overmantels with mirrors, and most have their original tile. They also contain original metal coal grates.

The second floor consists of four rooms, all original bedrooms, around a central hall, and a balcony over the front porch. There is one bathroom on the second floor. The second floor retains all of its original materials just as the first floor. The doors to the bedrooms have clear-glass transoms above them. The three windows on the stair landing between the first and second floors contain identical clear, leaded-glass designs.

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The original plumbing and wiring has been replaced and the house now has forced-air central heating. Air conditioning has also been installed in the house. The grounds contain many varieties of trees and shrubs including: red cedar (over 100 years old), white oak (60 years old), water oak, red oak, blackjack oak (over 80 years old), numerous water oaks, pecan trees, persimmon, sweet gum, loblolly pines, etc. There are no surviving outbuildings.

The house is just southeast of the commercial center of Douglasville, the Douglas County seat. It was built on a tract of land that was once part of a cotton field along one of the oldest residential streets in the city. It is surrounded by other large homes, some much older than others. It is across the street from a large public school complex.

Changes to the property have been significant but have not changed the basic character, design, massing and overall feel of the property. In 1979, the kitchen was modernized, new plumbing added, sheetrock added to the interior walls in lieu of the original plaster, and a new room added to the back of the house on the first floor. At this time the exterior aluminum siding was added over the original wood siding. The roof was replaced and in the process the historic chimneys were removed and not replaced. Despite these changes, when compared to an historic 1909 photograph, the house and its setting appear virtually unchanged.

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 GN/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

architecture

politics/government

Period of Significance

1901-1938

1901-1918

Significant Dates

1901

1911, 1914

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Roberts, Col. William T.

Architect/Builder

N/A

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Col. William T. Roberts House is significant in architecture and politics and government.

In architecture, the Roberts House is a good example, as the dwelling house built by one of the "most important people in town", of the use of the Classical Revival style when it was built in 1901. The style's use is very restrained on the exterior, reflected only in its overall massing and some classical motifs on the portico and the porches. However, the interior is more Queen Anne or Late Victorian in style, including the use of wood ornamentation, stained glass, and mantels. The house retains all of its original interior woodwork and workmanship as well as special details such as the conversation area, pocket doors, and stairhall. This combination of Classical Revival and late Victorian design features is typical of many period houses in small Georgia towns.

The house is significant in politics and government because it was built to be the family home of Colonel William T. Roberts (1858-1932) who prior to living here had been Mayor of Douglasville, county solicitor, and a state representative for the county. While living here from 1901 to 1914, he was elected Solicitor General for the Tallapoosa Circuit for two terms (1895-1903), an office that covered a multi-county area (and later known as district attorney). He was also elected State Senator (1911-1912). In 1914, he was appointed by President Woodrow Wilson to a post as attorney in Washington with the newly-created Federal Trade Commission, then in the Department of Commerce, and moved to Washington. He was the only known local Douglas County official to move up the political ladder to a national job, and one of the few in Georgia; especially in the half century following the Civil War.

See continuation sheet

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NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

This property meets National Register Criteria B and C. Under Criterion B the Roberts House qualifies because it was the home of an important local official, Col. William T. Roberts. He was significant at the local level, both city and county, by serving in various elected and judicial capacities. After he built this house, which reflected his important position in the community, he was elected to serve two terms as a regional solicitor general, then as a state senator, in between resuming his career as an attorney. His local importance was confirmed when he was chosen in 1914 to be an attorney in the Federal Trade Commission in Washington, D.C., and shortly thereafter left for Washington, where he served until his death in 1932.

Criterion C is met because this house exemplifies many fine characteristics of the Classical Revival style of architecture, one which was prevailing at the time it was built in 1901. While the house is not an elaborate example, it was certainly a restrained, but important one for the small county seat of Douglasville. Designed and built by an Atlanta architect and contractor, in itself an important local accomplishment, the house reflected restrained, simple detailing on the exterior—only one classical detail is seen on the portico, while on the interior the use of pine for floors, doors, pocket doors, door surrounds, moldings, mantels, stairway, etc., appears to be more Queen Anne in style. This combination of Classical Revival and late Victorian design features is typical of many period houses in small Georgia towns. Many other specific details of this style survive, especially the stained and leaded glass, the conversation area, and a few built-in features, such as the china cabinet.

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE/CONTEXT STATEMENT

The Col. William T. Roberts House was built in 1901 on the southeast side of Douglasville, Georgia, a county seat community west of Atlanta. The road on which it was built, Campbellton Road, lead then to another county seat, that of Campbell County, which existed until 1932. Thus this was one of the major roads leading out of town.

Douglas County, while not created until 1870, contains land settled first by white settlers in 1828, and was part of Campbell County until 1870. The county seat, Douglasville, was not created until 1874.

William T. Roberts was born in 1858 in nearby Carroll County. His father was killed during the Civil War in 1863. William T. Roberts first studied law, or clerked, in Whitesburg, in Carroll County, just southwest of Douglas County, and was admitted to the bar in Carrollton, the Carroll County seat in 1881, and moved to Douglasville in 1882. He was elected mayor in 1884, solicitor of the county court of Douglas County in 1885, and a state representative for 1890-1891. From 1895 to 1903 he was Solicitor General of the Tallapoosa Circuit, a superior court, or multi-county circuit for the west Georgia region. He was elected twice to this post, which was later renamed District Attorney. He was elected to the State Senate, serving 1911-1912, representing Douglas County.

In 1886, shortly after his arrival in Douglasville, and after he had already served as mayor, Roberts married Emma Quillian, a teacher, and daughter of Rev. J.C.B. Quillian, a Methodist minister. The latter owned extensive land holdings southeast of the city along the Campbellton Road. He died in 1890, but his widow, Mrs. Emma J. Quillian, sold Col. W. T. Roberts the property on which this house was built on February 13, 1901 for \$400. Since this parcel adjoined Mrs. Quillian's own residential tract, it was already planted with various trees and shrubs, many of which survive today.

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Col. Roberts began work on his house immediately, as evidenced by the following news items:

From The New South (Douglasville, GA), March 21, 1901:

Work on the new residence of Colonel W. T. Roberts began on March 21, 1901, Monday morning, with an Atlanta architect (name unknown) and a number of carpenters are busy getting the structure in shape for occupants. It has nine rooms and will be a handsome building. The foreman in charge is Mr. Armstead of Atlanta.

Local readers were further updated only a few months later, from the same newspaper on June 27, 1901:

The new residence of Colonel W. T. Roberts is nearing completion as one of the town's most attractive residences.

No further information has been located as to the identity of the Atlanta architect.

Col. Roberts and his family lived at this house from 1901 until 1914, at which time he was appointed to a position in Washington. According to his obituary (The Atlanta Constitution, Feb. 10, 1932), he was "an official of the Federal Trade Commission, since 1914" having been "appointed by President Wilson [as] attorney for [the] old Bureau of Corporations in the Commerce Department, forerunner of the present Federal Trade Commission". Records of the Federal Trade Commission indicate he was appointed on February 2, 1914 as a "Special Attorney" and in 1919 as an attorney and an examiner.

Col. Roberts' wife had died a year before he did, and their four children survived.

After they moved to Washington, they sold the house in 1918 to C. F. Selman, a local druggist, who owned and operated the first drug store in downtown Douglasville. It is within the proposed Douglasville Commercial Historic District along Broad Street. He bought the house, according to descendants, because it was on the market, and may never have actually lived there. In

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1924, the house was sold to the Georgia State Bank, and in turn sold in 1927 to Mrs. T. N. Mozley, Sr.

The property remained in the Mozley family until 1971. Mrs. Mozley (nee Jennie Tidwell) was a school teacher and her husband, Thomas Nathaniel Mozley, owned a grocery store, and was mayor of Douglasville, from 1936 to 1937. Their son, Harold, who also lived there briefly after World War II, served as mayor from 1946 to 1947. Upon Mrs. Mozley's death in 1964, the house was willed to her two sons, and in 1971, Paul H. Mozley's estate deeded the property to three investors who sold it within a few weeks to Katherine P. Antrobus.

Mrs. Antrobus owned it until 1978, when she sold it to Mary E. Turner and Walter H. Turner, who did extensive upgrading and renovation on the property. Mr. Turner sold it on September 16, 1986 to the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville and Douglas County, Inc. to be used as a Cultural Arts Center and art gallery. It has been in that use ever since.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Catron, Helen J. "Roberts House." Historic Property Information Form, September 18, 1987. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

"Douglasville, Thriving, Wide-Awake Town..." The Atlanta Journal, February 14, 1909. (article includes a photograph of the Roberts House)

"Judge W. T. Roberts Dies in Washington," The Atlanta Constitution, February 10, 1932, p. 7.

Personnel Files, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C.

N/A See continuation sheet

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 # _____

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 1.5 acres

UTM References

A 16 709000 3736000
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

N/A See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is all that land owned by the current owner and designated as Parcel 3 on Tax Map 21-1-5-A, Douglas County, Georgia. It is marked on the enclosed tax map.

N/A See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is all that property still associated with the historic house. It is all that was transferred to the current owner. Originally, the lot consisted of 1.15 acres, but is now 1.5 acres.

N/A See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian
 organization Historic Preservation Section date January 10, 1989
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
 street & number 205 Butler Street, SE, Room 1462 telephone 404/656-2840
 city or town Atlanta, state Georgia zip code 30334

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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Col. William T. Roberts House
Douglasville, Douglas County, Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative: Filed at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: June, 1988
Description:

- 1 of 12: Front facade; photographer facing northeast.
- 2 of 12: Front facade; photographer facing southeast.
- 3 of 12: North facade; photographer facing south.
- 4 of 12: Rear facade; photographer facing west.
- 5 of 12: First floor; entrance hall; photographer facing northeast.
- 6 of 12: First floor, southwest parlor; photographer facing northeast.
- 7 of 12: First floor, northwest parlor; photographer facing southwest.
- 8 of 12: First floor, dining room; photographer facing southwest.
- 9 of 12: Stair landing; photographer facing southeast.
- 10 of 12: Second floor, hall; photographer facing west.
- 11 of 12: Second floor, northeast rear room; photographer facing southwest.
- 12 of 12: Second floor, southwest front room; photographer facing southwest.

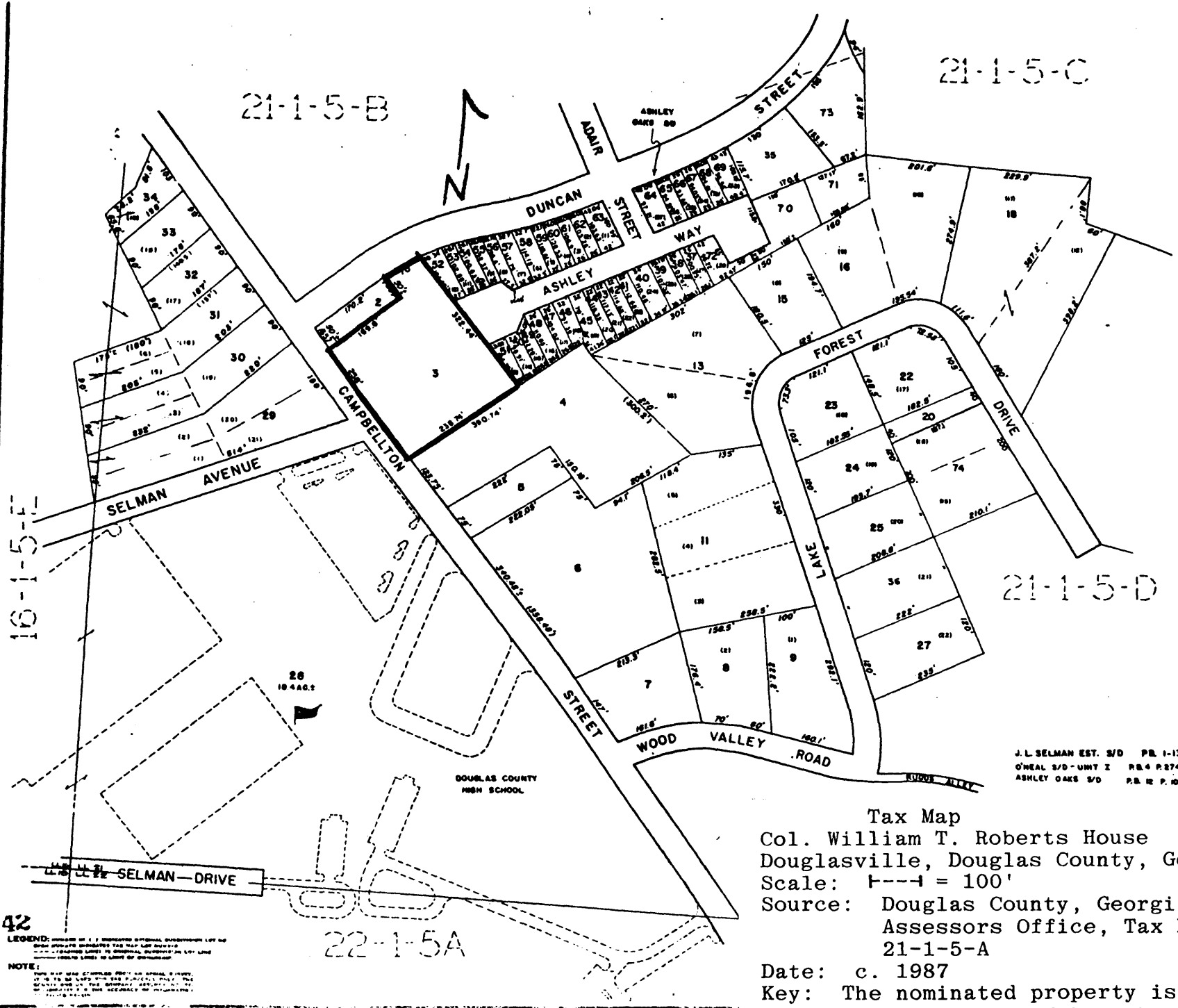
21-1-5-B

21-1-5-C

16-1-5-E

21-1-5-D

22-1-5A



J. L. SELMAN EST. S/D PR. 1-135
 O'NEAL S/D-UMY I R&C P.274
 ASHLEY OAKS S/D P.B. 12 P. 103

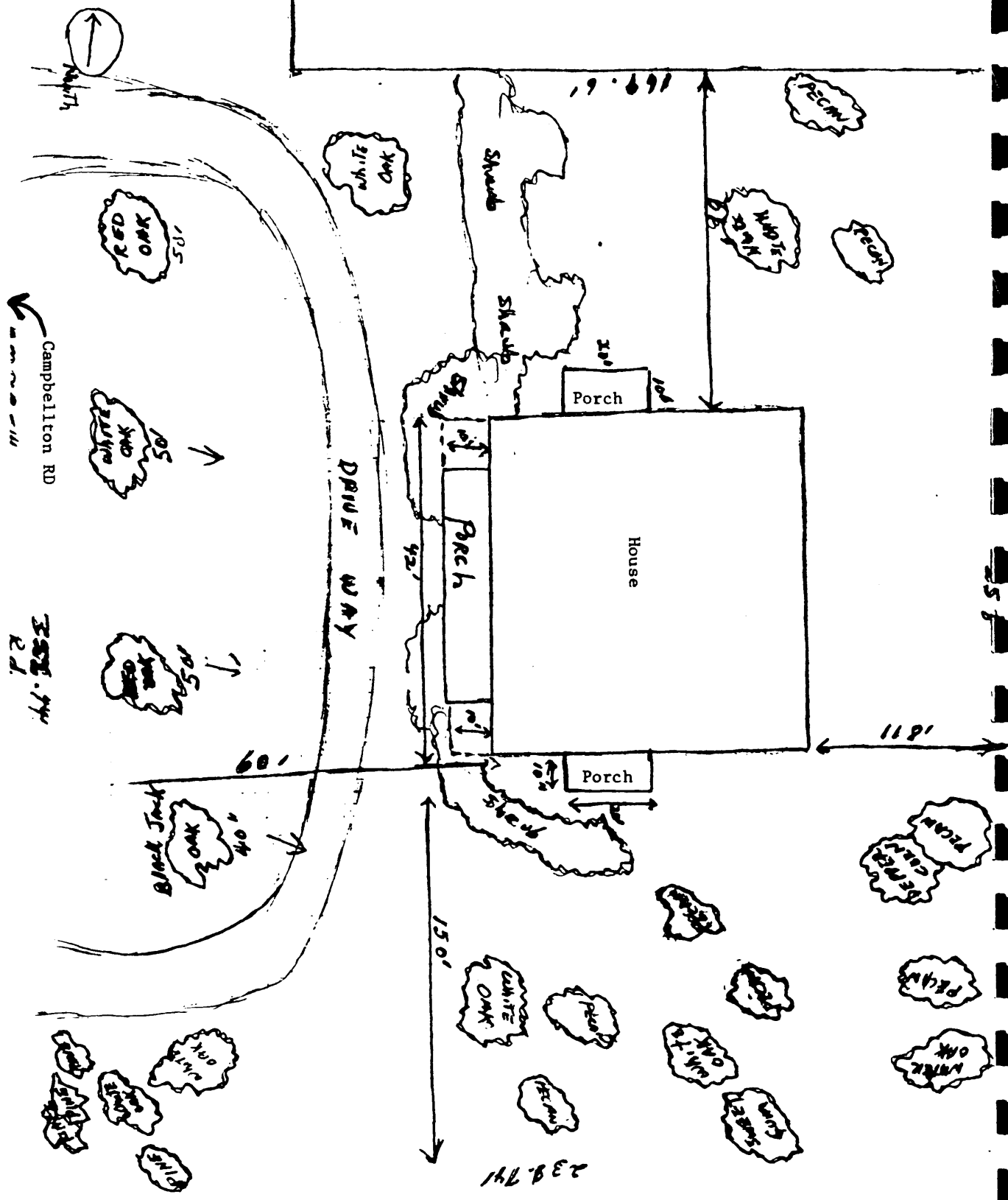
Tax Map
 Col. William T. Roberts House
 Douglasville, Douglas County, Georgia
 Scale: 1" = 100'
 Source: Douglas County, Georgia Tax
 Assessors Office, Tax Map No.
 21-1-5-A

Date: c. 1987
 Key: The nominated property is parcel
 3 and is marked by a heavy
 black line.

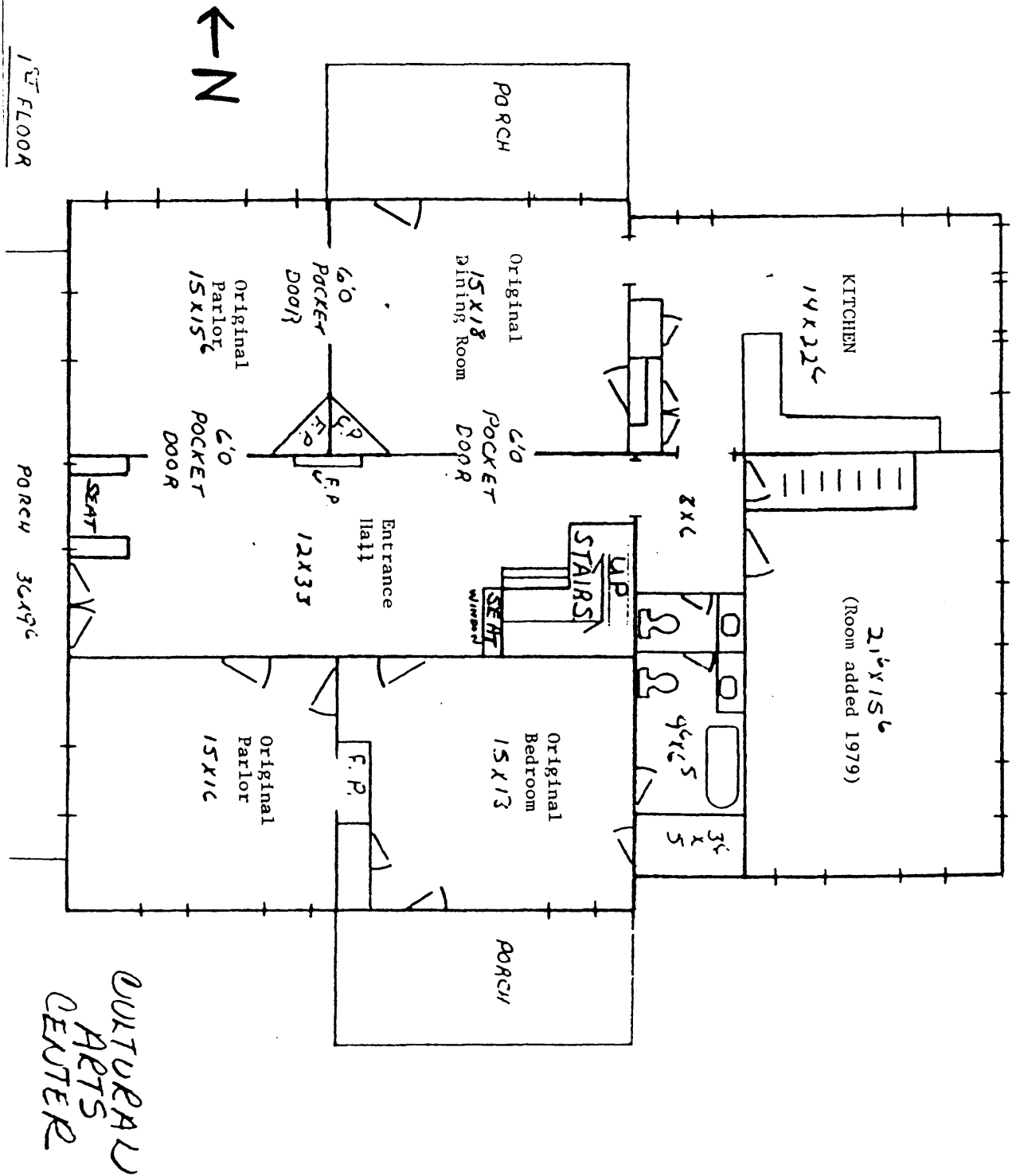
42

LEGEND: (1) INDICATES ORIGINAL QUANTITIES OF LAND
 (2) INDICATES QUANTITIES OF LAND AS SHOWN ON THIS MAP
 (3) INDICATES QUANTITIES OF LAND AS SHOWN ON THE ORIGINAL SURVEY
 (4) INDICATES QUANTITIES OF LAND AS SHOWN ON THE ORIGINAL SURVEY
 (5) INDICATES QUANTITIES OF LAND AS SHOWN ON THE ORIGINAL SURVEY

NOTE:
 THIS MAP WAS COMPILED FROM AN ORIGINAL SURVEY
 OF 1875 AND IS NOT A REPRODUCTION OF THE
 ORIGINAL SURVEY. THE ORIGINAL SURVEY IS
 THE AUTHORITY FOR THE ACCURACY OF THIS MAP.



Site Plan
 Col. William T. Roberts House
 Douglasville, Douglas County, Georgia
 Scale: not to scale
 Source: City of Douglasville Planning
 Department
 Date: 1987
 Key: The house and its various
 landscape components are labelled
 directly on the plan.
 There are no outbuildings.



Floor Plan
 Col. William T. Roberts House
 Douglasville, Douglas County, Georgia
 Scale: Not To Scale
 Source: Cultural Arts Center
 Date: 1987
 Key: The original use of the rooms,
 when known, appears on them.