

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only  
received **AUG 9 1983**  
date entered

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

## 1. Name

historic Sasser Farm

and or common same

## 2. Location

street & number Sasser Farm Road, <sup>5</sup> south of Cairo N/A not for publication

city, town Cairo x vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Grady code 131

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. George Oliva, Jr.

street & number West Hill Drive

city, town Gates Mill N/A vicinity of state Ohio 44040

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Grady County Courthouse

city, town Cairo state GA

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Sasser Farm consists of the historic structures and their immediate grounds remaining on a portion of a much larger farm. The main historic structures are the "new" house built in 1887, the log house built c. 1839, and a series of historic outbuildings including a wash room, smokehouse, cold storage building, garage, corn crib, mule barn, and silo.

The "new" house is a one story, frame weatherboarded house with end chimneys and a metal roof with an overhanging portion supported by four square columns. It is built on the double pen, central hall plan. One enters through a completely enclosed front porch which is flanked by two shed rooms having entrances only onto the porch. The two main rooms (the double pen) are off the central hall and each has an exterior end chimney. At the rear of the central hall is the enclosed former back porch with flanking shed rooms. The rear ell includes a dining room and a kitchen with an open side porch. One of the shed rooms has been subdivided and another has had a wall removed which formerly separated it from the former porch. A wall was removed that separated the pantry from the kitchen as well.

The log house is a diamond notched double pen dog-trot style house with a small porch remaining open on the front side and long porch on the rear. A shed room has been created by enclosing part of the front porch. The two pen rooms retain their log sides and have a variety of door and window openings. The central dog trot remains an open passage. There is a bell tower on one side. The house rests on log foundations, some laid vertically, others horizontally. Changes include removal of many of the floor boards including those of the loft. The logs have no chinking. Additional shed rooms may have been removed in earlier times, and the stick and dirt chimney has also disappeared.

The grounds of the Sasser Farm contain several historic outbuildings. Southeast of the "new" house is the smokehouse/wash room, a one story, wood frame building with a metal roof. It is connected to a small, one story, square wooden cold storage building. South of this structure is the garage or carriage house which is a rectangular wooden structure with a large entrance opening and a loft. West of this is the corn crib with an upper loft, and nearby is the large mule barn and well. The barn has flanking open-ended sheds. Nearby is a five story masonry silo that has fallen into disuse. Not far to the northwest of the silo and not far from the log house are the two corn crib barns, designated the "old" and "new" barns.

The Sasser Farm is in a rural setting and is surrounded by farmland.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1839, 1887      **Builder/Architect** Sasser family

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Sasser Farm is significant in architecture, agriculture, and exploration and settlement. Architecturally, the farm is significant because it is an excellent example of a pioneer homestead and the building types that evolved on the frontier. The buildings were built on a rise, indicating selection of high ground for the complex. The log house was normally the first type of house built in a newly settled area. The Sasser log house is a good example of that type, with its diamond-notched logs for the double-pen cabin. Later the house was expanded by adding a shed porch on each side and again by the enclosure of a room on one porch. Vestiges of the chimney indicate it was a stick and dirt chimney rather than a brick chimney, again indicating retention of the earliest type of chimney structure built from locally available materials. The "new" house, built in 1887, indicates a later transition of building types in which the open dog trot breezeway had been transformed into a central hall and the double-pen rooms, one on either side, are now framed rather than log. This later house also reflects the often-found conversion of porches into rooms as space needs grew, as does the final addition of a kitchen, detached for decades, onto the main house. The numerous outbuildings also illustrate significant rural architectural design principles and construction practices. While most every farm had outbuildings, many have fallen into disrepair or have disappeared entirely. Thus the remaining Sasser Farm buildings add immeasurably to the study of the architecture of a farm complex.

Agriculturally the Sasser Farm is significant as a good example of the type of small, family-owned farmstead that once abounded in southwest Georgia. From the simple log house and later the "new" house, a farm was maintained where cotton, corn, and livestock were raised. Several county innovations are said to have occurred here including the first dipping vats for cattle, one of the first large, raised concrete silos, and construction of an ice house before ice came into general use. The Sasser Farm truly represents the American frontier dream of moving westward for more and better land on which to farm and raise one's family.

The Sasser Farm is also significant in terms of exploration and settlement. When this area of Georgia was opened for settlement with the Land Lottery of 1820, settlers poured in, although not as fast as in the richer areas of the Piedmont. Littleton Sasser (1817-1893) moved here from Screven County and joined siblings who had already migrated to southwest Georgia. It is therefore significant that nearly twenty years into the settlement of the area the Sasser family built a log house in an unsettled part of what was then Decatur County. Unlike other families, they did not replace it with a larger house for nearly fifty years. The use of logs for a house has normally reflected the first building type in a new area. The log house is often later destroyed for a larger, more substantial house or just by the march of time. Therefore the Sasser

See Continuation Sheet.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Brunton, Yvonne (Sasser family descendant), "Historic Property Information Form", 1982, and various additions based on family information, her county history, Sasser family history, numerous interviews, maps, old photographs, deeds, and estate records, on file at the Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approximately 3 acres

Quadrangle name Cairo South, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 16 764 230 3409020  
Zone Easting Northing

B              
Zone Easting Northing

C            

D            

E            

F            

G            

H            

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is the portion of the farm that still remains associated with the "old" and "new" houses and the historic out-buildings. It consists primarily of the house lot or yard and contains the historic houses and outbuildings in a rural setting. It is outlined on the attached "Property Map." List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

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

organization Historic Preservation Section date July 29, 1983  
GA Dept. of Natural Resources

street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W. telephone 404/656-2840

city or town Atlanta state GA

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon

Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 7/29/83

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Melissa Byers Entered in the date 9/8/83  
National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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

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date entered

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Sasser Farm  
Significance

Continuation sheet

Item number

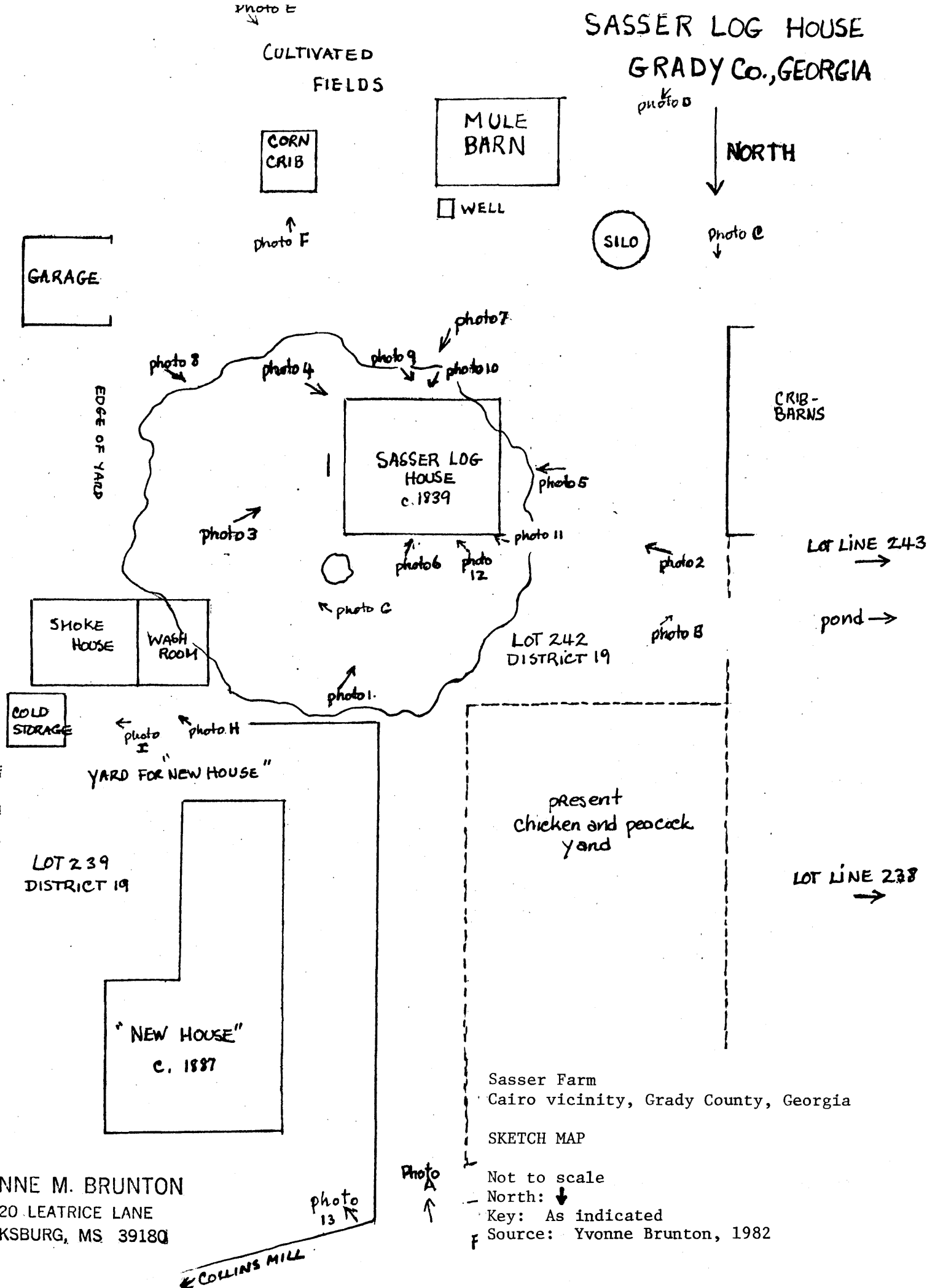
8

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Farm's remaining log house is significant in expressing this late settlement of the area, the use of logs for a house as a first level of frontier development, and then its retention for a century and a half. The farm remained in the Sasser family until 1960.

These areas of significance support the property's eligibility under National Register criteria A and C.

SASSER LOG HOUSE  
GRADY Co., GEORGIA



CULTIVATED  
FIELDS

CORN  
CRIB

MULE  
BARN

WELL

SILO

NORTH

GARAGE

EDGE OF YARD

SASSER LOG  
HOUSE  
c. 1939

CRIB-  
BARN

LOT LINE 243

pond

SHOKE  
HOUSE    WASH  
ROOM

LOT 242  
DISTRICT 19

COLD  
STORAGE

YARD FOR "NEW HOUSE"

present  
chicken and peacock  
yard

LOT 239  
DISTRICT 19

LOT LINE 238

"NEW HOUSE"  
c. 1887

Sasser Farm  
Cairo vicinity, Grady County, Georgia

SKETCH MAP

Not to scale

North: ↓

Key: As indicated

Source: Yvonne Brunton, 1982

YVONNE M. BRUNTON  
120 LEATRICE LANE  
VICKSBURG, MS 39180

COLLINS MILL

Sasser Farm  
Cairo vicinity, Grady County, Georgia

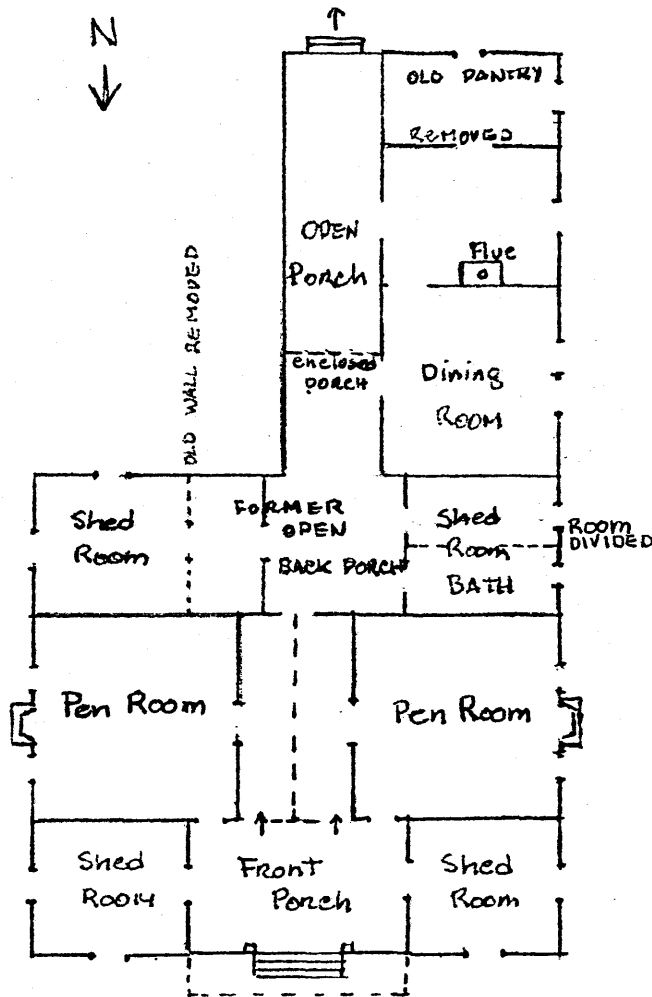
"NEW HOUSE" FLOOR PLAN

Not to scale

North: ↓

Key: As indicated

Source: Yvonne Brunton, 1982



THE "NEW HOUSE"

SASSER FARM, GRADY CO., GA.

PRESENT FRONT HALL MADE BY J.M. SASSER c. 1904, according to his daughter. Each large room had its own door in original plan. When remodelled by J.M. SASSER, the plan was changed to the classic "GRADY COUNTY" style; the two front doors were covered and one door made, thus returning the house to the traditional arrangement which remains today.

OVER

Sasser Farm  
Cairo vicinity, Grady County, Georgia

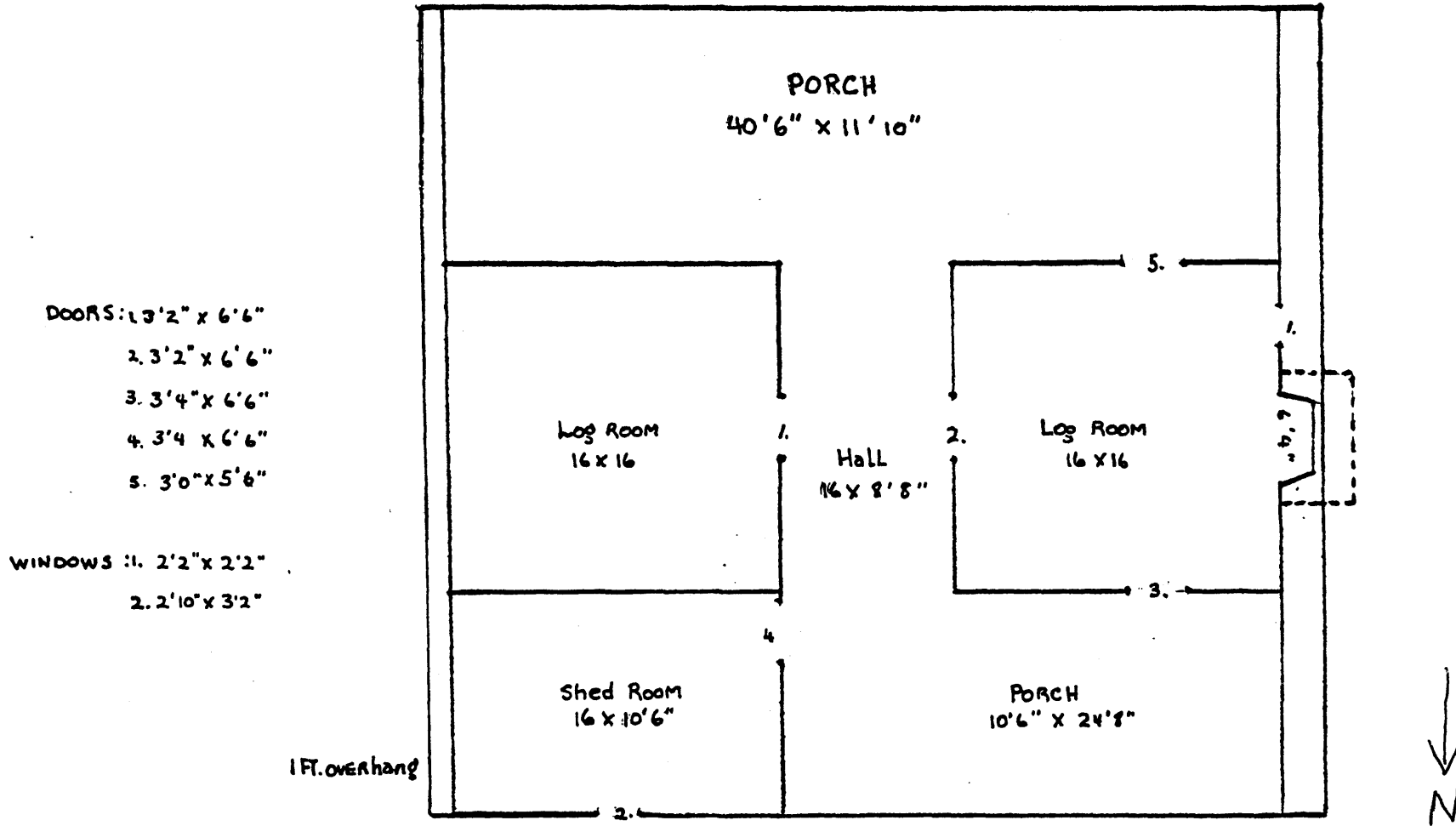
LOG CABIN FLOOR PLAN

Scale: 1" = 8'

North:

Key: As indicated

Source: Yvonne Brunton, 1982



Littleton Sasser log House, Grady County, Ga.  
2 FT. overhang to protect stick and mud chimney  
Overall dimensions, 43'6" x 38'



Sasser Farm  
Cairo vicinity, Grady County, Georgia

PROPERTY MAP

Scale: 1" = 600' approximately

North: ↑

Boundary of nominated property: ——— ↓

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture,  
Soil Conservation Service,  
13131, Roll 179, Ex. 180R, Grady Co.

