

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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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 Williams-Moore-Hillsman House
other names/site number John Williams House

2. Location

street & number West Hopewell Road at Colbert Road
city, town Roberta
county Crawford **code** GA 079
state Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 31078

MAY 7 2001

(X) 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not for publication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	1	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	3	1

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

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 Clowers

5-3-01

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 *6-14-01*

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

EARLY REPUBLIC: Early Classical Revival

OTHER: Georgian-type

Materials:

foundation brick
walls wood weatherboard, asbestos
roof metal (steel)
other

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Present Appearance and Conditions

The Williams-Moore-Hillsman House is a modified Georgian-type, Early Classical Revival-style antebellum house. It is situated on wooded land in rural Crawford County. The property is located about six miles west of Roberta, just off US 80 between Macon and Columbus, in west-central Georgia. Also on the 25-acre tract proposed for nomination are a small antebellum house believed to be a slave dwelling, a family cemetery, and the known sites of former outbuildings and landscape features.

The main house is two stories high and rectangular in plan-form with an end-gable roof. It is built with a heavy mortised-and-tenoned wood frame on brick piers. Principal framing members are both hand hewn and sash saw cut. The framing system is somewhat unusual in that the lower foundation sills are continuous from corner to corner, front to back, while the attic girts and joists are made up of two separate beams, at slightly different heights, spliced together above the rear second-floor hall wall. Also, the interior lateral walls separating the front and rear ground-floor rooms and the rear wall of the second-floor hall above form an unusual interior load-bearing wall. There are two exterior end brick chimneys on the east side of the house and one 1920s reconstructed brick chimney on the west side. Also on the west side of the house is a small, one-story, attached kitchen structure, formerly a detached kitchen which was adjoined to the main house in the early 20th century, and a small shed addition, historically a side porch, housing a bathroom.

The front or south facade of the house is symmetrically arranged in five bays. The central front entrance is highlighted by a two-story pedimented portico featuring two pairs of heavy square

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columns and two engaged columns at each level. The front wall under the portico is sheathed with flush weatherboarding. The portico stands on a rebuilt concrete porch base with brick steps. The wide front doorway is flanked by fluted pilasters supporting a semi-circular fan light with radiating tracery. Symmetrically arranged windows on the front facade feature nine-over-nine single-hung sash and simple wood surrounds. The east gable-end wall has two exterior brick chimneys, each on a brick base, each with shoulders above the second-floor level, and each stuccoed and whitewashed. Three nine-over-nine single-hung sash windows are more-or-less symmetrically arranged on the end wall; the center-bay windows on each floor level do not quite line up, however. The west gable-end wall has one exterior brick chimney, reconstructed in the 1920s, with a shoulder between the first and second floors, also stuccoed and whitewashed. Windows are nine-over-nine single-hung sash, again arranged more-or-less symmetrically. Attached to the west wall is a small, one-story, gable-roofed kitchen and a small shed, historically an open porch, now an enclosed bathroom. The kitchen features a small door on its south side and a small window opening with a non-historic single shutter on its north side. The kitchen, formerly detached, was adjoined to the house in the early 20th century. The rear or north facade features three not-quite-symmetrical bays and a small pedimented stoop over the narrow rear doorway. Rear windows like those on the rest of the house are nine-over-nine single-hung sash. The exterior walls of the main house are sheathed in original weatherboards covered with 20th-century asbestos shingles; the attached kitchen features its original wood weatherboards. The main roof is covered in sheet metal. Most of the windows are original, although some early 20th-century replacements have been more recently replaced with custom-milled replicas of the originals.

The interior of the house is arranged in a modified Georgian plan. Downstairs, there is a slightly offset central hall running through the house front-to-back, flanked by two rooms on either side; the front rooms are larger and not-quite-equal in size. Upstairs, there is an unusual lateral hallway separating three front rooms and three rear rooms. A narrow enclosed winder staircase connects the two floors. The staircase originates perpendicular to the rear hallway on the first floor and then makes a quarter-turn to parallel the central hallway as it rises to the second floor. On the second floor, the stairway opens perpendicular to the lateral hallway separating the front and rear rooms. On the ground floor, there is evidence in the direction of floorboards and seams in wainscoting that the rear hallway once was several feet wider than its current width which matches that of the front hallway; this configuration also is reflected by the arrangement of sills and joists under the first floor.

The interior features plaster walls, wood floors, baseboards, chair rails, and wainscoting. First-floor rooms and hallways have plaster ceilings as well, and the first-floor front rooms also feature drawn plaster crown moldings. Downstairs wainscoting is highlighted by wood paneling formed by enframed wide horizontal boards; much of the wainscoting is decoratively grained and the baseboards are marbled. Upstairs walls have wood chair rails on plaster walls. Doors throughout are six-paneled and enframed with simple wood moldings; many of the doors feature decorative graining and original knobs and locks. Fireplaces feature grained wooden surrounds and mantels; that in the first-floor

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front southeast room is highlighted by Federal-style or "Adamesque" detailing including fluted pilasters, shallow panels, and radiating or sunburst carvings. Several chimney breasts have been more recently paneled with horizontal wood planks. The wide six-paneled front door with its semi-circular fan light appears offset in the front hallway; it is actually the hallway which is offset in the house, creating two slightly different sized front rooms. The first-floor northwest (rear) room was converted into a modern kitchen in the 1980s; the original end window was converted into a door providing access to the adjoining "mud room" and the formerly detached kitchen structure.

The house faces south toward Hopewell Road and is surrounded by an informally landscaped yard featuring trees and expanses of lawn highlighted by a number of large cedar trees. To the northeast of the house is a non-historic garage. Approximately 200 feet west of the house is a small, one-story, wood-framed, weatherboarded, two-room house believed to have been a slave house and later a tenant house. Approximately 300 feet northwest of the slave/tenant house is a small family cemetery. An upright stone marks the grave of John Williams; this marker, erected years after John's death by the Daughters of the American Revolution, indicates, apparently incorrectly, that John Williams died in 1836 when in fact it is believed that he died in 1840. Horizontal concrete slabs mark other family graves, and unmarked graves are likely present. Just east of the main house is a low stone wall perpendicular to the road; it appears to mark a historic driveway and the eastern edge of the historic front yard. Informants familiar with the property in the early 20th century have identified the general locations of several former outbuildings and landscape features in the yard including the former location of the kitchen, a rose garden directly behind (to the north of) the house, a carriage house and harness house to the northeast, and a smoke house and barn to the northwest, all within approximately 250 feet of the house. Numerous other slave houses once must have existed in the vicinity of the main house since the Williams family owned as many as two dozen slaves and the Moores more than fifty. The 25 acres of land proposed for nomination surrounding the house, yard, outbuildings, and cemetery are now mostly wooded with some small fields. The property is situated on a low rise of ground, northwest of the intersection of Hopewell Road and Colbert Road, between two small creeks running north-to-south on the east and the west. The surrounding land is rural, largely wooded, with small open fields, and a scattering of 20th-century housing along the roads and highway.

Historic Appearance and Development

Although the history of the nominated property is well documented (see Section 8, "developmental history"), the architectural history of the house is not as clear. Indeed, the only certainty is that the house is very old--among the oldest if not the oldest in the county and the region--and constructed with fine historic materials and craftsmanship. Its variant floor plan, especially upstairs, its not-quite-symmetrical design, its framing elements, and other architectural details including flooring patterns, wainscoting seams, and differences in interior trim all suggest a complex developmental history. Several scenarios have been proposed to account for the architecture of the house.

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One scenario postulates that the house was built by or for Dr. James Williams, son of John Williams, sometime between the early 1820s and 1830, possibly on the occasion of his marriage in 1827. Such a scenario is consistent with family traditions and frontier practices in Georgia: James Williams was a young man with access to family wealth and a good reason to have his own house, and his nearby father could have provided technical and financial assistance. It also is consistent with land records. James Williams clearly owned the property during this period and likely would have constructed his house on his land at the time. This scenario also is supported by much of the architecture of the house: Its heavy timber frame, its Early Classical Revival architectural style, its paneled wainscoting, and its Federal-style or Adamesque interior detailing all suggest a relatively early 19th-century date of construction. The unusual plan-form of the house also can be supported by this scenario; it could have provided Dr. Williams with space for his doctor's office and hospital separated to some degree from his family's living space. However, it must be pointed out that there are no other known examples in Georgia of such a combination rural residence, doctor's office, and hospital, and without specific documentation, this aspect of the house's interpretation is conjectural, although plausible.

A second scenario postulates that the house was built by or for John Williams, the father of James Williams, sometime after the father and son swapped adjacent land tracts in 1832. John Williams certainly had the means to build such a large house on the Georgia frontier, and at the time he may have had the need, with several generations of his family apparently living with him. This scenario also is consistent with the architecture of the house; a frontier house built in the early 1830s is indistinguishable from one built in the late 1820s. However, it does not account for the whereabouts of James Williams and his new wife in the late 1820s, nor does it account for the relatively high value of land exchanged in the 1832 father-son land swap.

Both scenarios are plausible. To the state historic preservation office, the first scenario is the more likely, because it seems to fit better with known family and architectural traditions on the Georgia frontier. However, neither scenario accounts for the many architectural peculiarities of the house which suggest that it could have been built in at least two stages. These architectural idiosyncracies include framing variations (the foundation sills are continuous from corner to corner, front to back, while the attic girts and joists are spliced and run at different heights front to back), plan variants (especially the highly unusual second-floor lateral hallway), plan changes (particularly the narrowing of the rear first-floor hallway as evidenced by floorboard orientation and seams in the wainscoting), awkward relationships between the upstairs hall walls and the end windows of the house (suggesting that the windows were there before the hallway was created), and differences, although subtle, in baseboard moldings. To the state historic preservation office, these architectural elements suggest that the house originally was built in two stages: first as a two-over-two central-hall "I-house" with an integral rear shed with a range of three one-story rooms; then later enlarged with a full second floor over the original rear shed rooms and a new, broader gable roof over the entire house. This would account for all the structural and plan peculiarities of the house (especially the continuous foundation

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sills and the spliced attic girts and joists and the unusual interior lateral load-bearing wall) and at least some of the changes in moldings and woodwork, and it corresponds with changes in ownership and family circumstances. It also raises additional questions: who enlarged the house, and when?

Under this two-stage interpretation, there are several scenarios: (1) The house could have been built originally in the smaller two-over-two-with-rear-shed configuration by James Williams in the 1820s (again, most likely upon the occasion of his marriage in 1827) and then enlarged and occupied by his father John Williams after the 1832 father-son land exchange; (2) the house could have been built originally in the smaller two-over-two-with-rear-shed configuration by John Williams after the 1832 land exchange and then enlarged by his daughter Rachel and her husband George Moore after they took possession of the house in the 1840s; or (3) the house could have been built originally in the smaller two-over-two-with-rear-shed configuration by James Williams in the 1820s (again, most likely upon the occasion of his marriage in 1827), acquired and occupied by his father John Williams after the 1832 father-son land exchange, and then enlarged by his daughter Rachel and her husband George Moore after they took possession of the house in the 1840s. In each scenario, it is possible that the subsequent owner-occupants embellished the house with interior decorative features including graining and marbleizing. Each scenario seems equally plausible, and given the extensive historical and architectural research and analysis carried out by the current property owners, various consultants, and the state historic preservation office, it seems unlikely that new information will surface to resolve the situation. Absent this, the history of the house must remain intriguingly interpretive and indicative of the complex architecture of early frontier houses in Georgia.

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
Exploration/Settlement
Ethnic Heritage: Black (African-American)

Period of Significance:

c.1827 - 1903

Significant Dates:

c.1827

Significant Person(s):

n.a.

Cultural Affiliation:

n.a.

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

unknown

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Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Williams-Moore-Hillsman House was one of the earliest houses built on this part of Georgia's early 19th-century frontier, and it is one of the oldest houses if not the oldest house remaining in rural Crawford County today. It is significant for its architecture and its associations with the exploration and settlement of west-central Georgia in the early 19th century.

Architecture

The Williams-Moore-Hillsman House is significant in terms of architecture as a rare and unusual example of an antebellum Georgian-type house in Georgia. The Georgian-type house is identified as an important type of historic house in Georgia in the statewide historic context *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses and their Landscaped Settings* (1991). Primary characteristics of the Georgian-type house are symmetrical or nearly symmetrical massing and arrangement of windows and doors, a four-room central-hall floor plan square or nearly square in overall proportions, exterior end chimneys, and a gabled roof. The Williams-Moore-Hillsman House features each of these character-defining features but with distinct variants, making it an unusual example of this important type of domestic architecture in the state. The variants in plan-form in particular reveal the range of variation in "standard" house types, especially on the frontier or in vernacular circumstances; in this case, they also may result from the house having been built in two successive building campaigns, the first resulting in a traditional I-house with rear shed, the second converting this house type into the larger Georgian type. *Georgia's Living Places* also notes that Georgian-type houses (two stories) are much less common than Georgian-type cottages (one story), especially in rural areas, making the Williams-Moore-Hillsman House a rare example of this important house type (indeed, two-story houses of any type are relatively rare in rural Georgia, constituting only about 10% of all surveyed historic houses statewide). Finally, *Georgia's Living Places* notes that Georgian houses were built most frequently in the Piedmont region of the state; the Williams-Moore-Hillsman House, located near the fall line separating the Piedmont region from the coastal plain, is thus an excellent representation of its time and place as well.

Architectural elements of the Williams-Moore-Hillsman House express in a vernacular fashion the design principles of the Early Classical Revival style of architecture as well, a style of architecture identified as significant in *Georgia's Living Places*. The symmetrical front facade, the tall, narrow, two-story pedimented portico with its robust square columns, and the wide front doorway enframed with pilasters and surmounted by a semi-circular fan light are all character-defining features of the Early Classical Revival style of domestic architecture in Georgia in the early 19th century. On the interior, the fireplace mantels and the wainscoting reflect the contemporary Federal or "Adamesque" style of architectural ornamentation, popular in Georgia and elsewhere in the United States during the late-18th and early 19th centuries. Particularly expressive of this style are the several fireplace mantels with their tall proportions, narrow enframing pilasters, and shallow, layered detailing including

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carved sunburst motifs. This architectural style is identified as important in Georgia in the statewide historic context *Georgia's Living Places*. Most extant examples are found in cities and towns, and in the coastal region and along the Savannah river, making the Williams-Moore-Hillsman House a somewhat unusual rural upcountry example.

From its largest structural elements to its smallest decorative details, the Williams-Moore-Hillsman House is an excellent example of early 19th-century hand-craftsmanship. Most evident are the fireplace mantels, paneled wainscoting, and paneled doors of the house which reflect an unusually high level of hand-craftsmanship in both construction and wood-grained decoration. Also evident are the plaster walls and ceilings and, in the front downstairs rooms, drawn plaster crown moldings. Plaster walls and ceilings are less common than wood walls and ceilings, especially on the frontier. Less evident but no less important is the heavy timber frame of the house with its massive hand-hewn and sash sawn posts and beams and its precise mortise-and-tenon joints. This form of structural hand-craftsmanship is most commonly associated with late-18th and early 19th-century rural and small-town houses in Georgia, especially in areas such as the frontier where mechanically fabricated building components were less available and "do-it-yourself" was the rule rather than the exception. The framing of the Williams-Moore-Hillsman House is an excellent example of this form of hand-craftsmanship.

Finally, the Williams-Moore-Hillsman House is rare in Georgia in terms of its type, size, and date of construction, and this rarity contributes to its significance today. Two-story houses of any type are relatively rare in Georgia, constituting less than 10% of all surveyed houses. Two-story Georgian-type houses are especially rare in Georgia, constituting less than 2% of all surveyed houses. And two-story antebellum Georgian-type houses are even more rare, constituting less than one-half of one percent of all surveyed houses--and less than 10% of these predate the Williams-Moore-Hillsman House (indeed, less than 1% of all the surveyed houses of any type or style in Georgia predate the Williams-Moore-Hillsman House). If the house was in fact built in two stages, it represents an important vernacular frontier tradition of enlarging an original pioneer house to meet changing circumstances.

Exploration and Settlement

The Williams-Moore-Hillsman House is significant in the area of exploration and settlement for the way it represents the early white settlement of this part of the state. This area of the state between the Ocmulgee River to the east and the Flint River to the west was opened for white settlement in 1821 as part of the State of Georgia's efforts to increase settlement and push the boundaries of its frontier further westward, especially in the Piedmont region. It marked the western edge of the Georgia frontier at the time, if only for a half decade. As in other areas of the state newly opened at the time, settlement was encouraged through a land lottery. But also as in many other newly created counties, permanent settlement was slow, often taking more than a decade, due to land speculation and difficulties in transportation. The Williams-Moore-Hillsman House, believed to have been built in

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1827 (but possibly as early as the early 1820s as late as the early 1830s) by white settlers from eastern Georgia and ultimately from North Carolina, marks this first wave of frontier settlement in the region and documents a typical settlement pattern of migration into the Piedmont region of the state. The Williams-Moore-Hillsman House is among the oldest if not the oldest extant houses in Crawford County and the surrounding area. As such, it stands as one of a very few houses directly associated with the first generation of pioneer settlers in the area. It also illustrates the kind of substantial first-generation house that could be built on the Georgia frontier; not all frontier houses were small log cabins or dogtrot houses. Through its architectural materials and hand-craftsmanship, the house represents the independence, self-reliance, and competence associated with frontier settlement. And through its direct associations with the Williams and Moore families, who moved into this part of Georgia and then moved on further west, eventually to Texas, albeit unsuccessfully and with a tragic ending, the house helps document larger patterns of 19th-century settlement and migration that characterized the entire southeast region in the first half of the 19th century.

Ethnic Heritage: African-American

During the antebellum period, the plantation associated with the Williams-Moore-Hillsman House depended upon slave labor for its productivity. At one time more than fifty slaves worked the more than 1,000-acre farm and its associated rural business. The surviving two-room slave cabin adjacent to the main house is the sole surviving historic structural feature directly associated with the property's African-American history, although it is highly likely that slaves are buried in or adjacent to the family cemetery or elsewhere on the property. Given the number of slaves who worked the land, there could have been as many as six to ten slave cabins in the vicinity of the main house. The surviving cabin documents a type of architecture--the "saddlebag"-type house--often associated with slave housing. It also helps document the living conditions and lifeways of African-American slaves on Georgia plantations. Once numbering in the thousands, there are only about two dozen former slave cabins documented in Georgia today.

A Note about Agricultural Significance

The plantation associated with the Williams-Moore-Hillsman House was among the largest in this region. It encompassed more than 1,000 acres and, at its peak, more than 50 slaves worked the land. The plantation also was noteworthy for its unusually diversified crop base; during a time when many planters focused on cotton as a cash crop, the various owners of this plantation consistently diversified and in fact other crops such as Indian corn outproduced cotton. After the Civil War, the plantation was converted to a huge tenant farm, again one of the largest family-managed operations in the area, which operated into the early 20th century. By any measure, the agricultural operations associated with the historic house were significant. However, there are no extant standing historic structures associated with property's agricultural history, and the land itself has largely gone into forest, losing its character as an agricultural environment. While archaeological resources associated with the property's agricultural history most likely exist, they have not been formally investigated.

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Therefore, at this time it is not possible to nominate this property for its former agricultural significance, but this significance should be kept in mind in any activities involving the land surrounding the house.

A Note about Archaeology

No formal archaeology has been done at this location, and there are no recorded archaeological sites on the property. However, given the well-documented land-use history of the property, the intense agricultural activities which took place here, oral history regarding the location and type of former outbuildings and landscape features, the presence of a family cemetery, and the fact that more than 50 African-American slaves once lived on and worked the land, it is a near certainty that significant archaeological sites exist on the property. Any ground-disturbing activities on or adjacent to the property should be cognizant of the very high potential for significant historic archaeological resources.

National Register Criteria

The Williams-Moore-Hillsman House meets National Register Criterion A for its direct associations with the early settlement of Crawford County and the region opened for white settlement in Georgia between the Ocmulgee and Flint rivers in 1821 and for illustrating settlement and migration patterns characteristic of the early 19th-century Georgia Piedmont region. The extant slave cabin on the nominated property represents the antebellum practice of slavery and its role in the agricultural and economic development of the state. The main house meets National Register Criterion C for its significance as an unusual example of a rare early rural Georgian-type, Early Classical Revival-style house in Georgia and for its exceptional vernacular design and craftsmanship. It also may be significant for illustrating the ways in which early frontier houses were enlarged and adapted for subsequent family use. The slave cabin is significant as a rare surviving example of a slave cabin and as a good example of the saddlebag-type house often associated with slave housing on Georgia plantations.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n.a.

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for this nominated property is c.1827 to 1903. The c.1827 date represents the likely construction of the house on the Georgia frontier by James Williams. The Williams family (son James and then his father John) owned and occupied the house from c.1827 to 1839. After probate, the house passed to John Williams' daughter Rachel and her husband George Moore in 1841; they continued to live in the house until 1854 (although they had agreed to sell the house late in

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1853). From 1854 until 1903 the house was owned and occupied by the Hillsmans; their long ownership spanned the Civil War and witnessed the transformation of the slave-supported plantation to a tenant farm. After 1903 the property was owned by a succession of people and gradually was subdivided and taken out of agricultural production. Given the persistent uncertainties regarding exactly when the house may have been built and whether or not it was built all of a piece or subsequently enlarged, and in light of the fact that the house stood at the center of a vast agricultural operation (first a plantation, then a tenant farm) for nearly 100 years, the period of significance runs from c.1827 to 1903. During this period of time, the house took on the architectural characteristics and historical associations that make it significant today.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The contributing historic buildings are the main house and the slave/tenant house. The contributing historic site is the family cemetery. The noncontributing building is the modern garage. Although not counted as a specific historic resource, the yard around the house including the low stone wall to the east and the reported sites of former outbuildings and landscape features forms the historic setting of the house and contributes to the significance of the historic property. The attached kitchen historically was a separate, detached structure but since the early 20th century has been attached to the main house; because it is now technically part of the main house, it has not been counted as a separate historic building.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

The land on which the Williams-Moore-Hillsman House stands was opened for white settlement in 1821. In that year, the State of Georgia distributed frontier lands between the Ocmulgee River to the east and the Flint River to the west through a land lottery. Land Lot 111, consisting of 202 ½ acres, on which the Williams-Moore-Hillsman House would be built, was won by John Castleberry. It is unknown whether Castleberry ever even set foot on his property; like many lottery winners, he may have used his land for speculative purposes only.

The next known owner of Land Lot 111 was James M. Williams, a physician from Pitts County, North Carolina. James Williams apparently immigrated with his father John Williams and family from North Carolina into Georgia during the third decade of the 19th century. In 1827 he married Jemima Wilson. The exact date of James' purchase of Land Lot 111 is unknown, possibly because early county records were destroyed by a fire in 1830. However, the fact that James Williams owned the land prior to 1830 is verified through his well-documented sale of the property to his father, John Williams, in 1832, for \$1,100 (Crawford County deed book A, page 303, date of sale October 13, 1832, recorded January 4, 1833). At that same time, John Williams sold 180 acres of land in the adjacent Land Lot 90 for \$1,100 to his son. In essence, father and son swapped adjacent land tracts. It is believed that the current Williams-Moore-Hillsman House was in existence at this time, at least in some form. One theory is that the original house may have been a slightly smaller two-over-four "I-

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House" or "Plantation Plain" house, probably built by or for James Williams, possibly upon the occasion of his 1827 marriage, which was later enlarged; another theory is that the house was originally built largely as it exists today to serve as James' family home, his doctor's office, and a rural hospital (thus accounting to some degree for the unusual arrangement of upstairs rooms, although the existence of such an unusual rural hospital is conjectural). James Williams died two years later, in 1834, and is believed to have been buried in the small family cemetery on Land Lot 111.

John Williams is known to have been in Crawford County, Georgia as early as 1826. The Index and Abstracts of Deeds of Record for Pitt County, North Carolina (Deed Book EE), where John Williams formerly lived, states that John was a Crawford County, Georgia resident in September 1826. Like many former North Carolina residents, John Williams and his family apparently immigrated to Georgia from North Carolina. His family consisted his wife Susannah Mourning and their four children. James Williams, their only son and participant in the unusual 1832 land swap with his father, died in 1834. The three daughters were Tryphena, Rachel, and Louisa; Rachel married George Moore and lived in the family home after her father's death in 1839. John Williams is buried in the family cemetery on Land Lot 111. His tombstone, erected years later by the Daughters of the American Revolution, indicates that he was a Revolutionary War soldier assigned to the First Georgia Battalion of Minute Men (1782-1784), and this is reiterated by several other sources; however, this attribution is somewhat of a mystery since the census records for 1830 and 1840 indicate that John was born in 1770 or later, too late to have served in the Revolutionary War. Also, the DAR marker indicates that he died in 1836 when other more reliable documentation confirms that he died in 1840.

While in Crawford County, Georgia, John Williams acquired over 1,100 acres of land including Land Lot 111 where the family home is located. He established several enterprises including farming, a lumber mill, and a cotton mill. His cotton mill was called the New Providence Factory and was located on a 50-acre tract of land on Tobler Creek near the Flint River in Upson County, northwest of his Crawford County homestead. The lumber mill was located near the Ulcohatchee Creek just east of the homestead on the 1,100-acre Crawford County tract. Farming activities were centered on Land Lot 111. To support these enterprises, John Williams utilized slave labor. The 1830 census reflects ownership of 30 slaves; by 1840 the number had been reduced to 25.

According to the 1830 census, there were four adults and three children living in the John Williams' home. Also at that time, the James Williams' family consisted of three members, James, his wife Jemima, and their daughter Deborah Ann Frances. These family statistics lend some support to the theory that the James Williams House on Land Lot 111 may have been built originally as a smaller, two-over-four house, for James' family, and then enlarged after his father's acquisition of the house in 1832 to accommodate John's extended family. However, it also is possible that John simply acquired his son's large house for his larger family.

After John Williams died, the plantation property including the house was auctioned in 1841 to William I. Smith, a neighbor and local physician (Crawford County deed book E, page 698, date of purchase

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March 1841, recorded July 15, 1852). George Moore, John Williams' son-in-law, and Nathan Respass, George's brother-in-law, were executors of John's estate and supervised the sale of the property. The purchase price was \$8001, one dollar above the \$8,000 appraised value of the 1,000-acre plantation, reflecting a nearly 50% increase in the price per acre since the 1832 Williams family land swap. Smith does not appear to have occupied the newly purchased house, however. It is believed that John Williams' daughter Rachel and her husband George Moore may have lived in the house as early as 1841 but certainly by 1845 when the Crawford County Tax List Summary indicates that George Moore's place of residence was Land Lot 111. William Smith may have held the mortgage on the property. George acquired full title to the land in 1852 after selling off other land owned in Macon and elsewhere in Crawford County (Crawford County deed book E, page 695, sale date May 28, 1852, recorded July 14, 1852).

Like his father-in-law, George Moore was a farmer and businessman. According to the 1850 census, his 1,100-acre plantation produced cattle, swine, sheep, corn, wheat, rye, beans, potatoes, honey, silk cocoons, and cotton. Although cotton was an important crop, the major crops appear to have been Indian corn and sweet potatoes; silk production was largely experimental in this part of Georgia, although the mulberry trees needed to support the silk worms still thrive in the area. George also had part ownership of the successor to John Williams' New Providence cotton mill, then known as the Flint River Manufacturing Company, along with his brother-in-law Nathan Respass. George also relied heavily upon slavery to support his farming and business activities; according to census records, he owned 17 slaves in 1840 and 51 slaves in 1850.

George and Rachel Moore had eleven children. These family statistics, along with George Moore's farming and business activities and acquired wealth, support the theory that it may have been the Moores who enlarged the original two-over-four Williams' house into the house as it exists today. Indeed, they certainly would have needed additional living space, especially bedrooms, to accommodate all their children, and they were young, ambitious, and wealthy. However, it also is possible that they acquired the Williams house precisely because it was a large house (either built originally as a large house by James Williams or enlarged by John Williams) which could accommodate their growing family. While living in this house, three of the Moore's children married; Tryphena and her husband Samuel Crute from Virginia then relocated to their own home a short distance away, brother John and his wife Respa Dawson moved to Hatcher's Station, Georgia, and sister Martha married Jonathan Dawson (Respa's brother) and moved to Montezuma, Georgia.

In 1853, shortly after acquiring clear title to their land upon which they had lived for more than a decade, the Moores decided to move west to Texas. On October 6, 1853, George Moore agreed to sell his plantation to Josiah Hillsman (Crawford County deed book G, page 136, bond executed October 6, 1853) for \$14,000. On January 23, 1854, George and Rachel Moore, their six sons, one unmarried daughter, their married daughter Tryphena Moore Crute and her husband Samuel and their four small children, and more than 60 family slaves left Crawford County for Texas. The family traveled by land wagon to Montgomery, Alabama, then by river boat to Mobile, and finally by sailing

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ship from New Orleans across the Gulf of Mexico to Texas, arriving by early February, entering through the port of Galveston. An epidemic of Asiatic cholera had been raging there, and the Moore family contracted the disease. In a family tragedy of startling proportions, by February 19, 1854, nine members of the Moore family and four of the Crute family had died along with approximately 20 of the families' slaves. Tryphena Moore Crute and her youngest child survived, but the infant daughter died a month later of measles. Tryphena, bereaved and widowed, returned to Georgia, later met and married Dr. William Asbury Mathews of Fort Valley, Georgia, and raised her second family of three sons and a daughter. (A full account of the Moore family tragedy can be found in Mrs. George W. Moore's book, *Light After Darkness*. An eyewitness account was published in the *Georgia Citizen* newspaper March 10, 1854.)

Josiah Hillsman, who had agreed to purchase George and Rachel Williams Moore's plantation in 1853 for \$14,000, may have occupied the property immediately upon the Moore's departure but because of the Moores untimely deaths in Texas in 1854 was unable to obtain clear title to the property from the family's estate until 1858 (Crawford County deed book G, page 136). Indeed, John Moore, one of George Moore's surviving sons and the executor of his estate, apparently tried to block the sale of the plantation to Hillsman. Clear title was obtained by Hillsman only after legal action against John Moore. As part of the settlement, John Moore was given the family cemetery and five and a half acres of land on the east side of Land Lot 92 in the extreme southeast corner of the Moore's plantation.

Josiah Hillsman was born on May 19, 1816, in Hancock County, Georgia. His wife, Josephine Gray, was born in Greene County, Georgia, on November 13, 1824. They were married in Talbot County, Georgia, on March 14, 1843. Together they had three children, all born in Talbot County: Aurelia Alberta Hillsman, Clayton Gray Hillsman, and Eudora P. Hillsman. Josiah Hillsman and his family became residents of Crawford County sometime between 1850 and 1853. The first known account of Josiah Hillsman in Crawford County is his agreement to purchase the Moore plantation in 1853. After obtaining clear title to the plantation in 1858, Hillsman purchased additional land in Land Lots 90 and 70 at public auction from the estates of Margaret Armstrong and William Armstrong. This brought the size of Hillsman's plantation to just over 1,300 acres. According to the 1860 census, Hillsman was a planter who produced cattle, sheep, swine, wheat, corn, oats, and cotton. He owned 26 slaves. During the Civil War, Hillsman served as a First Lieutenant assigned to Company B, 8th Battalion, Georgia Cavalry State Guards, from July 7, 1863 to January 7, 1864.

According to family history, as related by great grandson Dr. Joseph Hamilton Hillsman, Jr., of Atlanta (the traditional spelling of the family name apparently was changed in the early 20th century), Josiah Hillsman was remembered as a physician, possibly educated in at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine in Philadelphia. However, he listed his occupation as a planter on the 1860 census, and he served during the Civil War in the cavalry rather than as a surgeon. The family may have moved for a time to the Culloden community in nearby Monroe County, a short distance north, and at least one account indicates that Hillsman died at Culloden, although his published obituary

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says he died at his home in Crawford County.

Josiah Hillsman died in 1872. His wife Josephine apparently lived on the Crawford County property for another quarter century until her death in 1903 in Atlanta; she was buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in Macon. Her obituary spells her last name both ways, with one "L" and two, reflecting the change in the family's spelling. It is unclear how Josephine managed the former plantation from 1872 to the turn of the century. In other similar situations, widows have been known to actively manage the farm or to turn to rent-farming; the current owners believe the property was sharecropped during this period of time. In 1904, the entire 1,300-acre farm was sold by Josephine's daughter and executrix, Aurelia Hilsman Coleman, to S. T. Bentley for \$7,375 (Crawford County deed book T, page 688, sale date March 15, 1904, recorded March 28, 1904).

S. T. Bentley retained ownership of the 1,300-acre tract until 1910 and then began selling off portions of the property. Walter White purchased the house and 226 acres from Bentley in 1910 for \$1,800 (Crawford County deed book V, page 169, purchase date November 22, 1910, recorded November 26, 1910). In 1916, White sold off 96 acres of land to John Jordan but retained the house and surrounding land (Crawford County deed book V, page 469, sale date January 22, 1916, recorded January 25, 1916). White, who was married to Pearle Webb and had two children, farmed the land until his death in 1946. White's property passed through family members and remained relatively intact until Francis Wilder, grandson of Walter White, sold the property to Bradford Collins in 1993 (Crawford County deed book 129, page 617, October 25, 1993).

On March 1, 1994, the house and approximately 25 acres of surrounding land were purchased by Bernard and Clarissa Price, the current property owners (Crawford County deed book 131, page 744, March 1, 1994). The Prices are in the process of restoring the house to its historic condition. On September 9, 1997, the property received final certification for preferential historic property tax assessment under Georgia law for stabilization work done on the house. This work involving repairing deteriorated foundations and sills and stabilizing the brick chimneys. Further restoration work is planned. The 25-acre tract purchased by the Prices in 1994 is the property that has been documented and proposed for nomination. Recently the Prices have acquired additional acreage.

9. Major Bibliographic References

This nomination is based on a Historic Property Information Form for the "John Bryan Williams Home," supporting documentation, and supplementary documentation compiled by the current property owners, Bernard and Clarissa Price, starting in March 1995, on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. This voluminous documentation reflects extensive primary and secondary source research including deeds, tax records, and probate records, population and agricultural censuses, family and genealogical records, accounts, and oral traditions, published county and regional histories, area newspaper clippings and sesquicentennial issues, and a thorough investigation of the house itself.

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:

- (X) 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 24.91 acres

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A)	16	769000	3628560
B)	16	769420	3628570
C)	16	769430	3628320
D)	16	769000	3628210

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is described by a heavy black line drawn to scale on the attached historic property map. The boundary of the nominated property coincides with the current legal description of the property.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the 25-acre tract of land purchased by the current property owner in 1994 and documented at the outset of this nomination as historically associated with the house. It includes the house, the slave/tenant house, the family cemetery, the yard with its low stone wall, and the known sites of reported former outbuildings and landscape features along with representative rural acreage. The extensive agricultural acreage formerly associated with the house was sold off to multiple property owners in the 20th century and much of it has reverted to forest with only small open fields; scattered modern rural housing also is located on this land.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Richard Cloues
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** April 24, 2001

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

name/title Bernard and Clarissa Price
organization property owners
street and number Hopewell Road
city or town Roberta **state** Georgia **zip code** 31078
telephone

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Photographs

Name of Property: Williams-Moore-Hillsman House
City or Vicinity: Roberta
County: Crawford
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: August 1998

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 18. Front (south) facade and front yard; photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 18. Front (south) facade; photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of 18. Front doorway, exterior; photographer facing north.
- 4 of 18. East side wall; photographer facing west.
- 5 of 18. East side wall (left) and rear (north) facade (right); photographer facing southwest.
- 6 of 18. West side wall (right) and relocated attached kitchen (left); photographer facing northeast.
- 7 of 18. West end of house, attached kitchen (foreground); photographer facing southeast.
- 8 of 18. Rear (north) facade; photographer facing south.
- 9 of 18. Front center hallway, ground floor, facing front door; photographer facing south.
- 10 of 18. Front southeast room, door to center hallway; photographer facing west.
- 11 of 18. Rear center hallway, ground floor, facing rear door and stairway; photographer facing northwest.
- 12 of 18. Front southeast room, ground floor; photographer facing east.
- 13 of 18. Rear northeast room, ground floor; photographer facing northeast.
- 14 of 18. Lateral hallway, second floor; photographer facing west.

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Photographs

- 15 of 18. Front southwest room, second floor; photographer facing northwest.
- 16 of 18. Slave/tenant house, west of main house; photographer facing southwest.
- 17 of 18. Slave/tenant house, west of main house; photographer facing northwest.
- 18 of 18. Nonhistoric garage, northeast of main house; photographer facing northwest.

NOTE:
REFER TO DRAWING # 345/24
DATED OCTOBER 6, 1993 BY
THIS SURVEYOR.
(PLAT BOOK 1 PAGE 139)

MAGNETIC

MELVIN MILLER ET AL.

Williams-Moore-Hillsman House
Crawford County, Georgia

Property/Boundary Map

Scale: 1" = 300' (as shown)

North: ↑ (as shown)

Boundary of Nominated Property: -----

Source: "Boundary Survey for Price" (as shown)

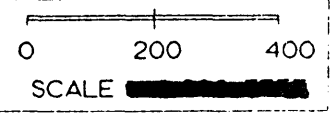
TRACT "C"
24.91 ACRES

THE APPARENT ANGULAR ERROR RECORDED
IN THIS SURVEY FIELD TRAVERSE NOT
MORE THAN 7 SEC PER ANGLE POINT
LINEAR ERROR = 0.93
ERROR OF CLOSURE = 1 / 12338
ERRORS ADJUSTED BY COMPASS R.U.E.

ALL MEASUREMENTS OBTAINED WITH A
5 SECOND TOTAL STATION

PLAT CLOSURE = 1/12338

NOTE -----
FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS
SURVEY AN 80' R/W WAS CALCULATED
FOR HOPEWELL ROAD AND COLBERT ROAD
(40' PARALLEL TO THE EXISTING
CENTERLINES.) NO DEDICATED R/W
LOCATED BY THIS SURVEYOR.



REVISED DATE 2-24-1994 :
SEPERATE PLAT FOR TRACT "C" - NAME CHANGE
(NO FIELD WORK FOR THIS REVISION)

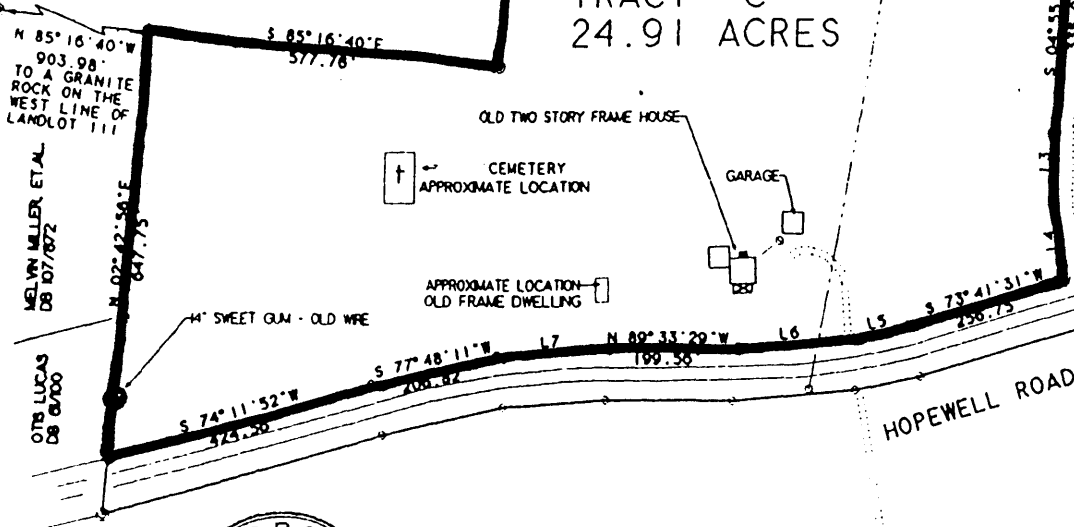
LANDLOT # - 1ST LAND DISTRICT

CRAWFORD COUNTY GEORGIA

DRAWING NUMBER # 407-24

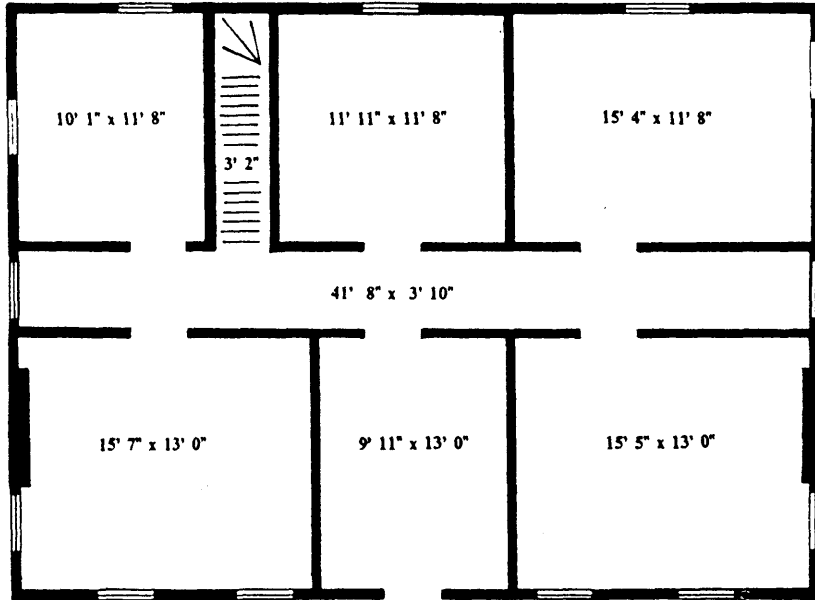
V:\COLLINSB --- PLAT DRAWING

SURVEY DATE:- OCTOBER 6, 1993



SURVEY & PLAT BY
M. DOUG GORDON, RLS
6 THOMPSON LANE
THOMASTON, GA. 30286
706/648/2366

BOUNDARY SURVEY FOR
Bernard J. Price & Clarissa B. Price



Williams-Moore-Hillsman House
Crawford County, Georgia

Floor Plan Sketch

Scale: no scale (dimensions as shown)

North: ↑

First Floor = lower

Second Floor = upper

Drawn By: Bernard J. Price

