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DIVISION OF
NATIONAL REGISTER PROGRAMS
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 Sol Akins Farm
other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Old Register Rd. off U.S. 301, 1.2 miles south of
Statesboro
city, town Statesboro (x) vicinity of
county Bulloch code GA 031
state Georgia code GA zip code 30458

(n/a) not for publication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	2	1
sites	1	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	3	1

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 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.

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Signature of certifying official

2/14/90
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

- entered in the National Register Alan Byers 3/22/90
- 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
AGRICULTURE:agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions:

VACANT

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Mid-19th Century
Other:Plantation Plain

Materials:

foundation concrete
walls wood:weatherboard
roof metal:tin
other

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Sol Akins House is a two-story, Plantation Plain style house built around a four-room log house with original dogtrot breezeway. The house has brick exterior end chimneys, a gable roof, heart-pine weatherboarding and a rear ell addition with a Z-shaped back porch. The interior plan has two-over-two rooms with central hall in the main block with two additional rooms in the shed porch on the first floor. The original floors, paneling, wainscoting, paneled doors, and some mantels survive.

The historic farmhouse has a single story, full-length, shed porch supported by six square wooden posts. The front facade is five bays wide with a centered entrance (photograph 1). The roof is side-gabled with pedimented gable ends (photographs 2,3). The main house has two brick end chimneys. The c. 1880s rear ell has two brick interior chimneys (photograph 4).

The four-paneled double doors are framed with sidelights. During the 1930s, an exterior screen door frame was built in front of the double door entrance. All screening has been removed. The exterior windows are modestly detailed with pedimented lintels and wood shutters. The rear ell originally contained the kitchen and dining room and is connected to the main house by a screened-in Z-shaped back porch (photograph 2).

On the first floor, the interior plan is a central hall with stairs and two rooms on either side. This plan has remained unchanged except for the conversion of two bedrooms; one is used as a kitchen and the other as a laundry room. The upstairs contains the stairwell, a small hallway, two bedrooms and a trunk room. Interior hand-tooled

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wainscoting, baseboards, heart-pine floors, mantelpieces, and the stairway all remain intact. Other original interior details include heart-pine ceiling and wall paneling, and four-paneled wood doors (photographs 5-8). All finishes, except the floors, have been painted.

While wiring the house during the 1930s, the original log structure--consisting of four rooms and a loft--was discovered underneath the weatherboarding. Other indications of this log building include the unusually thick walls and doorways. The downstairs walls around the rear exterior door, an interior door opening and an end window opening all measure approximately 7 to 8 inches thick. In addition, the sill of the front porch has tool markings suggesting hand-hewn log construction.

The house has had few changes. During the 1950s, the dining room was converted to a garage (photograph 2). Recent changes include replacement window frames, a concrete foundation, and wood shutters.

One historic outbuilding remains intact, a c. 1864 double-crib log barn. The barn is built with stripped logs or poles using saddle-notched corner construction. The logs have no chinking and the gabled tin roof is fairly recent (photographs 9,10).

The complex is located in a rural section of the county. The grounds include pecan, oak, and pine trees as well as crepe myrtle and elderberry bushes (photograph 12). The house rests on high ground adjacent to a modern fishing pond, with an historic family cemetery a quarter mile away. The small cemetery includes the headstones for Sol Akins, his wife and other family members. The cemetery is surrounded by a chain link fence (photograph 13).

There is one nonhistoric outbuilding--a 1950s truck storage building. The cemetery fence and a wooden fence in front of the Akins house are also nonhistoric (photographs 1,11).

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
Agriculture

Period of Significance:

c. 1864-1907

Significant Dates:

c.1864
1880s

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Solomon Akins

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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 Sol Akins House is significant in architecture as a good example of a Plantation Plain style house built several decades after the style was first introduced to Georgia. The house is significant because it appears that it was originally a c. 1864 log house expanded in the 1880s into a two-story Plantation Plain style house with a back ell addition and a Z-shaped porch. This expansion builds on the economic growth of the owner who built a log house, as often done, as a beginning dwelling, and as he became more prosperous, expanded it into a more respectable-styled farmhouse. This pattern of house development is typical throughout Georgia, but particularly evident in the coastal plain region. The main first floor entrance has sidelights and four paneled double doors. The front and rear central doorways are wide--indicating the original dogtrot breezeway. The flooring is made from heart-pine boards. The entire house retains the original mantels, door surrounds, baseboards, wainscoting, and paneled doors. The building's first floor interior plan includes a central hall and two rooms on either side. Upstairs consists of the stairwell, two bedrooms, and a trunk room. The property is also significant for its extant historic double-crib log barn. Although at one time a fairly common agricultural outbuilding, this log barn is a good example of a now fairly rare type of early Georgia farm building.

The Sol Akins Farm is significant in agriculture for representing the development of a diversified farming operation from its beginnings in the mid-1800s to a 1,300 acre farm by 1895. The farm complex--the house, log barn, and agricultural acreage are all that remain of a once thriving yeoman farm operation. The log house provided shelter for the Akin's family while they began to establish their farm, and after several years of successful farming, they expanded to the larger Plantation Plain style house. Sol Akins' farm produced a variety of crops including corn, oats, cotton, potatoes, and molasses. Akins also raised horses, cattle, hogs, chickens, and sheep. During this time period, wool production was an important commodity in Bulloch County. By 1880, Akins had 79 sheep, the county average was 62 per farm. The Akins farm is a good example of a successful complex that produced and processed a variety of crops and illustrates a type of farming operation commonly found in southeast Georgia during the second half of the 19th century.

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National Register Criteria

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

Under Criteria A, the property represents the broad patterns of history by its intact, family-owned rural farmstead with its one surviving log outbuilding and surrounding farm land. The Akins farm illustrates a typical rural farm found in south Georgia and exemplifies the type of farm layout and outbuildings used during the late 19th century.

The property meets Criteria C because the Sol Akins house is a good example of an 1880s Plantation Plain style house that was converted from an original c. 1864 dogtrot log house. The house is a vernacular adaptation of a common mid-to late-19th century rural house design. It displays a symmetrical facade, square columns, a full length, single story, shed porch, a gable roof, and four paneled double front doors with sidelights. The double crib log barn is also representative of the type of agricultural structure used on farms in rural Georgia during the mid-19th century. The property possesses distinctive characteristics of a rural farm complex. The house is only one element representing the particular type and method of construction used during this time period. It illustrates the process of economic development for Sol Akins from early yeoman farmer to middle class farmer. The enlargement to his house and increased size of his land holdings reflect this change. The log barn, cemetery, and surrounding field area are all contributing factors to this historic farm setting.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

The Akins family cemetery is an integral part of this rural farm. Private family cemeteries in remote areas were the alternatives to church yard burials. The cemetery contains several marble and concrete stone markers surrounded by a modern chain link fence. Sol Akins and his wife are buried there along with other family members.

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

c.1864 - construction of the one-story, log dogtrot house and log barn
1880s - expansion to a two-story, Plantation Plain style house; rear ell and Z-shaped porch added
1907 - Sol Akins death

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Contributing/Noncontributing Resources

Contributing

2 buildings (house, log barn)
1 sites (cemetery)

Noncontributing

1 building (storage)

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

The Solomon Akins Farm had its beginnings as a land grant to Edmund Brannen. The State of Georgia granted him 650 acres "on the water of Lotts Creek" in Bulloch County on November 18, 1842. Brannen was the pastor of two Bulloch County churches: Nevils Creek Baptist Church and Lower Mill Creek Church. He also helped establish the Old Bethlehem Church in 1838. Brannen had extensive land holdings in Bulloch County. Three other documents indicate that he owned over 1500 acres of land in the county, 348 acres of which were near Little Lotts Creek.

It is not known if Brannen lived on the land that would eventually become Sol Akins farm. It is also unknown when Brannen sold the property because the next record of the land appears in a deed dated September 3, 1849 from Lewis Akins to Lewis Akins, Jr. Lewis Akins, born November 25, 1789 in Laurens District, South Carolina, moved with his parents Francis and Martha, who were originally from North Carolina, to Bulloch County around 1808. On October 17, 1810, Lewis married Mary Stanford, the daughter of John Stanford, a Revolutionary War veteran from North Carolina. Little else is known about Lewis Akins except that he lived much of his adult life in Bulloch County and died there on August 7, 1865.

It is certain that the land in the 1849 Akins deed is the same as that in the 1842 Brannen land grant because the former document describes the property as "containing two hundred acres more or less being originally granted to E. Brannen, said grant bearing date of Nov 18th 1842." The deed shows that Lewis Akins sold the land to Lewis Akins, Jr. for seventy-five dollars. Thus it is likely that Lewis Akins had not cleared the land nor lived upon it. The 1849 deed was not recorded until nearly fifty years later on November 12, 1896.

Another gap in the chain of title occurs between Lewis Akins, Jr. and Solomon Akins. Sol Akins was born on December 11, 1838 in Bulloch County, the twelfth of Lewis and Mary Akins' thirteen children, and

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thus a younger brother of Lewis Jr. When Sol was "twenty he commenced farming for himself."

Less than three years later, the Civil War interrupted Akins' career as a farmer. Like many other Southerners, he joined the Confederate cause. On June 10, 1861 he enlisted as a private in Company I, Ninth Georgia Regiment. Akins had an illustrious career as a soldier. By 1864, he advanced to the rank of Second Lieutenant. He saw action at several important Civil War engagements including the Second Battle of Manassas, Yorktown, Seven Pines, Spottsylvania Courthouse, the Wilderness, Antietam, Chancellorsville, and Knoxville. He received wounds at Gettysburg and Richmond before surrendering with Robert E. Lee at Appomattox. According to Georgia Confederate Pension Records, Akins' army service was "not surpassed by any soldier in the war."

On furlough from the army, Sol Akins married Mary Lavenia Olliff, the niece of Edmund Brannen, on July 31, 1864. While he was at home, Sol and Lavenia held a "log rolling" to erect a house and a barn. During the remainder of Sol's Confederate service, Lavenia lived with her brother Nathaniel Olliff.

Following Lee's surrender, Sol Akins returned to his Bulloch County farm. As a farmer, he was relatively successful. It is uncertain how large his farm was when Akins acquired it. The 1870 Agricultural Census for Bulloch County shows that he owned 75 acres of improved land and 300 acres of unimproved land. The estimated value of Akins' farm was \$300 and his implements had an estimated value of \$10.

The Census records also indicate that Sol Akins grew a variety of crops. The previous year he produced: 100 bushels of Indian corn, 10 bushels of oats, a bale of cotton, 10 bushels of peas and beans, 10 bushels of sweet potatoes, 10 pounds of butter, and 10 gallons of molasses. The estimated value of these products, including house manufactures and animals slaughtered or sold for slaughter, was \$500.

Sol Akins owned three horses, ten milk cows, twenty other cattle, and thirty hogs. The total value of his livestock was \$500 in 1870.

Sol Akins increased his landholdings, estimated farm value, livestock value, and agricultural output according to the 1880 Agricultural Census. In that year, he owned 35 acres or less than half of the improved average he had reported in 1870. Akins estimated the value of his farm at \$800, the value of his implements at \$50, and the worth of his livestock at \$635. He owned four horses, eight milk cows, 20 other cattle, 60 hogs, 79 sheep, and 50 chickens. These last

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two categories did not appear on Akins' 1870 livestock figures, thus he had further diversified his livestock.

On the whole, Akins increased his agricultural production; with the sheep he owned in 1879, he produced 141 pounds of wool and his chickens were the source of 200 eggs. He also grew more Indian corn in 1879 than in 1869 recording 150 bushels; more oats--200 bushels; more cotton--five bales; more sweet potatoes--200 bushels; and more molasses--30 gallons. The estimated value of his farm production in 1870 was \$500. In 1880, this value was listed at \$730.

The 1895 Tax Digest for Bulloch County confirms a continual rise in Akins' fortunes. These records show that his total farm acreage was 1,300 acres, with a value of \$2,000. The value of his horses was \$410 and his "plantation and mechanical tools" were worth \$55. Hence, between 1869 and 1895, records indicate a steady increase in the prosperity Sol Akins derived from his farm.

Another statement of Akins' improving fortunes during these years is the enlargement of his residence. Around 1880, he transformed his dwelling from a four-room dogtrot log structure with a loft to a two-story Plantation Plain style house.

Aside from his position as a yeoman farmer, Akins fit the democratic ideal through his participation in local politics. In 1866, he was commissioned Justice of the Peace. He served as jury commissioner and acted as a census enumerator during the 1880 and 1890 censuses. Akins was a member of the Masonic Order and his biography appeared in the Southern Historical Association's Memoirs of Georgia, published in 1895.

Sol Akins died April 26, 1907 after a long illness. Before his death, he had transferred portions of his farm to his sons, Mathew and Roach. In his will, he left his wife, Lavenia, the remaining acreage of his farm which consisted of 200 acres and the homeplace, all of his "household and kitchen furniture," and one half his livestock including an unspecified number of horses, mules, cattle, and sheep. He bequeathed the other half of his livestock to his youngest son Roach. His will also stipulated that following Lavenia's death, his land would be divided equally between his daughter Maude Lavenia Akins and his son Roach.

Though Solomon's widow Lavenia would live until December 6, 1930, she apparently gave her interest in the farm to Roach and Maude. The date of this transaction is unknown, but a quit-claim deed dated July 29, 1912 between Maude and Roach gave the latter a large ownership of the farm. By this time, the farm had been diminished to 178 1/2

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acres. The transaction gave Roach 124 acres including the homeplace, and left Maude with 54 1/2 acres.

In the early 1920s, Roach and his mother "broke up" housekeeping and rented the Sol Akins house to tenants. On January 9, 1926, Roach sold the 124 acre farm and homeplace to his older brother Mathew Winston Akins for \$5,000. Mathew, who already owned a portion of his father's farm north of the homeplace, also rented the house to tenants. Mathew worked for J. W. Olliff and Company, an early Statesboro mercantile and manufacturing firm.

On November 16, 1932, Mathew deeded his farm holdings to his wife Emeline Leila Akins. The size of this property at the time of the transfer was 501 acres. On May 12, 1937, Emma returned the farm holdings to her husband Mathew. These properties were identified as Roach Akins farm, now estimated at 126 acres; Mathew's own portion of his father's farm and the Cage Groover farm.

Mathew deeded Roach Akins' 126 acre portion of the farm which included the Akins homeplace, to his son James Edward Akins for ten dollars on August 20, 1951. After this transfer, Ed lived in the house and worked the farm. Ed Akins died on February 12, 1977, and in his will, bequeathed the farm to his sister (and Sol's granddaughter) Emily Akins Malecki and her daughter Mary Anne Malecki. The size of the Sol Akins homeplace at the time of this transfer remained 126 acres.

Since 1977, the Sol Akins house has been vacant but the farm is still in production. On January 2, 1981, Emily and Mary Anne transferred the farm to J. Edward Akins Farms, a limited partnership in which they retain ownership. Thus, the Sol Akins Farm has been in the ownership of the Brannen and Akins families for almost 150 years, and is still in agricultural production.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Malecki, R.V. "Historic Property Information Form - Sol Akins Place." 1988. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, 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
- () 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:

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

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 78 acres

UTM References

- A) Zone 17 Easting 423990 Northing 3585495
- B) Zone 17 Easting 424450 Northing 3586050
- C) Zone 17 Easting 425090 Northing 3585460
- D) Zone 17 Easting 424600 Northing 3585930

Verbal Boundary Description

The property is situated approximately 1.2 miles south of Statesboro on Old Register Rd., off U.S. 301. The National Register property boundary is indicated by a heavy black line on the property aerial map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is that portion of the historic acreage which has remained intact and attached to the house as the historic homeplace and farmland. The boundaries were determined by topographical and natural features and exclude a modern fish pond and new development along U.S. 301.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lisa Raflo, National Register Researcher
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** 2/7/90

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Section number _____ Photographs _____ Page _____ 1

Sol Akins House
Statesboro, Bulloch County, Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative: Filed with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date photographed: June 1989

Description:

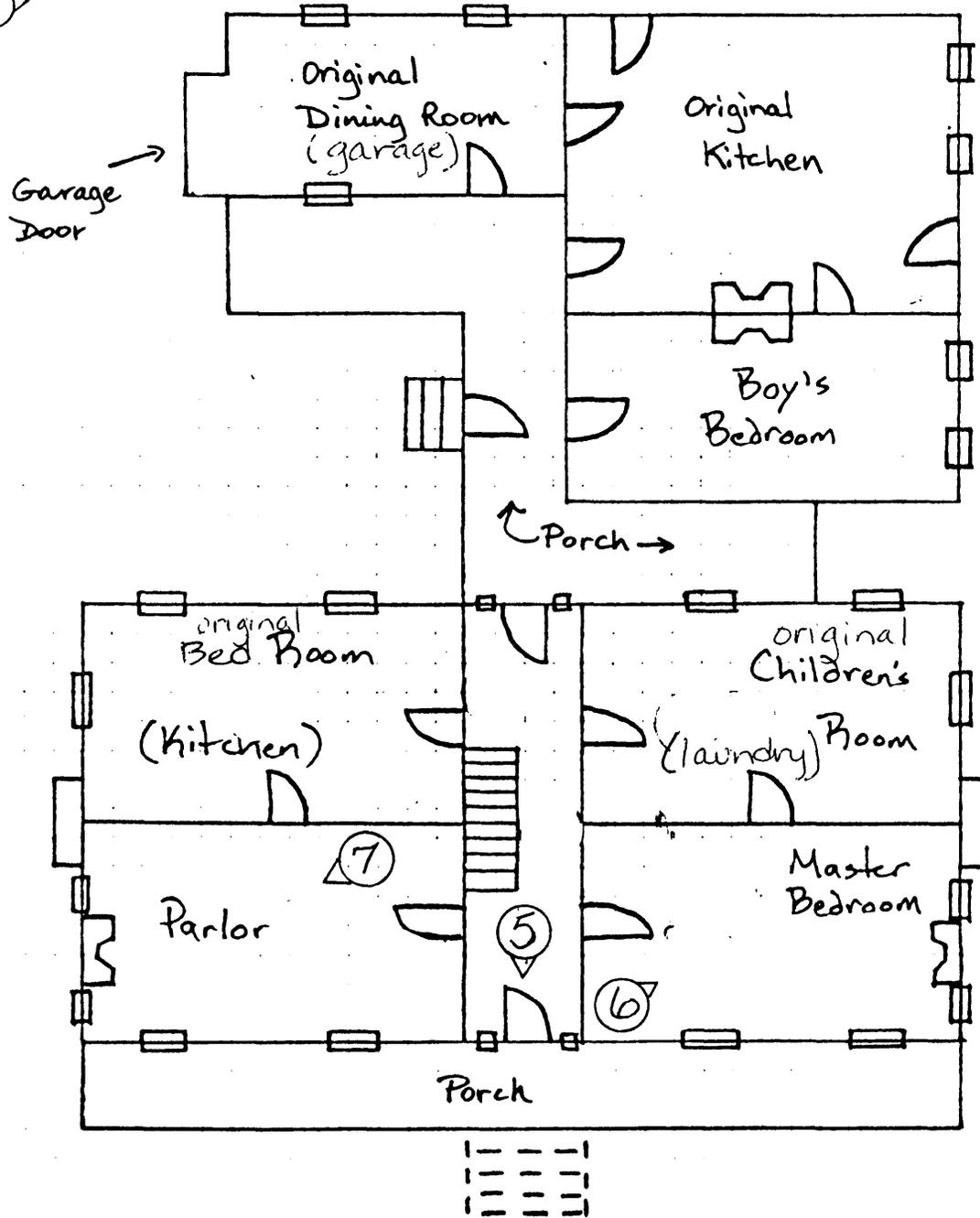
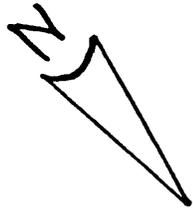
- 1 of 13: Front facade of the Sol Akins House; photographer facing southwest.
- 2 of 13: Southeast facade of the Sol Akins House showing a portion of the "Z-shaped" porch; photographer facing north.
- 3 of 13: Northwest facade of the Sol Akins House; photographer facing east.
- 4 of 13: c. 1880s rear ell addition of the house; photographer facing east.
- 5 of 13: Interior view of front double doors; photographer facing northeast.
- 6 of 13: View of front bedroom; photographer facing west.
- 7 of 13: View of parlor; photographer facing east.
- 8 of 13: View of upstairs bedroom; photographer facing south.
- 9 of 13: View of double-crib log barn; photographer facing west.
- 10 of 13: Facade view of double-crib log barn; photographer facing west.
- 11 of 13: View of garage/storage shed; photographer facing west.
- 12 of 13: View of surrounding landscape; photographer facing east.
- 13 of 13: Sol Akins family cemetery; photographer facing northwest.

Sol Akins House, Statesboro,
Bulloch Co., GA

First Floor Plan

Scale: none

Photos indicated by: 



1st Floor

SOL AKINS HOUSE
Bulloch Co., GA

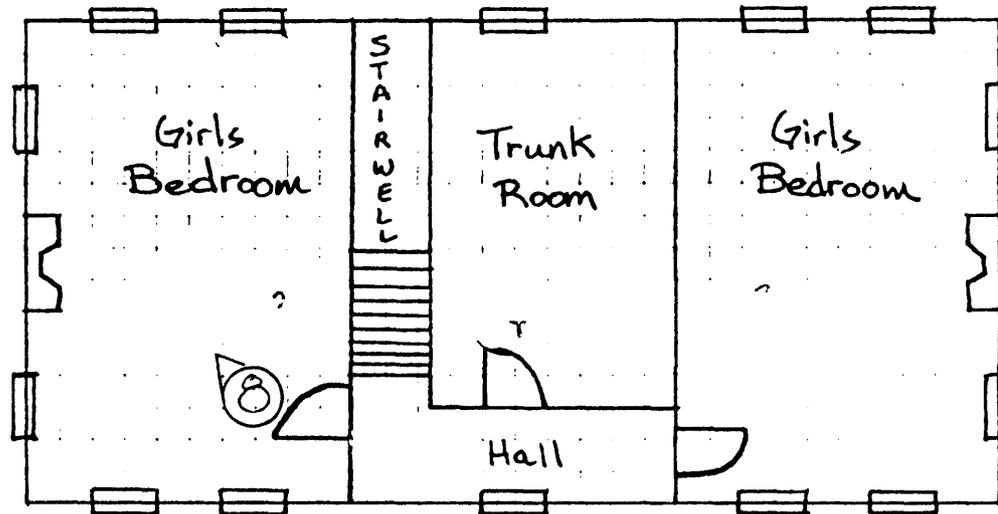
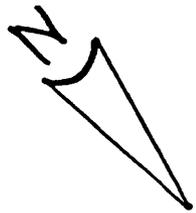
Prepared by Altamaha Ga.
Southern APSC, 7/86
N. T. S.

Sol Akins House, Statesboro,
Bulloch Co., GA

Second Floor Plan

Scale: none

Photos indicated by: 



2nd Floor

SOL AKINS HOUSE

Bulloch Co., GA

Prepared by Altamaha Ga.
Southern APDC, 7/86

N. T. S.

Sol Akins House, Statesboro,
Bulloch County, Georgia

AERIAL MAP

Scale 0" _____ 660'

Contributing Resources: ■

Noncontributing Resources: □

Photos indicated by: ○

District Boundary: _____

