

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

For NPS use only

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

received MAY 31 1984
date entered JUN 28 1984

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

1. Name

historic Harshaw-Stovall House

and or common

2. Location

street & number On Georgia Highway 255,
north of intersection with Georgia Highway 17 N/A not for publication

city, town Sautee vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county White code 311

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial (Inn) <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. P. Hamilton Schwartz

street & number Route 1, Box 103-A

city, town Sautee N/A vicinity of state Georgia 30571

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number White County Courthouse

city, town Cleveland state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Field Survey:
title White County, Georgia [continued] has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Harshaw-Stovall House is a one-and-one-half-story weatherboarded farmhouse situated on a high knoll in the Sautee Valley. The original four-room-with-central-hall antebellum house has evolved over the years into a Victorian Eclectic cottage with a wrap-around porch, rear dining room/kitchen ell, two-story sleeping porch, and steep gables projecting from three sides of the hipped roof. Modest interior detailing includes original mantels, paneled doors, wide-board pine floors, and an open single-run stairway. The mantels and doors reflect a high degree of local craftsmanship in the wood selected, the finish, and the assembly of pieces with pegs to produce flat, delicate mantels or doors, suggesting late Federal inspiration.

The house is set on original rock piers (some of which have been replaced with blocks), infilled with wood lattice. It has a heavy timber frame with diagonal corner bracing; mortise-and-tenon joints are pegged together with hand-carved pegs. The framing is sawn, including sills and principal posts. A straight saw was used. The house originally was covered in board-and-batten siding, a small amount of which remains in the rear ell.

The house is sited on a knoll with dramatic views south, east and north to the bottomlands and nearby mountains. The bottomlands remain open. There are formal landscape materials around the residence--flowering shrubs, evergreen and hardwood trees, including a specimen holly tree and row of hemlock which outline a former road. Existing historic outbuildings include: (1) a store/post office, which was built before 1893 to serve as a post office and later used as a general store during Stovall's ownership, (2) a wellhouse built before 1893 which was used as a wellhouse and also housed the Delco power system. Other non-historic outbuildings include a barn added to the site by Dr. Walter in the early 1950s.

Archaeological potential exists in the form of former gold mines (pits) which are known to have existed on the property as late as the 1890s. Changes to the property have been numerous, but most are historic in nature. The original antebellum house evolved from a four-room residence into the larger floor-plan before the turn of the century. During these changes, the board-and-batten siding gave way to weatherboarding. The porch was enlarged in 1910. A sleeping porch was added ca. 1915-17. In the late 1940s or early 1950s, a fireplace was removed from the kitchen and a picture window installed. The recent conversion of the house to an inn has brought about restoration and further changes. The upstairs has been converted into four bedrooms with a central hall; previously, it was an attic with two large rooms. Victorian doors were added. Skylights were added for light. Proposed changes include a rear addition and a back porch.

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 type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input 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 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) Local History
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1837, late-19th/

Builder/Architect Unknown

early-20th centuries

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Harshaw-Stovall House is significant in terms of architecture as an example of a typical four-room-with-central-hall antebellum farmhouse that evolved into a Victorian Eclectic house with a wrap-around porch, a sleeping porch and steep roof gables. This stylistic evolution is typical of many of Georgia's small, nineteenth-century houses. In terms of landscape architecture, the house is significant for its typical antebellum house siting. Its magnificent hilltop setting provides views of the Sautee Valley in all directions and makes the house a prominent historic landmark in the valley. In terms of local history, the house is significant for its long association with people and activities connected with the Sautee Valley. Moses Harshaw, an early pioneer in the valley and builder of the house, and William I. Stovall, a prominent farmer and businessman whose family occupied the house during the early-twentieth century, were the two principal owner/occupants. The property has been associated with gold mining, timbering and agriculture, three activities historically significant in the development of the Sautee Valley. A wood-frame historic outbuilding on the property served in the nineteenth century as a post office and was later used by Stovall as a country store for his farm workers.

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

Historical Narrative

The Harshaw-Stovall House and property is located on Land Lot 44 in the Third District of original Habersham (now White) County. This land lot, containing 250 acres, was won in the Lottery of 1820 by William Royal of Burke County, Georgia, who sold it in 1822 after obtaining a grant to Joseph Dobson. Dobson, in turn, sold the property to W.B. Wofford of Habersham County. Wofford held the property for two years before selling it to Moses Harshaw of Burke County, North Carolina, for \$1,500 in 1825. Moses Harshaw (1795-1859) was among the first white settlers in the Sautee and Nacoochee Valleys. According to tradition, these valleys were settled in March, 1822, by sixty-two families from Burke and Rutherford counties, North Carolina. Moses Harshaw is a colorful character in the history of this area. In the words of present residents of the valley area, he is remembered as the "meanest man who ever lived." Harshaw was an attorney who also operated a farm and a gold mine. He was a large landowner in the area, as well as the owner of a number of slaves, whom he used in his farming and gold-mining enterprises. The History of White County notes that he owned eleven gold mines. Moses and his wife, Nancy England, had five

[continued]

9. Major Bibliographical References

Jaeger, Dale. "Harshaw-Lamar-Stovall-Walter (House) ..." Historic Property Information Form, August 17, 1982, and additional supplemental information, September 22, 1983, including an "Historical Narrative" and estate records.

[continued]

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 35 acres

Quadrangle name Helen, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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

B

1	7	2	5	6	0	6	0	3	8	4	3	0	9	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

1	7	2	5	6	2	5	0	3	8	4	3	0	9	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

1	7	2	5	6	1	7	0	3	8	4	2	7	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property consists of the remaining historic acreage associated with the house. 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 April 26, 1984

street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W.

telephone (404) 656-2840

city or town Atlanta

state Georgia 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 State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5/22/84

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

6/28/84

for Melores Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Representation in Surveys &

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9. Cook, Anna M.G. History of Baldwin County, Georgia. Anderson, S.C.: Keys-Hearn Printing Company, 1925 (includes biography of Lucius James Lamar and his family).

Gazetteers in the Georgia State Library, State Judicial Building, dated 1876-1896.

McInvale, Morton R. "James H. Nichols," Dictionary of Georgia Biography. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1983.

Stephenson, Mrs. Margaret Budd, Covington, Georgia. Interview by telephone by Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., March 22, 1984. (Mrs. Stephenson is a direct descendant of Moses Harshaw and a professional genealogist.)

White County History Book Committee. A History of White County, 1857-1980. Inter-Collegiate Press, 1980(?).

"Williams, Edwin Poore." Memoirs of Georgia, Vol. 2. Easley: Southern Historical Press, 1976. Reprint of 1895 edition.

6. On August 25, 1983, this property received preliminary certification of significance from the Preservation Services Branch, National Register Programs Division, National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office.

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children: Hemphill, Jr., Alonzo L., Louisa M., Adeline, and Ann Elizabeth.

Habersham County Courthouse records show that Moses and Nancy were legally separated in 1857. In that settlement, Nancy was awarded slaves, farming equipment, and property in Clarkesville. According to local sources, Moses resided on the Sautee property, but no written documentation of this fact was found. In December, 1857, White County was created out of Habersham, and this property became part of White County.

At the death of Moses Harshaw in 1859 without a will, his son, Alonzo, and E.P. Williams were named administrators of his estate. The inventory of the estate illustrates the wealth of Moses Harshaw. His holdings included eleven slaves, farming equipment, produce, livestock, and feed; household furnishings, a town lot and house in Clarkesville, the household furnishings and three slaves which were owned by Nancy Harshaw as a life estate; and additional land in Clarkesville and White counties. The administrators of the estate subdivided portions of the White County landholdings from Land Lots 44, 21, and 22 to create eleven gold lots. Three of these lots were created from Land Lot 44 and the balance of this lot, which contained the existing residence, was noted as the "Grove Place Farm." The "Grove Place Farm" was purchased by Hemphill J. Harshaw, as the highest bidder, at the estate auction in Cleveland on November 1, 1859. Hemphill Harshaw did not comply with the terms of the sale, so the property was sold again at auction to Martin H. Lovelady at Cleveland on March 1, 1860. Lovelady paid \$4,326 for 200 acres as the "highest and best bidder." Even though there is no mention of a dwelling, the cost of the property and the construction of the house suggest strongly that the present house was existing.

The purchase of the property by Lovelady appears to have been planned as a strategy for the administrators. On the same day of the Lovelady purchase, E.P. Williams obtained one-half ownership from Lovelady for \$2,163. Four days later, Alonzo Harshaw purchased the remaining one-half interest for \$2,278, which appears to have netted Lovelady \$115 for his involvement. Three months later, E.P. Williams became the sole owner of the 200-acre tract by purchasing Alonzo's share for \$3,163.

Edwin Poore Williams (1814-1896) was one of the largest landowners in the valley. A North Carolina native, he moved to the area with his parents and other North Carolinians. He was the contractor for the White County Courthouse (which still survives) and jail, both built in 1859-60. He served in the state senate in 1858. He owned a grist mill and a sawmill, as well as a blacksmith shop on Sautee Creek. Williams maintained a large farming operation and is credited with introducing dairying to the valley area. It appears that Williams purchased the property to add to his larger land holdings in the area. It is doubtful that Williams ever resided on the property, since he lived in a residence in the Nacoochee Valley known as "Starlight" during this time.

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In 1869, Williams sold eighty-seven acres to Lucius J. Lamar, who later bought 162 acres. The plat showed the existence of a dwelling, noted as the "Mansion House," which stood beside the Rabun Road. A comparison of the 1869 plat (eighty-seven acres) with the existing property boundaries (thirty acres) confirms that the existing house is the "Mansion House." Similarities in the alignment of the former Rabun Road and the existing Highway 255 confirms that the two roads followed a similar route.

Lucius J. Lamar (1846-1924) of Milledgeville, Georgia, appears to have owned the house from 1869 to 1875. He was a member of a very distinguished middle Georgia family who probably got involved in the Sautee area due to his uncle, James H. Nichols, who owned property in the adjoining Nacoochee Valley. Lamar's most noteworthy achievement was serving as steward or director of the State Sanitarium in Milledgeville for forty years, 1883-1923. It appears that he resided on the property since it is referred to as the "Lamar Place" in the deed transferring both tracts to his uncle, James H. Nichols in 1875.

James H. Nichols (1835-1897) was a merchant and druggist in Milledgeville before the Civil War. He moved to the Nacoochee Valley area shortly before 1870, his first purchase being in 1868. He owned a livery stable and later a grist and sawmill. He built "West End," the most impressive house and estate in the Nacoochee Valley. His use of the Harshaw property during his brief ownership is unknown; it was probably rented to a farming family.

In 1878, E.P. West purchased both tracts and a later deed reference, calling the property the "West place," makes it appear that he lived on the property.

Edward Perry West (born 1857) was a milliner and ran a general store in Nacoochee. He may have built the general store on this property since he was the only early owner with that as an occupation. Sometime prior to 1893, West sold the property to J. Lamb Johnston. The business deal apparently did not work, since West reacquired the property through a sheriff's sale in 1893. The deed for this transaction notes that "S.L. Brown, sheriff, did on the 7th day of November 1893 under and by virtue of a mortgage execution issued from the Superior Court of the county of White in favor of E.P. West against Lamb Johnston.... expose to sale the property....before the Courthouse door." E.P. West immediately resold the property to William I. Stovall for \$1,605, the same price paid by West at the sheriff's sale.

The Stovall family had come to the valley area with the settlers from North Carolina in 1822. William Isaac Stovall (1863-1945) and his brother, John, had been involved in a variety of businesses in the Blue Creek community of White County. Following John's marriage, William Stovall decided to relocate his family in the Sautee and Nacoochee area. W.I. Stovall was a farmer and was

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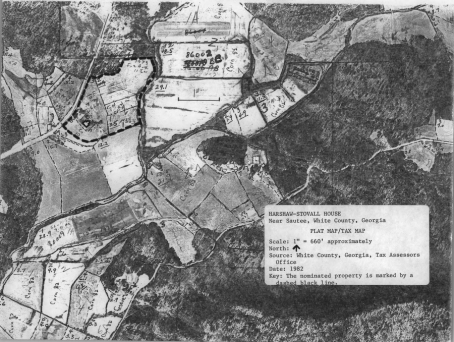
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also involved in timbering operations and real estate. According to family members, the bottomland acreage within the property at the time of purchase contained the remains of placer pits (as seen in the Dukes Creek area today) from gold-mining activity and had to be filled before farming could be carried out on the land. Stovall lived on this property and enlarged the house several times to accommodate his family. The store on the property was used by Stovall, primarily supplying goods to the farm workers. The post office was known as Lynch (Mountain) and was run by Hood and Stovall, postmasters in 1898. Stovall owned the school property where the Nacoochee School was built and a block of commercial buildings in the city of Cornelia which to the present day is known as "Stovall's Block." Stovall also served as a director of the Cornelia Bank.

In the late 1940s, approximately forty-five acres of the property were sold from the Stovall estate to Dr. A.J. Walter, a physician who had retired from the Navy. Dr. Walter removed a fireplace in the kitchen which allowed a dramatic view to the north of the structure. Walter also added a barn to the property and demolished a number of outbuildings. Dr. Walter, who practiced medicine in the area, and his wife resided in this structure until their deaths in the early 1980s. The property was recently acquired by Hamilton and Kathy Schwartz, who have rehabilitated the house for use as a country inn known as the Stovall Inn.



HARSHAW-STONALL HOUSE
Near Sautree, White County, Georgia
FLAT MAP/TAX MAP
Scale: 1" = 400' approximately
North: ↑
Source: White County, Georgia, Tax Assessors
Office
Date: 1982
Key: The nominated property is marked by a
dashed black line.