

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93000934

Date Listed: 9/21/93

Double Branches Historic District
Property Name

Lincoln
County

GA
State

Lincoln County MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Patricia Andrews
Signature of the Keeper

9/21/93
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Period of Significance:

The period of significance should not predate the resources being nominated. The period of significance is revised to read c. 1840-1942.

This information was confirmed with Lisa Raflo of the Georgia SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

RECEIVED

AUG 11 1993

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NATIONAL REGISTER

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 Double Branches Historic District
other names/site number n/a

2. Location

street & number Double Branches Road
city, town Lincolnton (x) vicinity of
county Lincoln code GA 181
state Georgia code GA zip code 30817

(n/a) not for publication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 | 14 | 8 |
| sites | 0 | 0 |
| structures | 0 | 0 |
| objects | 0 | 0 |
| total | 14 | 8 |

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Historic Resources in Lincoln County, Georgia

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.

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Signature of certifying official

8/6/93
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register Partick Adams 9/21/93

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURAL/agricultural fields
COMMERCE/business
SOCIAL/meeting hall
EDUCATION/school
RELIGION/church

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
COMMERCE/business
SOCIAL/meeting hall
RELIGION/church

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

other: vernacular

Materials:

foundation BRICK
STONE

walls WOOD/weatherboard
BRICK
ASPHALT/rolled siding
OTHER/vinyl siding; aluminum siding

roof METAL
ASPHALT/shingles

other

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Double Branches Historic District is a rural community in the southeastern corner of Lincoln County. The district is comprised of historic houses, agricultural outbuildings, and two stores located in a linear fashion along Double Branches Road. The area is composed of gently rolling farmland and woodland with the Double Branches Road running through the center of the district in a northwest-to-southeast direction.

The houses range from very simple housing types to more elaborate architectural styles. One of the most prominent buildings in the district is the early 19th-century Freeman-Bussey House, a two-story Plantation Plain building with a raised basement and an enclosed, full front porch (photograph 2). Examples of saddlebag house types (a central chimney flanked by two rooms) and gabled-ell cottages (a gabled-front at one end of a recessed wing) are also found within the district. Some of the vernacular houses feature Folk Victorian ornamentation. A variety of agricultural outbuildings remain and are mostly one-story, wood-framed, gabled-front structures. The extent of

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is the a simple, two-story Masonic Lodge with asphalt siding. Next to the lodge is the early 20th-century Mulberry School, a clapboard, two room school used by the black community until the mid-20th century.

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alterations and additions to these properties also varies, from minimal to considerable.

The Robert Jennings Price House is a 19th-century, two-story house located at the south end of the district (photograph 1). Originally built as an I-house, a major two-story addition was added around the turn-of-the-century giving the house a gabled-ell appearance. Folk Victorian detailing was also added and includes a wrap-around porch and corner brackets.

The Bussey-May-Moss-Peeler-Tankersley House is a late-19th century gabled-ell cottage on land that was once part of a fairly large plantation. Even though the house is a fine example of the gabled-ell cottage house type it is the abundance of surviving outbuildings (11 in all) that distinguish this property. The majority of these outbuildings are one-story, with gable fronts and weatherboarding.

The John Marshall Price House is another prominent residential structure located at the north end of the district (photograph 6). Built in 1907, the structure features a Georgian floor plan with four rooms and a central hallway on each floor. The exterior exhibits a combination of Neoclassical Revival and Folk Victorian details, such as a turned porch balustrade, spindlework, pedimented gables and a transom and sidelights at the entrance. An attached kitchen is located at one side of the rear facade of the building. Originally sided with clapboards, the house is now covered with vinyl siding.

Also on the Price property are three outbuildings, a large barn, and a saddlebag cook's house. The barn is a U-shaped, frame building with a side-gabled roof and two gabled extensions. This barn dates from shortly after the construction of the main house.

Two historic commercial buildings are at the corner of Ross Reese Road and Double Branches Road. The buildings were constructed from 1895 to 1905. The Moss Store is a one-story, L-shaped frame structure with two small shed-roof additions. The Price Store, still in operation, is a two-story, gabled-front structure with a one-story, double-pen side addition (photographs 7-9).

The district also contains historic black resources. The C.M.E. Mulberry Church and cemetery, a masonic lodge, and the Mulberry School (photographs 4-5). The C.M.E. Mulberry Church is an early 20th-century, gabled roof building with Gothic shape windows. Originally a frame church, it is now partially bricked. Beyond the church cemetery is the a simple, two-story Masonic Lodge with asphalt siding. Next to the lodge is the early 20th-century Mulberry School, a clapboard, two room school used by the black community until the mid-20th century.

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Noncontributing buildings include those properties either built after 1942 or that have been extensively altered, or that have been moved into the historic district.

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
COMMERCE
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
BLACK HISTORY

Period of Significance:

1784-1942

Significant Dates:

1784

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

n/a

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

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The district is significant in architecture for its good representative examples of a range of vernacular types and styles, including saddle-bag, gabled-ell, Plantation Plain, Folk Victorian, and Neoclassical Revival. These structures range from the simple one-story, wood-framed saddlebag with a central chimney flanked by two rooms to the more elaborate two-story, houses in the district which combine classical and Victorian-era detailing. The district is also contains a variety of vernacular outbuildings typical of rural Georgia during the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The district is significant in commerce for the two stores located at the main crossroads. The stores represent the type of commercial operation commonly found in rural communities, and are similar to those found throughout Lincoln County. These two stores illustrate the important role played by such establishments in rural communities like Double Branches. The Price Store continues to serve the community.

The district is significant in community planning and development for its linear pattern of development along Double Branches Road, a main county road. The Double Branches Historic District is significant as an example of a linear community in Lincoln County that has evolved over approximately two centuries. This is a recognized type of historic rural community in Georgia.

The district is significant in black history for the C.M.E. Mulberry Church and cemetery, the Mulberry School, and the Masonic Lodge which represent major institutions serving the black community in Double Branches since the early 20th century. Such rural landmark buildings are rare in Georgia; although many once existed, relatively few remain. Even more unusual is the way these landmarks are grouped together in the district. Together they provide important evidence of the county's historic black settlement.

The district is significant as an example of the linear community property type and for containing agricultural outbuilding types as identified in the Multiple Property Documentation Form "Historic Resources in Lincoln County, Georgia."

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National Register Criteria

Double Branches is eligible under **Criteria A** as an example of a linear community that developed very early in the history of Lincoln County. Such communities played a very important role in the county's history as well as in the history of most of Georgia. Double Branches has, through various stages of its development, featured commercial, educational and religious institutions and thus functioned as a full-service community for many people in its vicinity. Rural, unincorporated communities like Double Branches were vital to the initial settlement, growth, and development of much of Georgia.

The district is eligible under **Criteria C** for the extant historic properties in the Double Branches Historic District which offer an example of the range of vernacular and stylistic buildings typical in rural communities in Lincoln County. The early 19th century, Freeman-Bussey House is the oldest structure in the district and is a good example of the Plantation Plain house type. The 1907, two-story John M. Price House reflects the architectural influences of the timeperiod by exhibiting Neoclassical Revival style elements. The district also contains a linear community plan and developmental pattern.

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

1784 - beginning development of Double Branches
1942 - 50 year cut-off point.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources

The 14 contributing properties are those properties which were built before 1942 which still retain their historic fabric. There are several small historic outbuildings, i.e. wellhouses, sheds, that are contributing resources but are not included in the resource count. There are 8 noncontributing properties.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

The Double Branches community is one of the oldest settlements areas in Lincoln County, dating back to the late 18th century, although it is not known exactly when the name "Double Branches" was first used. (The earliest recorded use is 1803.) Much of the earliest history of the community revolves around the Bussey family, who had significant land holdings in the vicinity of the confluence of the Little and Savannah Rivers. The meeting of these two rivers was in fact known by residents of Double Branches as Bussey Point, but the creation of

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Clarke's Hill Lake in the 1940s has obliterated this former landmark. Unfortunately, very little is known about the Busseys other than relatively sketchy bits of information, most of which is itself impossible to confirm.

It is known that Hezekiah Bussey was the first member of this family to enter, acquire land and reside in what is now Lincoln County. In 1784 he was granted 200 acres of land on the Savannah River under a head-right land warrant, and this was prior to the creation of Lincoln County from Wilkes County lands. Three years later Hezekiah Bussey was granted an additional 200 acres on the Savannah, also under a head-right land warrant, and finally in 1794 he obtained another 400 acres of land on Gray's Creek. Unfortunately, no direct descendants of this family remain in the area and no structures from before circa 1840 survive in what is now the Double Branches community. The Freeman-Bussey House is the oldest remaining building in the district and was, according to local residents, a stop for the stagecoach that traveled along the Petersburg and Augusta Road. However, no evidence has been found to support this claim.

According to Sherwood's Gazetteer, the Double Branches Post Office was established in 1827. Double Branches was a stop on the mail route between Augusta and Lincolnton. This route was temporarily abandoned in the 1880s when a daily star route was established between Lincolnton and Plum Branch, South Carolina, with a stop in Lincoln County's Leverett community. Double Branches was again provided with mail service in 1890 when a second star route was established between Modoc, South Carolina and Double Branches. This route was altered in 1916 to travel from Plum Branch to Double Branches.

In addition to early mail service, Double Branches was the first rural community in Lincoln County to receive telephone service. In 1900, John Marshall Price, owner of Price's Store in Double Branches, established a line from Double Branches to Modoc, South Carolina. The son of early Double Branches resident Robert Jennings Price, John Marshall Price was one of the most important members of the Double Branches community during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. J. M. Price was born in 1869 and, after first working in a commercial establishment in Augusta, purchased C. M. May's Store in Double Branches around 1890.

Price became involved in a variety of undertakings that had a great impact on the people of Double Branches. He became post master of Double Branches and operated the post office in his store, where it had been when May was the owner, and eventually was largely responsible for having mail delivery increased from three to six days each week. Price replaced May's store building with a new structure in

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1897, three years before he constructed the telephone line between Double Branches and Modoc, South Carolina. He also inherited and operated his father's grist mill on the Columbia County, Georgia, side of the Little River and constructed the first bridge across the river at that location. Price's Store is still functioning today and is operated by a great-nephew of J. M. Price.

The decline of the Double Branches community began with the arrival of the Boll Weevil in the early 1920s, which brought about a sharp decline in cotton production in the Double Branches vicinity as well as in all of Lincoln County. In the 1940s, plans were initiated for the creation of Clarks Hill Lake. The lake was completed c. 1950.

Hopes for current and future growth around Double Branches are pinned on an increasing tourism and recreation industry.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Kissane, Amy and John. "Double Branches Community." Historic District Information Form, July 29, 1990. On file at the Office of Historic Preservation, Dept. of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (x) N/A

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

LC-137, LC-138, LC-139, LC-140, LC-141, LC-142, LC-143, LC-144, LC-145, LC-146, LC-147

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 800 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 375760 Northing 3735360
B) Zone 17 Easting 376940 Northing 3735970
C) Zone 17 Easting 379560 Northing 3733800
D) Zone 17 Easting 378190 Northing 3732680

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Double Branches Historic District is shown as a solid black line on the accompanying Double Branches Historic District tax map.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Double Branches Historic District includes all of the identified extant historic resources associated with the Double Branches community.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lisa Raflo, National Register Coordinator
organization Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334
telephone 404-656-2840 **date** 6/23/93

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Photographs

Name of Property: Double Branches Historic District
City or Vicinity: Lincolnton
County: Lincoln
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: December 1991

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 9: Robert Jennings Price House; photographer facing east.
- 2 of 9: Freeman-Bussey House; photographer facing north.
- 3 of 9: Double Branches farmstead; photographer facing northeast.
- 4 of 9: Masonic Lodge; photographer facing southeast.
- 5 of 9: Mulberry School; photographer facing southeast.
- 6 of 9: John M. Price House; photographer facing northeast.
- 7 of 9: Price Store; photographer facing southwest.
- 8 of 9: One-story Moss Store adjacent to the two-story Price Store;
photographer facing southeast.
- 9 of 9: Streetscape view of Double Branches Road; photographer
facing east.