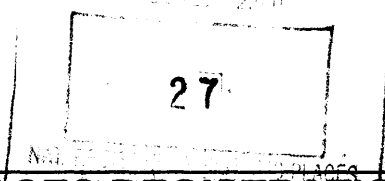


200



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 Fowler Family Farm
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 3813 Atlanta Highway (Georgia State Route 9)
city, town Cumming (X) vicinity of
county Forsyth
state Georgia code GA 117 zip code 30040

() not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

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

Category of Property:

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

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings	10	0
sites	2	0
structures	1	0
objects	0	0
total	13	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 Clowers
Signature of certifying official

2-21-03
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 *4-11-03*

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

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: processing

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage

Current Functions:

WORK IN PROGRESS

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials:

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD: weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Located southwest of the county seat of Cumming in rural but fast-growing Forsyth County, the Fowler Family Farm is an early-to-mid-20th-century farm comprised of the main house, a renter's house, and various outbuildings associated with cotton and, later, chicken production.

Constructed in 1922, the main house is a frame, one-and-one-half-story, front-gable bungalow with weatherboard siding (photographs 1-3). Craftsman-style details include the recessed full-width porch with battered square posts on brick piers, knee braces, and exposed rafters. The porch posts support a wide, decorative frieze that is accented by rows of dentils. The half-story has a recessed porch with a balustrade in the front gable end. The front façade is symmetrical with two doors and two four-over-one double-hung windows on the first floor and a central door flanked by six-over-six double-hung windows on the half-story. The rear façade of the house features a one-story, shed-roofed porch with peeled tree trunks for posts and a well (now covered) with a gable roof connected to the shed porch (photograph 3).

The interior plan is two rooms wide and three rooms deep with a central hall between the rear rooms. The two front rooms both feature a paneled wood entrance door with a large single light (photograph 4). Drywall which was added in 1955-56 has been removed from the walls and ceilings on the first

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

floor to expose the original pine tongue-and-groove boards (photographs 4-6, 8-9). Also removed in the recent rehabilitation were the 1955-56 door and window surrounds and moldings. Hardwood floors were installed on the first floor in 1955-56 in place of the original pine floors. In 1950, the five brick chimneys were removed and replaced by coal heaters. Also in 1950, a bathroom was added to each floor in place of the chimney flues. Located in the hall, a stairway leads to the half-story, which is comprised of three rooms (photographs 7 and 10). The staircase features simple square banisters and newel posts. The half-story retains its flush horizontal wood sheathing on the walls and ceilings and its pine floors (photographs 10 and 11). The front bedroom has its original wood paneled door leading onto the balcony (photograph 11).

To the rear and side of the main house and to the rear of the property along an unpaved driveway, there are clusters of intact, historic outbuildings associated with the historic agricultural practices of the Fowler family. To the west of the main house is the 1922 frame, horse and mule barn (photographs 16, right, and 28). The single-crib barn with sheds features a front-gable metal roof, weatherboard, and the original stalls. The frame, front gable garage was constructed in 1947 (photographs 15, foreground, and 16, center). To the rear of the main house is the 1922 side-gable, frame smokehouse (photographs 12, right, and 29). The smokehouse features ventilation under the eaves and a rear, open, shed addition. To the southwest of the main house is the unique frame, side-gable, two-story chicken house built in 1945 (photographs 12, left, 13, and 14). The board-and-batten chicken house features square window openings on each story. The remaining outbuildings are located at the southern end of the driveway on a small rise. A 1922 frame, shed-roof corncrib and cowshed is located southwest of the main house (photograph 27). Two 1947 one-story, frame chicken houses are located on the west side of the driveway (photographs 18-21). These chicken houses are long, low, front-gable buildings with three bays, an open floor plan with a wide central passage, and a row of window openings running the length of the building on either side for ventilation. On the east side of the driveway is the 1933 one-story, frame renter's house (photographs 22-24). The temple-front cottage features a front-gable roof, recessed porch with square posts, exposed rafters, six-over-six double-hung windows, and a stone-and-brick chimney. To the rear of the renter's house are two wood, shed-roofed, outhouses (photograph 25).

Landscaping on the property is minimal and is comprised of open, grassed areas, the unpaved drive leading to the outbuildings from the main house, and hardwood trees. Also of note is the row of pecan trees lining the drive near the 1945 chicken houses.

Although no formal archaeological investigation has been done on the property, there is a high potential for archaeological resources on the property, particularly the site of the 1922 outhouse near the main house and the site of a barn near the renter's house.

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):

AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance:

1922-1953

Significant Dates:

1922—construction of the main house, smokehouse, barn, and corncrib
1945—construction of two-story chicken house

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

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

Located in rapidly developing Forsyth County, a once rural county that has become one of the most rapidly developing counties in the nation and a suburb of metro Atlanta, the Fowler Family Farm is an important reminder of Forsyth County's rural heritage.

The Fowler Family Farm is significant in the area of agriculture as an excellent, intact example of an early 20th-century farm in Georgia. As defined in Georgia's statewide agricultural context Tilling the Earth: Georgia's Historic Agricultural Heritage, the farm is significant for its representation of the diversification of farming in Georgia during the early to mid-20th century. The farm is particularly significant for its intact collection of outbuildings dating from 1922 through the 1940s as well as the 1922 main house and open, agrarian landscape. In 1922, Alonzo Fowler built the one-and-a-half story main house, smokehouse, barn, corncrib, and outhouse. Fowler was a successful farmer and prominent citizen in the county and, during the 1920s, cotton was grown on the farm. After the devastation of the Great Depression and the boll weevil, Fowler, like many Georgia farmers whose primary crop was cotton, was forced to diversify his crops with the introduction of chickens, cattle, and pasture land in the 1940s. Fowler first experimented with raising "hot house" chickens in the unique, experimental, two-story chicken house built in 1945. When the experiment did not prove to be successful, he built two one-story, low, long chicken houses, which are similar in form to today's chicken houses, farther away from the house in 1947. Fowler's son, Glenn Fowler, and his family continued farming on the property after Alonzo Fowler's death.

The farm is significant in the area of architecture for its intact, historic main house and outbuildings. The farm complex represents a typical Georgia farm in the early to mid-20th century. The main house is a good example of an early 20th-century rural farmhouse. The house retains its Craftsman-style exterior details and interior wood walls, ceilings, and floors. The outbuildings are excellent examples of early to mid-20th-century structures built for chicken and cattle farming including the intact, experimental, two-story chicken house built in 1945 and the two 1947 one-story chicken houses. The farm also retains the auxiliary outbuildings to the main house including the 1922 horse and mule barn, 1922 smokehouse, and 1947 garage. Unlike many Georgia farms, the Fowler Family Farm also retains its complex of a renter's house and outbuildings. The 1933 temple-front cottage and outhouses were constructed for workers on the farm.

National Register Criteria

The Fowler Family Farm is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as an excellent example of an early-to-mid-20th century farm and for its direct associations with important developments in agriculture including the shift from cotton to poultry in the 1940s in this part of the state. The property is eligible under Criterion C for its Craftsman-style main house and excellent collection of intact outbuildings.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the construction of the house, barn, and smokehouse in 1922 and ends with the end of the historic period (1953) to reflect the continuation of farming on the property.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The property consists of 10 contributing buildings (main house, barn, garage, two-story chicken house, smokehouse, two one-story chicken houses, renter's house, and two outhouses), two contributing sites (site of outhouse and site of barn), and one contributing structure (corn crib/cow shed). There are no noncontributing resources on the property.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

NOTE: The following developmental history was prepared by Annette Bramblett, Historical Society of Forsyth County. "Fowler Family Farm," Historic Property Information Form, May 29, 2001. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

The Fowler farm, which has been in the Fowler family for over 100 years, dates back to the post-Civil War South in the Vickery Creek District of Forsyth County. The history of the family, the farm and its outbuildings, and changes in agriculture are interwoven with the development of the area and should be examined in the context of an agrarian society.

On January 13, 1900, Mrs. Eliza E. Fowler deeded to her son, John B. Fowler, Land Lots 458, 477, 479, 530, 531, and the south half of 407 in the Second District, First Section of Forsyth County. Eliza Fowler was the widow of William A. Fowler, who was born January 12, 1832, died January 23, 1889, and was buried in Mars Hill cemetery. John B. Fowler then sold the lots to his brother, Alonzo James Fowler, on April 7, 1908. These lots would later be a part of the Fowler tracts that were sold in February 2001 to the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners.

Alonzo James Fowler, the builder of the Fowler house, was born July 29, 1864. On February 27, 1887, he married Mittie Lena Blackstock (born July 16, 1867, died June 28, 1942). The couple had ten offspring: Osmer Herbert, born November 28, 1887; Era Mae, born September 11, 1889; Gertrude R., born December 10, 1891; William Alonzo, born July 19, 1893; Sibyl Marie, born July 26, 1895; Ethel Irene, born April 25, 1897; Andrew Jackson, born May 12, 1903; Violet Alice, born January 22, 1905; Lillian Louise, born April 30, 1908; and Glenn Randolph, born September 26,

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

1910. Before constructing the Fowler house at this location the family lived in a house on nearby Castleberry Road. Later, the large family lived in another house on the same road.

In March 1922, when the youngest Fowler son was 12 years old, Alonzo Fowler completed work on the house along with its outbuildings—the smokehouse, barn, crib/cow shed, and outhouse. Fowler was a successful farmer and prominent citizen in the community. He was a leading Democrat in the community and was influential in shaping elections in the county.

In the early 20th century, cotton was the cash crop in the rural South, although it was not particularly suited to the rocky terrain of North Georgia. Alonzo Fowler, like his neighbors, grew cotton on his sizable farm. However, the effects of the Great Depression on cotton prices and the devastation brought by the boll weevil led cotton farmers across the south to diversify their crops. The new “crop” that brought North Georgia farmers out of the throes of poverty was chickens. In the early days of raising “hot house” chickens, experimental houses were erected. The two-story chicken house built on the farm in 1945 was Fowler’s innovation but it did not prove practical, either in terms of raising chicken or by its closeness to the house. In 1947, the two long one-story chicken houses were built on the farm at a distance away from the house.

A tradition on a large number of family farms in the South was to maintain a renter house to add extra hands to assist with the farming operations. The Fowler farm was no exception, for a renter house was erected in 1933. Later, a family named Hullander would move in and reside on the property for 40 years. Jim and Pearl Hullander and their two children, Alford and Isabelle, occupied the house on the rise behind the Fowler house and worked on the farm as agricultural changes were taking place. When fescue was introduced in the 1940s, lush pastureland could be provided for cattle by fertilizing the fields with the litter from the chicken houses. Jim Hullander assisted with the cattle operation until his death in the 1990s. After Hullander’s death, his daughter Isabelle continued to reside in the house until shortly before the property was sold.

The Fowler house received upgrades along with the improvements in agriculture and rising standard of living in the area. In 1940, the house was wired for electricity, and by 1946 telephone service was added. In 1950, the tin roof was replaced by an asphalt shingle roof; the interior was altered the same year as well with the removal of the fireplaces and chimneys and the installation of coal heaters. Bathrooms were added—one upstairs and one downstairs—in the space previously occupied by two fireplaces. In 1955-1956 dry wall was placed over the tongue-and-groove board walls and the downstairs received a hardwood floor. With gas available in the area in 1981, a gas furnace replaced the coal heaters. The house was connected to county water in 1992.

A decade after the Alonzo Fowlers had moved into their stately farmhouse, Glenn R. Fowler, the youngest son, married Helen Benson on October 2, 1932. The couple resided in the house with his parents and raised a family of three—Jean, Teresa, and Benson. On March 22, 1934, Alonzo Fowler deeded portions of his land holdings to his wife Lena and son Glenn. Alonzo James Fowler died on December 21, 1934, and was laid to rest in Cumming Cemetery. His wife died on June 28, 1942 and

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

was likewise buried in Cumming Cemetery. Following the death of his parents, Glenn Fowler continued to add acreage to the farm.

In 1975, Glenn Fowler began deeding portions of his undivided estate to his three children and to various churches and charities. When he died on January 8, 1999, Glenn Fowler left a complicated estate that would eventually be settled, and the farm was purchased by the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners.

On February 27, 2001, the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners purchased the 277-acre Fowler property for \$14,127,000. Multiple uses are planned for the acreage. Located in the Big Creek watershed, the land was primarily acquired by the county as a site to construct a water treatment plant. A new park in the area was also needed and plans call for a park with ball fields to be built on the property.

Of primary interest for preservation is the ten-acre tract including the house and outbuildings to be used as a passive park. With preservation funds from a Special Local Option Sales Tax, the Fowler house and outbuildings are to be preserved. Specifically, \$500,000 of SPLOST funds was used in the purchase of the house and ten acres. The remaining \$1,000,000 in the fund is available to use in the rehabilitation of the buildings. The house will likely be utilized as an office for the parks department or another branch of county government and will contain displays of the Fowler family and farm life. The outbuildings are to be braced and maintained for safety. The public will be encouraged to visit the house and grounds to gain an understanding of agrarian life in the early days of the 20th century.

With the rapid urbanization of Forsyth County—the fastest growing county in Georgia and one of the fastest growing counties in the nation—the Fowler Family Farm will offer the opportunity to step back in history for a look into Forsyth County's heritage.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bramblett, Annette. "Fowler Family Farm," Historic Property Information Form, May 29, 2001. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Messick, Denise P., J.W. Joseph, and Natalie P. Adams. Tilling the Earth: Georgia's Historic Agricultural Heritage. Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 2001.

Interviews with Teresa Fowler Bennett and Jean Fowler Brannon, daughters of Glenn Fowler, by Annette Bramblett in 2001.

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): FO-485

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 10.0 acres.

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A)	16	757084	3782705
B)	16	757061	3782475
C)	16	757273	3782404
D)	16	757320	3782634

Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary is indicated on the attached plat map drawn to scale with a heavy, black line.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary corresponds to the current property owned by Forsyth County reserved for the Fowler Family Farm buildings and a passive park. The boundary includes the main house, outbuildings, historic landscaping, and the right-of-way.

11. Form Prepared By

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** February 19, 2003
e-mail gretchen_brock@dnr.state.ga.us

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

name/title Annette Bramblett
organization Historical Society of Forsyth County
mailing address PO Box 1334
city or town Cumming **state** GA **zip code** 30028
telephone (770) 887-8464
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) John Keiffer, Chairman
organization (if applicable) Forsyth County Board of Commissioners
mailing address 110 East Main Street
city or town Cumming **state** GA **zip code** 30040
e-mail (optional) N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Fowler Family Farm
City or Vicinity: Cumming vicinity
County: Forsyth
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: December 2001

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 29

1. Main house, front (north) façade; photographer facing south.
2. Main house, front (north) façade; photographer facing southeast.
3. Main house, rear and east facades; photographer facing northwest.
4. Main house, interior, front bedroom; photographer facing north.
5. Main house, interior, front bedroom; photographer facing southeast.
6. Main house, interior, living room; photographer facing southeast.
7. Main house, interior, view of hall and staircase; photographer facing north.
8. Main house, interior, view of rear bedroom; photographer facing west.
9. Main house, interior, view of kitchen; photographer facing southwest.
10. Main house, interior, second floor, view of stairhall; photographer facing south.
11. Main house, interior, second floor, front bedroom; photographer facing north.
12. View of main house, smokehouse, and two-story chicken house; photographer facing northeast.
13. Two-story chicken house; photographer facing southwest.
14. Two-story chicken house; photographer facing southeast.
15. View of two-story chicken house and garage; photographer facing southwest.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

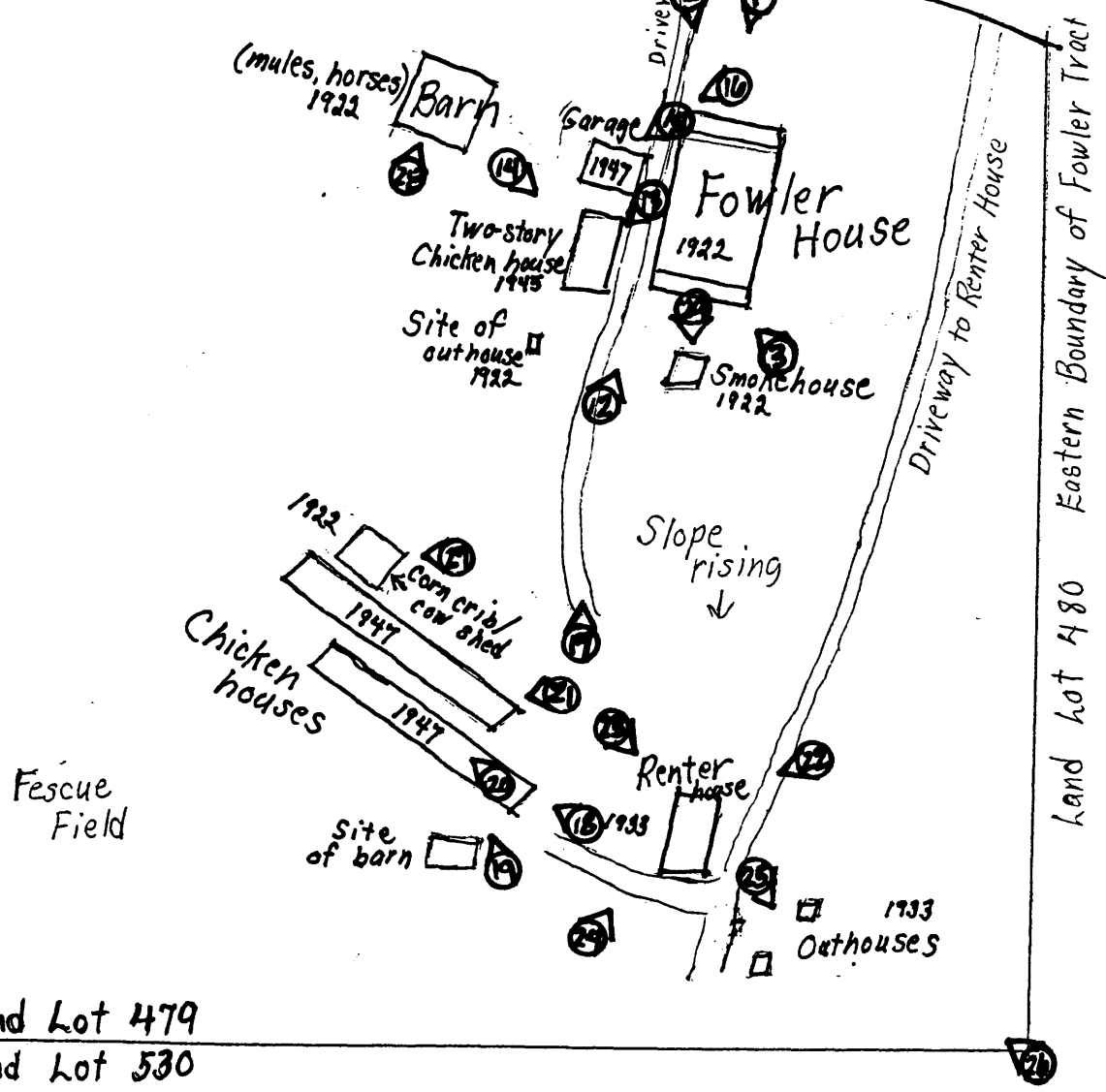
16. View of outbuildings and setting; photographer facing southwest.
17. View of outbuildings, main house, and setting; photographer facing north.
18. View of 1947 chicken houses; photographer facing west.
19. 1947 chicken house; photographer facing northwest.
20. View of interior of 1947 chicken house; photographer facing northwest.
21. 1947 chicken house; photographer facing southwest.
22. View of renter's house (front and east facades) and setting; photographer facing southwest.
23. View of renter's house (front and west facades) and setting; photographer facing northwest.
24. View of renter's house (rear and west facades) and setting; photographer facing northeast.
25. View of outhouses; photographer facing southeast.
26. View of setting; photographer facing northwest.
27. View of corn crib/cow shed and setting; photographer facing southwest.
28. Barn; photographer facing north.
29. Smokehouse; photographer facing south.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

FOWLER FAMILY FARM
FORSYTH COUNTY, GEORGIA
 SITE PLAN
 NORTH: ↑
 PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: ①
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE
 SOURCE: ANNETTE BRAMBLETT



← To Alpharetta

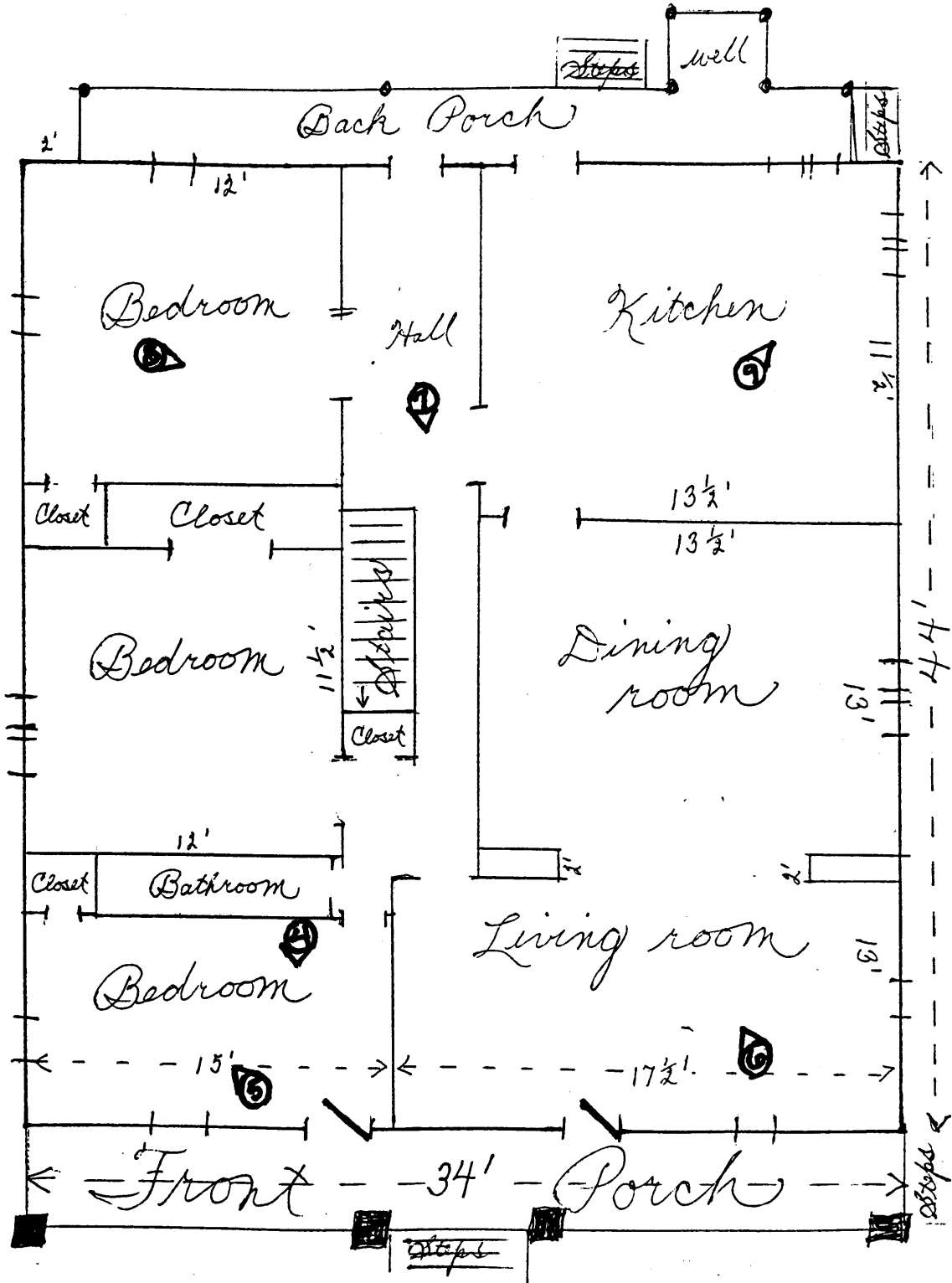
Atlanta Highway (State Route 9) To Cumming →





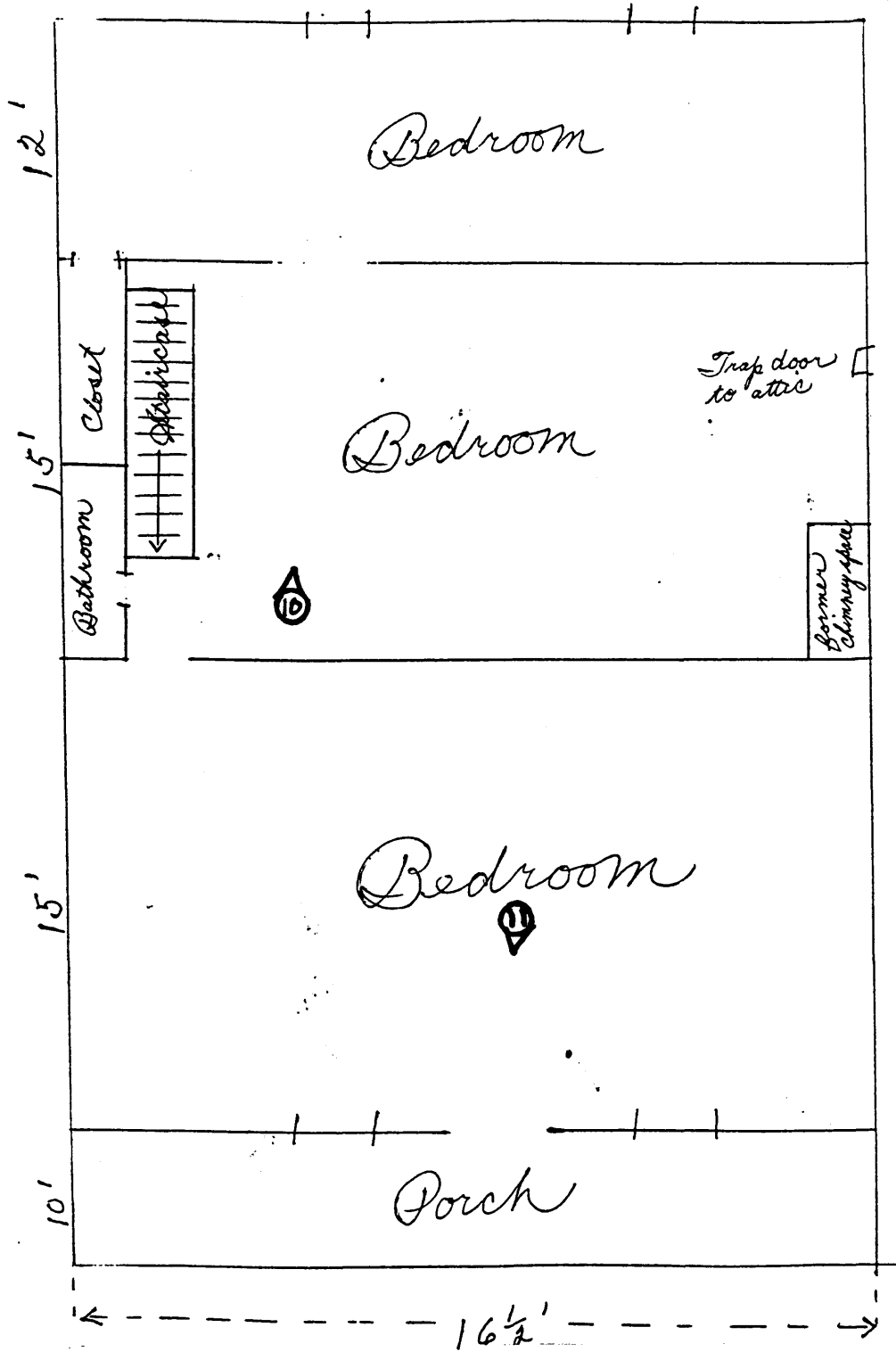
Land Lot 479
 Land Lot 530



FOWLER FAMILY FARM
FORSYTH COUNTY, GEORGIA
MAIN HOUSE FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 NORTH: 
 PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: 
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE
 SOURCE: ANNETTE BRAMBLETT



FOWLER FAMILY FARM
FORSYTH COUNTY, GEORGIA
MAIN HOUSE SECOND FLOOR PLAN
NORTH: 
PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: 
SCALE: NOT TO SCALE
SOURCE: ANNETTE BRAMBLETT



FOWLER FAMILY FARM
FORSYTH COUNTY, GEORGIA
RENTER'S HOUSE FLOOR PLAN

NORTH: ↓

PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: ⓐ

SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

SOURCE: ANNETTE BRAMBLETT

