



**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.

Mark R. Edwards  
Signature of certifying official

6-19-95  
Date

Mark R. Edwards  
State Historic Preservation Officer,  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

In my opinion, the property ( ) meets ( ) does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency or bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Edson H. Beall 7/21/95  
Entered in the  
National Register

( ) determined eligible for the National Register

( ) determined not eligible for the National Register

( ) removed from the National Register

( ) other, explain:

( ) see continuation sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Keeper of the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

### Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

### Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	brick
roof	asphalt shingles
other	N/A

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Frobel House, located in rural Cobb County, is a two-story, brick, asymmetrical Italianate style house with a cross-gabled roof. The brick is laid in common bond. The windows are varied: four-over-four, and six-over-six, double-hung windows. The window arches also vary: they are brick, some having flat or jack arches and two with round arches on the second floor. The windows have wooden shutters. There are bay windows on the south and east facades, and two floor-to-ceiling windows in the den on the southern facade. There are paired, wooden brackets under the eaves.

There is an asphalt shingle roof and an enclosed second-story porch on the southeast facade. A greenhouse has been added to the main house on southwestern facade.

There are four rooms on each floor. On the first floor, there is a central hall with living room and dining room to the north, and a den to the south. The kitchen extends back to the west, with a garage addition. The second floor contains four bedrooms in the same arrangement.

The walls are masonry load-bearing. On the interior they are clad with plaster. There are wide pine floors and dropped ceilings. The dining room has an oak floor and wainscoting.

There are wide pine floor boards, and original front and rear, paired entrance doors. The front or main entrance has a transom and sidelights; both entrances have original hardware. The interior doors are four paneled, some with original hardware. There are original mantels and fireplaces in all rooms, except in the dining room where it has been closed.

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The mechanical systems of the house were updated in the 1940s. Heating is provided through two natural gas floor furnaces.

The historic barn is now gone. Two non-historic outbuildings exist on the property: two storage garages were built to the west of the Frobel-Knight-Borders house, one in the 1950s when the Borders family moved into the property, the second in 1985 when the son's house was built.

Archaeological potential exists because of the known location of the old barn based on property surveys done in 1909 and 1929 which indicate that there was a barn located to the southwest of the main house. There is also a creek running to the south of the property which could have potential. However, no formal archaeology has been done on the property.

The house sits on a small knoll, in the sharp curve of Allgood Road, set back from the road. The house is visually screened from the road by large magnolia trees and heavy plantings. It is barely visible in the summer. This house was once a country estate but was surrounded by modern residential areas the 1950s and 1960s.

The total acreage of the historic property was approximately 6 acres until a portion was cut out for a modern house by the current owner's son. A driveway accesses the property from the southeast.

Changes to the house have been few. A garage extending to the west was added in the 1950s. A second-story back porch on the west facade was enclosed in the 1950s. A greenhouse was added to the eastern, front facade in the early 1980s. This latter addition prohibits entering the house through the traditional main entrance.

There is a wooden patch in the northwest bedroom and according to Mr. Borders this patch replaces a section of the floor destroyed by an artillery shell which was fired from a World War I artillery range which was set up near Blackjack Mountain in December, 1917.

**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  
GOVERNMENT

**Period of Significance:**

1869-1887

**Significant Dates:**

1869

**Significant Person(s):**

Frobel, Bushrod W. (1826-1888)  
(included in the Dictionary of Georgia Biography)

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

Unknown Architect, unless Mr. Frobel himself.

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

**Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The Frobel-Knight-Borders House is significant in architecture because it is a good example of the use of the Italianate style in a rural residence, originally built as a country estate. The house is relatively intact with few changes and reflects the asymmetrical massing, roof brackets, bay windows, and brick construction characteristic of the style. On the interior, it retains its original doors, floor plan, flooring, stairway and mantels. The house is an impressive exception to the rule of smaller wooden vernacular houses found in the county. Italianate-style houses are relatively rare in Georgia, eclipsed in popularity by the Greek Revival style and the disruption in building brought on by the Civil War (1861-1865). This house is also significant because it was obviously designed in 1869 in conjunction with the prevailing architectural trend of the period (1869-1872) presumably by a trained carpenter/builder if not an architect (or the original owner himself).

The house is significant in government because the original owner/builder, Col. Bushrod W. Frobel (1826-1888) was a civil engineer with the State of Georgia at the time the house was built in 1869. As a Confederate officer, he had built military defenses, and after the war, became the state Superintendent of Public Works (1865-1873). During this time, he was in charge of the repair and rebuilding of the state buildings, both in the original capital of Milledgeville, and after 1868, in the new capital of Atlanta. He later worked for Atlanta and designed a sewer system advanced for its time. The second owner (1872-1887), Judge Noel B. Knight (1809-1887) was judge (1868-1876) of the Superior Court for Cobb County and its circuit as a Democrat who turned Republican in the midst of Reconstruction. He was also a former Mayor of Marietta.

**National Register Criteria**

The Frobel-Knight-Borders House meets National Register Criterion B because it was the home of Col. Bushrod W. Frobel, a major figure during Georgia's Reconstruction era, who has been recognized for inclusion in the Dictionary of Georgia Biography in 1983. The house is also meets Criterion C because it is a fine and unusually rare for Georgia example of the use of the Italianate style of architecture built to be a country estate.

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**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

**Period of significance (justification)**

The period 1869-1887 was chosen because it covers the time from the construction of the house (1869) by Col. Frobels to the death of the second owner, Judge Knight, in 1887, the two early owners for whom the house was named. For many years later it was known as the Knight place, due to his local significance.

**Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

The only contributing building is the main house. The noncontributing structures are modern storage buildings.

**Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)**

Cobb County, in Northwest Georgia, the location of the Frobels House, was opened for non-Indian settlement in 1832 with the Cherokee Land Lottery. Settlement took place after the Cherokee Indian removal in 1838. The land lot on which this house was built remained intact, but with no substantial house, until the Civil War (1861-1865).

The earliest recorded history of this property begins on June 4, 1863 when Milton Turk sold 200 acres to Dr. William Elliot Dunwoody. The Dunwoody's were a prominent family, associated with the Roswell Woolen Mills, in Roswell, then in Cobb County and east of Marietta. They resided in Roswell until 1848, when they built "Welham" on Canton Road in Marietta.

From the original 200 acres, Dr. Dunwoody sold 80 acres on December 24, 1868 to Colonel Bushrod Washington Frobels. D. S. Malone, a local "mechanic," constructed a brick and stone home at a cost of \$1100. According to a mechanic's lien, the house was completed on August 16, 1869.

Colonel Frobels' military career is chronicled in the Official Records of the War of the Rebellion. He rose from the rank of Captain to Colonel, and became the Chief Engineer of Hood's Army of Tennessee where he worked on the defensive fortifications surrounding Atlanta. After the Civil War (1861-1865), he wrote a series of articles between 1866-69 entitled "Field and Camp," recounting his Civil War

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experiences for Scott's Monthly Magazine. He also began a distinguished career as the Superintendent of Public Buildings and Works for the state of Georgia while the capital was still in Milledgeville. He supervised the post-Civil War reconstruction of the capitol, Governor's Mansion, penitentiary, and mental asylum in Milledgeville at a cost of a half-million dollars. The state capital was moved to Atlanta in 1868, thus bringing Frobels to metro-Atlanta and therefore Marietta. In 1872, a change in political fortunes forced his resignation from state work and he moved to Atlanta where he began a new career as Chief Engineer for the City of Atlanta. This work included the upgrading of the City's sewerage system. The 1886 Atlanta City Directory indicates Bushrod Frobels, Civil Engineer, maintained an office at 44 Marietta St. and a residence at 103 Capitol Avenue, very close to the state capitol, then under construction. Frobels died in 1887 and was buried in Oakland Cemetery, Atlanta.

When Frobels relocated to Atlanta, he sold his home in January 1872 to Cobb Superior Court Judge Noel Burton Knight (1809-1887). Judge Knight, nearing retirement in 1872, was a prominent Marietta resident. Judge Knight was Mayor of Marietta in 1854, and was the central figure in a legendary Cobb County event. Immediately after the Civil War (1861-1865) Republicans gained control of political offices in Georgia. In Marietta there was great concern about who would gain control of the Judgeship of the Blue Ridge Superior Court Circuit. The Democrats in Cobb feared a Republican Judge and in order to ensure that no radical was elected, Cobb officials convinced Noel Knight to become a Republican. Judge Knight, a Democrat, went along with the plan and was appointed to the Judgeship by Governor Rufus Bullock, thus according to Cobb County historian Sarah Temple, Cobb "beat this combination of radicals, scalawags, and carpetbaggers." The story became legendary in Cobb and was discussed with relish by young and old alike. Knight served from 1868-1876. Judge Knight died in 1887 and left the property to his wife. Mrs. Hallie Harrison Knight died two years later in 1889. The Knights are buried in Citizens Cemetery in Marietta.

The property changed hands six times between 1887 and 1954. The property has always been associated with the names of some of the most important Cobb County families. Philip McCleskey married Annie McGruder Harrison Heck in the home in 1912. McCleskey was most likely a descendant of Cobb pioneer Thaddeus McCleskey. Mrs. McCleskey had one son from her first marriage to John M. Heck, the son John A. Heck served as the sole Cobb County Commissioner from 1943-1953. A later owner, Mr. Newton Mayes, was described by retired Atlanta physician Dr. Pierce Allgood, for whose family Allgood Road in Cobb County is named, in a 1991 interview as a "gentleman farmer who drove a big

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car." Mr. Mayes descended from the William Mayes family, an early pioneer Cobb family.

Mr. Newton Mayes sold the property to Mrs. Mattie Dobbins Gaines. The Gaines family is credited with damming the stream behind the house creating a lake which Dr. Allgood remembers as a swimming hole for the local boys. Further, according to Dr. Allgood, the "Knight House" as it was known was considered an architectural anomaly in the neighborhood as houses of that size and style were built on Canton Rd. Mrs. Gaines sold the property to Mr. Ben Wooten in 1943. Mr. Wooten, an engineer, is credited with the modernization of the water and electrical systems.

The Borders family obtained the property in 1950, with the current owners Bill Borders and his wife taking over in 1956. The Borders have enclosed a second story back porch, added a garage and a greenhouse, and sold approximately 1 acre to their son for the construction of his house. The Borders family continue to live and maintain this historic house.

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## **9. Major Bibliographic References**

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Kehoe, Chris, Cobb County Planning and Zoning Department, Historic Preservation Planner, Staff to local Historic Preservation Commission. "Bushrod W. Frobel House." Historic Property Information Form, March 19, 1992. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, 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
- ( ) 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
- (X) Local government Cobb County Historic Preservation Commission
- ( ) University
- ( ) Other, Specify Repository:

**Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):**

N/A

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** approx. 5 acres.

**UTM References**

A) Zone 16 Easting 728780 Northing 3761980

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries of this property, for the purpose of the National Register Nomination, will include all the land from the driveway, to the northern property line, then moving to the east, terminating at the boundary of Allgood Rd. The boundary is marked on the enclosed tax map/plat.

**Boundary Justification**

The proposed boundary follows the current legal boundaries of the property and provides the house with an appropriate landscaped setting. The justification for this boundary is that this acreage contains the remaining intact historic acreage and excludes the new house built in 1985.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**name/title** Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian, based on original work by Chris Kehoe, Preservation Planner, Cobb County Historic Preservation Commission, Marietta, GA.

**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

**street & number** 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462

**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334

**telephone** (404) 656-2840 **date** June 5, 1995

(HPS form version 10-29-91)

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Photographs

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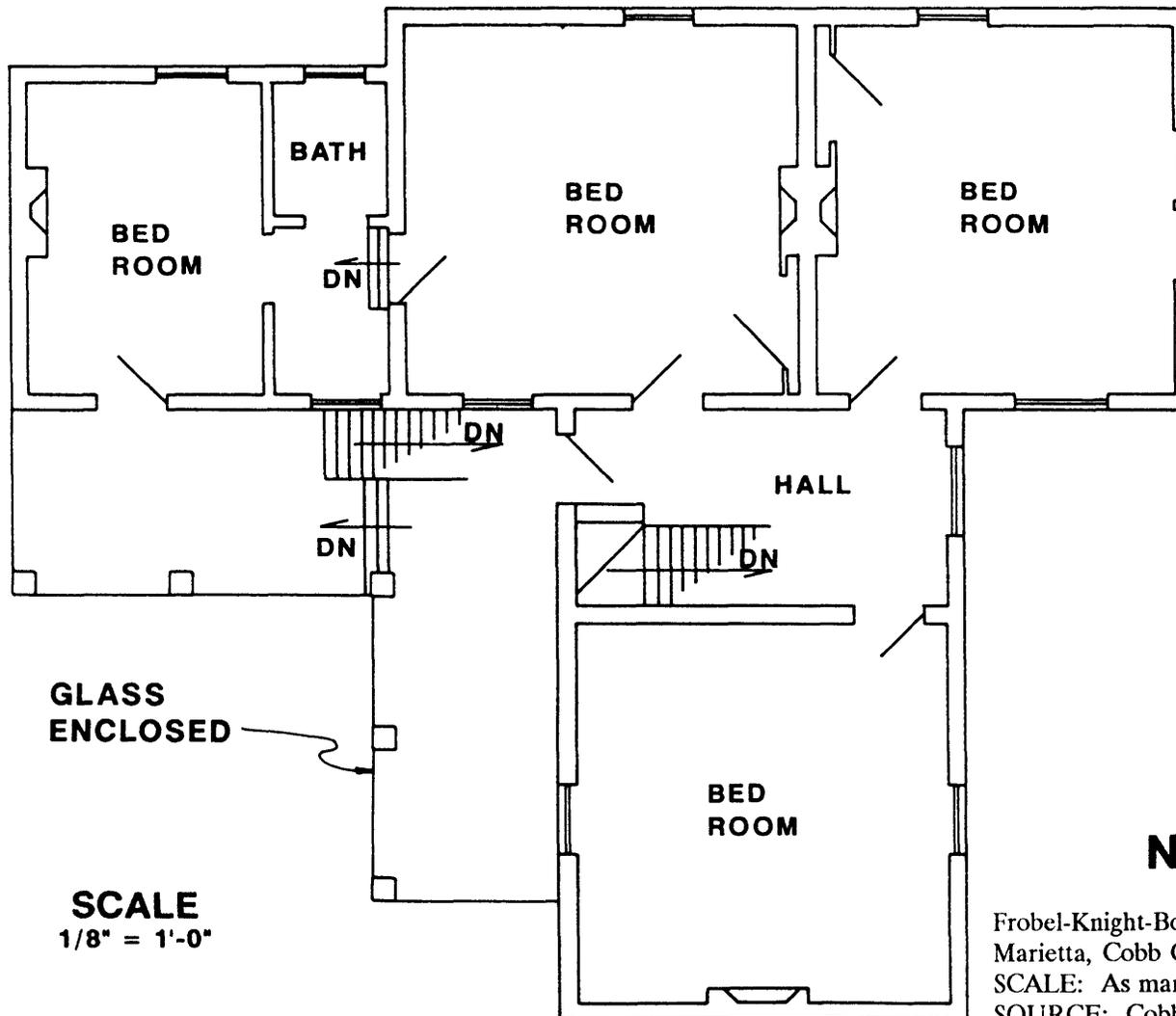
**Name of Property:** FROBEL-KNIGHT-BORDERS HOUSE  
**City or Vicinity:** MARIETTA  
**County:** COBB  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** June, 1994

**Description of Photograph(s):**

- 1 of 10 Front facade with entrance greenhouse; photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 10 North facade and garage; photographer facing south.
- 3 of 10 North facade and garage; photographer facing southeast.
- 4 of 10 South facade at the rear; photographer facing northeast.
- 5 of 10 South facade at the rear; photographer facing northeast.
- 6 of 10 Front entrance (greenhouse); photographer facing northwest.
- 7 of 10 First floor\inside front central hall\front entrance; photographer facing northeast.
- 8 of 10 First floor\living room; photographer facing south.
- 9 of 10 Second floor\northeast bedroom; photographer facing south.
- 10 of 10 Second floor\southeast bedroom; photographer facing southwest.

# FROBEL-KNIGHT-BORDERS HOUSE

## SECOND FLOOR



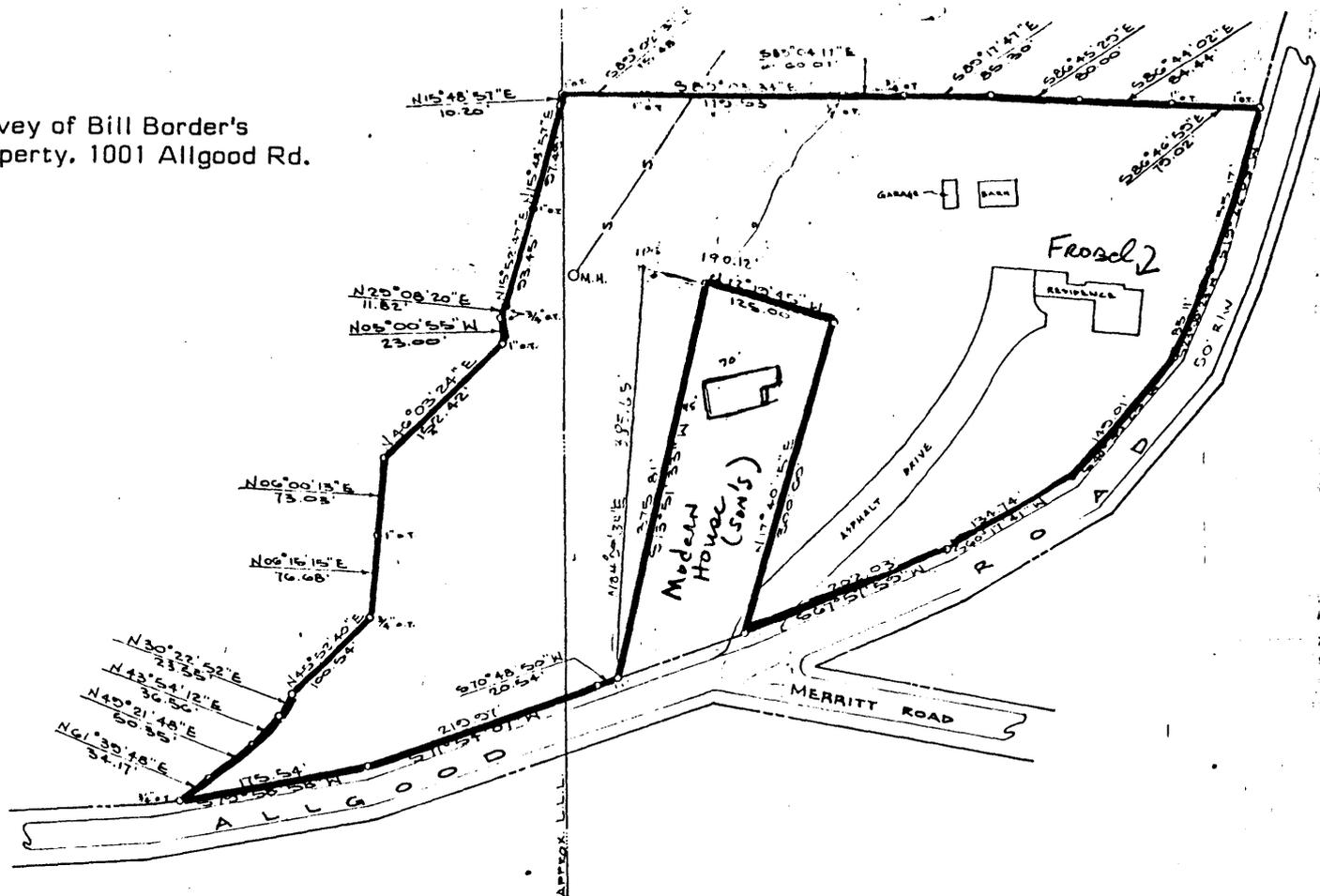
GLASS  
ENCLOSED

SCALE  
1/8" = 1'-0"

  
NORTH

Frobel-Knight-Borders House  
Marietta, Cobb County, Georgia  
SCALE: As marked on Plan  
SOURCE: Cobb County Planning & Zoning  
DATE: 1992  
KEY: Second Floor Plan, room uses are marked.

Survey of Bill Border's  
Property, 1001 Allgood Rd.

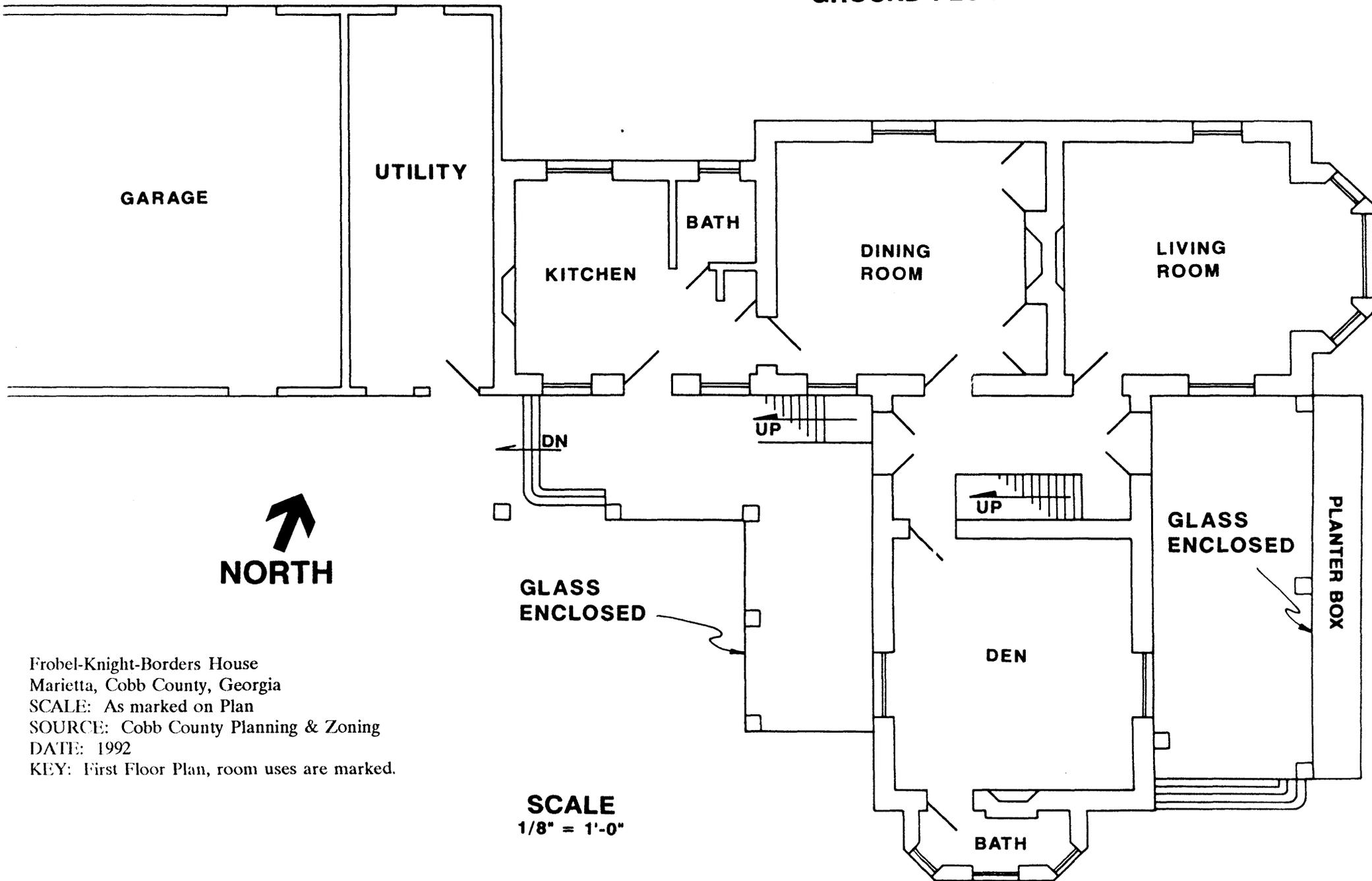


AREA = 0.6263 ACRES

Froebel-Knight-Borders House  
Marietta, Cobb County, Georgia  
SCALE: As marked on Map  
SOURCE: Bill Borders, owner  
DATE: 1985  
KEY: The historic house is marked as residence,  
nominated property by heavy black line.

# FROBEL-KNIGHT-BORDERS HOUSE

## GROUND FLOOR



Frobel-Knight-Borders House  
Marietta, Cobb County, Georgia  
SCALE: As marked on Plan  
SOURCE: Cobb County Planning & Zoning  
DATE: 1992  
KEY: First Floor Plan, room uses are marked.

**SCALE**  
1/8" = 1'-0"