

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received FEB 4 1986

date entered MAR 17 1986

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

1. Name

historic Carter's Quarters

and/or common other historic names: Coosawattee, Rock Spring

2. Location

street & number Old U. S. 411, nine miles south of Chatsworth n/a not for publication

city, town Chatsworth X vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Murray code 213

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	n/a in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Nancy Carter Bland

street & number 2677 Rivers Road N. W.

city, town Atlanta n/a vicinity of state GA 30305

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Murray County Courthouse

city, town Chatsworth state GA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title see continuation sheet 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

Carter's Quarters consists of an early 19th-Century, two-story, wood-frame Plantation Plain-style house with a large, two-story, frame, 1936 addition and a series of nine historic outbuildings including a springhouse, kitchen, plantation office, kettle house, slave cabin/cook's house, caretaker's residence, trunk house, barn and garage. All of these sit on a 116-acre tract of land that includes the Carter family cemetery and twenty six acres under cultivation.

The original, early 19th-century Plantation Plain house includes its original siding and handmade brick chimneys. It contains two rooms on the first floor (now a sitting room and a bedroom) and two bedrooms upstairs. The 1936 addition, which is larger than the original house, contains a long, two-floored side porch, and, on the first floor, a living room, dining room, and kitchen. On the second floor, there are four bedrooms and several baths. The original house contains wide pine-plank floors, plaster walls, six-paneled doors with original wrought-iron box locks and hinges, original wainscoting and crown molding, and four original, hand-carved mantels. The 1936 addition, the work of a major Atlanta architect, contains fine detailing and pine paneling on the interior.

Water is furnished by an electric pump from the spring. Electricity and indoor plumbing were added in 1936. The house is situated in a park-like setting that includes a natural growth of cedars and native trees and extensive c. 1937 boxwood plantings around the house. The family cemetery sits within a rock garden that includes native wild flowers and trees. Most of the present setting results from extensive, 20th Century landscaping efforts.

The array of outbuildings is a very important part of the property. (The following numbers refer to their location on the enclosed plat.) All are frame save the springhouse. The nine historic ones include a springhouse (#2), dating from 1840 which includes the pump; the kitchen (#4), c. 1840, which contains two rooms with one chimney and large fireplaces; the plantation office (#3), c. 1840, a one room building; the kettle house (#6), which contains one chimney and has been reconstructed; the slave cabin/cook's house (#7), c. 1840, with one chimney; the dairy keeper/caretaker's house (#8), c. early 1900's; the trunk house (#5), c. 1840; the barn (#9) built in the 1930s, and the 1936 garage (#11), attached to the original house by a breezeway. The cook's house (#7), the kettle house (#6), and the trunk house (#5), all have board and batten siding. The others have horizontal siding.

The site has archaeological potential because of the long-rumored tradition of Indian mounds nearby and because a variety of Indian artifacts have been found on the property. Due to the property's long history of habitation and the loss of certain "necessary" outbuildings for a working plantation, such as sixty slave houses, it is assumed other information about the history of the plantation could be gleaned from studying the property.



## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Indian history
<b>Specific dates</b>	c. 1800; 1936	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	1936: Ivey and Crook, Architects.	

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Carter's Quarters is significant in architecture because it contains a good example of an antebellum Plantation Plain-style main house with detailed mantels and other original materials; because of the large number of outbuildings that document antebellum farm life and construction techniques; and because of the 1936 addition by the firm of Ivey and Crook, one of Atlanta's most prolific and prestigious architectural firms. It is significant in landscape architecture because of the formal boxwood garden laid out in the 1930s, the double row of historic cedar trees in front of the house, and a rock garden around the family cemetery. The site is significant in archaeology because of the long history of habitation on the site from the days of the Cherokee Indian pre-removal era when it was the homeplace of John Martin. It is significant in agriculture due to the large antebellum farm-plantation that was run from this house and produced cotton and corn and utilized many of the existing outbuildings. It is significant in Indian history as the homeplace of John Martin (1784–1840), treasurer of the Cherokee Nation, during whose ownership the site, known then as "Coosawattee", along with his other holdings, became a major trading landmark in the Cherokee Nation. It is significant in commercial history, because after Martin was forced to leave his holdings, it became the property of Col. Farish Carter (1780–1861) who lived near Milledgeville, Georgia. After 1850, he established his son here to manage the farming operation where they grew seed corn and had a dairy herd. Farish Carter had land holdings in eight states, owned grist mills, marble quarries, and a cotton factory. A true antebellum capitalist, he was said by some to be "the richest landowner in antebellum Georgia." The nominated property is still owned by his descendants.

These areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register criteria A, B, C, and D.

Historical Narrative

(see continuation sheet)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 116 acres

Quadrangle name Ramhurst, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

**UTM References**

A 

1	6
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7	0	9	0	4	0
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3	8	3	7	5	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

1	6
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7	1	0	0	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	8	3	7	4	6	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	6
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7	1	0	1	5	0
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3	8	3	7	0	5	0
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D 

1	6
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7	0	9	1	9	0
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3	8	3	7	0	0	0
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E 

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F 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property includes the main house, remaining outbuildings, and all the acreage left with the house after the property was divided in 1976. It is marked on the enclosed tax 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  
Historic Preservation Section  
organization Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources date 1/22/1986  
street & number 270 Washington St. S. W. telephone 404-656-2840  
city or town Atlanta state GA 30334

# 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 Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 1/30/86

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

W. Schlabach date 3/17/86  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief of Registration

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**HISTORICAL NARRATIVE**

The original house at Carter's Quarters was built in the early 1800s and was the home of Judge John Martin (1784-1840), the treasurer of the Cherokee Indian Nation. The site includes a rock spring around which the Indians are said to have held ceremonial rites and where General Andrew Jackson and his troops may have camped in 1814 on the march to New Orleans for the final battle of the War of 1812. The house or plantation was known as "Rock Spring" or "Coosawattee" before it's present name.

John Martin is described as being part Indian, with two wives. He owned eighty to one hundred slaves, many of whom worked at his farm/plantation on the Coosawattee River. He served as treasurer of the Cherokee Nation before the Indians were forced by the United States and Georgia governments to move west. The Cherokee Nation extended across northwest Georgia and into southeastern Tennessee and northeastern Alabama. Martin served as a judge within the nation before it moved west. He also was a delegate to the Cherokee Constitutional Convention when it met in 1826 and 1827 to draw up the Cherokee Constitution, very similar to the United States Constitution. He was part of the delegation that went to Washington, D. C., in 1831 to try and persuade the United States not to force the Indians to move west. He also assisted in the laying out of the Cherokee Capital at New Echota (now in nearby Gordon County). Martin was officially given permission to remain here until 1835. In December, 1836, Martin and other prominent Cherokees were meeting at his house (possibly this site) when they were surrounded by United States troops who then confiscated the public papers of the group, including Martin's treasury records. Martin moved west in 1837 and served as Chief Justice of the first Supreme Court of the Cherokee Nation in the new homeland. It was there that he died in 1840, at Fort Gibson (now in Oklahoma), where he was buried. Descriptions of the Martin home, which was situated on the well-traveled Federal Road, indicated that the Coosawattee Valley was filled "with its wilderness of waving corn."

In 1832, the Cherokee Nation's land within the boundaries of Georgia, having been ceded by treaty to the United States, were divided by the State of Georgia into 160-acre and 40-acre lots, depending on the location, and distributed by a statewide land lottery. The winner, or fortunate drawer, of the land lot upon which the Martin house was already standing, was Sarah Bosworth of Muscogee County, Georgia. This lot was quickly purchased in 1833 by Colonel Farish Carter (1780-1861) of Scottsboro, near Milledgeville, the capital of Georgia.

Farish Carter was a true antebellum capitalist or entrepreneur. He allowed the Martin family to live here until the time of the Cherokee Removal or Trail of Tears (1836-37). After creating a large plantation, upon his son's reaching maturity, he then moved his son, Samuel, to the property to manage it. It is said that the 15,000 acre farm/plantation he owned here was created from purchasing all the land once owned by John Martin, but distributed by the lottery. Farish Carter established an extensive farming operation which was carried on by his descendants well into the 20th Century. Carter's Quarters grew Hasting's seed corn (i.e. used for planting) for many years and boasted one of the finest dairy herds in the state.

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Samuel McDonald Carter (1826-1897) moved permanently to the property that became known as Carter's Quarters after 1850. In 1850 he had married Emily Lane Colquitt of Columbus, Georgia, whose brother, Alfred, would later serve as Governor of Georgia from 1877-1882. Although the War Between the States did not touch Carter's Quarters directly, the effects of the war were deeply felt there. Samuel Carter served as a Justice of the Inferior Court for Murray County in the mid-1860s and as a delegate to the Georgia Constitutional Convention of 1877.

After his first wife's death in 1867, Samuel Carter married Sallie Randle Jeter, also of Columbus, Georgia. He had five children by each wife. The property at Carter's Quarters was divided into separate farms for each of the ten children and the grounds of the original house maintained for all.

Samuel M. Carter, Jr. (1878-1945) operated the 12,000 acre farm, the largest in that part of the state. He planted cotton, corn and other vegetables and ran a dairy. He ultimately bought the interests of his sisters and brothers in the home place and continued to operate the farm/plantation as a working farm. During this time, according to A History of the Dairy Industry in Georgia, Carter operated "the first modern dairy barn and milking barn" in the county, built about 1920. He began a registered Jersey herd in 1929 and "sold only cream which was shipped by rail to Knoxville, Tennessee." He sold milk to several dairies, including one in Atlanta. When the estate was divided, the dairy farm became Horne Farms.

In 1936, during Samuel Carter, Jr.'s ownership, major renovations and modernizations took place to the house. This was when the large addition, designed by the noted Atlanta firm of Ivey and Crook, was built. The firm of Ivey and Crook (Ernest Ivey and Lewis Edmund Crook, Jr.) was formed in 1923. They soon gained a reputation for designing many finely detailed houses, schools, and churches. They preferred traditional or classical designs, and adapted many historical styles. They were obviously well equipped to add to Carter's Quarters. They maintained the original house, yet complimented it with a large, modern addition that carried on similar styling and feeling. The firm dissolved in 1966.

The new addition expanded the house tremendously and made it more habitable for the Carter descendants. At the same time, Sam Carter, Jr. also installed electricity and indoor plumbing, and had the grounds landscaped.

When Samuel Carter, Jr. died in 1945, he left no children. The house and surrounding property were purchased from his estate by three families of his relatives. It is presently owned by W. Colquitt Carter, Jr., a nephew (of Samuel Carter, Jr.), and his daughter, Nancy Carter Bland, both of Atlanta. Mrs. Bland is the great-great granddaughter of Colonel Farish Carter.

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The geographical location of Carter's Quarters is significant-- located on the old Federal Road which was the white man's route from Kentucky and Tennessee south through Indian country to Augusta and Savannah. Also important was the plantation's proximity to the Coosawattee River which was a channel of transportation and trade. Steamboats came up the river to Carter's Quarters regularly from Rome. Colonel Carter owned several of these boats on which he transported goods to and from his plantation.

Farish Carter (1780-1861) was one of Georgia's most prominent, antebellum planters, land speculators and entrepreneurs. Born in South Carolina, he came to Milledgeville and established a plantation in the nearby community of Scottsboro. He married Eliza McDonald, sister to Charles J. McDonald, who was to serve as Georgia's governor from 1839 to 1843. It is said that by 1845 Carter owned 33,000 acres and 426 slaves in Baldwin County (site of Scottsboro) alone. At Carter's Quarters, he is said to have produced tobacco, wool, raised livestock, grains (especially wheat, rye, oats, and corn) and other foodstuffs. Some cotton was also produced. It is this quantity of crops that inspired the Georgia phrase "more than Carter has oats." In 1850 and 1860, Carter had around 350 slaves living at Carter's Quarters. In the latter year, there were sixty slave houses reported on the total plantation. Cartersville, the county seat of original Cass (now Bartow) County in northwest Georgia, was named for him. Eventually, he had holdings in seven states besides Georgia, not only in the South, but also in Indiana and Illinois.

According to the Dictionary of Georgia Biography, "His activities suggested a higher degree of economic integration than has usually been associated with the antebellum South." This was due to his owning grist mills, marble quarries, a woolen mill, a cigar factory, toll bridges and ferries, and steamboats. He owned large amounts of stock in Georgia banks and railroad companies, and was involved in gold mining in north Georgia and North Carolina. Carter was involved in attempting to build a large textile mill in Columbus, Georgia, because he was willing to manipulate his fortune rather than keep it invested in just land and slaves, as did many Southerners. He also decided to sell his slaves, but never completed the plan, although he was always seeking the best return on his investments. He traveled extensively and entertained many of Georgia's leaders. He was involved in some philanthropic or educational sponsorships, and is considered by many to be Georgia's wealthiest antebellum landowner. It was perhaps prophetic that he died on July 2, 1861, only a few months after the beginning of the War Between the States which would shatter his world.

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References

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Corn, James F. Red Clay and Rattlesnake Springs (1959).

"Homes of Distinguished Cherokee Indians." Chronicles of Oklahoma XI (Sept. 1933); 933-934.

"Samuel M'Donald Carter." Memoirs of Georgia (1895), I, p. 597-8.

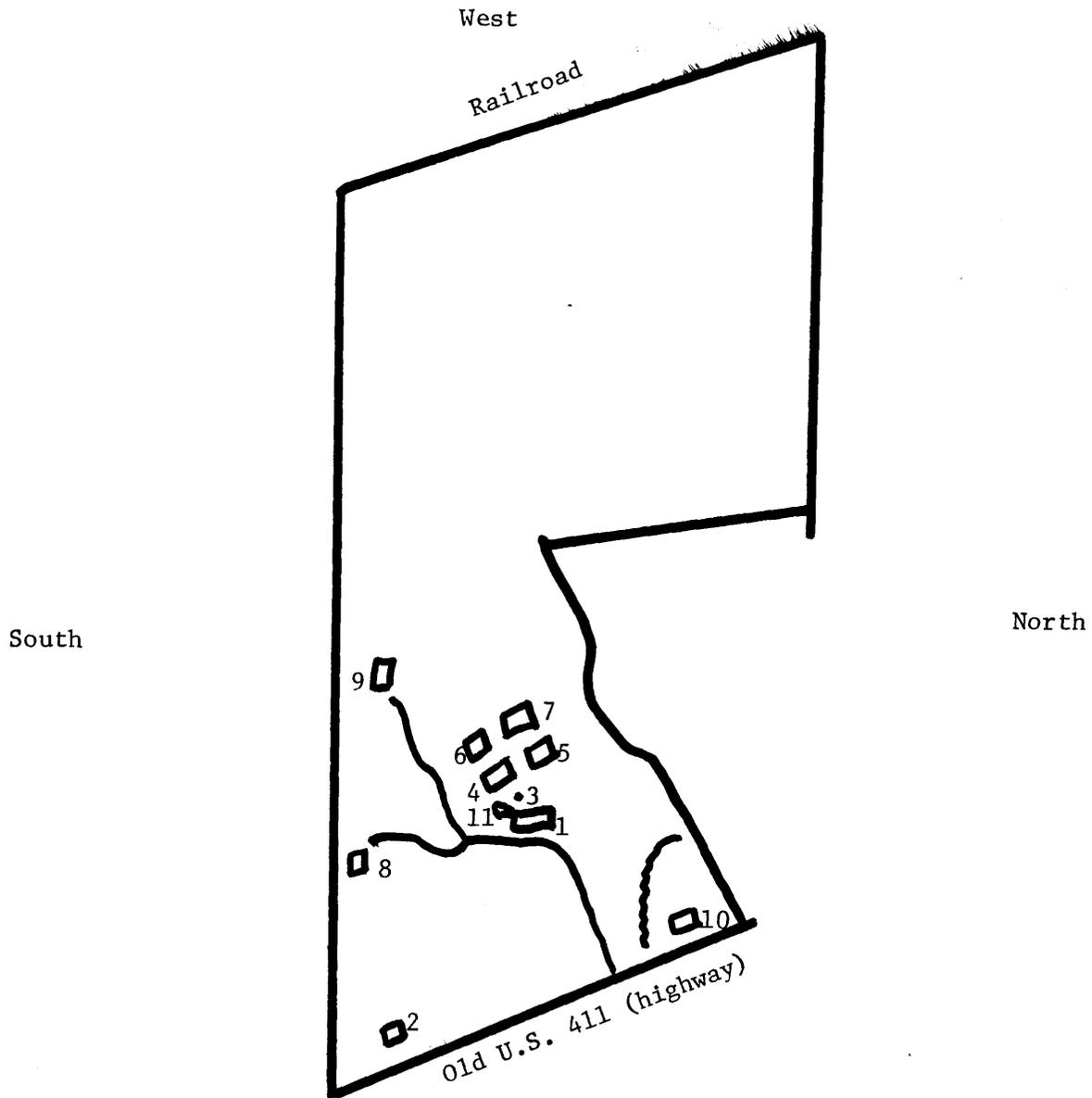
"Samuel M. Carter (Jr.)". The Story of Georgia. New York: American Historical Society, 1938. Vol. IV., p. 274. Walter G. Cooper was general editor of the earlier volumes.

Lupold, John S. "Farish Carter." Dictionary of Georgia Biography. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1983.

Flanders, Ralph B. "Farish Carter, A Forgotten Man of the Old South." Georgia Historical Quarterly, XV (June 1931): 142-172.

Henderson, H. B. ed. A History of the Dairy Industry in Georgia. Athens: Department of Dairy Science, University of Georgia, 1981.

Plans of the 1936 addition, Ivey and Crook Collection, Atlanta Historical Society. (Listed under Samuel M. Carter).



SKETCH MAP

CARTER'S QUARTERS

NEAR CHATSWORTH, MURRAY COUNTY, GA.

scale: not to scale

Source: Based on original drawn by Nancy Bland.

Date: May 1, 1984.

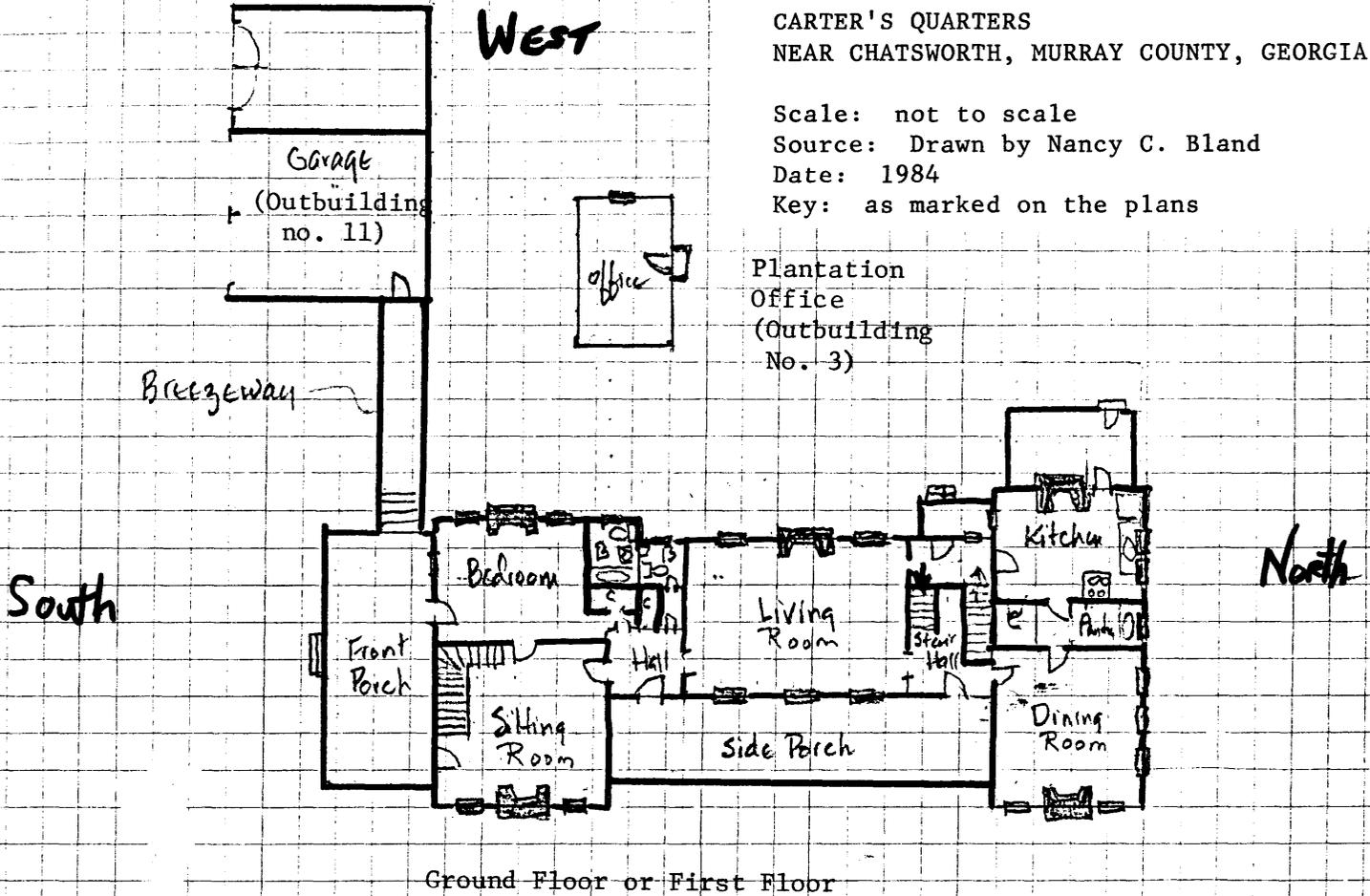
Key: The nominated parcel is all that is shown. Numbers 1-11 refer to the main house & outbuildings as indicated:

- 1 = Main House (Original and 1936)
- 2 = Springhouse
- 3 = Plantation Office
- 4 = Kitchen
- 5 = Trunk House
- 6 = Kettle House
- 7 = Cook's House
- 8 = Caretaker's House
- 9 = Barn
- 10 = Carter Family Cemetery
- 11 = ~~XXXXXXXX~~

CARTER'S QUARTERS  
NEAR CHATSWORTH, MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA

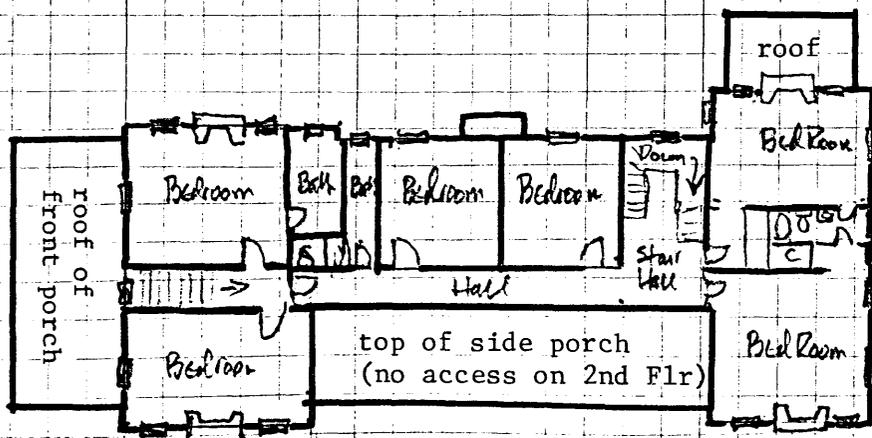
Scale: not to scale  
Source: Drawn by Nancy C. Bland  
Date: 1984  
Key: as marked on the plans

Plantation  
Office  
(Outbuilding  
No. 3)



Ground Floor or First Floor

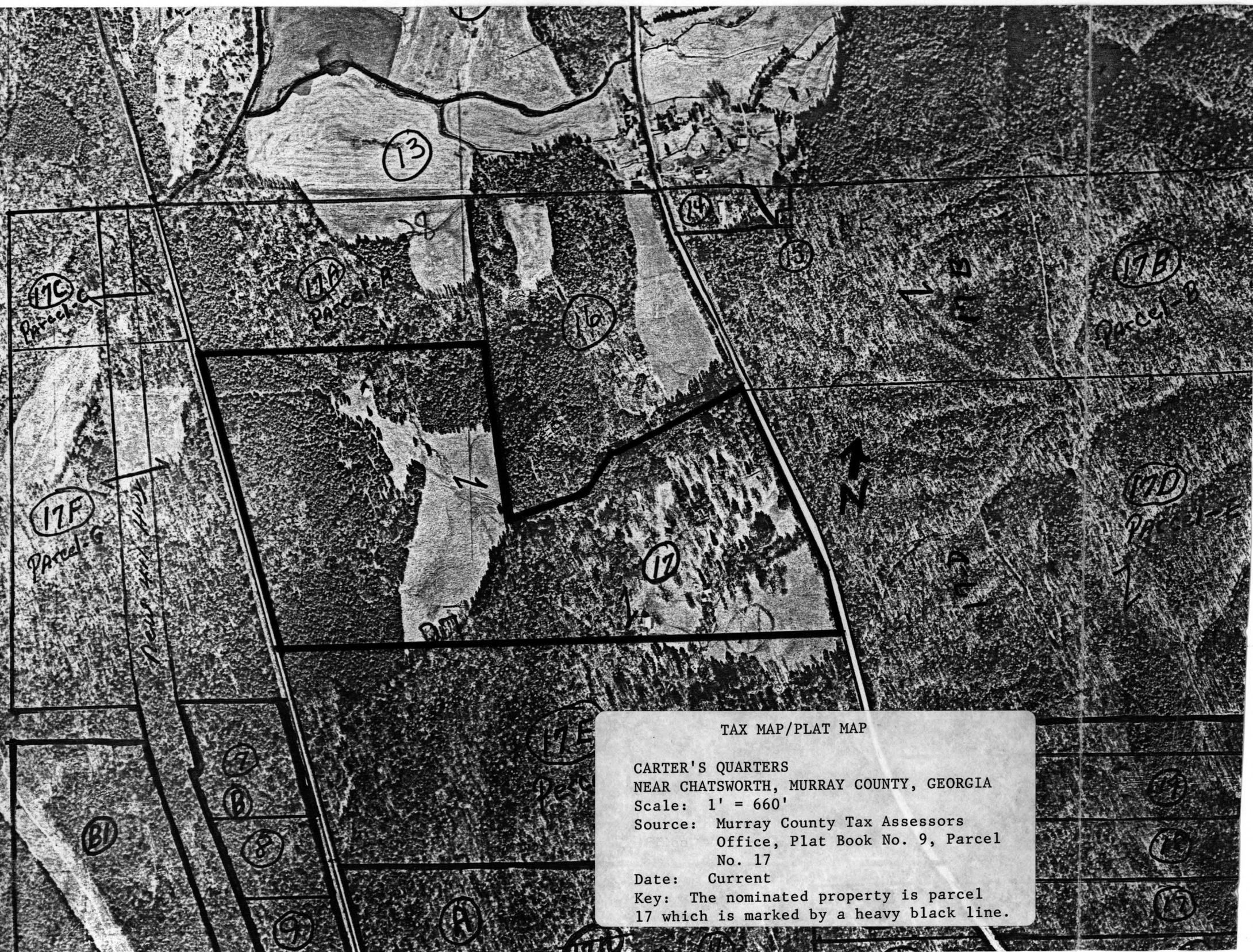
EAST



Second Floor

East

Plat Book # 9, Pg# 77  
Tract 4  
Murray County Courthouse Annex



TAX MAP/PLAT MAP

CARTER'S QUARTERS  
NEAR CHATSWORTH, MURRAY COUNTY, GEORGIA  
Scale: 1' = 660'  
Source: Murray County Tax Assessors  
Office, Plat Book No. 9, Parcel  
No. 17  
Date: Current  
Key: The nominated property is parcel  
17 which is marked by a heavy black line.