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# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name                      Brown-Bryson Farm  
other names/site number              n/a

## 2. Location

street & number    1760 Siloam-Veazey Road  
city, town        Siloam  
county            Greene            code GA 133  
state Georgia       code GA        zip code 30642

(X) vicinity of

( ) not for publication

## 3. Classification

### Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

### Category of Property:

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

### Number of Resources within Property:

#### Contributing

#### Noncontributing

buildings	6	1
sites	0	1
structures	5	1
objects	0	0
total	11	3

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: n/a

Name of previous listing: n/a

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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

*Richard Coover*

*5-5-99*

Signature of certifying official

Date

*for* W. Ray Luce  
Interim Division Director  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

In my opinion, the property ( ) meets ( ) does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

*Edson H. Beall* *6-10-99*

( ) determined eligible for the National Register

( ) determined not eligible for the National Register

( ) removed from the National Register

( ) other, explain:

( ) see continuation sheet

Keeper of the National Register

Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/secondary structure  
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field

### Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/secondary structure  
AGRICULTURE/agricultural field

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic Revival

### Materials:

<b>foundation</b>	brick
<b>walls</b>	wood
<b>roof</b>	asphalt
<b>other</b>	n/a

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Located one mile southwest of Siloam in Greene County, Georgia, the Brown-Bryson Farm is a 168-acre complex that includes a Gothic Revival-style main house and outbuilding complex and large swaths of forest and pasture lands.

Built in 1877, the Brown-Bryson house is a one-and-one-half-story Gothic Revival-style cottage with a center-passage plan and a rear kitchen ell. The side-gable roof features a steeply pitched cross gable and two interior corbel-capped chimneys. Intricate, lacy bargeboard lines the roof; decoratively sawn brackets and trim are located on the front and rear porches. The house is set on a continuous brick foundation and clad in weatherboard. Asphalt shingles cover the roof. The main entrance features sidelights and pilasters. Paired sash windows with molded, sawn hoods are located throughout.

The interior plan features two principal rooms divided by a center stair hall with stairs which go from back to front. Interior features include ornate mantels, moldings, and window and door surrounds. The floors, mantels, doors, stairs, and trim are all heart of pine. The staircase has turned balusters and newel post with a flared base. The doors have four recessed panels and original hardware.

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### Section 7--Description

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A small shed-roofed addition was added to the rear and the center hall was extended to the rear kitchen ell. A second shed-roofed addition was built on the south side of the house and converted to a garage. In 1970, a small, one-room wing was built on the south side.

A wood picket fence with a hip-roofed, elaborate entrance gate surrounds the front yard. The yard is planted with a variety of ornamental plants, such as boxwood, azalea, crepe myrtle, and magnolia trees and can be classified as a ornamental yard-type landscape. The rear yard is organized around a courtyard and includes numerous outbuildings and structures: a well house, smokehouse, two single-pen tenant houses, a shed, two barns, and a privy. The rear yard can be classified as a landscape of work with its grouping of outbuildings close to the main farm house with the fencing, pastures, and fields beyond the immediate yard. The outbuildings date to the 1870s and may be associated with the original c.1870 house which burned in 1873-1874.

Most of the property is cleared pasture land divided by fence lines, tree lines, and forest areas. There is evidence of historic terracing throughout the property. Since 1990, the current owner has dammed Stewart Creek, which bisects the farm, to create a pond in an area that had been a low-lying bog.

A small cemetery is located in the wooded area in the southeast corner of the farm. This family cemetery was historically associated with a neighboring farm; how it got to be located on the Brown-Bryson Farm is still somewhat of a mystery. Although potentially individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, this cemetery has not been evaluated in the context of this nomination and is therefore classified as a noncontributing site, as it has no direct relationship to the Brown-Bryson Farm.

Although no archaeological field testing has been done on the property, the potential for finding prehistoric and historic archaeological resources does exist.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:**

nationally       statewide       locally

**Applicable National Register Criteria:**

A       B       C       D

**Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):**  N/A

A    B    C    D    E    F    G

**Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):**

Architecture  
Landscape Architecture  
Agriculture

**Period of Significance:**

c.1870-1948

**Significant Dates:**

1870-Original house and outbuildings built  
c.1873-1874-Original house burned  
1877-Second house completed

**Significant Person(s):**

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation:**

n/a

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

Jim Bryson

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### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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#### **Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The Brown-Bryson Farm, which consists of a main house, outbuilding complex, and 168 acres with pasture and wooded lands, is significant in terms of architecture, landscape architecture, and agriculture. In c.1870, Jim Bryson, a native of Putnam County, built the Brown house and outbuildings for Thomas Tillery Brown, a lawyer, and his wife, Eliza Ann. The house burned in 1873-1874 and Thomas and Eliza had a second house built. Completed in 1877, the new house is similar to the earlier dwelling house and it is believed that the chimneys, which survived the fire, were reused in the Brown's new house. According to the current owner, the outbuildings date to the original house, c.1870.

The Brown-Bryson Farm is significant under the theme of architecture because it is an outstanding example of a rare 19th-century Gothic Revival-style dwelling and outbuilding complex. Of the 44,766 historic resources surveyed in the Georgia Historic Resources Survey there are 117 Gothic Revival-style cottages. Of these 117 Gothic Revival-style cottages, there are only 27 in a rural agricultural setting which demonstrates the rarity of the Brown-Bryson farmhouse. The Brown-Bryson house retains its steeply pitched roof, front and side facing gables, decorative trim, and window hoods, all characteristic of the Gothic Revival style.

The design of the house and layout of the outbuildings and ornamental yard were probably inspired by the writings of the Andrew Jackson Downing. In his widely popular book *Cottage Residences* (1842), Downing promoted the Gothic-style farm dwelling as part of a picturesque but ordered landscape that included an ornamental yard, orchard, kitchen garden, outbuilding complex, and cultivated fields. The three-bay facade and porch, side-gable roof with cross gable and twin interior chimneys, central-hall plan, and the very elaborate bargeboard trim of the Brown-Bryson house are common to many of Downing's models.

The Brown-Bryson Farm is significant in terms of landscape architecture for its intact ornamental yard and for its landscape of work. The front yard, enclosed by the white picket fence with elaborate entrance gate, represents an ornamental yard which is characterized by a central core of land within and delineated from a larger landscape of work, around or adjacent to the main house and embellished with more formal landscaping than exists in the larger complex.

The landscaping of the Brown-Bryson Farm represents almost a the picture-perfect model of the "landscape of work" as described in *Georgia's Living Places*. The farmhouse's landscaping includes an ornamental front yard, outbuildings placed for function and convenience "within shouting distance", pecan trees, and then further out from the house the pastures and fields for raising cattle and growing cash crops (formerly there was a kitchen garden between the house and the outbuildings). There is a variety of historic fencing enclosing the fields and pastures where there is

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### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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evidence of historic terracing, as well as pens for the livestock, both of which are character-defining features of a rural agricultural landscape. This intact landscape of work still functions today with the current owners growing hay and raising livestock.

Although more decorative than usual, the types of vernacular architecture seen in the smokehouse, barn, shed, tenant houses, and privy are all specially designed to meet the needs of an active farming operation in the rural South during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Unlike many farms which have destroyed their historic outbuildings or left them to fall down in favor of modern buildings, the owners have repaired and stabilized their outbuildings as their farming needs grew and changed. As a result, the farm retains a much-larger-than-average number of historic outbuildings and auxiliary structures. Overall, the Brown-Bryson Farm is an outstanding and rare example of a historic, intact Georgia Piedmont farm with an intact landscape of work.

The Brown-Bryson Farm is also significant in the area of agriculture because the property is an excellent representative example of a late 19th- and early 20th-century farm that produced a variety of "row crops." Corn, wheat, oats, peas, and cotton were planted on the 456-acre farm and harvested by tenant labor. The outbuildings reflect the many farm operations that were typical of small Piedmont farms, such as curing meat, storing grain, sheltering livestock, storing equipment, and providing housing for agricultural workers. By the 1950s, many of the open fields were converted to tree cultivation. The trees were subsequently harvested and the fields are currently used pasture. The farm remained in the Brown-Bryson family until 1964, when it was purchased by the current owner. The surviving outbuildings, the landscape of work, and the fields and wood lots on the property represent the historic agriculture of the farm.

### National Register Criteria

The Brown-Bryson Farm is eligible under National Register Criterion A for its significance in agriculture as a continuously operated farm for over 120 years with intact outbuildings, farm house, and agricultural fields. The Brown-Bryson Farm is eligible under National Register Criterion C in terms of architecture and landscape architecture as an excellent, intact, and rare example of a Gothic Revival-style cottage with an ornamental yard and landscape of work.

### Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

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**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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**Period of significance (justification)**

The beginning date of c.1870 marks the construction of the original farm house that burned, but the chimneys were re-used during the construction of the current house in 1877 and the outbuildings possibly date to c.1870. 1949 represents the end of the historic period. No more specific date demonstrates the end of the historic period because the historical significance of the farm continues through the 1940s as the farm has been continuously operated from the late 1800s until the present; therefore, following the guidelines of *National Register Bulletin 16A*, the fifty-year cutoff date of 1949 was chosen as the end of the period of significance

**Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

Contributing buildings (6) -- main house, privy, 2 tenant houses, barn, shed  
Contributing structures (5) -- picket fence, gate, other fencing, smokehouse, well house  
Noncontributing building (1) -- nonhistoric hay barn  
Noncontributing structure (1) -- nonhistoric gazebo  
Noncontributing site (1) -- cemetery (noncontributing in the context of this nomination)

**Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)**

**NOTE: The following historical narrative was taken from the Historic Property Information Form for the Brown-Bryson Farm, on file at the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

This Gothic Revival one-and-one-half story farm house was built in 1877 from pine timber grown on the 456-acre farm. The builder, Mr. Jim Bryson of Putnam County, and his nephew Charlie McCallum, built the house for Thomas Tillery Brown and his wife, Eliza Ann Merritt (married in 1853). The house was situated across the road from the Lovett Merritt Home (now gone), and was the family home of Eliza Ann, on the Siloam-Veazey Road in Greene County, Georgia. The present house is an exact duplicate of the original house which burned in 1873 or 1874.

It is thought that the chimneys of the present house are from the original house c.1870 house and that the existing outbuildings survived the fire and date to c.1870. The house has a parlor, a dining room, and three bedrooms downstairs with two upstairs bedrooms, as well as front and back porches and an originally detached kitchen. The only changes made in the present house were that the kitchen, before it was incorporated into the main house, was moved closer to the main house and converted to a garage, and a 17' X 17' room was added to the south elevation in 1970. Early pictures show an uncovered walkway behind the house, which in time became a screened



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### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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breezeway with a table for preparing vegetables, as well as a good churning space and a corner cupboard for large pans of milk.

Though the house was not completed until early 1877, the Browns moved into the house with their daughter Cassie on Christmas Day 1876. Mr. Pool, one of the craftsmen working on the house, is remembered as having continued for some months carving the "gingerbread" details on the front porch, fence, and gate house.

Cassie Brown married Jim Bryson, and they moved into a home in 1880 near the Bethany Community that was known in the family as Standishway. They lived there until Cassie's mother passed away, at which time Cassie and Jim moved into the Brown-Bryson house and lived there until 1928. At that time Mr. Clements, their long-time overseer, moved into the Brown-Bryson house where he lived until the late 1950s. During this time, the house remained in the ownership of Ethel Bryson Thompson, daughter of Cassie and Jim Bryson. After Mr. Clements left the house, the property was rented to tenants by Ms. Thompson and her daughter for a number of years. Ethel Bryson Thompson's daughter, Harriett Elizabeth Thompson, owned the property until it was sold to the present owner, Emmett Harper in 1964. Until the sale to Mr. Harper, the ownership of the property had continued within the Brown-Bryson family for almost 100 years.

The original owner, Thomas Tillery Brown, was a lawyer by profession, although he earned a greater income working as a cotton farmer. He also operated a sawmill in the area. The farm produced cotton, row crops, wheat, and garden crops, including potatoes and vegetables. In later years, the farm fields were converted to pasture for grazing cattle.

The house and complex of outbuildings are an uncommon example of the Gothic Revival style applied to a rural property. The extensive use of Gothic Revival ornamentation (e.g. fences, gate house, porch, and eave detail) and the formal arrangement of the outbuildings with interspersed plantings result in an extremely unusual but ornamental Gothic Revival rural landscape. Included in these plantings is a scuppernog arbor located between the house and the privy within the fenced-in back yard, as well as an allee-like arrangement of paired mature Magnolias and Pecan trees leading from the gatehouse to the Siloam-Veazey Road. On portions of the farm property are rows of moderately sized tree stumps indicating past fence lines and field boundaries. Evidence of terracing is also visible in these fields.

The outbuildings located to the rear of the house within the confines of the picket fence include a smokehouse, privy, and residence for the family's cook, Madge. When acetylene lighting was installed in the original main house, the tanks were located in Madge's house. A potato house was added in 1910-1912 at the suggestion of a University of Georgia Extension officer for the storage of sweet potatoes (no longer standing). Beyond the limits of the picket fence were a series of additional outbuildings. To the northeast of the house are more barns and sheds where the buggies and

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### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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carriage were stored. Immediately southeast of the house was where the housekeeper, a woman named Laura, lived. The cook's house and housekeeper's house are also referred to in the research material as single-pen tenant houses or gardener's houses.

It is important to note that in the years following the Civil War, several freed slaves remained on the farm property as tenant farmers. Up to three and four generations of tenant farmers lived in homes located further south along the Siloam-Veazey Road in the vicinity of a large stand of cane. George Thomas, and later his son Josh, lived in this area. Other families that had worked on the Brown-Bryson property lived in shed rooms built onto the rear of the reconstructed remnants of the Lovett Merritt House after the upper story burned. One such tenant farmer living on this property was Tom Mumford.

The Tolbert Cemetery, tucked in a grove of trees, is located in the southeastern corner of the property, accessible off of a short dirt road that extends northeast from Merritt Road. The Tolbert family owned the adjacent property to the southeast and, whether through acquisition or agreement, the reasons for the placement of the cemetery plot on the Brown-Bryson property is not known. The graves located here include those of Joel Tolbert (1861-1941); Leila Lee Tolbert (1870-1948); Nancy Louise Tolbert (1919-1919); and Thomas T. Tolbert (1921-1935). Guy T. Tolbert was a Private in the 157th Depot Brigade during World War I. A "J.E. Tolbert", possibly Joel Tolbert, is known to have been a "fancy grocer" in Greene County in the late 1880s. In the context of this nomination, the cemetery is a noncontributing site as it has not been properly evaluated. However, it is potentially individually eligible.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Armor, E.H. The Cemeteries of Greene County. Agee Publishers, Inc., 1987.

Deeds at the Greene County Courthouse, Greensboro, Georgia.

Harper, Emmett and Harriett Thompson. Brown-Bryson Farm, Historic Property Information Form, 1991-1996. On file at the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, with supplemental information.

Phone interview with Ms. Harriett Elizabeth Thompson, conducted by Bruce Lonnee (July 21, 1997).

Rice and Williams, History of Greene County, Georgia.

The Herald Journal, Greensboro, Georgia, Friday, June 17, 1977.

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

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued  
date issued:
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

**Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): n/a**

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** 168 acres

**UTM References**

A)	Zone 17	Easting 304640	Northing 3712310
B)	Zone 17	Easting 304950	Northing 3712400
C)	Zone 17	Easting 305080	Northing 3711750
D)	Zone 17	Easting 304840	Northing 3710940
E)	Zone 17	Easting 304200	Northing 3711400

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the nominated property includes the historic farm property that lies east and south of the Siloam-Veazey Road and north of the Merritt Road. The nominated property follows the current legal boundary and comprises nearly one-third of the original Brown-Bryson Farm. It serves as a representation of the rural property historically associated with the Brown-Bryson Farm.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**State Historic Preservation Office**

**name/title** Leslie N. Sharp, National Register Coordinator  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**street & number** 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303  
**telephone** (404) 656-2840 **date** April 20, 1999

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

**name/title** Emmett Harper/Bruce Lonnee  
**organization** Property Owner/Intern at NE Georgia RDC  
**street and number** 1760 Siloam-Veazey Road  
**city or town** Siloam **state** Georgia **zip code** 30642  
**telephone** 706-467-2264/706-369-5650

( ) **consultant**  
(X) **regional development center preservation planner**  
(X) **other: owner**

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Photographs**

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**Name of Property:** Brown-Bryson Farm  
**City or Vicinity:** Siloam Vicinity  
**County:** Greene  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** March 1998

**Description of Photograph(s):**

- 1 of 18: Front facade of Brown-Bryson House and picket fence; Photographer facing east-northeast.
- 2 of 18: Front facade of Brown-Bryson House, looking through gate; Photographer facing east.
- 3 of 18: Ell wing on rear of house and well house; Photographer facing west-southwest.
- 4 of 18: South side of Brown-Bryson House, showing former kitchen now garage and south side addition; Photographer facing north.
- 5 of 18: Central hall with staircase, looking toward front of the house; Photographer facing west.
- 6 of 18: North front room on first floor; Photographer facing south.
- 7 of 18: South front room on first floor; Photographer facing north.
- 8 of 18: Second floor bedroom on north side; Photographer facing south.
- 9 of 18: Gate entering front yard of house looking toward Siloam-Veazey Road; Photographer facing west.
- 10 of 18: Cook's house and garage; Photographer facing north-northwest.
- 11 of 18: Cook's house in foreground, smoke house in background left, tenant house in background right; Photographer facing east.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Photographs**

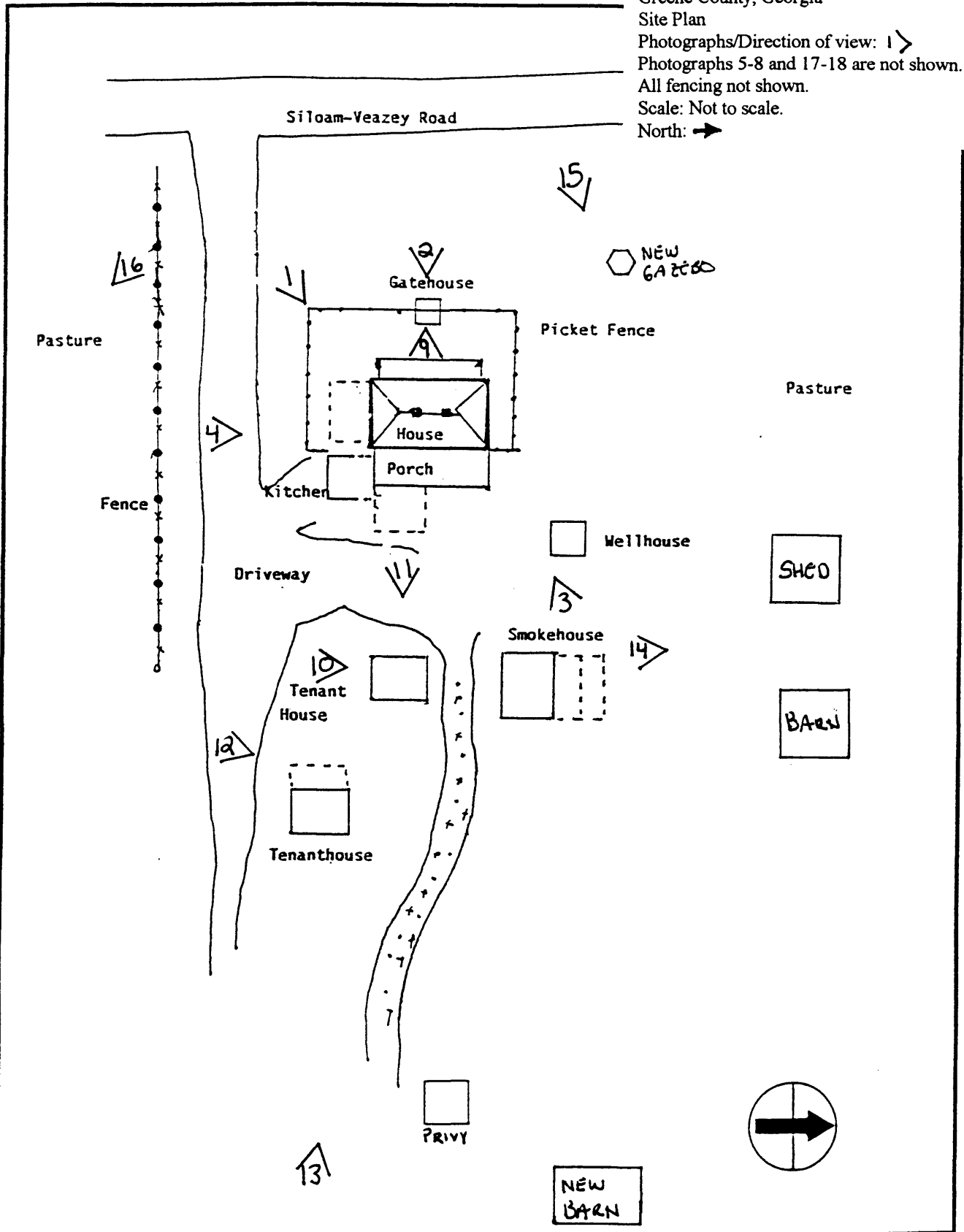
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- 12 of 18: Tenant house in foreground and cook's house in background; Photographer facing north.
- 13 of 18: Privy on right and tenant house in background left; Photographer facing west.
- 14 of 18: Historic barn and shed; Photographer facing north.
- 15 of 18: Nonhistoric gazebo with historic barn and shed in background; Photographer facing east.
- 16 of 18: Pasture with fencing and cattle; Photographer facing southwest.
- 17 of 18: Cemetery on southeast of the Brown-Bryson Farm; Photographer facing south.
- 18 of 18: Cemetery on southeast of the Brown-Bryson Farm; Photographer facing north.



Brown-Bryson Farm  
Greene County, Georgia  
Tax Map  
National Register Boundary:  
Scale: 1" = 625'  
North: ↑

Brown-Bryson Farm  
 Greene County, Georgia  
 Site Plan  
 Photographs/Direction of view: 1 >  
 Photographs 5-8 and 17-18 are not shown.  
 All fencing not shown.  
 Scale: Not to scale.  
 North: →

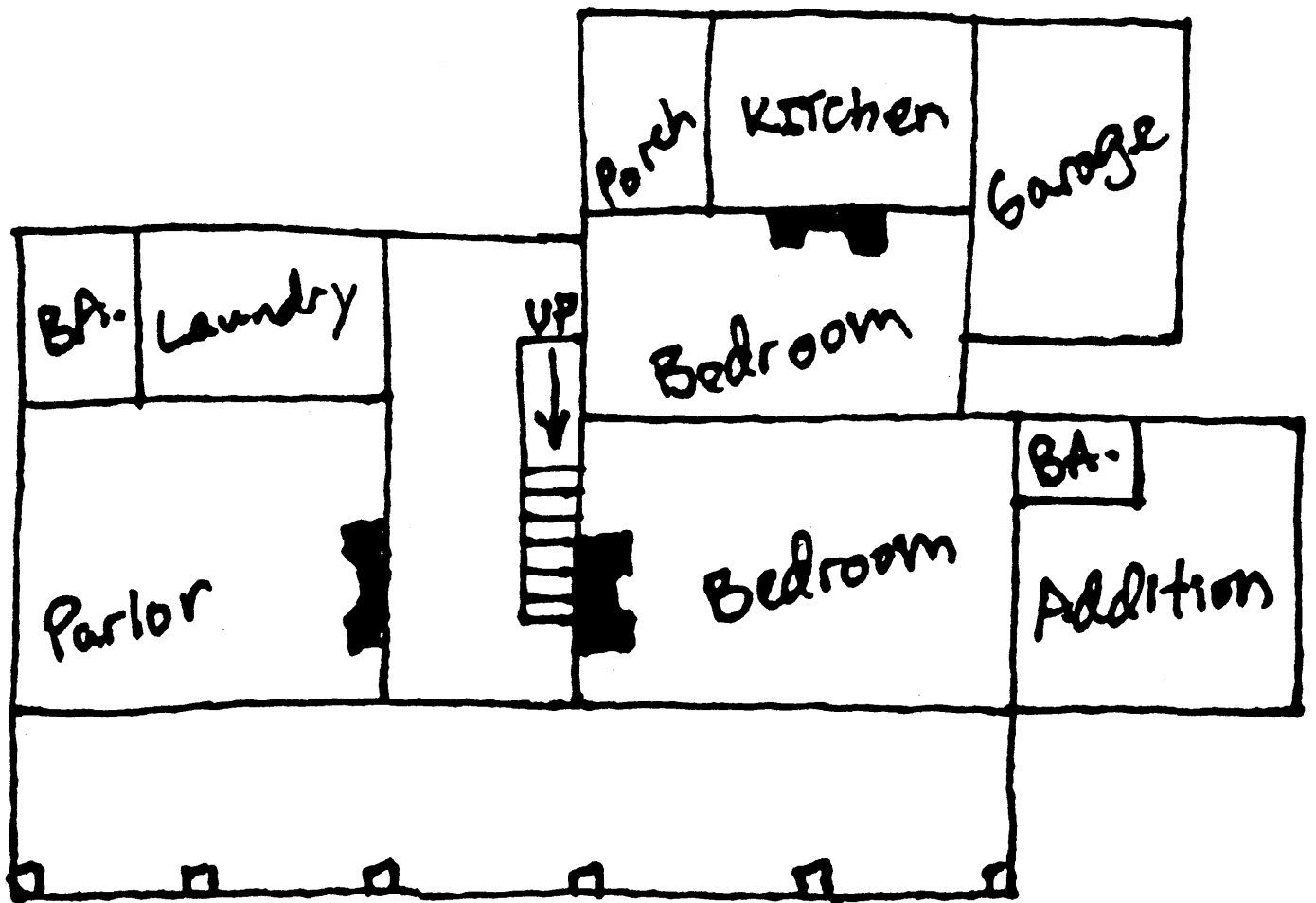


**SITE PLAN**

**Property:** Brown-Bryson Farm  
**Location:** Greene County, Georgia

**Not to Scale**  
**NEGRDC/Preservation Planner**





Brown-Bryson Farm  
Greene County, Georgia  
First Floor Plan  
Scale: Not to scale.  
North: ←