

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.

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Signature of certifying official

10/12/89
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer,
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

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

Entered in the
National Register

- 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

Andrew Lyon 11/27/89

Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC:single dwelling
AGRICULTURE:animal facility

Current Functions:

COMMERCE:business

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals:Colonial Revival

Materials:

foundation brick
walls brick
roof asphalt, metal
other

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Crescent Farm consists of a historic Georgian Revival style house built in 1922 and a historic rock barn built in 1906. The house and barn are located on a hill across the Etowah River from the small, north Georgia city of Canton.

The house is a two-story red brick structure with a central hall plan on both floors. There is also an attic with five dormer windows and a basement (photographs 9, 11). There are five chimneys serving eight fireplaces with original mantels (photographs 13, 15). There is marble trim on the exterior as well as marble keystones and marble window and door sills. The original hardwood floors are carpeted and there is an ornate walnut staircase, decorative arched landing windows, French doors, and brass door knobs (photographs 12, 14). The original room arrangement included five bedrooms, three baths, a living room, sun room, breakfast room, and kitchen. Many of these rooms now serve as offices for the Cherokee Federal Savings Bank. The house sits atop Mount Etowah overlooking the Etowah River. There are magnolia, oak and maple trees on the grounds which have been re-landscaped professionally (photographs 4, 11).

The only surviving original farm building is the rock barn, built as a stable for race horses (photograph 1, 3). It has been separated from the historic house by Georgia Highway 5 for over fifty years. The barn is rock on the lower level and brick on the gable portion with an open latticed gabled end (photograph 7). Marble sills were installed in each window. The cross-hatched timber gable permitted air to circulate through the hay stored in the loft. The rocks used for building materials were dug from the Etowah River.

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Section 7

A.L. Coggins referred to his 350 acres as Crescent Farm. The farm derived its name from the manner in which the Etowah River partially encircles it in a crescent-like shape and was best known on both a local and national basis for its world class harness race horses.

Coggins built his Colonial Revival residence called Edgewater Hall on the same site where a former Victorian frame structure once stood and occupied the house from 1922 to 1928. Aside from the main house and traditional outbuildings, there was a cotton gin, a smokehouse, a blacksmith shop, a race house barn, a stud horse barn, a large mule barn and a quarter mile race track.

The house and barn are situated in an area which is commercially developed and also contains a school complex. While the barn has remained unchanged, the house underwent major rehabilitation in 1986 when it was converted from a residence to the Cherokee Federal Savings Bank. Most of rooms were converted to bank offices and conference rooms. All rehabilitation work has been done in keeping with the Colonial Revival style of the house. Additions were made on the north and part of the west sides, including changing the entrance to the south side. An original porte cochere was removed at the south entrance and an entrance room built.

The rock barn is presently owned by the Cherokee County Historical Society and is being rehabilitated as a local museum and meeting place for the society. Additional outbuildings associated with Crescent Farm no longer remain. State Highway 5 (Marietta Highway) is considered a noncontributing structure. The highway is flat and unobtrusive to the visual relationship of the two historic buildings.

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
agriculture

Period of Significance:

1906-1928

Significant Dates:

1906
1922

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Francis P. Smith

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Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

Crescent Farm which includes the A.L. Coggins House (Edgewater Hall), and rock barn is significant in the areas architecture and agriculture.

ARCHITECTURE

Crescent Farm is significant in architecture because of the main house which is a fine example of the Georgia Revival style prominent in the 1920s. It was designed by noted Atlanta architect Francis P. Smith (1886-1971) and has detailing in marble, a local product. The two-story, red brick Colonial Revival style house was completed in 1922. Referred to as Edgewater Hall, the house features marble keystones and decorative caps above the ground floor windows, marble window and door sills, French doors, decorative window treatments, stationary black shutters, five arched dormer windows on the third story and decorative cornices under the eaves. Interior detailing includes eight classical styled mantels, brass doorknobs, a walnut staircase, and hardwood floors. The property is also significant because the surviving barn, made from locally quarried rock, is the only known rock barn remaining in Georgia. Because the barn housed valuable racehorses, it was as fire resistant as possible for the times. The barn is constructed of rock on the lower level and brick and wood lathe on the gable ends. The window sills are marble. The interior space includes an open loft on one end. Edgewater Hall represents an excellent example of the Colonial Revival style which was popular in Georgia during the turn-of-the-century and early 20th century. The rock barn is a unique example of a fire-resistant farm building found in Georgia.

AGRICULTURE

Crescent Farm is significant in agriculture because the barn was built as a horse racing stable where fine race horses were bred and raised by A.L. Coggins. Some went on to win state, regional, and national awards in racing. Other ventures of Coggins included a livery stable in Canton and a large mule brokerage business in Atlanta. All of his later agriculturally significant activities took place while he lived in the historic house. Crescent Farm during its operation under Coggins consisted of 350 acres of farmland. It developed as a working plantation with departmental heads. Among the farm hands, Coggins employed approximately 75 black workers, some living on housing

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provided on the property. While horses and mules were the main commodity, the farm also raised turkeys, cows, guineas, hogs and dogs. Corn, cotton, hay and molasses were also produced. Crescent Farm was considered a favorite meeting place to view harness racing on the one mile track located south of the barns. The rock barn is the only remaining agricultural building associated with this former farm. The historic property is an example of a large scale horse breeding farm used during the early 20th century in Georgia.

National Register Criteria

Crescent Farm meets Criteria A and C.

Crescent Farm meets Criteria A as it illustrates the broad patterns of American history due to its association with agriculture, in particular, race horses during the late 19th and early 20th century. Crescent Farm represents one of the few large farms in Georgia which specialized in raising mules and harness racing horses. Besides breeding championship horses, the Coggins farm also provided mules for farming. The farm produced various agricultural products including cotton, corn, hay and molasses. It was the largest farm of its type in Cherokee County and one of the few in the state of Georgia.

The two-story Colonial Revival style house, Edgewater Hall, meets Criteria C because of its architectural significance as a popular early 20th century style. The home is characteristic of the style featuring a central hall plan, decorative keystones, window hoods, a walnut staircase, French doors and marble window and door sills. The rock barn is also considered an unique example of this type of structure within Georgia. Made from quarried rock, brick and a metal roof, it remains an intact example of an early form of "fire-proofing" and a type of building used for livestock during the early 20th century.

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

- 1906 - Rock Barn built.
- 1922 - Colonial Revival style house built.
- 1928 - A.L. Coggins sold Crescent Farm to the Jones Mercantile Company.

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Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

In the mid-1890s, A.L. (Augustus Lee) Coggins moved to his farm one mile west of Canton known as Mount Etowah. Coggins apparently leased the farm from the estate of the previous owner, Major Wallace Campbell, Jr. until he officially purchased it in 1903. Coggins, an innovative businessman, was responsible for construction of several of Canton's landmarks as well as several roads and state highways in North Georgia. A.L. and his brother Rol were involved in many business ventures and operated under the name of Coggins Brothers. Together they operated a livery stable in Canton, and a large mule brokerage business at Miller Union Stock Yards in Atlanta.

A.L. Coggins called his farm Crescent Farm and developed it into a working plantation with departmental heads. Approximately 75 black workers were employed. Crops of cotton, corn, hay and some molasses cane as well as turkeys, guineas, peacocks, sheep, Jersey cows, hogs, dogs, walking and harness race horses were raised. The race horses were trained on a quarter mile track on the large flat area southwest of the Rock Barn. Some of the horses earned recognition on the Grand Circuit but the most noted was "Abbedale," a 2:01 1/4 pacer. His name is in the Hall of Fame at Goshen, N.Y.

Sunday afternoons were fun times at Crescent Farm with local visitors enjoying watching the beautiful horses run the track. Coggins participated in the Southern Circuit which was very active in trading and racing. He also traveled extensively with his mule business, to Missouri, Texas, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Though Coggins was a shrewd and respected business man of local importance during the first quarter of the 20th century, the following events, triggered by external factors beyond control, led to the eventual bankruptcy of Coggins Brothers. First, as Coggins employed a sizable number of black workers on his farm, he was victimized by the infamous "Night Riders," a secret organization committing terrorist acts against those people employing black workers. In 1915, the mule barn was destroyed by arson. The fire resulted in destruction of the property as well as 162 horses and mules including several race horses. The loss was estimated at \$70,000. The second factor was the collapse of the cotton market in 1919. Third, the Coggins Brothers obtained large government contracts to supply troops in Europe with mules during World War I. However, German U-boats sank all Atlantic shipping leaving no available transportation to Europe. A final factor was the loss incurred from troubles with the local banking system.

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All this brought the bankrupt sale of Crescent Farm in 1928. All holdings were sold at auction and the Jones Mercantile Company became the new owners. Coggins moved to Colorado where he lived until his death in 1952.

In 1943, the house and a few acres were purchased by Louise Jones Wood. The house was repurchased by the Jones Mercantile Company in 1962 and later sold to a Judge Marion T. Pope in 1965. Cherokee Federal Savings Bank subsequently purchased the house and surrounding land from the Pope family in 1986 and converted the residence to their present corporate headquarters in 1987.

During the late 1960s, the Cherokee County Board of Education purchased the rock barn and surrounding 30 acres from the Jones Mercantile Company to build an elementary school. In 1987, the Board donated the barn plus one-half acre to the Cherokee County Historical Society. The society developed a master conversion plan to renovate the barn and in 1988, received a \$2,500 grant from the National Trust Preservation Services Fund. The plan involves renovating the downstairs into a museum and the upstairs into meeting space for the community.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Roberts, Judson W. "Historic Property Information Form - Crescent Farm." 1988. File located at the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (x) N/A

- () preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- () 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:

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

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 4 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 730390 Northing 3791050

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property includes the two remaining historic buildings associated with Crescent Farm. The property is indicated by a heavy black line on the property sketch map.

Boundary Justification

Crescent Farm includes the two remaining historic buildings--Edgewater Hall and the rock barn--that were associated with the farm. The noncontributing feature is State Highway 5 which bisects the property between the two buildings. Because the two historic buildings are related historically and visually and since the highway is a flat, modern structure, the historic property is considered as one property with two contributing resources.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lisa Raflo, National Register Researcher
organization Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334
telephone 404-656-2840 **date** 10/09/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Photographs _____ Page 1
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Crescent Farm
Canton, Cherokee County, Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative: Filed with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date photographed: February 1989

Description:

- 1 of 15: Front facade of the Rock Barn; photographer facing west.
- 2 of 15: Front facade and south side view of the Rock Barn; photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of 15: Rear facade and south side view of the Rock Barn; photographer facing northeast.
- 4 of 15: View of A. L. Coggins House from the Rock Barn; photographer facing southeast.
- 5 of 15: Rear facade of the Rock Barn; photographer facing east.
- 6 of 15: Interior view of first floor stalls and central corridor in the rock barn; photographer facing west.
- 7 of 15: Interior view of second floor loft space in the Rock Barn; photographer facing west.
- 8 of 15: Interior close-up of the front facade, second floor of the Rock Barn; photographer facing east.
- 9 of 15: Front facade view of A. L. Coggins House called Edgewater Hall; photographer facing southeast.
- 10 of 15: Rear facade of Edgewater Hall; photographer facing south.
- 11 of 15: South facade of Edgewater Hall; photographer facing northeast.
- 12 of 15: Interior view of walnut staircase, first floor, Edgewater Hall; photographer facing southeast.
- 13 of 15: Interior view of conference room, classical fireplace mantel and French doors, first floor, Edgewater Hall; photographer facing southeast.

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Photographs
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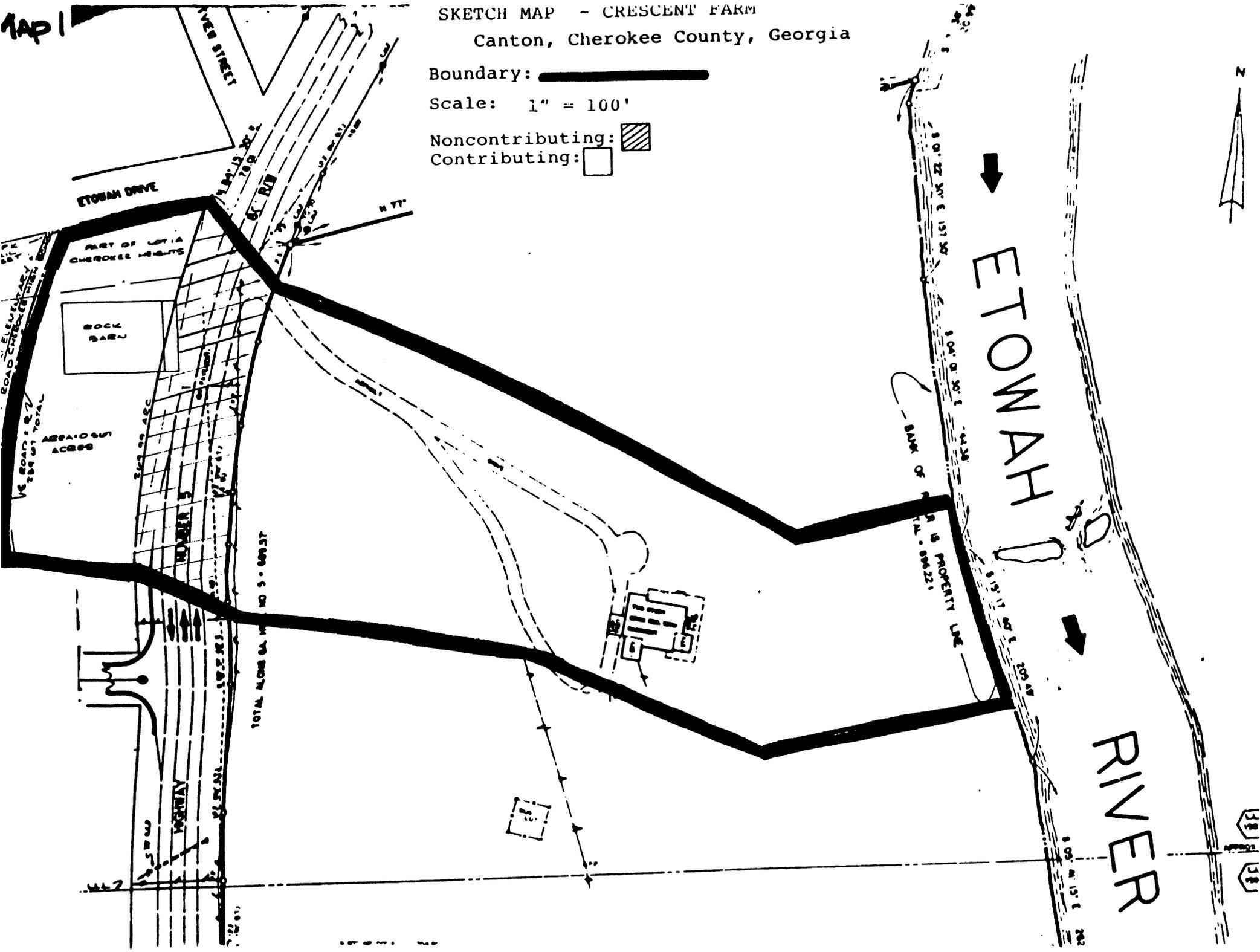
14 of 15: Interior view of second floor landing and decorative arched windows, Edgewater Hall; photographer facing west.

15 of 15: Interior view of a second floor office, Edgewater Hall; photographer facing north.

MAP 1

SKETCH MAP - CRESCENT FARM
Canton, Cherokee County, Georgia

Boundary: 
Scale: 1" = 100'
Noncontributing: 
Contributing: 



MAP 2

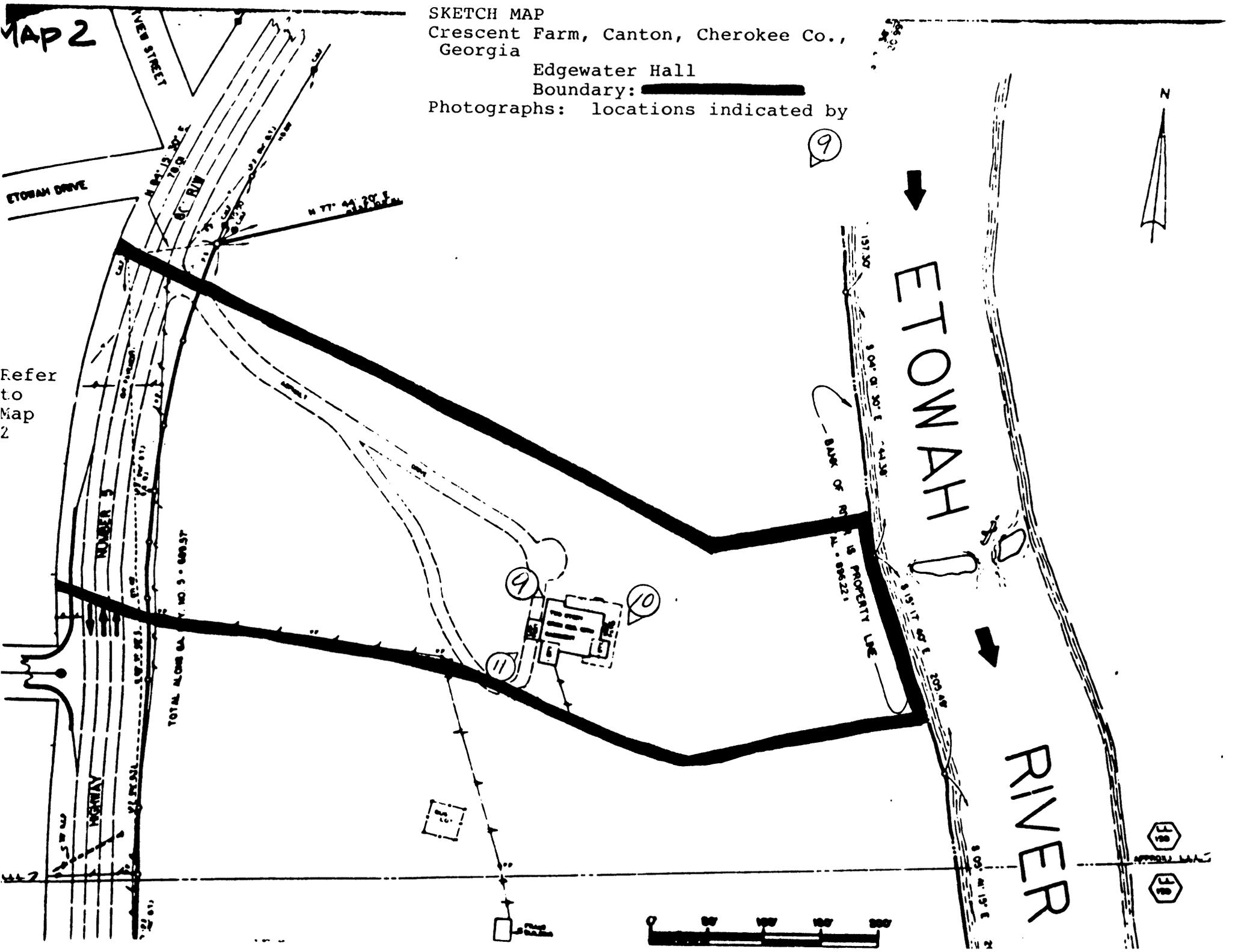
SKETCH MAP
Crescent Farm, Canton, Cherokee Co.,
Georgia

Edgewater Hall

Boundary: 

Photographs: locations indicated by

9

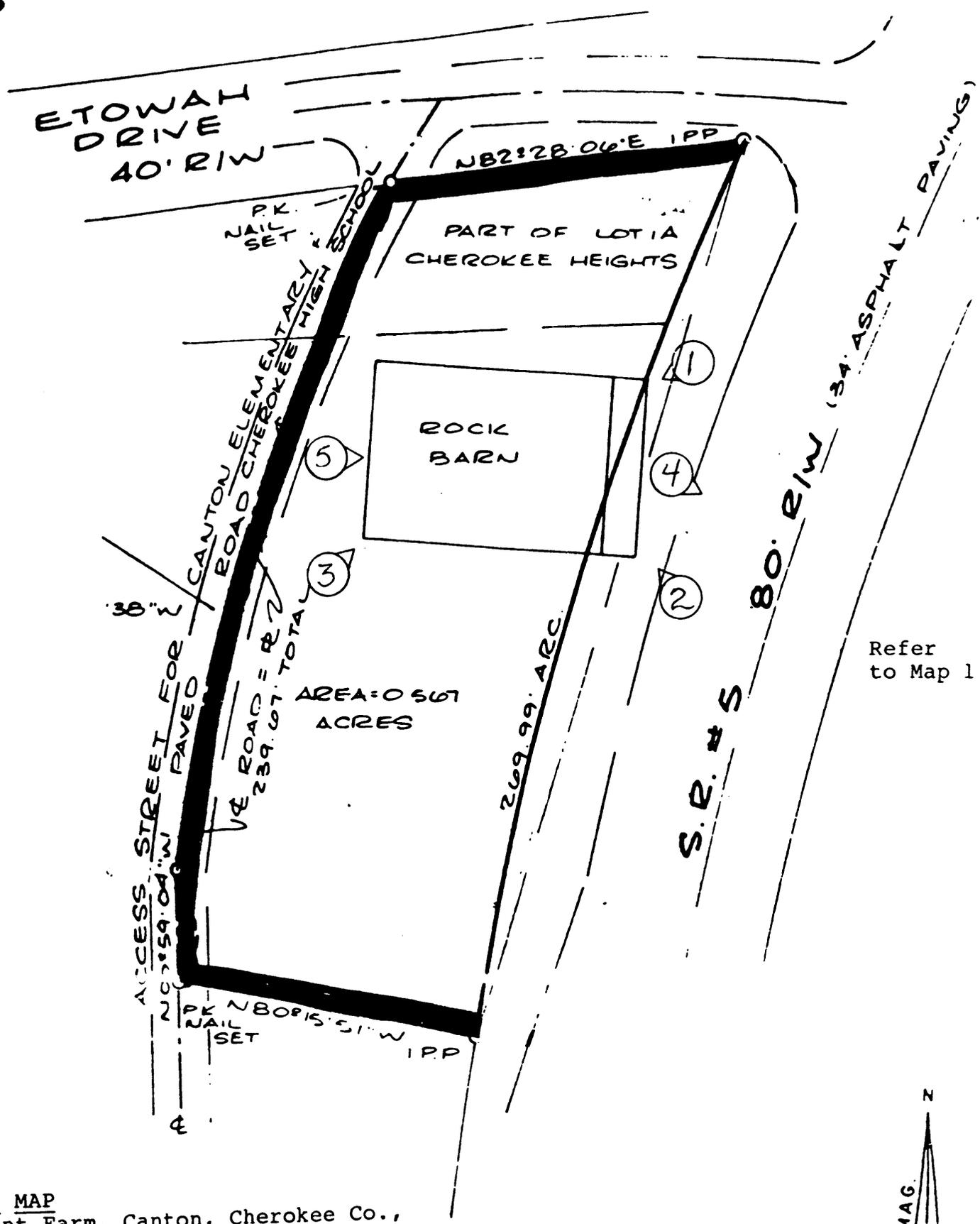


Refer
to
Map
2

ETOWAH
RIVER



MAP 3

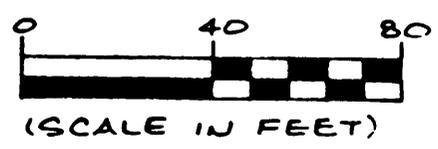


Refer to Map 1

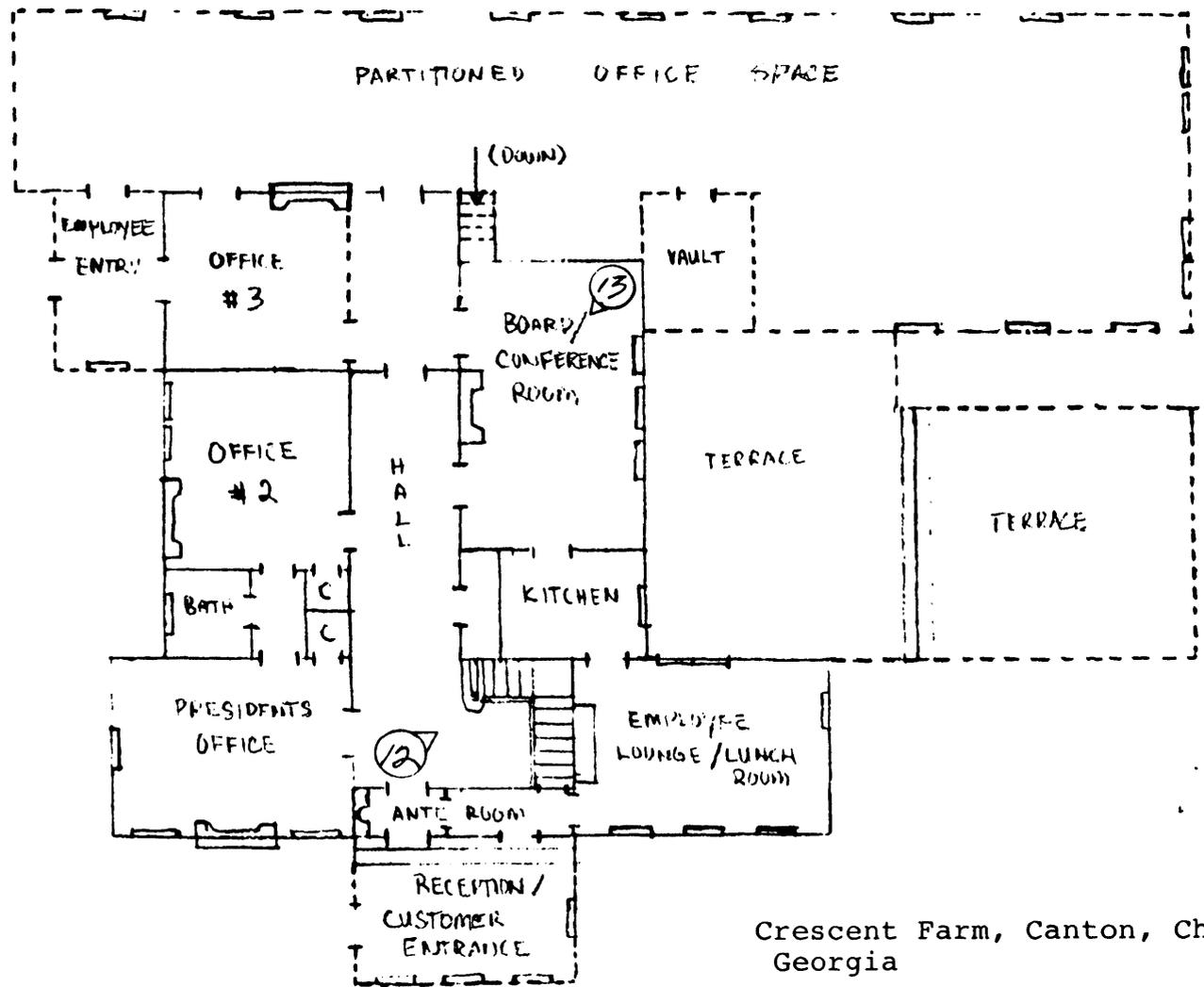
SKETCH MAP
 Crescent Farm, Canton, Cherokee Co.,
 Georgia

Rock Barn
 Boundary: 
 Photographs: locations indicated by





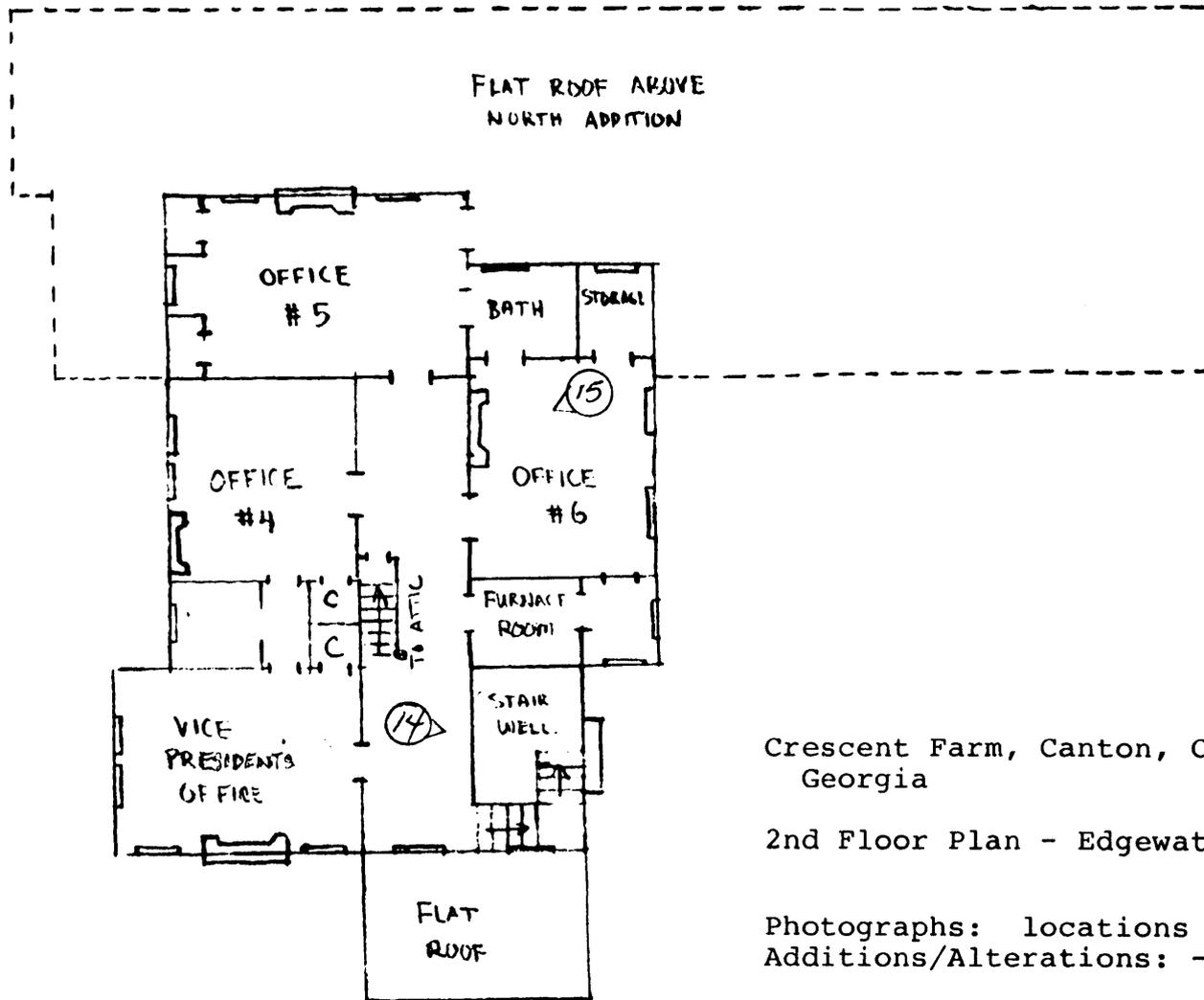
MAP 4



Crescent Farm, Canton, Cherokee Co., Georgia

1st Floor Plan
Photographs: locations indicated by
Additions/Alterations: ----- (3)

MAP 5



Crescent Farm, Canton, Cherokee Co.,
Georgia

2nd Floor Plan - Edgewater Hall

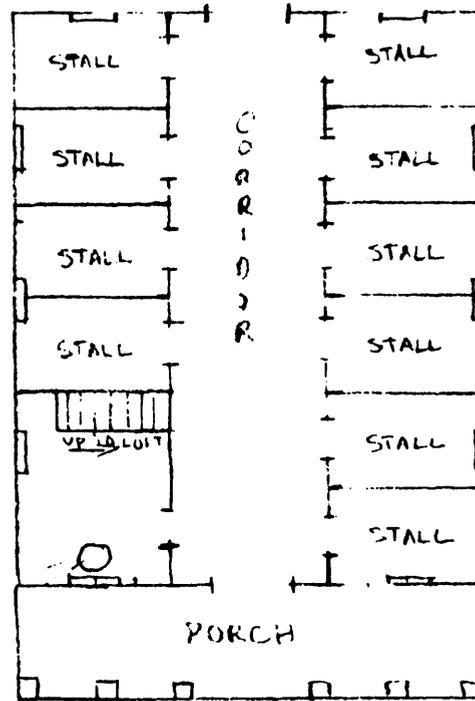
Photographs: locations indicated by
Additions/Alterations: -----

3

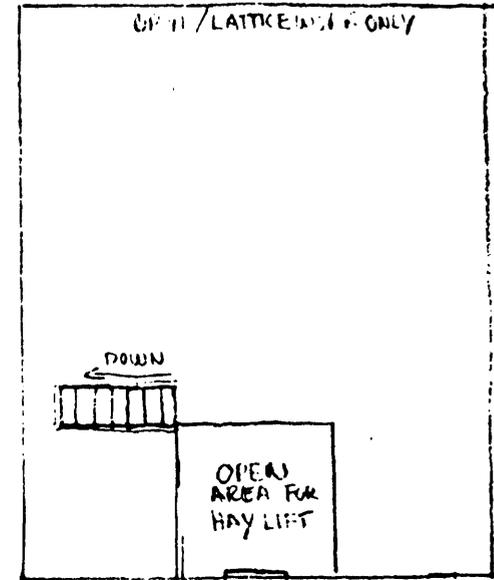
MAP 6



First Floor



Loft



Crescent Farm, Canton, Cherokee Co.,
Georgia

Floor Plans - Rock Barn

Photographs: locations indicated by

③