

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

1. Name

historic William Harris Family Farmstead

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number State Highway 11 N/A not for publication

city, town Campton vicinity of congressional district 10th - Barnard

state Georgia code 013 county Walton code 297

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 checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name a) Hubert L. Harris (west parcel, WA63-2, 276 acres)
b) Mell S. Harris (east parcel, WA63-3, 91 acres)

street & number a) 765 Douglas Road, N.E.
b) Route 4

city, town a) Atlanta N/A vicinity of a) Georgia 30305.
b) Monroe b) Georgia 30655

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Walton County Courthouse

city, town Monroe state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Structures Field Survey:
Walton County, Georgia has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The William Harris Family Farmstead consists of an early-nineteenth-century log farmhouse, two mid-nineteenth-century frame farmhouses, a late-nineteenth-century/early-twentieth-century frame farmhouse, two late-nineteenth-century frame tenant houses, a late-nineteenth-century schoolhouse, numerous frame, log, and brick outbuildings, known sites of several previously existing buildings and structures, a spring, a family cemetery, and portions of an old county road. These buildings and structures stand on 367 acres of diversified piedmont farmland at the northern edge of Walton County. This land constitutes the remaining intact acreage from the original Harris family farm, and it contains all known buildings and structures associated with the family farm.

The Harris family farm lies on 367 acres of diversified piedmont farmland at the northern edge of Walton County. The property forms an approximately rectangular-shaped tract lying diagonally across State Highway 11 south of the Apalachee River. The land within this tract forms two low promontories leading from higher ground on the southeast toward the Wildcat Creek and Apalachee River valleys to the northwest. This land, including uplands, slopes, and bottomlands, is variously in field, cropland, or woods.

Centrally located on the Harris family farmland is the William Harris farmhouse, the oldest structure on the farm. The William Harris farmhouse, built in the 1820s, is a one-and-a-half-story, gable-roofed, log house, with added frame shed porches and rooms along either side. The structure itself consists of 6" x 9" hewn logs, square-notched at the corners and spliced at the centers of the longer side walls. The logs rise from hand-hewn sills resting on brick piers with fieldstone foundations. Roof rafters are pegged to the upper plates. The log structure is sheathed on the exterior with weatherboarding. One of the original two exterior end brick chimneys remains. The interior consists of two rooms on each floor separated by a log wall and a boxed stairway. Original doors feature six hand-planed panels, pegged construction, and beaded molding. The surviving wood mantel is of a simple Federal style. Floors are planked; walls and ceilings are unsheathed. Window sash has been replaced throughout. A detached kitchen, connected to the house by a breezeway, was once located to the southwest of the house. Several historic outbuildings still stand to the west of the house. These include an early-nineteenth-century smokehouse built of fieldstone and hand-made brick, a corn crib, a woodframed barn, and a woodframed shed. The sites of several previously existing outbuildings are known; these include the kitchen, blacksmith shop, springhouse and washhouse, barbeque pit, wagon sheds, and slave quarters. The remains of an old county highway, bordered by large trees, cut across the property line just north of the house. To the east of the house, at the edge of State Highway 11, is the Harris family cemetery. One new storage shed is also located near the William Harris house, to the south across a small field.

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Description

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East of the William Harris farmhouse, almost directly across State Highway 11, is the Isham Walker Harris farmhouse. Isham, one of William's sons (and from whom the current owners descend), apparently built this farmhouse sometime after the Civil War, possibly as late as the 1880s. The house is one story high, gable-roofed, and has a three-room L-shaped configuration with an added front shed porch and rear ell. The structure is woodframed, sheathed in weatherboard, resting on fieldstone piers. The south exterior end chimney is constructed of fieldstone to the shoulders and hand-made brick above. The front doorway features side and overlights. The interior is finished primarily with hand-hewn planks; some ceilings are sheathed in later tongue-and-groove boarding. Original woodwork is grained; later woodwork is simple Victorian millwork. The house is situated on a rise of ground, facing west. To the east, behind the house, are several turn-of-the-century wood-framed outbuildings including a small barn and storage sheds. Several large deciduous trees grow in the yard.

South of the William Harris farmhouse, on the west side of State Highway 11 near the southern edge of the property, is the Charles Harris farmhouse. Charles, another son of William, also apparently built this farmhouse sometime after the Civil War. The house is one story high and gable-roofed. The front section, lying parallel to the highway, consists of two rooms with exterior end chimneys and a central hall. A gabled ell extends to the rear, with gable and shed roof additions. A simple shed porch has been added to the front, shading the central front doorway with sidelights. The structure consists of a wood frame, sheathed in weatherboards covered with asphalt siding, on fieldstone piers. The house stands on a largely open plot of ground, facing east. To the northwest, behind and to the side of the house, are a wellhouse and two turn-of-the-century woodframed barns, one a drive-through gabled structure and the other a gabled structure flanked by sheds.

North of the William Harris farmhouse, on the west side of State Highway 11, is the John Harris farmhouse. John, another descendent of William, apparently built this house sometime around the turn of the century. It is a simple, one-story, gable-roofed, woodframed saddlebag type of house with a gabled extension to the north, a front shed porch, and a rear shed. The house stands in a gently sloping field, facing east, with a single wood-framed turn-of-the-century barn to the west.

Southwest of the William Harris farmhouse are two late-nineteenth-century, woodframed tenant farmhouses. These tenant houses are located along a meandering dirt road running between the Charles Harris farmhouse to the east and a ford crossing Wildcat Creek to the west. The easternmost tenant house, on the south side of the road, is a one-story, gable-roofed, T-shaped dwelling in poor condition. The exterior walls of the house are sheathed with

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weatherboards; the gable ends are surfaced in shingles. A single large tree stands near the house. To the east, across the road, is a small well enclosure. The westernmost tenant house, on the north side of the road, is also a one-story, T-shaped, gable-roofed dwelling sheathed entirely in weatherboarding. This house stands on a level dirt-and-grass yard shaded by several large trees. Four turn-of-the-century outbuildings are associated with this house, including a small barn and a large, open-sided shed. Further west along the dirt road, in a field on the south side, is the site of a third tenant farmhouse marked by rubble from its fieldstone piers.

Northeast of the William Harris farmhouse, on the north side of a paved county road cutting across the northeast corner of the property, is a schoolhouse dating from 1872. The schoolhouse is a dilapidated one-story, L-shaped, gable-roofed frame structure with added shed front and side porches and added shed rooms to the rear. The structure rests on hand-hewn sills standing on thick log and stone piers. Exterior siding is vertical board and batten, partially covered by rolled asphalt. Interiors are finished with beaded tongue-and-groove boards. The schoolhouse stands on a overgrown plot of ground which slopes down to the north toward the Apalachee River.

The nominated property constitutes the remaining intact acreage of the historic William Harris family farm. It contains all known historic resources associated with the Harris family farm. This land has been owned by members of the Harris family since 1837, and it is currently owned by two descendants of William Harris, one of whom still resides on the property.

Photographs

The Historic Preservation Section has determined that the photographs taken in August, 1980 still provide an accurate view of the property. No significant changes have been made since that date.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1837 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Summary Statement of Significance

The William Harris Family Farmstead is historically significant in terms of the exploration and settlement, the agriculture, the architecture, and the archaeology of Walton County and Georgia. In terms of exploration and settlement, the Harris farmstead is one of the earliest rural settlements in Walton County. In terms of agriculture, the farmstead constitutes the major portion of a farm that has been in continuous operation for nearly 150 years and, thus, it represents the initiation and evolution of farming practices in the Georgia piedmont. In terms of architecture, the farmstead contains examples of representative types of farm buildings and structures from several periods; these display distinctive characteristics of design, materials, techniques, and craftsmanship. In terms of historic archaeology, the farmstead is significant for its potential, inferred from the known locations of numerous previously existing buildings and structures, to provide additional information about farm life during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Exploration and Settlement

The Harris Family Farmstead is one of the earliest rural settlements in Walton County, and as such, it represents the way in which new territory was opened to white occupation during the early nineteenth century in Georgia. Following the cession of Indian lands in 1818, Walton County was created by the state legislature. In 1820, a land lottery was held to distribute land in the new county. Land lots 122 and 149, awarded in 1821 and 1822, were assembled by William Carr in 1823; these land lots formed the basis of the Harris Family Farmstead. Carr moved north to Walton County from Twiggs County sometime between 1823 and 1830, and he established a farm with slaves on the property. Carr probably built the log cabin later known as the William Harris farmhouse at this time. Carr's tenure on this land was relatively short, however, for by 1837 the land was owned and occupied by the William Harris family, previously of Oglethorpe County. Carr then moved northwest, to take advantage of newly opened lands on the frontier; the Harrises established a family farm on their Walton County land that has endured for nearly 150 years. The survival of such a family farm dating from the earliest period of exploration and settlement in Georgia's history is extraordinary.

[continued]

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
DATA NOT VERIFIED

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property 367 acres

Quadrangle name Winder South, Ga.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	7	2	4	8	9	2	0	3	7	5	4	4	8	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

1	7	2	4	8	9	5	0	3	7	5	3	3	4	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

1	7	2	4	7	7	5	0	3	7	5	2	4	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

1	7	2	4	7	2	4	0	3	7	5	3	4	7	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

1	7	2	4	7	9	8	0	3	7	5	4	3	1	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the nominated property is described by a heavy black line on the attached U.S.G.S. quadrangle map. This boundary circumscribes parcels WA-63-2 and WA-63-3 as described on the Walton County, Georgia, tax maps and coincides with the legal description of these parcels.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard Cloues, Architectural Historian
Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date December 12, 1980

street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W. telephone (404) 656-2840

city or town Atlanta state Georgia

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 4/21/82

For HCRS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
<u>William H. Bravaman</u> date <u>6.22.82</u>
Keeper of the National Register
Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

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Agriculture

The Harris Family Farmstead constitutes the major portion of a historic farm that has been in continuous operation for nearly 150 years. As such, it represents the initiation and evolution of farming practices in the Georgia piedmont during the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The agricultural activities of the Harris farm were typical of those in the region. The earliest farming was merely subsistence; this soon developed into a well-diversified, albeit small scale, agricultural economy involving subsistence, cash crops, domesticated animals, and fowl. Cotton gradually became the major cash crop and dominated farming in the region until the early-twentieth century. During the period of cotton farming, the agricultural economy also underwent the dramatic change from slave labor to tenant farming and sharecropping. All phases of this agricultural activity have left their mark on the Harris family farmland and its improvements.

Architecture

The Harris Family Farmstead contains representative styles and types of buildings and structures associated with family farming on the Georgia piedmont during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These display distinctive characteristics of period design, materials, and craftsmanship. Stylistic features are limited to vernacular interpretations of prevailing styles, such as the Federal-style mantel in the William Harris log farmhouse, the late Greek Revival detailing and front doorway of the Isham Walker Harris farmhouse, and Victorian-era board-and-batten siding on the schoolhouse and shingled gables on one of the tenant houses. Such vernacular interpretations are common to rural Georgia architecture. The predominant design tradition is that of the plain-style country architecture, however, common to the Georgia and Carolina piedmonts. Building materials and craftsmanship span the period of transition from handicraft to machine production. The William Harris log farmhouse, for example, illustrates early nineteenth-century rural craftsmanship in its hewn logs, pegged rafters, hand-hewn sills, and hand-made doors. The nearby Isham Walker Harris farmhouse is a transitional work, constructed largely of sawn dimensioned lumber and machine-cut nails, yet finished on the interior with hand-planed boards and grained woodwork, and incorporating an exterior end chimney of fieldstone and hand-made brick. The machined lumber of the tenant houses and several of the outbuildings represents late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century building techniques. In terms of building types, several different types of representative farm dwellings are present, including a log cabin, two central-hall farmhouses, a saddlebag farmhouse, and tenant farmhouses. Numerous agricultural outbuildings are present, including barns and storage sheds, wellhouses, and an unusual

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antebellum brick smokehouse adjacent to the William Harris log farmhouse. A small postbellum schoolhouse, resembling a residence, also survives on the farm where it once served in the education of the children on this extended-family farm.

Historic Archaeology

No formal archaeology has been done at the Harris Family Farmstead. However, the known sites of several previously existing historic buildings and structures, plus the inferred sites of associated structures and activities, suggest a considerable potential for archaeological investigation that could add to the information about the Harris farmstead. This potential appears greatest in the vicinity of the William Harris log farmhouse, where the existence and approximate location of slave quarters, a washhouse, a springhouse, a blacksmith's shop, a kitchen, a barbeque pit, wagon sheds, and an old county road are known.

Preservation Interest

This nomination was initiated by one of the two current property owners of the William Harris Family Farmstead. The intent was to acknowledge the architectural and historical significance of the William Harris log farmhouse and its outbuildings. The Historic Preservation Section enlarged the scope of the nomination to include not only the William Harris log farmhouse and property owned by its current owner on the west side of State Highway 11 but also property on the east side of State Highway 11 owned by another descendant of the Harris family and part of the Harris farmstead. The owner of the William Harris log farmhouse hopes to restore the house and its outbuildings as a memorial to the Harris family; steps have been taken to stabilize these structures. The land under this ownership is currently rent-farmed, and the Charles Harris farmhouse and one of the tenant farmhouses are rented. The owner of the Isham Walker Harris farmhouse and land east of the state highway currently lives on the property. No joint obligations or restrictions on the disposition of these two parcels of land are incurred through the nomination of the two parcels as the Harris Family Farmstead.

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Bibliography

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Harris, Mrs. Hubert L. "National Register Nomination Information Form," April 17, 1980. Contains descriptive and historical information, deed research, and estate records. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Interview and on-site inspection, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert L. Harris and Richard Cloues of the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, August 7, 1980.

Sams, Anita B. Wayfarers in Walton. Doraville, Ga.: Foote and Davis, Division of McCall Corporation, 1967.

William Harris Family Farmstead
Campton vicinity, Walton County, Georgia

SKETCH MAP OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL IN THE
VICINITY OF THE WILLIAM HARRIS LOG FARMHOUSE

Scale: 1" = 100' (very approximate)

North: ↑

Extant structure: ■

Historic site: □

Site of previous structure: ▣

Source: Based on testimony of Hubert Harris
(property owner)

