

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **OCT 10 1975**
DATE ENTERED **JUN 28 1976**

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~~ McCranie's Turpentine Still

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

W of Willacoochee on

U. S. Highway 82-Adjacent to city limits Willacoochee NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Willacoochee

VICINITY OF

8th - Williamson S. Stuckey

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Georgia

13

Atkinson

003

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: Not presently attended

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

McCranie Brothers Wood Preserving, Inc. (U. Shasta McCranie; C. Baker McCranie;

STREET & NUMBER

George F. McCranie, III)

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Willacoochee

VICINITY OF

Georgia 31650

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Superior Court, Atkinson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Pearson

Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

NONE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The McCranie's Turpentine Still site consists of a cluster of buildings that were erected c. 1936 by Mr. George F. McCranie, Jr., (1892-1959) with the aid of his three sons, the present owners. ✓

This site fronts 3/8 of a mile along U.S. Highway 82 and is heavily wooded with a virgin forest of long leaf pines planted by the owners c. 1940.

Not so ~~2~~ 3-3-76

These buildings were actively used for the processing of gum (resin) into turpentine and rosin from 1936-1942 when the two elder brothers joined the Army. The structures remain today as then, except for some deterioration due to non-use during the past thirty years.

The main house (1) which faces south onto U.S. 82 is a one-story, log structure chinked with concrete with one exterior chimney. The house has four rooms and no hall. There is a porch covering the entire front (south) and a rear inset porch both covered by the hipped tin roof. The round logs are saddle-notched and the interior walls are also log, with no plastering. The house is raised less than one foot on log sections, accessibility to the front porch being gained by granite steps. The three bay front has two pairs of horizontally sliding six light windows. It has recently been occupied by a relative of the owners.

Immediately to the north is building number 2, a one-story, one room saddle-notched, log structure without chinking with a gabled tin roof extending forward to form a shed. It is used for storage. ✓

To the north-east of the above is building number 3. This is a one-story, three room saddle-notched log structure chinked with concrete with a gabled tin roof extending westward over the front porch. The house is raised about a foot with log sections. There is one exterior chimney on the rear of the dwelling. This house was used initially by the cooper, the man who assembled the barrels at the still.

The production center of the turpentine still complex has 5 associated structures, 4 of which are sheds with tin gabled roofs with log corner roof supports, at least three sides being open. Building number 4 was used for the assemblage of the barrels, the stays and hoops being created elsewhere; building number 5 was where the rosin residue came out of the kettle (B) and was strained and then placed into barrels for market; building number 6 was the focal point of the still operation. It was here that the raw gum (resin) was unloaded after delivery by wagon from the now missing loading dock (#10 on the plan) rolled up to the "top deck" where the raw gum (resin) was poured into the copper kettle (when the condenser (C) was removed) where a wood burning stove (A) heated the gum (resin) and the turpentine would condense and, as vapor, flow through the condenser (C) into the copper coil or "worm" (E) which was surrounded by a cedar still tub (D). The still tub was filled with water from the pond (9) and as the vaporized turpentine flowed through the copper coil (worm) it condensed into liquid and flowed into barrels located in building 7 (The Spirit Room). Through a series of three barrels the impurities that might still exist were filtered out and the "Spirits of Turpentine" were barreled. These barrels were taken out of building 7 and rolled down a ramp (that is no longer in existence) to building 8 where they were loaded onto a truck and sent to the Naval Stores companies in Savannah or Jacksonville.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| RECEIVED | OCT 10 1975 |
| DATE ENTERED | JUN 28 1976 |

CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

Some of the workers who collected the raw gum (resin) from the pine forests and also assisted in running the still lived in the "Quarters" or Turpentine Village that was provided by the owners. Several houses (11) from this village remain, adjacent and to the north-east of the Still site proper. These homes are currently unoccupied.

The one-story frame, three room dwellings (three of which remain) have one exterior brick chimney. The tin gabled roof extends over the corner inset porch on the left front. These houses were located on either side of the old Waycross to Albany Road. This road originally went to the north of the still site but was moved to the present location of U. S. 82 c. 1935 shortly before the McCranies built the turpentine still in 1936. One special feature of these "Quarters" was the glass window panes which were an extremely unusual feature for workers dwellings in that era.

10 Geographical Data

| | Latitude | Longitude |
|----|-------------|-------------|
| NW | 31° 21' 56" | 83° 04' 00" |
| NE | 31° 21' 56" | 83° 03' 38" |
| SE | 31° 21' 45" | 83° 03' 38" |
| SW | 31° 21' 45" | 83° 04' 00" |

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | | |
| | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES

1936

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

owners

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The McCranies Turpentine Still is the best preserved wood burning turpentine still known in Georgia. It is of the style of the 19th Century stills, their design borrowed from the North Carolina Whiskey distillers, c. 1830. The use of copper in large amounts for the kettle, condenser and worm (or coil) caused most stills of this type to be destroyed for their copper when they fell into disuse. This major change began around 1940 when the Naval Stores Industry changed to steam distillation for the processing of gum (resin). When the old stills began to be abandoned as obsolete, they were often broken up, either by the owners or by vandals, and the copper sold. Although this particular still operated only from 1936-1942, the last one of this type ceased production, in Georgia, in 1958.

Being built in 1936, very late in the evolution of the Naval Stores processes, McCranie's was almost an anachronism when completed, since the Depression had brought government price supports and controls into the ailing Naval Stores Industry and thus a major revolution in the techniques of turpentine production.

Georgia has been the leading state in turpentine production since 1923, and originally gained her premier position through the production of turpentine and rosin from localized stills like this one, run by the individual farmer. When the industry modernized and centralized after the Depression with the onset of government price supports and research into newer methods of extracting turpentine, the farmers were eventually motivated to bring their raw gum (resin) to the centralized and regional steam distillation centers and the old, individualized stills like McCranie's became obsolete and thus began disappearing rapidly.

The McCranie family, like many others in South Georgia on the coastal plain, have long been involved with the pine industry. They have carefully maintained this still as a family memorial to their own beginnings in the Pine Industry and have kept many of the relics of those earlier days, including many of the "Herty" Turpentine Cups, invented by Georgia's Dr. Charles Holmes Herty, c. 1902, and perfected under the employ of the U.S. Forest Service in nearby Ocilla, Ga. The Herty Cup (of clay) greatly changed the methodology of collecting gum (resin) from the pine tree and was a major step toward the conservation of pine resources by replacing the "box" method of cutting into a tree to create a cup for the gum, to collecting the gum through the use of the clay cup hung on the side of the tree. These clay cups and their successors prevented the great destruction of many trees, especially the outside layers for timber, and eventually allowed controlled planting of trees to facilitate collecting the gum through mechanized means. At the McCranie still there are not only many of the clay and iron cups, but several examples of trees damaged by the earlier "box" method, all showing the evolution of the turpentine processes.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

McCranie's Turpentine Still, Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., 1975
 Conversations with the owners - U. Shasta McCranie, C. Baker McCranie and George F. McCranie, III - 1974-1975
 Personal inspection by Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., David T. Agnew, Tom T. Rawls, David Ashley for Georgia Heritage Trust, Oct. 1974.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approx. 60

UTM REFERENCES SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | B | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | D | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the juncture of the city limits of Willacoochee, Georgia and U. S. 82 west along the north side of said highway 3/8 of a mile (1980 ft.) to a point across from the roadside park thence 1/8 of a mile (1320 ft.) north and thence 3/8 of a mile east to the city limits and along the arc of the city limits south to the beginning.

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

Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historical Researcher

ORGANIZATION

Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Section Oct. 7, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

270 Washington Street, S. W.

CITY OR TOWN

Atlanta,

DATE

TELEPHONE

656-2840

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

TITLE Chief, Historic Preservation Section

DATE Oct. 7, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Noting

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

6/28/76

ATTEST:

DATE

5.11.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 10 1975

DATE ENTERED JUN 28 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

Significance

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

2

Many experiments toward better processes and products were carried on at this still through the personal efforts of the McCranie Family, especially toward the new galvanized iron cup invented, c. 1940, by the Olustee (Florida) Experimental Station of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The government inventors benefitted from the experiments of the McCranies who had tried unsuccessfully to create a better turpentine cup by using, among others, a plastic army helmet (which melted in the heat) and a glass cup (which broke too easily). The McCranie family has kept many of these early prototype cups as well as tools once used to harvest and process the gum. These early items are housed in the Spirit Room (Building 7) on the site and would make a good museum exhibition either on site or elsewhere. These experiments are remarkable owing to the youth of the McCranie brothers at that time.

As the best preserved vestige of a major portion of Georgia's agricultural and commercial history, this still represents to many Georgians a bygone era of the "Cracker" turpentine activities that once covered over one third of Georgia, a major part of an industry that stretched from North Carolina to Texas at its height, as well as to many foreign countries.

This site is presently non-working although it is capable of being brought back into working order for demonstration purposes. Due to three decades of non-production at the site, many of the structures need repair and the family is in hope for restoring the site in the future. In 1974 this site was nominated for state acquisition under the Georgia Heritage Trust program and was not acquired at that time due to competition from the state-owned Agrirama, a reassembled agricultural village, c. 1880, being created 40 miles west in Tifton, Georgia. Other publicly-opened turpentine stills known at this time include one proposed for the Okeefeenokee Heritage Center, 40 miles east of McCranies at Waycross, Georgia and the one in the St. Andrews State Park at Panama City, Florida. All three of these stills that are or will be open to the public have been moved to their respective sites. The McCranie Still with its adjacent pond and "Quarters" thus will be the only such site including outlying areas in its original location with the capability of becoming a living history center for the education of those who have never seen the Fire Distillation Process.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 22 1975

DATE ENTERED JUN 28 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Amendment to

McCranie's Turpentine Still

Willacoochee, Atkinson County, Georgia

McCranie's Turpentine Still should be considered for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, although under the fifty year time limit, because of its unique position as the best preserved turpentine still complex known in Georgia.

Dr. Frank P. King, Director of Development of the Agrirama, a reassembled agricultural village, c.1880, under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia, stated that McCranie's is a unique example of Georgia's pine heritage and asked to include this still in the Agrirama, although the owners declined the invitation.

J. Brittain Pendergrast, Coordinator of the Georgia Heritage Trust program which acquires property to become state historic sites and parks, was instructed by the Board of the Department of Natural Resources to negotiate for the same property and to acquire it for the state due to its intrinsic nature as the only known intact turpentine still complex in Georgia.

Dr. Albert F. Ike, Associate Director of the University of Georgia's Institute of Community Development has filmed and documented what few sites and people remain from the extinct copper still turpentine era and feels that McCranie's is one of the finest possible sites and one that should be preserved by all possible means in order to document the premier position of Georgia in the Turpentine Industry during the twentieth century.

These men have expressed, through their programs, the need for protecting and documenting McCranie's Turpentine Still as a significant example of Georgia's industrial, agricultural and social history, even though the site exists only from 1936. It is an example of how quickly a part of our fabric can disappear in our urban centered civilization.

Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historical Researcher
Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Section
270 Washington Street, S.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

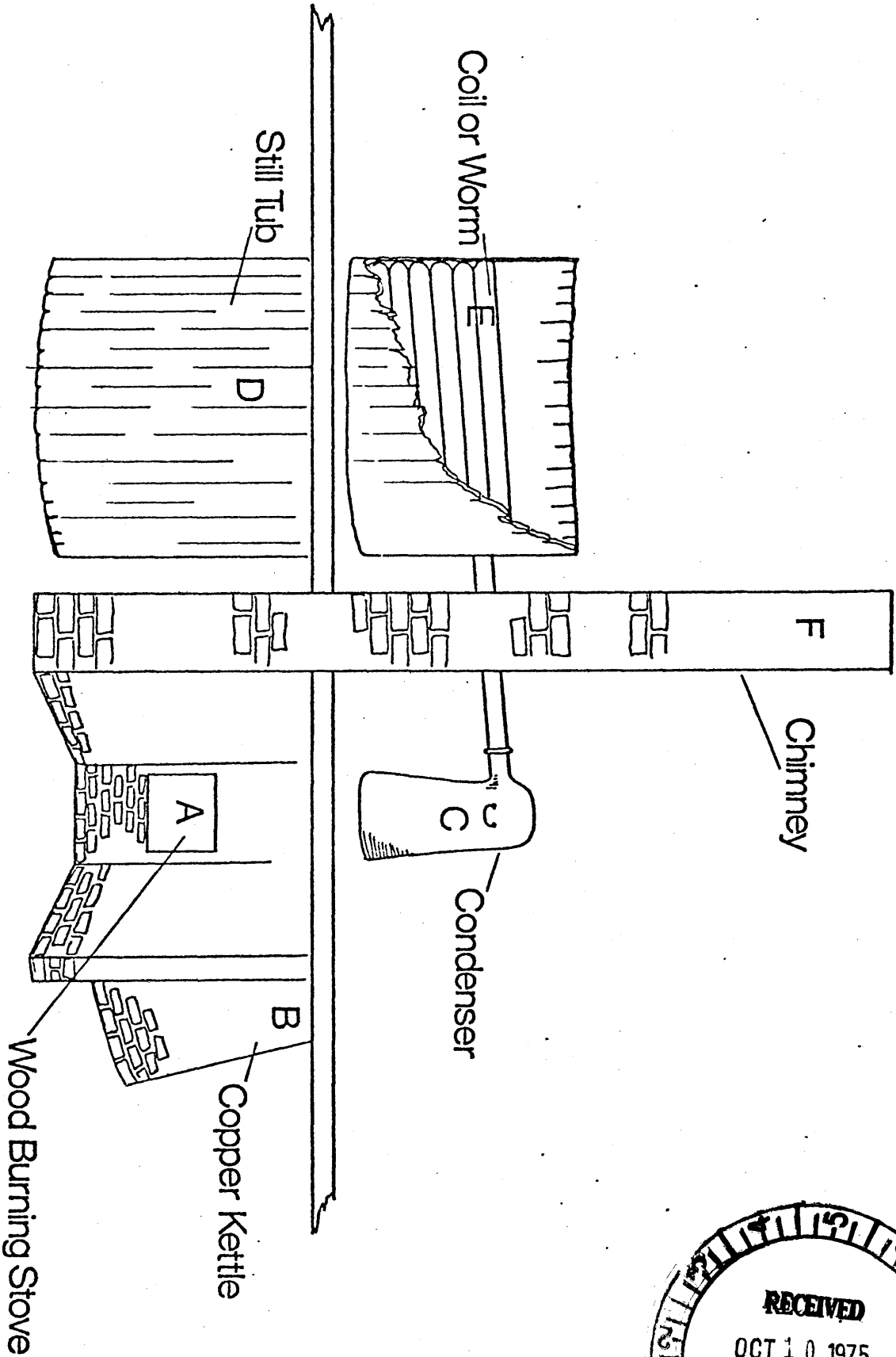
Name


DAVID M. SHERMAN

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

Date

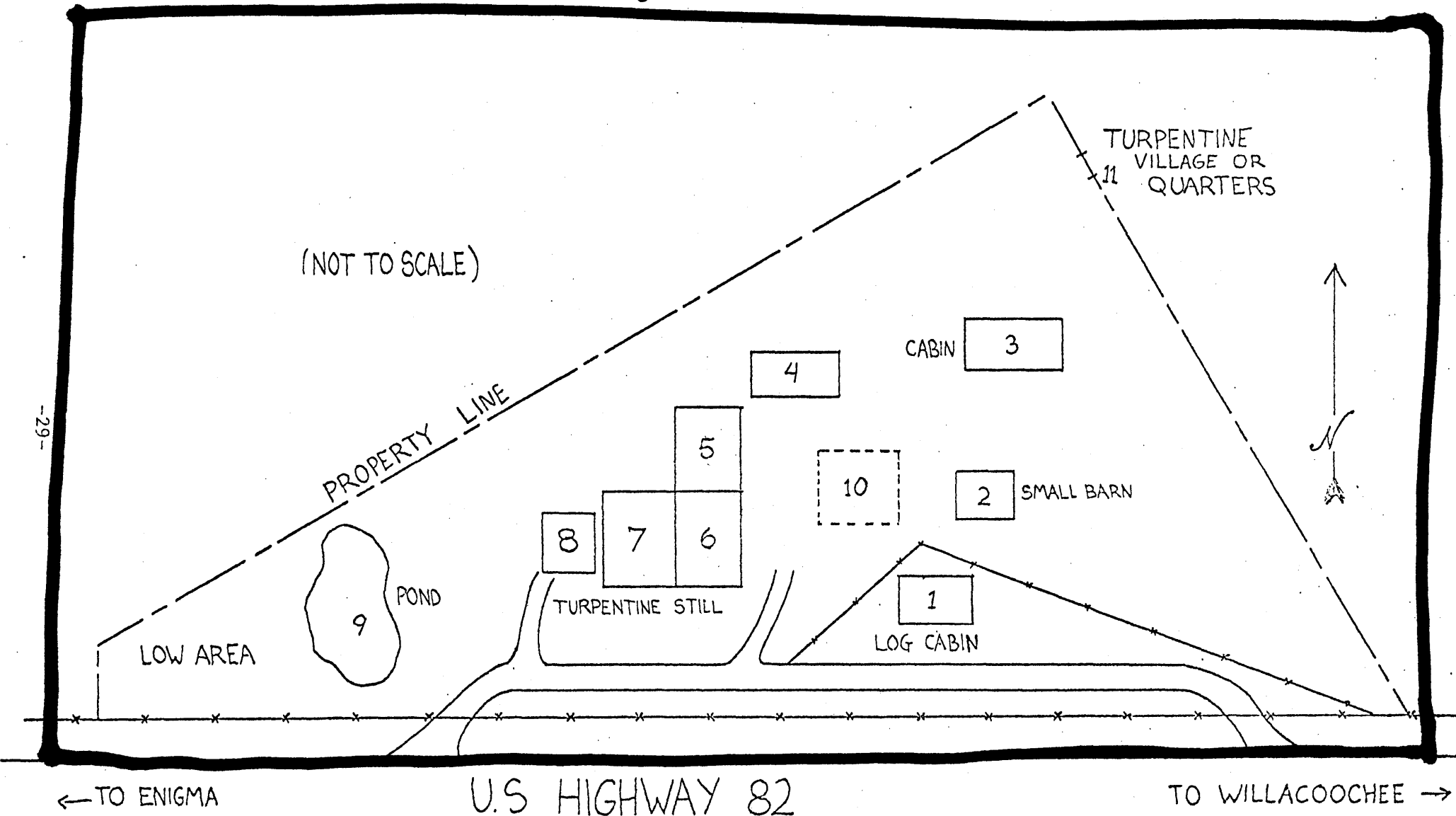
12/15/75



McCRANIE'S TURPENTINE STILL
(THE STILL)



Approx.



McCRANIE'S TURPENTINE STILL
(THE SITE)