

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Levi Ballard House

and/or common Ballard-Hudson House

**2. Location**

street & number Intersection of U.S. 29 and Ga. 154 not for publication

city, town Palmetto vicinity of congressional district 5th - Wyche Fowler, Jr.

state Georgia code 013 county Fulton code 121

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name (1) Dr. M. Daniel Byrd  
 (2) Mrs. Vele'ta R. Morris c/o Mr. and Mrs. Don Carlson  
 street & number (1) 1587 Friar Tuck Road  
 (2) 513 Toombs Street  
 city, town (1) Atlanta (1) Georgia 30309  
 (2) Palmetto vicinity of state (2) Georgia 30268

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Fulton County Courthouse

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title none has this property been determined eligible? yes  no

date \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ federal \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ county \_\_\_\_\_ local

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

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# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input 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

The Levi Ballard House is located just northeast of the city limits of Palmetto near the intersection of U. S. 29 and Ga. 154. Located on the nominated property are the Ballard House, two barns, a privy, a smokehouse, a carriage house/farm implement structure, a garage, formal entrance gardens, and several wells. The nominated property includes approximately 19 acres.

The Ballard House, built 1869-70, is a two and one-half story white frame structure of Greek Revival and Victorian influences. The symmetrical front (south) facade has a two story monumental portico with four fluted columns. The base of the columns is of granite. On either side of the trabeated front doorway are two windows with shutters. Narrow weatherboards sheath the front facade under the portico while wider weatherboards are found on the remainder of the building. A second floor balcony is suspended from the portico by iron rods. The east facade has four windows located on each floor as well as a small attic window. An ell projects from the north facade. The ell houses the kitchen as well as a shed porch. Located on the north end of the shed porch is a well. The west facade has a large bay window and two sash windows on the first floor level, four windows on the second floor level, and a smaller attic window. The foundation of the Ballard House is stone piers and is open. The eaves of the gable roof are bracketed. The original roof is under the 1976 composition roof. The two interior chimneys have been whitewashed.

The floor plan of the Ballard House is traditional: four-over-four with central stair hall. The central hall is rather wide with a narrow run of stairs. The first floor parlor has a marbleized mantle and grained wainscoting, as well as original decorative furnishings. The original wallpaper is intact in the central hall on the first and second floor levels while other rooms have the original unpainted plaster as the wall surface. The second floor bedrooms have closets with grained doors. The only alterations to the Ballard House have been the addition of electricity, the new roof, and some minor remodeling of the second floor bedrooms in 1908 by the Ballard family. Indoor plumbing has never been installed in the house.

Also located on the nominated property are several outbuildings. Directly north of the Ballard House is a privy and a smokehouse. They are unpainted frame buildings with gable roofs. The privy and smokehouse appear to have been constructed at the time the Ballard House was built. In the field north of the privy and smokehouse are two barns. The unpainted frame structures are currently used for livestock/feed buildings. Northeast of the Ballard House is a 1920's garage. It is a frame building with a gable roof. South of the Ballard House are the formal entrance gardens. The curvilinear walks are bordered by hedges, trees, and flowers. The arrangement of the garden is still evident although the garden is currently overgrown. South of the garden is the old U. S. 29. It is no longer in use. South of the old highway is a brick stuccoed carriage house/implement structure. It is currently used for the storage of agricultural implements. East of the carriage house is a well that once served a stage stop. The stage stop structure has been moved into Palmetto.

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Knowledge of former structures is available through oral history. These structures include a carriage house, a stagecoach stop, a wooden drainage system, and old road beds. The carriage house was located where the present carriage house is located. The stage stop was located south of the Ballard House between the well and the carriage house. The drainage system was located on the west side of the Ballard House and the road beds are located south of the entrance gardens.

The land surrounding the Ballard House is cleared for agricultural purposes, but the house is surrounded by a grove of trees.

Since there are no intact historic boundaries and due to new development west of the Ballard House, the nominated boundaries were chosen to include extant and non-extant buildings and enough land in which to establish a rural setting.

# 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" 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 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

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**Specific dates**    1869-70                      **Builder/Architect**

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Levi Ballard House is significant in the history of architecture, landscape architecture, historic archaeology, as well as the local history of Palmetto. Architecturally, the Ballard House is an excellent example of the persistence of the Greek Revival style of architecture into the Victorian period. The house retains an exceptional amount of architectural integrity, the only changes made being the addition of electricity, a new roof, and some 1908 second floor redecorating. The house retains the original wallpaper and other decorative features. Excellent examples of craftsmanship are found in the grained wainscoting and doors and the marbleized mantle. In landscape architecture, the formal gardens reflect second half nineteenth century trends in landscaping. In terms of historic archaeology, the nominated property possesses potential for delivering knowledge about the Ballard House. Former features include a carriage house, a wooden drainage system, a stagecoach stop, and several road beds. Further knowledge of these features can be recovered through an archaeological investigation. The builder of the house, Levi Ballard, was prominent in the Palmetto community. While engaged in farming, Ballard was also a successful businessman. He was instrumental in organizing the Palmetto Banking Company and was an active stockholder in the Palmetto Cotton Mill and the Fairburn Oil Company. He also served in the General Assembly and was active in the Ramah Baptist Church.

The Ballard House is an excellent example of the persistence of the Greek Revival style of architecture into the Victorian period. The Greek Revival components of the Ballard House include the monumental two story portico, the traditional four-over-four central stair hall floor plan, the second floor hanging balcony, and the trabeated doorway. Victorian architectural features include a bay window, the bracketed roof, and interior embellishments. The combining of the two styles was intentional: Mrs. Ballard requested that her husband build her a house that resembled her childhood home, a Greek Revival plantation house. Therefore, to accommodate his wife's wishes and to be in keeping with current architectural styles, the Ballard House displays features of both the Greek Revival and Victorian styles of architecture. The combination of these two styles has been noted in several structures in Georgia, an example being the John J. Jones House in Burke County (listed in the Register). Antebellum and postbellum construction techniques and materials are employed in the Ballard House. While the structure is built of sawn lumber (common to second half nineteenth century building materials), the Ballard House employs a combination of early and second half nineteenth century construction techniques. The principal structural beams are mortised and tenoned (an early nineteenth century technique) while the secondary beams are nailed (indicative of second half nineteenth century construction methods).

(Continued)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Ballard Genealogical Folder. Georgia Archives.  
 Cloues, Richard and Kacy Ginn.: Personal inspection, May 16, 1980.  
Draft nomination. Raymond C. Ashe, Jr. student at Georgia Institute of Technology,  
 March 4, 1979.  
 (con't)

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreege of nominated property 19 acres  
 Quadrangle name Palmetto, GA Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>	D	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundaries are indicated by heavy black line on the enclosed Fulton County Tax Map 31. The nominated property includes the structures known to have been associated with the Ballard House.

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 Kacy Ginn, National Register Researcher  
 organization Historic Preservation Section/ Georgia Department of Natural Resources date July 29, 1980  
 street & number 270 Washington Street SW telephone (404) 656-2840  
 city or town Atlanta state GA

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon  
 Elizabeth A. Lyon date 8/12/80

For HCRS use only  
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Forrest W. Ray date 10/22/80  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: Carol Dubois date 10/20/80  
 Chief of Registration

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Early construction methods are noted in the construction of the portico: it is supported by the columns as opposed to being cantilevered, a contemporary construction method. The Ballard House is structurally sound, complementing the builder on his choice of materials and construction techniques. Several of the outbuildings possess similar construction materials and techniques. Excellent examples of period craftsmanship are found in the Ballard House. The grained wainscoting in the parlor, the grained doors, and the marbleized mantle reflect period craftsmanship. Exceptional craftsmanship is also noted in the construction of the house, such as the mortised and tenoned structural beams. The quality of the craftsmanship has been retained.

The architectural integrity of the Ballard House has been maintained throughout the structure's history. The house has retained the majority of its original features, including the original wallpaper and other interior decoration. The only changes made in the Ballard House were the addition of electricity, a new roof in the mid-1970's, and some minor redecorating of second floor bedrooms in 1908 by the Ballard family. The architectural integrity of the Ballard House has remained an important concept during the Ballard family's ownership and to retain the architectural integrity is a concern of the current owner.

In terms of landscape architecture, the nominated property has features that reflect second half nineteenth century landscaping trends. The most obvious landscaping feature is the formally landscaped garden located in front of the Ballard House. The curvilinear walks bordered by hedges, trees, and flowers depict a pattern known locally as the "spider" pattern. The wrought iron fence also retains the Victorian atmosphere of the garden. The picturesque design and iron fence were on public display as they were located at the intersection of well travelled roads. The landscaping behind the Ballard House is less formal in that no planned gardens are located there. The landscaping includes a pecan grove as well as agricultural land. The formally landscaped front yard and agriculturally-oriented back yard reflect a popular landscaping trend during the Victorian period. Victorian landscaping often was artistically oriented in the front yard while the back yard was reserved for utilitarian purposes. Such a landscaping pattern is evident on the nominated property.

In terms of historic archaeology, the nominated property possesses the potential for delivering knowledge about the Ballard House and past activities near the house. Former features include a carriage house, a stagecoach stop, a wooden drainage system, and old road beds. Knowledge of the carriage house and stagecoach stop is available through oral tradition. The wooden drainage system and old road beds are visually evident. Knowledge of these former features can be recovered through an archaeological investigation.

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Continuation sheet

Significance

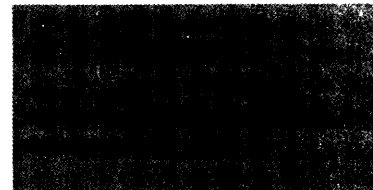
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Local History

Levi Ballard (1833-1921) was a prominent citizen and businessman of Palmetto. Ballard was the son of Joshua and Elizabeth Ballard who moved from Gwinnett County in the 1830's. Levi Ballard began a teaching career and, in 1858, he moved to Arkansas. While teaching in Arkansas, he joined the Arkansas State Militia at the outbreak of the Civil War. He returned to Georgia to marry Sarah Harrison in December of 1861 and joined the 56th Regiment of Georgia. He served as a commissary captain throughout the war. Immediately after the war, Levi and his wife lived with the Harrison family until the completion of their house in Palmetto. During this time, Ballard engaged in farming. The 200 acres of land that he first accumulated were added to until he became one of the largest landowners in Campbell County (now Fulton County). He became involved in a mercantile business and was a land dealer for ten years, but he eventually resumed farming. Ballard represented Campbell County in the General Assembly in 1884-85 and 1888-89. He organized the first bank in Palmetto, the Palmetto Banking Company, in 1902 and served as the president for many years. He was an active stockholder in the Palmetto Cotton Mill and the Fairburn Oil Company. He was a member of Palmetto Lodge #74 and was an active member of the Ramah Baptist Church, located across from his home. After Sarah Ballard's death in 1905, Maude Ballard Hudson, Levi's daughter, moved into the house with Levi. After Levi's death in 1921 the house became the property of Jacob H. Ballard, Levi's son. A graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology, Jacob Ballard was an accomplished botanist. He continued to live in the Ballard House until his death in 1963. The house became the property of Maude Ballard Hudson's children, Helen Hudson Smith and Ballard Hudson. Ballard Hudson received the house and surrounding property. He was a locally prominent farmer and the owner and president of the Palmetto Banking Company. He lived in the house until 1976. The property is currently owned by Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Byrd, who are interested in the preservation of the Ballard House.

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Northen, William J., ed. Men of Mark in Georgia. Volume VI. Spartanburg, S.C.:  
The Reprint Company, 1974.

Notes on the Ballards, Fears, Herman, Tuggle, and other Families of Georgia with some  
Data on Their Descendents in Other States. N. H. Ballard. Typed 1947.

Structural Survey Form. Completed by Dr. M. Daniel Byrd, August 4, 1977.

10



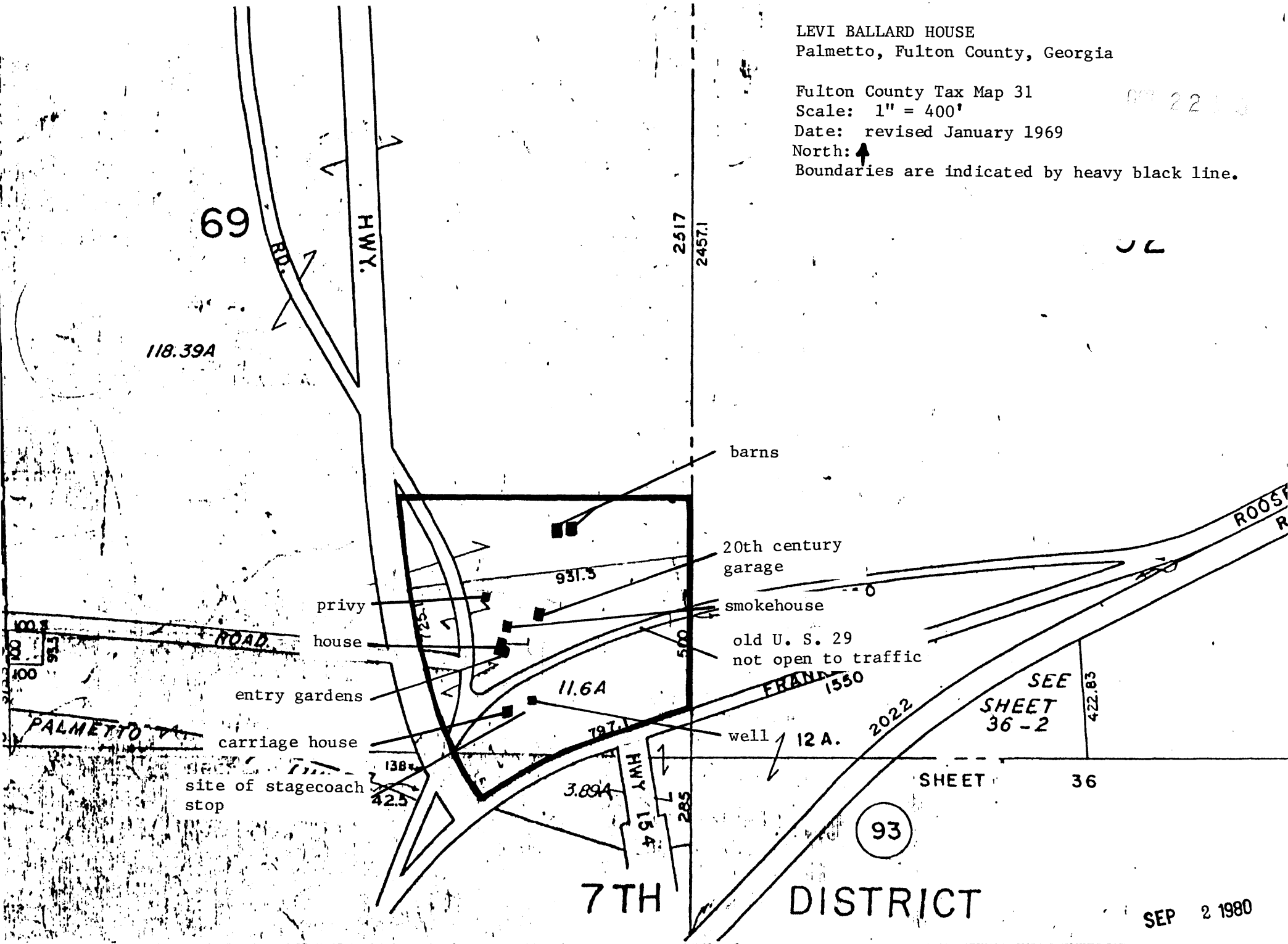
LEVI BALLARD HOUSE  
Palmetto, Fulton County, Georgia

Fulton County Tax Map 31  
Scale: 1" = 400'  
Date: revised January 1969

North: ↑  
Boundaries are indicated by heavy black line.

002213

UL



69

118.39A

2517  
2457.1

barns

20th century  
garage

smokehouse

old U. S. 29  
not open to traffic

well 12 A.

privy

house

entry gardens

carriage house

site of stagecoach  
stop

SEE  
SHEET  
36-2

SHEET 36

93

7TH DISTRICT

SEP 2 1980

(17)