

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 William Taylor House
other names/site number N/A

1414

2. Location

street & number 3032 Battlefield Parkway (US 41)
city, town Resaca
county Gordon code GA 129
state Georgia code GA zip code 30735

() vicinity of

() not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- () private
- (X) public-local
- () public-state
- () public-federal

Category of Property:

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

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings	1	1
sites	0	0
structures	0	1
objects	0	0
total	1	2

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 Clowes 10.9.02
Signature of certifying official Date

for W. Ray Luce
Historic Preservation Division Director
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

Edson H. Beall 11/27/02

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:

GOVERNMENT/TOWN HALL

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER/CENTRAL HALL

Materials:

foundation	Brick
walls	Wood
roof	Asphalt
other	N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The William Taylor House is located near the center of Resaca, a very small community in north Gordon County in northwest Georgia. The house faces US 41, a major highway, and is near the railroad tracks.

Constructed c.1913, the William Taylor House is a one-and-one-half story, frame, central hall-type house with an original rear ell (photograph 1). The main portion of the roof is side gabled (photograph 1) and the ell portion of the roof has a gable at the rear of the house (photograph 3). The house has a raised-seam metal roof, two interior brick chimneys, weatherboard siding, and a brick pier foundation (photograph 1). The rear ell has an interior brick chimney (photograph 2). The house has several window configurations including one-over-one, two-over-two, six-over-six, and nine-over-nine (photographs 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6). All windows are double-hung-sashes. The house has a front wrap-around porch (photographs 1 and 2). The front door has one large light and three molded panels. The front façade is symmetrical with three bays and three gabled roof dormers (photograph 1).

The interior floor plan is intact with a central hall between the two rooms on the first floor, and two rooms in the attic. The rear ell contains three rooms (see attached floor plan). The original floors remain with three-inch-wide pine boards but have been covered over with tongue-and-groove flooring (photographs 7, 8, 9, 10, and 13). Original tongue-and-groove walls and ceilings remain in a number of rooms (photographs 9, 11, 12, and 13), with other walls and ceilings covered with sheetrock (photographs 7 and 10). Many original six-panel doors still exist, some with original hardware (photograph 10). The original stairway survives with its balusters and turned newel posts (photographs 11 and 12). There are original mantels in the two main block rooms (photographs 7 and 8) and two ell rooms (photographs 9 and 10).

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

One nonhistoric outbuilding is located on the property. It is a 1976 cabinet shop located south of the William Taylor House (photographs 14, 15, and 16). A nonhistoric well house, rebuilt in 1974, is also located on the property (photographs 1, 2, and 17).

The site contains two drives a gravel drive to the south of the house (photograph 14) and a concrete drive to the north of the house (photograph 2). The landscaping consists of a lawn, some foundation plantings, and a few trees (photographs 1, 3, , 14, and 17).

The house has had various changes over the years, the most noticeable being the rearrangement of the doorways to several rooms and the addition of a handicapped ramp to the rear porch. Today the house serves as the town hall for the City of Resaca.

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
Social History

Period of Significance:

c.1913-1944

Significant Dates:

c.1913-construction date of the house

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Unknown

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

The William Taylor House is significant in architecture as a good example of a central hallway-type house and because it retains much of its original materials: doors, floors, ceilings, walls, and room arrangements, as well as an original front porch with refurbished elements. According to Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings, a statewide context, the central hall house was a very typical house type in Georgia in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The William Taylor House features many of the character-defining features of the type including, the central hall, one-room depth, and a gabled roof. This type of house is fairly evenly distributed across the state and frequently appears on principal residential streets in Georgia's towns and cities. The house reflects the plain local workmanship secured by Mr. Taylor, a local grocer and Civil War veteran. The house also retains its original prominent location facing a major highway and the railroad. The house is significant in social history because it was the home of William Taylor (1848-1944), a Georgia-born man who served in the Union Army during the Civil War and who came back to his local community to live out his very long life as a respected and venerated member of the community. Where most southern communities revel in the Lost Cause and their large number of Confederate veterans, Mr. Taylor was a prime example of the often overlooked fact that many Georgians chose to fight on the side of the Union yet came home after the war and lived out the rest of their lives in their home areas and were not ostracized. At the time the house was built, Taylor, then around 65, was a grocer. He previously had operated a gristmill and a sawmill, was a farmer, owned a peach orchard, and had served as postmaster from 1903 until 1911. Even though he built this house rather late in life, he lived there for thirty years. In July 1938, on the eve of his 90th birthday, he journeyed to Gettysburg to attend the 75th reunion of the Blue and Gray to mark the reconciliation of the two sides from the Civil War. The house is now the town hall for the City of Resaca.

National Register Criteria

The William Taylor House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of social history as the home of William Taylor, a southern-born Union soldier who returned to the South after the Civil War and remained there until his death. It is also eligible for listing under Criterion C in the area of architecture as a good and intact example of a central hall-type house with much of its original material intact.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for the William Taylor House begins c.1913, the construction date of the house, and ends in 1944 with the death of William Taylor.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The William Taylor House is the one contributing resource on the nominated property. The noncontributing building on the property is a 1976 cabinet shop and the noncontributing structure is a 1974 well house.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

****NOTE: The following history was compiled by Dan Latham, Preservation Planner and Connie A. Talley, Town Clerk, July, 2001. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

In the 1840s, a party of Irish laborers engaged in the construction of the Western and Atlantic Railroad built a construction camp just south of the Oostanaula River at the railroad crossing. They named the temporary community Dublin. When the railroad was completed through the area, a depot was built on the opposite (north) side of the river on property donated by Houston, Willingham & Company, a powerful lumber company. That location became the permanent site of the town. When a local company of soldiers returned from the Mexican-American War (1846-48), they named the town Resaca after the battle at Resaca de la Palma, in which they had been engaged.

Resaca was first incorporated on February 18, 1854. The corporate limits were 500 yards in every direction from the depot. Ten years later, another war, the American Civil War, had a devastating effect on the town. The Battle of Resaca, the first principal battle of the Atlanta Campaign, was fought May 14-15, 1864, directly north and west of the small community.

The town was reincorporated on December 13, 1871, with the corporate limits one-half mile in every direction from the Western and Atlantic depot. The town's population in 1880 was 191, and in 1890, it was 197. By 1900 the population of Resaca had declined to 128, and by 1910, it had declined to 112. *Young & Company's Business and Professional Directory of Georgia, 1909-10*, has the following listings for Resaca: W. R. Barnett, physician; D. H. Brown, general merchandise; Calhoun Lumber Company; W. L. Fain & Company, grist mill; J. G. Fite, general merchandise; W. R. Jones, saw mill; Lag Brothers, general merchandise; Guy Norton, general merchandise; W. M. Taylor, grocery; and W. A. Ward, general merchandise. In the early 1910s, William Taylor built a new house near the center of the small town.

William Taylor was born to John and Anna Taylor in Cherokee County, Georgia, on August 25, 1848 (date of birth taken from William Taylor's Certificate of Death, Georgia Department of Public Health). John Taylor was a farmer and miller. Both he and Anna were originally from South Carolina. The 1850 population census gives William's age as 2 years and his brother Lewis' age as 3 years. Pickens County was created on December 5, 1853, from a portion of Cherokee County in which the John Taylor family lived. The 1860 population census of Pickens County, Georgia, gives William Taylor's age as 12 years and his brother

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Lewis C. Taylor's age as 13 years. (If August 25, 1848 is the correct date of birth for William Taylor, he would have been 11 years and 9 months old when the census data was collected on June 6, 1860.)

During the Civil War in 1864, James G. Brown, civilian chief scout for Union General George H. Thomas, revived attempts to recruit a Georgia unit for the Union forces. About July and August 1864, Brown enlisted men from Pickens, Dawson, and Union Counties and organized them into four companies as the 1st Georgia State Troops Volunteers, with himself as Colonel. William Taylor, then about sixteen years old, and his brother, Lewis C. Taylor, served as privates in Company D of Brown's unit.

Brown's men, however, often neglected their official duties while "fighting a merciless guerrilla war" against the Confederate Home Guards. Hit-and-run ambushes occurred almost daily between the 1st Georgia and the Confederate Home Guards. The men of the 1st Georgia earned an "unsavory reputation" in the months between their recruitment and release from their duties. Despite the difficult circumstances, Brown's 1st Georgia was never actually accepted into the United States Army. After the Secretary of War and General Sherman made this final decision, Brown's men were ordered dismissed on November 5, 1864, and they formally disbanded on December 15, 1864. They received no compensation for their months serving the Union cause.

Many of Brown's men enlisted in the 5th Tennessee Mounted Infantry Regiment (U.S.A.), mostly in Company H and Company K, and in other Tennessee units. A few joined a new 1st Georgia, Dewitt C. Howard's 1st Georgia Infantry Battalion. William Taylor enlisted at Cleveland, Tennessee, on November 27, 1864, with Martin V. Wood's Company K, 5th Tennessee Mounted Infantry (U.S.A.). When he enlisted, he gave his age as eighteen years. According to William Taylor's service records with the 5th Tennessee MI Regiment, he was sick in a hospital in Nashville from February 5-28, 1865, and was in a Chattanooga hospital on March 24, 1865.

Little is known about the 5th Tennessee MI Regiment after William Taylor enlisted. *Dyer's Compendium* indicates the regiment did garrison duty at Dalton and Marietta, was engaged in a skirmish at McLemore Cove, Georgia, on February 1, 1865, and was on an expedition from Dalton to the Coosawattie River and Spring Place, Georgia, on April 1-4, 1865. According to the *Official Records*, the 5th Tennessee MI Regiment, Colonel S. B. Boyd commanding, was assigned to Major General J. B. Steedman, Commanding District of the Etowah, on March 11, 1865; the regiment was reported on April 30, 1865, to be in the District of the Etowah, unattached to any brigade; and on June 1, 1865, it was temporarily attached to the 2nd Brigade, 1st Separate Division, Army of the Cumberland. The regiment was mustered out on July 12, 1865, at Nashville.

About three years after the war ended, William married Nellie Griffeth on August 29, 1868 in Pickens County. They had children as follows: Sarah Anne "Sallie" Taylor Moss (1870-1915), Julia Ida Taylor Brown (1873-1911), Arthur Lee Taylor (1877-1944), Oliver Taylor

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

(1882-1904), Ollie Taylor (1882-1929), and a stillborn baby (1885).

During the 1870s, the family settled in the Pine Log community in Bartow County, where William farmed. Sometime after 1885, the Taylors moved to a farm at Weldon's Bend (now Fite Bend) in Gordon County, one and a half miles east of Resaca.

On January 9, 1896, W. H. Smith donated one acre of land (in Land Lot #22, 14th District, 3rd Section) to William Taylor, B. W. Fite, and J. W. Robertson, trustees, for a schoolhouse and church at Weldon's Bend. The school was named the Weldon's Bend Seminary and was conducted by Prof. Robert Pittman, of Sonoraville. Sunday school was held every Sunday at 2 o'clock with preaching every second Sunday by Rev. J. M. Austin.

Nellie Griffeth Taylor died of consumption on April 16, 1897. She was buried at Pine Log Methodist Church cemetery, Bartow County, with her and William's baby. On July 25, 1897, the Rev. J. H. Miller married William Taylor and Laura Smith. Laura was the daughter of William H. Smith, a resident of the bend and the donor of the land for the Weldon's Bend Seminary.

On January 27, 1898, *The Calhoun Times* reported the following: "W. M. Taylor killed hogs last Monday. Mr. Taylor is a hustler and will sure have plenty of hog and hominy." Two months later, on March 31, 1898, the paper announced that W. M. Taylor, of Weldon's Bend, had built "a fine grist mill at Resaca." Taylor & Rooker operated the mill for a time; and in August 1901, Taylor & Rooker purchased a new sawmill and were sawing timber for the new railroad near Spring Place.

The 1900 population census indicates that, regarding home ownership, William Taylor rented a farm in Gordon County. In 1902 Taylor built a new house at Weldon's Bend. The builder was Claud Kendrick, of Fairview. The Weldon's Bend column of *The Calhoun Times* reported on September 18, 1902, that "W. M. Taylor will soon have his house completed" and that it would be "the nicest home in the bend." [It is believed that the Taylor's new house was built on land (Land Lot # 22, 14th District, 3rd Section) owned by William H. Smith, William Taylor's father-in-law, and deeded by him to Laura Taylor, effective after his death (which occurred on April 1, 1906).] Apparently, William Taylor continued to own his farm in Bartow County. In March 1903, *The Calhoun Times* reported that W. M. Taylor and son, Oliver, had gone to Pine Log to look after his farm and peach orchard.

According to records of postmaster appointments (on microfilm at the Georgia Department of Archives and History), William Taylor was appointed postmaster of Resaca on March 28, 1903, succeeding David H. Brown. *The Calhoun Times*, however, reported on April 21, 1903, that W. M. Taylor's son, A. L. Taylor, had taken charge of the post office at Resaca. In April 1904, A. L. Taylor was reported to be at home and Ed Pinion was at the post office. In January 1906, the paper reported that Ed Pinion had a mail route and W. M. Taylor was in the post office.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Shortly after midnight on February 19, 1906, safes in the stores of W. M. Taylor and D. H. Brown were blown open. The robbers took \$70 post office money and \$25 belonging to Taylor from his safe. William Taylor continued to serve as postmaster until January 1911, when Nat Robertson succeeded him.

By 1907 William and Laura Taylor had moved into town. On December 5, 1908, William acquired title to the Alex Hill House on Walker Street. It is believed the Taylors lived there until 1913, when William sold the property to T. B. Kendrick on May 14. On June 12, 1913, *The Calhoun Times* reported that work was progressing rapidly on Taylor's new residence. He acquired actual title to the property on which the house was built from W. R. Davis on November 17, 1914. The deed states, however, that the property is "the plat of ground where W. M. Taylor now lives."

Four months earlier, Taylor's new house was almost lost. "The most disastrous fire in the history of Resaca" occurred on the morning of July 5, 1914. The fire, believed to have been started by a spark from a passing train, originated in the depot. Wind blew the flames toward Davis Lumber Company's lumber piles, which covered both sides of the railroad tracks. W. M. Taylor's gristmill was burned and his nearby house "was only saved by the heroic efforts of citizens." In addition, the fire destroyed eight buildings belonging to J. G. Fite, a mill building belonging to S. M. Barnett, and about one-and-one-half-million feet of lumber belonging to Davis Lumber Company. The intense heat of the fire twisted and bent the railroad tracks; and the telegraph and telephone poles were destroyed, cutting off all communication to and from Resaca. (Telephone lines had been brought to Resaca between December 1902 and January 1903.)

William Taylor resided at his home in Resaca for the remaining thirty years of his life. The incorporation of Resaca was repealed on July 31, 1920, and its charter was annulled. The small community remained unincorporated for more than sixty years thereafter. In May 1938, William Taylor deeded various properties to his wife, Laura, and his son, Arthur Lee, retaining a life estate. They both received a one-half interest in the home place property. In the same year, just before his ninetieth birthday, Taylor traveled to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania to attend the 75th Anniversary, Battle of Gettysburg Blue and Gray Reunion, held June 29-July 6, 1938. About 2,000 surviving veterans of the blue and gray, at an average age of 94, made the pilgrimage from all parts of the country to this final reunion on the Gettysburg Battlefield. William Taylor was one of sixty veterans (and one of seven Union veterans) that attended from Georgia. He was presented a medal and other souvenirs in honor of the occasion. William Taylor died, at the age of ninety-six, on November 10, 1944. He is buried beside his wife, Laura, at Resaca First Baptist Church cemetery, a short distance from his home place.

R. P. Nance, of Whitfield County, bought the property on September 4, 1945, one-half interest from Laura Taylor and one-half interest from the estate of A. L. Taylor. It is believed the property was used as residential rental property from 1945 until 1951.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

From 1951 until 1974, the property was owner-occupied as a single-family dwelling. Beginning in 1974, it was rented for residential use for about twenty years. During this time, Resaca was reincorporated and is currently operating under a charter established by the Georgia General Assembly on April 6, 1981. Beginning about 1995, the William Taylor House was used for an antique shop until the Town of Resaca rented it for its town hall in April 1998. The town completed acquisition of the property on January 2, 2001. Today, the William Taylor House is one of only about a dozen historic houses in the small community. The Town of Resaca has rehabilitated the house for continued use as its town hall.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Georgia Department of Natural Resources. "Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings." 1991.

Latham, Dan and Connie A. Talley. Historic Property Information Form. July, 2001. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. With Supplemental information.

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

UTM References

A) Zone ~~1716~~ Easting 688636⁴⁵ Northing 3828143³⁵⁰

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated property includes the William Taylor House and the intact portion of land historically associated with the house.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Holly L. Anderson, National Register Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** October 9, 2002
e-mail holly_anderson@dnr.state.ga.us

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

name/title Dan Latham, Preservation Planner
organization Coosa Valley Regional Development Center
mailing address P.O. Box 1793
city or town Rome **state** Georgia **zip code** 30163
telephone (706)295-6485
e-mail

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

name/title Connie A. Talley, Town Clerk
organization Town of Resaca
mailing address P.O. Box 779
city or town Resaca **state** Georgia **zip code** 30735
telephone (706)624-1336
e-mail

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

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Joe Don Griffith, Sr., Mayor
organization (if applicable) Town of Resaca
mailing address P.O. Box 779
city or town Resaca **state** Georgia **zip code** 30735
e-mail (optional)

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: William Taylor House
City or Vicinity: Resaca
County: Gordon
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: December, 2001

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 17

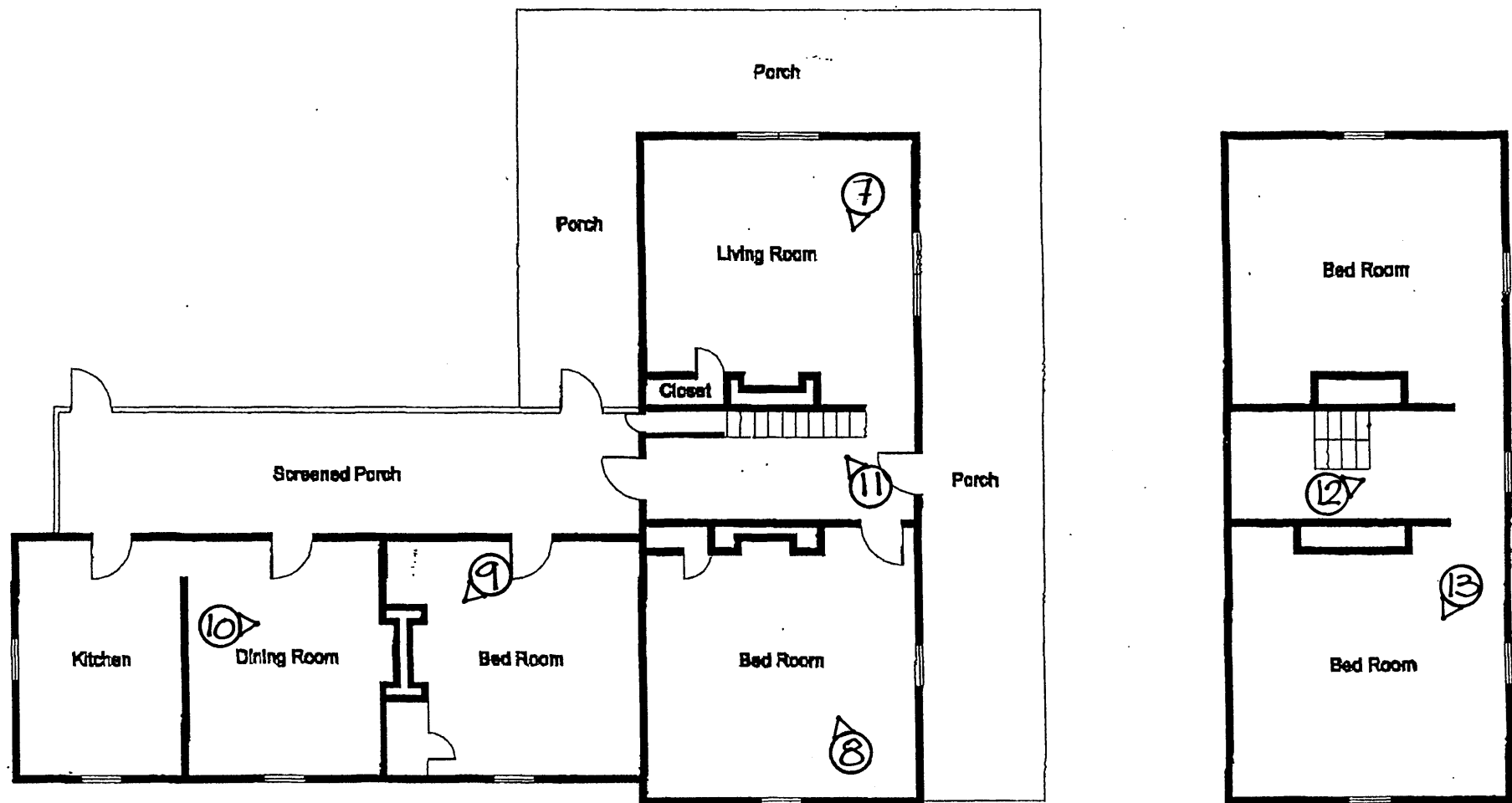
1. Front (east) façade and south façade; photographer facing northwest.
2. North façade; photographer facing southeast.
3. Rear ell and south façade; photographer facing northeast.
4. South façade; photographer facing north.
5. Window detail; photographer facing west.
6. Porch detail; photographer facing southwest.
7. Interior, first floor, living room (now meeting room); photographer facing south.
8. Interior, first floor, bedroom (now clerk's office); photographer facing north.
9. Interior, first floor, bedroom (now "middle room"); photographer facing southwest.
10. Interior, first floor, dining room (now Mayor's office); photographer facing east.
11. Interior, first floor, central hall, stair detail; photographer facing northwest.
12. Interior, attic space, central hall; photographer facing east.
13. Interior, attic space, bedroom; photographer facing southwest.
14. William Taylor House and cabinet shop; photographer facing northwest.
15. Cabinet shop; photographer facing west.
16. Cabinet shop and rear ell of main house; photographer facing northeast.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs



17. Front façade and south façade; photographer facing northwest.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)



Second Floor

William Taylor House
 Resaca, Gordon County, Georgia
 Floor Plan
 Photograph Direction/Number: ①
 Scale: Not to scale
 North: ↑

William Taylor House
 Resaca, Gordon County, Georgia
 Survey Map
 National Register Boundary: 
 Photograph Direction/Number: 
 Scale: 1" = 30'
 North: ↑

