

1432

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 Woodall-Patton House and Post Office
other names/site number U.S. Post Office--Schley, Georgia; Patton Hill Post Office

2. Location

street & number GA 240, 3 miles west of U.S. 19
city, town Ellaville (X) vicinity of
county Schley **code** GA 249
state Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 31806

(N/A) not for publication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: | <u>Contributing</u> | <u>Noncontributing</u> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| buildings | 2 | 0 |
| sites | 0 | 0 |
| structures | 0 | 0 |
| objects | 0 | 0 |
| total | 2 | 0 |

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.

W. Ray Luce
Signature of certifying official

11-9-01
Date

for W. Ray Luce, Division Director and
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 Beall 1-11-02

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
GOVERNMENT/post office

Current Functions:

VACANT/NOT IN USE/storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

No Style

Materials:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| foundation | brick |
| walls | wood |
| roof | asphalt shingles |
| other | n/a |

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Woodall-Patton House is a one-story, frame, double pen-type house, with a low hipped roof and a full-length front porch. (Photo 1 and 2) The house rests on brick piers and has brick end chimneys. (Photo 2) The two-room central block consists of two rooms, each entered from the front porch by a door, with no hall, but doors connecting the two front rooms with each other, and doors leading from them to adjoining rear rooms. One front door entered the living room which was used as a post office. (Photos 6 and 7) The other front door entered a front bedroom. The front porch retains its original posts and banisters. The rear ell is under an end-gable roof and consists of a dining room and kitchen, with a later addition of a bath and bedroom making the house into a square. (Photos 8, 9 and 10) On the interior, the house retains its original wood floors, walls, ceiling, and doors, as well as original porcelain knobs. The two front rooms each had a fireplace with mantel. The mantels appear to be original as well. (Photo 8) The windows are six-over-six. The house has little ornamentation. There have been few changes. The adding of the rear bedroom is one; the wiring of the house and plumbing were added in the 1950s; and the southwest porch was enclosed around 1970. The immediate surrounding is an overgrown swept yard. There is one outbuilding remaining, a historic contributing frame smokehouse. (Photo 4) There are also the tumbled-down remains of a frame barn just to the west of the main house. (Photo 5) The house sits in a very rural area near the crossroads community of Concord where the Concord United Methodist Church and cemetery are located.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

ARCHITECTURE
COMMUNICATIONS
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance:

c.1871-1932

Significant Dates:

c.1871 - construction of the house
1888 - U.S. post office established

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

N/A

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Woodall-Patton House is significant in architecture as a good, intact example of a rural, double-pen farm house, believed to have been built c.1870, that retains its original floor plan, siding, doors, windows, mantels, front porch, walls, floors, ceilings, door knobs, and other features. It has a pair of front entrance doors, each leading to separate front rooms, with no hall, the main character-defining feature of the doublepen-type house. One front parlor was adapted to be used as the local post office for seventeen years. The double-pen house type is identified in the 1991 Georgia's Living Places statewide historic context as an important house type in Georgia. Most double pen houses date from the 1870s to the 1930s, making the Woodall-Patton House a very early example. Most double pen houses are found in north Georgia, making this a relatively rare central Georgia example.

The house is significant in communications and politics and government because the front parlor served as the U.S. Post Office, along the route between the towns of Buena Vista and Oglethorpe, for the northwest corner of Schley County, using the postal name of Schley, Georgia, from 1888 to 1905, with the postmaster/postmistress being the owner or resident of the house: James W. Woodall (1888-1893), and then his sister, Mary Ella Woodall Patton (1893-1905). Local people often called it the "Patton Hill Post Office," although that was never its official post office name. In 1905, the post office was discontinued and service transferred to Ellaville, the county seat. The house sits on a parcel of land that is part of the tract of 100 acres which was purchased in 1871 by Mrs. Elizabeth M. Woodall, the mother of James and Mary Ella, who served the post office. The mother and daughter made their living from farming and continued living in the house, together, as late as 1910. Ella Woodall Patton (by then remarried to Arthur Hill) died in 1932, at age 72, and the house was sold out of the family. Houses used as post offices were once common throughout Georgia, especially before the advent of rural free delivery; this is a rare documented surviving example. Rural post offices like this one made it possible for rural populations to send and receive mail on a regular and consistent basis.

National Register Criteria

The Woodall-Patton House meets National Register Criterion A because it served as a United States Post Office from 1888 until 1905, with the house's residents/owners being the postmaster/postmistress and transactions taking place from the living room. The post office was a very important form of communication especially in rural areas. The house meets National Register Criterion C because it is an excellent example of a double pen-type house that remains in a very unrestored state and thus contains most of its original double-pen form, floor plan, and its original floors, walls, ceilings and doors, including separate front entrance doors, as well as original porcelain knobs. It represents a good, remaining example of a rural farm dwelling from the post Civil War era.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

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N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance runs from the construction of the house c. 1870 to the end of the Woodall family's ownership in 1932.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

There are two contributing buildings, the main house, and a smokehouse. There are ruins of a barn that are in such deteriorated shape that they cannot be restored and are thus not counted.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

The Woodall-Patton House, used as the Schley Post Office, is located on land purchased by Elizabeth M. Woodall from Mary A. Renfro on January 6, 1871. The original tract consisted of approximately 100 acres and was Lot 74 of the third land district. Schley County tax digests show that James W. Woodall, Elizabeth's son, paid taxes on the land and household items until his death in 1893. Tax digests do not indicate when houses were built.

The tax district containing the lands of the Woodalls and Pattons was called "Nubbin Hill" in the early 1800s, but by 1887 the name "Patton Hill" appears in the tax digests. Perhaps the name was a recognition of the prominence of Robert Patton as a landowner, Civil War officer, and state senator.

In 1878, Mary Ella Woodall, age 17, married Samuel Patton, age 23, son of Robert Patton. The 1880 Census for Schley County lists Samuel as head of a household which included his wife, Mary Ella, mother-in-law, Elizabeth Woodall, and a child, Henry, four months old. There are no usable remaining 1890 Census records due to a fire. The next available census is that of 1900, which shows "Lizzie" Woodall as "Landlord" and Ella Patton, then 38, as "Postmistress." Both women were listed as widows.

Robert Patton, the father of Samuel Patton, was a local landowner, and had been an officer in the Confederate States Army during the Civil War. In later life, he was a state senator from 1890 to 1891. His headstone in the Concord Cemetery, which is very near the house, identifies him as "Capt. Robert Patton." Born August 20, 1826, he died July 27, 1893.

On April 21, 1884, James Franklin Hudson of Schley County, Georgia, filled out a U.S. Post Office form called a "Location Paper" for submission to the office of the First Assistant Postmaster General in Washington, D.C. The Location Paper was required by the U.S. Post Office for the establishment of a local post office. It consisted of a long page of descriptive statements with blank spaces to be filled in by Mr. Hudson and certified by a nearby postmaster. The purpose of the form was to

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

establish the name and location of the proposed post office in relation to the nearest postal route. Hudson, a landowner in northwestern Schley County, proposed to name the post office "Schley." It was to be located at a place called "Bulah," 600 yards south of the postal route that ran from Buena Vista in Marion County to the west to Oglethorpe in Macon County to the east. Mail was carried to post offices on that route three times a week by a contracted carrier on horseback. The carrier at that time was a Mr. Melton. The nearest post office was at Murray's Crossroads, three miles to the east. Mr. Hudson stated that the proposed post office would serve "200 or 250" residents. The Location Paper was certified by G.W.P. Carr, Postmaster at Tazewell in Marion County. It was received and stamped by the office of the First Assistant Postmaster General in Washington on April 26, 1884.

The National Archives and Records Administration has no document on file to indicate that a post office actually was established at "Bulah." We do not know whether the effort was abandoned or the U.S. Post Office turned down the request. We do know that four years later a post office was opened to serve the community that encompassed "Bulah" (that name is not found in later records). The newly opened post office was officially designated the Schley Post Office. It was located in a house a short distance west of the Concord Methodist Church and Cemetery on the Buena Vista to Oglethorpe postal route, currently State Route 240--the nominated property.

According to the "Record of Appointment of Postmasters, 1832 - September 30, 1971," the Schley Post Office was established on February 13, 1888, with James W. Woodall as Postmaster. He died March 1, 1893 and was succeeded by his sister, Mary Ella Woodall Patton; she became postmaster on April 21, 1893, and served until the office was discontinued, effective July 31, 1905. From that date on, the Schley Post Office's customers were served by the Ellaville Post Office. The Schley Post Office was operated in the living room of the home of Elizabeth Woodall, the mother of James W. Woodall and Mary Ella Woodall Patton.

For nearly 17 years, this home post office served the farming families of northwestern Schley County. Fronting on the Buena Vista to Oglethorpe postal route, it was conveniently located 0.1 mile west of a crossroads. Although officially designated the Schley Post Office, local historical accounts refer to it as the "Patton Hill Post Office." Mail was delivered and picked up three days a week by a carrier on horseback. His route included the post offices at Tazewell in neighboring Marion County, Patton Hill, and Murray's Crossroads, three miles to the east of Patton Hill. Mrs. Marywyl E Lawhorn, who lived in the old Woodall-Patton house in the 1930s and had been born in the area in 1886, recalled that she and her brothers and sisters rode in a wagon from their home to the post office. "Cud'n Ella," as Mrs. Patton was affectionately known, ran the office from her living room. A fireplace provided warmth in the winter. The office was discontinued in 1905 with the start of rural delivery from the post office in Ellaville, the county seat.

Eventually, the Schley Post Office became known as the Patton Hill Post Office, although it retained its official designation "Schley" until it was discontinued in 1905. The origin of the word "Hill" in the

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Patton Hill name is uncertain. The Post Office was situated on relatively high ground, but not a hill in the usual sense. The name may have been derived from the general character of the terrain: the creek to the south and smaller creeks to the east and north of Patton Hill. By the 1930s, the name "Patton Hill" was fading into disuse and was being replaced by "Concord," the name of the church that was founded by early settlers in 1850 and that was located at the nearby crossroads.

By the time of the 1910 Census, the Schley Post Office had become a historical footnote. Elizabeth Woodall and her daughter, Ella Patton, earned their living from farming. A small smokehouse, which stands near the side porch of the house, probably held hams and sausage for curing. The remains of a barn lie to the west of the house.

Elizabeth Woodall deeded her property to Ella Patton on July 17, 1924. The following year, Mrs. Patton was remarried to businessman Arthur Hill. Interestingly, Ella's two married names were the same as the name of the tax district, her homestead and post office: Patton Hill. Upon Ella's death on March 10, 1932, at age 72, the property was inherited by Arthur Hill. When he sold it the following year, it was referred to in the deed as the "Mrs. Ella Patton Hill Place."

Ownership of the land and house, former site of the Schley Post Office, has changed three times since 1933. In 1933 the new owner was Marywyl Etheredge Lawhorn, but only for a few months. Then Stephen M. Etheredge from November 1933 to May 1957, and then his widow Ethel Etheredge from then until her own death. The current owner, Karen Giannattasio of Atlanta, is a granddaughter of Stephen M. and Ethel Etheredge. The house is currently unoccupied and is used for storage.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Dixon, Michael. Historic Property Information Form, Schley Post Office/Patton Hill Post Office, march 4, 1997 with subsequent additional information, on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta.

Harris, Megaera. Letter of August 28, 1995 to Michael Dixon. Verifying appointments of postmasters at this location. Photocopies of the original documentation was also included.

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

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property approximately one acre

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 749900 Northing 3580180

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is a small parcel around the main house. It is marked by a heavy black line on the enclosed portion of the plat of the S. M. Etheredge Estate, J. R. Littlefield, Surveyor, dated 1985.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is a small tract just around the main house and outbuilding, and is a portion of the tract purchased in 1871 on the south side of the highway.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 156 Trinity Ave. SW, Suite 101
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** October 17, 2001

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

name/title Michael Dixon
organization n/a
street and number 168 Sherwood Rd.
city or town Americus **state** GA **zip code** 31709
telephone 478-924-3089 (1997)

consultant

regional development center preservation planner

other: grandson of 1933 owner, Mrs. Lawhorn, and a former resident in the house

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

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Photographs

Name of Property: Woodall-Patton House and Post Office
City or Vicinity: Ellaville vicinity
County: Schley
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: August 1999

Description of Photograph(s):

1 of 10: Front facade from the yard; photographer facing southwest.

2 of 10: Front facade from west side; photographer facing southeast.

3 of 10: Rear facade; photographer facing north.

4 of 10: Smokehouse, front facade; photographer facing west.

5 of 10: Ruins of barn; photographer facing west.

6 of 10: Interior, Living Room/former Post Office room, with one of the front doors on the left; photographer facing northeast.

7 of 10: Interior, Living Room/former Post Office room, with front door out of photo view on right; photographer facing northwest.

8 of 10: Interior, Dining Room looking through door to Living Room and front door; photographer facing north.

9 of 10: Interior, rear bedroom with outside door; photographer facing southeast.

10 of 10: Interior, porch with door leading to pantry and window leading to dining room; photographer facing northeast.

Woodall-Patton House and Post Office
 Ellaville Vicinity, Schley County, Georgia
 Plat Map (from Plat of S.M. Etheredge Estate)
 1" = 600'

1985, J.R. Littlefield, Surveyor
 The nominated parcel is marked as "site" and is delineated by a heavy black line.

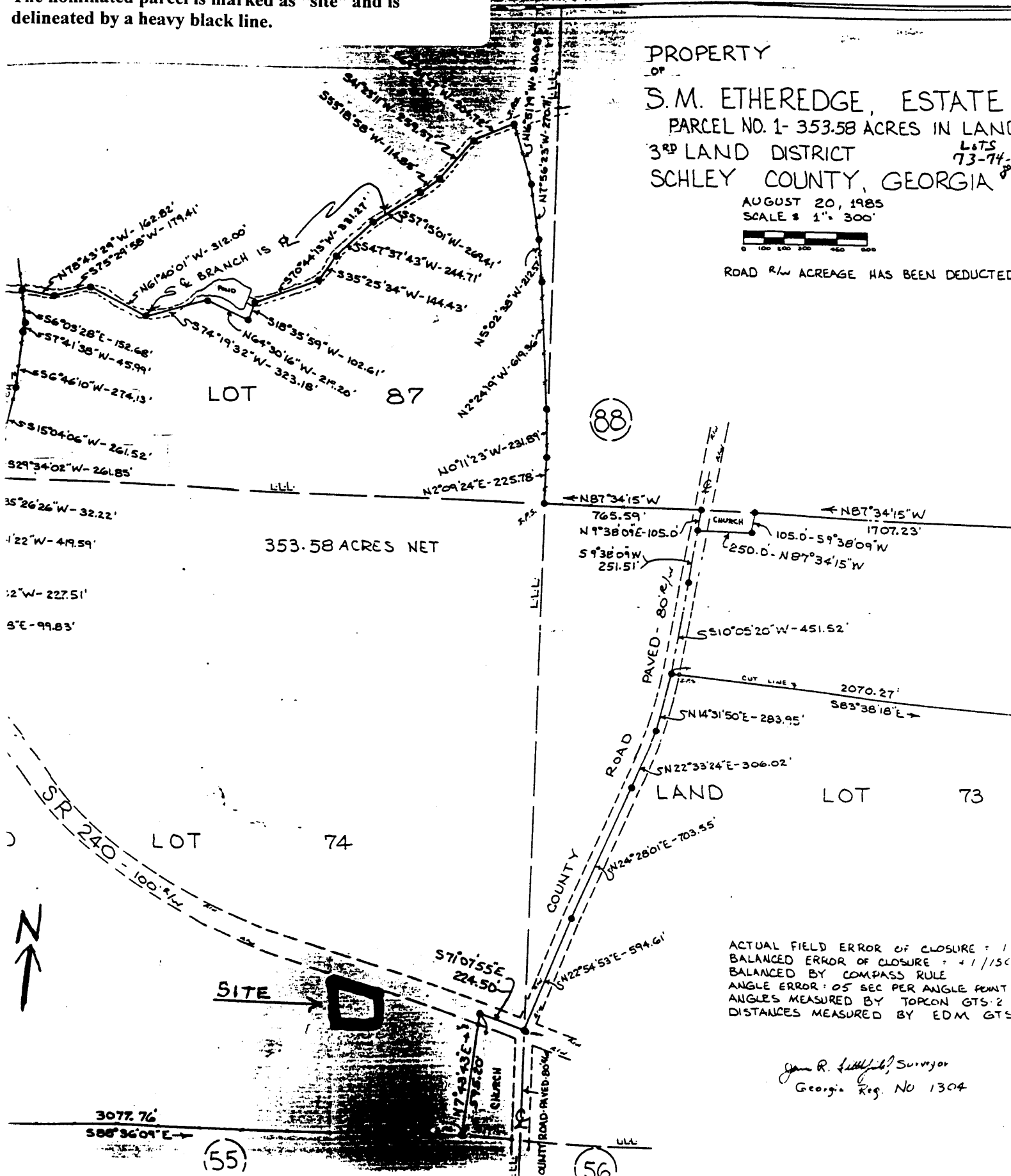
PROPERTY

S.M. ETHEREDGE, ESTATE
 PARCEL NO. 1- 353.58 ACRES IN LAND
 3RD LAND DISTRICT
 SCHLEY COUNTY, GEORGIA
 LOTS 73-74

AUGUST 20, 1985
 SCALE 1" = 300'



ROAD R/W ACREAGE HAS BEEN DEDUCTED

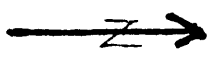


ACTUAL FIELD ERROR OF CLOSURE = 1
 BALANCED ERROR OF CLOSURE = 1/150
 BALANCED BY COMPASS RULE
 ANGLE ERROR = 05 SEC PER ANGLE POINT
 ANGLES MEASURED BY TOPCON GTS-2
 DISTANCES MEASURED BY EDM GTS

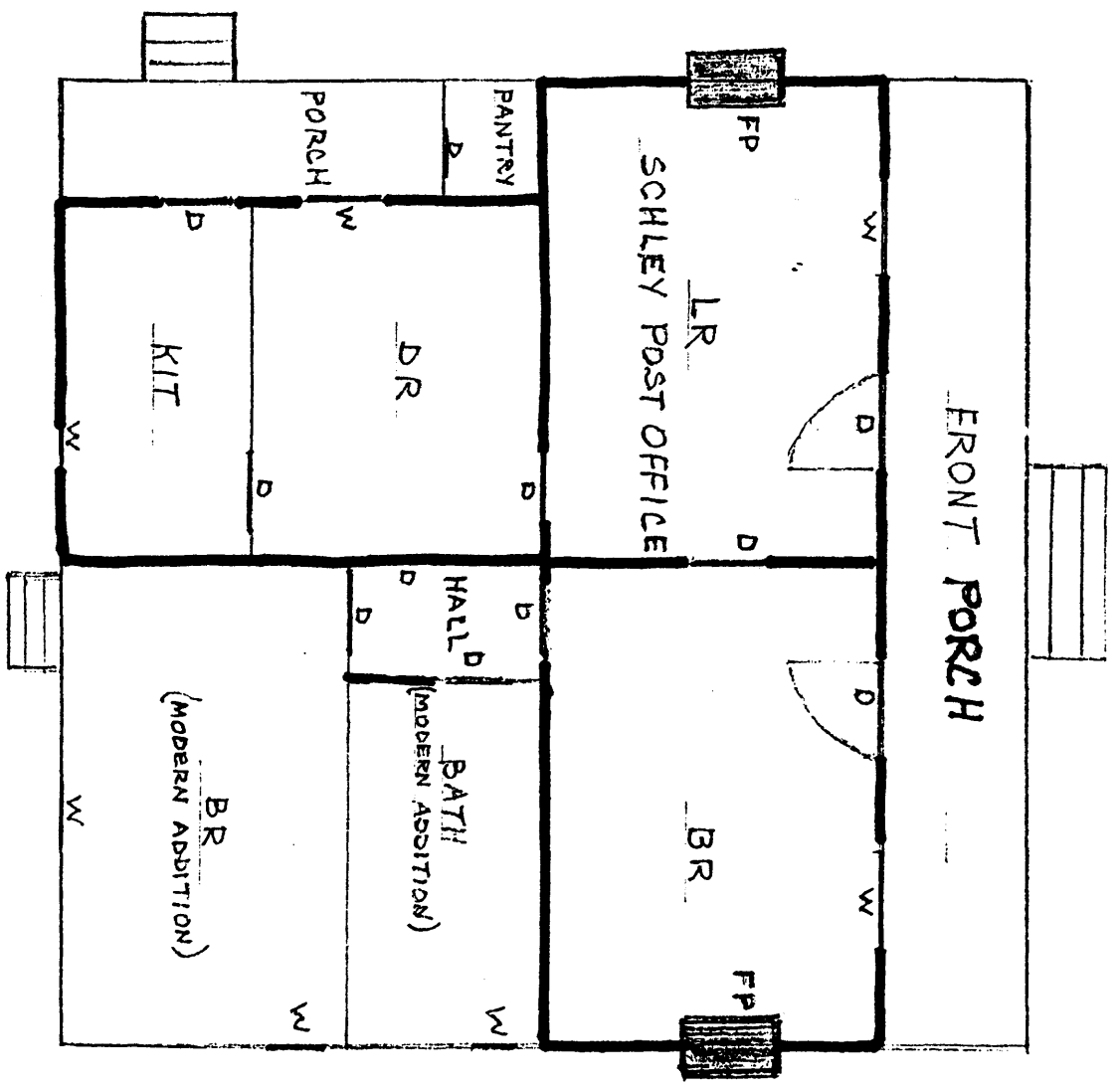
J.R. Littlefield, Surveyor
 Georgia Reg. NO 1304

3077.76'
 S86°36'09"E

GA 240
FORMER BUENA VISTA-OGLETHERDE POSTAL POSTE

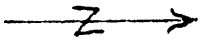


MAY 20, 1996
SCHLEY POST OFFICE
1888-1905
MICHAEL DIXON



SMOKE HSE.

Woodall-Patton House and Post Office
Ellaville Vicinity, Schley County, Georgia
Floor Plan
Not to scale
Drawn by Michael Dixon, 1996
The room uses are shown directly on the plan.



MARION COUNTY 7.0 MI

GA 240

WOODS

REMAINS
OF
BARN

SMOKE
HOUSE

HOUSE
FORMER SCHLEY POST OFFICE

CONCORD CHURCH 0.1 MI
MURRAY'S CROSSROADS 3.1 MI

CULTIVATED FIELD

Woodall-Patton House and Post Office
Ellaville Vicinity, Schley County, Georgia
Sketch Map
Not to scale
Drawn by Michael Dixon, 1997
The property's elements are all labeled on the map.