

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0143171

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 28 1975
DATE ENTERED JUN 18 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Linton Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Town of Linton and its environs

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Linton and vicinity

VICINITY OF

10th - Robert G. Stephens, Jr.

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Georgia

13

Hancock

141

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple Owners

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Linton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hancock County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Sparta

STATE

Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Linton, Georgia is a village in Hancock County founded officially on December 13, 1858 and was built around an academy known as the Washington Institute. The town reached its height of prosperity in the 1880's but has, in fact, changed in appearance and population only slightly since that time. Linton is exactly one mile long and has only one main street lined with large cedars and oaks. This street is actually secondary route 787 and has no other official name. Spartans call it the Linton Road and Lintonians call it the Sparta Road. Even though Linton has no traffic lights and only two stop signs, it does have some of the finest examples of mid-nineteenth century architecture in Georgia. All of Linton's houses and its two stores face the main street side by side set on large plots of land and are shaded by trees planted there in the 1850's.

Entering from the north, the first building on the left is Linton Methodist Church a simple, square, weatherboarded structure. The church, built in 1889-1890, has a pitched roof with three bays on the front composed of two windows on either side of a double door. Also, there are three asymmetrical bays along the sides. Plain moldings around the windows and simple pilasters along the corners are the only decorative elements.

Continuing south, the first house on the left is known as the Trice House (c.1860). It is a small four room structure with a wide hall running down the center. Underneath is a basement made of homemade bricks from the kiln of John Trawick, one of the founders of Linton. After the Civil War, a Yankee soldier who had passed through Linton during Sherman's march to the sea, returned there and lived in this house for several years. The plan of the house reflects classical influence in its symmetry, but is a simple raised cottage with a hipped roof and shed porch. It has been relatively unaltered except for plumbing installation.

In a meadow to the left of the Trice House and setback from the road is the Tanner's House, so called because Ezekiel Trice built it for his tanner. It has been renovated and altered over the past with additions of rooms on the back and probably the porch itself, making the line of the pitched roof irregular. The house has a four bay front with two separate entrances which lead into two large front rooms. There is no hallway. Behind the house stands a small shack which was the original kitchen. It is of peg construction with unpainted board and batten.

Just down from the Tanner's House is a severe Greek Revival House (c.1850), which belonged to Dr. John Stone, a prominent citizen of Linton and an owner of the land around Linton since 1837. It has six fluted Doric columns and a wide two story portico extending the length of the house. The house has a towering five bay front with the lower pedimented windows extending to the floor. The shutters here are all the original ones. Doric columns and pilasters frame the trabeated entrance and above this entrance extends a hanging balcony leading from the central door on the second floor. Decorative dentils line the cornice. The house is unpainted and has had relatively no alteration.

The Slade House and Slade Store marked as numbers five and six on the map date from the late 1860's. The Slade House is a simple raised cottage with a four room central hall plan. Originally the house had only a small stoop in front, but a porch was added in the 1950's. The old store has been left unpainted and boarded up for many years.

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Number seven on the map is the Benton Miller House. Mr. Miller was a Captain in the Confederate Army and built this house c.1860. After the war, he served as Doorkeeper of the Georgia House of Representatives. The house, relatively unaltered, is a central hall plan with a small portico held by four posts. The second floor is completely the original. It consists of two large rooms with windows extending to the floor. The ceilings curve along the outer walls making them slanted.

The Prescott-Stone House built in the late 1850's is very unpretentious but well preserved. It was originally built with four rooms and a narrow central hall, but in the 1860's, Dr. R. G. Stone added rooms to accommodate his family. It is built on a classical plan with four Doric-like posts along the wide front porch. The house is weatherboarded and has wide pine floors on the interior.

Further down the street is the Rev. T. J. Adams' House. It is made of handmade brick from the kiln of a neighbor, John Trawick and originally, latticed summer houses stood on either side of the walk. Transitional in style, the house is Italianate in flavor with its cupola and arched doorways, yet its symmetrical plan and columned porches suggest classic revival. The transom over the first floor entrance is made of cranberry glass and cut with shapes of vines and flowers. The side lights are also cut and frosted but are of clear glass.

Continuing down the main street and about 3/4 mile, past Linton city limit, is a house built c.1800. It was built long before Linton was founded and is a well preserved example of a plantation house. The back and front of the house are built exactly alike with raised shed porches, but the door on the back side of the house leads to the two roomed lower floor while the front door leads directly to a staircase going to the two rooms above. Two chimneys on either side of the house provide fireplaces for all four rooms. The house originally had a separate kitchen like the one shown in the photograph, but it was torn down. This kitchen was built in the 1920's and is in use today.

Returning to Linton and looking down the opposite side of the street one comes first to Penny's House. Almost nothing is known about it, but the house is supposedly a cottage built for a slave named Penny. It is unusual with a shingled hipped roof and a decorative cornice board. It is of board and batten construction and has a small shed porch which was apparently added later.

Down the road from Penny's House is Trawick brother's store built in the 1850's. It is a simple, square, weatherboarded structure with a pitched roof and later shed additions on either side.

The W. B. Harrison's House listed as number 13 on the map was built c.1900 and was the first house in Linton to have electric lights, running water, and an automobile garage. It is impressive with its Doric columned porch that reaches around the front and sides of its block frame. The house is weatherboarded and has a pitched roof, double chimneys, and a windowed gable in the attic. A small balcony extends over the porch roof.

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Next along the street is the Womble House (1860's), a square framed house with two large gables interrupting the roof line and a wide front porch held with six decorative Victorian posts. The entrance is trabeated and the two windows on either side reach to the floor. Viewed from the side, it appears the front half of the house including the front gables and porch were added on to the original house, probably in the late 1800's.

The Boyer House was built in the 1860's and according to its present appearance was probably altered in the 1890's to make it more Victorian than Greek Revival. The upper floor is separated from the lower by a string course and is taller and more ornate in detail. A trabeated entrance and the four Doric columned balcony on the second floor as opposed to the lower floor whose entrance has only side lights and whose porch has posts for columns, suggests that the second floor contained the main living rooms. The odd construction of the roof over the porch connecting to the balcony shows that perhaps two staircases leading from the ground to the second floor formed the original entrance plan. The house has a hipped roof and decorative pilasters at its corners.

Next to the Boyer House is the Strange House, a Victorian gingerbread cottage built probably in the 1880's. It has a trabeated entrance and large windows on either side which extend to the floor. An ornamental bargeboard frames the twin gables and porch cornice. Pierced wooden posts and decorative porch railings complete the style. The original house was block shaped with four rooms and a central hall.

The last house on the map is the Duggan House, built by Ivey Duggan, a famous educator and the first person in Georgia to receive a teaching license. The lower floor is made of homemade bricks with a large flight of steps ascending to the upper floor which is made of wood. The porch, recessed with plastered walls, has three entrances, the center one being trabeated. This center entrance originally led into a large room which was used as a dining area and study hall for students at the Washington Institute. The interior has since been altered but the exterior is still much the same. ✓

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The entire district of Linton, Georgia literally dates from the 19th century (except for some four new houses) and its importance during the years from 1858 to 1894 lay in the supervision of two institutions, Washington Institute and the Darien Baptist Church. In the mid-19th century preceding the Civil War years, the association of Baptist Churches of Baldwin, Hancock, and Washington counties decided they needed a private high school for their children that would give them the best possible formal education while teaching them the importance of religious training. It was decided that a town and school of ideal conditions could be built in an area directly in the center of a triangle formed by Sparta, Milledgeville and Sandersville. The Darien Baptist Church was close by in Washington County, there were no railroads for miles that would distract the students, and the making or selling of liquor was prohibited within a radius of three miles. Dr. John Stone, a prominent physician who came to Georgia from Vermont in 1837, sold this land to the Washington Institute in 1857 and the town (named for Linton Stephens) was incorporated in 1858. People moved to Linton from surrounding counties and even other states. They were a well-to-do and self-sufficient people who built beautiful homes large enough for themselves and boarding students. The houses ranged from stately Classical Revival to Victorian gingerbread styles.

The town itself was carefully planned along one main street. Twelve original lots, each being a city block long and containing several acres of land, were drawn up in the original town plat. Small dirt roads were made between the lots and these led down into the fields and slave cabins behind the houses. Boys and girls at the Institute studied algebra, geometry, trigonometry, Greek, Latin, surveying, calculus, natural philosophy, chemistry, moral sciences, rhetoric, and astronomy. But courses in china painting, hair wreaths, and embroidery were also taught to the girls. The Washington Institute was famous too for the tournaments held there. People were attracted from far and near to see the boys on fine horses joust and compete in Olympic-like games.

The Darien Baptist Church kept a firm hand on their newly acquired town. Many members were ex-communicated for such things as dancing or playing a musical instrument causing someone to dance.

After the Civil War, the school continued to thrive, but in 1894 it burned. Its huge brass bell which weighed 900 pounds and served as a clock to people for as far as ten miles away was found melted in the ruins. After the school burned the town seemed to stop in time. It has grown only slightly since the 1890's, but has not really changed in appearance. Its original houses still remaining seem to be a tribute to the spirit of a vital people who founded Linton.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- King, Maria - Personal Inspection, January 17, 1975
- Linley, John, The Architecture of Middle Georgia, Athens, Georgia: The University of Georgia Press, 1972.
- Macgregor, Elizabeth - Personal Inspection, August, 1974.
- Trawick, Eugenia F. "History of Linton", copies available from Historic Preservation Section, Atlanta, Georgia

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 365 acres

OK AC/HM

UTM REFERENCES

A	117	31163010	366611810	B	117	31163010	366648210
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	117	311361910	366648810	D	117	31137110	366612610
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning 800 feet northwest of the Methodist Church, boundaries extend 1,400 feet northeast of Federal-aid secondary route 787, continuing in a southeasterly direction parallel to Swift Creek for approximately one mile; at this point 1,200 feet northeast of route 787 the boundary continues in a south southeasterly direction for approximately 3/4 mile and terminates 110 feet north of route 787. The southern boundary beginning at this point is 210 feet south of route 787 and extends in an easterly direction for

(continued)

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Maria King, Historic Preservation Section

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Department of Natural Resources

February 20, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

270 Washington Street, S.W.

656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Atlanta

Georgia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Jackson O'Neal Lamb

TITLE Jackson O'Neal Lamb
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE April 7-1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
<i>[Signature]</i>	DATE 6/18/75
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE JUN 17 1975
ATTEST:	
<i>[Signature]</i>	
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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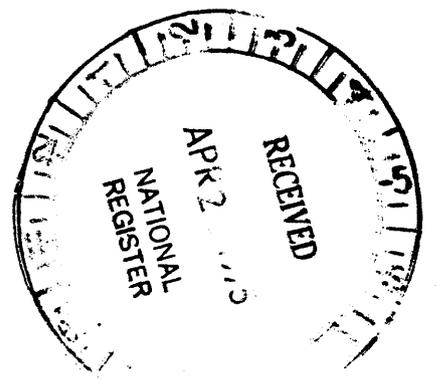
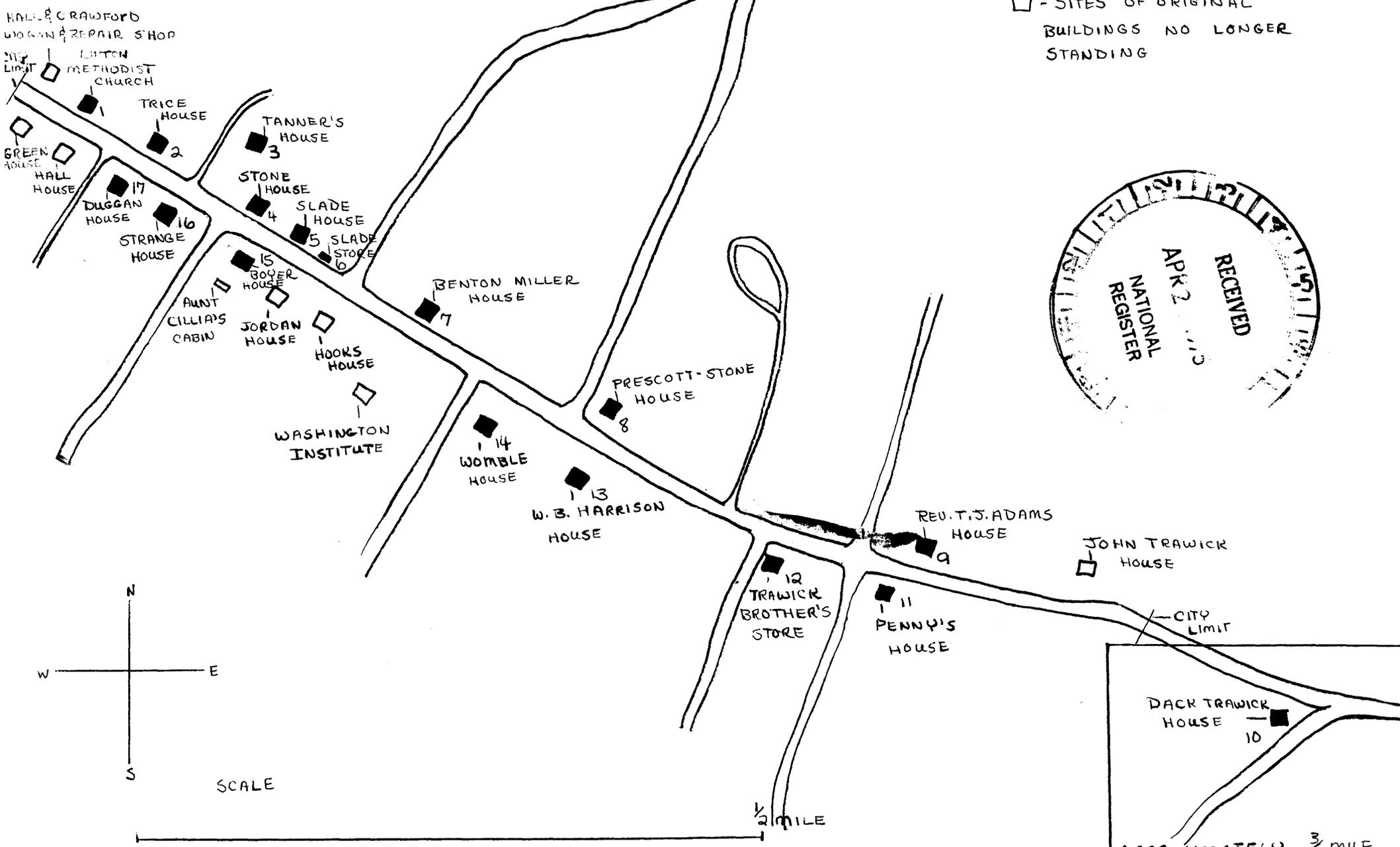
Trawick, Eugenia F. and Mrs. Sidney Trawick, personal interview

Continuation Sheet: Verbal Boundary Description Item No. 10 Page 2

4,800 feet to a point 800 feet south of route 787. The boundary then extends northeast for 4,250 feet terminating at a point 800 feet south of route 787. These boundaries have been set to include late 18th century cemeteries and most of the surrounding acreage that was part of the original town plat of Linton, Georgia.

Linton Historical District

- - HISTORICALLY IMPORTANT BUILDINGS STILL STANDING
- - SITES OF ORIGINAL BUILDINGS NO LONGER STANDING



APPROXIMATELY 1 MILE FROM BEGINNING TO END OF CITY LIMITS

APPROXIMATELY 3/4 MILE FROM CITY LIMIT TO DACK TRAWICK HOUSE