

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

5/3/91
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon
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

**Entered in the
National Register**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register Helmut Beyers 6/14/91

() determined eligible for the National Register _____

() determined not eligible for the National Register _____

() removed from the National Register _____

() other, explain: _____

() see continuation sheet

fa
Signature, Keeper of the National Register _____
Date _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER: I-house

Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	wood
roof	shingles/tin
other	N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The John Stovall House is a wood-framed I-house type house with two historic outbuildings and a nonhistoric bridge located in a rural, wooded setting along Blue Creek on approximately eight acres.

The original part of the house was constructed c.1850 and was probably two-story, as evidenced by hand-planed boards and mantels on portions of the interior. The house was expanded in the 1880s and 1890s with the addition of a two-story rear ell and the inclusion of an original rear room into a one-story addition. A two-tiered front porch with slender posts and flat-sawn balustrades was also added at this time.

The house plan consists of two rooms over two rooms with central hall. A two story ell is located on the southwest side of the house and a one-story kitchen ell on the northwest side. A double gallery on the east or front facade has been enlarged with a full height colonnade. Front entrances include three on the first floor opening onto the porch and two on the second floor opening onto the balcony. Exterior end chimneys are located on the north and south facades. Windows are double hung sash and have six over six lights.

The exterior is constructed of painted, beveled clapboard. Two exterior chimneys are built with brick and stone. The gable roof is covered with shingles on the two-story portion and tin sheeting on the one-story addition and rear porch. Porches are constructed of wood.

Except for the double gallery and colonnade, the house is basically plain. The balcony and front porch have a flat-sawn balustrade. The double gallery has twelve slender square posts with simple, square

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capitals near the top. The colonnade consists of four square plain columns.

The interior walls vary from three inch flush board to six, eight and ten inch flush board construction. Ceilings are either flush board or tongue and groove. The floors are hardwood.

The interior of the house is plain. The staircase has a turned spindle balustrade and a square newel post with a cap of applied moldings. Although each mantle is different, all three mantles on the first floor display simple curves, plain mantle shelves and unadorned pilasters at the bottom. The one exception is the mantle in the parlor which has a heart shaped design atop the pilasters. This room also has diagonal tongue and groove wainscoting on all walls.

The house appears to be of balloon frame construction. The house has been rewired and new plumbing installed. However, 1920-1930s light fixtures are extant in several rooms.

The house is built on the lower section of one of two ridges which frame the narrow flood plain associated with Blue Creek. The site for the house was excavated from the western ridge allowing the front of the house to look out over the narrow valley and creek. County Road 58 (Stovall Road) bisects the property, running between the house and the creek. Woods cover the majority of the property except for the southeast corner, around the mill, and east of the house. No formal landscaping exists.

Two historic extant outbuildings associated with the property are a grist mill and a barn. The mill is a two-story frame building with a metal roof. Approximately one-fourth of the building has been removed and the interior gutted. The barn is a gable with dropped roof frame building built with cut nails. Construction dates for these buildings are unknown but are estimated to be pre-1900, probably from the 1880s. There is also a small, nonhistoric wooden bridge c. 1956 located on the property.

Oral history interviews indicate that additional buildings once associated with the property included a general store/post office, sawmill, shingle mill, cotton gin and corn crusher. Available information suggests the general store/post office operated from 1900 to 1907 as the Eastburn, Georgia, post office. In 1907, the post office function of the store ceased. However, the general store continued to operate until the 1940s. The store is reported to have been destroyed by fire in 1977. The other buildings, except for a portion of the grist mill and barn, were sold and moved off the property. Little evidence of these buildings is discernible today. The 1964 USGS topographic quadrangle map (Leaf, Georgia, 1:24,000

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series) shows a building located southeast of the main house between C.R. 58 and Blue Creek. Although no evidence of this building is visible today, the site is marked by scorched trees and the ground surface is visibly burned. If local informants are correct, this is the site once occupied by the general store/post office which burned in 1977.

An archaeological survey, consisting of an intensive pedestrian survey and limited subsurface testing, was conducted on the property within the proposed right-of-way of Project BRZLB-311(6), White County, a proposed bridge-replacement and highway widening project. Archaeological testing was conducted specifically within the area believed to have been the site of the general store/post office. No artifacts or features (i.e. foundation, cellars) were located. An examination of soil profiles indicated that the uppermost 2 cm of soil had been thermally altered. This finding would be consistent with a building fire at this location. Based on the results of the survey, no archaeological resources eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places were located.

The Department of Natural Resources Historic Structures Field Survey (c. 1975) for the property indicated that a sawmill, shingle mill, cotton gin and corn crusher were associated with the property. None of these buildings is extant. No sites indicating the former presence of such buildings were located during the archaeological survey of the proposed right-of-way. The potential exists that the sites of these buildings could be identified by an extensive archaeological survey of the remainder of the Stovall property or in the Blue Creek area in general.

The property, with its narrow flood plain as its center, is situated on the hilly, forested terrain that characterizes the property's surroundings. This area of White County has experienced very little development.

Other than the major additions described above, very few changes are known to have been made to the house. Interior alterations included a stairway with turned balusters, the addition of moldings and sawn work to the mantels, and a beaded wainscoting and ceiling. In 1915, a full-height portico with square columns and shallow pediment was added to the front porch. Walls in the first floor north central room are constructed of wide boards indicating the possibility that this room is of an earlier construction date. The front porch was extended and columns added c. 1915. Bathrooms were added on the second floor by enclosing a portion of the side porch in 1986-1987.

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

Period of Significance:

1850-1915 (This includes the original construction plus major historic additions.)

Significant Dates:

c.1850; 1880s-1890s; 1915.

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Unknown

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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)

The John Stovall House is significant as an example of an evolved 19th-century I-house with a historic mill and barn in a rural setting. The property is significant in the area of architecture as a very good example of a c. 1850s I-house that was expanded in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The original section of the house was probably a two-story, I-house type, as evidenced by the house's construction. The addition of a two-story rear ell and the inclusion of a rear room into a one-story rear addition are typical expansions made during the 1880s and 1890s. The two-tiered front porch with slender posts and flat-sawn balustrades is also characteristic of this period. The 1915 columned portico with two-story, square columns and shallow pediment is a simplified example of Neoclassical Revival influence. The 1880s mill and barn are significant examples of outbuildings that represent the livelihood of the Stovall family. The Stovall family complex once included a cotton gin, grist mill, saw mill, shingle mill, syrup mill, general store, and post office that provided services to the surrounding community. Only the section of the mill used as a cotton gin and the barn remain.

National Register Criteria

The John Stovall House meets National Register criterion C because it reflects an architectural type of building which was prevalent on the Georgia frontier during the first decades of settlement, in this case from 1820-1850. The I-house type was prevalent much earlier in North Carolina from whence the builder/owner John Stovall migrated to Georgia with many of his Carolina kinsmen and neighbors. The house reflects hand-hewn workmanship in its earliest c. 1850s portion, and later machine-turned materials in its additions, most notably the stairway and the porch columns. The house reflects the growth patterns in a house which remained in the same family for over 130 years, growth patterns which are especially characteristic of simple rural houses in Georgia. Additionally, the barn and mill are significant surviving examples of typical late 19th-century rural outbuildings.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

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N/A

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

The period of significance, 1850-1915 reflects the house's original building date by John Stovall, major late 19th-century additions, and date of the last major addition to the house, the two-tiered front porch.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if applicable)

3 contributing resources: historic house, barn, mill.
1 noncontributing resource: nonhistoric bridge.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

The John Stovall House is located in the 2nd district, land lot 133 in what was originally Habersham County, now White County. The house is located on the lower section of one of the two ridges which form the narrow flood plain of the Blue Creek.

The 250-acre original lot of land was initially granted to James Cardin in the 1820 land lottery. It was sold five times between 1823 and 1840, when John Stovall purchased 166 acres of the original lot, more or less, from Daniel McCollum for \$500. The 1840 U. S. Census Schedule of Mines, Agriculture, Commerce and Manufacturing indicates that one grist mill was present in the Big Creek District at that time. It may or may not have been the mill whose later remains exist on this property today.

John Stovall is listed in the 1850 U. S. Agricultural Census as owning 60 acres of improved land and 100 acres of unimproved land. He owned four horses, three milch cows, two working oxen, four other cattle, 16 sheep, and 25 swine. The total value of his livestock being \$281. During 1849, he produced 400 bushels of Indian corn, 120 bushels of oats, 35 pounds of wool, five bushels of peas and beans, 15 bushels of Irish potatoes, and 200 bushels of sweet potatoes.

John Stovall (1806-died after 1870) and his wife Elizabeth McCollum Stovall (1812-died after 1870) were among the 62 families from Burke and Rutherford Counties, North Carolina, (western North Carolina) who migrated to Georgia in 1822. They had eight children: Calvin (also

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referred to as John Calvin), James, Eliza, Margaret, John, Alfred, Thomas, and Macariah.

In the 1860 Census of White County, Calvin Stovall, a farmer, with his wife and one son are listed in one household, worth \$2400 in real estate. Next door, in a separate household, are his parents, John and Elizabeth Stovall, and their seven other children who remained at home. John, a farmer, was worth only \$600 in real estate. It would appear from these statistics and those in the 1860 Agricultural Census cited below, that the son, Calvin Stovall, had taken possession of the nominated house and farm by 1860.

Calvin (1833-1864) married Mary Oakes and had three children, John H. Stovall (1860-1945), William Isaac Stovall (1863-1945), and Jim Stovall. In the 1860 U. S. Agricultural Census, Calvin is listed as owning 30 acres of improved land, 130 acres of unimproved land. He farmed this land raising crops such as Indian corn, wheat, rye, and oats. Sheep were raised for the selling of wool. The mill was built near the house, and possibly dates to around 1887. A turbine wheel was used to turn a corn mill, saw mill, shingle mill, cotton gin, and syrup mill. This establishment, along with a general store, was owned and operated jointly by the two brothers, John H. and William I., who having drawn the shorter straw, moved to his own farm in the Sautee-Nacoochee Valley, also in White County. The farmhouse he purchased in 1893 was recently rehabilitated as a restaurant and bed and breakfast inn known as the Stovall House. It is on the National Register.

Due to the early death of Calvin Stovall toward the end of the Civil War, the farm's management reverted back to his father, John Stovall. Tax digests from the late 1860s and for 1870 show him paying taxes for the 160 (sic) acre farm which was worth only \$400. His widowed daughter-in-law remarried during this time to Henry Henderson, a farmer, and presumably moved to his farm nearby, as she is no longer living next door to her original in-laws in the 1870 census.

Eventually, after Calvin Stovall's children grew to maturity and the grandfather, John Stovall, retired from farming, the house next passed to Calvin's son, John H. and his wife, Georgia Anna Smith. They were married in 1892 and eventually had nine children. Throughout their ownership of the property, John H. continued to run the general store and mill on the Blue Creek, also serving as postmaster of the post office which operated out of the general store. The post office operated as the Pink, Georgia, post office from 1881-1883 and as the Eastburn, Georgia post office from 1900-1907. The general store continued to function until 1940. After his first wife's death in 1927, John H. Stovall remarried and died in 1943.

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The Stovall family acquired many surrounding acres, eventually amassing around 300 acres. In recent years, the family sold off various tracts of land. The house and two remaining outbuildings, which include the part of the mill which once housed the cotton gin, were sold in 1986 to the present owners.

The house is now the private residence of Wicky and Joyce "Dean" Loudermilk and has remained virtually unaltered, having experienced only minor alterations typical in the evolution of a house.

9. Major Bibliographic References

High, Karen. "Stovall House." Historic Property Information Form, August 1, 1988. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta with supplemental information.

Prosser, Susan S. "Stovall-Loudermilk House" Request for Determination of Eligibility, June 1988, Georgia Department of Transportation.

Stovall Family Histories, published, located at the Georgia Department of Archives and History, Atlanta.

White County, Georgia, Tax Digests 1866-1870, on microfilm at the Georgia Department of Archives and History; and the 1870 U. S. Population Census for White County.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): () 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 #
- (X) other: Property was considered eligible in conjunction with the planning of a proposed federally assisted bridge-replacement and road-widening project. The project was not implemented.

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 7.72 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 254860 Northing 3833040

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is marked on the attached plat/sketch map dated May 29, 1986.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is all that is owned by the current owners at this location and all that remains associated with the historic property.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian
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** May 2, 1991

(HPS form version 11-02-90)

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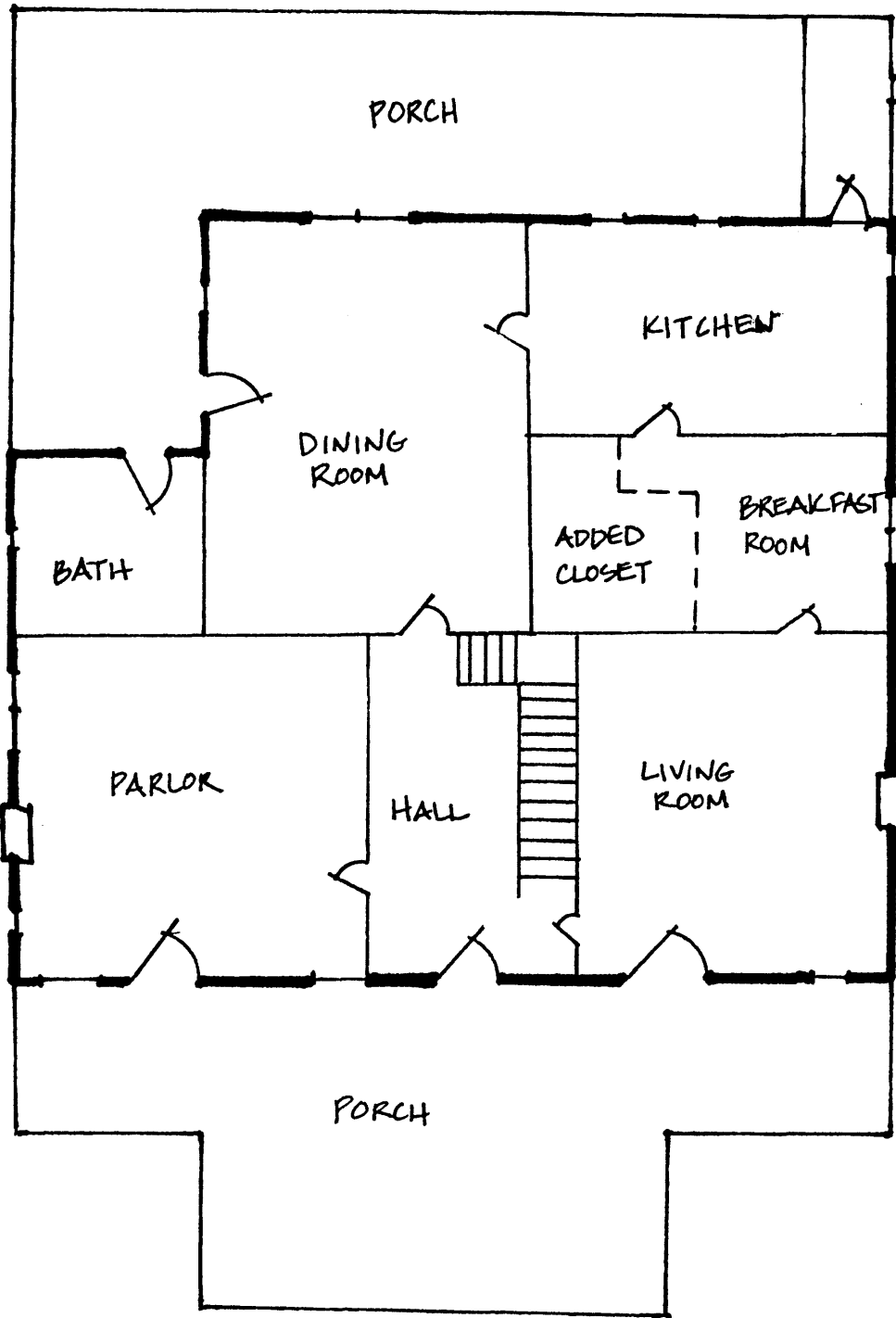
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Photographs

Name of Property: John Stovall House
City or Vicinity: Cleveland vicinity
County: White
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: July, 1990

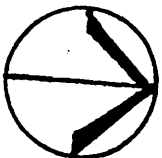
Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 12: Front (east) and south facades. Photographer facing northwest.
- 2 of 12: South and east facades. Photographer facing northwest.
- 3 of 12: Front (east) and north facades. Photographer facing south.
- 4 of 12: Rear facade. Photographer facing east.
- 5 of 12: Mill. Photographer facing southeast.
- 6 of 12: Wooden bridge and barn. Photographer facing southwest.
- 7 of 12: Main house, front porch. Photographer facing northwest.
- 8 of 12: First floor, entrance hall. Photographer facing north.
- 9 of 12: First floor, parlor. Photographer facing southwest.
- 10 of 12: First floor, living room. Photographer facing northwest.
- 11 of 12: First floor, dining room. Photographer facing northeast.
- 12 of 12: Second floor, bedroom above the parlor. Photographer facing southeast.



APPROXIMATE SCALE:

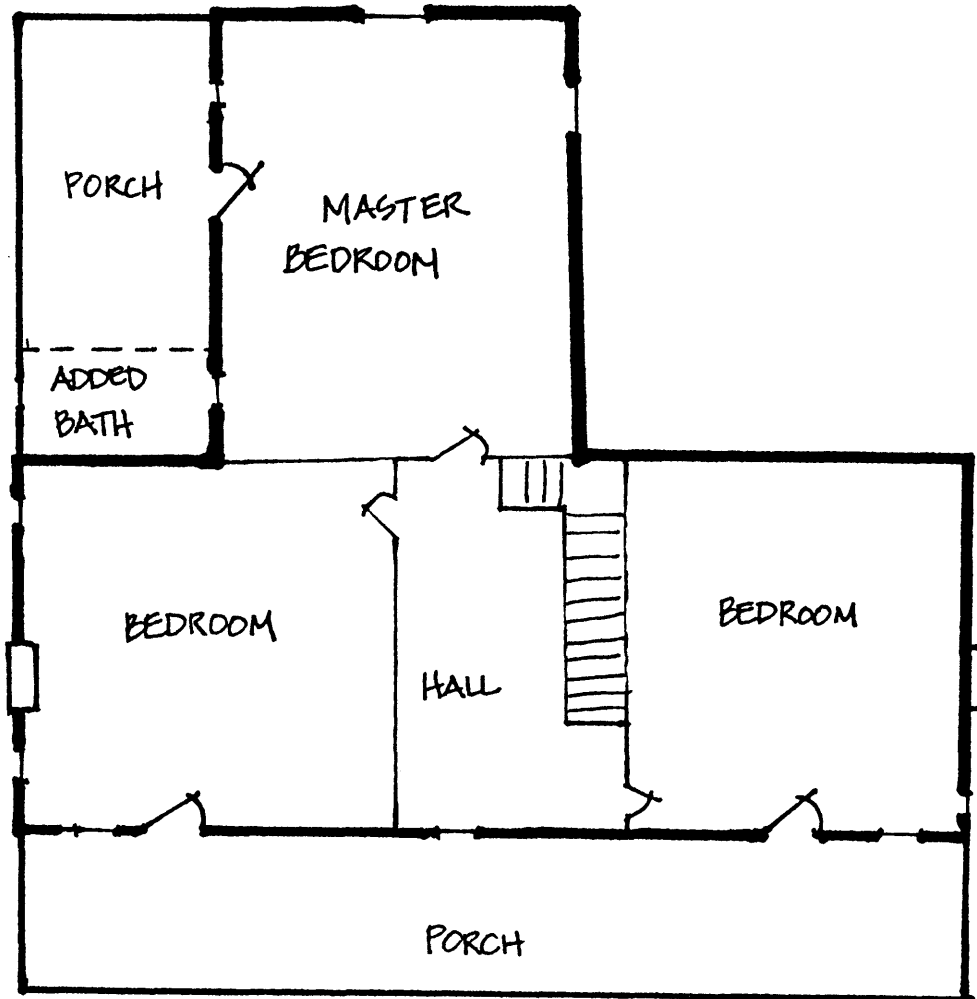
1/8" = 1'0"



NORTH

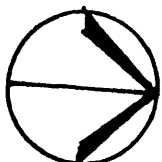
FLOOR PLAN

John Stovall House
 Cleveland vicinity, White County, Georgia
 Scale: not to scale
 Source: drawn by Joyce "Dean" Loudermilk
 Date: 1988
 Key: first floor plan



APPROXIMATE SCALE:

$\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'0''$



NORTH

FLOOR PLAN

John Stovall House

Cleveland vicinity, White County, Georgia

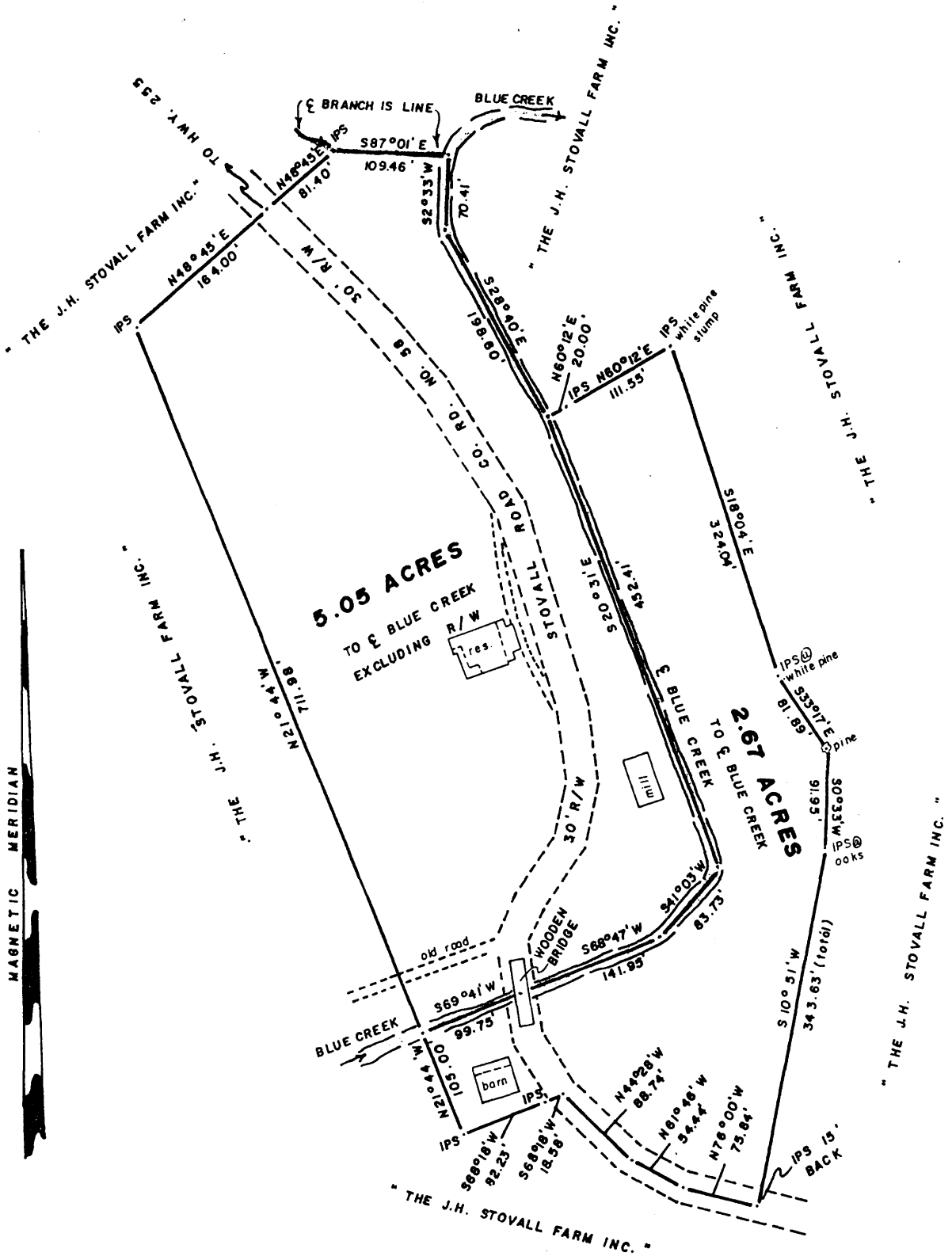
Scale: not to scale

Source: drawn by Joyce "Dean" Loudermilk

Date: 1988

Key: second floor plan

MAGNETIC MERIDIAN



SKETCH MAP/PLAT MAP
 John Stovall House
 Cleveland vicinity, White County, Georgia
 Scale: [---] = 100'
 Source: drawn by Eddie Hood
 Date: 1986
 Key: The nominated property is marked by a heavy black line, the plat being only for this property. The historic and nonhistoric features are marked directly on the map.

MAP PREPARED FOR

JOYCE ODIANE O'KEEFE LOUDERMILK

LAND LOT 133 — 2nd DISTRICT

