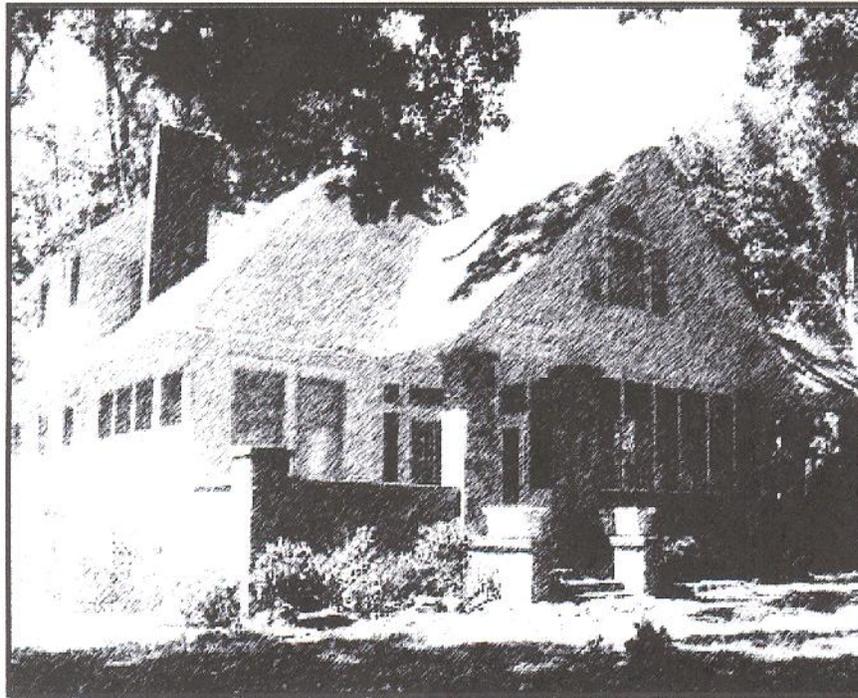


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Historical and Photographic  
Documentation of  
the Dabney-Burruss House  
3922 Atlanta Road  
Cobb County, Georgia

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Brockington and Associates, Inc.  
Atlanta Charleston Raleigh  
2005

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**Dabney-Burruss House**  
**3922 Atlanta Road**  
**Marrietta,**  
**Cobb County, Georgia**

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**LOCATION:**

The Dabney-Burruss House is located at 3922 Atlanta Road Cobb County, Georgia.  
USGS *Northwest Atlanta* Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates,  
731994E 3749072N Zone 16

**PRESENT OWNER AND OCCUPANT:**

Johnson/Willis Homes, LLC

**PRESENT USE:**

Empty

**SIGNIFICANCE:**

The Dabney-Burruss House was constructed circa 1910 and is a representative example of an early twentieth century bungalow.

**REPORT PREPARED BY:**

Patricia Stallings and David Diener

**Date:**

June 2005

## **Dabney-Burruss House, circa 1910**

### **Architectural Development**

Located at 3922 Atlanta Road, NE, in Smyrna, the Dabney-Burruss House is a representative example of an early twentieth century bungalow. Constructed circa 1910-1915, the balloon framed structure rises from a continuous foundation containing a decorative rock-faced exterior. The bungalow rises 1 ½ stories above a half-length basement, thus providing ample living space. The facade contained the majority of architectural details, including the rock-facing along the porch walls and pier columns. The front porch has been enclosed with fixed light windows, and its front-gabled end contains a modern Palladian window, with decorative dentil shingles, and decorative knee braces. Flanked to the left by 1/1 double hung sash windows, the main entry door is surrounded by a transom and sidelights. Windows pane configuration varies from 1/1, 6/6 and 12/1 double hung sash. Hipped dormers are present along the southern, northern and western elevations. Exposed rafter tails protrude beneath the wide overhanging eaves. Two interior brick chimney flues are present along the southern side of the predominantly hipped roof.

The interior of the house consists of an asymmetrical floor plan, typical of the bungalow style, although this structure has had a number of modifications. The property also contains a two-story detached garage. This framed structure contains clapboard siding, a gabled roof with decorative knee braces, and a shed addition. Landscaping is casual with a paved drive, walkway, mature hardwoods and a variety of shrubs.

### **Property History**

The Dabney-Burruss House was constructed circa 1910-15 by Lawrence R. Akin. Akin served as a state senator from Glynn County, Georgia for four terms during the period between 1909 and 1922 (Cate 1972: 230) It is unclear as to whether he ever occupied the property on Atlanta-Marietta Road, however, as a deed dated 6 November 1915 suggests that his daughter and son-in-law, Agnes and Spencer R Atkinson, Jr. were residing in the house at that time. In 1915, Akin transferred the property to the Atkinsons in consideration of a town lot in Brunswick, Georgia. The deed further states that "the said lot is that on which a dwelling has recently been constructed" (Cobb County Superior Court, Deed Book 53: 188).

According to a plat of the Spring Hill Subdivision, Senator L.R. Akin owned land adjacent to the subdivision and apparently partnered with Judge S.C. Atkinson to develop the residential area (see Figure 3). The house itself was located at the corner of Akin Street and the Atlanta-Marietta Road, also called the Dixie Highway, one of the earliest automobile routes authorized during the Good Roads Movement of the early twentieth century (Preston 1991). The Spring Hill Subdivision developed along the Atlanta Northern Electric Rail Road, thus becoming a streetcar suburb within Cobb County.

Agnes and Spencer Atkinson couple sold the tract back to Senator Akin in 1921 for eight thousand dollars. However, according to the 1920 census, the young couple resided in Atlanta where Spencer worked as a dentist. By 1930, they had moved to Los Angeles, California. Agnes Akin Atkinson wrote a number of children's books during her lifetime.

In April 1922, Senator Akin deeded the lot and house to Mrs. Marion W. Dabney, "where she now resides." (CCSC DB 80: 22). According to the 1930 census, Mrs. Dabney (age 40) lived at the residence with her husband, Frank (age 45), and one son, Frank C. Dabney, Jr. (age 17). Mr. Dabney was an automobile merchant. Two servants, twenty-five year old Louis Butler and sixty-year old Clara Wood, also lived with the family. The Dabney family resided at this location for almost thirty years.

Frank C. Dabney, Jr. transferred his Spring Hill property to John Chesley Burruss in December 1951 (CCSC DB 456: 417; CCSC DB 454: 514). John C. Burruss's wife, Eula, died in 1997, bequeathing the property to her heirs. The property was sold out of the Burruss family in 2002, when purchased by the Community Bank of the South (CCSC DB 13641: 1395).

Due to scheduling difficulties and inclement weather, we were unable to obtain permission to conduct the photography until June 11, 2005. A few days prior to our arrival, the previous property owner, Guy Kelley, removed most of the significant architectural elements, such as windows, the rock facing and interior decorative designs. This was done without the knowledge of Gaskins Engineering, Inc. These unforeseen circumstances prevented us from providing our usual level of intensive photographic documentation.

Dabney-Burruss House  
3922 Atlanta Road  
Marietta,  
Cobb County, Georgia

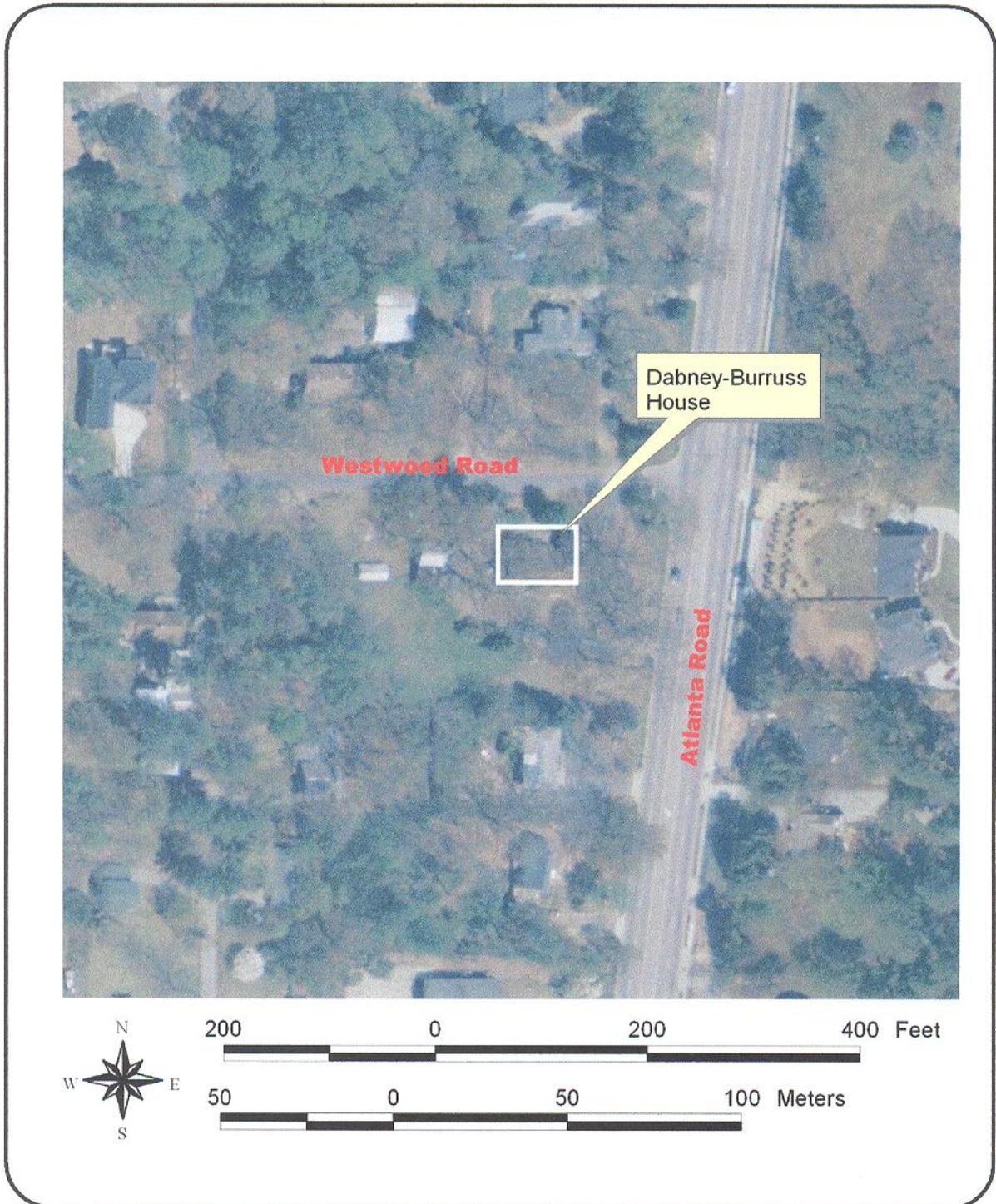


Figure 1. Location of Dabney-Burruss House on Aerial Photograph.

Dabney-Burruss House  
3922 Atlanta Road  
Marietta,  
Cobb County, Georgia

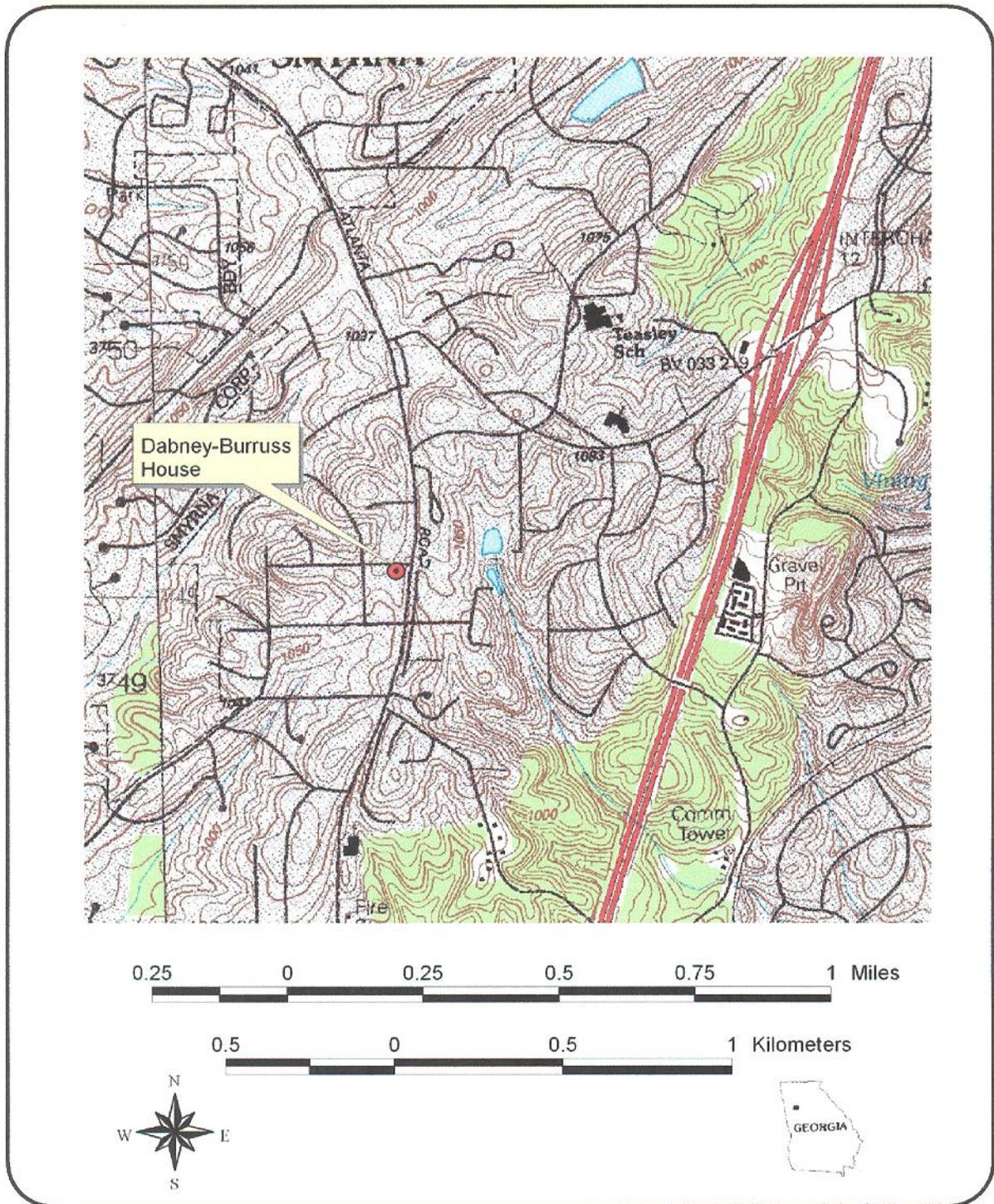


Figure 2. Location of Dabney-Burruss on USGS Northwest Atlanta Quadrangle.

Dabney-Burruss House  
3922 Atlanta Road  
Marietta,  
Cobb County, Georgia

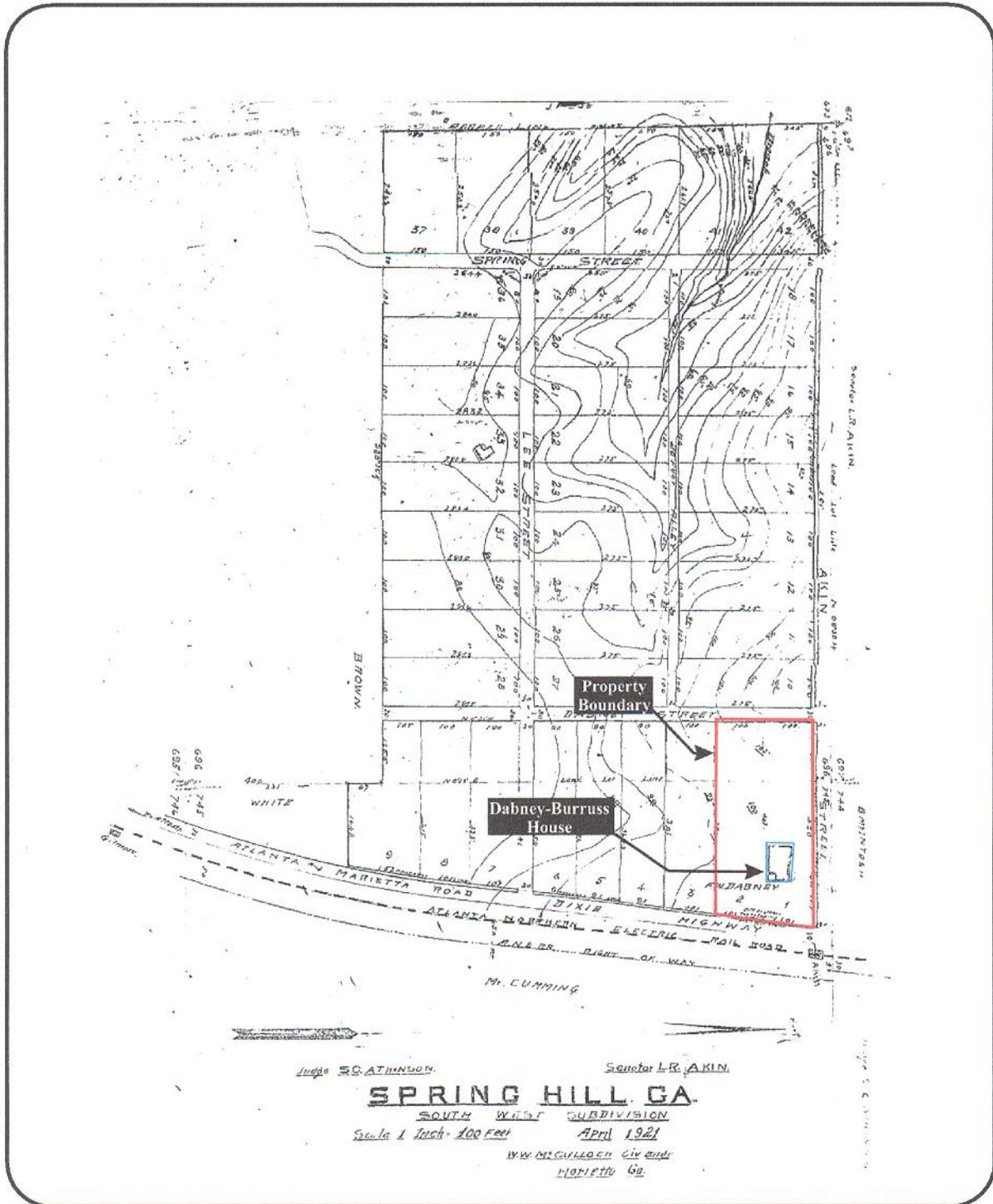


Figure 3. 1921 Plat of the Spring Hill Subdivision.

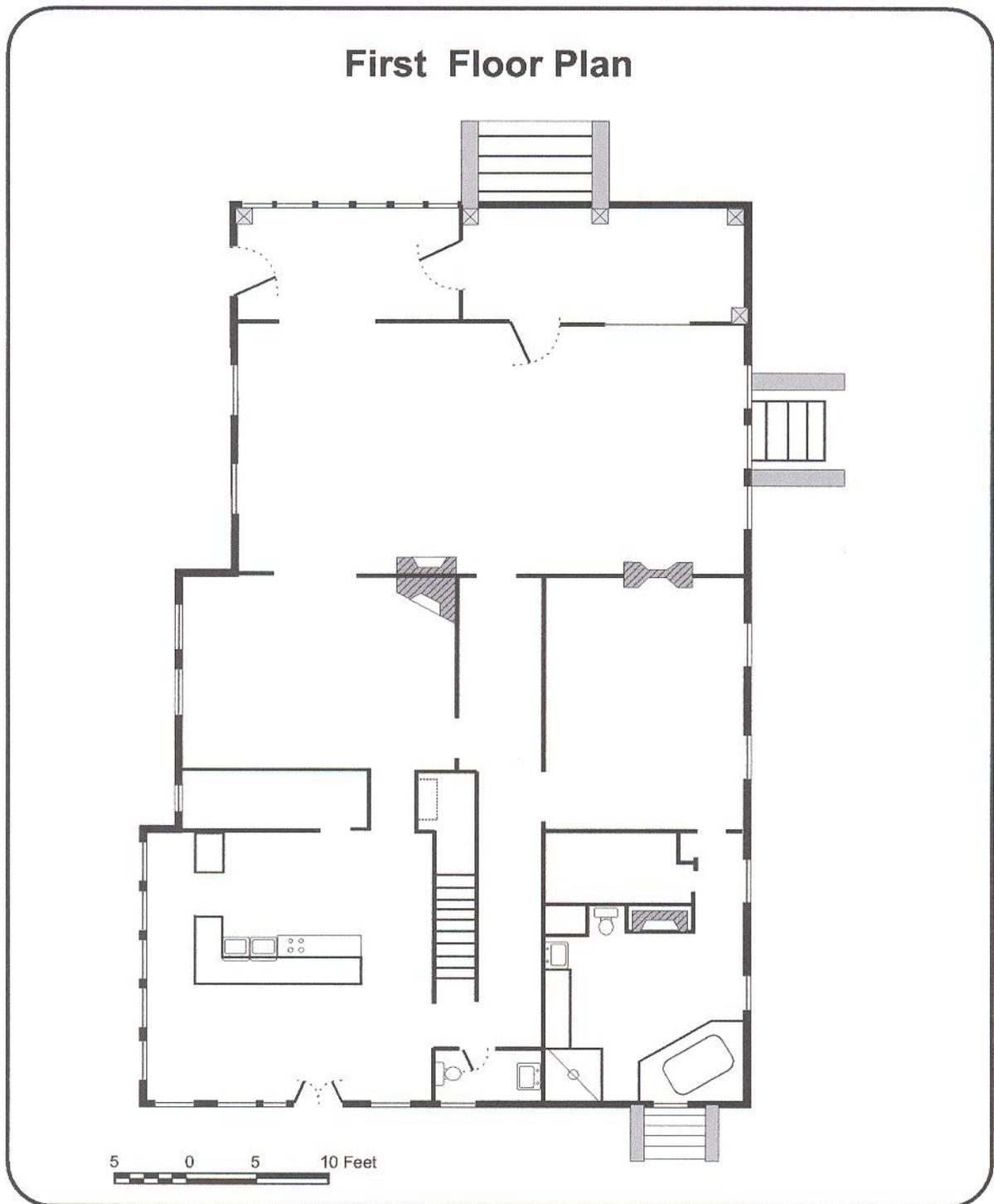


Figure 4. First floor plan of Dabney-Burruss House.

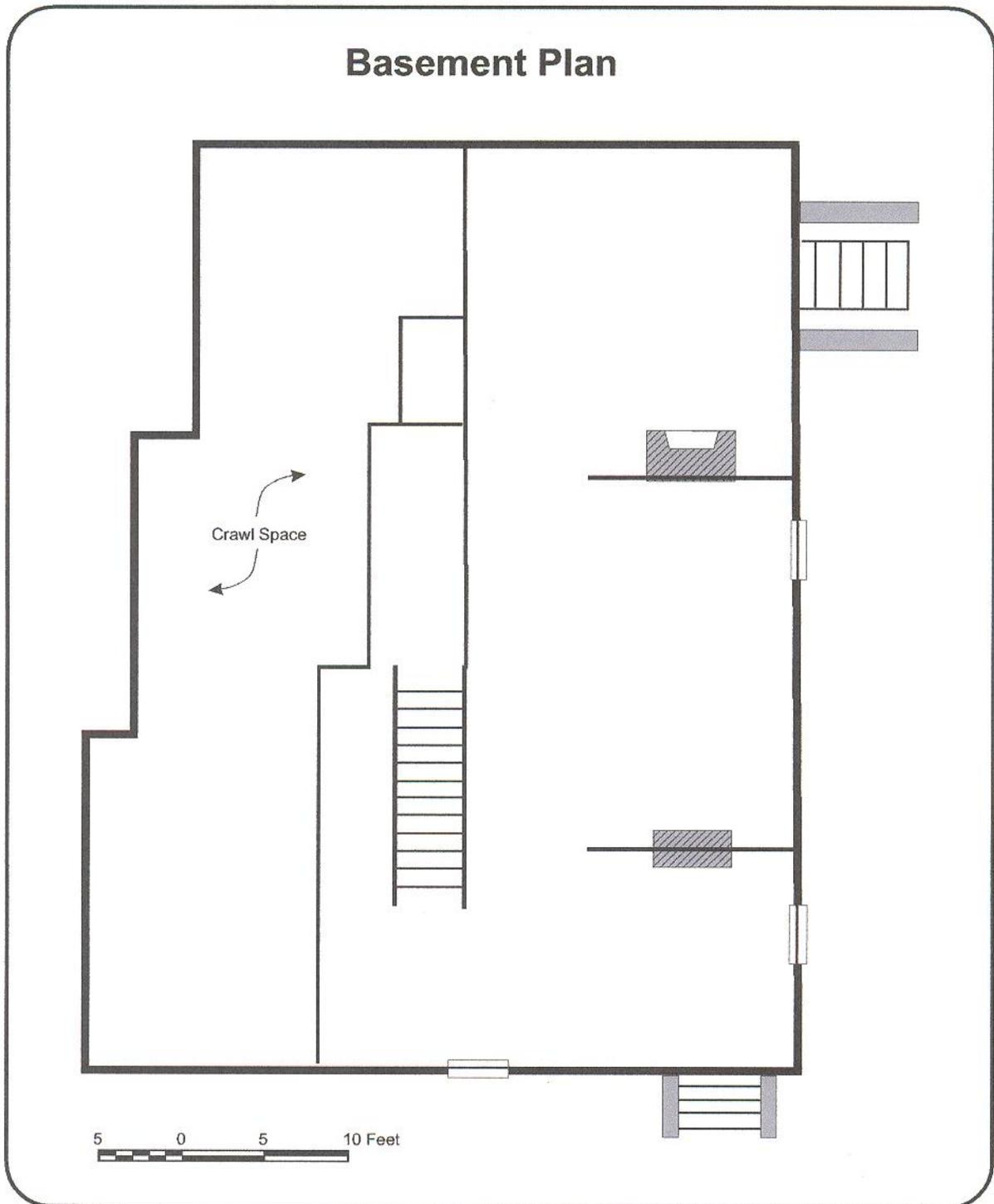


Figure 6. Basement plan of the Dabney-Burruss House.

Dabney-Burruss House  
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Cobb County, Georgia



**Figure 8.** Photo location 1 looking northwest at the Dabney-Burruss House(see figure 7) taken from Cobb County Assessor's Tax Record.

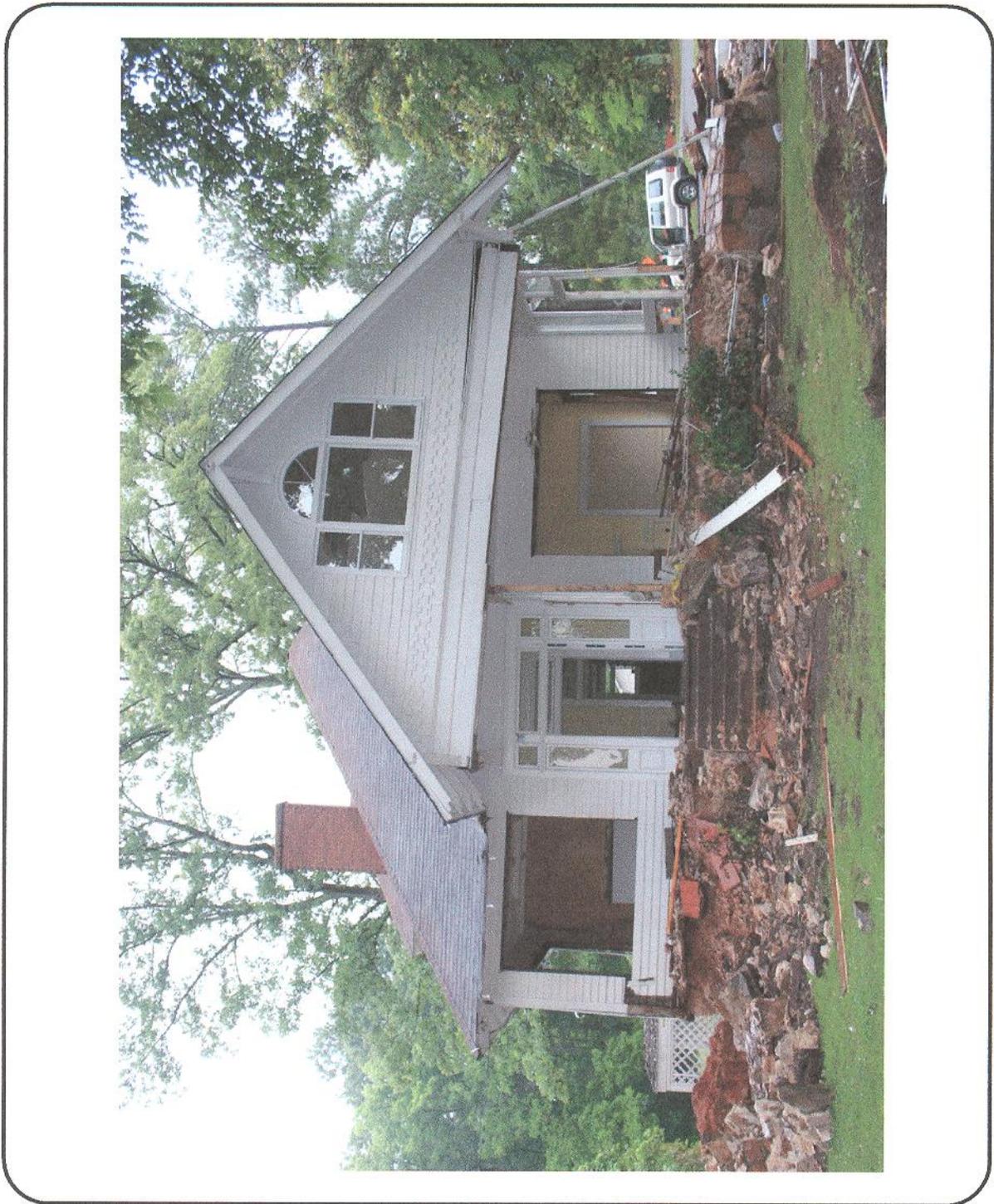
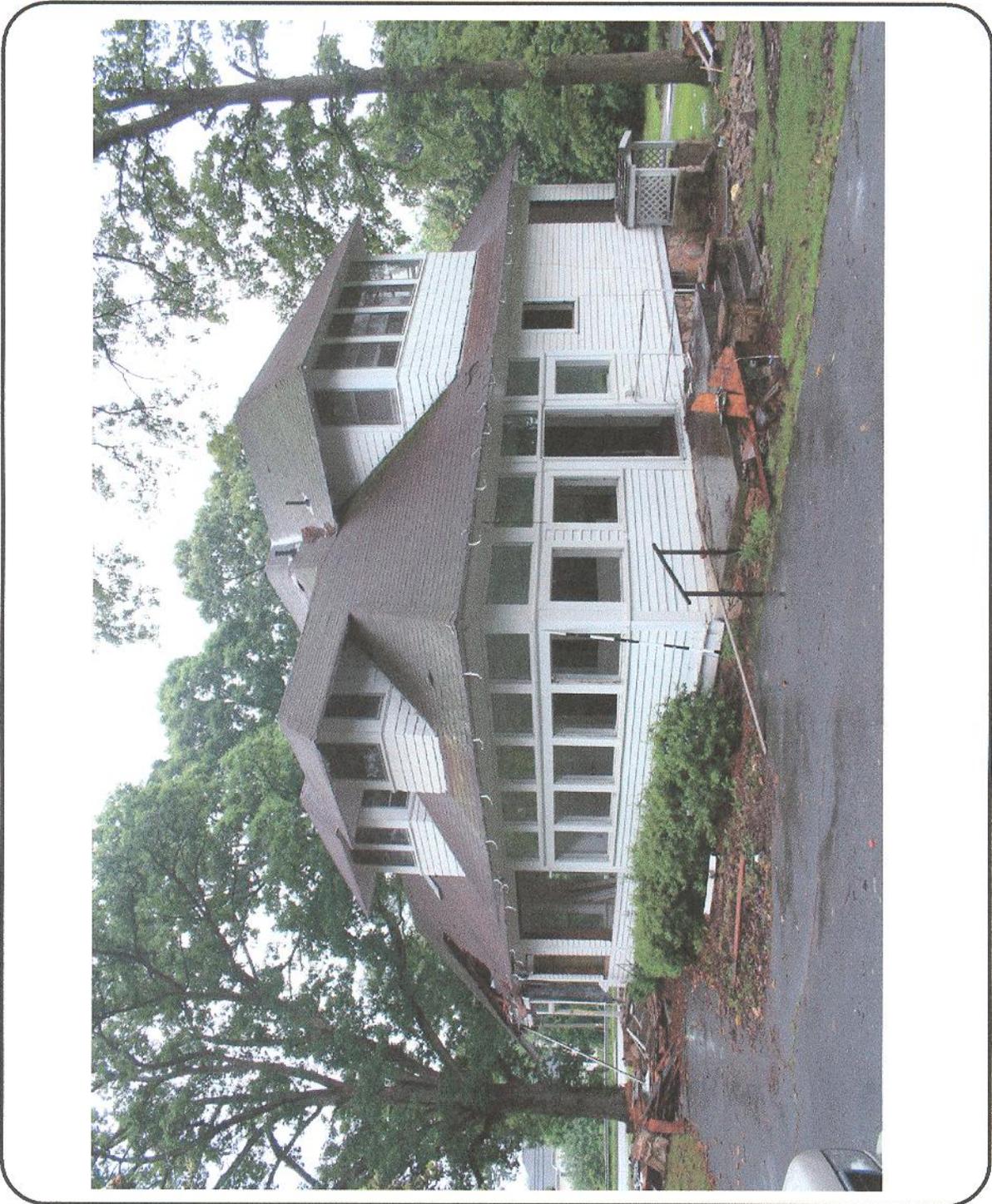


Figure 9. Photo location 2 looking west at the Dabney-Burruss House(see figure 7).

Dabney-Burruss House  
3922 Atlanta Road  
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**Figure 10.** Photo location 3 looking southeast at the Dabney-Burruss House(see figure 7).

# **Archival Photography**

(Photos and Negatives)

**Dabney-Burruss House**  
**3922 Atlanta Road**  
**Cobb County, Georgia**

## **Photolog**

- 1 Front Elevation of Dabney-Burruss House looking west.
- 2 Oblique view of Dabney-Burruss House looking southwest.
- 3 Looking south at elevation of Dabney-Burruss House.
- 4 Looking northeast at oblique view of Dabney-Burruss House.
- 5 Looking north at elevation of Dabney-Burruss House.
- 6 Looking down hallway towards rear of house.











KODAK SAFETY FILM

