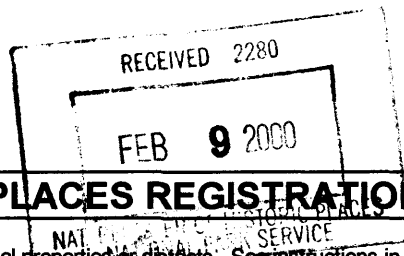


194



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 Durham Homeplace
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1561 Watson Springs Road
city, town Watkinsville
county Oconee code 219
state Georgia code GA zip code 30677

(X) vicinity of

() not for publication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:

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings	4	1
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	4	1

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of previous listing: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Richard Cloves 2-1-00
Signature of certifying official Date

W. Ray Luce
Director, Historic Preservation Division,
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

Edson H. Beall 3/15/00

() 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/Subsistence: agricultural field, agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Other: hall-parlor house.

Materials:

foundation	Stone
walls	Wood: log, weatherboard
roof	Metal: tin
other	Brick

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Durham Homeplace comprises an approximately 2-acre tract located approximately ten miles southeast of Watkinsville and two miles west of the Oconee River in rural Oconee County, Georgia. Once part of a 2,000-acre farm, the property includes the main house and a variety of outbuildings. The main house was built as a one- and one-half-story hall-parlor log house in c.1830 and enlarged in c.1900 to form a Georgian cottage. The house is set close to the road at the east end of the property. The yard surrounding the house and the pasture and crop lands have given way to thick underbrush and forest land.

The main house was built by Mr. Etheral Sorrel in c.1830 and was purchased in 1832 by Dr. Lindsey Durham. The homeplace is a one- and one-half-story, hall-parlor house with two exterior gable-end stone chimneys and a full-width, engaged front porch. The logs are joined with half-dovetail notches. In c.1900, Paul Walker Durham, a descendant of Dr. Lindsey Durham and a carpenter by trade, transformed the homeplace into a Georgian cottage by adding two wood-frame rear rooms. He built each of these rear rooms in the form of an ell with parallel rooflines perpendicular to the side-gabled main block. A valley is located above the central hall and bathroom.

By 1910, Paul Durham framed-in a wall beginning in the hall-parlor section of the house and continuing through to the back porch, thereby creating a four-room Georgian-plan house. In this same year, Paul Durham built the kitchen and the two-bay frame room added to the north side of the hall-parlor section of the house. The north, south, and back porches were probably added at this time.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7--Description

The main house, overgrown with kudzu and bamboo, is clad in weatherboard and set on stone piers. The side-gable roof is covered with tin sheeting. The full-width front porch features pine decking and is supported by chamfered wood posts. Exterior doors to the house represent a variety of vertical-plank and wood-and-glass paneled doors. Most windows are six-over-six and six-over-nine wood sashes with plain surrounds. The cinder-block well, covered with kudzu, is located at the end of the south porch at the southeast corner of the house.

The interior of the hall-parlor section of the house features exposed logs and clay chinking and appears to have been whitewashed. Adz marks are clearly visible on the hewn logs. Smaller, exposed joists support the half story above. The fireplace mantels represent the highest degree of finish in the house and serve as a focal point in each of the two front rooms. The mantel in the north room is little more than a frame above a segmental arched fireplace opening. The north room features a more elaborate, hand-planed mantel with built-up brackets that support the mantel shelf.

The additions to the house by Paul Walker Durham in c.1900 to 1910 comprise a rear bedroom and dining room, a rear kitchen ell, and front bedroom. These rooms are lightly framed and covered with wood sheathing. The partition wall Paul Durham added to the front of the house which creates the central hall is finished with vertical boards. Vertical boards also divide the second-floor rooms and some of these rooms retain their newspaper lining used to reduce drafts during the winter months, a practice common in log building in the South. A bathroom was built at the end of the central hall. The house received electricity in 1938 and indoor plumbing in 1975.

During the 1950s, the Durham family abandoned the practice of farming, and the landscape of work, ornamental yards, and cultivated fields and pasture lands have given way to underbrush and reforestation. Kudzu and bamboo are prevalent and have grown close to the main house. Kudzu covers the south gable end and has penetrated the interior of the house. Pioneer tree species, such as pines, locusts, and sweetgums, are common but many ornamentals remain as well, including magnolia and cedar trees.

During the late 19th century when the Durham Homeplace was an active farm, as many as seven outbuildings served the agricultural and domestic needs of the Durham family. By the beginning of the 20th century, however, the summer kitchen, replaced by the kitchen ell, was demolished, and during the 1970s three deteriorated barns were demolished. Three contributing outbuildings survive, all clustered around the main house and surrounded by undergrowth and bamboo. In 1990, a manufactured home, which serves as the primary residence, was moved onto the property adjacent to the main house. The manufactured home is the only noncontributing property associated this National Register nomination. The contributing resources are described below:

The *corn crib* is located near Watson Springs Road at the approach to the homeplace. It was built in the middle of the 19th century of hand-hewn logs joined with half-dovetail notches. The logs are

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7--Description

joined tightly with little space for chinking. It is a single-pen structure with sills that rest directly on the ground. The gable-front roof is clad in sheet metal.

The *cook's quarters* is located north of the main house and was built early in the 20th century. The cook's quarters is a single-pen frame building with a side-gable roof and clad in weatherboard. The roof features exposed rafter ends and is covered with sheet metal. The main door is built of vertical planks and the windows are six-over-six light sashes.

The *smokehouse*, also built early in the 20th century, is located south of the main house at the end of the farm drive. The smokehouse is a tall, one-story frame building with a front-gable roof and box cornice. It is clad in weatherboard which is joined at the corners with wide cornerboards. The double-leaf entrance is composed of vertical-plank doors.

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

Period of Significance:

c.1830 - 1910.

Significant Dates:

c.1830 - Mr. Etheral Sorrel builds hall-parlor log house.

1832 - Dr. Lindsay Durham purchases hall-parlor log house and 125 acres to add to his plantation.

c.1900-1910 - Paul Walker Durham alters the hall-parlor house to form a Georgian-plan house.

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

N/A

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The main house at the Durham Homeplace is significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture as an outstanding example of an early 19th-century, log, hall-parlor-plan house that was later transformed into a Georgian-plan house. The log, hall-parlor section of the Durham Homeplace survives intact within the one- and one-half-story dwelling. It is easily distinguished from the c.1900-1910 additions that created the current Georgian floor plan because of its form and materials. The Georgian-plan additions have acquired their own inherent significance but taken as a whole the house demonstrates the trend in Georgia and in other Eastern states of building and rebuilding houses from small, plain houses of the early settlement period to larger, more fashionable residences as families grew and accumulated wealth.

Although the hall-parlor is one of the earliest house types in the United States, most surviving examples in Georgia were built in the second half of the 19th century and the first three decades of the 20th century. The Durham Homeplace, built c.1830, represents an early example of this house type, which is defined by two unequal rooms. The house is typically entered through the hall, the name given to larger of the two rooms. Typically gabled, the hall-parlor house is heated by one or two flues or exterior end chimneys. This house form was adaptable and expandable and popular for farm owners, tenant farmers, and mill workers alike. According to *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in their Landscaped Settings*, farmstead hall-parlor houses are most plentiful in North Georgia, while hall-parlor houses for industrial and agricultural workers are spread fairly uniformly across the state.

Log architecture was the most common method of construction among early settlers in the Georgia frontier. The hand-hewn logs that include adz marks the half-dovetail joining of the Durham Homeplace represent the craftsmanship of the period. Few log houses have survived in Georgia. The Georgia Historic Resources Survey, which documents over 48,000 buildings records 354 log houses representing 9% of all houses in the survey. Forty-nine log hall-parlor houses are recorded in the survey representing 14% of all log houses in the survey.

In building additional rooms to the homeplace in the early 20th century, Paul Walker Durham transformed the hall-parlor house into larger and more fashionable Georgian-plan house. *Georgia's Living Places* identifies the Georgian cottage as most popular and long-lived house type in the state. Georgian houses are defined by their floor plan, which consists of a center hall and two rooms on either side. This plan not only provided more space than other house types but the central hall enabled the home owner to better control circulation throughout the house and limit guest access to private rooms. The plan shape is square or nearly so and the roof is usually hipped but sometimes gabled. Paul Durham avoided building an entirely new roof by treating each rear room (except the kitchen) as an ell with the valley converging above the rear center hall and bathroom. Chimneys are sometimes in the exterior walls but usually in the interior of the house, between each pair of rooms.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Paul Durham chose not build additional chimneys but provided a stove and flue in the kitchen ell. Georgian cottages were built throughout most of the state's history, but the greatest concentration was constructed from 1850 to 1890. Most surviving examples are in the Piedmont region.

National Register Criteria

The Durham Homeplace is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C under the theme of architecture because it is an outstanding example of a hall-parlor log house that later transformed to Georgian-plan house.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in c.1830 when Mr. Etheral Sorrel built his hall-parlor log house and ends in 1910 when Paul Walker Durham alters the hall-parlor house to form a Georgian-plan house.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The main house and the three historic outbuildings (corn crib, cook's quarters, and smokehouse) are the only contributing buildings. The only noncontributing resource associated with this nomination is the manufactured home that now serves as the primary residence.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

The Durham family is well documented and predates the founding of the United States. Abram Durham left the family seat in Durham, England and settled in Hanover County, Virginia. His son, Samuel Davis Durham (1755-1801) fought in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War before settling in Greene County, Georgia in c.1782. Among Samuel's and wife Isabel Lindsey's seven children was Dr. Lindsey Durham (1789-1859). Born in Greene County, Lindsey achieved fame and wealth as a mostly self-taught doctor who specialized in the study of medicinal herbs. He gathered his own herbs and, with help of his wife Martha Walker, prepared pills for treating patients. Dr. Durham's fame spread and patients traveled to see him from all parts of the state. Durham pioneered numerous botanic treatments which were later widely adopted by the medical profession.

Dr. Durham's success in the medical profession brought him wealth. By the end of his life, he had acquired 200 slaves and a 2,000-acre plantation in Scull Shoals. Dr. Durham purchased the nearby

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

log house from Ethereal Sorrel in 1832. Mr. Sorrel most likely built the log hall-parlor house in c.1830. Dr. Durham, who had fourteen children with Martha Walker, never lived in the homeplace but resided in his larger house in Scull Shoals.

Judge Lindsey Durham, Jr. (1825-1885) is the first Durham to have lived in the Durham Homeplace. He married Letitia Johnston Richardson in 1848 and then resided in the hall-parlor house. He served for three years in the Confederate Army. From the end of the war until 1875 he served as an Inferior Court Judge in Clarke County. Judge Durham and Letitia reared thirteen children in the hall-parlor house, including Paul Walker Durham.

Paul Durham (1853-1926) never married and lived his entire life at the homeplace. In the first decade of the 20th century, Paul Durham, a carpenter and builder by trade, dramatically increased the size and form of the house by adding two rear rooms and a central hall, thereby transforming the hall-parlor house into a Georgian-plan cottage. He also built a rear kitchen ell and a front room on the north side of the house. In addition, Paul's sister, Martha Jane Durham (1850-1931), resided at the homeplace until her death.

In c.1930, the homeplace was purchased by James Rufus Marable (1885-1953) and Mary Elizabeth Durham (1886-1966), a granddaughter of Judge Lindsey Durham, Jr. The Marables resided at the homeplace until Mary Elizabeth died in 1966. Martha Geneva Bowden (1922-1992), one of six Marable children, inherited the property, which had been reduced to only 125 acres. The house remained vacant from 1966 until 1976, when the Nolen Edwin Bowden, Jr., the current owner, acquired the property and began to rehabilitate the house. The Bowdens lived in the house in the house from 1977 to 1989 and currently reside on the property in a manufactured home.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bowden, Nolen Edwin. "Durham Homeplace." Historic Property Information Form. On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, Georgia.

Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in their Landscaped Settings. Atlanta: Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 1991.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): () N/A

- () preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- (x) preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued
date issued: June 27, 1995
- () 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): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approximately 2 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 283900 Northing 3737240

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 10--Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The property boundary is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached map, drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary encloses a rectangular-shaped 2-acre tract located within the 125-acre legal parcel. This nomination reduces the acreage because most the farm fields and pasture lands that had been in agricultural production have given way to underbrush and woodlands. The landscapes associated with farming are no longer discernable and the property is eligible only under Criterion C.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Steven H. Moffson, Architectural Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** January 1, 2000

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

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Durham Homeplace
City or Vicinity: Watkinsville vicinity
County: Oconee
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: June 1997

Description of Photograph(s):

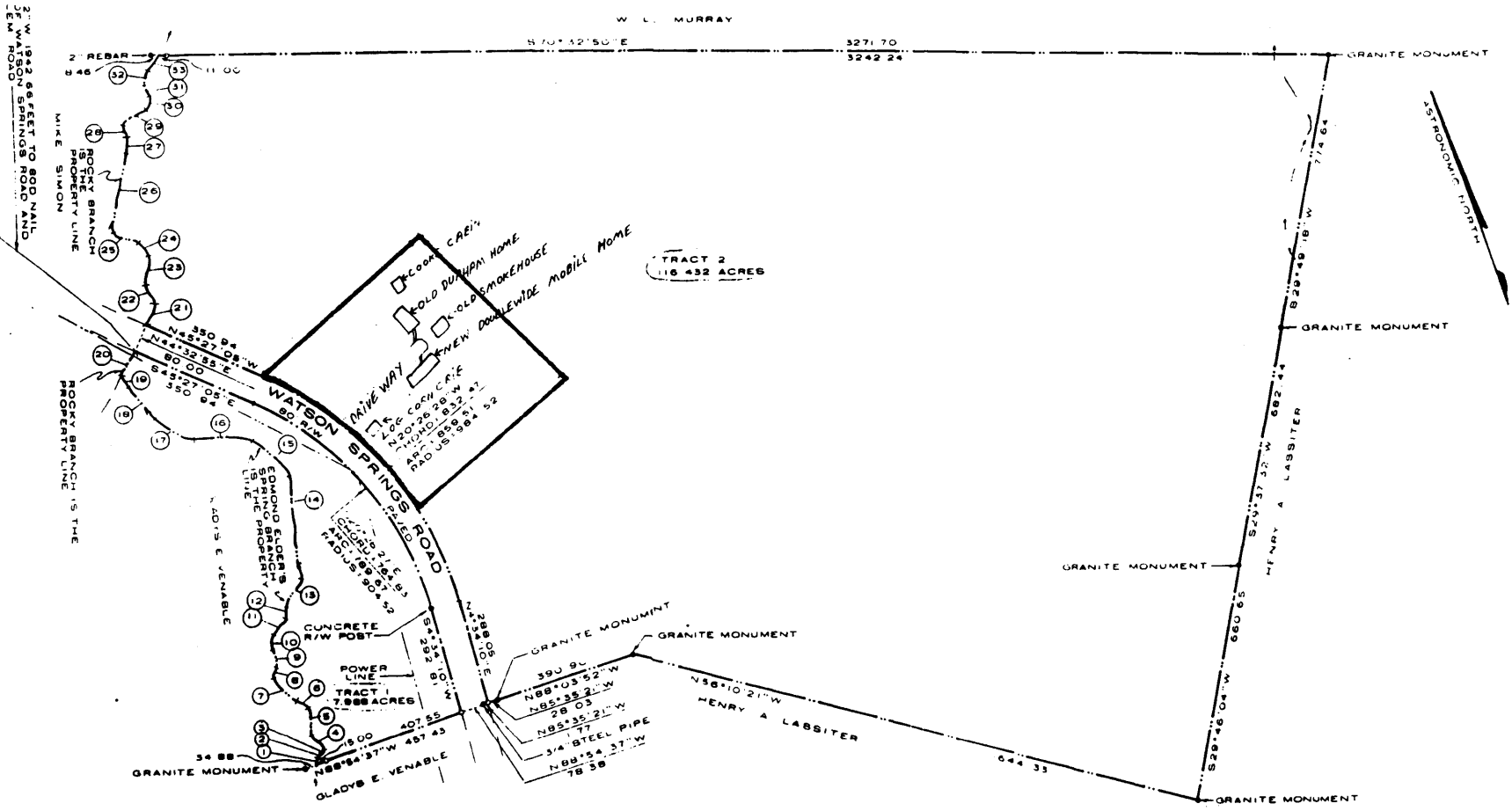
1. Main house, photographer facing west.
2. Main house, photographer facing northeast.
3. Main house, front porch, photographer facing north.
4. Main house, photographer facing south.
5. Main house, kitchen ell with south porch and kudzu-covered well in foreground, photographer facing northwest.
6. Main house, rear bedroom ell and north porch, photographer facing southwest.
7. Main house, hall-parlor south room, photographer facing west.
8. Main house, hall-parlor south room with view to dining room and kitchen ell, photographer facing east.
9. Main house, hall-parlor north room, photographer facing north.
10. Main House, second level, north end, photographer facing northeast.
11. Main house, second level, north end, photographer facing east.
12. Main house, second level, south end, photographer facing south.
13. Corn crib, photographer facing southeast.
14. Corn crib, detail, photographer facing southeast.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

15. Cook's quarters, photographer facing east.
16. Smokehouse, photographer facing southeast.



TRACT 1. TRAVERSE DOWN EDMOND ELDER'S SPRING BRANCH

LINE	BEARING	CHORD
1	N 28° 43' 27" E	22.30
2	S 75° 38' 32" E	18.00
3	N 24° 53' 21" E	16.02
4	N 20° 12' 13" W	49.53
5	N 11° 17' 00" E	80.32
6	N 48° 12' 42" W	43.87
7	N 25° 14' 18" W	87.00
8	N 44° 16' 58" E	29.78
9	N 9° 18' 52" E	50.57
10	N 11° 49' 33" W	37.18
11	N 69° 20' 25" E	26.16
12	N 48° 15' 51" E	84.50
13	N 44° 15' 13" E	87.19
14	N 14° 34' 30" E	288.49
15	N 27° 03' 29" W	145.85
16	N 28° 09' 32" W	159.88
17	N 40° 51' 42" W	123.14
18	N 16° 57' 55" W	111.08
19	N 7° 20' 10" W	41.03
20	N 51° 40' 34" E	70.70 (ROCKY BRANCH)

TRACT 2. TRAVERSE DOWN ROCKY BRANCH

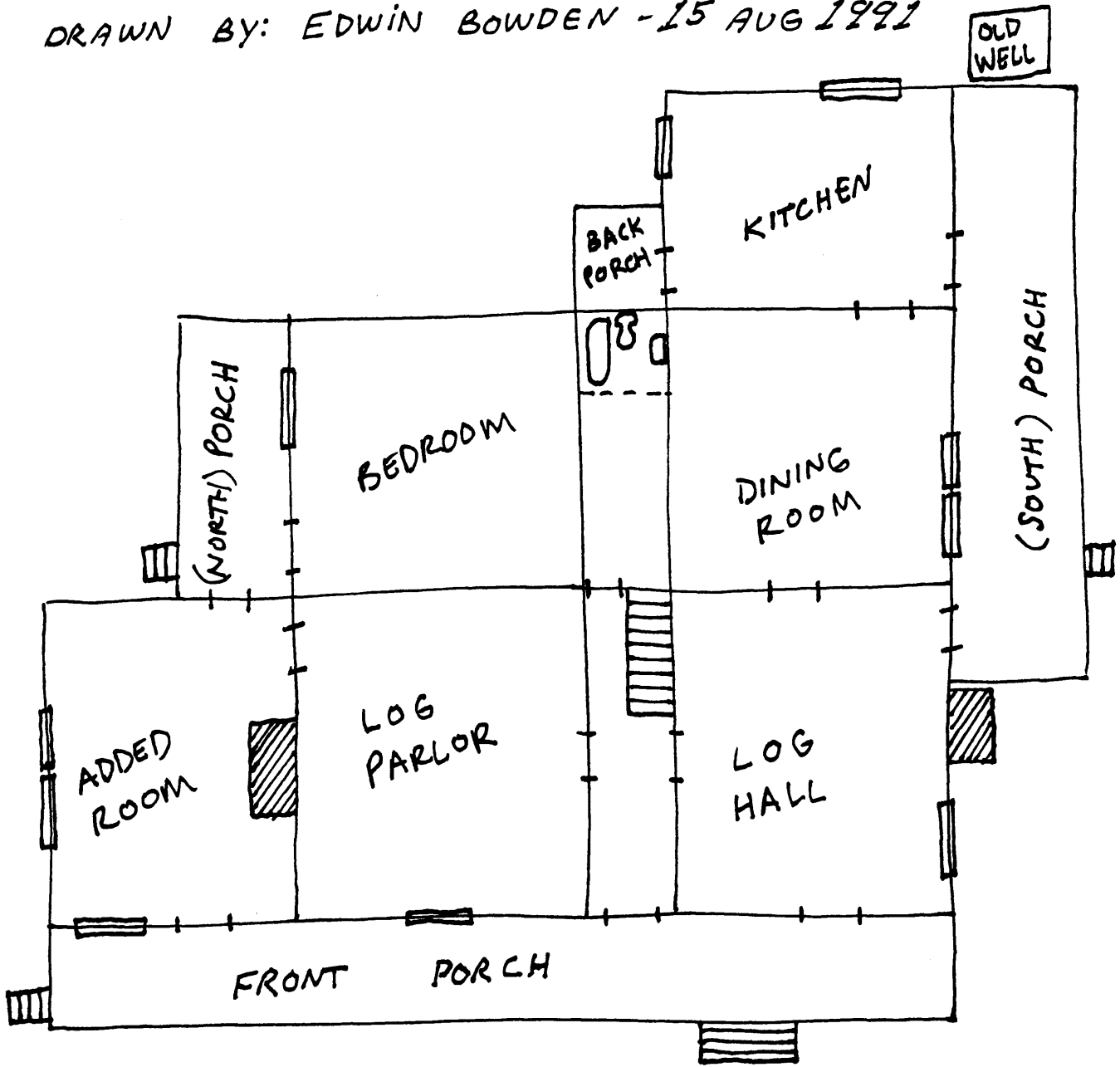
LINE	BEARING	CHORD
21	N 44° 44' 19" E	68.30
22	N 13° 13' 33" W	57.58
23	N 27° 15' 11" E	82.80
24	N 19° 56' 58" W	49.97
25	N 48° 58' 41" W	76.51
26	N 50° 10' 39" E	223.50
27	N 23° 18' 21" E	48.22
28	N 15° 13' 18" E	38.62
29	N 78° 43' 21" E	74.13
30	N 44° 06' 00" E	64.32
31	N 24° 24' 21" W	25.58
32	N 23° 11' 08" E	80.40
33	N 63° 42' 31" E	39.91

SURVEY NOTES
 0 — DENOTES MONUMENT FOUND
 0 — DENOTES 3/8 REBAR SET
 ANGL. ERROR TRACT 1: .03" PER STATION. TRACT 2: .01" PER STATION
 EQUIPMENT USED TOPCON GTS 28
 SURVEY CLOSURE TRACT 1: 22.693 53. TRACT 2: 1 65.197 67
 PLAT CLOSURE TRACT 1: 202.620 85. TRACT 2: 1 967.688 12
 BALANCED BY COMPASS RULE

*THIS SURVEY AREA HOMEPLACE TRACT
 HAS CONTAINED THESE BOUNDARIES
 RELEASE FOR MORE THAN 100 YEARS.
 (ABOUT 124 AC.)*

Durham Homeplace
Watkinsville Vicinity, Oconee County, Georgia
Sketch Map
National Register Boundary
Scale: 1"=Approx. 400"
North: ↗

FLOOR PLAN OF OLD DURHAM HOUSE MAIN
DRAWN BY: EDWIN BOWDEN - 15 AUG 1992



Durham Homeplace
Watkinsville Vicinity, Oconee County, Georgia
Floor Plan
No Scale
North: ▼