

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

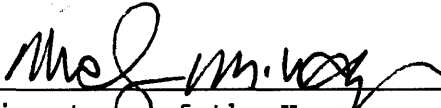
NRIS Reference Number: 99000412 Date Listed: 4/16/99

Smith and Douglas Family Houses GEORGIA Bartow
Property Name County State

N/A

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.

for 
Signature of the Keeper

4/22/99
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 8

This nomination is amended to delete 1875 as a significant date. Although the family that built the two houses first purchased the land in that date, it precedes the period of significance claimed for the houses.

This amendment has been confirmed with the Georgia SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

412

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

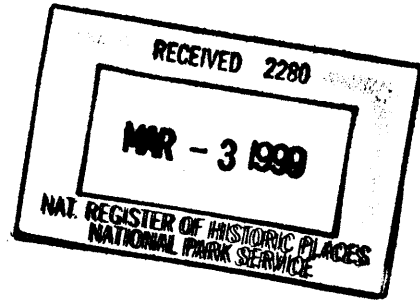
This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested 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 Smith and Douglas Family Houses
other names/site number Edwards Estate; Smith Homeplace

2. Location

street & number MacJohnson Road
city, town Cassville
county Bartow code GA 015
state Georgia code GA zip code 30120



() vicinity of

() 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	2	1
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	2	1

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.

Rickard Coates
Signature of certifying official

2-23-99
Date

for W. Ray Luce
Interim Division Director and
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

Michael M. ...

4/16/99

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

for _____
Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER: Vernacular: saddlebag

OTHER: Vernacular: pyramidal cottage

Materials:

foundation	concrete
walls	wood; synthetic
roof	asphalt
other	n/a

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Smith and Douglas Family Houses consist of two houses across MacJohnson Road from each other in the southern part of the Cassville community in a semi-rural environment on a total of 5.26 acres. Nearby the houses are some newer houses, mobile homes, and some agricultural land. There is one nonhistoric ranch house on the property adjacent to the Smith House on the east side of the road.

The earliest of the houses is the ca.1892 Smith House, located on the east side of MacJohnson Road. It is a one-story house, originally built as a saddlebag, with a shed-roof rear addition which was added to accommodate the Smith's growing family (photos 1-3). The house still retains its saddlebag form with a side-gable roof, central brick chimney with a room on either side, and shed-roof front porch. The original weatherboard wood siding has been covered with vinyl siding with a traditional horizontal weatherboard appearance. The windows are 6/6, double hung. The interior features simple wood window and door surrounds, wood paneled doors, and plaster walls (photos 4-5).

The ca.1901 Douglas House is a variant of the pyramidal cottage with a steeply pitched hipped roof, central chimney on the front-facing slope, shed-roof porch, two front doors, 6/6 double-hung windows, brick pier-with-infill foundation, and rear shed roof addition (photos 6-8). The original wood weatherboard siding has been covered with horizontal artificial siding with a slightly wider weather exposure. The floorplan is intact with the four rooms and no hallway, typical of a pyramidal cottage. The variation is with the roof which, although steeply pitched, is hipped and not pyramidal. The

interior features beaded-board ceilings and walls, wood floors, simple wood window and door surrounds, simple wood mantels, wood paneled doors, and one vertical plank door (photo 9).

The immediate setting around the houses has a rural feeling with no formal landscaping. There are large shade trees in the front yards of both houses. South of the Smith House, on the property historically associated with the historic house, is a small, modest, nonhistoric ranch house. There is no known archaeological potential.

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):

Ethnic Heritage: black
Architecture

Period of Significance:

1892-1945

Significant Dates:

1875-Charles Edwards purchases 46 acres
1892-Thomas and Emma Kate Douglas Smith construct the Smith House
ca.1901-Rebecca Edwards Douglas constructs the Douglas House
1945-Thomas Smith dies and property is subdivided

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

unknown

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

Located in a semi-rural community of Cassville, the Smith and Douglas Family Houses are significant in ethnic heritage: African American and architecture as rare documented rural houses built and owned by African-American families. Although many such rural houses once existed (although overshadowed by the more common rental or tenant houses), many have been destroyed, and relatively few have been documented.

In 1875, former slave Charles Edwards purchased 46 acres of land in the community of Cassville. A teacher, preacher, and farmer, Charles Edwards was married to Peggy (maiden name unknown) and they had six daughters and one son. One daughter, Harriet Edwards, purchased 11 acres adjacent to her parents' property. Another daughter, Rebecca Edwards Douglas, constructed the Douglas House in ca.1901 after the death of her husband Isaac. Rebecca and Isaac Edwards had one child, Emma Kate Douglas, who married Thomas Smith and had ten children. The Smiths bought property and inherited more property from the Edwards and Douglas relatives. The Smith House was constructed in 1892 by Thomas and Emma Smith who farmed the land. Throughout the years the property was used for growing vegetables and fruit and for raising cattle and hogs. Thomas Smith died in 1945 and his 80 acres were divided among his children and grandchildren. The Smith and Douglas Family Houses are now owned by the great-granddaughter of Thomas and Emma Douglas Smith. No other historic houses associated with the families survive in this vicinity.

These houses and remaining property are significant in terms of Ethnic Heritage: black because they are the remaining intact resources associated with the Edwards-Douglas-Smith family. In the South where sharecropping and tenant farming was the norm for a rural African-American family in the post-Civil War period, this property represents the ascendance from slavery to independence and property ownership. Also significant is that this property has remained in the same family for over 100 years. In Georgia, these two houses are the first such rural African-American resources to be documented and nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.

The houses are significant in architecture as good and intact examples of a saddlebag house and a variant of a pyramidal cottage which have been identified as important house types in *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Setting*. The Smith House has the characteristic central chimney with a room on either side which gives it the appearance of a saddlebag. The Douglas House is considered a variant of the pyramidal cottage because its roof is somewhat hipped rather than a true pyramid. However, its floor plan with its four rooms and no hallway is the typical form of a pyramidal cottage. Both of these vernacular house types have been identified as common

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

dwelling types of rural African Americans. Although both houses have been altered, particularly with the application of artificial siding, in both cases the new siding closely replicates the original and each house retains its overall form, doors and windows, interior floorplan, and to a large extent interior materials and details.

National Register Criteria

The Smith and Douglas Family Houses meet National Register of Historic Places Criteria A and C for its significance in ethnic heritage in the state of Georgia and for its intact and good example of two vernacular house types.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

Period of significance (justification)

The Smith House was constructed in 1892 and in 1945 Thomas Smith died and his property was subdivided among his many descendants.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

n/a

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

The Smith-Douglas family homestead was established in 1875 with the purchase of forty-six acres of land by former slave Charles Edwards from Nathan Land for a sum of six hundred dollars (\$600). Charles Edwards was born in the early 1800s in Nashville, Tennessee, and moved with his wife, Peggy, to Cassville, Georgia at the end of the Civil War. He built the first home on the property and was a preacher, teacher, and farmer. The Edwards' had one son and six daughters. Two of their daughters, Harriet Edwards and Rebecca Douglas, purchased property in the same general area where they grew up with their parents. Much of the final property of Thomas and Emma Smith came from the combined Edwards family inheritance. The Edwards home was destroyed by fire in the early 1920s.

Harriet Edwards, daughter of Charles and Peggy Edwards, purchased eleven and four-tenths acres from J.H. Walker for a sum of one hundred fourteen dollars (\$114) in March, 1894. Although she spent most of her life in Charleston, South Carolina, and Savannah, Georgia, she often visited her

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

extended family and this adjacent property became part of the Smith-Douglas homestead. While working as a governess for Edwin and Mary Parsons at the Oaks Plantation in Charleston, South Carolina, Harriet often traveled with the Parsons. Returning from a trip to Europe with the Parsons in 1912, she was denied passage on the Titanic because of her race. The Parsons family chose not to travel on the ill-fated ship rather than leave her in England, thus saving their lives. She worked for the Parsons until her death in 1936.

Following the death of her husband, Rebecca Edwards Douglas, another daughter of Charles and Peggy Edwards, constructed a pyramidal cottage on the family land circa 1902. Isaac and Rebecca Edwards Douglas had one child, Emma Kate Douglas, who married Thomas Henry Smith. The Douglas house and property were inherited by Emma Douglas Smith following the death of her mother.

Thomas Henry Smith was born in 1865 and was one of eleven children of Jessie and Harriet Legree Smith. The Smith family had moved as slaves to the Cartersville area from Cornelius, Georgia, in the early 1860s. Jessie Smith was a lamplighter for the gas street lights in Cartersville for a number of years. Thomas Smith and Emma Douglas were married on April 5, 1884 and resided on the Edwards property until 1892 when they built their two-room saddlebag house.

Thomas was a successful farmer and was involved with the religious and developmental activities in the community. He was a deacon of the Cassville New Hope Baptist Church until his death in 1945. Emma was a clerk of the same church until her death in 1932. Family history states that Thomas was proud of the fact that he was one of the first black men in this part of Georgia to own property and was permitted to vote. Thomas and Emma had 14 children and as the family grew, two large rooms were added to their house as well as a front and back porch. After some renovations in the 1930s, it is presently a six-room house.

Farming was the livelihood for the Smith and Douglas families. Cotton, corn, potatoes, beans, peas and other vegetables were grown. Hogs and beef cows were raised for family consumption and for sale to the residents of the community. Fruit trees and grapevines were also cultivated on the farm. From the 1920s through the 1940s, a large pasture on the property was provided by the family as a recreation area for the African-American community and baseball games and picnics were held there frequently.

After Thomas Smith's death in 1945, the Smith-Douglas family land holdings consisted of approximately 80 acres, which were divided among his children and grandchildren. The Smith and Douglas Family Houses are presently owned by the great-granddaughter of Thomas and Emma Smith.

9. Major Bibliographic References

The research and writing of the *Historic Property Information Form* was mainly conducted by Susie W. Wheeler, the granddaughter of Thomas and Emma Smith. This information was gathered through informal oral interviews with family members between 1940 and 1993. Ms. Wheeler also consulted property deeds, Smith family reunion reports, photographs. *Our Story* written in 1970 and 1971 about the Smith family for their first large reunion was also a valuable source.

Wheeler, Susie W. and Dan Latham. "Edwards Estate," *Historic Property Information Form*, 1995. 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 Approximately 4 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 698400 Northing 3790040

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries include the property associated with the Smith and Douglas Family Houses as indicated on the attached tax map with a heavy black line, drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the property associated with the Smith and Douglas Houses which provides a historic setting for the houses.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Leslie N. Sharp
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** February 19, 1999

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

name/title Susie Wheeler
organization n/a
street and number 105 Fite Street
city or town Cartersville **state** Georgia **zip code** 30120
telephone 706-382-5843

() **consultant**
() **regional development center preservation planner**
(X) **other:** Property Owner

Dan Latham, preservation planner at the Coosa Valley Regional Development Center, helped in the preparation of the Historic Property Information Form.

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Smith and Douglas Family Houses
City or Vicinity: Cassville
County: Bartow
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: June 1997

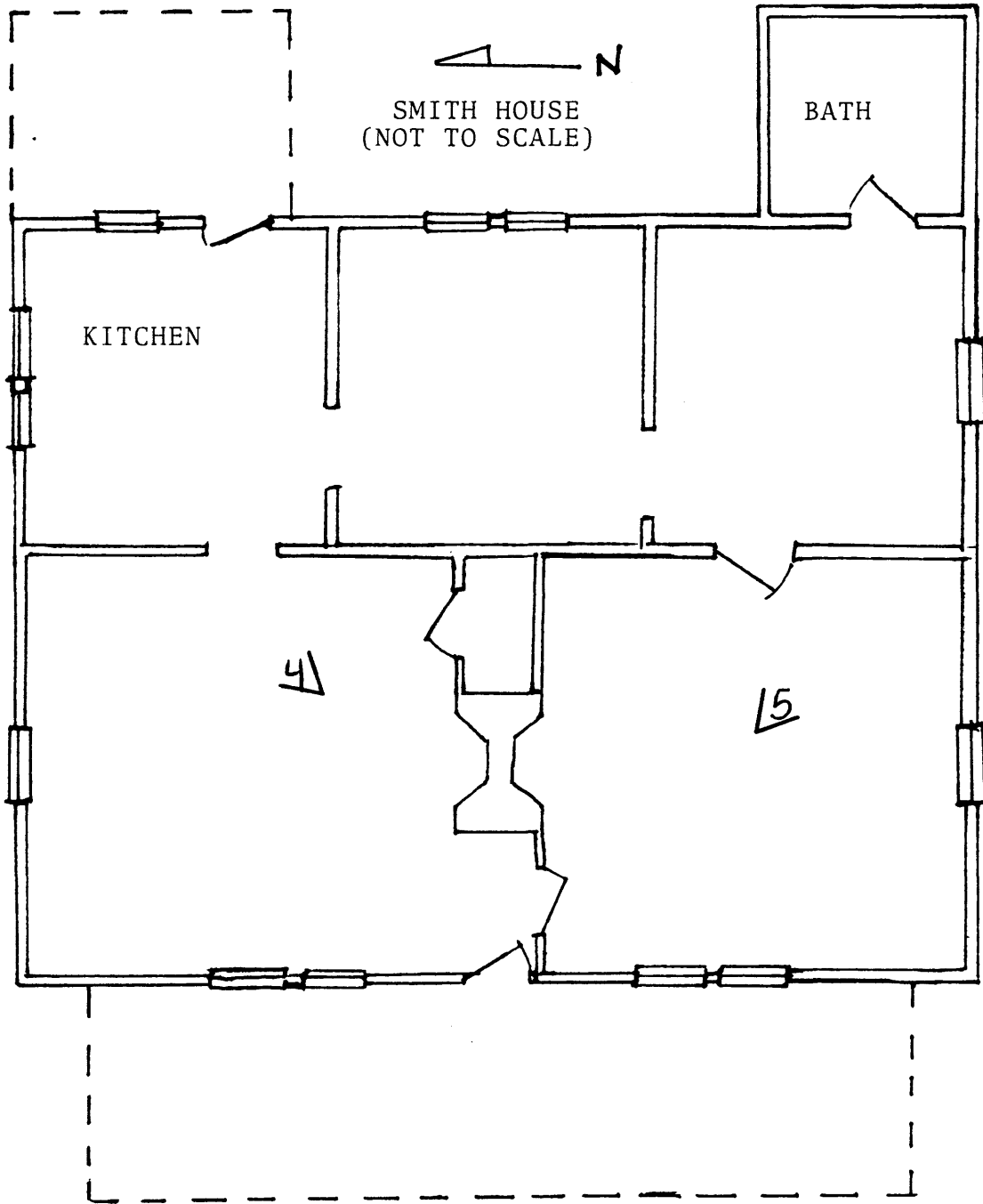
Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 9: Smith House; photographer facing northeast.
- 2 of 9: Rear facade of Smith House; photographer facing west-northwest.
- 3 of 9: Smith House; photographer facing southeast.
- 4 of 9: Interior of Smith House; photographer facing southwest.
- 5 of 9: Interior of Smith House; photographer facing northwest.
- 6 of 9: Douglas House; photographer facing northwest.
- 7 of 9: Douglas House; photographer facing southwest.
- 8 of 9: Southwest corner of Douglas House; photographer facing northeast.
- 9 of 9: Interior of Douglas House; photographer facing southeast.



Smith and Douglas Family Houses
 Bartow County, Georgia
 Plat Map
 National Register Boundary: **—**
 North: **↑**
 Scale: 1" = 100'

2

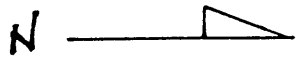


31

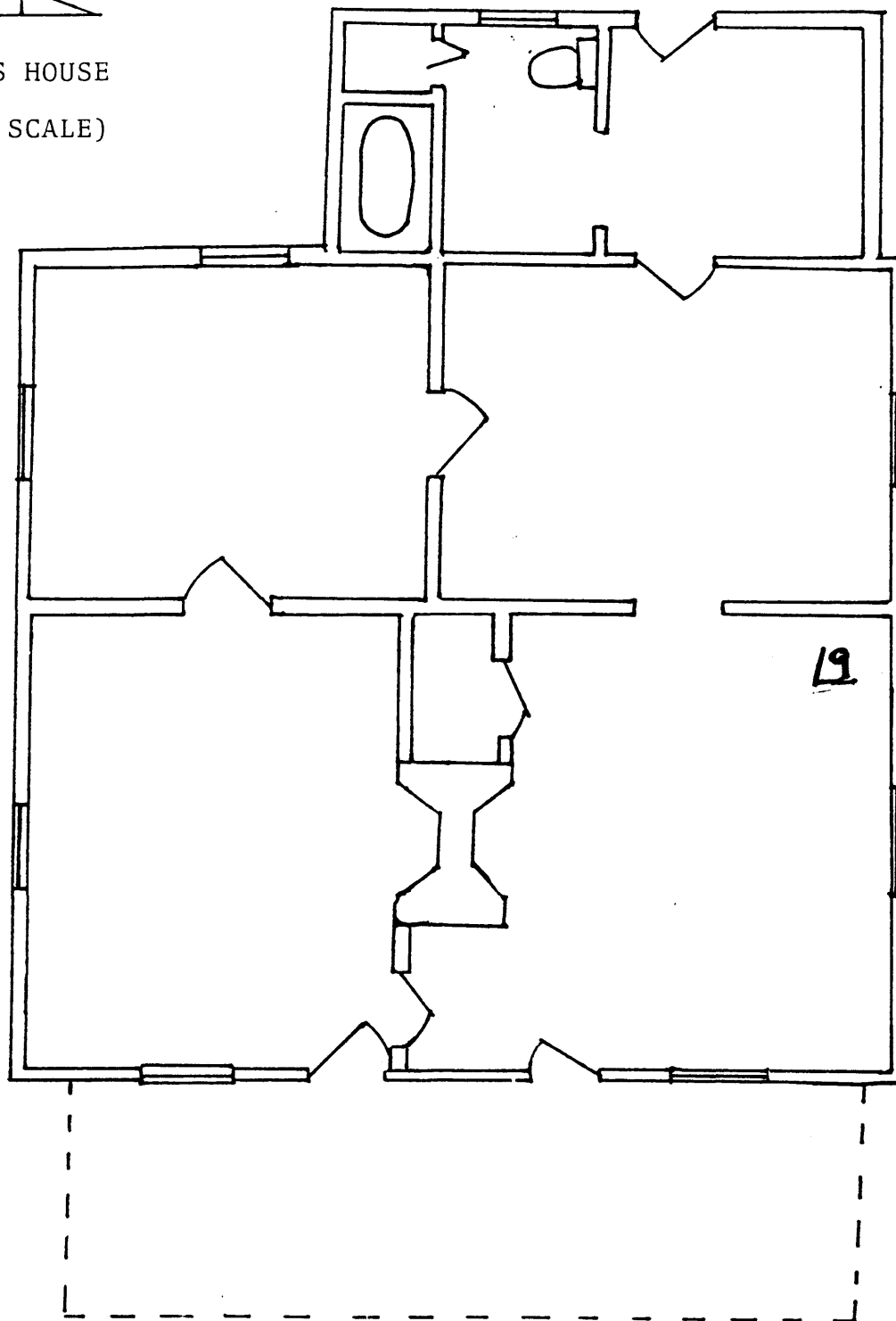
1

Smith and Douglas Family Houses
 Bartow County, Georgia
 Site Plan: Smith House
 Photographs/Direction of view: 17
 North: ←
 Scale: Not to scale

87



DOUGLAS HOUSE
(NOT TO SCALE)



19

67

67

Smith and Douglas Family Houses
 Bartow County, Georgia
 Site Plan: Douglas House
 Photographs/Direction of view: | >
 North: →
 Scale: Not to scale