

Box 32

Farm's old house is spared

*Despite development
next door, 1907 structure
will be for community*

By Marianne Jaskevich
STAFF WRITER

The 92-year-old Cheek-Spruill farmhouse on the corner of Chamblee Dunwoody Road and Mount Vernon Highway has some new neighbors.

Guardian Savings Bank, which purchased the 2.5-acre lot last year for \$2.5 million, has begun construction directly behind the wood-frame farmhouse, built by the Cheek family in 1907 and purchased in 1945 by Carey Spruill.

Only 7 feet separate the screened back porch of the old house from the bank's property line.

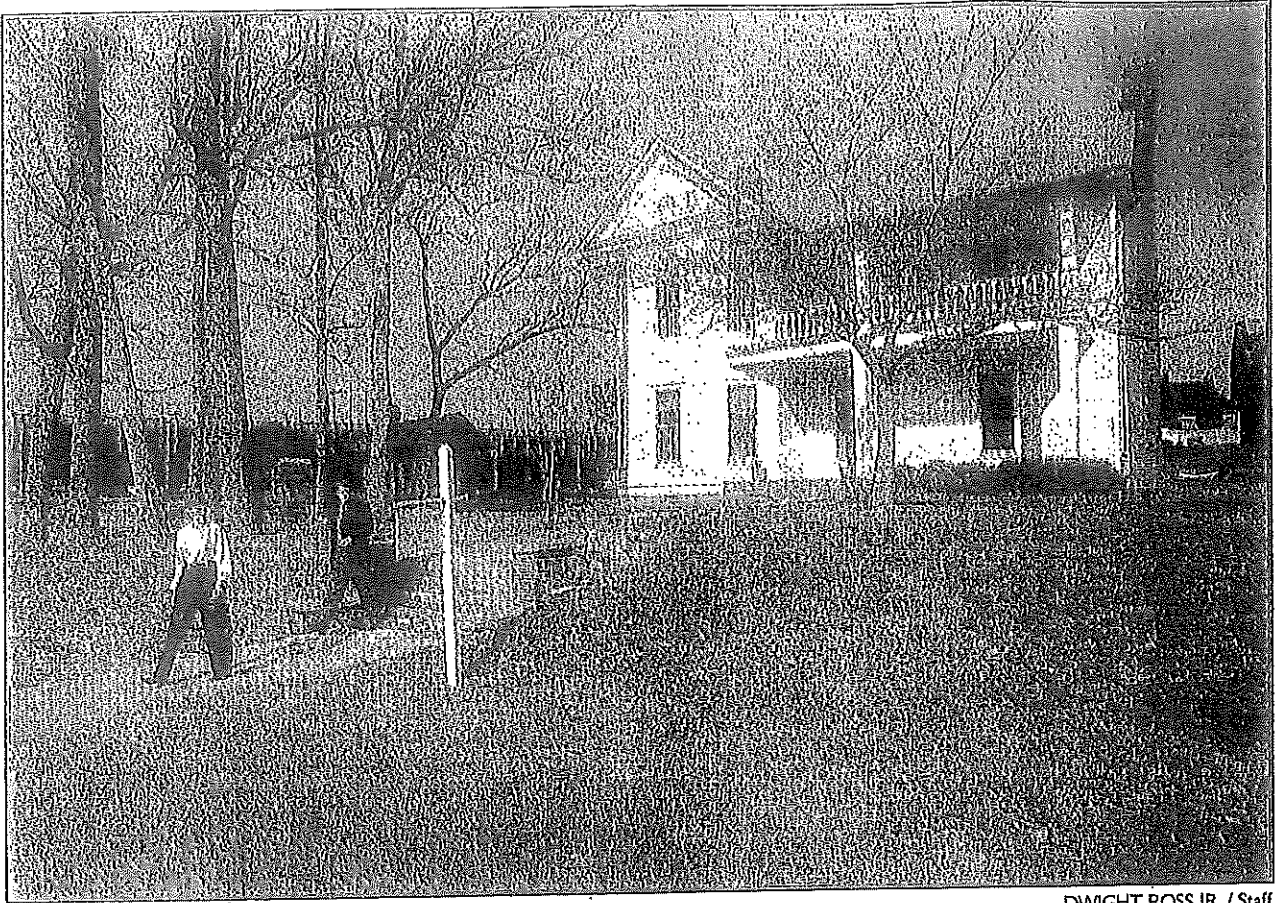
Next door, the skeleton of a new seven-store strip mall overlooks the farmhouse's old corncrib and smokehouse.

Dick McCown, site superintendent at Beers Construction, estimates that the bank will be open for business in mid-April and the shopping center a month later.

"We have no definite information on who the tenants of the strip mall will be," he said.

Members of the Dunwoody Preservation Trust, a nonprofit group that spearheaded the movement to save the house, are thankful to Guardian for deeding them the house and a half-acre last July.

"After four years of fund-raising and negotiating



DWIGHT ROSS JR. / Staff

The Check-Spruill farmhouse will be renovated and dubbed the Dunwoody Town Hall. Out front are Lynn Byrd of the Dunwoody Preservation Trust and Bill Thomas of Guardian Savings Bank.

the house finally belongs to the people of Dunwoody," said the trust's president, Lynn Byrd.

The house was recently placed on the Georgia Register of Historic Places. This spring, the state will nominate the site to be placed on the National Register of Historic Places, a first for Dunwoody.

The trust awaits the approval of a building permit from DeKalb county for beginning renovations.

The farmhouse has no heat or air conditioning, and must be structurally stabilized and rewired.

New plumbing is required for the one bath, which must be modified for handicap accessibility. A fundraising auction will be held on May 15.

"Saving the house has brought the community together," said Byrd.

Volunteers abound, from a professional contractor and architect, to a landscape designer and interior decorator, to lawyers and "worker bees."

"This old house is part of my neighborhood," said Mark Erbesfield, president of GreenMark Landscap-

ing, "and I want to contribute."

His company is developing a master landscape plan for the grounds.

The plan includes evergreen trees to block the view of its new neighbors' 35-space parking lot.

A memorial antique rose garden donated by the son of the longtime principle of Dunwoody Elementary, Grace Davis, will be planted on the front lawn.

A towering pecan tree on the south side of the house remains undisturbed, though there is concern about possible root damage, Byrd said.

The tree's massive spread reaches over the bank's parking lot. "Mr. Spruill paid his taxes from the pecans that fell from this tree," Byrd said.

Renamed the Dunwoody Town Hall, the house will accommodate a tea room, a space for the Dunwoody Fine Arts Association to exhibit and sell paintings, and free meeting rooms for clubs and organizations.

For more information on volunteering and fundraising, call 770-394-7967.

3/21/96 att JIC DeKalb Extra
Farmhouse has seen it all

Can it be just my imagination?

Have you ever noticed how the drivers at the Dunwoody intersection (Mount Vernon and Chamblee-Dunwoody) appear to be less tense and impatient, more calm and polite, and in a generally better mood than anywhere else in this area? Or is it all in my mind?

If this is true, how do you explain it? It is certainly just as busy as other intersections and getting worse every day, so it cannot be the amount of traffic. What else could it be?

All of a sudden, one day it struck me.

Look at that farmhouse on the corner that is so visible from all directions. Is it casting a spell of peace and serenity over all who view it while waiting their turn to proceed on? Is such a thing possible? I asked myself.

That farmhouse, which has stood there for over 100 years, has seen it all. For 41 years, 1880-1921, it watched the train go by four times daily on its run between Chamblee and Roswell, the engine running backward on each return trip because it had no place to turn around. In 1905, it saw the excited crowd around the Dunwoody Depot waving as President Theodore Roosevelt passed by on the way to visit his mother's home at Bulloch Hall in Roswell and return about two hours later. It must have been quite an event at this rural crossroads.

A few years later, it must have been startled off its foundation when the boiler at Joberry Cheek's cotton gin exploded across the street, killing those men and filling its yard with falling debris.

It remembers when the only traffic was horse- or mule-driven wagons, maybe one or two an hour. It looked on as the first automobile passed by before World War I on the one-lane dirt road, scattering dust behind it and scaring the livestock. And yes, it got its first look at a paved road in 1936 when Lawrenceville Road became "hard" and its name was changed to Mount Vernon.

It looked on when the Dunwoody Methodist Church vacated its wooden

building on the south side of Mount Vernon not far from the corner and erected the brick building (now a chapel) on the north side of the street.

And how it must miss the children, the schoolkids walking by from all directions going to and from Dunwoody Schoolhouse within sight across the intersection.

It must have wondered what in the world was going on when it observed Dunwoody Village rising from the ground in a field considered to be its own.

Is it possible? Can a house think? Can a house have memories?

I don't think so.

But can a house cast a spell over people without them even knowing it?

I believe it is happening every day at the Dunwoody intersection. They call it the Dunwoody Village farmhouse. They want to save it.

I will do everything I can to help. I hope everybody will.

JIM PERKINS
Dunwoody

✓ Farmhouse Being Preserved With Help From Ford

The "Drive for the Restoration of the Historic Dunwoody Farmhouse" recently got a \$5,000 financial boost from Ford Motor Company in Atlanta.

Robert Cucchi, Regional

Governmental Affairs director for Ford, presented a check for \$5,000 to Brent Pope, architect in charge of restoration for the Dunwoody Preservation Trust, Inc.

"Ford is a major corporate citi-

zen of the local community and has been since 1909 when Henry Ford began building Model Ts in Atlanta," said Mr. Cucchi. "Ford's philosophy always has been to work closely with, and invest in, communities where it operates to support improvements that will benefit the community at large."

Today, nearly 3,000 Ford employees build Mercury Sable and Ford Taurus, America's best-selling car, at the company's Atlanta Assembly Plant in Hapeville.

Every other entity of Ford also is represented in Atlanta or surrounding communities through a number of regional offices.

"Ford's corporate goal of leading in corporate citizenship ties very nicely to the Preservation Trust's goal of preserving the farmhouse as a community center where all social civic and religious groups can exchange ideas on important issues and establishing educational classes for children" said Mr. Cucchi.

Ford's donation to the Dunwoody Preservation Trust is the largest corporate gift to date.



Robert Cucchi of Ford (left) with Brent Pope.

Dunwoody residents rally to purchase farmhouse

12/7/95
D/K. News-Ex

Plans to save the circa 1880 farmhouse that is a Dunwoody Village landmark recently got underway.

At a meeting called by Dunwoody Preservation Trust, Inc., 142 residents listened with interest and made initial contributions.

More than \$4,000 was collected following the session, held at the chapel of Dunwoody United Methodist Church.

The farmhouse will become the Dunwoody Town Hall. Lynne Byrd, president, noted that the white frame Cheek-Spruill farmhouse is what's known as a "plantation plain farmhouse." It is on more than two acres of ground at the corner of Mt. Vernon Road and Chamblee-Dunwoody Road.

Located on the property are a southern barn, corn crib, smokehouse, and the field, where the late Carey Spruill plowed the ground with mules and grew corn crops.

When the money is raised to purchase the property, Dunwoody Town Hall will be a place for community meeting and special events.

"It is what preservationists call 'a sense of place,'" Byrd said.

Joyce Amacher, vice president, answered the question that was on everyone's mind: How much? She explained that the property was zoned commercial in the 1970s. The Dunwoody Preservation Trust, has an option on the property until March 26. The "asking price" is \$2.5 million.

"We are going to set our goal as we go along," said Amacher. "If we could reach a million dollars, we can show the corporate world and everyone else that we care about what we are doing. We feel it is do-able."

Rob Augustine, the trust organization's treasurer, summarized the financial plans for the campaign. All funds will be put in an escrow account at Enterprise Bank and if

the goal is not met, the contributions will be refunded. The entire donation will be tax deductible.

Noting the historical significance of the drive, he said, "We want people in the future to know what this community was like."

Louise McCahan urged those present to take the news back to their civic clubs, garden clubs, women's clubs, swim clubs, etc., and promised that members of the preservation committee will be glad to give five-minute talks about the project. She said that 15,000 letters will be mailed to Dunwoody residents.

Nick Nicodemus reported that the project is set up to accommodate matching funds from corporations and foundations and added that he believes that an acceptable offer can be made to the owners of the property, **Hugh Spruill** and **Edgar Spruill**.

"The spirit of Dunwoody is behind the effort," he said. "I think we will be successful."

Julia Ogletree welcomed help in applying for grants and emphasized the need for a resident participation in order for grants to be made. Betsie Stuckman and Jan Slater described plans for getting school involved, and Judy Vogel talked about working with community organizations. She composed the organization's first newsletter.

Dot Baker asked for volunteers to help with publicity so that future fundraisers can be communicated through newspaper, radio, and television.

At the close of the session, most who attended were signing up to volunteer and making out their checks.

Checks may be made out to Dunwoody Preservation Trust, Inc., (identified as donations to the Dunwoody Village farmhouse), P.O. Box 888658, Dunwoody, Ga., 30356.

A historic hotline, 770-394-7967, is available to answer questions.

Box 54

THE BOX HOUSE

In 1905, Stephen Spruill (1870-1967), Thomas' son, tore down the log house built by his grandfather, and using the 1867 addition as an anchor, he then built the "box house." The "box house" consists of the four rooms and a central hallway which runs the length of the house. The hallway and high ceilings (14 ft.) facilitated air circulation during hot Southern summers before air conditioning. With its simple architecture, the Spruill House is a fine example of Southern farmhouses from this period.

The house rests on a brick pier foundation and uses a typical floor joint and wall stud system. The walls are constructed of sawn wood studs, and the roof exhibits a combination of both hip and roof gable roofing. The exterior is composed of mill cut lap-board siding, which may very well have been supplied by the Spruill's mill in North Fulton County.

The front facade has six columns and two pilasters. It features Victorian detailing, such as spindle work and flat jig-saw cut trim, which give the house its special charm. (This trim was added a few years after the house was built, perhaps because wordworking machinery and the growth of the railroad system made pre-cut Victorian detailing more accessible in those years.) The shutters on the front facade can swing open or remain shut. The side and the back porches are informal and less ornate. Similar to the railing currently found on the back porch, the original facade railing was comprised of horizontal strips of lumber.

In 1937, Stephen and his second wife, Ethel Warren Spruill, remodeled and updated the house. During the remodeling, the wall which separated the living room and hallway was removed to make the living room more spacious, and a modern kitchen and bath were installed.



SMOKEHOUSE & SEED HOUSE

There are two outbuildings still standing along with the house. The smokehouse was built in the 1840s, at the same time as the original log house. Iron hooks, upon which meat was hung to be dried and cured, can still be seen along the smokehouse's walls. The smokehouse is constructed of large round logs similar to those in the original log house.

The second outbuilding is a seed house. Here, staple farm supplies, such as corn, wheat, and cotton seed were stored. The seed house was built in the early twentieth century and is made up entirely of mill cut lap-board siding, with no rounded logs.



Stephen Spruill with second wife, Ethel Warren Spruill, on homeplace lawn.

Spruill Center for the Arts is a private, not-for-profit arts center providing high-quality fine arts programming for the community through classes in literary, performing, and visual arts. It is supported in part by grants from DeKalb Council for the Arts, Georgia Council for the Arts, and National Endowment for the Arts.

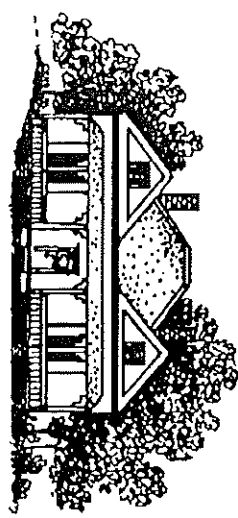
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W&W

A HISTORY OF THE SPRUIILL HOMEPLACE

By Emily Pogue Henry



4681 Ashford Dunwoody Road, Atlanta, Georgia

The Spruill Homeplace in Dunwoody, Georgia was the center of a large working farm from the mid-19th century until 1965. Today, the main house and two outbuildings are still standing in good condition on the property. The house has undergone numerous additions and renovations since being built in the 1840s, and features a century's worth of phases and styles of Southern folk architecture.

Through the generosity of Onnie Mae Spruill, Stephen T. Spruill's daughter, and Ethel Warren Spruill, his second wife, the Spruill Homeplace and five surrounding acres have been donated to the Spruill Center for the Arts to serve as place to foster the arts, and as a remembrance of one of Dunwoody's first families, the Spruills.

Spruill Center for the Arts
GALLERY & HISTORIC HOME
 Wed - Sat 11 am to 5 pm
 Free Admission & Parking
 (404) 394-4019

A PIONEER HOMESTEAD

James T. Spruill (1816-1896) settled and began to farm a significant portion of the land which is present-day Dunwoody in the early 1840s. The first structure built on the property was a log house, typical of its day and common among pioneer families in this part of the country. Family members recall that the house was two stories tall and that the original walls were constructed of large, round logs. The log house survives today only in the memories of older family members and their stories, because it was torn down in 1905 after becoming infested with termites.

The oldest extant part of the current structure was built in 1867 as an addition to the log house. It consists of two rooms, located in the back of the house. One room currently houses the history exhibit and the other has been converted to a rest room and hallway. These rooms were once a kitchen/living area (the family refers to it as the "keeping room") and an extra bedroom, respectively. The addition was made in order to accommodate the large family of Thomas Franklin Spruill (1846-1920), James' son. Open hearth cooking was done in the large stone fireplace. The corner cabinet has five let-in shelves and an enclosed cabinet. The "keeping room" has original wooden wall paneling, which the family switched from horizontal to vertical in the 1880s to give the room a more modern look.



Stephen T. Spruill in the "keeping room," 1958.

THE SPRULL FAMILY

The Sprulls are among the first settlers of Dunwoody and the earliest English settlers of North America. Dr. Godfrey Spruill (b. 1650) immigrated with his wife to the New World from England in the 1690s, settling in the Albemarle Sound area of North Carolina. For the next five generations, Sprulls played an important role in the religious and political life of the fledgling colony.

By the late 1700s, a Spruill had settled in Abbeville, South Carolina. When the first U.S. census was taken in 1790, a William Spruill was living in Abbeville with a wife and several children. Judging from the will of William's father, John Spruill (d. 1808), we can surmise the Sprulls had lived in Abbeville for quite some time and were prosperous farmers and land owners.

In the early 1800s, William's oldest son Stephen (b. 1787) moved to DeKalb County, Georgia. The 1830 census shows William later joined his son in DeKalb, where he died in 1846. In the early 1800s, the Cherokee and Creek Indians had ceded a good deal of land to Georgia and Alabama. Georgia used a lottery system to distribute this land, and Stephen Spruill obtained land in Sandy Springs that stretched from Long Island Creek to what is now Mt. Vernon Road.

In 1842, Stephen's son, James Spruill (1816-1896), married Miss Millie Adams (1821-1896). They moved from Sandy Springs to the current site of the Spruill Homeplace, and were among the first white settlers of Dunwoody. James' son, Thomas Franklin Spruill (1846-1920), a private in the Confederate Army, is listed as having surrendered to Union troops in Greensboro, North Carolina in 1865. After Thomas married Naomi Martin (1844-1941) in 1867, the "keeping room" addition was added to the rear of the original Homeplace to accommodate the growing family.

STEPHEN THOMAS SPRULL



Stephen Spruill and first wife, Mollie Lee Carter of Sandy Springs, with their eldest son Floyd C. Spruill.

When Thomas' son, Stephen Thomas Spruill (1870-1967), married Miss Mollie Lee Carter (1872-1932) of Sandy Springs in 1889, the Homeplace was presented to them as a wedding gift. Stephen was to live in the Homeplace and farm the land his family had farmed for generations, until his death in 1967. It was Stephen who, in 1905, tore down the original Homeplace because it was infested with termites and rebuilt the Homeplace as we know it today. Throughout the early twentieth century, Stephen acquired land from neighboring farms, and by the time of his death was one of the most prosperous farmers and largest land owners in both Fulton and DeKalb counties. Most of Stephen and Mollie Lee's descendants continue to live in the Dunwoody area.

1/3/82

A Place in The Country

Before the Civil War, the Spruills were farmers who bought land in what became Dunwoody. Today, heirs sell the land for as much as \$500,000 an acre.



Ethel Spruill: "The Spruills beltebe in work and money. They don't talk much."

Winter was coming. Outside, up and down the serene winding streets of Dunwoody, the were stuffed in trash bags and s of smoke twisted up from s into the cobalt sky. Only ng and the decorating and the stood between Thanksgiving Christmas as Ethel Spruill put-out her living room in River-ates. Ethel was pouring coffee Martina Doster was crocheting g for Christmas. Ethel and are good friends. They have air and are in their 70's and y bridge and go to church to- they moved quietly about the urban house while a clock nd a fire whispered in the pplace. l and Martina were talking e latest big news in Dun- A few days earlier, a branch s family had sold a chunk of the intersection of Ashford-ly Road and Interstate 285 to ton-based developer. The er headline read, "Sпруill es For \$21 Million."

42 acres? That's a lot," Mar- I know is what I read in the Ethel said. "I're a Spruill, and you didn't

Sпруills don't talk much. Spruills." the family's unofficial his- d author of a book entitled y of Dunwoody, settled onto ded sofa. "The boys never fathers how much money for their property when they hey figured it would worry

the same time, the land r to the boys by their fathers led, so none of the boys or wives could throw it away." poured more coffee. "I've ite understood the Spruills. e with a love I've never d. My husband, Stephen, al- d to say you had to walk nd walk tall. The Spruills be-ork, money and little affec- not a close family. The little lacking."

ist count there were 74 sted in the metro Atlanta ok. A lot of other names in belong to Spruill family rel- names like Miers and Phil- bell. All of them are linked ne family — that of James orn August of 1816, died 1889 — and what exists to- e legacy of a sprawling dy- worked hard at farming d late of babies and went to

church and bought land for nearly nothing and sold the land for prepos- terous figures and let the real estate agents do the talking.

About a dozen years ago I started making payments on a red and white house in Dun- woody. It was *country* then, an idyllic Sunday drive some 30 minutes from the city, and in my perambulations around the area I became fascinated by what I often came across at the inter- section of Chamblee-Dunwoody and Mount Vernon roads. Franchised service stations stood on three corners of the intersection, but on the fourth corner was a two-story white-frame farmhouse and in a field behind it I would see an old man working a mule and planting his corn. A neighbor of mine, whose job it was to procure land for the good people at Gulf, told

me about trying to buy five of the old man's acres for \$500,000 and being chased away with a shotgun. I asked my friend who the old man was and he said, "Sпруill or something like that." *Crazy as a bat*, my friend muttered.

Well, now, my old friend, let me tell you about what's happened in re- cent years to that old man behind the mule. Carey Spruill said to hell with Gulf and plenty of others. But he and his family took a lot of the land they'd bought over the years at the price of a pig and peddled it for a fortune. One of the old family prop- erties is where Perimeter Mall and Perimeter Center are now located. Nobody knows — or nobody will talk about — how much land has been ac- quired by the Spruills since the first of them came to the area well before the Civil War. But a great deal of the

property in the triangle and Buckhead and Dunwoody, the most expensive suburban Southeast — has been sold one time or another by a

The very idea. It was to be farmland, a place of a different way of life. Now what do we have? The Dunwoody Boulevard looks like Oral Roberts' Olympic stadium. Apart from the complexes and subdivisions like De Lido, Valley View, Peachtree town, Heathwood, North Atlanta, Paces and Derby Hills. Not to mention the Ellman's and the entire city of Atlanta, Island and all the tack joints lining the roads that used to be the old family farmhouse.

No, the Spruills don't talk much, should they? When you're selling land at \$500,000 an acre, you need to be in the papers calling the various family members gets shut off at every turn by a member of the family who has the phone. A real estate agent who turns his calls. A great-grandson says she's busy baking for the Carey Spruill is "retired" in the afternoon ("I'll have to talk to him later," says his wife) who wakes up about whether to talk to you," says his wife) who seldom gets together for some of them don't know who to give out, the others' phone numbers. The woman who lived on the land just sold for \$21 million is in Dunwoody where she'll move.

So now it's come time to sell. The Spruills are. And Carey Spruill's mule died.

But Dunwoody thrives on the land that began as a simple farm. The country keeps going. You can stand at the Marriott Hotel and look at the family plot where 50 people are buried and, at the same time, the traffic on the freeway that graveyard that the mule took turns guarding the land from people who, in the past, stole cadavers to sell to researchers.

And you can listen to Carey Spruill talk about her life and the rest of the family. He died in 1977 when he died. He did not.

"Guarding the bodies of the dead." "That and driving cars." Brookhaven now. He got a car. "One dollar. He could buy an acre for that."

Ethel laughed. "He did."

Next week Faye Han...ettes Statewide

rec'd 1/94

Kari Jackson
5592 Mill Trace Drive
Dunwoody, Georgia 30338
404-394-8970

Dunwoody Homeowners Association
Dunwoody Cultural Arts Center / Spruill Center
✓ DeKalb Historical Society

Dear community members:

I am not sure in whose jurisdiction this problem would fall, so I am writing to all the possible players in order to insure that the right person receives this information.

I am concerned about the Spruill House, the beautiful white farmhouse that sits on the corner of Chamblee-Dunwoody and Mt. Vernon in "downtown Dunwoody." Although I do not know the owner personally, I feel I must state my concerns for the home and farm's well-being after the owner is gone -- my feeling is that it is never too early to make long-term plans for important historic structures.

The Spruill House over the years has come to symbolize the Dunwoody community's heritage, if not the community itself. The white farmhouse, with its wide porches and rocking chairs, oak trees with tire swings, and a dilapidated yet serviceable barn, seem out of place on the corner of a bustling suburban intersection, which boasts gas stations, a dry cleaners, and a Dunkin' Donuts on the other three corners. Indeed, the house itself has lent a sense of reality to the growing suburb of Dunwoody through the years, its importance to the community certainly enhanced by its prominent location and visibility. Through the Spruill home, the community has been able to retain a sense of place and historical perspective: the home has come to symbolize for both new and native Dunwoody citizens a less congested time in the community... farmers who raised their home and their family in an undeveloped, "wild" area, with their closest neighbors

much farther away than the next subdivision over.

As a child growing up in Dunwoody, I clearly remember the Spruill House during harvest time, when withered corn stalks, already stripped of their corn, would blow across Mt. Vernon. I attended a dance school that was across the street from the Spruill House, and twice a week when we went to dance, we would see the Spruill's in the corn field during harvest and planting seasons, working their rows of corn, and waving to passers by. I remember we when stopped seeing neatly planted rows of corn, and we wondered if the farmers had just become too old for the yearly ritual.

I am sure most Dunwoody residents have similar memories of Dunwoody's "dual" years, when the old farming community came into contact with the newly developing suburb. In the early 1970's, when Dunwoody High School first opened, teachers drove on dirt roads, avoiding loose chickens, on their way to the newly built school. I, like most Dunwoody residents, can drive down any road in the community, and point out where old farmhouses stood, where pastures of farmland or horse farms were located, or where acres of trees were plowed under for new subdivisions, stores, office buildings, and strip malls.

The Spruill House stands as a memory of that earlier time in the Dunwoody community. Through the years, as more farmhouses were lost to new developments, and farmlands converted into suburbs, the Spruill House, with its remaining farmland, continued to stand, it's importance to the community growing with the demolition of each of its contemporaries.

Although another of the Spruill family's houses, on Ashford-Dunwoody, has been preserved as the Spruill Art Center, the house's function, and even the interior displays, lend nothing to the real history that was Dunwoody and the Spruill's. An art center, although a needed, useful, and contemporary part of the community, does not accurately reflect or interpret where Dunwoody has been and how it has arrived at the community today.

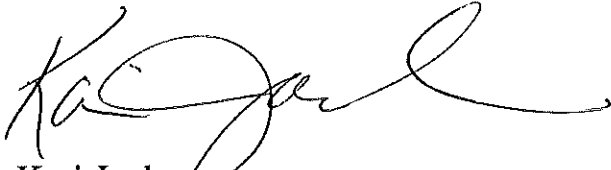
An idea that has been circulating among many Dunwoodians, including myself, is, with the consent and blessing of the owner, to make the Spruill House into a working museum and farm of Dunwoody history. That means, the home's interior would become a house museum, displaying and interpreting how the Spruill's, and other early Dunwoody residents, lived. The change from a farming community to a developing suburb could also be explained in an interior display. The land surrounding the house would become farm land again, and the barn a working barn: farming would be

done using the techniques and tools that the Spruills, and other earlier Dunwoody farmers, used in the early years of the community. Dunwoody school children and secondary school students, who for the most part have never been exposed to farming or farm animals, could become involved in the farming process through special school classes or courses, and visitors to the house could watch and listen to interpretation of equipment and farming techniques of the early Dunwoody citizens.

This is only an early and rough idea of what would need to be a very well thought-out, efficient, honest, and accurate portrayal of the home and history. However, given the history and fate of other historic homes in the community, I felt that it was an idea that needed to be expressed before it is too late.

If the community decides to pursue this idea further, I have names of several experts who might be able to help. Stan Latham, a former Dunwoody resident whose three boys all attended and graduated from local schools, currently runs the Earle-Harrison House and Neal Pape Gardens in Waco, Texas. The House and gardens are the most beautifully run and the most complimentary to a community that I have ever seen, and Stan runs both the house museum and its sister foundation efficiently and intelligently. I am sure that he could offer some early advice and ideas during his next trip to Dunwoody. T. Lindsay Baker, the colorful and well-known curator of the Bill and Vera Daniel Village at Baylor University, is extremely knowledgeable on how to incorporate early life of a community into working historic demonstrations, and could certainly offer advice into creating an on-going working farm. I am sure there are also many well-qualified and knowledgeable Georgia experts who have had experience with museum homes and working historic farms, and would be willing to work with Dunwoody, should the community decide to pursue this project.

Thank you for your time, and I hope that you will give some attention to the fate of this beautiful and historic home which has such strong significance for the community.



Kari Jackson

285

Ashford - Dunwoody
continue n. go by

rock wall on right

go to end of fence

Crape myrtles on either

side of driveway ~~see a~~

~~gate~~ house on right gate

below traffic entire gate

stay in roadway tie gate.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER/GEORGIA REGISTER NOMINATION

1. Name: Cheek-Spruill House.

2. Location: 5455 Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd., Dunwoody, DeKalb County, Georgia.

3a. Description: The Cheek-Spruill House is a two-story, wood-frame, gabled-ell house. The gabled ell has a cut-away front gable. It has a three-gable roof and two chimneys, one interior and one exterior. There is a screened porch on the rear. On the front facade is a porch on both floors, with the columns on the top porch being original. The second floor is in original condition and contains plaster walls and hardwood floors in all three bedrooms. There is an original stairway with balusters. The first floor contains two main rooms and a modernized kitchen. The 1969 changes are all on the first floor and are to be reversed during the restoration. Original doors, door hardware, and wide floor molding survive on both levels. There are two historic outbuildings, a smoke house and a corn crib, which have been relocated to within the present boundary from their original locations just outside the boundary but on the original lot. The house lot retains several original trees and evidence of the roadbed that once went across what is now the front yard. The front and side yards are intact with historic landscaping that includes grass, shrubs, and mature trees. The house sits prominently at the intersection of two main roads in what was historically downtown or the center of Dunwoody. Due to rapid commercialization in this once rural area, this is the only historic structure at this intersection.

3b. Dates of Development: c.1907; c.1909-1921.

3c. Acreage: Less than one acre.

3d. Boundary Explanation: The nominated property is all that remains associated with the house.

4a. National Register Criteria: A and C.

4b. National Register Areas of Significance: Architecture; Community Planning and Development.

4c. Statement of Significance: The Cheek-Spruill House is significant in architecture because it is a good example of a gabled-ell type farmhouse. There is strong family and local tradition that the house had one floor built around 1907 and then raised up, possibly as early as 1909 or as late as 1921, and the second floor built underneath the first. Due to the house's expansion so close to its construction, it gives a unified appearance today, especially in the exterior walls, the interior stair, and other features. The house retains much of its original materials including plaster walls, doors, moldings, stairway, and porches. The house is significant in community planning and development because it was built at a very prominent location, the very heart of where the town of Dunwoody began in the early 1880s from a railroad and roadway intersection to the suburb it is today. When the house was built, it faced the railroad leading from Chamblee to Roswell, with the depot being northwest of the house. Most of the businesses were on the west side of the railroad, and to the south (across what is now Mt. Vernon Road, then Lawrenceville Road) was the Joberry Cheek Gin and other enterprises. Joberry Cheek had long been one of the early settlers and land owners in Dunwoody. It was Mr. Joberry Cheek who bought this lot in 1907 and later in 1912 officially sold it to his daughter, Myra Cheek Crook and her husband John W. Crook, an international milling engineer. Immediately prior to Cheek's purchase, the lot and some 50 other acres in the intersection were owned by Perry L. Moss who ran a general store and was postmaster. Moss had owned this corner lot since 1891 and presumably rented out a small house that is indicated as being there in the 1900 Census. Interviews with Cheek descendants indicate the present house was originally built by Bunyan B. Cheek (1883-1957), the son of Joberry Cheek. Bunyan Cheek is also said to have lived there c.1917-1921 if not earlier. The Crooks resumed living in the house and lived there off and on, traveling to various job sites in between. The Cheek descendants fondly remember "Aunt Myra's" hospitality in the house during the 1920s and 1930s. The Crooks had made plans to subdivide the property, presumably to make other sales, when the Depression hit and they sold the house in 1933. After the Crooks owned the house and lot for approximately 20 years, it went to William and Margaret Price Church from 1934 to 1943 who used the house as a retirement home, and from their estate to Carey T. and Florence Warnock Spruill, who lived there from 1945 until their deaths in 1983 and 1994 respectively. Carey Spruill was a planter and a landscape architect and was well-known for continuing to farm on this property while Dunwoody became a modern commercial suburb all around him. The Spruill family was one of the earliest landowners in Dunwoody. After a herculean preservation effort, ownership passed to the Dunwoody Preservation Trust on July 4, 1998.

4d. Suggested Level of Significance: Local.

4e. National Register Status: The property has received a Georgia Heritage 2000 grant for stabilization.

5. Sponsor: The nomination materials were prepared by the owners and sponsor the Dunwoody Preservation Trust with additional research by HPD staff. The nomination is supported by the owners.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Lonice C. Barrett, Commissioner

Historic Preservation Division

W. Ray Luce, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street, N. W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303
Telephone (404) 656-2840 Fax (404) 657-1040

ANNOUNCEMENT OF LISTING IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

W. Ray Luce, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, is pleased to announce that the property identified below was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on the date indicated:

Cheek-Spruill House

DeKalb County

June 9, 2000

We hope that the recognition of the architectural and historical significance of this property, combined with the benefits of National Register listing, will assist in the preservation of the property. Additional information on preservation programs is available from our office.

Thank you for your interest in historic preservation.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER/GEORGIA REGISTER NOMINATION

1. Name: Cheek-Spruill House.

2. Location: 5455 Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd., Dunwoody, DeKalb County, Georgia.

3a. Description: The Cheek-Spruill House is a two-story, wood-frame, gabled-ell house. The gabled ell has a cut-away front gable. It has a three-gable roof and two chimneys, one interior and one exterior. There is a screened porch on the rear. On the front facade is a porch on both floors, with the columns on the top porch being original. The second floor is in original condition and contains plaster walls and hardwood floors in all three bedrooms. There is an original stairway with balusters. The first floor contains two main rooms and a modernized kitchen. The 1969 changes are all on the first floor and are to be reversed during the restoration. Original doors, door hardware, and wide floor molding survive on both levels. There are two historic outbuildings, a smoke house and a corn crib, which have been relocated to within the present boundary from their original locations just outside the boundary but on the original lot. The house lot retains several original trees and evidence of the roadbed that once went across what is now the front yard. The front and side yards are intact with historic landscaping that includes grass, shrubs, and mature trees. The house sits prominently at the intersection of two main roads in what was historically downtown or the center of Dunwoody. Due to rapid commercialization in this once rural area, this is the only historic structure at this intersection.

3b. Dates of Development: c.1907; c.1909-1921.

3c. Acreage: Less than one acre.

3d. Boundary Explanation: The nominated property is all that remains associated with the house.

4a. National Register Criteria: A and C.

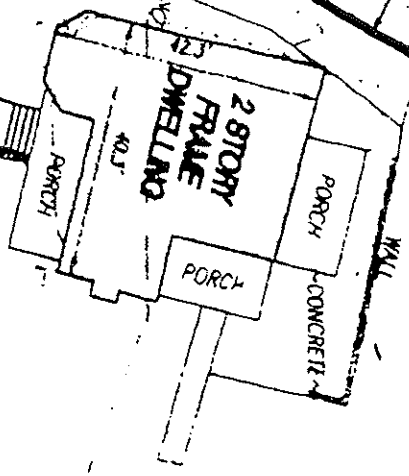
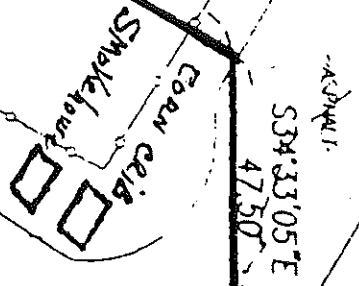
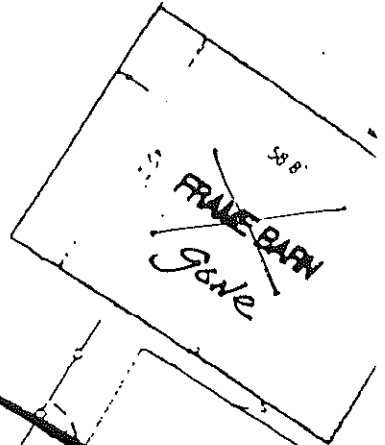
4b. National Register Areas of Significance: Architecture; Community Planning and Development.

4c. Statement of Significance: The Cheek-Spruill House is significant in architecture because it is a good example of a gabled-ell type farmhouse. There is strong family and local tradition that the house had one floor built around 1907 and then raised up, possibly as early as 1909 or as late as 1921, and the second floor built underneath the first. Due to the house's expansion so close to its construction, it gives a unified appearance today, especially in the exterior walls, the interior stair, and other features. The house retains much of its original materials including plaster walls, doors, moldings, stairway, and porches. The house is significant in community planning and development because it was built at a very prominent location, the very heart of where the town of Dunwoody began in the early 1880s from a railroad and roadway intersection to the suburb it is today. When the house was built, it faced the railroad leading from Chamblee to Roswell, with the depot being northwest of the house. Most of the businesses were on the west side of the railroad, and to the south (across what is now Mt. Vernon Road, then Lawrenceville Road) was the Joberry Cheek Gin and other enterprises. Joberry Cheek had long been one of the early settlers and land owners in Dunwoody. It was Mr. Joberry Cheek who bought this lot in 1907 and later in 1912 officially sold it to his daughter, Myra Cheek Crook and her husband John W. Crook, an international milling engineer. Immediately prior to Cheek's purchase, the lot and some 50 other acres in the intersection were owned by Perry L. Moss who ran a general store and was postmaster. Moss had owned this corner lot since 1891 and presumably rented out a small house that is indicated as being there in the 1900 Census. Interviews with Cheek descendants indicate the present house was originally built by Bunyan B. Cheek (1883-1957), the son of Joberry Cheek. Bunyan Cheek is also said to have lived there c.1917-1921 if not earlier. The Crooks resumed living in the house and lived there off and on, traveling to various job sites in between. The Cheek descendants fondly remember "Aunt Myra's" hospitality in the house during the 1920s and 1930s. The Crooks had made plans to subdivide the property, presumably to make other sales, when the Depression hit and they sold the house in 1933. After the Crooks owned the house and lot for approximately 20 years, it went to William and Margaret Price Church from 1934 to 1943 who used the house as a retirement home, and from their estate to Carey T. and Florence Warnock Spruill, who lived there from 1945 until their deaths in 1983 and 1994 respectively. Carey Spruill was a planter and a landscape architect and was well-known for continuing to farm on this property while Dunwoody became a modern commercial suburb all around him. The Spruill family was one of the earliest landowners in Dunwoody. After a herculean preservation effort, ownership passed to the Dunwoody Preservation Trust on July 4, 1998.

4d. Suggested Level of Significance: Local.

4e. National Register Status: The property has received a Georgia Heritage 2000 grant for stabilization.

5. Sponsor: The nomination materials were prepared by the owners and sponsor the Dunwoody Preservation Trust with additional research by HPD staff. The nomination is supported by the owners.



CHAMBLEE-DUNWOODY RD
VARIABLE R/W

TRACT A
AREA - 0.575 ACRES
25,052.91 sq. ft.

363.69'
225.31'

N85°50'55"E
20.00'

S34°33'05"E
47.50'

S34°33'05"E
148.25'

N69°34'28"W
25.64'

105.38'

S65°46'28"W

CONCRETE SIDEWALK

MT. VERNON Highway



Check-Spruill House
Dunwoody, DeKalb County, Georgia
Source: DeKalb County Deed Book 10082, p. 88, drawn by
Armstrong Land Surveying.
Date: March 4, 1997
The nominated property is Tract A, indicated by a heavy black line.
Scale: Measurements included on the plat.
North:

DRAWN BY
TOP E.L. - 11/23/98
M.I.M.

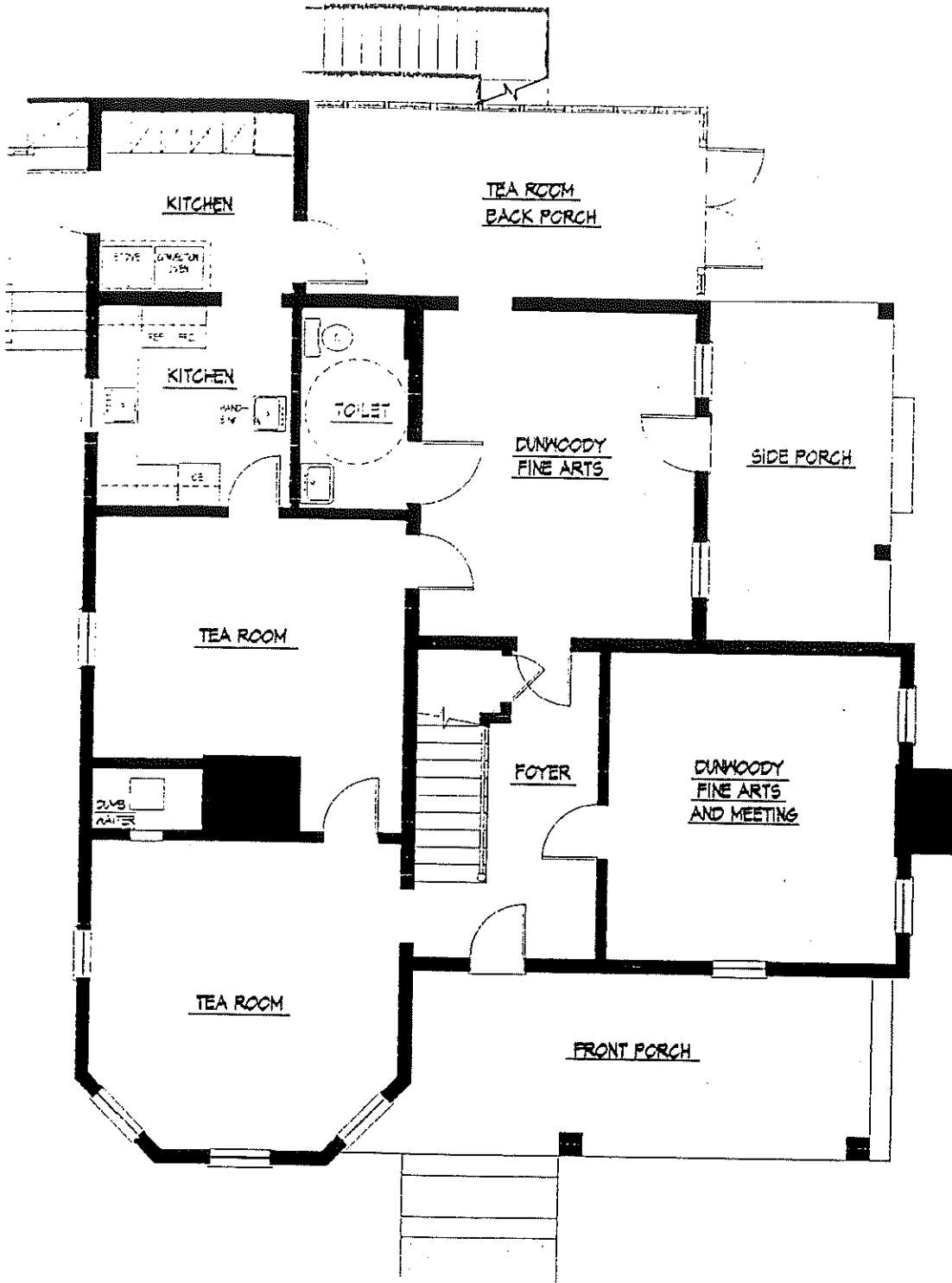
POSSIBLE GRAP
O. HAYES
M.I.M.

STONE LINED EDGE

STONE LINED EDGE

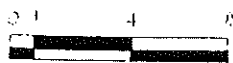
PP/LP

PP/LP

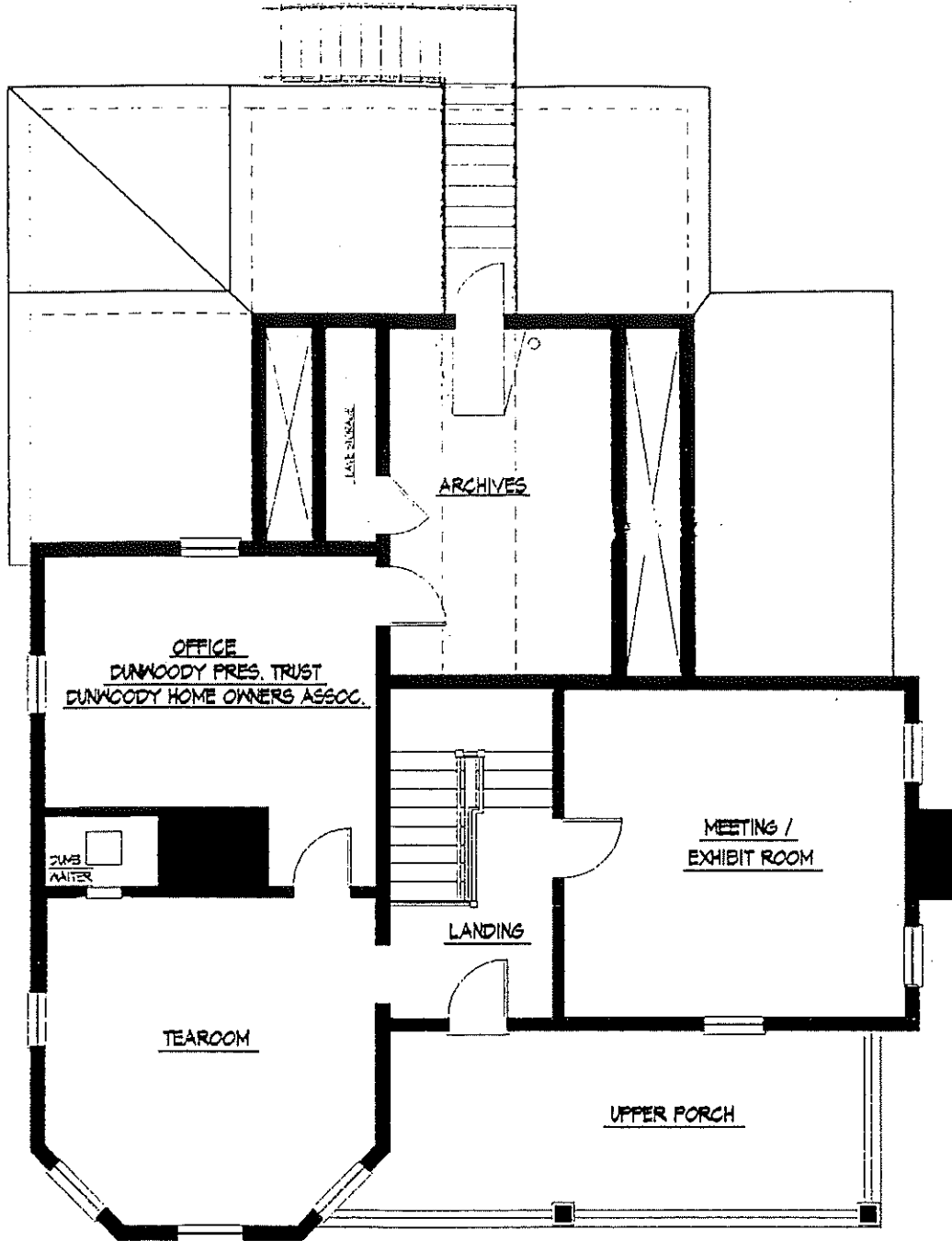


ALTERATIONS TO
 THE CHEEK - SPRUILL FARMHOUSE,
 Chamblee Dunwoody Rd. at Mt. Vernon Hwy.
 Dunwoody, Georgia 30333

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



Cheek-Spruill House
 Dunwoody, DeKalb County, Georgia
 Floor Plan-First Floor with room uses marked
 Drawn for the Dunwoody Trust
 Date: c. 1999
 Scale: As marked on plan
 North:

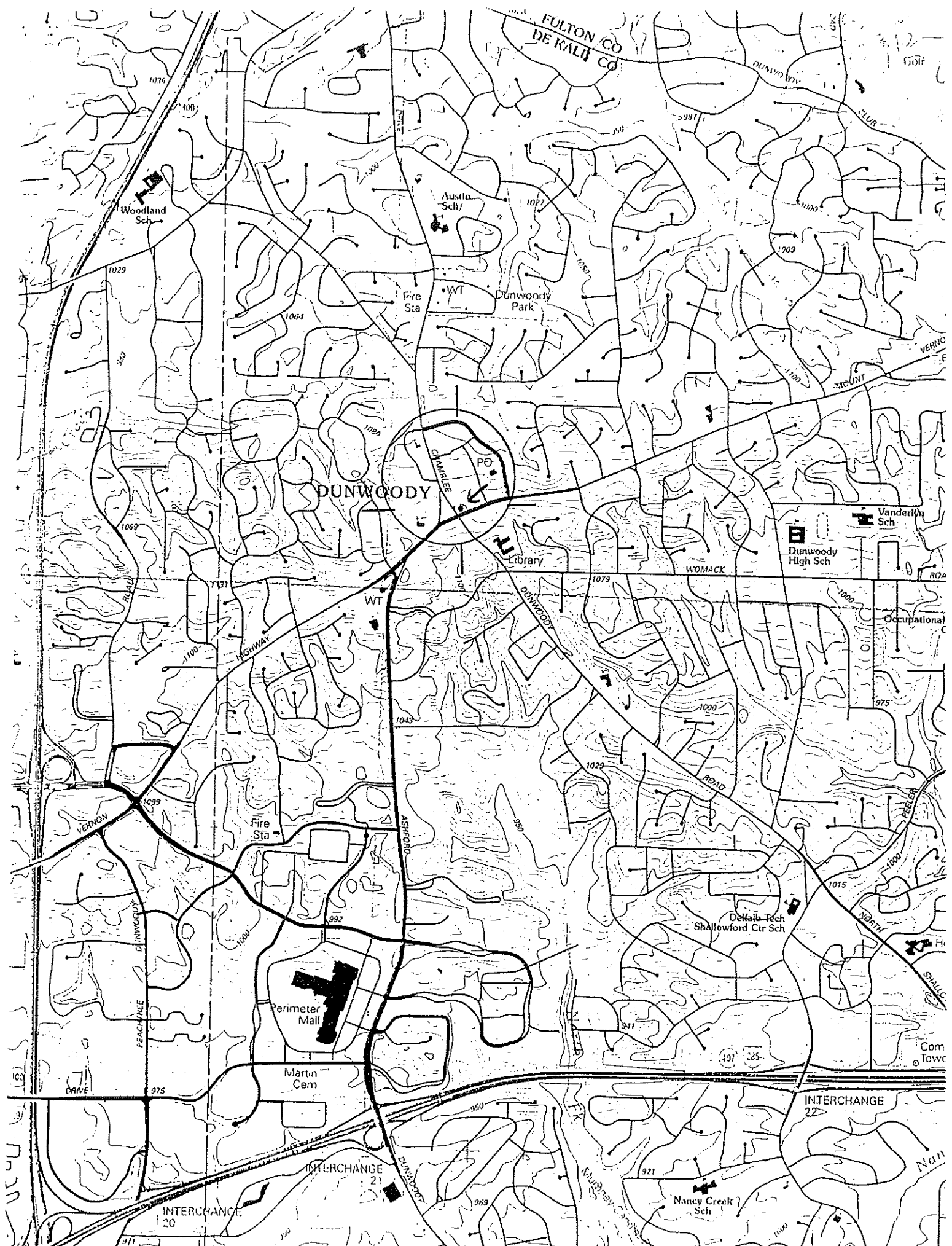


ALTERATIONS TO
 THE CHEEK - SPRUILL FARMHOUSE,
 Chambiia Dunwoody Rd. at Mt. Vernon Hwy.
 Dunwoody, Georgia 30333

SECOND FLOOR PLAN



Cheek-Spruill House
 Dunwoody, DeKalb County, Georgia
 Floor Plan-Second Floor with room uses marked
 Drawn for the Dunwoody Trust
 Date: c. 1999
 Scale: As marked on plan



FULTON CO
DE KALB CO

Woodland Sch

Austin Sch

Fire Sta

Dunwoody Park

DUNWOODY

PO

Library

Dunwoody High Sch

Vanderho Sch

Occupational

Fire Sta

Perimeter Mall

Martin Cem

Details Tech
Shallowford Ctr Sch

Nancy Creek Sch

INTERCHANGE 22

INTERCHANGE 21

INTERCHANGE 20

Golf

VERNO

ROAD

PEPPER

SHALLO

Com
Towe

Nan

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 CHEEK-SPRUILL HOUSE
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 5455 Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd.
city, town Dunwoody (N/A) vicinity of
county DeKalb code GA 089
state Georgia code GA zip code 30338

(n/a) 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:	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	3	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	3	0

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.

W. Ray Luce 5-5-00
Signature of certifying official Date

W. Ray Luce, Director, Historic Preservation Division 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 _____
 - () 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
AGRICULTURE/processing /storage

Current Functions:

COMMERCE/trade/restaurant
SOCIAL/civic

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER/gabled-ell type farmhouse

Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	wood
roof	asphalt shingles
other	n/a

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

The Cheek-Spruill House is a two-story, wood-frame, gabled-ell house. It has a three-gable roof and two chimneys, one interior and one exterior. There is a screened porch on the rear. On the front facade is a porch on both floors, with the columns on the second floor porch being original. The projecting front-gabled ell is chamfered at both levels. The second floor interior is in original condition and before the recent rehabilitation contained original plaster walls now replaced with sheetrock and hardwood floors in all three bedrooms. There is an original stairway with balusters. The first floor contains two main rooms and a modernized kitchen. Original doors, door hardware, and wide baseboards survive on both levels. There are two historic outbuildings, a smokehouse and a corn crib, which have been relocated to within the present nominated boundary from their original locations just outside the boundary but on the original lot. The house lot retains several original trees and evidence of the railroad bed that once went in front of the house. The front and side yards are intact with historic landscaping that includes grass, shrubs, and mature trees. The house sits prominently at the intersection of two main roads in what was historically downtown or the center of Dunwoody. Due to rapid commercialization in this once-rural area, this is the only historic structure remaining at this intersection. The house has been rehabilitated for reuse as a meeting hall, historical organization facility, and a tea room. The rehabilitation was completed in 1999.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7--Description

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION:

The house is two-story frame white clapboard with a three-gable roof. There are two chimneys, one interior and one exterior, and a screened porch on the rear of the house with a cement floor.

There is a front porch on the second and first floors. The columns on the second floor porch are original and are more detailed than the first floor porch columns. The house has a brick pier foundation.

The second floor was in original condition before the rehabilitation and included lath and plaster walls in all three bedrooms. These plaster walls were in very poor condition with plaster falling away from the lath, thus they had to be replaced with sheetrock. The original stairway with balusters is in excellent condition. The windows in the upper story are original 2-over-2. The top floor has three bedrooms and a small "extra" room which probably was part of an original porch. There is evidence that this entire second floor was the original first floor when the house was a one-story house.

The current first floor has been sheetrocked and some ceilings have been lowered. The 1969 kitchen equipment present in one of the rear rooms which originally was a bedroom was removed during the rehabilitation. The windows in this room have been replaced. The remainder of the windows downstairs are 2-over-2 sash.

The first floor walls are sheetrocked. There are hardwood floors in good condition downstairs. The top floor also has hardwood floors in very good condition.

The original doors and wide floor molding are all present on the first and second floors with the exception of the downstairs room which was formerly paneled. Original door hardware is present on all but two doors.

At the time of the rehabilitation, all the fireplaces were sealed. On the bottom floor there were gas heaters in front of the fireplaces. Upstairs, one fireplace has been completely sealed off. Other upstairs fireplace sites reflected evidence that there were stoves installed at one time. After rehabilitation the fireplaces consisted of two sealed and blocked with no mantels, with three open ones downstairs. None of them are now working fireplaces.

The house had no central heating or air conditioning system until it was recently added.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7--Description

The ½ acre now owned by the Dunwoody Preservation Trust, Inc. has several large historic trees including one large pecan tree. The DeKalb County Department of Transportation has restricted the owner of the adjacent, non-nominated property (formerly associated with this house) so that the roots of these valuable trees will be protected. A historic feature of this ½ acre is the deep cut in the front yard of the house which indicates where the old railroad bed once was located.

In 1997 Guardian Savings purchased the house and the 2.5 acre lot including the house and the three remaining outbuildings. When the lot was subdivided, the bank gave the Dunwoody Trust the half-acre lot which included the house. Two of the outbuildings, the smokehouse and the corn crib, were then moved onto the house lot. The remaining outbuilding, the barn, was torn down. Mr. Hugh Spruill, son of Mr. Carey T. Spruill, owner from 1945-1983, remembers the smokehouse and the corn crib being present during his lifetime, and he is 73 years old. Otherwise, their actual age is uncertain. The barn, which was lost, was dated at 1920. Over time, the corn crib was used for a chicken house and the smokehouse also was used as a tenant house for a worker who helped with the farming.

The general character and appearance of the property's surroundings is modern. The house sits on the corner of Mount Vernon Highway and Chamblee-Dunwoody Road. On the other three corners are two gas stations, a doughnut shop, and clothes cleaning establishment. Guardian Savings built a strip shopping center and bank building with a large parking lot immediately adjacent to the house. The Dunwoody Trust plans to retain the farmstead character of the Cheek-Spruill House as much as possible.

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
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance:

1907-1950

Significant Dates:

1907

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

unknown

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Cheek-Spruill House is significant in architecture because it is a good example of a gabled-ell type farmhouse. There is strong family and local tradition that the house had one floor built around 1907 and then raised up, possibly as early as 1909 or as late as 1921, and the second floor built underneath the first. Due to the house's expansion so close to its construction, it gives a unified appearance today, especially in the exterior walls, the interior stair, and other features. The house retains much of its original materials including doors, moldings, stairway, and porches. The gabled-ell house type is an important house type in Georgia identified in the statewide historic context "Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in their Landscaped Settings (1991)." Its character-defining features include a "L" or "T" shaped plan with a prominent projecting front-gabled ell and with three principal rooms on each floor. One interior chimney usually is located between the two rooms in the ell; a second exterior chimney is usually located at the end of the main gabled section of the house. A front porch usually extends from the intersection of the main house and gabled ell across the front of the house. A central stair hall is commonly found. The Cheek-Spruill House retains all of these important plan-form characteristics of the gabled-ell house type. Most of the gabled-ell houses in Georgia were built between 1875 and 1915, and most were built in cities and towns. The Cheek-Spruill House is somewhat unusual in having been built in a small rural hamlet. Gabled-ell houses are relatively rare in Georgia, constituting only one-half of one percent of all surveyed houses (unlike their much more common one-story counterpart, the gable-ell cottage, which accounts for 7% if all surveyed houses.) The Cheek-Spruill House is thus representative of a relatively rare form of vernacular house in Georgia. It should be noted that two-story house of any type are relatively rare in Georgia, constituting only about 10 % of all surveyed historic houses. In this context, the Cheek-Spruill House, standing two stories high at the center of the small Dunwoody settlement, would have been an impressive local landmark when built in the early 20th century, just as it remains a local landmark today.

The house is significant in community planning and development because it was built at a very prominent location, the very heart of where the town of Dunwoody began in the early 1880s, at a railroad and roadway intersection, and then grew into the suburb it is today. When the house was built, it faced the railroad leading from Chamblee to Roswell, with the depot being just northwest of and in front of the house. Most of the businesses were on the west side of the railroad, and to the south (across what is now Mt. Vernon Highway, then Lawrenceville Road) was the Joberry Cheek Gin and other enterprises as well as the Joberry Cheek homeplace. Joberry Cheek had long been one of the early settlers and land owners in Dunwoody. It was Mr. Joberry Cheek who bought this lot in 1907 and later in 1912 officially sold it to his daughter, Myra Cheek Crook and her husband John W. Crook, an international milling engineer. Immediately prior to Cheek's purchase, the lot and some 50 other acres in the intersection were owned by Perry L. Moss who ran a general store and was postmaster. Moss had owned this corner lot since 1891 and presumably rented out a small house

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

that is indicated as being there in the 1900 Census. The Cheek-Spruill House is the only surviving historic house at the center of the formerly rural Dunwoody community. Standing as it does at the very center of the community, at the former intersection of the railroad and major county roads, it alone represents the early development of the Dunwoody community.

National Register Criteria

The property meets National Register Criterion A because it is associated with the forming of a rural community at a crossroads, in this case Dunwoody which formed in the 1880s at this intersection with two roads and a railroad. While the intersection remains, this house is the only historic building in the area to reflect on the unincorporated farming community that arose here. The house's position at the intersection was set to face the railroad and the roadway. The Cheek family who built this and for two of whom it was a family home were deeply involved in the development of Dunwoody and this house also reflects their association with the town's development and transition from a very rural crossroads community to a modern, urban suburb.

The house also meets National Register Criterion C because it is an excellent and rare-in-this-area example of a gabled-ell house retaining virtually all of its character-defining features. It also is an unusual example of a house where the family stories and the house's materials and workmanship substantiate the claim that it was built as a one-story house and then "jacked up" and a second floor added on the lower level rather than on the top as one normally expects. This unusual form of construction is rarely seen in Georgia. It was not that unusual for the Cheek family, as another member reported the same thing had occurred in the family head, Joberry Cheek's own house across the street. That house is now gone. This house thus reflects the necessity's of a building program based on what one can afford and with a work crew already on hand, what one could do in a rural area as far as house construction or expansion is concerned. The house retains much of its original materials and workmanship and various clues within it to the changes made to the house when the first floor became the second floor.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

Period of significance (justification)

The period runs from the original construction date, c. 1907 through the end of the historic period (1950) because the house continued to be used as the main house on a farm at the center of a once-rural community in an increasingly growing urban area throughout that time period.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

Contributing buildings: the main house (1)
Contributing structures: corn crib and smokehouse. (2)
total: 3 contributing

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

Major Charles A. Dunwoody (1828-1905) (the modern spelling has an added an extra "o" for Dunwoody), who lived in nearby Roswell, Georgia, was engaged in manufacturing at the Roswell Mill until the Civil War outbreak in 1861. Major Dunwoody built the first bridge across the Chattahoochee River from what became Dunwoody to Roswell. After the war, Major Dunwoody built a house on land lot # 377 which he had purchased in 1862. On this property he began producing food, the paramount need after the Civil War. His homeplace was located southwest from the Dunwoody intersection, site of the Cheek-Spruill House. (This house, now known as "The Homeplace," still stands on Ashford-Dunwoody Road near Perimeter Mall, a short distance away. It is currently used as an art gallery).

The Formation of the Village of Dunwoody:

The village of Dunwoody began to develop after the Civil War (1861-1865). Even before the war, grading had begun for a short-line railroad from Chamblee to Roswell via Dunwoody. Major Charles Dunwoody acquired the property for and built the Roswell Railroad which ran from 1880 to 1921 between Chamblee and Roswell. The community was situated five miles mid way between Roswell and Chamblee, the two towns the railroad connected. As happened in many railroad towns, the first houses and businesses sprang up alongside and facing the railroad in Dunwoody. The Cheek-Spruill House was built in 1907 directly on the corner of the major intersection in this railroad community.

The community of Dunwoody has never been incorporated. The first post office was established in 1881 and several of the early major landowners served as postmasters. Mr. C. Q. Trimble served from 1888 to 1889 and Mr. P. L. Moss from 1893 to 1906. Both of these men owned the land on which the Cheek-Spruill House was later built and were both fairly young when Dunwoody was growing, as was Mr. Joberry Cheek, builder of the house. The town plat with a large number of lots at an angle to the railroad corridor was dated September, 1884.

Early gazetteers give a profile of the small community. The 1886-1887 edition states that Dunwoody had 40 residents with two Baptist churches and a school. Joberry Cheek already had his cotton gin

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

in operation then, as did a member of the Spruill family. By 1888 the population was 60. C. Q. Trimble operated a general store, and two doctors lived in the community.

The railroad ran directly in front of the lot on which the Cheek-Spruill House was built, and vestiges of the railroad bed can still be seen today in the front lawn. President Theodore Roosevelt rode the train past the Cheek-Spruill House location in 1905 and 1912 on the way to see his mother's girlhood home, Bulloch Hall, in Roswell. With the railroad, it was easier for farmers to send their produce to the Atlanta market.

During the late 19th century, a business center developed at this intersection which included Mr. P. L. Moss' general store, located in the general intersection area. Mr. Moss also dug a well for the public benefit. Mountaineers from North Georgia would stop by for water and bring apples, peaches, and other items from the mountains. The village blacksmith shop was operated by Mr. Cephas Spruill. Dr. Puckett ran both a livery stable, a feed and fertilizer store, as well as a pharmacy. His home was built on the premises of this business complex.

Three railroad section houses were built on Chamblee-Dunwoody Road near the Dunwoody Depot (now the Burger King location). These houses were used to house the work crew for maintaining the railroad bed. Two of the three were torn down to make way for a fast-food chicken restaurant. Only one railroad section house remains.

The Dunwoody Baptist Church and a "wagon yard" for maintenance of vehicles were also nearby. At the fork of Chamblee-Dunwoody Road and Roberts Drive was the home of Dr. Duke who maintained a medical office and pharmacy. Also on that property was the Dunwoody postoffice.

On the east side of Chamblee-Dunwoody Road where the Phillips 66 Station now stands, Mr. Joberry Cheek operated a cotton gin and a corn and flour mill. The gin was torn down in 1970.

The Cheek-Spruill House and outbuildings are one of the last remaining farmsteads in the Dunwoody area. During the 1990s the area lost many of the historic homes to commercial, apartment, and residential development. With rapid growth and encroachment thriving at the Dunwoody intersection, a local group was created, eventually formalizing as the Dunwoody Preservation Trust, to save the one last historic house at this intersection. This house, now known as the Cheek-Spruill House, is the subject of this nomination. The Dunwoody Preservation Trust, Inc. also has honored the other remaining historic properties in the Dunwoody area with signs (with the owners' permission), in an effort to raise community consciousness for preservation.

Due to the fact that the community had lost most if not all of its older historic buildings and houses, the facts surrounding this house had become a bit muddled with several attempts in print to date this house from the early 1880s and the creation of Dunwoody. As the material below will show, careful

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research has proven that was not the case. However, the house is clearly the oldest and only major historic house remaining today from the original town of Dunwoody.

Research was conducted to provide the best scenario for when this house was built, by whom, for whom, and recent speculation, some of which got in print, managed to diverge from the facts as remembered by family members and owners who recalled the house being built.

Scenario on which this nomination is based: The first part of the house (now the second floor) was built c. 1907 for Bunyan B. Cheek by his father Joberry Cheek and other family members.

The land consisting of three lots, nos. 20-21-22, some two and one-half acres, of Land Lot 366, District 18, in the northeast quadrant of the Dunwoody intersection, a key location, was bought on January 10, 1907 by Joberry Cheek, a 57-or-so-year-old farmer, saw mill and gin owner, as well as a corn and flour mill operator, who lived across the highway from lot 20. Lot 20 and contiguous parcels had previously been owned for 16 years by Perry L. Moss, another local entrepreneur and major property owner at the Dunwoody intersection. It would appear that Moss had built no major improvements on the property, since he sold it to Cheek for \$550.

Joberry Cheek and family ran a sawmill and other operations and would have been in a position to easily provide necessary materials and manpower for building a house on this site.

In looking at the Cheek family situation, as interviews with the three surviving children of Bunyan B. Cheek (by his second marriage) have revealed, not only did Mr. Joberry Cheek add to his own house c.1906, but there were two major family developments which would have led Joberry Cheek to find a house site for members of his family: First, his son, Bunyan B. Cheek, age 23, had hastily married on October 12, 1906, Miss Collie Evans, of Atlanta, and their first (and only) child, a daughter, Eloise, was born Feb. 12, 1907. The new couple needed a house. The lot was purchased barely a month before the daughter was born. Second, Joberry Cheek's daughter, Mrs. Myra Cheek Martin, had been widowed with two surviving children in the late summer of 1906. She would need to live closer to her father. As it turned out after she did remarry c.1908 to John W. Crook, she came to live in this house and appears there in the 1910 Census. She later was deeded the property on January 1, 1912 and owned it until 1933.

Another son, Will J. Cheek, died in 1906, and Joberry Cheek raised his son's two children.

The following three reasons to date the house at 1907 are based on the interviews and other sources:

- (1). The 1975 DeKalb County Historic Structures Survey states (in an interview with then-owner C.T. Spruill or his wife, both of whom grew up nearby and were probably eyewitnesses

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themselves to the house's construction and expansion) that the "original owner" was Bunyan B. Cheek, and the house had one floor in 1906-07 with the other added in 1909. (The dates are not in The Story of Dunwoody which had just been published in 1975. The book does contain the following attribution to Bunyan Cheek on page 100:

"Across Mt. Vernon on the northeast corner of the intersection was the home of Bunyan Cheek, older son of Joberry Cheek and brother of Will Cheek. This house, originally a one-story bungalow, was later enlarged by adding a second story. The roof was simply jacked up "sky-high" and the upstairs rooms were built in between the roof and ground floor!..[sic].")

(2). Bunyan B. Cheek's hasty 1906 marriage quickly broke up and he was back living with his parents in the 1910 census. His sister Myra Crook, her new husband, and two children were living on lot 20, presumably in this house. But in interviews with the three surviving children of Bunyan B. Cheek by his second wife, they all said he built the house, one said he enlarged it for their mother (whom he married in 1916), another said about 1921, and the third said that she heard it was built by her father for his first wife. These comments came without prompting, other than to ask each of the children what they knew about the house and their father's role in its construction.

(3). Nothing appears to have been happening in terms of land development on the east side of Dunwoody in the late 19th century as compared to the west side where there were homes and businesses. This would explain why the price was low as late as 1907. The census indicates that in 1900, on the east side, there was possibly a small rental house on lot 20, north of that the home of Columbia Cheek (sister to Joberry Cheek), and north of that the home of L. E. Copeland, who also owned all the lots between Columbia Cheek's house and his own, some 16 lots.

Scenario that was discarded: That the house was built in the 1880s or 1890s.

Facts: Other than recent wishful thinking, there is nothing to indicate that this house, as it has appeared since the 1920s when the people being interviewed remember it, has any link to being built in the 19th century.

(1). The land appears to be speculation land from the first owner, W. J. Houston, to C. Q. Trimble, to P. L. Moss in 1891. Moss bought, in the purchase, three different sets of parcels, giving him in 1891 most of the land on the east, middle, and west sides of this intersection. He did not begin selling off parcels until 1902 on the west side. The 1907 sale of these three lots to Joberry Cheek fits into this pattern of land disposal. He may have tried to speculate, or to conjure up a development, but that did not seem to materialize.

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(2). Bunyan B. Cheek was not born until 1883, so any attribution to him as the builder or first occupant of the house, as found in the local history (1975), survey interviews (1975), and three family interviews not tapped by either of the earlier two sources (1998), have to take in consideration that he had to be old enough to be on his own and needing a house. Joberry Cheek, his father, already had his own house across the street, in which he lived from before 1900 until his death in 1935 and in which his daughter lived until her death (or shortly before) in 1978. The house was later torn down, although photos survive in the history and in the survey. One of the 1975 interviews was with the surviving daughter of Joberry Cheek.

The Cheek-Spruill House, a brief history of its owners.

Given the above conclusion that the house was built c.1907, and expanded between then and 1921, here is a short history of the house and people who lived there.

The house was built c.1907 for Bunyan B. Cheek and his first wife, of only a few months, Collie Evans. Their only child, Eloise, was born Feb. 12, 1907. Collie was from downtown Atlanta, where her brother was a policeman. The hastiness of their marriage and the difference of in-town living versus rural life in Dunwoody perhaps contributed to the early breakup of the couple. By 1910, each was back home living with their respective parents. Bunyan's occupation in 1910 and 1920 was that of farmer.

By 1910, Myra Cheek Martin, widowed in 1906, had remarried c.1908 to John W. Crook. Crook, born c.1865 in Ohio, was an international mining engineer, whose work often took him to South America, particularly Brazil. He built corn and flour mills. Thus during the 20 or so years they owned the property, which they bought in 1912 from Myra's father, Joberry Cheek, the couple were often gone for long periods of time.

While the ownership rested with Myra Cheek Crook, during one of her long absences Bunyan B. Cheek returned to live here. Bunyan had remarried in 1916 to Bessie Manning, and their first child, Anna Gladys, was born in 1917. Another daughter, born in 1921, said she was born in another house down the road (no longer extant). Around 1923 Bunyan had joined the Georgia Power Company, for whom he would work for several decades, and the family had moved to Morgan Falls further west in Fulton County where he was involved in the construction of the power plant at that location. His wife would run a hotel there. Without city directories or other sources to pinpoint when they lived here and when they left, the exact dates are unclear.

Bunyan B. Cheek died in 1957 in Atlanta.

Family members including the then three surviving children of Bunyan Cheek, the 1975 interviews with the Spruills, and the son of the Spruills, all indicate that the house was enlarged. During the

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period of 1916-1921, the first floor and the roof were jacked up. (The daughter born in 1917 had clear memories of it being jacked up with long timbers and of not being allowed to cross the street to watch this. Whether she really remembered it, or just heard people talk about it, is unknown.) The new first floor was then built underneath the original first floor. The family lived across the street at Joberry Cheek's house during the construction. In a 1998 interview, the older daughter, Anna Gladys, believed she was the only child born at that time.

While enlarging a house in this manner may seem unusual, there are several other factors to consider. The daughter of Joberry Cheek, Mrs. Lizzie Newhard, interviewed in 1975 about the then-surviving Joberry Cheek House where she lived and which she called a "mansion," indicated that this was what had been done to the Joberry Cheek house itself. The first story was built c.1885, and the second story, c.1906 and that it was "raised up." Obviously, if Mr. Cheek's team of sawmill workers could do one house they could do another. An architect on the Georgia National Register Review Board commented that the roof was the hardest part of any house to build and that it was much easier to jack it up and build another floor, if you had the means and manpower, to avoid rebuilding a roof. While the procedure of jacking up a house and adding a second floor below seems unusual to many people, it apparently was prevalent in other parts of the country. For example, Thomas C. Hubka, in his Big House, Little House, Back House, Barn: The Connected Farm Buildings of New England (University Press of New England, 1984), on page 139, writes of the New England custom of converting outbuildings to houses and that "massive interior and exterior reorganization was clearly the accepted societal norm for these farmers. Figure 104 shows the raising and conversion of a small one-story house into a fashionable town house...While this project seems extreme today, it was actually a common one for New England builders, who had developed the custom of massive building alteration and remodeling. "

After the Crooks' final return from overseas work and travel, they lived in the house until they were forced to sell it in January 1933. Apparently right before they sold it, they had entertained the idea of subdividing the 2.5 acre tract into eleven lots and perhaps selling off lots to create a subdivision. With the onset of the Depression and presumably the loss of jobs or retirement for Mr. Crook, who was by then over 65 years old, the couple sold the property, all 2.5 acres, to a Mr. Gower, he in turn to a Mrs. Williams, and she to a Mr. Brannon who in 1934 sold the entire tract to William J. Church and Margaret Price Church. The Crooks had also owned much larger tracts of land nearby.

John W. Crook died in 1937 and Myra Cheek Crook spent her last years with her sister in the home where Joberry Cheek had lived until his death in 1935. It was located across the street from the Cheek-Spruill House. The Crooks and Mr. and Mrs. Joberry Cheek and other kin are all buried just up the road at the New Hope Church Cemetery.

Interviews with several of Mrs. Crook's nieces indicate fond memories of going to the house for Thanksgiving dinner, with the turkeys having been raised on the premises, and having fun in a house

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with so many rooms. They especially remember one upstairs room called the "Plunder Room" where all kinds of stuff was stored. Mrs. Crook's parrot, brought back from one of her South American trips, was also fondly remembered.

William J. Church and Margaret Price Church owned the property from 1934 to 1943. They used the house as a retirement home, having lived in Atlanta. William J. Church (1860-1940) had owned the Brookwood Grocery Company in Atlanta until his retirement and was active in the Methodist church. Margaret Price Church (1870-1943) was his second wife. She is said to have died in an upper room in the house.

During the two years after Mrs. Church's death until the house was sold to Mr. Spruill, the house had several intermediary owners. During this time, several people are said to have lived in the house including Mrs. Moulder, a school teacher, and Rev. C. C. Boynton, the Baptist preacher.

After the probate of Mrs. Church's will, the house was auctioned off in April 1944, and was purchased by several of her relatives. These women sold the house on March 14, 1945 to Mr. Carey T. Spruill for a reported \$3,000.

The house became known as both the Cheek-Spruill House and the Spruill Farm after the purchase in March 1945 by Mr. and Mrs. Carey T. Spruill. During the fifty years that the Spruills owned and lived in the house, they made few changes. The only changes made to the exterior of the house in 1945 were the addition of a metal awning covering the back entrance and a screened rear porch with a cement floor. The only other changes they made were in 1969, all of them interior changes to the kitchen.

The Spruill Farm, as this small 2.5 acre farmstead became known, was one of the last in an urban setting in DeKalb County. For many years, Mr. Carey T. Spruill farmed the land with his mule, Shorty. As recently as the early 1980s, he had a stand of corn on the corner of Mount Vernon Highway and Chamblee-Dunwoody Road. His continued farming reminded the newcomers to the area of the farming heritage and how recently the whole area had been rural. The 2.5 acres included a cornfield, barn, smokehouse, and corn crib.

Mr. Spruill, born in 1897, died on May 28, 1983. His wife, Mrs. Florence Warnock Spruill, born in 1899, lived in the house until her death November 20, 1994. Both of the Spruills were from families with deep roots in the area both then and now and both had lived near the house all their lives.

After the deaths of the Spruills, a major local preservation effort began whose goal was to save this last historic vestige of Dunwoody. A bank purchased the acreage, valued at 2.5 million dollars, from the family September 1997. The group that formed to save the house, the Dunwoody Preservation Trust, raised money through small donations totally over \$200,000 to try and purchase the house.

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After a great deal of negotiating and the grassroots local fundraising effort, the bank finally agreed to part with a half-acre portion of the property which included the house. The Guarantee Savings and Loan Association donated the house and half-acre grounds to the Dunwoody Preservation Trust, Inc., and made this donation known in a "surprise" announcement on July 4, 1998. The Trust promised the community that the property was to be used as a multi-purpose "Town Hall" to serve the community. Because the Trust was not able to raise enough money to buy the entire 2.5 acre farm, thus being able to keep the outbuildings where they originally sat, this necessitated the moving of the corn crib and the smokehouse onto this small acreage. The barn was lost since there was not enough room on the half acre for it. Advice was sought from the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office architects as well as from Norman Askins, a preservation architect in private practice, as to the best placement of these two outbuildings.

The Trust celebrated in the summer of 1998 when they obtained the deed to the property, a culmination of herculean preservation efforts. During 1999, rehabilitation of the house took place, and the trust was able to use all of the money they had collected for the rehabilitation. There was a formal celebration of the property's opening to the public on November 21, 1999 at which time the certificate for its placement on the Georgia Register of Historic Places was presented.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Byrd, Lynne B. Draft National Register application, 1998, and related materials. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta.

Cheek family interviews, December, 1998, and January, 1999 by Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr.

DeKalb County, GA. Deeds, Marriage Records, and Wills, in original and on microfilm.

DeKalb Historical Society: maps, DeKalb County Tax Records, newspaper clippings.

Dilbeck, Edwin 1998 Personal Communication with Lynne B. Byrd in regard to ownership of property by the William J. Church Family, of which he is a relative.

Garrett, Franklin M. 1954 Atlanta and Environs: A Chronicle Of Its People and Events. Lewis Historical Publications, New York, N.Y.

Historic Preservation Division, DNR, DeKalb County Historic Structures Survey, 1975. Interviews by Randolph Marks, of owner of Cheek-Spruill House and of Joberry Cheek House, recorded on survey forms.

Spruill, Ethel W. & Elizabeth L. Davis 1975 The Story of Dunwoody. Williams Printing Co., Atlanta, Georgia.

Spruill, Hugh 1995-1998 Personal Communication in many different interviews with Lynne B. Byrd, et al. Mr. Spruill is a son of the last owners/occupants of the house, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. Spruill.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): () 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
- (X) previously determined eligible by the National Register Sept. 13, 1978 in a Department of Transportation/FHWA Request
- () designated a National Historic Landmark
- () recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- () recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9--Major Bibliographic References

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): Old DeKalb County, Georgia, Survey, Survey Form No. 18-366-06-005, dated June 20, 1975.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property one-half acre

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 746370 Northing 3759420

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is marked to scale by a heavy black line on the accompanying plat.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is all the property remaining associated with the house after the sale and subdivision of the original farmland. It was all that was sold to the present owners in July 1998.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian

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** March 15, 2000

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

name/title Mrs. Lynne B. Byrd, president

organization Dunwoody Preservation Trust, Inc.

street and number 4337 Village Oaks Lane

city or town Dunwoody **state** GA **zip code** 30338

telephone H-770-451-0230

consultant

regional development center preservation planner

other: Coordinator of effort to save the house, to secure its ownership by a non-profit organization; president of the newly-created non-profit organization which now owns the house.

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

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Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property: Cheek-Spruill House
City or Vicinity: Dunwoody
County: DeKalb
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: January, 1999

Description of Photograph(s):

NOTE: The house has been completely rehabilitated since these photographs were taken. These photographs show many of the interior changes that were not visible before the old plaster which had become disconnected from the lath was removed and has subsequently been replaced by modern sheetrock.

1 of 17: Cheek-Spruill House, front facade; photographer facing north.

2 of 17: View of house looking up Chamblee-Dunwoody Rd., old route of railroad; photographer facing northwest.

3 of 17: South facade and rear addition and porch; photographer facing northwest.

4 of 17: Rear facade, showing porch as well as rear lot line with construction still underway; photographer facing northwest.

5 of 17: Rear facade from former backyard, now parking lot of adjacent property with construction underway; photographer facing southwest.

6 of 17: Outbuildings, smokehouse on left, corn crib on right; photographer facing northeast.

7 of 17: Front facade with outbuildings on the left; photographer facing southeast.

8 of 17: Interior, first floor, foyer and stairway; photographer facing northwest.

9 of 17: Interior, first floor, stairway and foyer as seen from front "tea room"; photographer facing southeast.

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Photographs

10 of 17: Interior, first floor, front tea room mantel; photographer facing northeast.

11 of 17: Interior, first floor, former front parlor now "Dunwoody Fine Arts and Meeting Room"; photographer facing south.

12 of 17: Interior, second floor stair landing/foyer; photographer facing northeast.

13 of 17: Interior, second floor, tea room; photographer facing northwest.

14 of 17: Interior, second floor, tea room facing former fireplace site, showing lathes closing it up before wallboards were replaced; photographer facing into stairway landing, southeast.

15 of 17: Interior, second floor, former bedroom now "Office of Dunwoody Trust", looking into original passageway/closet into new tea room; photographer facing southwest.

16 of 17: Interior, second floor, former bedroom now "Meeting/Exhibit Room"; photographer facing southwest.

17 of 17: Interior, second floor, former bedroom now "Meeting/Exhibit Room", door leading back into landing; photographer facing northwest.

MT. VERNON Highway

S65°46'28"W

105.38'

148.25'

S34°33'05"E

TRACT A
AREA = 0.575 ACRES
25,062.91 sq. ft.

N69°34'28"W

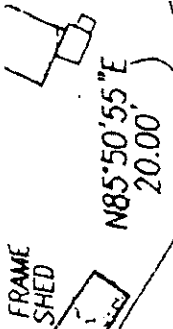
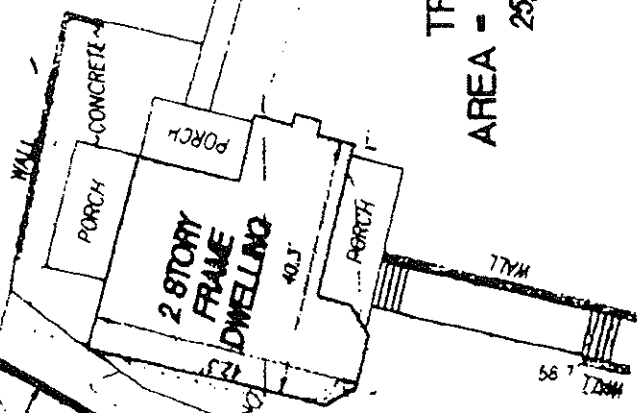
25.64'

5/8" RBR SET

225.31'

363.69'

CHAMBLEE-DUNWOODY Rd
VARIABLE R/W



N85°50'55"E
20.00'

S34°33'05"E
47.50'

ASPHALT

ASPHALT

177.25'

N85°50'55"E

STONE TIMED EDGE

STONE LINTELL

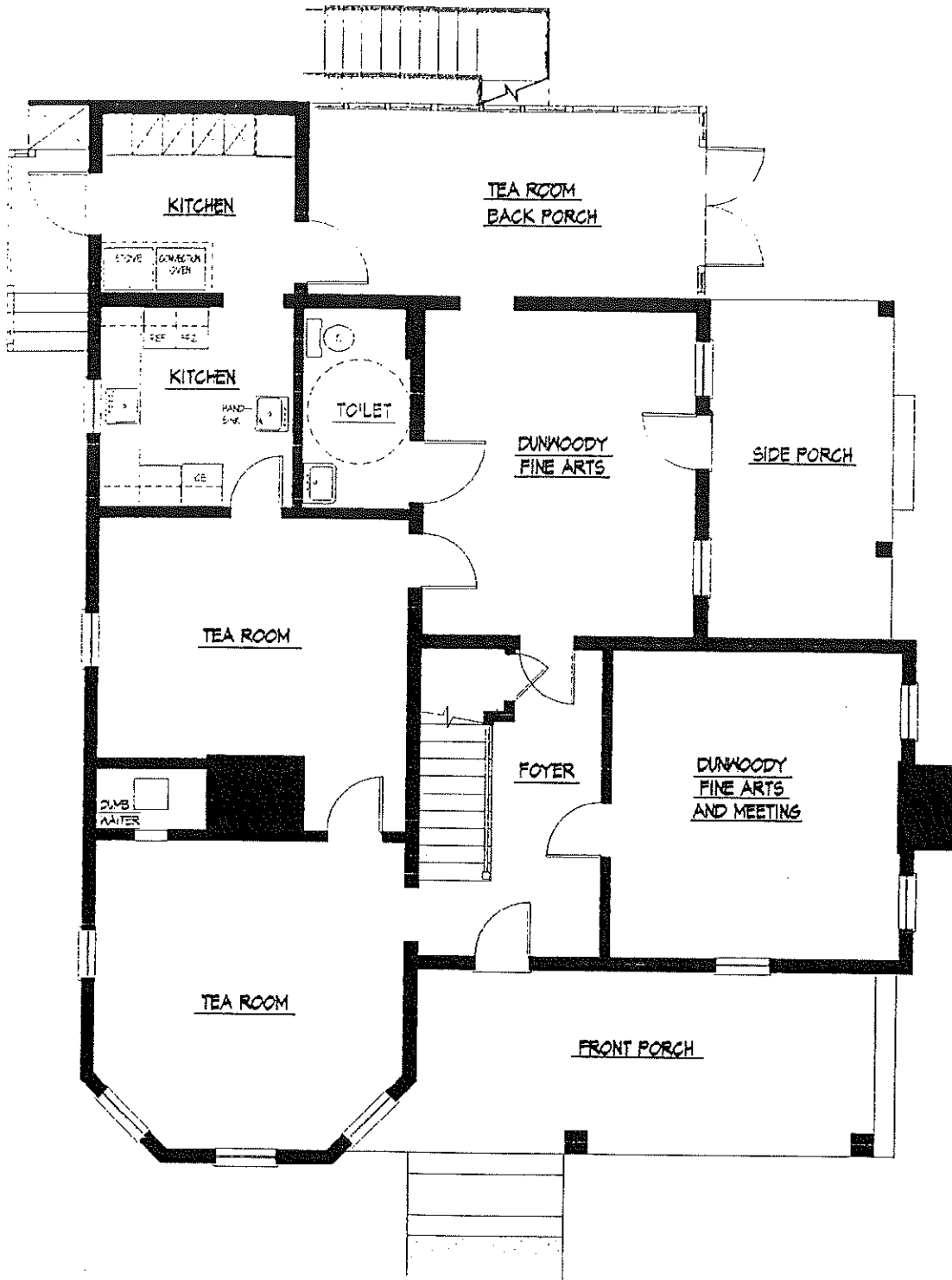
DRAINAGE INLET
TOP EL. - 1123.98

NO INV

POSTER 1
NO INV

Cheek-Spruill House
Dunwoody, DeKalb County, Georgia
Source: DeKalb County Deed Book 10082, p. 88, drawn by
Armstrong Land Surveying.
Date: March 4, 1997

The nominated property is Tract A, indicated by a heavy black line.
Scale: Measurements included on the plat.
North:

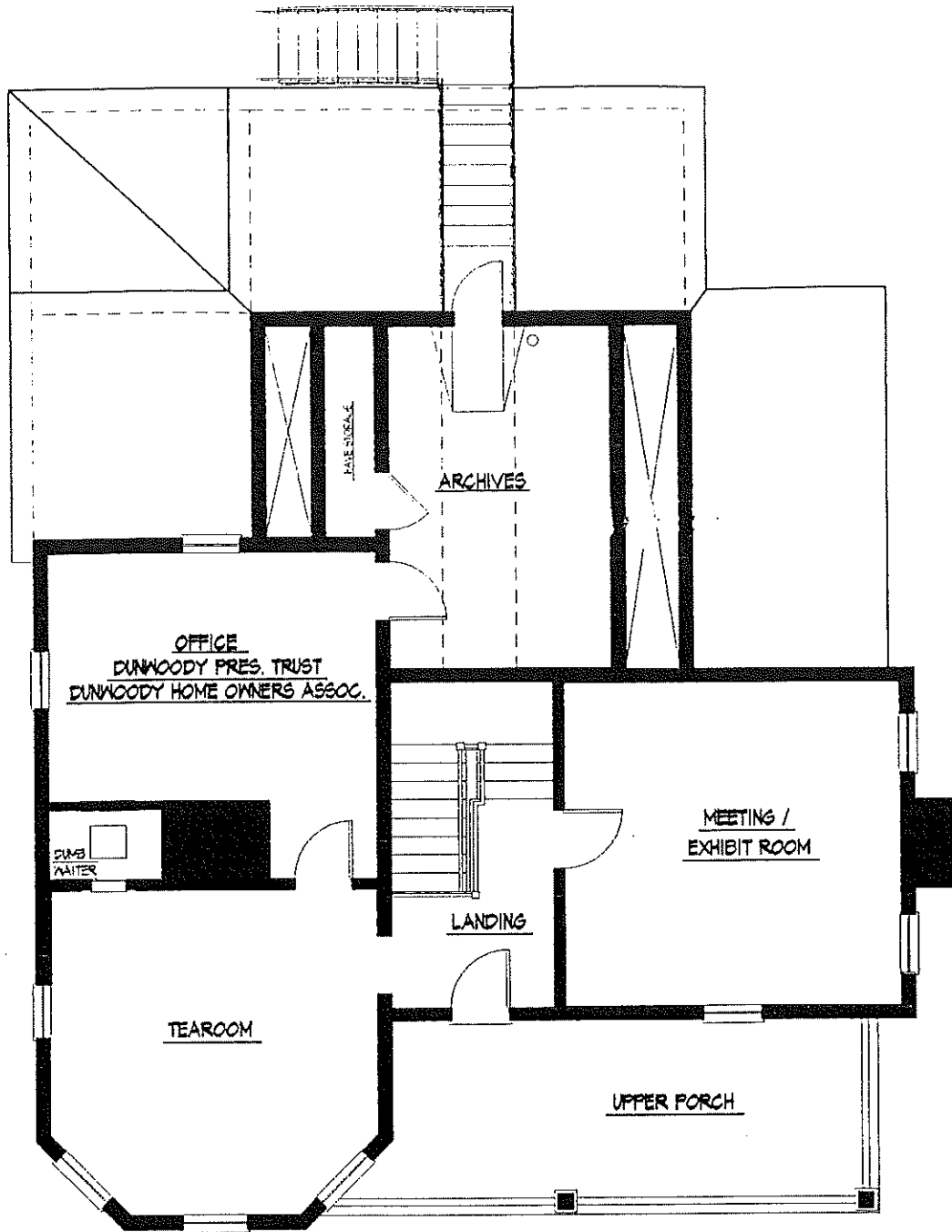


ALTERATIONS TO
 THE CHEEK - SPRUILL FARMHOUSE,
 Chamblee Dunwoody Rd. at Mt. Vernon Hwy.
 Dunwoody, Georgia 30333

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



Cheek-Spruill House
 Dunwoody, DeKalb County, Georgia
 Floor Plan-First Floor with room uses marked
 Drawn for the Dunwoody Trust
 Date: c. 1999
 Scale: As marked on plan
 North: ↗

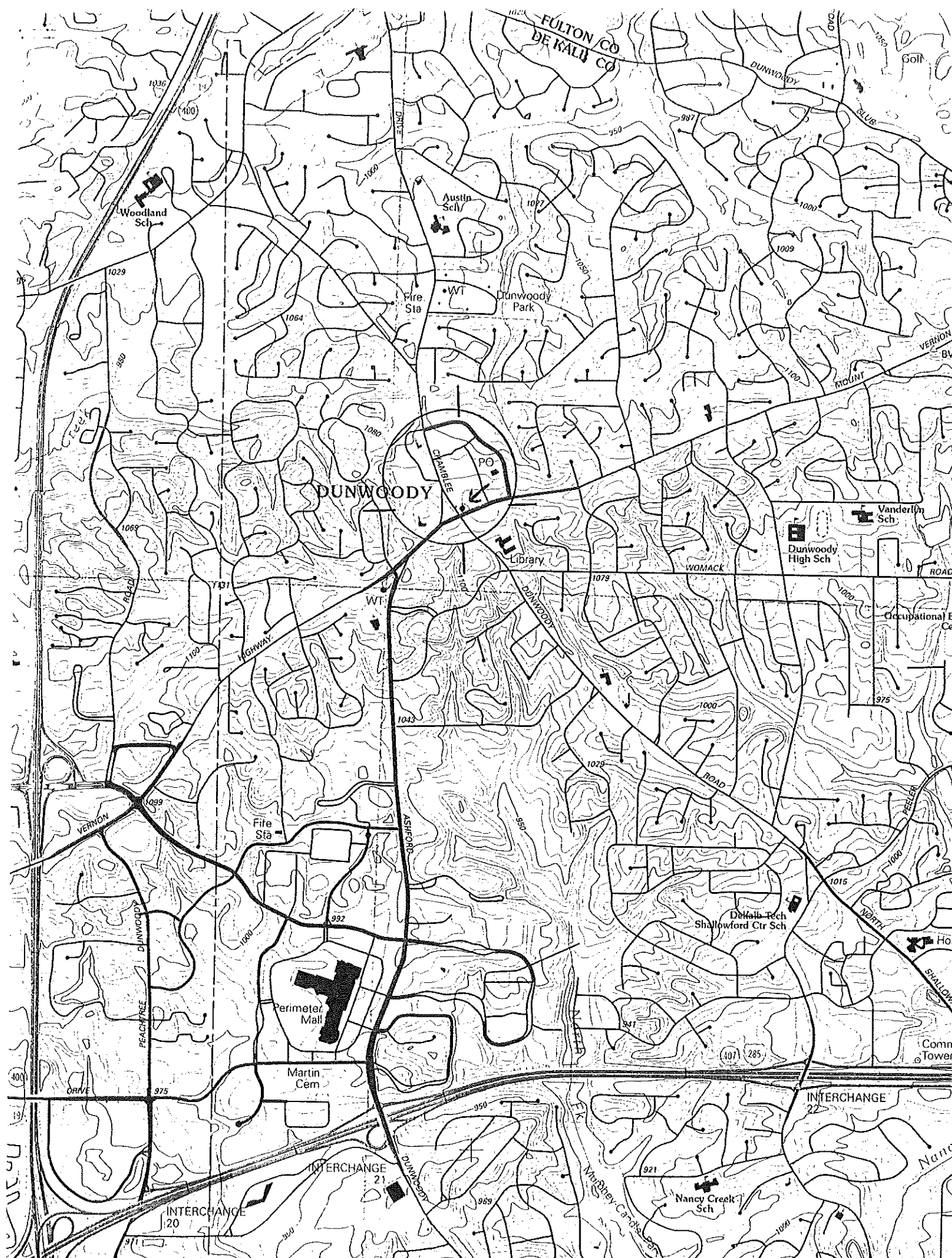


ALTERATIONS TO
 THE CHEEK - SPRUILL FARMHOUSE,
 Chambles Dunwoody Rd. at Mt. Vernon Hwy.
 Dunwoody, Georgia 30338

SECOND FLOOR PLAN



Cheek-Spruill House
 Dunwoody, DeKalb County, Georgia
 Floor Plan-Second Floor with room uses marked
 Drawn for the Dunwoody Trust
 Date: c. 1999
 Scale: As marked on plan
 North:



FULTON CO
DE KALB CO

Woodland Sch

Austin Sch

Fire Sta

Dunwoody Park

DUNWOODY

Library

Vanderlin Sch

Dunwoody High Sch

Occupational E Ce

Perimeter Mall

Martin Cem

Dikala Tech
Shallowford Ctr Sch

Nancy Creek Sch

INTERCHANGE 22

INTERCHANGE 21

INTERCHANGE 20

INTERCHANGE



CHEEK-SPRUILL HOUSE
DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 1 OF 17



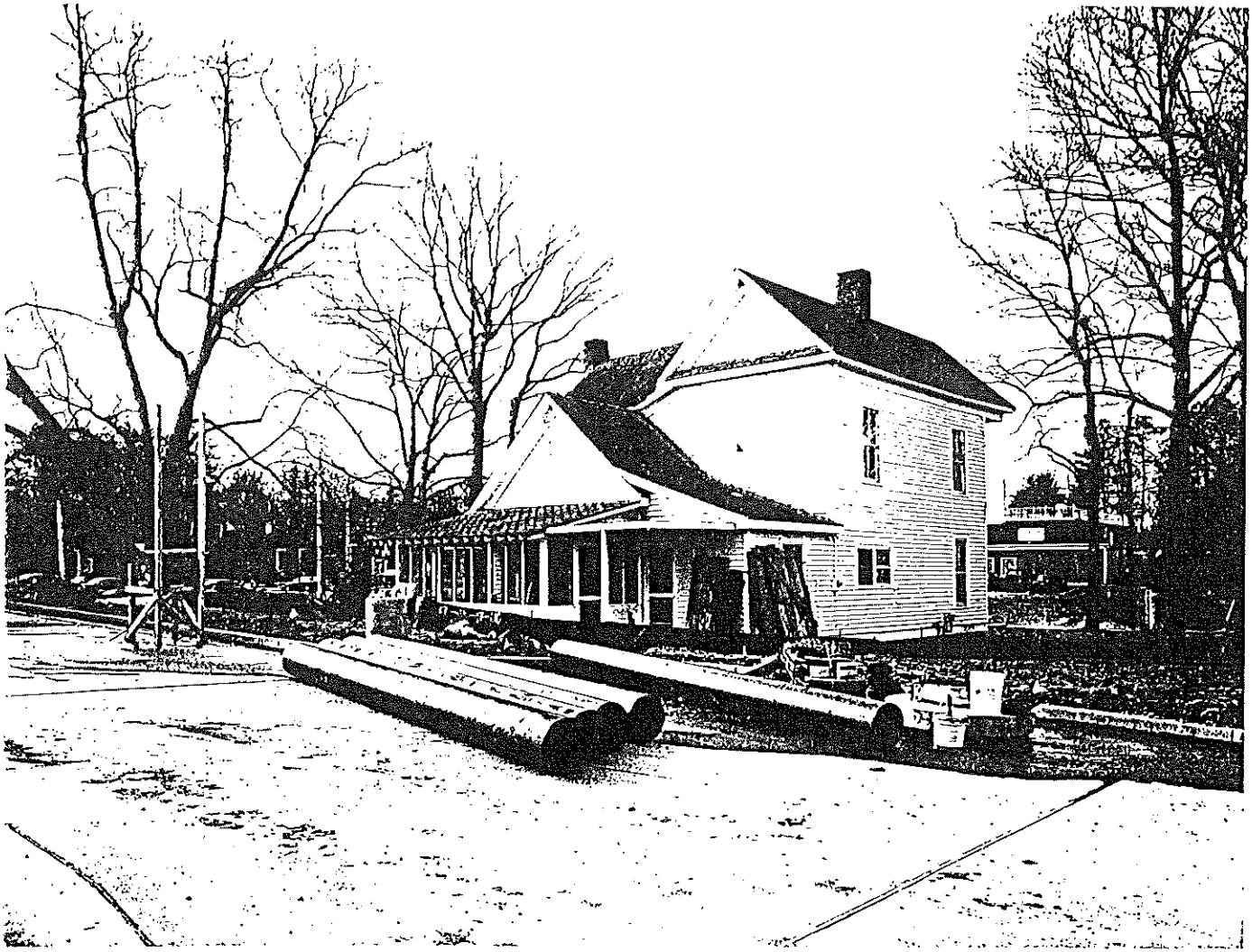
CHEEK-SPRUILL HOUSE
DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 2 OF 17



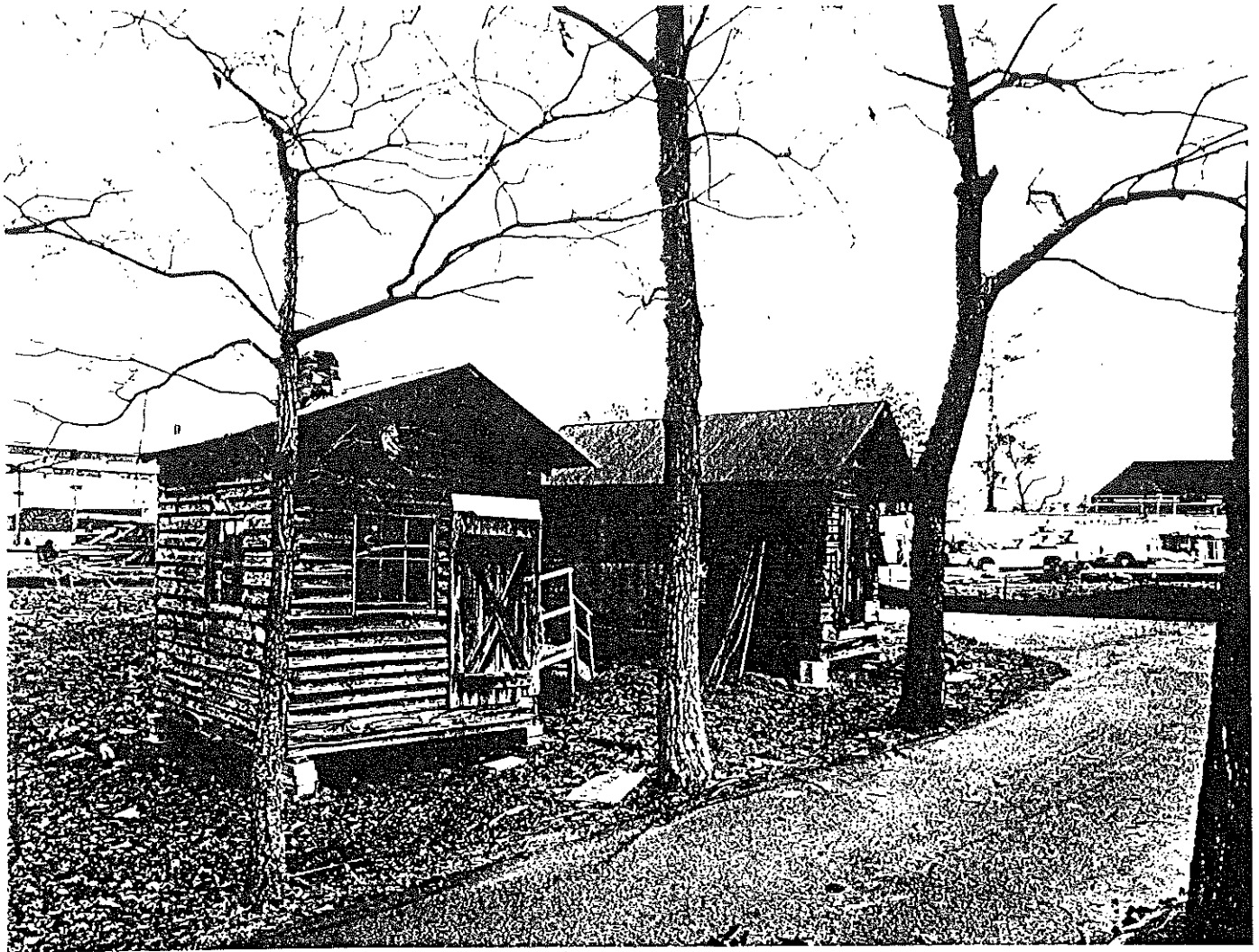
CHEEK-SPRUIILL HOUSE
DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 3 of 17



CHEEK-SPRUIILL HOUSE
DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 4 OF 17



CHEEK - SPRUILL HOUSE
DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 5 OF 17



CHEEK - SPRUILL HOUSE
DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 6 of 17



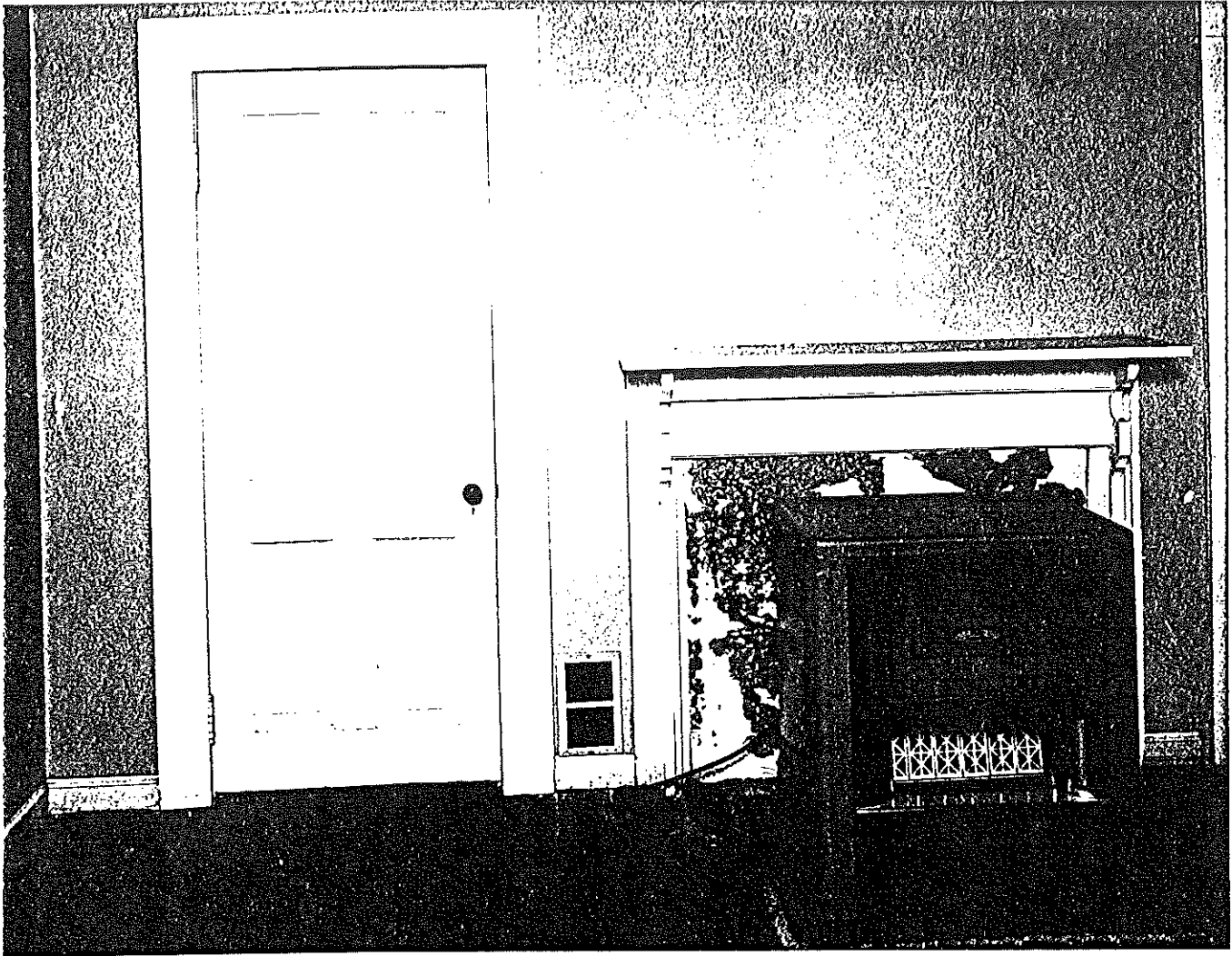
CHEEK-SPRUILL HOUSE
DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 7 OF 17



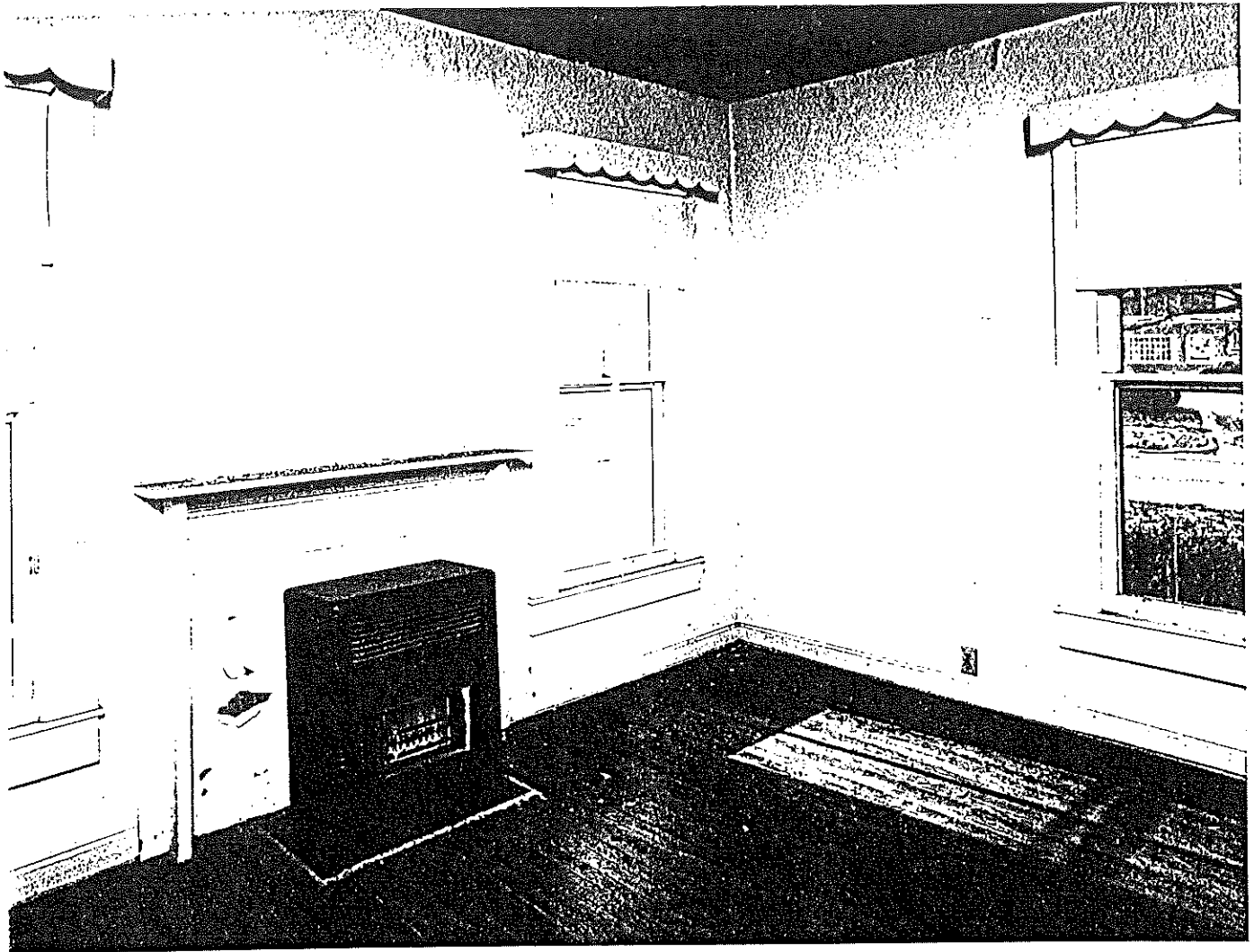
CHEEK-SPRUILL HOUSE
DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 8 OF 17



CHEEK-SPRUILL HOUSE
DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 9 of 17



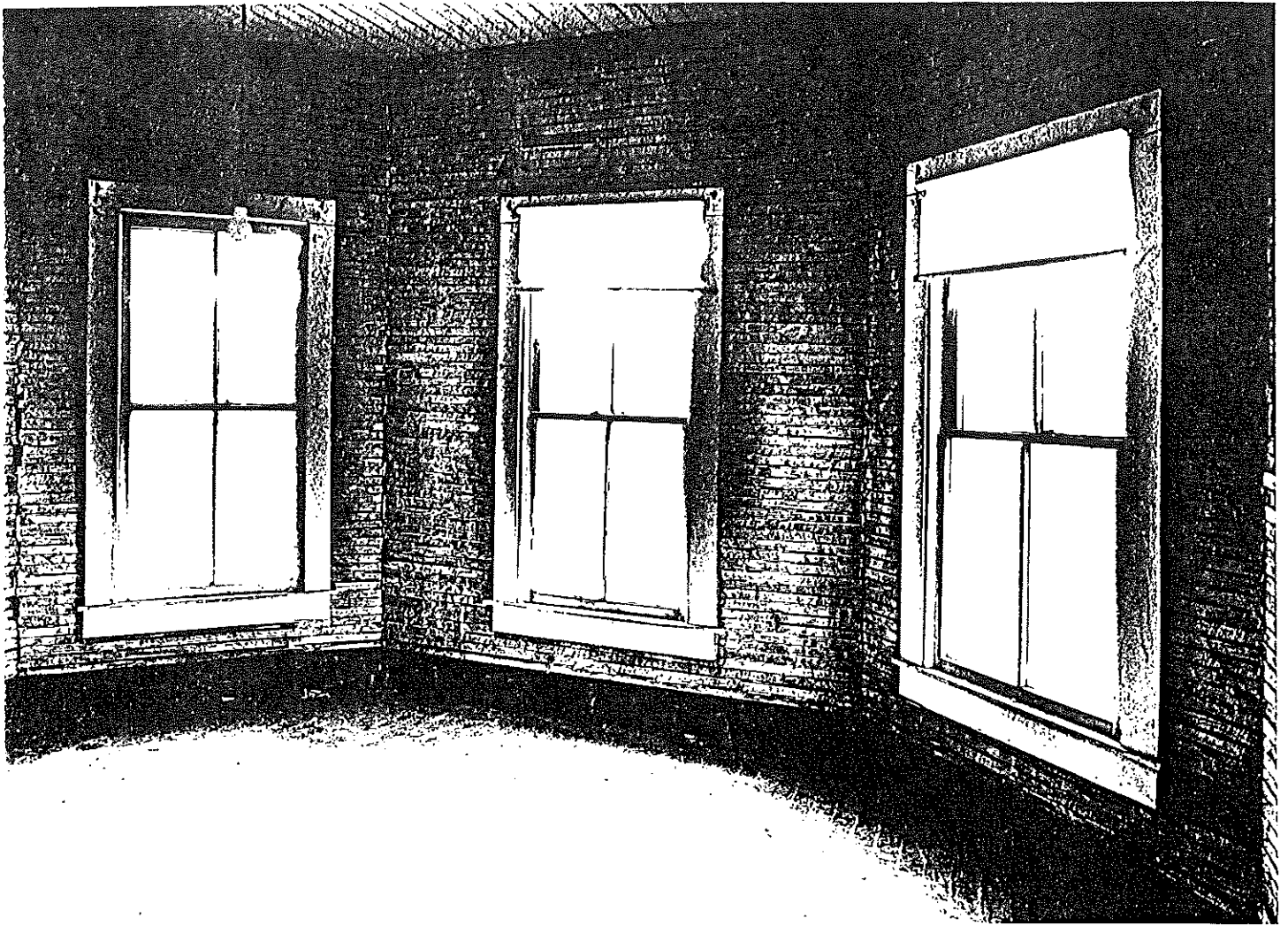
CHEEK-SPRUIILL HOUSE
DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 10 of 17



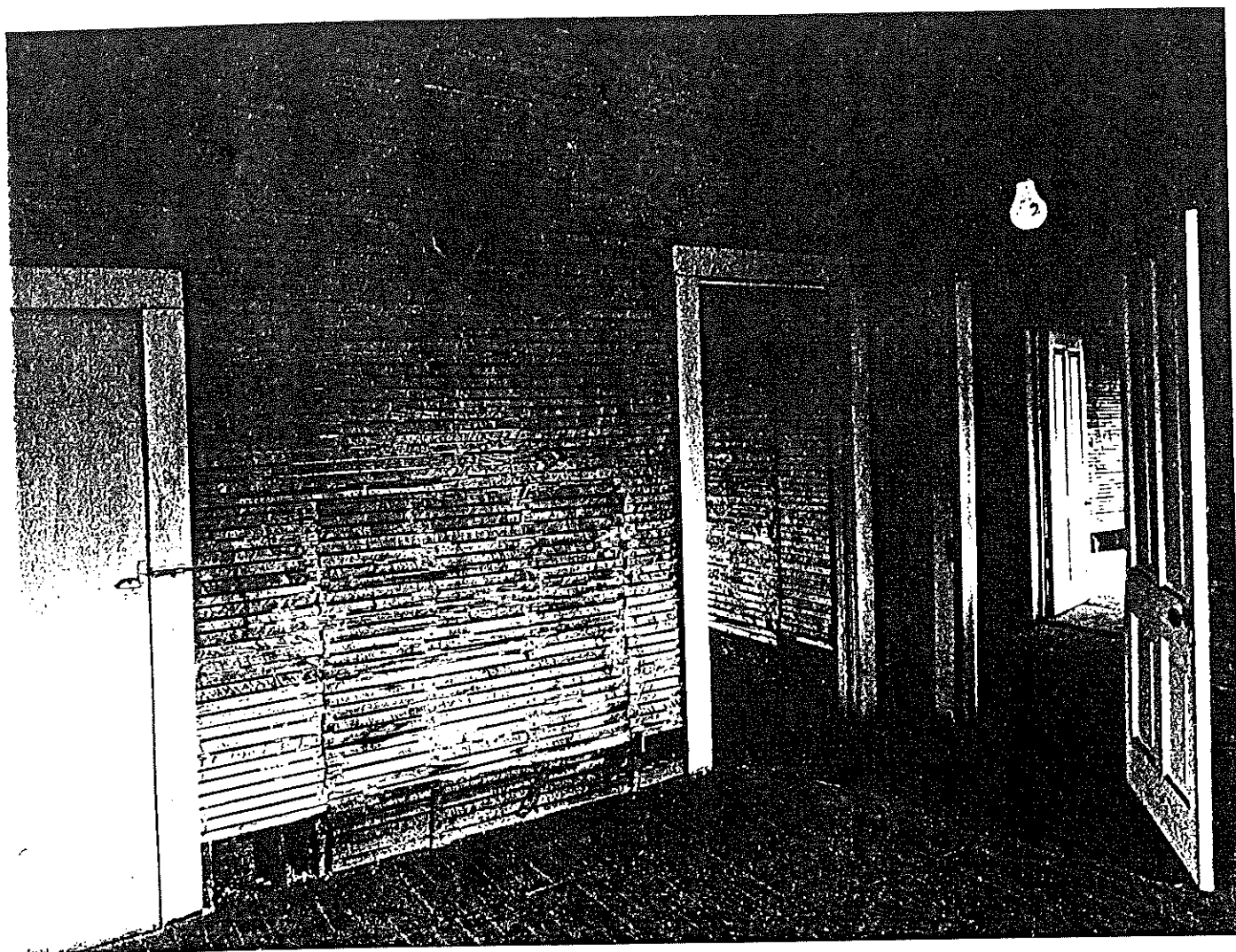
CHEEK-SPRUILL HOUSE
DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 11 OF 17



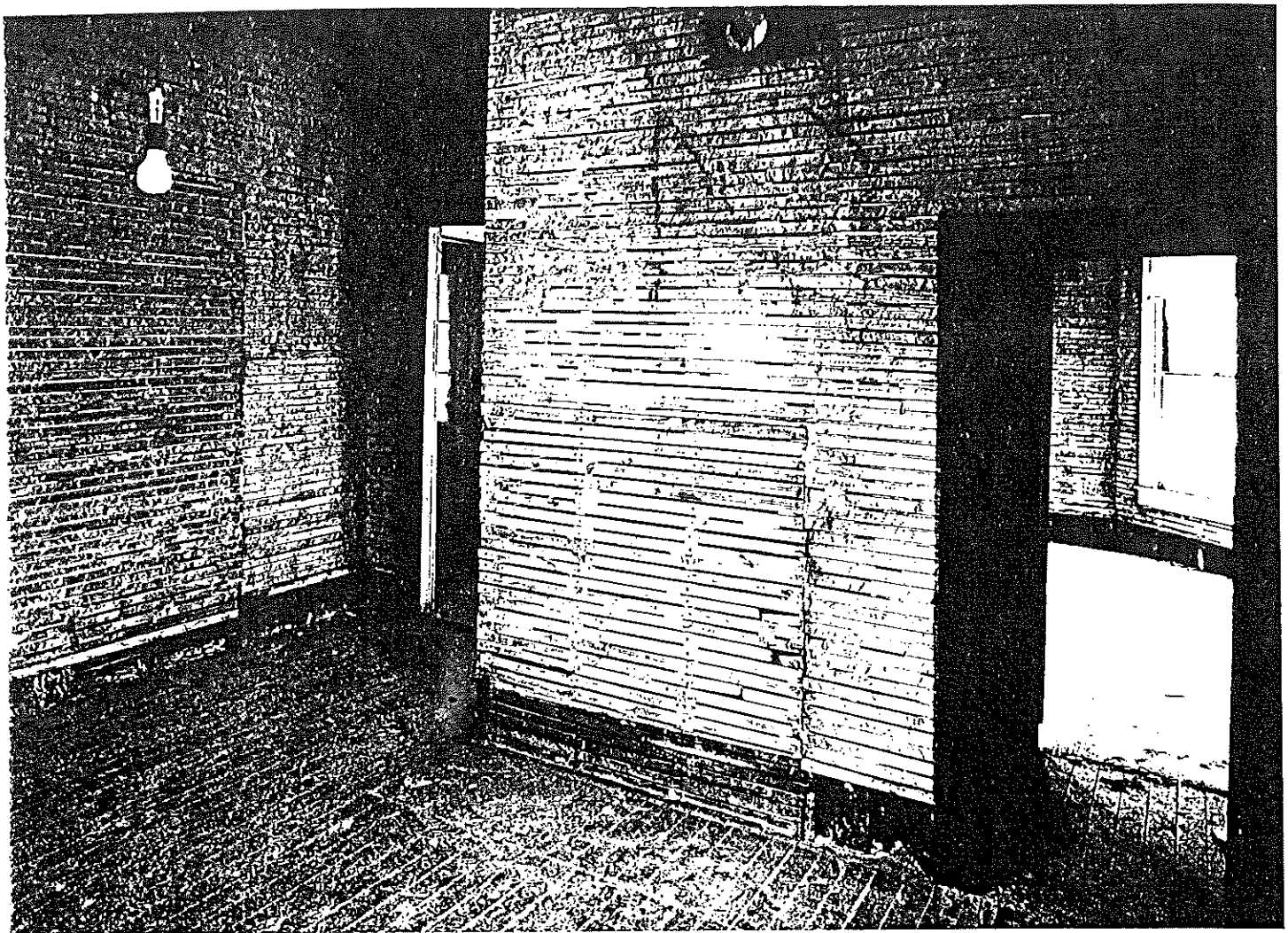
CHEEK-SPRUILL HOUSE
DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 12 OF 17



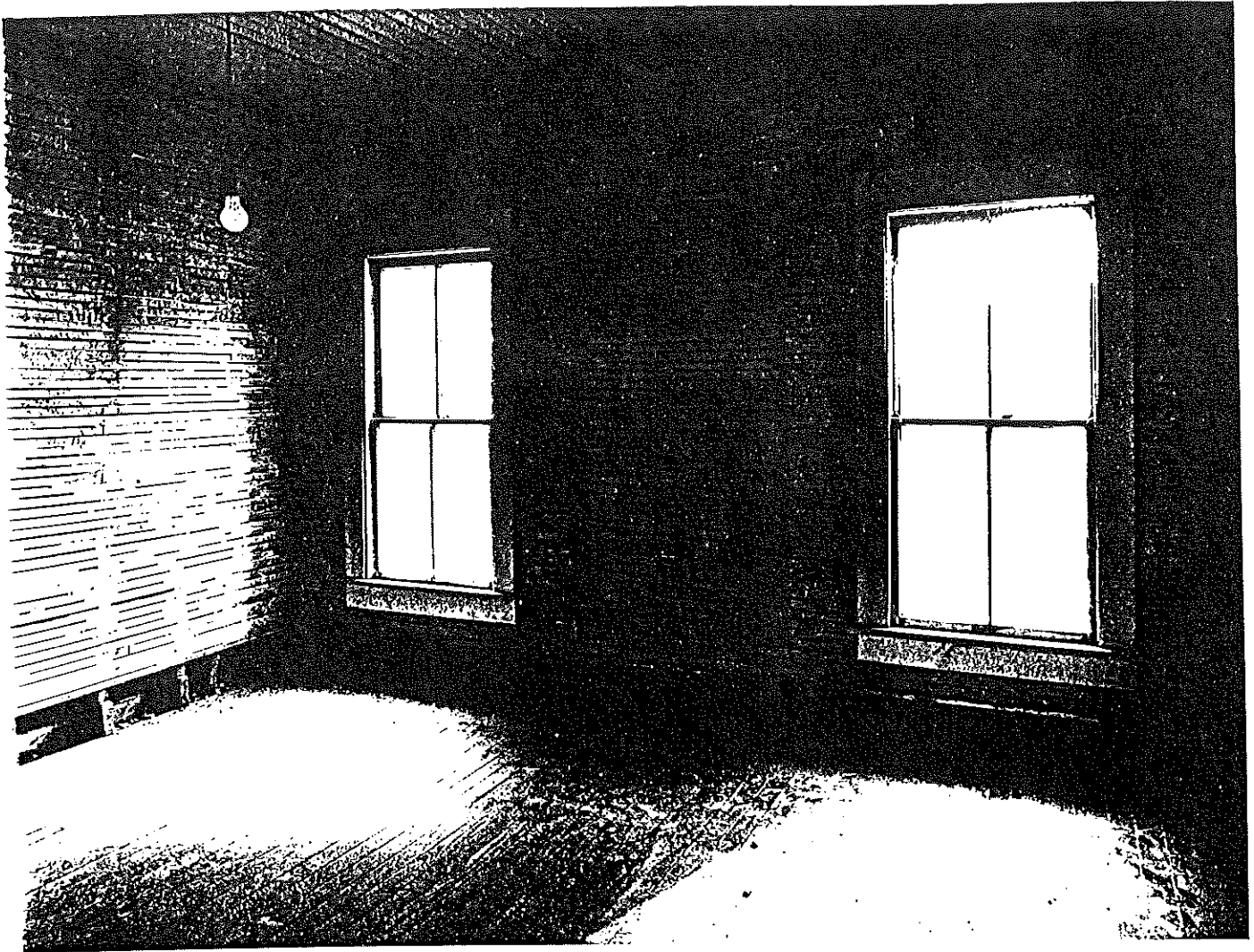
CHEEK-SPRUILL HOUSE
DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 13 OF 17



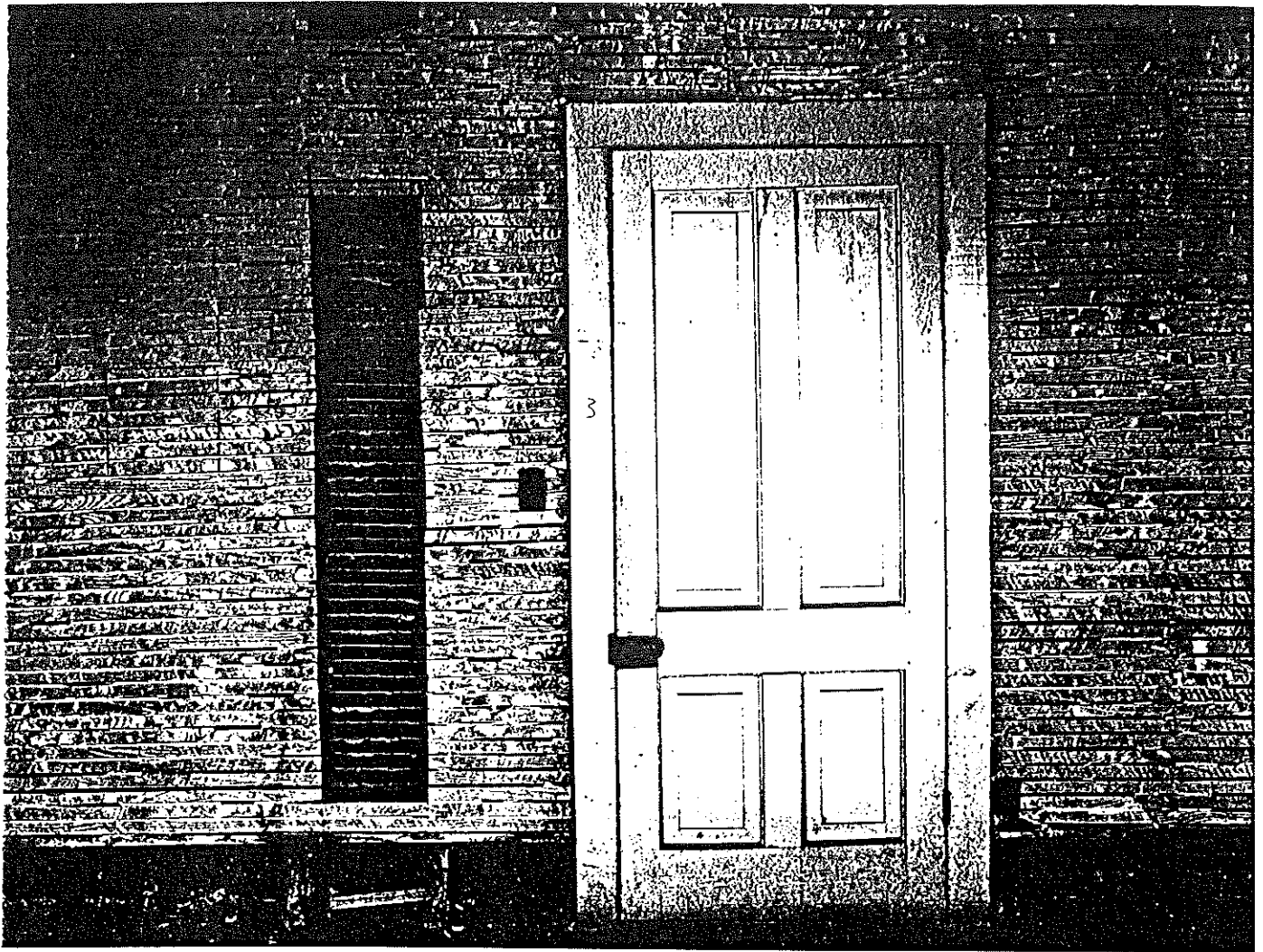
CHEEK-SPRUILL HOUSE
DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 14 OF 17



CHEEK-SPRUILL HOUSE
DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 15 OF 17



CHEEK-SPRUILL HOUSE
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PHOTOGRAPH 16 OF 17



CHEEK-SPRUILL HOUSE
DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA
PHOTOGRAPH 17 OF 17

Dunwoody residents plan to 'hug' the house

Box # 27 Historic Homes, Old Havana Den
 1992/1992 News Item
 2/1/96

A crowd of Dunwoody neighbors will be out in force on Saturday, Feb. 10, at 11:30 a.m. to "Hug the House" they are trying to save as an historic landmark.

Circling the farmhouse at the intersection of Chamblee-Dunwoody Road and Mt. Vernon Road, the group will sing songs and hold hands to show their support of efforts to buy the Check-Sprull home, which many consider to be a "living thing."

"More than any other local project," says **Lynn Byrd**, president of Dunwoody Preservation Trust, "saving this house has focused this community's effort to keep it for future generations."

The house is the old Check-Sprull farmhouse astride 2.4 acres

of farmland that has been untouched since it was initially built in the 1880s. When Florence Sprull died at age 95 last October, her heirs put the commercially-zoned house on the market for \$2.5 million.

The Dunwoody neighbors are trying to raise that amount to keep the house, corn crib, barn, smokehouse and field intact because it is "the heart of Dunwoody."

Byrd says the architecture of the house is called "Upper Piedmont Plain." It was a one-story home built by Bunyan Check and occupied by Joberry Check, a cotton entrepreneur. Sprull used to farm the land and stop traffic on Mt. Vernon Road when he would

turn his mule, "Shorty," around to plow another row of corn. The fence that surrounded the house is long gone and so is the Roswell Railroad that ran next to it in the late 1880s, but a tire still swings from a 100-year-old oak tree.

If successful, the preservation trust group plans to turn the facility into the Dunwoody Town Hall where it will be used as a living, active farm museum, an educational center for children, and a gathering spot for weddings, meetings and parties.

"With the building and construction going on around Dunwoody," Byrd says, "it is easy to forget who we are. This visible structure reminds us daily."

Wood Cabin Dismantled, But Future Still Uncertain

By VIVIAN PRICE

Motorists passing the Wood House on Ashford Dunwoody Road recently witnessed the dismantling of the oldest portion of home. One of the last remaining Spruill family "homesteads," the Wood House was scheduled to be demolished to make way for an office-residential complex. But, developer Wayne Robinson of Robinson Real Estate said when the demolition process began, he discovered he had a buried treasure.

"When we began dismantling," Robinson said, "we found that a portion of the original house was a log cabin. Our original plan was to dismantle all of the house, but when we took the siding off, we found an old log structure with a fireplace."

Workers carefully took the cabin apart, labeled the parts and placed them in storage.

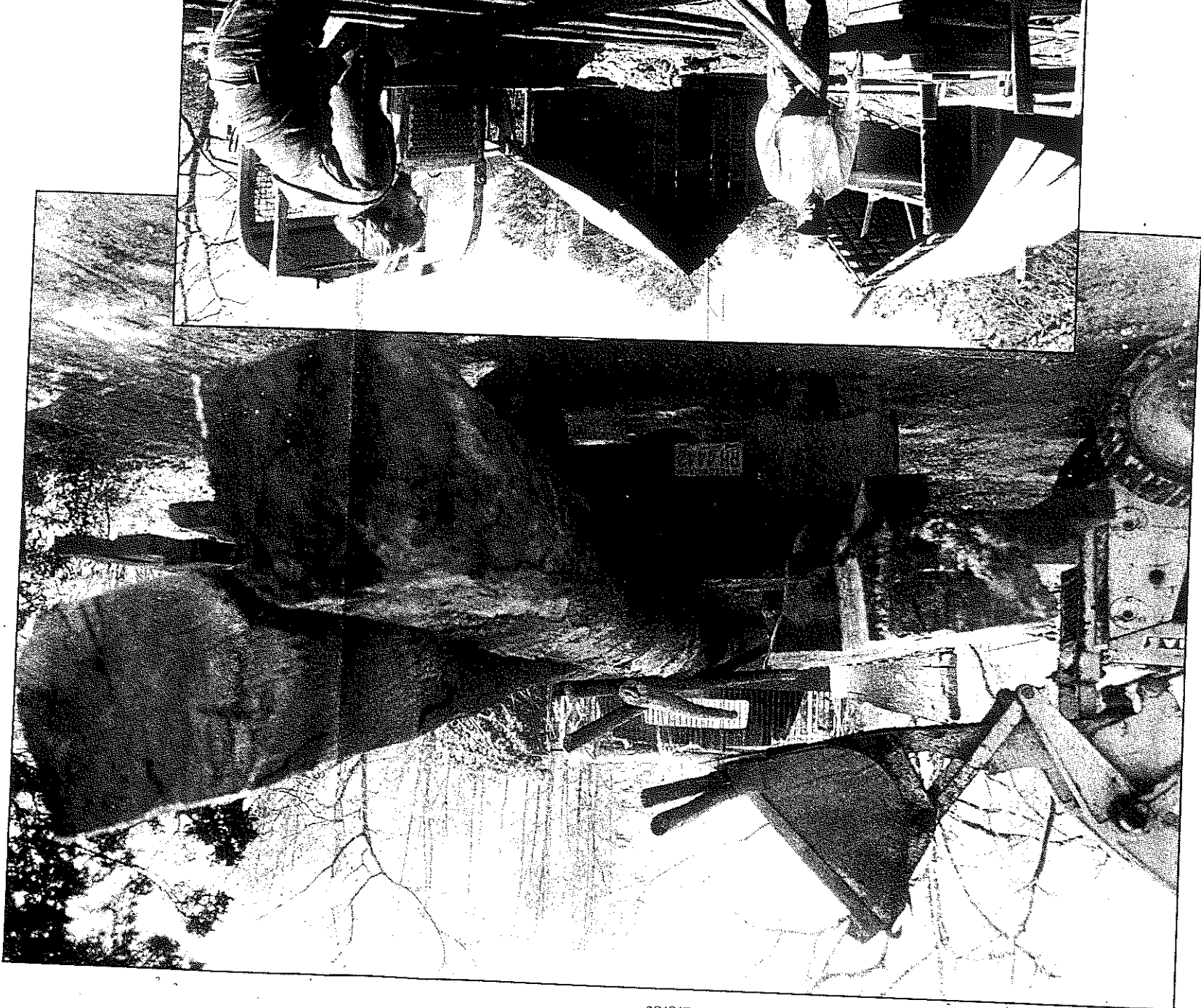
"The future of the cabin is still uncertain," Robinson said he has no specific plans. "My thoughts are to reassemble it someplace."

While the Wood House is not on the National Register of historic places, it is on a Georgia Department of Natural Resources list of notable places. Dunwoody historian Deborah Gaudier said it is a good example of a traditional Southern farmhouse.

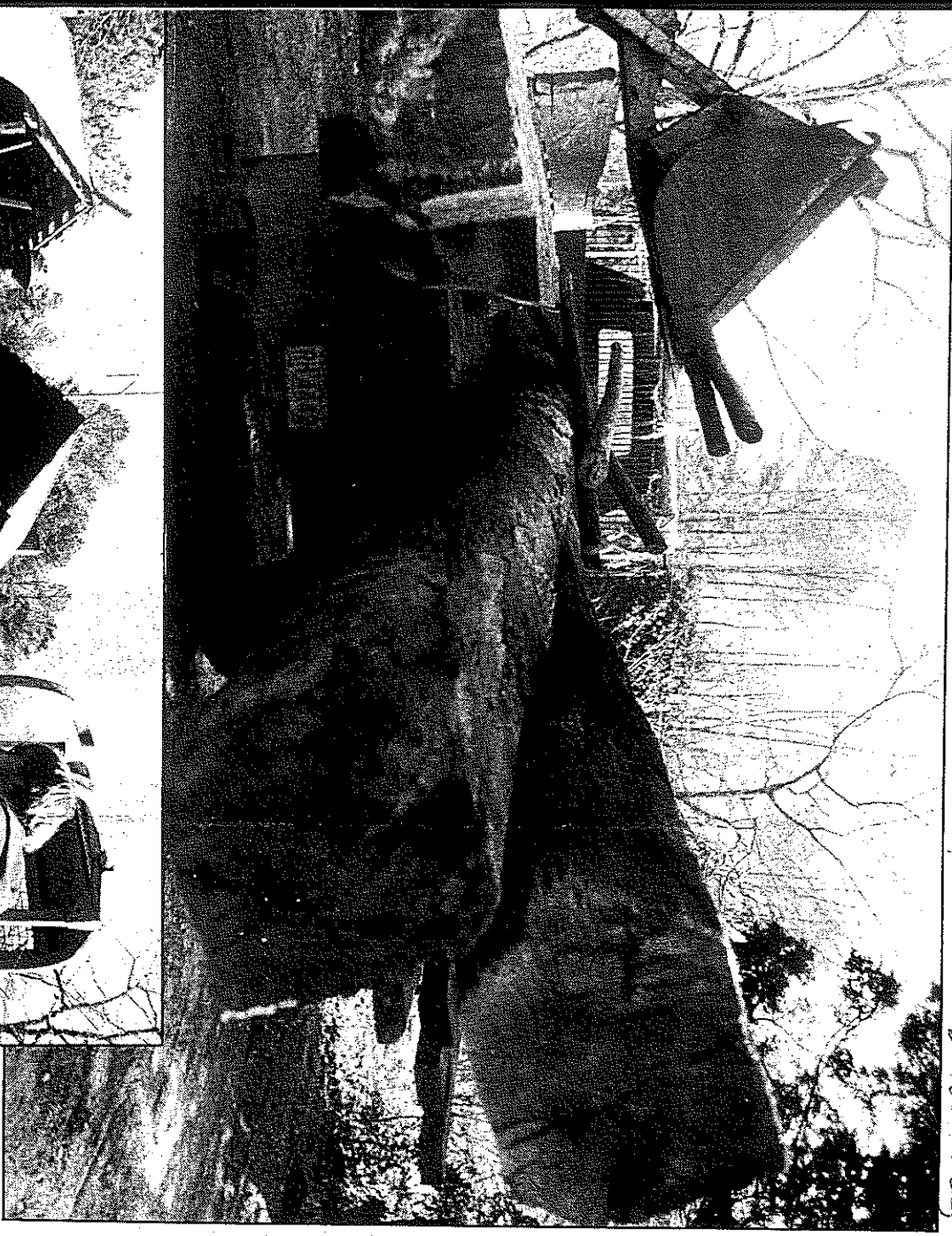
"It is one of the oldest existing homes in Dunwoody," Gaudier said.

Oda Spruill was one of four daughters and five sons born around the turn of the century to Stephen Thomas Spruill and Molly Lee Carter Spruill, according to "The Story of Dunwoody. Miss Spruill moved into the house shortly after her marriage to Walter Wood.

Until recently, the Wood House was occupied by the family of Mrs. Wood's nephew, Gaudier said.



Subject File: Historic Homes
 Wood - Spruill Home
Dunwoody



Wood But F

By VIV

Motorists passing the Ashfile House on Ashfile recently witnessed the demolition of one of the last of the late Spruill family's Wood House was demolished to make room for an office-residential building.

But, developer of Robinson Realty discovered he had a treasure.

"When we began the demolition of the old log cabin. Our workers discovered all of the things we took to found an old log fireplace."

Workers can't place the cabin apart, but they plan to place them in the future of



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The Daily News Journal 2/8/89

Wood Cabin Dismantled, But Future Still Uncertain

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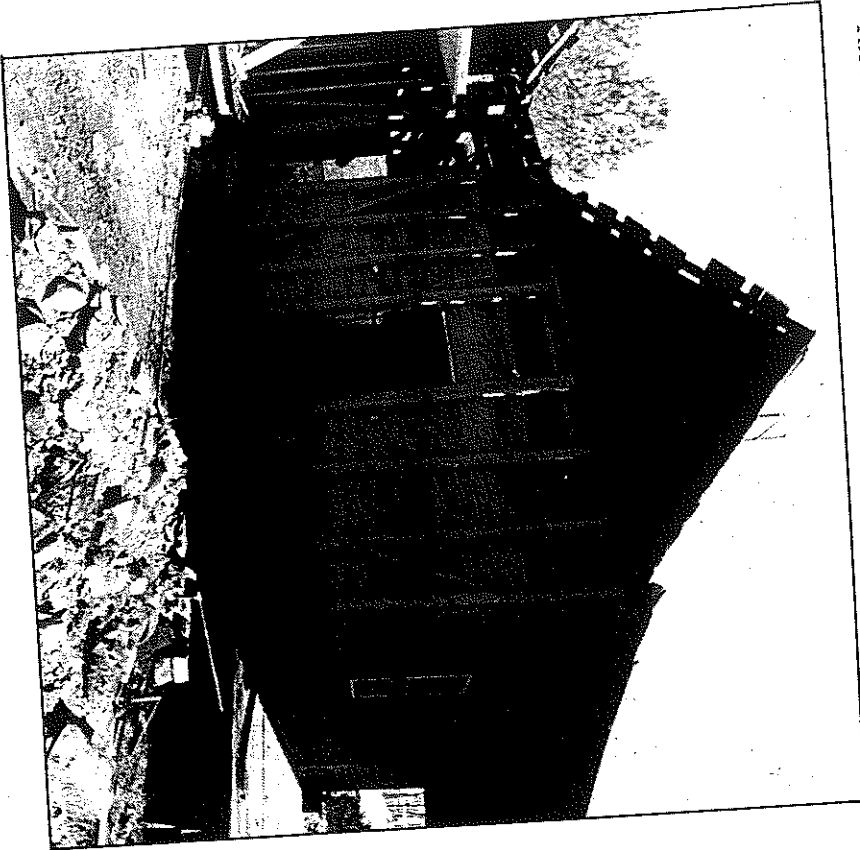
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subject File: HISTORIC HOMES
WOOD SPRUILL HOUSE
(Dunwoody)

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