

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JAN 30 1984

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Render Family Homestead

and or common Same

2. Location

street & number GA Georgia 18, one mile south of courthouse N/A not for publication

city, town Greenville N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Meriwether code 199

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Carl Samples

street & number P.O. Box 735

city, town Greenville N/A vicinity of state Georgia 30222

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Meriwether County Courthouse

city, town Greenville state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Structures Field Survey: Meriwether County, Georgia has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Render Family Homestead is a two-story clapboard structure that has evolved from three major periods of building activity on the property. The structure's present configuration reflects the 1907 remodeling. The house supports a Neoclassical facade and several rear appendages. There are four chimneys, two end ones and two rear ones. The first- and second-story doors on the front facade have side-lights and transoms. The front central gable has a fanlight. The front portico consists of four modified Ionic columns that support a fluted frieze. The cornice is supported by modillions.

Neoclassical interior features include the central stairway, mantels, and a long hall that parallels the front facade. The interior room arrangement reflects the growth of the house. The front or older part consists of two rooms on each floor with a central hall. Perpendicular to this is a two-story wing housing one room on each floor. On either side of this wing are one-story additions; on the south is the dining room that was originally detached, the kitchen, and a connecting porch, and on the north side is the present one-story den and small kitchen. Some of the floors are wide heart pine, while others are narrow hardwood. Most walls are plastered, and many are wallpapered. Most ceilings have modern treatments, while the old dining room has a tongue-and-groove board ceiling. There are a variety of mantels. The one in the old dining room is a simple wooden one; that in the first-floor bedroom is a High Victorian woodgrained mantel; and the first-floor parlors have a Victorian overmantel and a Neoclassical mantel, respectively. The two upper bedrooms have Neoclassical mantels. Interior details include picture moldings, and vertical tongue-and-groove wainscoting on the stair landing.

The house is situated near a road and is set off by a new picket fence. The land is gently rolling, and the lot extends to a family cemetery and a forest in the rear. There is a restored formal garden on the north. The house has several large magnolia trees in front, especially on either side of the front walk. *See*

There are several extant historic outbuildings on the property. On the north is a historic playhouse¹(c. 1900) and a stone smokehouse²(c. 1913). To the rear is the old kitchen,³ which has a central chimney and is divided into two rooms, the kitchen and a spinning room. South of the house is a well and well shed. The foundations of several other outbuildings still remain, and the locations of others are known. *see map*

Changes to the house date from various times since the original structure was built in 1832. Most noticeable are those related to the 1907 remodeling of the house to its present Neoclassical appearance. Other changes include ceiling replacements, repairs to a 1976 fire-damaged upper bedroom, conversion of one bedroom into a large bathroom, and the paneling of the north rear room to create a den with a massive stone fireplace.

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 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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				Local History

Specific dates 1832, 1907 **Builder/Architect** 1907 - T. Firth Lockwood (Sr.), Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Render Family Homestead is significant in architecture as a good example of the transformation of a plantation house while still owned by the same family. Built around 1832 in the prevailing Plantation Plain style, it was first expanded around 1867 and in a more major fashion in 1907. During the latter effort, an architect, T. Firth Lockwood (1868-1920) of Columbus, was hired to bring the house up to prevailing Neoclassical standards with the addition of a columned facade, grand stairway, and mantels. The house is also significant in local history as the homeplace of the Render family, which has remained prominent in Meriwether County affairs since arriving around 1832. This house was built about that time by James Render (1777-1854). He ran a large cotton plantation from this house and served as one of the justices of the Inferior Court, the highest antebellum county office. Later owners, Joshua L. Render (1818-1867) and his son, James L. Render (1863-1932), were prominent farmers.

These areas of significance support property eligibility under the National Register criteria B and C.

Historical Narrative

James Render (1777-1854) came to Meriwether County in 1832. He became a prosperous, prominent plantation owner and was a justice of the Inferior Court of Meriwether County. Before coming to Meriwether, he represented Wilkes County in the General Assembly of Georgia, 1824-25, 1826-27 and 1828-29. By 1850, James Render had 1,900 acres of land, 800 in production with seventy-six slaves. He built the original house.

In 1850, his plantation produced, besides cotton, wheat, Indian corn, rye, oats, Irish potatoes and sweet potatoes. The dairy produced butter. The plantation stretched both north, south, and west of the present acreage. There were eleven children. Descendants include Governor Joseph M. Terrell (1861-1912) and James Render Dowdell, chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court.

Joshua L. Render (1818-1867) inherited the house from his father, James Render. He married Mary Jane Dixon (1832-1902) in 1858. In 1860, he had \$6,000 in real estate and \$27,000 in personal estate. At the end of the Civil War, forty-two freedmen, former slaves, contracted to stay and work on the plantation. Joshua Render made the first drastic changes to the house, creating an L shape with the rear wing. His widow is said to have attached the kitchen to the house.

[continued]

9. Major Bibliographical References

Strain, Jane M., "Historic Property Information Form," 1981, and supplemental information in 1982. Based on interviews with the Render family, William H. Davidson's Brooks of Honey and Butter (1971), and courthouse records.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 8.3 acres

Quadrangle name Greenville, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	<u>16</u>	<u>713975</u>	<u>3655165</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is all that remains associated with the house and all that is owned by the owners at this location. It is marked as Parcel 13 on the enclosed Tax Map GR-7. It contains the house, domestic outbuildings, yard and representative agricultural acreage.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian
Historic Preservation Section,
organization Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources date December 19, 1983
street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W. telephone (404) 656-2840
city or town Atlanta state 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon
title State Historic Preservation Officer date 1/6/84

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Melissa Byers
Keeper of the National Register date 3/1/84

Attest: _____ date _____
Chief of Registration

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Continuation sheet Significance Item number 8 Page 2

In 1873, when Mrs. James Render died after her son, there were approximately 1,435 acres in the plantation, valued at \$11,700.

James L. Render (1863-1932) married Sarah McGehee (1869-1960) in 1889 and had four daughters. Mr. Render came into full ownership in 1902, upon the death of Mrs. Joshua Render. In 1907, he had the house enlarged into its present, Neoclassical appearance. This was in keeping with prevailing architectural tastes at the turn of the century. He was among the first in the county to have water by means of a windmill and storage tank. He also brought electricity into the house. He was a prominent and successful farmer. His daughter, Mrs. O.W. Hill, indicated that the architect for the 1907 remodeling was "a Mr. Lock or something like that;" this is considered most likely to be T. Firth Lockwood, Sr., of Columbus, Georgia, who was one of the few active architects in west Georgia during the first decade of the twentieth century. He is noted for work on all types of buildings, residences, churches, commercial buildings, libraries and schools.

The house and grounds remained in the same family for over 130 years, until it was sold in 1965. It had been a working plantation for the entire time. The current owners are the fourth owners since the death of Miss Sara Render.

SKETCH MAP

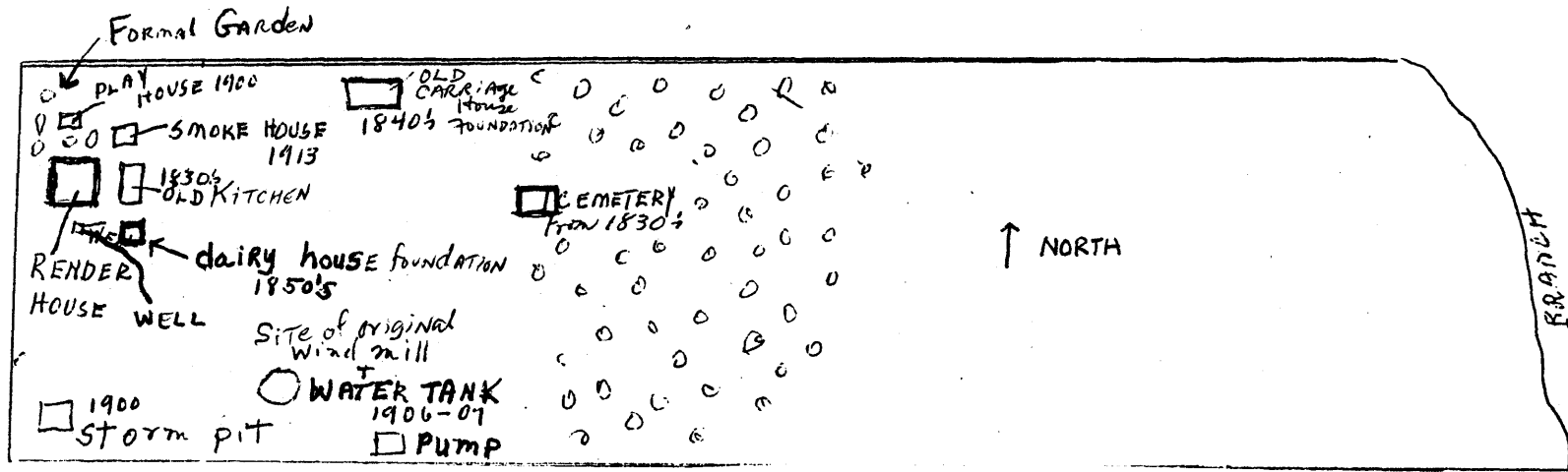
RENDER FAMILY HOMESTEAD
Greenville, Meriwether County, Georgia

Scale: 1" = approximately 150'

Source: Drawn by Jane M. Strain, Consultant

Date: 1981-1982

Key: The parcel shown is the nominated property. Outbuildings and the location of the foundations or sites of others are marked.



MAP III JAMES L. AND SARAH MCGEEHEE RENDER

FLOOR PLAN

FIRST FLOOR

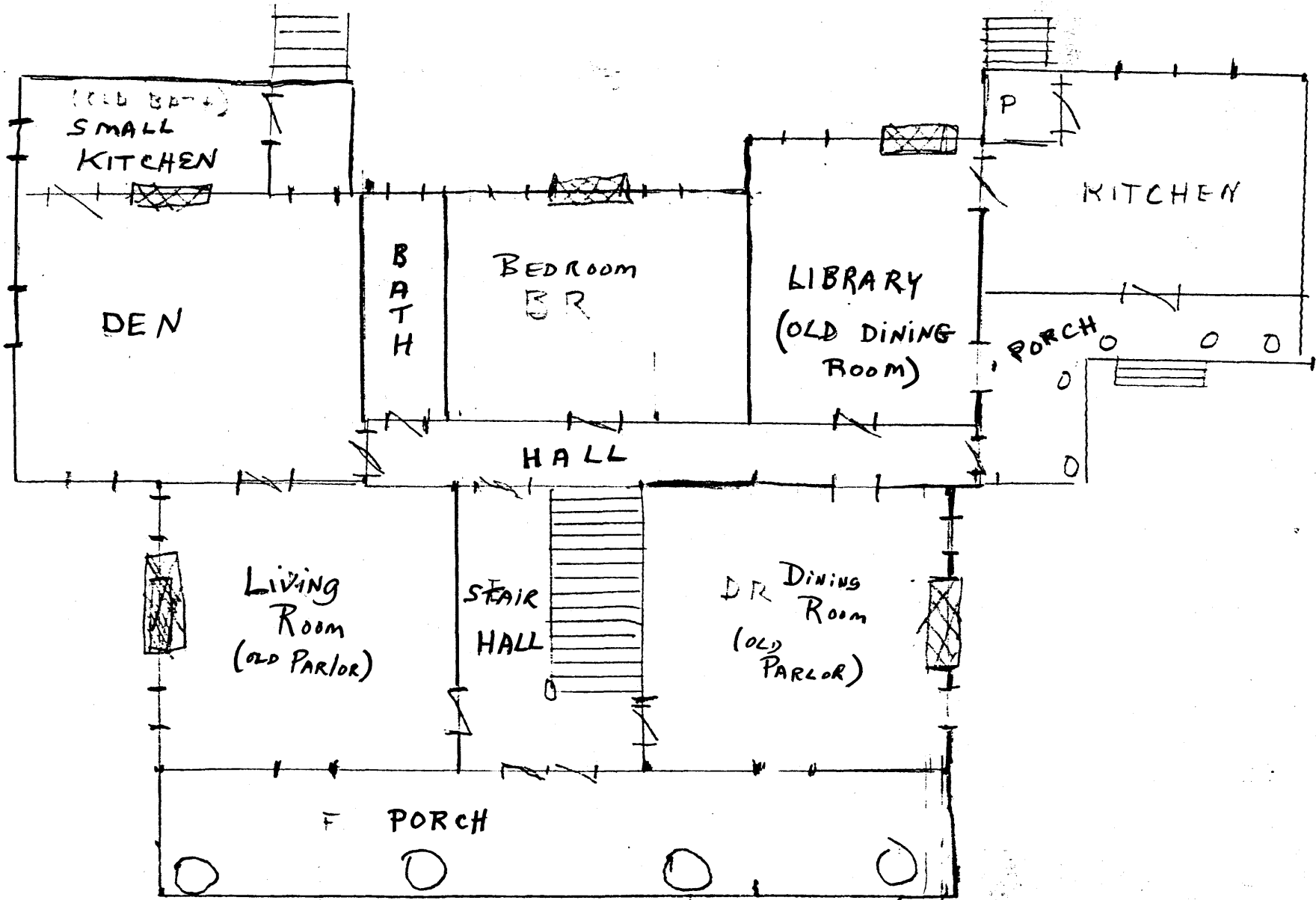
RENDER FAMILY HOMESTEAD
Greenville, Meriwether County, Georgia

Scale: Not to scale

Source: Drawn by consultant Jane Strain

Date: 1982

Key: First floor



TAX MAP

RENDER FAMILY HOMESTEAD
Greenville, Meriwether County, Georgia

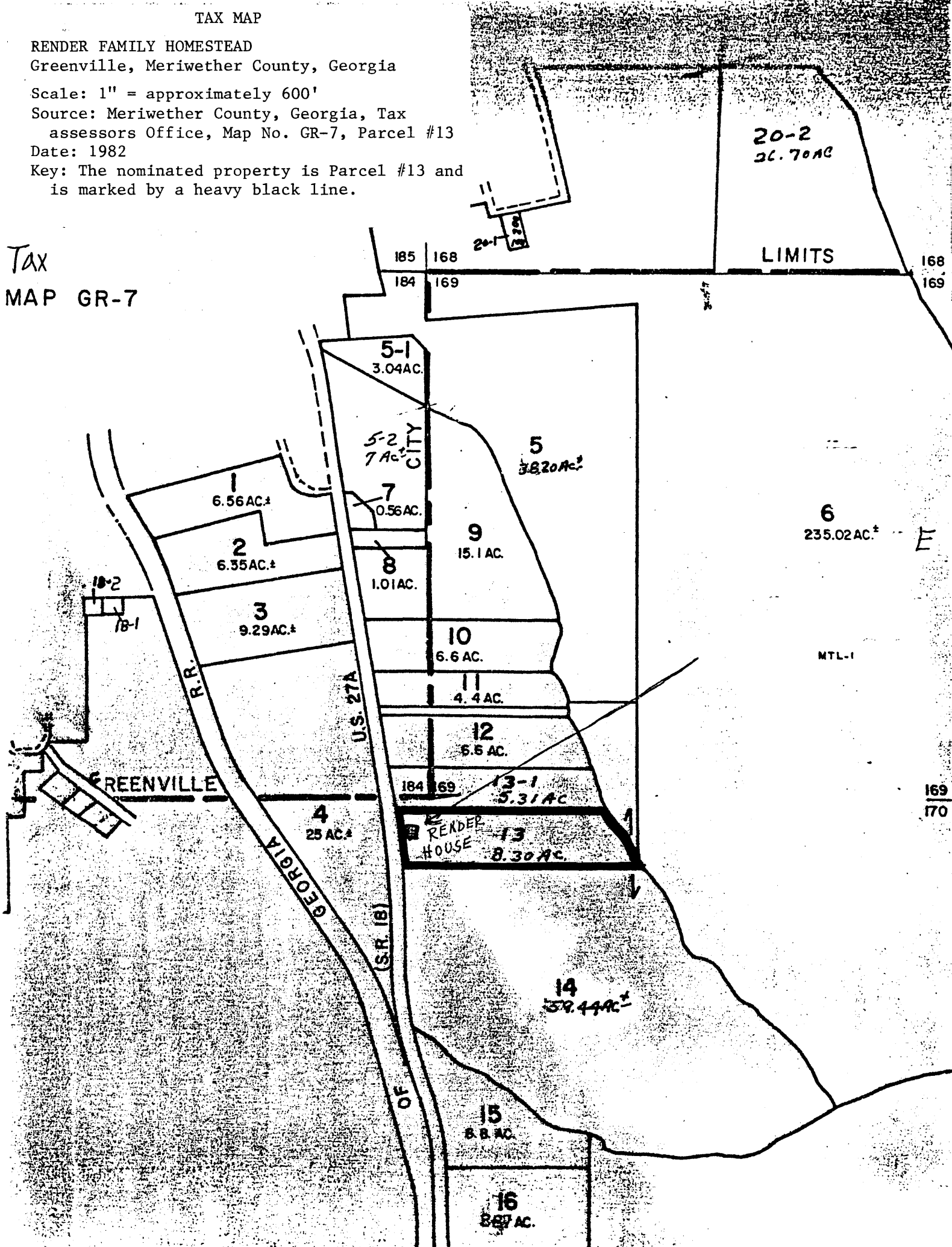
Scale: 1" = approximately 600'

Source: Meriwether County, Georgia, Tax
assessors Office, Map No. GR-7, Parcel #13

Date: 1982

Key: The nominated property is Parcel #13 and
is marked by a heavy black line.

Tax
MAP GR-7



MAP III SECOND FLOOR

JAMES L. AND SARAH McLEHEE RENDER

FLOOR PLAN

RENDER FAMILY HOMESTEAD

Greenville, Meriwether County, Georgia

Scale: Not to scale

Source: Drawn by consultant Jane Strain

Date: 1982

Key: Second floor

