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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Bank of Jakin  
other names/site number Jakin Post Office

## 2. Location

street & number 135 South Pearl Street (GA Highway 273)  
city, town Jakin ( ) vicinity of  
county Early code GA 099  
state Georgia code GA zip code 31761

( ) not for publication

## 3. Classification

### Ownership of Property:

- ( ) private
- (X) public-local
- ( ) public-state
- ( ) public-federal

### Category of Property:

- (X) building(s)
- ( ) district
- ( ) site
- ( ) structure
- ( ) object

### Number of Resources within Property:

### Contributing

### Noncontributing

buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	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.

Richard Clowes  
Signature of certifying official

6-5-03  
Date

*for* W. Ray Luce  
Historic Preservation Division Director  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Edson H. Beall 7/25/03

determined eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_

determined not eligible for the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_

removed from the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_

other, explain:

\_\_\_\_\_

see continuation sheet

for  
Keeper of the National Register Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

COMMERCE/TRADE: financial institution

GOVERNMENT: post office

### Current Functions:

WORK IN PROGRESS

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

OTHER: Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Commercial Style

### Materials:

<b>foundation</b>	BRICK
<b>walls</b>	BRICK
<b>roof</b>	ASPHALT
<b>other</b>	N/A

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Located in southwest Georgia, the Bank of Jakin is located on Pearl Street in the small, rural town of Jakin in Early County. The building is located at the south end of the main commercial street.

Constructed in 1912, the Bank of Jakin is a small, freestanding, one-story, rectangular, brick commercial building with a flat roof (photograph 1). The building features its original unpainted brick with simple details. The front and north side facades feature tan-colored brick (photograph 2) while the rear and west facades feature red-colored brick (photographs 3 and 4). The building features a stepped parapet roof with corbeled brick and recessed brick panels along the cornice. The front façade features a later wood storefront with marble bulkhead and a nonhistoric aluminum door. The original transoms above the storefront remain but are covered with wood. The north side of the building features one-over-one windows with simple cast-concrete lintels and sills. The west side of the building has no openings.

The interior of the building consists of one large main room with a vault room, bathroom, and office at the rear of the building (photographs 5 and 6). The building retains its original plaster walls, simple door and window surrounds, beadboard ceiling, and tongue-and-groove floor. There are original fireplaces in the main and office rooms (photograph 9, office). The vault room retains its original vault door, decoratively painted with "The Bank of Jakin, Mosler Safe Co." (photograph 7). Changes to the building include adding the bathroom in the 1960s (photograph 8).

The lot features no landscaping as the building is built at the property lines.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**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  
COMMERCE  
COMMUNICATIONS

**Period of Significance:**

1912—1953

**Significant Dates:**

1912—date of construction  
1912-1923—served as the only bank in Jakin  
1923-1953—served as the Jakin Post Office

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

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

N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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**Statement of significance (areas of significance)**

Located on Pearl Street, the main commercial street, in the small, rural town of Jakin in Early County, Georgia, the Bank of Jakin is significant as a prominent historic commercial building in the downtown and for providing two important services (banking and post office) for the community during the historic period.

The Bank of Jakin is significant in the area of architecture as a good example of a small town, brick, commercial building built as a bank with minimal brick detailing. The building was constructed in 1912 and retains its original exterior materials. The front façade is the principal design element with a stepped parapet and decorative brick panels and corbelling, which is typical of this type of small commercial building in Georgia. The building also retains its original interior materials including wood door- and window-surrounds, plaster walls, beadboard ceiling, wood floors, and vault.

The Bank of Jakin is significant in the area of commerce for its important role in the local community as the only bank in Jakin from 1912 to 1923. The building is a good example of a small town bank, which anchored the once-thriving community of Jakin. The bank was the first and only bank in Jakin and served a population of approximately 2,000 during the heyday of the local lumber industry.

The building is also significant in the area of communications for serving as Jakin's post office from 1923 to 1988. The building served as a post office from 1923 to 1988 and, as such, was the center of community activity during this time. A new post office was constructed in 1988, and the building was used for storage until the city purchased it in 2000 to rehabilitate for use as a city hall.

**National Register Criteria**

The Bank of Jakin is eligible for listing the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a good example of an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century small-town brick commercial building. The building is also eligible under Criterion A as an important center of commerce and communications as the only bank in the small town of Jakin and as the Jakin Post Office from 1923 through the end of the historic period.

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

**Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins with the date of construction for the building, 1912, and ends with the end of the historic period, 1953. The building was constructed for use as a bank in 1912 and was the only bank in town until 1923. The building served as the town post office from 1923 to 1988 when a new post office was constructed.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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

The only building on the property is the bank building, which is contributing.

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

**NOTE: The following developmental history was prepared by Betty S. Sutton. "Bank of Jakin," Historic Property Information Form, July 3, 2002. On File at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

Jakin is located in southwest Georgia in Early County, 22 miles south of the county seat of Blakely. Early County was created by an act of the Georgia General Assembly on December 15, 1818, and was named for Governor Peter Early (1773-1817). In the mid-1880s, the Pineland Railroad Company began constructing the Alabama Midland Railroad, which ran from Alabama to the Decatur County (Georgia) line, which increased development in southwest Georgia.

The area that was to become Jakin was purchased in 1891 by John W. Duke of Chicago. Duke and James Morris Bivings formed the Duke and Bivings Lumber Company in 1894. The company built houses for their workers near the lumber mill as well as an office/commissary building. After the death of his wife in 1895, Duke sold his share of the business and moved North. The company was renamed Bivings Brothers Company in 1896. The town was officially chartered on December 16, 1895, and named after one of the biblical pillars of Solomon's Temple, Jachin (spelled Jakin by the town). In 1898, the Bivings brothers sold the company to the Flowers Lumber Company of Bolling, Butler County, Alabama, and the town flourished as the lumber mill expanded to over 1,000 workers.

On August 19, 1912, Elisha Hinton, a wealthy citizen of nearby Hinton, was granted a charter for the Bank of Jakin. The bank operated as the only bank in Jakin from 1912 until the bank closed in 1923 and served the local population of approximately 2,000 during this time. The assets were transferred to the First National Bank in Blakely when the bank closed. After the close of the lumber mill, most of the residents of Jakin moved to find new jobs. The population for the 2000 census lists only 157 people in the city limits.

The Jakin Post Office began in the office of the Bivings Brother Company and moved to the commissary of the Flowers Lumber Company when it bought the mill. The post office never had a building constructed as a post office and instead moved among several store buildings in town until 1923 when it moved into the vacated bank building. The post office remained in the bank building until 1988 when the U.S. Postal Service constructed a new building in 1988.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Early County News. August 22, 1912.

"150 Years of Progress," Early County News. December 19, 1968.

Sutton, Betty S. "Bank of Jakin," Historic Property Information Form, July 3, 2002. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested**
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued  
date issued:**
- previously listed in the National Register**
- previously determined eligible by the National Register**
- designated a National Historic Landmark**
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #**
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #**

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office**
- Other State Agency**
- Federal agency**
- Local government**
- University**
- Other, Specify Repository:**

**Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A**

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## **10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property**      Less than one acre.

### **UTM References**

A)    Zone 16      Easting 692386      Northing 3441076

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The National Register boundary is indicated on the attached tax map with a heavy, black line, drawn to scale, encompassing Lot 15 and right-of-way on the north and east.

### **Boundary Justification**

The National Register boundary is the current legal boundary including the right-of-way and sidewalk and comprises the historic acreage associated with the building.



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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**State Historic Preservation Office**

**name/title** Gretchen A. Brock/National Register Coordinator  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**mailing address** 156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101  
**city or town** Atlanta      **state** Georgia      **zip code** 30303  
**telephone** (404) 656-2840      **date** June 4, 2003  
**e-mail** gretchen\_brock@dnr.state.ga.us

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

**name/title** Betty S. Sutton  
**organization** N/A  
**mailing address** Route 1 Box 1400  
**city or town** Jakin      **state** Georgia      **zip code** 31761  
**telephone** (229) 793-4531  
**e-mail** N/A

- ( ) **property owner**  
(X) **consultant**  
( ) **regional development center preservation planner**  
( ) **other:**

**Property Owner or Contact Information**

**name (property owner or contact person)** Mayor Kenneth Holt  
**organization (if applicable)** City of Jakin  
**mailing address** PO Box 128  
**city or town** Jakin      **state** Georgia      **zip code** 31761  
**e-mail (optional)** N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

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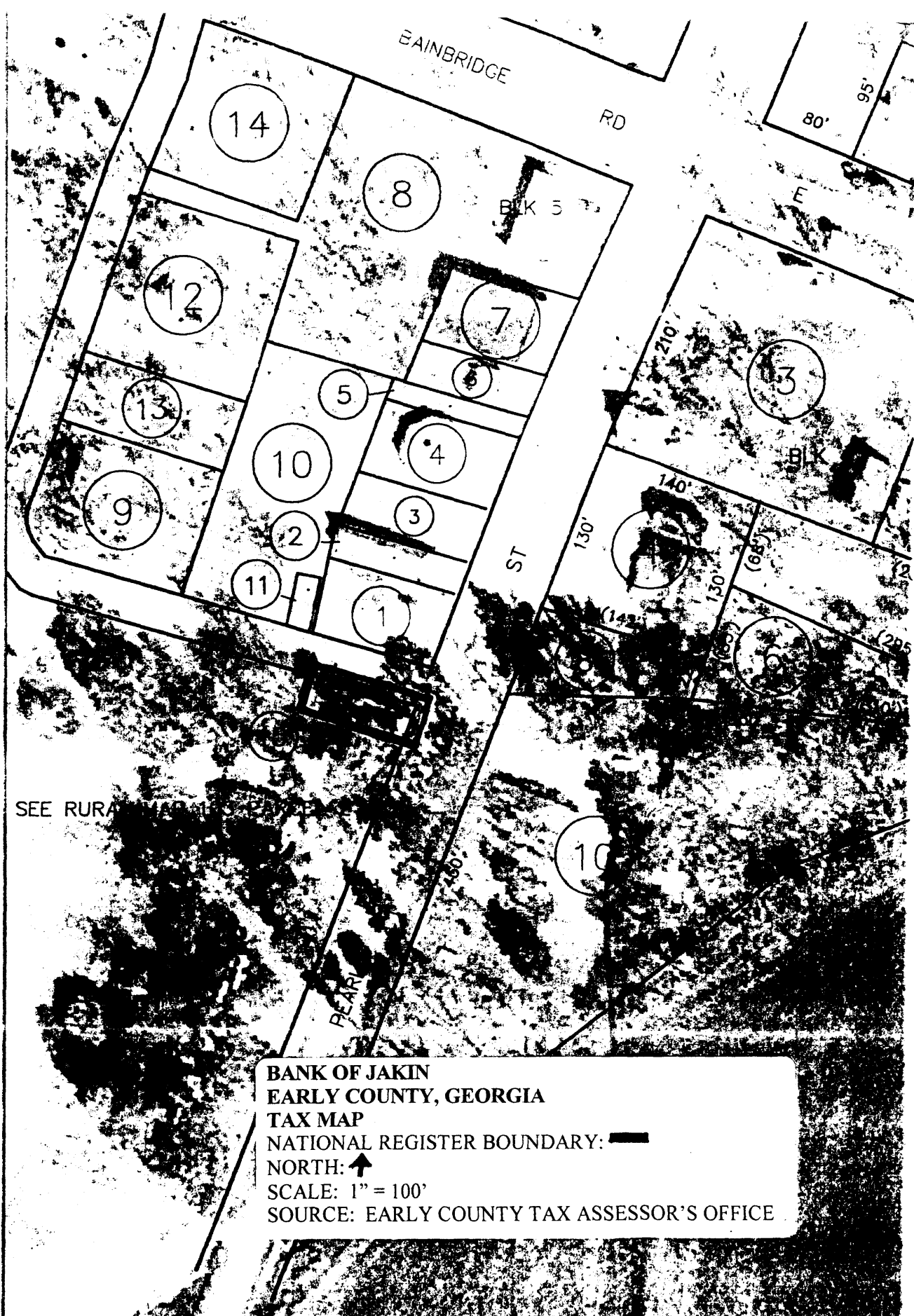
**Name of Property:** Bank of Jakin  
**City or Vicinity:** Jakin  
**County:** Early  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** November 2002



**Description of Photograph(s):**

Number of photographs: 9


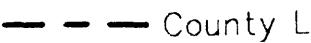
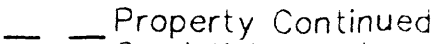
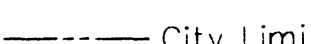
1. Front façade; photographer facing west.
2. Front and north facades; photographer facing southwest.
3. Front and south facades; photographer facing northwest.
4. Rear (west) and south facades; photographer facing northeast.
5. Interior, main room; photographer facing northeast.
6. Interior, main room; photographer facing west.
7. Interior, detail of vault door; photographer facing west.
8. Interior, view through bath to office; photographer facing west.
9. Interior, office; photographer facing west.

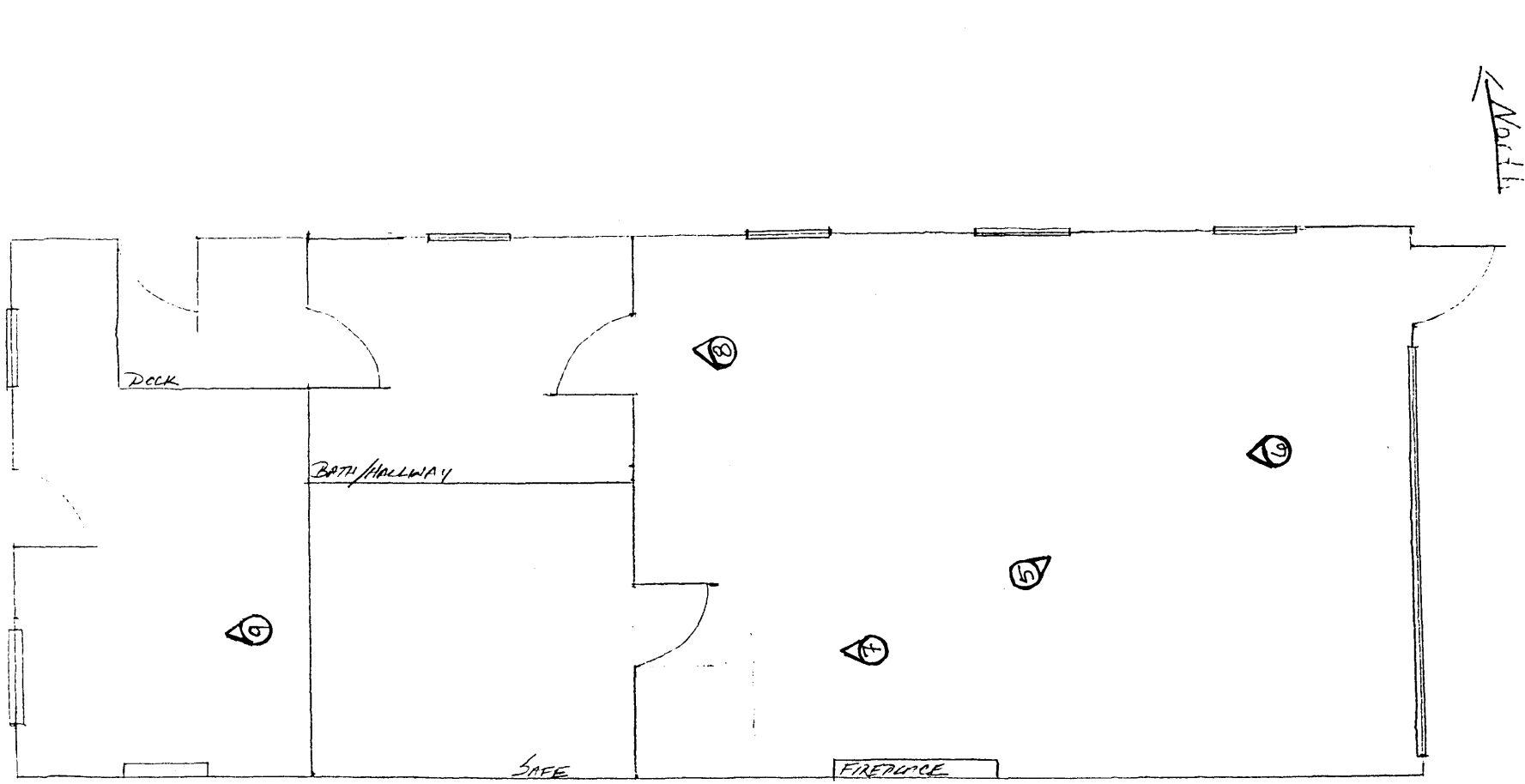
(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)





**BANK OF JAKIN**  
**EARLY COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**TAX MAP**  
 NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY:   
 NORTH:   
 SCALE: 1" = 100'  
 SOURCE: EARLY COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

**BOND**  
 & company  
 2635 Century Parkway

LEGEND	
 Property Line	 County L
 Property Continued On Adjoining Map	 City Limi



1-02  
 100 of Ink  
 100 of Ink

**BANK OF JAKIN**  
**EARLY COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SITE PLAN/FLOOR PLAN**  
 PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW:   
 NORTH:   
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE  
 SOURCE: DRAWN BY SARAH AVERY, APRIL 2002