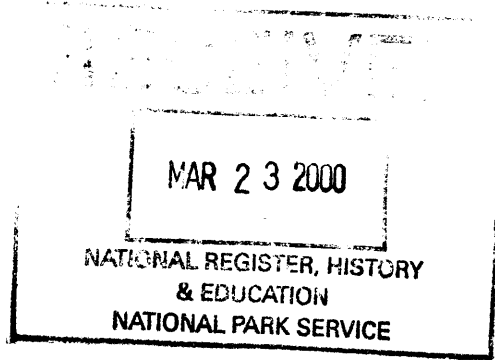


**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**



389

1. Name of Property

historic name **Floyds Island Hammock**
other names/site number **Hebard Cabin**

2. Location

street & number **Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge**
city or town **Folkston**
state **Georgia** code **GA** county **Charlton** (X) vicinity of
code **049** zip code **31537**

(N/A) not for publication

3. CLASSIFICATION

| | |
|--|---|
| Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) | Category of Property (Check only one box) |
| private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) |
| public-local | district |
| public-State | site |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | object |

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

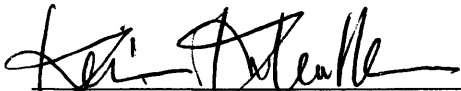
| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| Contributing | Non-contributing |
| <i>Hebard Cabin,</i> | buildings |
| <i>B. Spaulding Cabin Site (9Cr36),</i> | sites |
| <i>Cook's House Site,</i> | |
| <i>Guide's Hut Sites (3),</i> | |
| <i>9Cr2 (Floyds Island Mound),</i> | |
| <i>Railroad Piling & Beds</i> | structures |
| | objects |
| 9 | Total |

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register
None

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.


Signature of certifying official

March 13, 2000
Date

~~State Historic Preservation Officer~~ **FDO**
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

Nov. 2, 1999
Date

DEPUTY STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER
HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION
State or Federal agency or bureau
GEORGIA DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other, explain:
- see continuation sheet

Edson H. Beall

4-21-00

[Signature]
Signature, Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instruction)

Recreation = hunting camp & caretaker's home
Industry = logging
Conservation

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Canoeist Base Camp

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instruction)

Other: Late 19th-early 20th century vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

| | |
|------------|---|
| foundation | Concrete piers |
| walls | Cypress boards covered with shingles |
| roof | Seamed Tin |
| other | Tongue & groove heart pine floor; Brick fireplace. |

Narrative Description

The southwestern end of Floyds Island is a mixed evergreen-hardwood hammock dominated by laurel and live oaks, magnolia, loblolly and slash pines (Map 1). The undergrowth consists of palmetto, switchcane, huckleberry, sparkleberry, rusty lyonia, and beargrass. Resurrection ferns and green fly orchids grow from the oaks. Sand scrub and pine flatwoods are found on the northeast end of the island. Wright and Wright, in 1932, described the sand scrub habitat as "the most desert-like tracts of the southeast" characterized by saw-palmetto, clumps of oaks, poor grub, and small pines, and patches of bare sand. Prickly pear, partridge bean, false foxglove, huckleberry, and sparkleberry make up the understory. Pine flatwoods, or dry pine barrens, are dominated by longleaf pine, several varieties of oaks, and persimmon. Shrubs include heaths, papaws, saw-palmetto, and myrtle. The rest of the understory is comprised of wire-grass, gooseberry, huckleberry, highland ferns, trefoil, and bedstraw.

The popularity of evergreen hammocks as settlement sites in the swamps and piney woods of south Georgia and north Florida has persisted since prehistory. Biologists Albert and Anna Wright and novelist Majorie Kinnan Rawlings noted the human preferences for hammocks in their writings in the 1930s. Hammocks were "cultural centers" as well as vegetative patches in the Okefenokee. Floyds Island Hammock is a classic example.

The island acquired a reputation for remoteness and mystery at least as early as the 18th century. It is named for General Charles R. Floyd who led an army patrol across the Swamp in November 1838 during the Second Seminole War. A band of Seminoles from Florida had sought refuge on the island in January 1838. Floyd burned a village on the island and continued across the Swamp. The island remained difficult to get to until the 20th century.

The island was part of the Charles Hebard family's holdings in the Okefenokee Swamp. The Hebard Lumber Company logged cypress off large tracts of the Swamp between 1901-1927 (Map 2). After Charles Hebard's death in 1902, Charles S., and Daniel L. Hebard were the company's owners. As part of the logging operation and to facilitate the removal of the cypress logs, an extensive network of railroad tracks and spur lines were laid throughout the Swamp (Map 3, Photos 2-6). A length of track crossed Floyds Island cutting through the center of 9Cr2. A track and turn-table provided the Hebard family and the various guests quick access to the camp. The family and their guests traveled on automobiles equipped with railroad wheels. The Hebard Family sold their holdings to the U.S. Government in 1937. The property became the core of the

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.

The camp, at one time, consisted of the extant cabin, a bath house, a small cook's house, Billy Spaulding's cabin and garden, two-three tiny guide huts, the boardwalk, a turn-table, and boat runs to Chase Prairie and Floyds Island Prairie (Map 4). The camp was built by Daniel Hebard in 1925. The bath house was an old railroad caboose parked on an old rail bed about 25 meters south of the extant cabin.

The Hebard Cabin

The Hebard Cabin is an one-story T-shaped frame structure consisting of two bedrooms, a living room, a kitchen, and a pantry (See Map 5 for room arrangement and dimensions). It was built of cypress in 1925. The interior walls of the living room are covered with cypress paneling; the floor with tongue and groove heart pine planks. The exterior walls and gabled roof are covered by cypress shingles. A back porch once extended full length of west side of the kitchen and pantry, but has since been removed. Between 1937-1995, the cabin has undergone a number of repairs and renovations (Table 1; Map 6; Photos 9-11, 13, 15, 17-21).

Table 1. Chronology of Alterations to and Use of the Hebard Camp.

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 1925 | Cabin built by Daniel Hebard. |
| 1937 | Hebard's holdings sold to the U.S. Government. |
| 1937-1940 | Furniture removed or stolen from cabin. |
| 1939 | 4,000-foot long boardwalk repaired by Patrolman Gay, three laborers, and help from CCC Camp BF-1 (Photo 14). |
| 1943-1944 | Cabin repaired and refurnished. Shed roof of the porches were in bad shape and subsequently removed and rebuilt. Three sets of steps, several sashes and screens were replaced. New piers were installed under the cabin and porches. A dining table and benches were built of cypress logs salvaged by the CCC from the Suwanee Canal between Cornelia and Billys Bay. |
| 1945 | Fire standby crew from Cornelia cleaned up a large tree which blew down near the cabin. Dr. Fattig of Emory University and Dr. R. L. Usinger of University of California stayed at the cabin while collecting entomological specimens. |
| 1948 | The cabin's roof was damaged by limbs of the nearby oaks. The limbs tore several large holes in the roof. Boardwalk received temporary repairs. Refuge manager suggested that the adjacent old pole boat trail be dynamited out to its original depth to permit access to the cabin. |
| 1949-1950 | The island was almost completely inaccessible. The refuge staff dynamited a boat run through Floyds Island Bay between June 13-24, 1949. They hauled materials and tools to replace the cabin's roof using the newly dynamited run. The area around cabin was cleared of brush and undergrowth as a fire protection measure. By August 1950, the staff had replaced sections of the roof's sheeting and repaired the porches. The west bedroom's brick flue was removed when cabin re-roofed. |
| 1951 | The cabin's window and door screens were replaced with new copper ones. |
| 1954 | Group of Cornell University students under the supervision of Dr. P.P. Kellogg conducted a faunal and botanical survey on and around Floyds Island. South of the cabin, found only two tree species present - magnolia and live oak. "Well on the porch of the cabin" from which water containing sand and grit obtained. Observed carpenter bees feasting on the porch rafters. Porch collapsed by the 1970s. |
| 1954-57 | In the 1950's, the island and cabin used sparingly. Virtually all of the Swamp impassable during the droughts in 1954, 1955, and 1956. In 1954-55, a wildfire swept through 80% of the swamp, including Floyds Island. The cabin was not damaged by the fire. By 1957, the boat run leading from the north side of the island to Floyds Prairie overgrown and "hardly discernible." |
| 1959 | Boat trail from Suwanee Canal to Floyds Island Inlet cut across Chase Prairie with newly devised canoe trail-cutter. Canoe trail system developed over the next two years. |
| 1960 | Leaves and debris were removed around base of cabin to prevent fire. |
| 1971 | Initiation of canoe trail system. The cabin was one of the overnight stops used by canoeists. |

| | |
|------|--|
| 1974 | Cooperative Agreement between Boy Scout Troop 123 and the Refuge over the repair and maintenance of the cabin. The cabin described as "dilapidated" and "run-down and with the roof on the porch gone." The Refuge agreed to provide materials; the scouts to repair, restore, and maintain the cabin. Roof of the front porch repaired; rotted back porch removed and replaced. Fireplace repaired. Foundation pillars replaced with concrete supports. The Troop removed the Cook's House. |
| 1978 | New galvanized tin roof installed on cabin by the troop. Replaced one of asphalt shingles. By 1978, the cabin became an overnight stop on wilderness canoe trips through the Swamp. |
| 1986 | Central chimney and fireplace removed and replaced by new brick chimney built by the troop. |
| 1995 | Boy Scouts of Troop 123 and Refuge volunteers replaced rotting cypress shingles at the rear of the cabin's west side in September 1995. |

The Cook's House

The Cook's House was a small frame building which sat on wood posts (Map 4; Photos 11 & 12). It stood just east of the cabin. The structure was sided with clapboards. The gable roof was covered with cypress shingles. A small shed porch can be seen at the front entrance on Photo 12. Windows flank the doorway; a window on each gable elevation. Boy Scout Troop 123 removed the structure in 1974.

Billy Spaulding's House & Garden

Daniel Hebard employed Spaulding as a caretaker between 1925-1937. Spaulding's frame house was located approximately 100 meters east of the Hebard Cabin (Map 4). The house sat on wood posts and had vertical plank siding with a gable end entry (Photo 8). The garden was located between the cabin and the boat basin on the island's east side. Large loblolly or "old field" pines have grown up within its boundary.

Guide Huts

Two or three frame guide huts were located along the path between Spaulding's house and the cabin between 1926-29.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

Area of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

X Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

Recreation
Industry
Conservation

Period of Significance

1901-1937

Significant Dates

1901
1925
1937

Significant Persons
(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder Daniel L. Hebard

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

The Okefenokee Swamp was designated as a "Wetland of International Importance" in 1986. The Okefenokee is an excellent example of a large regional wetland complex possessing a significant diversity of habitats. This recognition highlights the Swamp's importance for wildlife and the exploitation by people of its vast array of natural resources. The Swamp has played an important role in many groups' history and folklore. Floyds Island and the Hebard Cabin typify the late 19th - mid-20th century commercial, scientific, and recreational uses of the Swamp.

Logging the Swamp

The State of Georgia sold approximately 238,120 acres of the Swamp to the Suwanee Canal Company for \$63,101.80 in 1891. Later transactions brought the total acreage to about 258,239 acres. This company attempted to drain the Swamp as well as to float out millions of feet of timber. The company president and principal promoter, Captain Henry Jackson, died in 1895. The venture collapsed in 1897. Pope Barrow, representing members of the Jackson family, purchased the property from the court for \$130,000 in 1899.

With the depletion of white pine timber in New England and the Great Lakes area and the development of industrial wetland logging technology at the end of the 19th century, the large untapped stands of cypress and longleaf pine attracted the attention of large lumber barons, such as Charles Hebard of Philadelphia. The Hebard family purchased the Jackson Estate property in 1901 for \$175,000. Additional acreage was acquired in 1902. Charles Hebard died in June 1902. His sons, Charles S. Hebard and Daniel L. Hebard, formed the Hebard Lumber Company of Georgia in 1904. The company leased their timber rights to the Hebard Cypress Company of West Virginia which was organized in 1908. A large cypress sawmill was built at Hebardville near Waycross and a railroad was constructed to the northwest side of the Swamp. The Hebard Cypress Company began logging operations in 1909. Logging railroads and spurs were constructed throughout the Swamp, including Floyds Island, to facilitate removal of the cypress and pine logs (Map 3). By 1918, the company had built a small logging community on north end of Billys Island. About 600 individuals and families occupied the village until 1926. By 1919, Hebard Cypress Company had cut most of the merchantable cypress timber in the Swamp's northwestern section and began to harvest timber around Billys Island. The logging railroad was extended to Floyds Island by 1922. Harvested timber was transported via rail to Hebardville.

As the Hebard family was logging cypress in the center of the Okefenokee, other companies logged pine and cypress on its periphery. The Americus Manufacturing Company purchased lands in the southwestern section of the Swamp and built a sawmill at Council in 1910. They logged cypress in this section until 1926. The Twin-Tree Lumber Company of Alabama built a pine sawmill in Hopkins, a former logging camp of the Hebard Cypress Company, in 1917. The company leased pine timber stands from the Hebard Cypress Company. They used the Hebard railroad to haul pine logs from many islands - Billys, Minnies, Honey, Blackjack - to the Hopkins mill. Twin Tree built a logging camp on the end of the Pocket in 1918. These two companies employed 1600-2000 men. The Twin Tree Lumber Company leased the turpentine rights to pines on Billys Island and other uplands to the Darling Turpentine Company in 1919. Twin Tree Lumber Company cut the pines in 1921.

John M. Hopkins served as the Hebard Cypress Company's General Superintendent between 1908-1920. He was succeeded by A. J. Armstrong and H.S. Quarterman. Hopkins was employed as an agent for the Company until 1937. Hopkins' description of the Swamp in his memoir, *45 Years with the Okefenokee Swamp*, and his subsequent experiences as timber cruiser and superintendent for the Hebard Cypress Company as well as McQueen and Mizell's *History of Okefenokee Swamp* reflect the Swamp's importance and how it has stamped an indelible impression on its inhabitants and casual visitors. Hopkins described a variety of habitats during his timber cruises as well as the home sites of the Lees and Chessers. He estimated that 400,000,000 board feet of cypress timber were available for commercial harvest - an amount which the Hebard family felt warranted the expenditure of funds for camps and logging railroads (Map 2).

The Hebard Cypress Company harvested cypress, pine, red bay, swamp black gum, white bay, maple, live oak, and sweet gum for timber and pulp between 1908-1927. The sweet gum was used for pulp. The pines of Billys, Bugaboo, and Chesser Islands, and near Camp Cornelia produced gum used for spirits, turpentine, and resin. Table 2 gives Hopkins' estimate of the harvest by the Hebard Cypress Company, Twin Tree Lumber Company, and other companies that leased timber rights from the Hebard Lumber Company. Hopkins' statistics were derived from company records available when he was writing his memoirs in 1943-45. The figures apparently do not include the harvest of the American Manufacturing Company, G.S. Baxter Lumber Company, K3S Lumber Company, Johnson & Sons Lumber Company, Braganza Lumber Company, and Knabb. The figures may be as much as 30-40% low, a fact confirmed by the late Ralph Davis.

Table 2. Estimated Harvest by Lumber Companies, 1908-1927.

| Product | Amount |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Cypress | 325,000,000 feet |
| Pine | 98,000,000 feet |
| Red Bay | 450,000 feet |
| Swamp Black Gum | 50,000 feet |
| White Bay | 25,000 feet |
| Maple | 35,000 feet |
| Live Oak | 35,000 feet |
| Sweet Gum | 5,000 feet |
| Total | 423,600,000 feet |
| Cypress Crossties | 700,000 |
| Spirits of Turpentine | 12,000 barrels |
| Rosin | 30,000 barrels |

Miles of temporary spur lines ran from the main rail line into profitable stands of cypress timber. After numerous attempts at different methods of construction, the company found that driving piling 16-21 feet long worked best. Steam-powered Lidgerwood overhead skidders moved the harvested logs to areas adjacent to the spur lines. Cranes mounted on rail cars loaded the logs onto flatbeds (Photos 2-5).

Cypress in the timber bay east of Floyds Island was cut between 1923-1926. The Hebard Cypress Company employed Cary "Kay" Tatum and Ray Kinlaw to cut and haul the pines to the railroad with their mules and timber carts. In 1922, the Hebard's logging railroad extended to Floyds Island. Over the next two years, spur lines were built into the cypress bays around the south end of the island. One extended eastward from the island across the bay between Chase Prairie and Territory Prairie. The cypress timber around the island was exhausted by 1925. The Hebard Cypress Company logged the longleaf pines on the island north of the hammock in 1925. The pines on the hammock were cut that same year. The company spent almost two years gleaning stands along the railroad that they had bypassed over the years. It ceased logging operations and closed the Hebardville mill in 1927. The company relinquished their lease to the Hebard Lumber Company in 1929.

In 1929, Hebard Lumber Company registered their lands in the Okefenokee. They sold timber, turpentine, and crosstie leases to a number of companies until 1936. Most of these were along the eastern rim of the Swamp.

The Hebard Camp - Hunting and Uncle Billy

The Hebard Camp was built in 1925 prior to the removal of the logging rail lines. The Hebard family spent several weeks duck hunting and fishing each year staying at the Floyds Island camp until 1935. Hopkins and T. H. Colson often accompanied the family, the latter serving as a hunting guide. Other guides included Harry Chesser and Gad Rodenberry. The Hebard's interest in the Swamp's conservation took seed during these hunting trips. The cabin served as a major stopover for scientists conducting research on the Swamp's biota as well as congressional delegations examining potential wildlife preserves (see below). Local groups sometimes picnicked on the island. Billy Spaulding was employed as a caretaker from 1925-1937. One writer described Spaulding as "Georgia's loneliest man."

Floyds Island was reached by pole boat from the end of the Suwanee Canal across Floyds Island Prairie. On the east side of the island, a logging spur line ran approximately 4,000 feet to the edge of Chase Prairie. The rails had been removed from trestles - two piles topped with a cross-tie - after the cypress and loblolly bay was cut. The Hebard's constructed a narrow boardwalk on the abandoned trestles in 1926. They also blasted a shallow boat run parallel to the boardwalk at the same time. A small storage platform and shed was erected at the Chase Prairie end.

Marmaduke Floyd photographed the cabin complex during a January 1929 hunting trip - one photo shows Uncle Billy Spaulding's chicken yard, his house, guide shacks, Hebard cabin, and boathouse. Other photos are of Spaulding, the cabin, traps, and guides Gad Rodenberry and Hamp Colson. Hebard fed, as well as hunted, the ducks. In 1929, he fed them 600 bushels of corn. A small shed, the "Corn Box," was built at the inlet into Chase Prairie from the north fork of Suwanee Canal to store the corn brought by boat from Camp Cornelia. The 1981 drought exposed the Corn Box's floor resting on the peat in the prairie about 50 meters from the Canal. A latticed walkway from one of Hebard's duck blinds crosses the Refuge's canoe trail a few hundred meters north of the Corn Box.

Spaulding was hired by Hebard as caretaker in 1925. He lived in seclusion allegedly to escape his wife and family. His solitude was interrupted by occasional visits by Hebard employees bringing supplies, newspapers, and duck food and rare visits by the Hebards and their friends. Hebard paid him a small salary and permitted him to trap and fish. Spaulding's summer activities included tending his garden, flock of chickens, and pigs. W. L. Chancy's suggestion that he needed feminine company was greeted with derision - "That's exactly what I don't need. I get along all right with my chickens, garden and trapping and fishing, and I love to read. I'm not lonely or lonesome, and I've found out that where women are there is usually trouble. No, I don't want any woman in here." Spaulding originally came to the Swamp as a timber girdler and apparently was employed as one for around 16 or 17 years until 1925. His cabin was 10 feet by 20 feet. Nearby were his chickens and vegetable garden. His watermelon patch was 1.25 miles away at Kay Tatum's old mule shed. Spaulding left the island shortly after the creation of the Refuge in 1937.

Between 1927-1937, the edges of the Swamp were gleaned for timber by small lumber companies; the Swamp's interior and Floyds Island served as the Hebard family hunting preserve. Hunting, trapping, and fishing provided subsistence and cash for many of the Swamp's inhabitants. The Hebard Lumber Company did not charge for fishing or hunting privileges on their holdings. The company granted Hamp Mizell such privileges in return for his "protection of the property" on the west side of the Hebard holdings. He sold trapping privileges as well as operated a boat rental business on Billys Lake. Trappers took racoons, otters, wild cats, skunks, and alligators. John Hopkins stated that "duck hunting was well worth the preparation, hardships and time required of the sportsman." Deer was hunted on a number of the Swamp's islands, including Floyds Island, using dogs (Photo 7). Daniel Hebard kept shooting records of his and guests' takes from 1926-1936. Frederick V. Hebard published a summary of the waterfowl and game bird takes in his 1941 article, "Winter Birds of the Okefenokee and Coleraine."

Conservation Efforts and Scientific Research

Roland M. Harper began to push for recognition of the value of the Okefenokee Swamp and other wetlands in 1908 and 1909. He heralded the importance of wetlands as headwaters for streams, refuges for wildlife against extermination by hunters, laboratories for research on natural resources, and for their beauty. The Okefenokee Society was organized in 1919 to promote efforts to create a preserve. The Georgia Society of Naturalists launched a campaign in 1929 to persuade the federal government to acquire the Swamp as a wildlife preserve. Between 1912-22 and in 1954, several teams of Cornell University biologists conducted scientific investigations in Okefenokee. In 1915, S.W. McCallie, the State Geologist, explored the Swamp and Floyds Island (Photo 1). Francis Harper conducted research from 1912 until 1959. The Georgia Society of Naturalists focused on the natural history of the Swamp during 1930s.

In 1902, Roland M. Harper and P. L. Ricker conducted a botanical survey of the Suwanee Canal and Bugaboo Island. A Cornell University biological survey team visited Floyds Island in 1912. Albert H. Wright, a member of the Cornell survey team, collected turtles, snakes, and birds. Francis Harper visited Billys Island, Suwanee Canal, and Chesser Island in 1916 and Floyd's Island in 1917. Harper photographed and recorded the island's vegetation. His photographs were used by the Okefenokee Society in 1919 to promote the preservation of the Swamp as a government reservation. Harper, in a 1920 *Natural History* article, argued that Floyds Island should serve as a nucleus of a wilderness area. The island was described as "the most diversified, and in some respects the most interesting of all the islands." Conservation concerns were heightened by 1922 as other areas of the Swamp with commercial yields of timber began to be harvested.

The Okefenokee Society, organized in 1919, sought to establish or acquire a preserve of "pristine wilderness" on and around Floyds Island in response to the extensive logging occurring throughout the Swamp. Their efforts received little public support and foundered after the death of Dr. J. F. Wilson of Waycross, the Society's secretary. The Okefenokee Swamp Association under direction of Dr. George McDonnell, was also unable to sustain much interest in conservation of the Swamp in the 1920s. Francis Harper, attempting to save Floyds Island as a wilderness area, also failed to prevent the extension of the logging railroad to it and its subsequent logging.

During the late 1920s, the Hebards' duck hunting and bird watching were publicized in a number of national magazines, such as *The Atlantic Monthly*, *Forum*, *World's Work*, and *Good Housekeeping*, as well as regional newspapers. Daniel Hebard's utilization of the Swamp followed the pattern of many early 20th century wealthy industrialists and landowners - they exploited the wilderness for its resources, in this instance - cypress and pine timber; they established private hunting and fishing preserves, and finally turned to support public conservation efforts. In 1931, Hebard built a lodge at Coleraine on the St. Marys River. It was his winter home until his death in 1941. His interest in and support in local conservation efforts grew during the 1930s. He permitted members of the Georgia Society of Naturalists to use the Floyds Island cabin for frequent field trips in the 1930s. The 1934 field trip studied two areas on the island: the hammock near the lodge and an area of sand scrub where palmettos and scrub oak were predominant vegetation. Francis Harper, studying wildlife around Camp Cornelia in 1929, also briefly explored Bugaboo and Floyds Islands. He found that Hebard's timber harvest had left little of the hammock intact, but the nearby sand scrub had been little affected. Chase and Floyds Prairies were the same as ever.

Margaret Ashley visited the island accompanied by Marmaduke Floyd, Mrs. Deloris Colquitt (future bride of Marmaduke), Rutherford (a photographer), and Gad Rodenberry (a local guide) in 1929. Ashley was conducting a state-wide archaeological survey as well as assisting W.K. Moorehead with excavations at the Etowah Mounds. She examined the large mound (9Cr2) bisected by the logging railroad. The construction uncovered an extended human burial which was locally attributed to a giant. The low flat-topped mound was approximately 300 feet in diameter. She collected some of the bone and ceramics seen in spoil piles. Another mound, circa 70 feet in diameter, was recorded 700 feet north of Spaulding's cabin. She walked northeast along sand ridge for a couple of miles and came to a third mound. The ridge was covered by shoulder-high broom sedge and scrub palmetto. Ashley proceeded to a fourth mound, which Spaulding called "Lord of the Wilderness." Two miles from this mound was a moon- or horseshoe-shaped elevation about 170 feet in diameter. En route to "Half Moon" she passed a previously unrecorded mound, made of white sand like all the rest. Boy Scouts from Albany visited island in 1924 and excavated one of the mounds. They recovered beads, arrowheads, pottery, shells, and two skeletons. Cornelius Osgood, an archaeologist from Yale University, tested the Red Ant, Buzzard, and Hooping Crane Mounds in 1933. The mounds' exact locations on Floyds Island are unknown, but may correspond to 9Cr2 (Southwest Mound Site) and 9Cr55 (Nuss Mound). Two silicified coral flakes were recovered from 9Cr36 (Uncle Billys Old Field Site). Osgood's archaeological collection which consisted of 175 ceramic sherds and two heat treated silicified coral flakes were donated to the Peabody Museum of National History at Yale. Goggin (1952), Willey (1949), and Trowell (1979) have studied the ceramics. Goggin believed that the presence of chalky St. Johns sherds indicated the presence of the St. Johns Culture in the Swamp. Willey felt that the Swamp was the northeastern limit of Weeden Island Culture region. Trowell's ongoing archaeological and documentary investigations of the Swamp indicates that Native American groups heavily utilized its resources from approximately 2500 B.C. to the mid-19th century.

In 1929, the Georgia Society of Naturalists, with support from Hebard, his son - Frederick V. Hebard, and agent John M. Hopkins, re-initiated the campaign to persuade the government to buy Hebard Lumber Company property. The cabin and hammock served as a focal point from which the Society refreshed their enthusiasm for their efforts. Their members also met at the cabin on Floyds Island periodically to study natural history and discuss conservation plans.

The U.S. Senate Committee on Wildlife began consideration of areas for purchase as wildlife refuges in the 1930s. The committee visited the Okefenokee in March 1931 with Paul Reddington, chief of the U.S. Biological Survey, and Gilbert Pearson, president of the National Audubon Society. They stayed at the Hebard Camp as they toured other parts of the Swamp. James Silver, Regional Director of the U.S. Biological Survey, evaluated Okefenokee's potential as a refuge in 1935. As negotiations with the Hebards were in progress, J. Clark Salyer II, chief of Migratory Waterfowl Division, wrote Lucien Harris, Jr., president of the Georgia Society of Naturalists, and urged him to oppose efforts for construction of a scenic highway across the Swamp. The U.S. Government acquired an option to buy Hebard's holdings in March 1936. On November 30, 1936, the U.S. Biological Survey assumed management of the Hebard property. The Refuge was established March 30, 1937. John Hopkins was appointed the agent-in-charge of the Biological Survey property and then the first Refuge Manager in 1937. One company of the Civilian Conservation Corps arrived in 1938 to aid in the development of the Refuge's facilities.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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Thrift, J. Luther, Waycross, Georgia. Interviewed by C. T. Trowell, 1977-1993.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 111

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | | | |
|-------|---------|----------|-------|---------|----------|
| 1) 17 | 378500 | 3414200 | 2) 17 | 379400 | 3414800 |
| Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing |

3) 17 379500 3414200
Zone Easting Northing

4) 17 378500 3413900
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Starting from Point 1 (as seen on the Billys Island quad), which is 700 feet north-northwest of 9Cr2 (Floyds Island Mound), the line runs 3500 feet along the island's edge to Point 2. Point 2 is 800 feet northwest of the U.S.G.S. 126 foot contour benchmark. The line runs south 2000 feet to Point 3, which is located in a loblolly bay swamp. Point 3 is 1625 feet southeast of the above mentioned benchmark. The line then runs west-southwest for 3400 feet through the swamp along the southern edge of the island to Point 4. Point 4 is west of the Chase Prairie canoe landing and 200 feet south-southwest of 9Cr2. The lines continues 1000 feet north to Point 1 crossing the island west of 9Cr2.

Boundary Description

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

The boundaries were delineated to encompass the historic camp complex, associated activity areas, and portions of the logging railroad and spurs. Two prehistoric mounds - the Floyds Island Mound and the Nuss Mound - are located within the boundaries of the camp complex. The early 19th century Seminole village torched by General Charles R. Floyd in 1838 may also be located within these limits. The boundaries were drawn to ensure that these archaeological sites would be included. Unfortunately, the level of scientific investigation and assessment is presently insufficient to warrant their inclusion as contributing properties.

11. Form prepared by

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city or town Savannah *state* Georgia *zip code* 31405
email richard_kanaski@fws.gov

12. Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

1. Section of Billys Island, Georgia quadrangle showing the approximate boundaries of the Floyds Island National Register property (U.S.G.S. 1994).
2. Section of the 1941 plat of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge marked by Hopkins to show merchantable timber, cut-over areas, scrub areas, former Indian villages, and "houses" constructed of good cypress (January 1945).
3. Section of the 1941 plat of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge showing Hebard Cypress Company and Twin Tree Lumber Company railroads (Hopkins 1945).
4. Floyds Island, Sketch Map, 1994.
5. Floorplan of Hebard Cabin, 1994.
6. Floorplan of the Cabin which shows the locations of Aicher's 1994 interior photographs.

Photographs

1. S. W. McCallie, J. E. Brantly, and one of the Lee boys camping on the Floyds Island, March 1915. [RG 50-2-33. Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta, Georgia]

2. Main line in Okefenokee between the Swamp's edge and Cravens Hammock constructed with a pile driver - 10" caps (hewed 2 sides) fastened to piles with 5/8 iron drift bolts - 7 bents to 39 foot rail (Hopkins, *45 Years with the Okefenokee Swamp* 1947; RG-50-2-33, S. W. McCallie, March 1915, Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta, Georgia).
3. Beginning "cribbing" track in virgin cypress in Okefenokee, 1909 (Hopkins, *45 Years with the Okefenokee Swamp*, 1947).
4. One method of railroad construction in Okefenokee, foundation ready for stringers (Hopkins, *45 Years with the Okefenokee Swamp*, 1947).
5. First Log, 1909. Overhead skidder cleans up about 28 acres from one spar or "head tree." Pulls in and loads logs at the same time (Photo by Dolan, Waycross, Georgia and in Hopkins, *45 Years with the Okefenokee Swamp*, 1947).
6. View of the railroad across Floyds Island (McQueen and Mizell 1926).
7. Results of a day's hunt on Floyds Island. From right to left are Hamp Mizell, Dr. W. T. Revis, John M. Hopkins, Sam Mizell, Perry Barber, N. Godwin, and Alex Quarterman (McQueen and Mizell, 1926).
8. Uncle Billy Spaulding (left), at his little home on Floyds Island in the Okefenokee swamp (McQueen, *Atlanta Journal*, 1927).
9. Mr. Dan Hebard's Hunting Lodge on Floyds Island. Billy Spaulding is sitting on the steps. The Cook's Cabin is on the right (Hill, "Okefenokee Swamp," *Inspection News*, April 1929).
10. Hunting lodge in grove of live oaks and magnolias on Floyds Island. Members of the visiting Senate Committee on Wildlife at the lodge, 1931 (Hopkins, *45 Years with the Okefenokee Swamp*, 1947).
11. Once a hunting lodge, now an abandoned camp on desolate Floyds Island (Bisson, *Savannah Morning News*, March 16, 1958). The Cook's Cabin is on the right.
12. The Hebard Cabin on Floyds Island, Summer 1956. The Cook's Cabin is on the right (ONWR, Narrative Report, Sept.-Dec. 1957).
13. Cook's Cabin, looking north, in 1957. It was torn down in 1974 (ONWR, Narrative Report, Sept.-Dec. 1957; Costello to Burkhart, April 30, 1993).
14. Rear view of the Hebard Cabin in 1957. Note that the back porch extended to the rear of the house in 1957. It was removed and replaced in 1974 (ONWR, Narrative Report, Sept.-Dec. 1957; Costello to Burkhart, April 30, 1993).
15. Hebard Cabin, looking east. The back porch has been removed and replaced by a small stoop (ONWR, 38-OKE-70, Narrative Report, 1979).
16. Boardwalk from Floyds Island to Chase Prairie, ca. 1929 (Charles Bassett Photographic Collection).
17. The privy, not a contributing structure, located behind the Hebard Cabin (Trowell, December 1994). This privy has been removed. A new one has been built on the site of Uncle Billy's chicken yard near the Chase Prairie Canoe Landing.
18. Interior of the Hebard Cabin - looking across the living room toward the west bedroom and kitchen [G1 on Map 6] (ONWR, Jeff Aicher, October 1994).
19. Interior of the Hebard Cabin - west wall of the living room. Note the roofing trusses and purlin (ONWR, Jeff Aicher, October 1994).
20. Interior of the Hebard Cabin - fireplace in living room (ONWR, Jeff Aicher, October 1994).
21. Interior of the Hebard Cabin - west room, looking north [H on Map 6] (ONWR, Jeff Aicher, October 1994).
22. Interior of the Hebard Cabin - kitchen, looking northwest [I on Map 6]. The closed door leads to the pantry (ONWR, Jeff Aicher, October 1994).

Additional Items

Supplement A - Trowell, C.T. "Seeking a Sanctuary: A Chronicle of Efforts to Preserve the Okefenokee" 1998.

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 4
Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

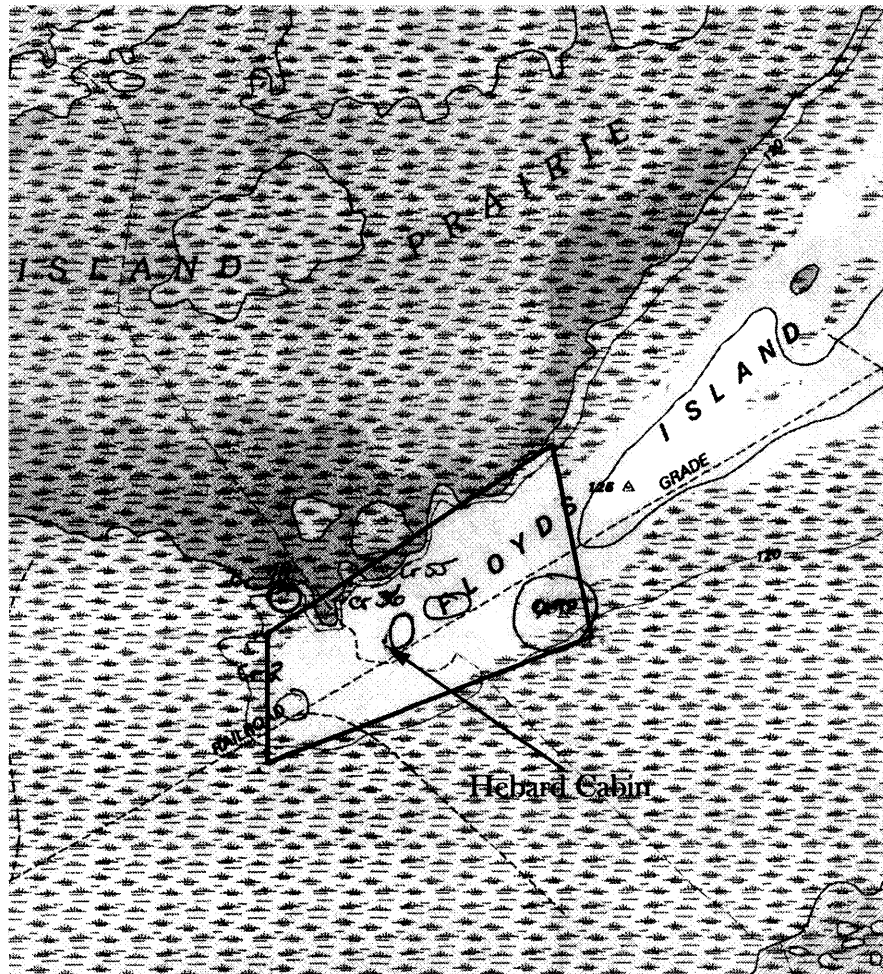
street & number Route 2, Box 3330
city or town Folkston

telephone (912) 496-7366
state Georgia

zip code 31537

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

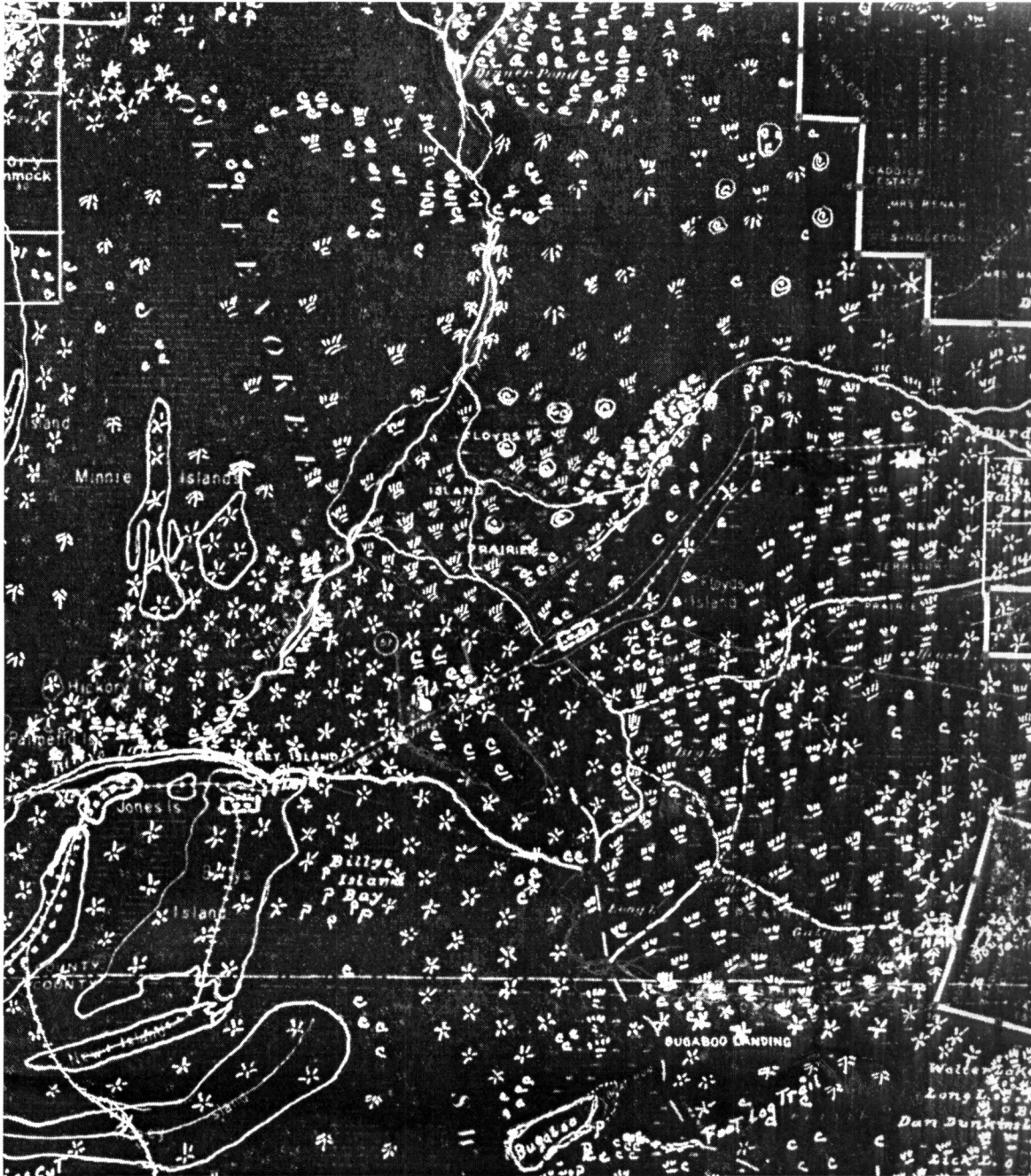
Map 1.



Section of Billys Island, Georgia quadrangle showing the approximate boundaries of the Floyd's Island National Register property (U.S.G.S. 1994).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

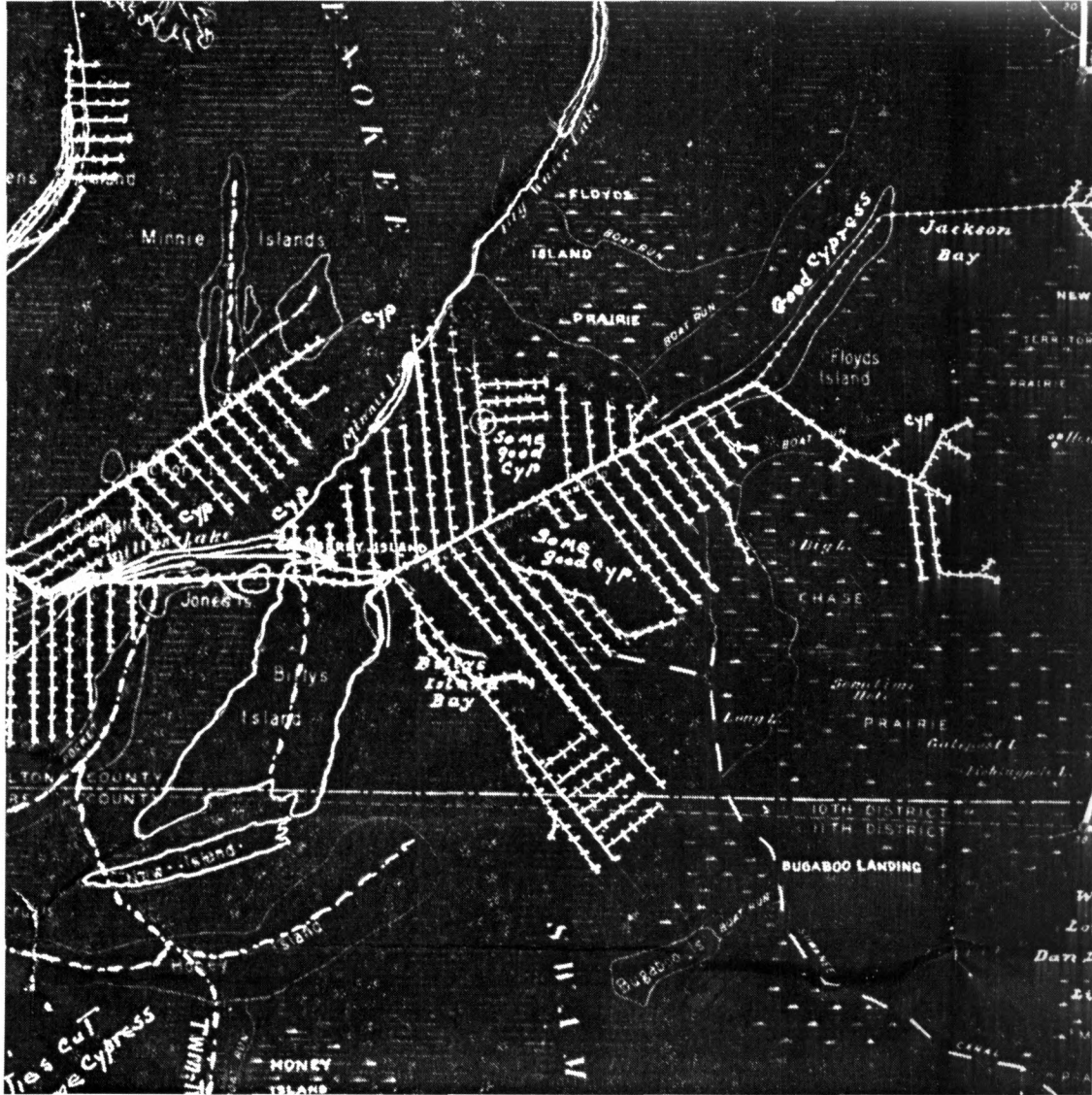
Map 2.



Section of the 1941 plat of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge marked by Hopkins to show merchantable timber, cut-over areas, scrub areas, former Indian villages, and remaining stands of good cypress (January 1945).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

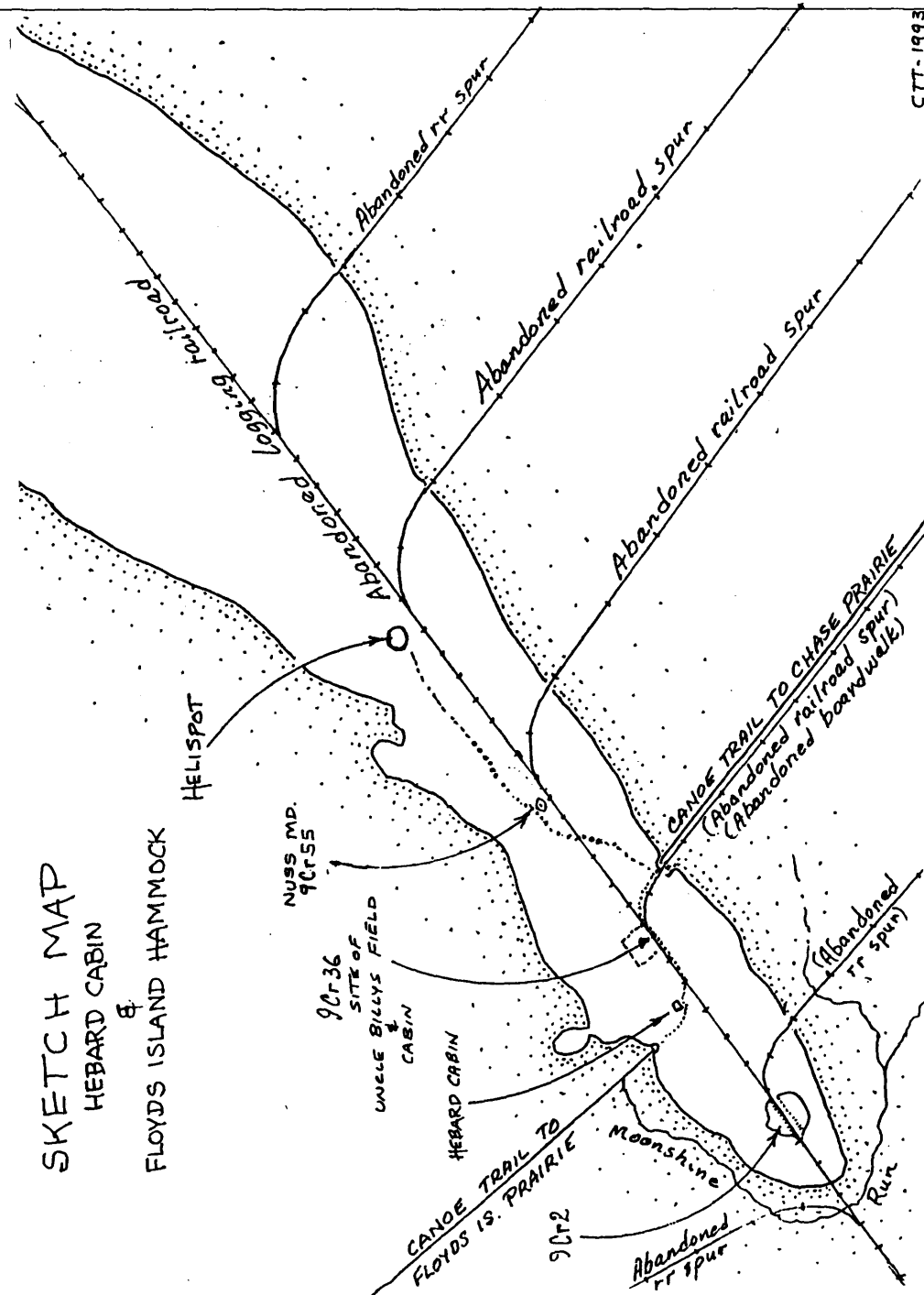
Map 3.



Section of the 1941 plat of the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge showing Hebard Cypress Company and Twin Tree Lumber Company railroads (Hopkins 1945).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

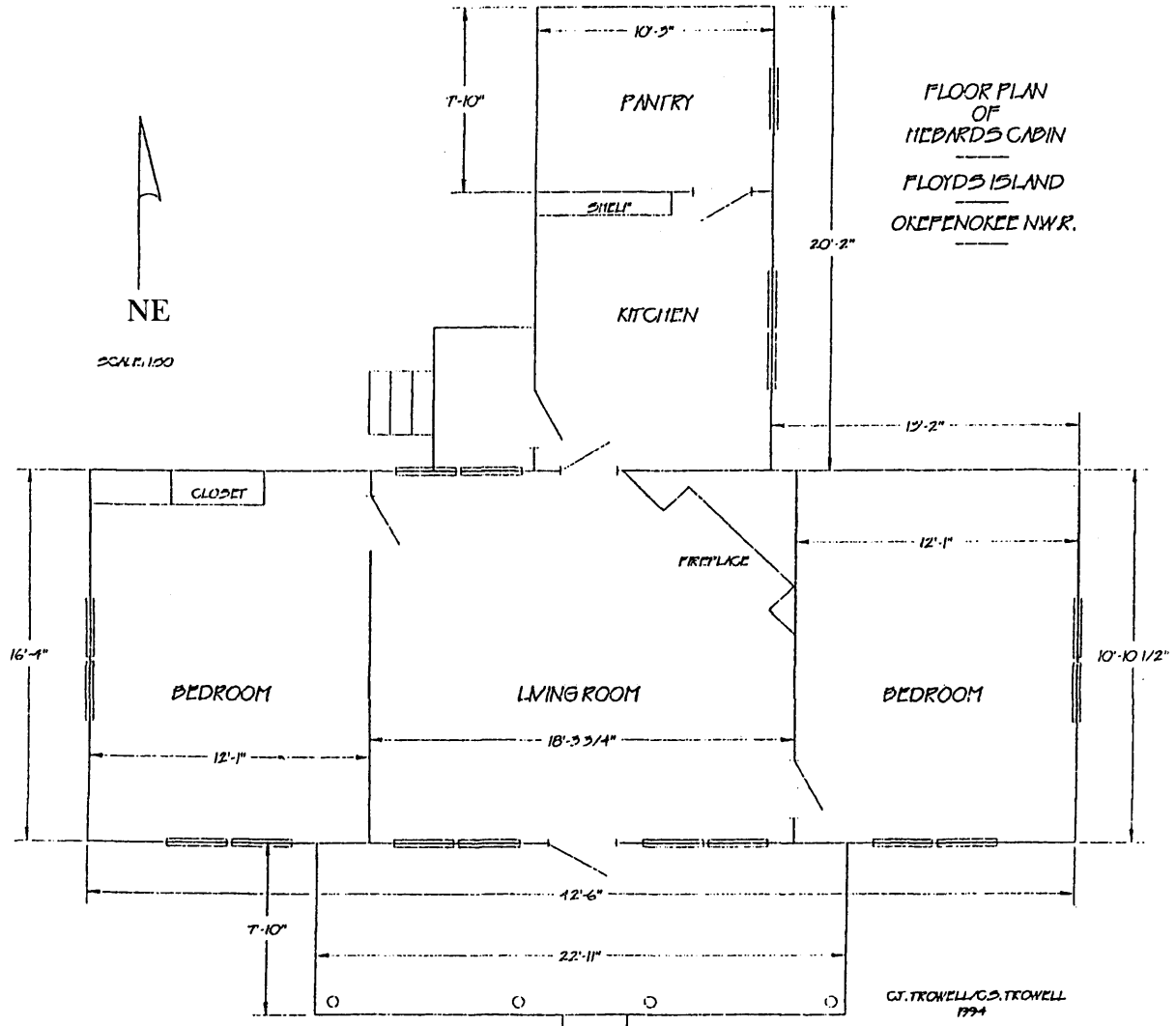
Map 4.



Floyds Island, Sketch Map, 1993.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

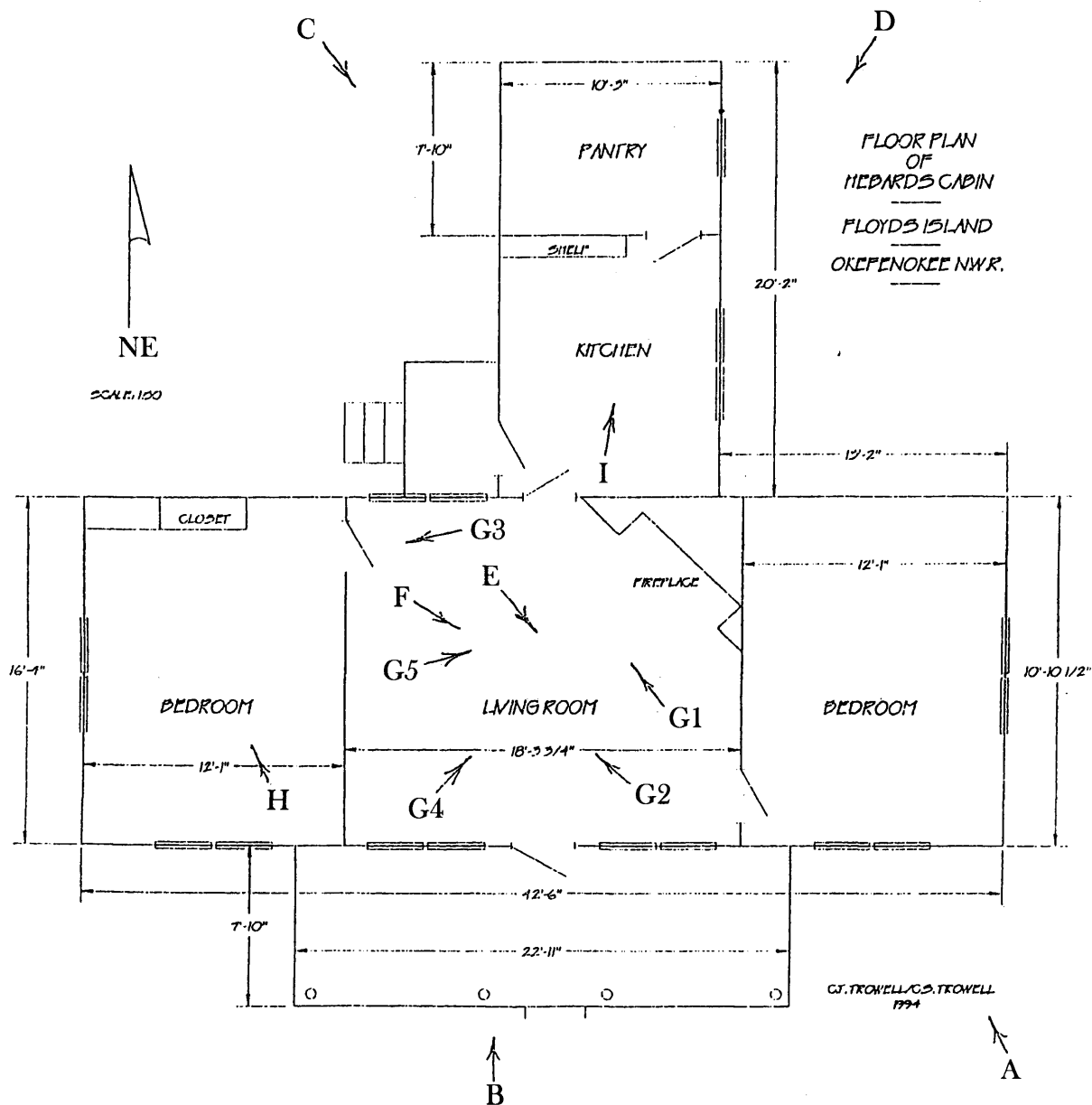
Map 5.



Floorplan of Hebard Cabin, 1994.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Map 6.



Floorplan of the Cabin which shows the location of Aicher's 1994 interior photographs.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photo 1.



S.W. McCallie, J.E. Brantly, and one of the Lee boys camping on Floyds Island, March 1915 (R.G 50-2-33.
Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta, Georgia).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photo 2.



Main line in Okefenokee between the Swamp's edge and Cravens Hammock constructed with a pile driver - 10" caps (hewn 2 sides) fastened to piles with $\frac{3}{8}$ " iron drift bolts - 7 bents to 39-foot rail (Hopkins, *45 Years with the Okefenokee Swamp*, 1947; RG-50-2-33, S.W. McCallie, March 1915, Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta, Georgia).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photo 3.



Beginning "cribbing" track in virgin cypress in Okefenokee, 1909 (Hopkins, *45 Years with the Okefenokee Swamp*, 1947).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photo 4.



One method of railroad construction in Okefenokee, foundation ready for stringers (Hopkins, *45 Years with the Okefenokee Swamp*, 1947).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photo 5.



First Log, 1909. Overhead skidder cleans up about 28 acres from one spar or "head tree." Pulls in and loads logs at the same time (Photo by Dolan, Waycross, Georgia and in Hopkins, *45 Years with the Okefenokee Swamp*, 1947).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photo 6.



View of the railroad across Floyd's Island (McQueen and Mizell 1926).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

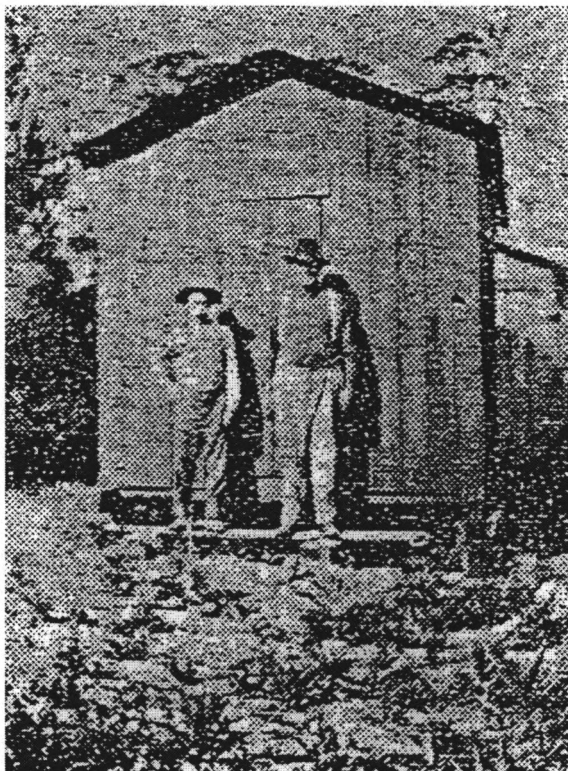
Photo 7.



Results of a day's hunt on Floyds Island. From right to left are Hamp Mizell, Dr. W. T. Revis, John M. Hopkins, Sam Mizell, Perry Barber, N. Godwin, and Alex Quarterman (McQueen and Mizell, 1926).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photo 8.



Uncle Billy Spaulding (left), at his little home on Floyds Island in the Okefenokee swamp (McQueen, *Atlanta Journal*, 1927).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

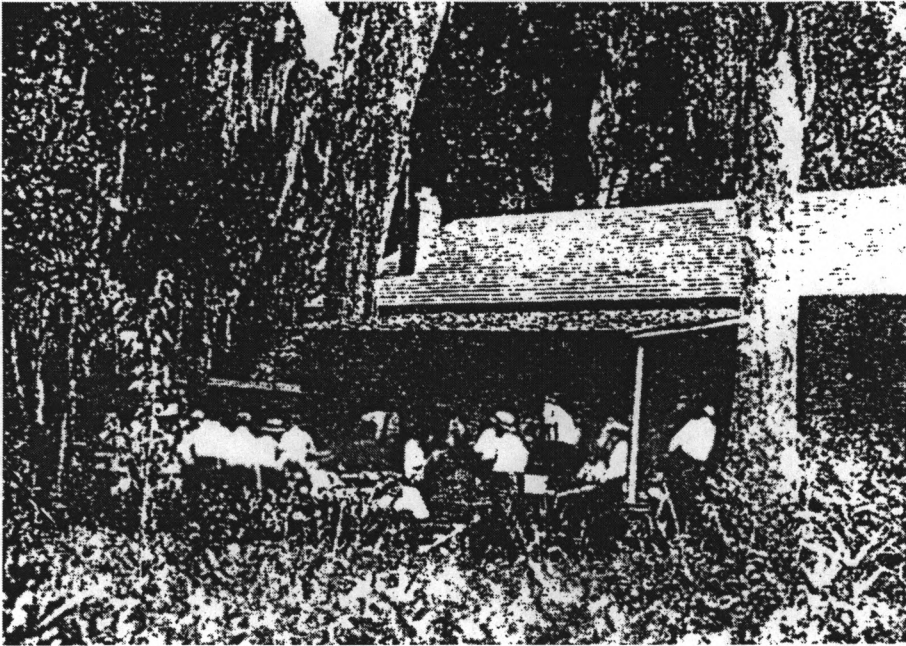
Photo 9.



Mr. Dan Hebard's Hunting Lodge on Floyds Island. Billy Spaulding is sitting on the steps. The Cook's Cabin is on the right (Hill, "Okefenokee Swamp," *Inspection News*, April 1929).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

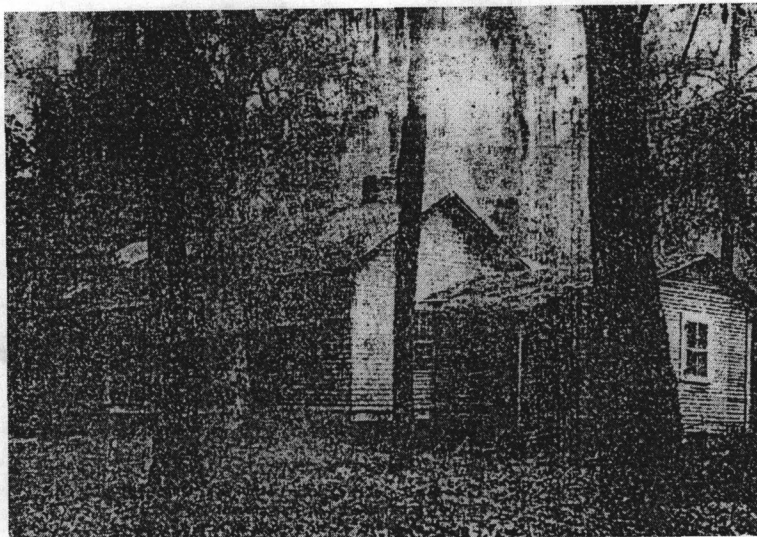
Photo 10.



Hunting lodge in grove of live oaks and magnolias on Floyds Island. Members of the visiting Senate Committee on Wildlife at the lodge, 1931 (Hopkins, *45 Years with the Okefenokee Swamp*, 1947).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

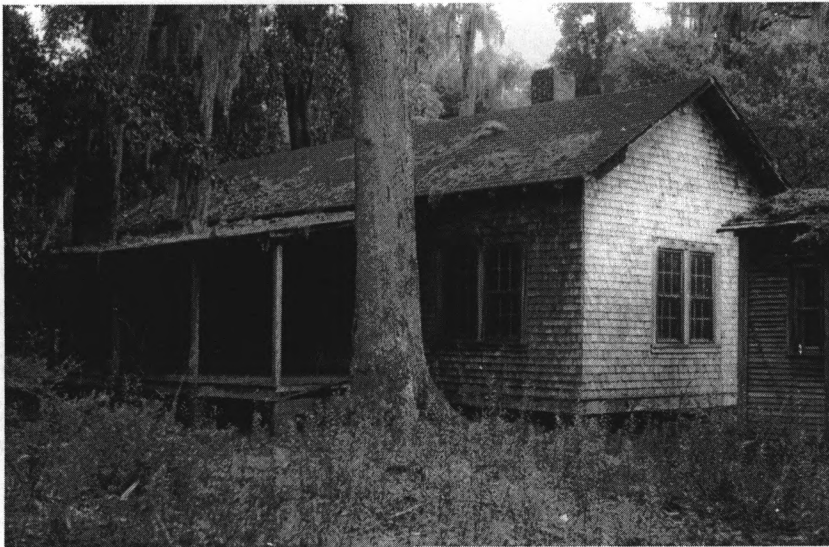
Photo 11.



Once a hunting lodge, now an abandoned camp on desolate Floyds Island (Bisson, *Savannah Morning News*, March 16, 1958). The Cook's Cabin is on the right.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photo 12.



The Hebard Cabin on Floyds Island, Summer 1956. The Cook's Cabin is on the right (ONWR, Narrative Report, Sept.-Dec. 1957).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photo 13.



Cook's Cabin, looking north, in 1957. It was torn down in 1974 (ONWR, Narrative Report, Sept.-Dec. 1957; Costello to Burkhart, April 30, 1993).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

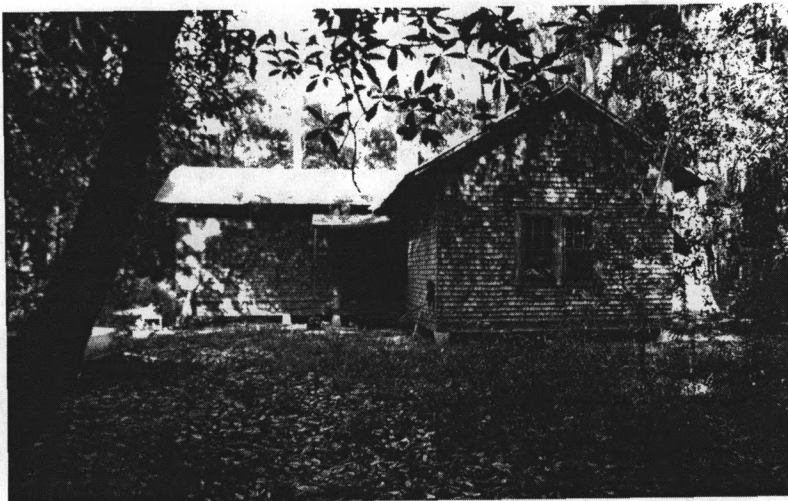
Photo 14.



Rear view of the Hebard Cabin, 1957. Note that the back porch extended to the rear of the house in 1957. It was removed and replaced in 1974 (ONWR, Narrative Report, Sept.-Dec. 1957; Costello to Burkhart, April 30, 1993).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

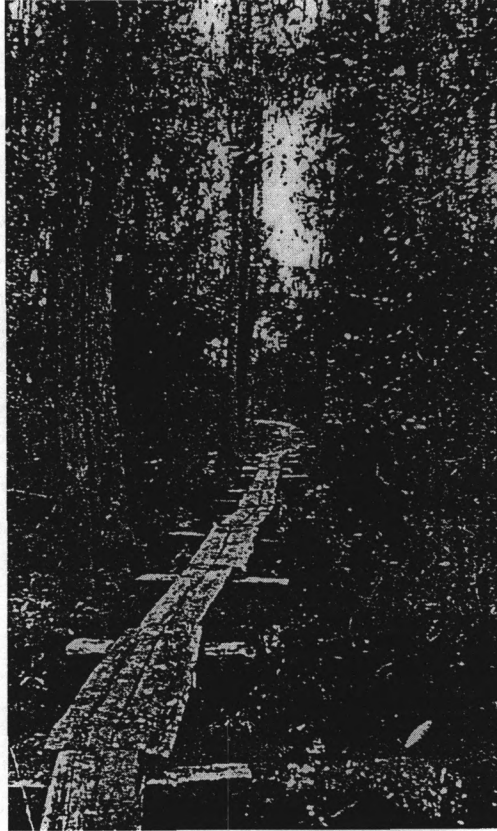
Photo 15.



Hebard Cabin, looking east. The back porch has been removed and replaced by a small stoop (ONWR, 38-OKE-70, Narrative Report, 1979).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photo 16.



Boardwalk from Floyds Island to Chase Prairie, ca. 1929 (Charles Bassett Photographic Collection).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photo 17.



The privy, not a contributing structure, located behind the Hebard Cabin (Trowell, December 1994). This privy has been removed. A new one has been built on the site of Uncle Billy's chicken yard near the Chase Prairie Canoe Landing.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

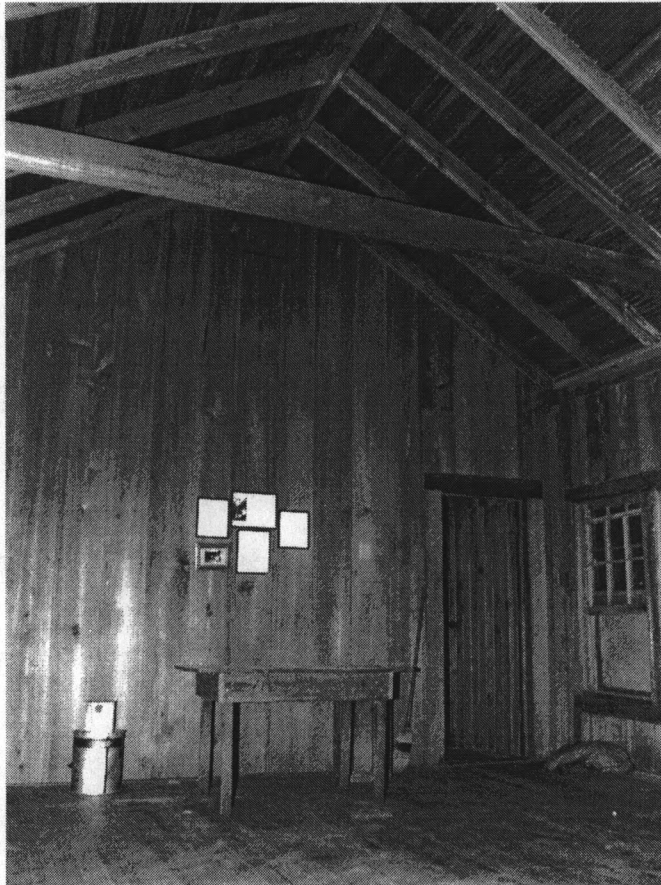
Photo 18.



Interior of the Hebard Cabin - looking across the living room toward the west bedroom and kitchen [G1 on Map 6] (ONWR, Jeff Aicher, October 1994).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photo 19.



Interior of the Hebard Cabin - west wall of the living room. Note the roofing trusses and purlin (ONWR, Jeff Aicher, October 1994).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photo 20.



Interior of the Hebard Cabin - fireplace in living room (ONWR, Jeff Aicher, October 1994).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

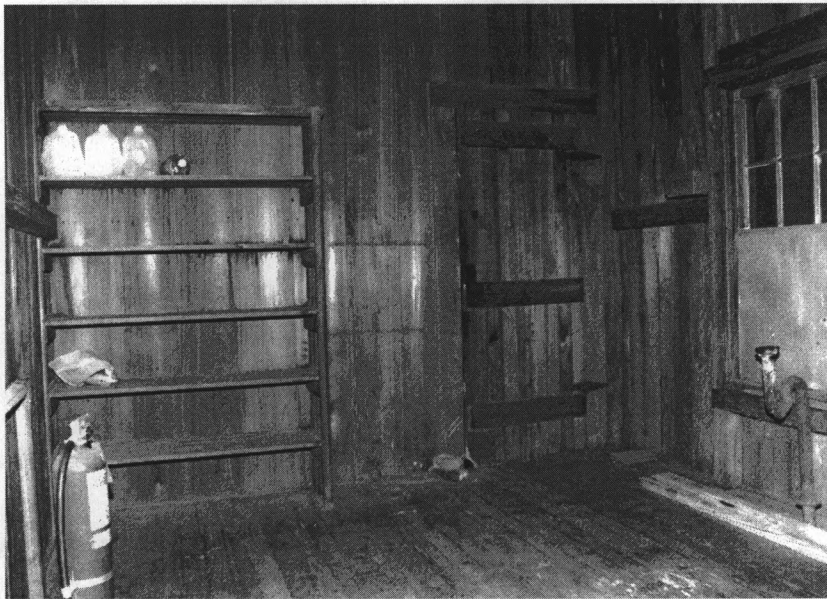
Photo 21.



Interior of the Hebard Cabin - west room, looking north [H on Map 6] (ONWR, Jeff Aicher, October 1994).

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photo 22.



Interior of the Hebard Cabin - kitchen, looking northwest [I on Map 6]. The closed door leads to the pantry (ONWR, Jeff Aicher, October 1994).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Supplement A

Trowell, C.T.

1998 "Seeking a Sanctuary: A Chronicle of Efforts to
Preserve the Okefenokee." Okefenokee Wildlife League, Special
Publication No. 6.

Seeking a Sanctuary A Chronicle of Efforts to Preserve the Okefenokee

C.T. Trowell
1998

For centuries, maybe millennia, men have sought refuge in the depths of the Okefenokee wilderness. Plants and animals also sought sanctuary there. For generations the Swamp also served as a public common, a resource safety net for people in need. In 1891 the State of Georgia sold the property to the Suwanee Canal Company for private commercial development. When this venture failed, the owners sold the property to Charles Hebard, a prominent lumberman from Philadelphia. A few individuals, cognizant of the embryonic national conservation movement, suggested preservation of the Okefenokee as a natural area. But most of the pristine landscape was modified by logging before organized efforts succeeded in acquiring the property as a wildlife sanctuary in 1937.

Roland M. Harper called for the preservation of swamps in 1906 and 1909.¹ He listed their importance as headwaters for streams, refuges for wildlife against their extermination by hunters, natural research laboratories, and lastly, for their beauty. He praised the diversity of the scenery in the Okefenokee Swamp, noting that "There is nothing else exactly like it in the world." But Harper's call for preservation was lost in the metallic pounding of railroad construction, pile drivers, and steam-powered logging skidders. The Hebard Cypress Company initiated a major industrial logging operation on the northwestern rim of the Okefenokee in 1909.² The Americus Manufacturing Company (C.M. Council of Americus, Georgia) also began logging cypress timber from the southwestern corner of the Okefenokee in 1909.³ Harper's articles were words drifting in the doldrums of public apathy.

¹ Roland M. Harper, Some Neglected Aspects of the Campaign Against Swamps, Southern Woodlands, August 1906, 46-67; Roland M. Harper, Okefenokee Swamp, Popular Science Monthly, (74) June 1909, 596-614.

² Waycross Weekly Herald, January 9, 1909; January 23, 1909; February 13, 1909; Waycross Journal-Herald, October 23, 1909.

³ Americus Weekly-Times, October 29, 1908; Deed: J.J., J.W. & N. Langdale to C.M. Council, January 25, 1909, Clinch County Superior Court Deed Record Book AA, pp. 273-276.

But they ignited the interest of Francis Harper, his younger brother, and a group of biologists at Cornell University.⁴ In 1912, these scientists began a series of biological explorations of the Okefenokee Swamp that continued for over three decades. They also began promoting efforts to preserve the Okefenokee as a biological preserve. But they too were voices crying in the wilderness.

Meanwhile, the Hebard Cypress Company, Twin Tree Lumber Company, and Council Lumber Company (Americus Mfg. Co.) continued to build logging railroads on piling through the towering cypress bays. Hundreds of loggers downed the great trees to be hauled to the mills at Hebardville near Waycross, at Hopkins on the northern rim of the Swamp, and at Council on the southern rim near the Florida border.

In 1911, J.F. Wilson moved to Waycross. He edited and published the *Nut Grower*, a journal promoting the cultivation and marketing of pecans.⁵ Dr. Wilson developed a special interest in the natural history of the Okefenokee. During the next six years Dr. Wilson and the Cornell biologists became devoted to the great morass and concerned about its future. They organized an effort to preserve the Okefenokee Swamp as a biological preserve in 1918. The opening speech of the campaign was made to the Progress Club in Waycross on July 18, 1918. Two days later the *Waycross Journal-Herald* published a letter from James G. Needham of Cornell. He strongly advocated the preservation of the Swamp. In August 1918 the Okefenokee Society was organized as a means to coordinate preservation efforts. By October the fledgling conservation society was beginning to take form around a core of interested scientists.⁶

J.F. Wilson enlisted the support of the Waycross Progress Club and the Waycross Chamber of Commerce in publicizing the goals of the Society in February 1919. In March, Wilson formed an Organization Committee. An Okefenokee Society meeting was called for June 3-4, 1919. J.D. Hazeman and S.W. McCallie,

⁴ Francis Harper, "Report of Expedition into the Okefenoke Swamp," *Bird Lore*, (16), 1912, 402-407; Chester Bradley to J.G. Needham, July 1, 1911. J.C. Bradley, "The Cornell Expedition to Okefenoke Swamp," *Cornell Countryman*, February 1913, 130-133.

⁵ *Savannah Morning News*, January 3, 1912.

⁶ *Waycross Journal-Herald*, July 19, 1918; July 20, 1918; September 4, 1918; September 21, 1918; J.F. Wilson to James G. Needham, August 19, 1918; Wilson to Needham, September 17, 1918; J.F. Wilson to Tentative Members of Okefenokee Society, October 15, 1918 (includes List of Tentative Members of Okefenokee Society).

the State Geologist, presented lectures at a public meeting. McCallie and an assistant had explored the Swamp twice in 1915. His black and white photos are probably the best graphic record of the Swamp at this time. Roland M. Harper made a few comments at the meeting. The members elected James Needham, a biologist at Cornell University, President of the Society. J.F. Wilson was selected to serve as Secretary. Dan L. Hebard invited members of the Society to visit Billys Island via the logging railroad. Harper, McCallie, and other members visited the island and Billys Lake, and made photographs, spent the night and returned to Waycross the following day. Their way was blocked by a derailed locomotive on their return trip to Waycross, an omen of the preservation task that lay ahead.⁷

Following the meeting the members launched a publicity campaign. A number of newspaper articles described the unique natural character of the Okefenokee Swamp and stressed the need to preserve areas in the Swamp that had not been disturbed by logging operations. Francis Harper was especially interested in preserving the area around Floyds Island. The area on and around the island had not been cut over at this time. Many newspapers and magazines, including the *Savannah Morning News*, the *Atlanta Journal*, the *New York Times*, and *Natural History*, published articles advocating preservation of the Swamp. Scientific organizations, including the American Association for the Advancement of Science, also promoted the conservation effort.⁸

The Georgia Legislature passed a resolution entitled "Congress Urged to Establish a National Park in Okefenokee Swamp" in 1919.⁹ The U.S. Department of Agriculture was urged to survey the Okefenokee Swamp as a potential forest reserve or a game preserve or a national park.¹⁰

⁷ J.F. Wilson to James G. Needham, February 21, 1919, June 10, 1919, June 11, 1919; J.F. Wilson to Organization Committee, March 19, 1919; *Atlanta Journal*, April 17, 1919; *Waycross Journal-Herald*, June 2, 1919, June 3, 1919, June 4, 1919, June 6, 1919; C.T. Trowell, *Exploring the Okefenokee: Roland M. Harper in the Okefenokee Swamp*, *Research Paper No. 2* September, 1988, pp. 61-68.

⁸ *Savannah Morning News*, June 13, 1920; *Waycross Journal-Herald*, June 4, 1920 (reprinting *Atlanta Journal* article); *New York Times*, May 17, 1920; Francis Harper, "Okefinokee Swamp as a Reservation," *Natural History*, (20:1), 1920, 28-41. Resolution: American Association for the Advancement of Science, St. Louis, Missouri, January 2, 1920. Francis Harper to A.G. Rehn, August 27, 1919. Francis Harper to J.F. Wilson, September 9, 1919.

⁹ *Georgia Laws*, 1919, pp. 1424-1426.

¹⁰ J.F. Wilson to Executive Committee, n.d. (probably June 1919), plus copy of proposed bill. J.F. Wilson to James G. Needham, August 8, 1919. J.F. Wilson to Albert H. Wright, December 20, 1919. J.F. Wilson to Francis Harper, December 20, 1919.

But the Okefinokee Society lost its way in 1921. Dr. J.F. Wilson died. J.M. Reade of Athens was selected to serve as President, but the spirit and the commitment was gone. Charles J. Haden of Atlanta attempted to sustain interest in the project, but the Society without Dr. Wilson's enthusiasm lost contact with its members and passed away.¹¹

George N. McDonnell and C.N. Wilson, J.F. Wilson's son, formed a new conservation society in August 1922 known as the Okefenokee National Association or the Okefenokee National Reserve Association. But it lacked support. Charles J. Haden, Philip C. Wakely, H.A. Stallings, C.N. Wilson, and G.N. McDonnell wrote letters to newspapers promoting the creation of a national park in the Okefenokee Swamp, but they could not sustain the drive. The organization did keep alive the idea of preservation through the 1920s, even though its efforts lacked focus. Individuals, including Francis Harper, C.N. Wilson, D.G. Bickers, Samuel Scoville, and groups such as the Federation of Bird Clubs of New England and the Miami Society for the Preservation of the Okefenokee, continued their conservation efforts. They made little headway in their own plans to get the Federal government to buy the Hebard property, but they were able to voice opposition to plans to build a water reservoir or dig a canal across the Swamp.¹²

Lumber companies had cut out most of the profitable stands of timber in the swamp and on the islands by 1926. Even the pines on Floyds Island north of the Hammock were cut in 1925. The Council Lumber Company, Twin Tree Lumber Company, and Braganza Lumber Company closed their mills and moved from the Okefenokee in 1926. Hebard Cypress Company vacated their logging camp on Billys Island the same year and moved north near Hopkins to finish cutting the timber near Dinner Pond. They ceased all logging operations and closed their mill at Hebardville in 1927.¹³

¹¹ Francis Harper to Roland M. Harper, March 6, 1922; July 16, 1922; Charles J. Haden to Savannah Morning News, "Okefinokee Society Project," February 20, 1922; C.J. Haden to New York Times, June 22, 1922.

¹² Waycross Journal-Herald, August 7, 1922; November 22, 1926; December 6, 1926; December 8, 1926; September 29, 1927; January 2, 1928. Philip C. Wakely to New York Times, June 28, 1922. Samuel Scoville, "Trembling Earth," Atlantic Monthly, October 1928, 489-495. Savannah Morning News, September 5, 1923; July 13, 1924; July 27, 1924.

¹³ C.T. Trowell and Lorraine Fussell, Exploring the Okefenokee: Railroads of the Okefenokee Realm, Occasional Paper from South Georgia

C.L. Spencer and Ernest L. Hill of Jacksonville promoted a plan to build a dam across the upper St. Mary's River in 1925. They applied to the Federal Water Power Commission for a permit. The firm proposed to create a reservoir and build a hydroelectric plant to provide the Jacksonville area with "fresh, soft water" and electricity. The plan was opposed by the Hebard Lumber Company, owners of most of the Swamp property, and George MacDonnell of the Okefenokee National Association. Although a permit was granted to Spencer-Hill in 1926, opposition continued through 1927. The venture failed to materialize.¹⁴

Proposals to build a cross-swamp canal increased in popularity during the 1920s. The St. Mary's - St. Marks Canal Project had been popular in Florida for years. By 1929 enough support had been organized in Georgia to persuade the U.S. Corps of Engineers to survey a canal route and conduct another feasibility study. The route across the Okefenokee was mapped from photographs made from an airplane piloted by Laurie Yonge of Jacksonville. The Georgia Association (Chamber of Commerce) publicized the flight and sent an artist with Yonge to make sketches of the Swamp. The Georgia Legislature created a commission in 1929 to promote the venture. The canal scheme continued to be promoted as late as 1934. It was a pie-in-the-sky venture to provide hope in the depths of the Depression. The reservoir and the canal proposals finally galvanized efforts by individuals interested in preserving the Swamp as a wildlife refuge, including Dan Hebard of Hebard Lumber Company.¹⁵

By the beginning of the century tourists on their way to Florida passed through miles and miles of cut-over woods in southern Georgia and northern Florida. While speculators promoted these lands as ideal farms for truck crops, only a fraction of the lands were sold for this purpose. By the 1920s several families were purchasing and fencing large tracts around the Okefenokee rim for cattle pastures. Mrs. Lydia Stone Crews

No.8, 1998.

¹⁴Waycross Journal-Herald, November 29, 1925; November 20, 1926; August 2, 1927; December 8, 1927. Clinch County News, November 5, 1926.

¹⁵Waycross Journal-Herald, July 10, 1929; August 9, 1929; May 17, 1933; May 24, 1933; August 14, 1933; August 30, 1933, August 31, 1933; November 24, 1933; February 5, 1934; February 15, 1934; March 21, 1934; April 30, 1934. Atlanta Journal, May 27, 1929; July 28, 1929; July 29, 1929; July 30, 1929. Jacksonville Journal, July 29, 1929; July 30, 1929. Charlton County Herald, August 2, 1929.

purchased thousands of acres along the eastern edge of the Swamp. The Varns, the Langdales, and the Sessoms expanded their land holdings and began to plant and protect pine plantations around the Okefenokee. Toledo Manufacturing Company and Superior Pine Products Company began practicing scientific forestry by the mid-1920s, but much of the barren and ragged landscape persisted. Mere remnants of the unbroken long leaf pine forest of the late nineteenth century remained. The landscape of southern Georgia at the beginning of the century was sometimes described as a forest of stumps. The National Forest Commission, created to investigate the declining forest acreage across the nation, began to promote the acquisition of Federal forest reserves in 1929.

As the year began, a spark of renewed interest in preserving the Okefenokee was ignited in Washington, Waycross, and Atlanta. In Waycross, a Chamber of Commerce committee representing all the civic organizations, the city commissioners and the county commissioners was organized with Dr. William M. Folks as chairman. U.S. Senators Walter George and William J. Harris endorsed the "Okefenokee Project." Promoters even invited President-elect Herbert Hoover to make a short lay-over in Waycross on his trip to Florida. The *Waycross Journal-Herald*, especially J.S. and Liston Elkins and Charles N. Wilson, supported the newly revived Okefenokee Association's preservation efforts.¹⁶

U.S. Senator William J. Harris introduced a bill, "S.5714 - To Establish the Okefenokee Wildlife and Fish Refuge," on February 4, 1929. Two days later, U.S. Representative W.C. Lankford of the 11th Congressional District of Georgia introduced bill "HB 17277 - A bill to authorize the Secretary of Interior to investigate and report to Congress on the advisability and practicability of establishing a national park to be known as the Okefenokee National Park in the State of Georgia, and for other purposes." In March, Congressman Lankford gave a long speech on the Okefenokee on the House floor. He supported the "movement now on foot to have this place set apart by the Federal Government as one of the national game and bird sanctuaries." He noted that two bills were pending and he felt the Swamp should be set apart as "either a

¹⁶ *Waycross Journal-Herald*, February 2, 1929; February 23, 1929, March 9, 1929.

game and bird sanctuary or as a national park."¹⁷

The Okefenokee Association in Waycross, supported by the Chamber of Commerce and the newspaper, arranged a meeting in Waycross on March 12 to support the congressional efforts. Gov. Hardeman announced his support of the Okefenokee Plan. A number of dignitaries were invited to the meeting and motion pictures of Okefenokee scenes were shown by Peter S. Twitty. The meeting appears to have generated considerable editorial support in area newspapers, including the Quitman *Free Press* and the Brunswick *Pilot*. But the movement soon lost momentum as conflicting interest groups jumped on the bandwagon.¹⁸

By the end of the summer, the bills urging the Federal government to purchase the property as a wildlife refuge or a national park were joined by bills or resolutions in the Georgia Legislature and the Congress proposing its purchase as a forest reserve or as the route for a ship canal. The Okefenokee Association also lost one of its most knowledgeable and enthusiastic leaders, Charles N. Wilson. Wilson moved to Bradenton, Florida as a Boy Scout executive of the Sunnyland BSA Council. The local movement withered in confusion.¹⁹

After years of frustrated campaigns and disorganized organizations, a small group of naturalists, most of them from Atlanta, organized the Georgia Society of Naturalists in 1929. They enjoyed frequent field trips and lectures on natural history. They held many of their meetings at Emory University. Several of the members were faculty members at the university. They quickly embraced a special Society project on which to focus their collective efforts—to persuade the Federal government to purchase the Okefenokee Swamp as a biological preserve. They lobbied State and Federal legislators, wrote articles for newspapers, and enlisted support from a variety of individuals and conservation groups, including Daniel Hebard and his son, Frederick V. Hebard, owners of most of the Okefenokee property. The Society sought and received the support of

¹⁷Congressional Record-House, 70th Congress, 2nd Session, February 26, 1929, p. 4485; March 2, 1929, 5124-5126.

¹⁸Waycross *Journal-Herald*, February 16, 1929; February 23, 1929; March 2, 1929; March 9, 1929; March 16, 1929.

¹⁹Waycross *Journal-Herald*, March 9, 1929; July 13, 1929; July 20, 1929.

members of the Atlanta Bird Club and the Georgia Ornithological Society. Lucien Harris, Jr., the grandson of Joel Chandler Harris, was elected President of the Society. Harris was especially interested in butterflies. Members recognized him as "The Grand Caterpillar." The naturalists rejuvenated their interest in the Okefenokee project by visiting the area several times a year, frequently spending several days on Floyds Island as guests of Dan and Fred Hebard.²⁰

In July 1929, the House Conservation Committee in the Georgia Legislature began to discuss a bill introduced by Rep. Bonnell Stone of Union County, chairman of the Committee. The bill proposed that the Federal government be permitted to acquire the Hebard Lumber Company property and establish "national forest reserves, forest experiment stations, wildlife sanctuaries, or for any other development purposes best suited on these lands." Members of the Conservation Committee visited southern Georgia in late July. They examined the reforested lands of Alex Sessoms west of Waycross, took a boat trip on the Suwanee Canal with John Hopkins, and traveled to St. Mary's to discuss the St. Mary's - St. Marks Canal proposal. Mr. Hopkins planned an overnight stay at the Hebard cabin on Floyds Island, but high water levels made this impractical. Instead, Mr. Hopkins treated the committee members to a barbecue supper.²¹

Following the junket, the Legislature passed the bill. The Governor signed it on August 17, 1929.²²

Despite initial opposition by the Georgia Forestry Association, Senator W.J. Harris promoted the purchase of the Okefenokee property as a national forest reserve. Initially he proposed its purchase as a national park. Senator Harris envisioned a national forest preserve extending from the Osceola National Forest in northern Florida northward to include the Okefenokee Swamp.²³

²⁰Earle S. Greene, A Lifetime with the Birds, (Ann Arbor, Michigan: Edwards Brothers, 1966), pp. 45-60.

²¹Brantley [County] Enterprise, February 28, 1929; July 4, 1929. Waycross Journal-Herald, May 31, 1929; June 5, 1929; July 13, 1929; July 20, 1929; July 26, 1929. Atlanta Journal, July 22, 1929; July 25, 1929; July 28, 1929. Charlton County Herald, June 14, 1929; July 5, 1929; August 2, 1929.

²²Georgia Laws, 1929, pp. 239-240.

²³Charlton County Herald, March 15, 1929; June 14, 1929. Brantley [County] Enterprise, February 28, 1929. Atlanta Journal, May 20, 1929. Waycross Journal-Herald, May 31, 1929.

In 1929 it was impossible to build a political consensus on what to do with the Okefenokee property because of the many proposals being promoted. The Garden Clubs of Georgia favored the plan to make the Okefenokee a national park. F.M. Oliver, a Savannah attorney, was one of the first to attempt to organize the movement to create a national park. The national park plan made little headway. The members of the Georgia Society of Naturalists were not distracted by the calls for national parks, forest reserves, and canals. They wanted the Federal government to purchase the property as a wildlife sanctuary. But it required over a year for these able men to initiate a sustained campaign. Most of the field trips in 1930 were visits to areas in northern Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina. Meanwhile, individual members began to popularize the Okefenokee Swamp as a unique natural area. For example, William A. Horne of Macon visited the Okefenokee and described batteries, houses, and the process of plant succession in the Okefenokee prairies.²⁴

The Society assisted in persuading the U.S. Senate Committee investigating sites for wildlife refuges to visit the Okefenokee Swamp in 1931. The Committee was chaired by Senator Frederick C. Walcott. Other members included Harry B. Hawes, Key Pittman, Charles McNary, and Peter Norbeck. McNary did not make the trip. Norbeck would later chair the Committee that made the decision to purchase the Hebard property in 1936. Georgia Senator Walter George met the members of the Committee in Waycross. He gave his support to the purchase of the property as a wildlife refuge. Dr. Paul Reddington, Chief of the U.S. Biological Survey, Dr. T. Gilbert Pearson, President of the National Association of Audubon Society, Lucien Harris, Jr. of the Georgia Society of Naturalists, and Earle Greene and Walter Winn of the *Atlanta Journal* joined the party in Waycross.

Members of the party arrived by train at Folkston on the morning of Tuesday, March 10, 1931. After a shad breakfast and many speeches of welcome, several Senators were taken in a "six place cabin plane" for a hurried flight over the Okefenokee Swamp by Joe Duckworth. The remaining members of the party proceeded to Waycross by automobile.

²⁴Macon *Telegraph*, June 29, 1930. Greene, *A Lifetime With The Birds*, pp. 46-48. Savannah *Morning News*, March 12, 1931; January 3, 1932. Charlton County *Herald*, January 1, 1932.

The Committee held a public meeting in Hotel Ware in Waycross in the morning and was motored to Hamp Mizell's fishing camp on Suwannee Lake in the afternoon. Hamp Mizell was widely known for his knowledge of the Okefenokee, its critters and its lore. Mizell and A.S. McQueen were also the authors of *History of the Okefenokee Swamp*, published in 1926.

Members were fed "an old fashioned Okefenokee dinner" by members of the Waycross Woman's Club, including "cornpone and potliker." Hamp Mizell presented the Senators with an autographed copy of his book. In the afternoon the Senators made their first Okefenokee exploration in boats on Suwannee Lake.

On Tuesday evening, the Committee attended a banquet hosted by the Waycross Kiwanas Club, and other civic clubs. The Senators were introduced, welcomed, and praised for their conservation efforts. Other visitors were introduced and Ralph Newton, the Waycross Superintendent of Schools gave a short address on the Okefenokee and "widespread interest in conservation of natural resources."²⁵

On Wednesday members of the party motored to Camp Cornelia on the edge of the Okefenokee Swamp near Folkston. There, the Senators and conservationists were met by Mr. Dan Hebard and John Hopkins, his agent. They accompanied the party on Wednesday, March 10, 1931, along with seven guides into the recesses of the great swamp. Liston Elkins from the *Waycross Journal-Herald* reported: "It was necessary to travel in flat bottom boats, outboard motors being used for some distance until the party reached narrow channels where lily pads and heavy water growths necessitated the use of poles for locomotion. The adeptness with which the swamp guides propelled and guided the boats with long, slender push poles was the object of many remarks of tribute on the part of the nature lovers...." The party encamped on Floyds Island, "where Dan Hebard, owner of a large section of the Okefenokee, maintain[ed] a rustic hunting lodge." From there the visitors were taken to the various parts of the swamp." The party spent two nights in the cabin.²⁶

Upon leaving, Senator Walcott stated that "the committee was deeply impressed with the educational,

²⁵Waycross *Journal-Herald*, March 11, 1931.

²⁶Charlton County *Herald*, March 20, 1931. The guides were Gad Roddenberry and his son Lanier, Doc and Rufus Rider, Ott Hendrix, Will

scientific and recreational possibilities of the swamp."²⁷ Unfortunately, the Committee, and especially the U.S. Biological Survey, was looking for a refuge for waterfowl.

The Senate visit was followed by further studies.²⁸ Earle Greene, President of the Atlanta Bird Club, writing for the *Atlanta Journal* and Liston Elkins with the *Waycross Journal-Herald* wrote excellent newspaper articles following the Senatorial visit. The writers backed the plan to create a wildlife refuge. Other newspapers reported the visit.²⁹

The Special Committee on Conservation of Wild-life Resources, appointed under Senate Resolution 246, presented a written report in 1932 on their investigation of the Okefenokee Swamp. They concluded "From its investigation and the reports it has received from the Biological Survey, your committee believes that this immense area is not of primary value for migratory bird refuge purposes. However, it is unique in many ways and would make attractive and valuable sanctuary for all forms of wild life indigenous to this region." Members of the Committee believed that the Biological Survey should continue to consider the Okefenokee as a wildlife sanctuary, when funds became available and when some owners would agree to sell at a reasonable price.³⁰

During the summer the Conservation Committee of the Georgia Legislature made another trip to the Okefenokee. The purpose of the trip was to re-investigate the feasibility of building a canal across the Swamp.

Davis, and Harry Chesser. *Waycross Journal-Herald*, March 12, 1931.

²⁷Ibid. Also see: Migratory waterfowl shortage. Hearing ... on protection and preservation of migratory waterfowl in the United States, April 4-6, 1932. U.S. Congress. Senate. Special Committee on Conservation of Wildlife Resource.(1932), 652 p. Illust.

²⁸Okefenokee Swamp. Special Committee on Conservation of Wildlife Resources. U.S. Senate, 72nd Congress 1st Session, 1932, 1-15. U.S. Congress: House Select Committee on Conservation of Wildlife Resources: Conservation of wildlife: Hearings ... 74th Congress, 1st and 2nd Sessions, pursuant to House Resolution 44 ... 2 parts, 486 p. Illust. (1935-36). Wildlife Conservation: Report (Pursuant to House Resolution 44, 74th Congress, 1st Session) House Report 2, 24 p. (1937). Conservation of wildlife: Hearings ... 75th Congress, 1st Session, on migratory waterfowl conservation and restoration, June 16, 1937. 60 p. Illust. (1937). Conservation of wildlife: Hearings ... (pursuant to House Resolution 11, 75th Congress, 3rd Session) (1938) 342 p. Illust.

²⁹*Waycross Journal-Herald*, March 12, 1931. Earle Greene, "Sanctuary for Wildlife," *Atlanta Journal Magazine*, April 5, 1931, p. 7+.

³⁰"Okefenokee Swamp." Senate Committee Report, Special Committee on Conservation of Wild-life Resources, Pursuant to S. Res. 246, Mr. Walcott, Chm., 72d Congress, 1st Session, pp. 1-2. See above.

And to eat the fish and barbecue. It was a junket.³¹

The Okefenokee Swamp was swept by wildfires in the closing months of 1931 and during the first half of 1932. These were years of extreme drought. The debris left by the logging operations fueled many of the fires. But these events had little effect on the efforts to preserve the Swamp.

The editor of the Quitman *Free Press* wrote in December 1931 that the Okefenokee Swamp was still a beautiful place and worth preserving even though "much of the natural beauty has been recently destroyed, first by man in his greed to get the native timber and still more recently by savage forest fires which may be chargeable entirely to carelessness, if not viciousness."³²

The Clinch County *News* announced its support of preservation efforts in July 1932. An editorial noted, "we hope that the national government will soon take over and protect it in a natural state."³³

Members of the Georgia Society of Naturalists visited the Okefenokee in late November 1932, including a trip to Floyds Island. Fred Hebard accompanied the group to the island where they had lunch with Daniel Hebard and John Hopkins. This visit prompted several newspaper articles promoting the Swamp as a wildlife refuge.³⁴

A major push was launched in 1933 to build an Atlantic-Gulf Canal across the Okefenokee Swamp. A committee led by T.G. Woolford of Atlanta, chairman of the Georgia Canal Commission, visited the Secretary of the Interior and the White House to promote the scheme. The Waycross *Journal-Herald* noted that the "project was vigorously fought for by Congressman Lankford of Douglas, Ga. for a number of years, this being one of his fondest dreams." The Woman's Club of Waycross received permission to decorate the Georgia Hall at Warm Springs for President Roosevelt's Thanksgiving dinner. Among the decorations, they included a model

³¹Savannah Morning News, July 25, 1931.

³² Editorial republished in the Waycross Journal-Herald, 12-19-1931.

³³Clinch County News, July 28, 1932.

³⁴Greene, A Lifetime With The Birds, p. 51.

of the Okefenokee Swamp showing the character and economic activities associated with the Swamp. They also included the route of the proposed canal. President Roosevelt authorized funds for a preliminary survey. This action stimulated the preservationists to increase their efforts.³⁵

The Georgia Society of Naturalists held their meeting in the Okefenokee Swamp on May 4, 1933. A number of members from Atlanta, Macon, and Valdosta attended. They explored the southeastern corner of the Swamp. Wallace Rogers, a wildlife photographer, made photographs and Willard Neal of the *Atlanta Journal* wrote a long article on the experiences of the members on the trip. He also noted that the meeting was very timely since there was an effort in progress to have the Swamp purchased as a wildlife refuge. The *Valdosta Times* and the *Waycross Journal-Herald* also published reports on the Society field trip.³⁶

The Society held a fall meeting in the Okefenokee on Floyds Island in November. Fred Hebard invited the members to stay in the cabin. "There are beds for five in the cabin." He also advised them to plan to split up into teams during the day to observe the birds. In their December meeting in Atlanta, the members held a mock trial of Dr. Wallace Rogers, the nature photographer, who had made photos of members in the Okefenokee in November. Fred Hebard "made a very fine talk on the Okefenokee and explained the efforts that are being made to have the Government take over the Swamp as a Wild Life Refuge."³⁷

In 1933, the Congressman from the 8th District of Georgia, Braswell Deen, announced his plans to get the Federal government to purchase a tract of the Okefenokee Swamp. He hoped to get "a part of the \$20,000,000 it [the Federal government] will spend on new forest lands." He noted that the tract "is plentifully supplied with fish and game ... and contains valuable timber." He added that the 8th District already contained

³⁵Waycross *Journal-Herald*, May 17, 1933; May 24, 1933; June 16, 1933; August 14, 1933; August 23, 1933; August 30, 1933; August 31, 1933; September 9, 1933; September 30, 1933; November 2, 1933; November 2, 1933; November 3, 1933. *Charlton County Herald*, November 24, 1933 (includes map). *Atlanta Journal*, December 10, 1933. Francis Harper to Roland M. Harper, December 11, 1933.

³⁶*Atlanta Journal*, June 4, 1933. *Waycross Journal-Herald*, May 1, 1933; May 4, 1933; May 16, 1933.

³⁷Fred Hebard to Earle Greene, October 18, 1933; Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Georgia Society of Naturalists, Atlanta, December 9, 1933.

nine reforestation corps camps and the purchase "would supply fresh work for the conservation employees."³⁸ Mr. Deen was not planning to purchase the Hebard property, but a tract near Waycross located on and near Cowhouse Island.

The lobbying effort promoting construction of the Atlantic-Gulf Canal continued in 1934. The prospect of hundreds, maybe thousands, of jobs in the midst of the Great Depression made the proposal especially attractive. But hopes were finally dashed when the feasibility study was completed. The plan was not feasible.³⁹

But plans to build a canal across the Okefenokee were soon succeeded by plans to build a scenic highway across the Swamp to provide the tourists in their automobiles a view of the magnificent landscape. By the summer of 1934, plans for the new scheme were underway. If there could be no jobs digging a canal, maybe there could be jobs building a scenic highway. Actually, there were two plans submitted to the State Highway Board. One was a north-south highway across the Swamp from Waycross via Billys Island to Lake City, Florida. The other was an east-west highway across the Swamp from Folkston.⁴⁰

Meanwhile, Congressman Deen's proposal worked its way through the maze of the New Deal. A Rural Rehabilitation Agency office was established in Waycross in the spring of 1934. Proposals for the creation of a Rural Resettlement Project were submitted. They bore fruit in 1935.⁴¹

The Georgia Society of Naturalists met again in December 1934 to conduct the winter bird census. They spent four days in the Swamp on Floyds Island, studying the birds and other wildlife. They studied wildlife in two main areas of Floyds Island: "Floyds Island hammock, near the lodge, yielded valuable data on

³⁸Waycross Journal-Herald, June 23, 1933.

³⁹Waycross Journal-Herald, February 7, 1934; February 15, 1934; March 21, 1934; April 30, 1934.

⁴⁰Savannah Morning News, July 10, 1934. For an comprehensive collection of newspaper articles, correspondence, photos, and other memorabilia on the promotion of the scenic highway, one should examine the Liston Elkins' Scrapbook on the Scenic Highway, housed in the Okefenokee Collection in the Waycross College Library. Charlton County Herald, October 19, 1934; November 16, 1934.

⁴¹Waycross Journal-Herald, April 24, 1934; April 27, 1934.

mammal life, birds, and plants." The other area was the "sand scrub" country, just north of the hammock. They also examined the prairies adjacent to the island. The members left Herbert Stoddard and Ed Komarek on the island to continue their work for two more days. H.A. (Tony) Carter prepared a detailed account of their activities for the *Atlanta Constitution*.⁴²

The *Constitution* published another article by Carter at this time entitled "Advisability of Preservation of Okefenokee Swamp Noted by Member of Naturalist Body." Carter strongly criticized the conclusions of the Walcott Committee in 1931. He noted that the report was non-committal and was filled with contradictions between the Committee's observations and the reports of others included in the report. Carter believed that the Okefenokee was suitable as a refuge for migratory waterfowl.⁴³

Preservation efforts reached a critical mass in 1935. Congressman Braswell Deen and local promoters, including the Lions Club and the Rotary Club in Waycross were able to acquire approval of a conservation project proposal from the Rural Rehabilitation Corporation in April 1935. It was one of many New Deal projects being sprinkled around on the national political landscape. Called the Georgia Coastal Flatwoods Uplands Game Project, the plan called for the establishment of a game preserve on Cowhouse Island, the initiation of several forestry demonstration areas, including a plan to plow up the native wiregrass and replace it with carpet grass to improve the quality of local range cattle, and plans to build recreation lakes and picnic areas along the highway south of Waycross. Most importantly, the project would employ over 500 men. The plans were approved in October 1935 and funds began arriving in November. Work began in December.⁴⁴

Members of the Georgia Society of Naturalists intensified their efforts in 1935. Francis Harper, and his wife Jean, a close friend of the Roosevelt family, urged the President to buy the Hebard property. As the scenic

⁴²*Atlanta Constitution*, December 9, 1934. His article was reprinted in several other newspapers. See Trowell, *The Hebard Cabin and the Floyds Island Hammock, Historical and Archaeological Information for Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places*, September 1993, pp. 52-53.

⁴³*Atlanta Constitution*, December 16, 1934.

⁴⁴Waycross *Journal-Herald*, April 4, 1935; April 15, 1935; May 17, 1935; October 23, 1935; November 7, 1935; December 2, 1935.

highway scheme began to capture the attention of local promoters, James Silver and J. Clark Salyer of the U.S. Biological Survey urged members of the Society to contact members of the Norbeck Committee in the U.S. Senate and urge quick action to acquire the property. A survey of a route for a scenic highway got underway in January. The Governor signed a bill approving permission for the Federal government to acquire a right-of-way for the road across the Swamp in March. In February and March a series of events were sponsored by the scenic highway boosters in Waycross and Lake City to drum up public support for the project. Congressman Deen supported the project. Fortunately for the Refuge supporters, state highway funds were seized by Governor Eugene Talmadge and the project was placed on hold.⁴⁵

In late June 1935, Ivan Tomkins, a naturalist from Savannah, wrote to Francis Harper that he had heard "a fairly good rumor that the Okefinokee is to be bought as a preserve, and no roads are to be put through it." Harper replied that Congress had authorized the purchase of the Okefinokee and "the highway foolishness" had been stopped. He added: "It has been a long struggle of over 20 years for me, and it is hard to realize the outcome as yet. If only it could have been saved in the shape in which I first knew it!"⁴⁶

During the following months the red tape in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. Biological Survey finally ran out. On March 15, 1936 the Biological Survey acquired an option to buy the Hebard property and began a survey of the property boundary. A few days later the action was embraced by Georgia Senator Walter George who was credited with "having funds for this purchase made available." J.N. (Ding) Darling and Ira N. Gabrielson of the Biological Survey also lauded the decision. Following the boundary survey, the Hebard Lumber Company was offered \$1.50 per acre for its holdings, which they accepted. The Biological Survey announced that it was assuming responsibility for the management of the property at midnight on November 30, 1936. On February 1, 1937, the Biological Survey reported that John M. Hopkins had been placed in charge

⁴⁵ Report: Okefinokee Swamp by James Silver, U.S. Biological Survey, March 15, 1935. J. Clark Salyer to Lucien Harris, Jr., December 7, 1935. Brantley Enterprise, July 12, 1935. Waycross Journal-Herald, January 18, 1935; January 21, 1935; February 9, 1935; March 9, 1935; April 4, 1935; June 8, 1935; June 11, 1935; June 14, 1935; July 17, 1935. Savannah Morning News, January 24, 1935; February 20, 1935; March 9, 1935. Francis Harper and Delma E. Presley, Okefinokee Album (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1981), p. 8.

⁴⁶ I.R. Tomkins to Francis Harper, 6-26-1935. Francis Harper to I.R. Tomkins, 7-2-1935.

of the game refuge. The Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge was created by executive order on March 30, 1937.⁴⁷

The work of the Georgia Society of Naturalists was finished, almost. Earle Greene was employed as Junior Manager to assist Hopkins at the new Refuge. Lucien Harris, Jr. and other members, including Fred Hebard and Tony Carter, continued to watch over the new preserve. Another proposal to build a scenic highway was squelched in 1940. Tony Carter was transferred from the Savannah Wildlife Refuge to the Okefenokee as Refuge biologist in 1940. He was especially interested in investigating the birds and the ecology of the Swamp. With the help of his wife, he pursued this interest with vigor for two years. John R. Hopkins, Refuge manager and a member of the Society, retired in February 1945.

Members of the Society continued to visit the Refuge and to follow its course of development. As late as 1946, the Society was informed by the Biological Survey that the government had rejected a proposal by a lumber company to purchase and cut the black gum timber in the northern Okefenokee and the one remaining stand of old-growth cypress near Dinner Pond.⁴⁸ As a kind of project closure, the Society's *Bulletin* No. 3 was Frederick V. Hebard's *Winter Birds of Okefenokee and Coleraine* (1941) and *Bulletin* No. 4 was John M. Hopkins' memoir, *45 Years With the Okefenokee Swamp, 1900-1945* (1947). The members of the Society continued to be friends and advocates of the Refuge for decades.

Francis Harper also continued to monitor the development of the Refuge. He complained to Biological Survey officials upon receipt of any report or rumor of real or perceived mismanagement. The National Archives files have several letters that begin with sentences such as, "Enclosed is another letter from Dr. Francis Harper."

During the 1940s, the Okefenokee came of age as a place on the national stage. Vereen Bell's articles

⁴⁷John R. Eadie, History of Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, in A.D. Cohen, et. al. editors, *The Okefenokee Swamp: Its Natural History, Geology, and Geochemistry*, Los Alamos, NM: Wetland Surveys, 1984, pp. 2-4. *Waycross Journal-Herald*, March 16, 1936; March 17, 1936; March 21, 1936; March 23, 1936; March 30, 1936; December 1, 1936. *Savannah Morning News*, November 29, 1936; February 2, 1937; February 19, 1937; February 21, 1937. *Atlanta Constitution*, April 4, 1937; April 11, 1937.

⁴⁸Earle R. Greene to Lucien Harris, Jr., March 18, 1938; May 12, 1938; August 22, 1938. *Charlton County Herald*, June 7, 1940; July 19, 1940; August 23, 1940; October 18, 1940. *Clinch County News*, May 10, 1940; Lucien Harris, Jr. to Earle R. Greene, June 28, 1946. Earle R. Greene to John Martin, June 18, 1946. James Silver to USFWS Director, Chicago, June 25, 1946. *Southern Outdoors*, May 15, 1946.

in *Saturday Evening Post*, produced as the movie "Swamp Water," and the resulting increase in interest by automobile tourists insured not only the survival of the Refuge, but its growth in stature as well. By 1947, a decade after its creation, the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge had become an institution in the American mind as well as in American law.

In 1974 the sanctuary that had been sought and created was secured. The Okefenokee Swamp was designated a National Natural Landmark in September 1974. A month later President Gerald Ford signed the law creating the Okefenokee National Wilderness Area.⁴⁹ In 1981 the wilderness canoe trails in the Okefenokee were designated to be part of the National Wilderness Trail System.

The U.N. International Wetlands Convention meeting at RAMSAR in Iran in 1987 designated the Okefenokee Swamp to be a Wetland of International Importance. When the U.S. Senate ratified this treaty the Okefenokee Swamp also became an international institution.

⁴⁹ An Act to Designate Certain Lands in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Georgia, As Wilderness. Public Law 93-429, 93rd Congress, H.R. 6395, October 1, 1974. Savannah *Morning News*, October 2, 1974. National Natural Landmark Brief, National Park Service, September 1974. Proposed by Richard H. Goodwin, William A. Niering, and Gary S. Waggoner. W/ Map. Sharon C. Keene to John D. Schroer, October 8, 1986.