

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG - 7 1985  
date entered SEP 5 1985

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

1. Name

historic

and/or common The Webb Family Farms

2. Location

street & number 2½ miles north of Smithville, on both sides of U.S. Highway 19 N/A not for publication

city, town Sumter N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Sumter code 261

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	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 Multiple Owners (five)

street & number

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Sumter County Courthouse

city, town Americus state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Middle Flint Architectural History Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1981  federal  state  county  local

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

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Webb Family Farms historic district consists of three historic farmhouses with their associated outbuildings and one non-historic house on the site of a fourth historic house, all located on approximately eight hundred acres of farmland historically associated with the farmhouses. The nearly level farmland, all presently under cultivation, is bounded by Muckaloochee Creek on the west and the Central of Georgia railroad tracks on the east. The houses are strung along a mile of U.S. Highway 19 which bisects the land running north/south.

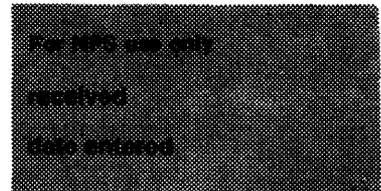
At the north edge of the district on the west side of Highway 19 is the George R. Webb House, built in 1901. Like all three historic houses in the district, this is a one-story, wood-framed house with weatherboard siding and a high hipped roof pierced by gables. It is a Queen Anne-influenced Victorian Eclectic-style house with considerable detailing. A central turret, gable ends trimmed with fishscale shingles and bargeboards, a wrap-around porch, bay windows, stained-glass windows, and tall chimneys with corbelled caps are its principal exterior features. The interior had a central hall plan, beaded-board walls and wainscoting, mantels trimmed with elaborate spindle work, and door and window moldings highlighted by bulls-eye corners topped with a crown motif. Recently, the attic space was converted to a second floor and a staircase inserted in the central hall. The house is set back from the road in an informally landscaped front yard planted with grass, shade trees, palms, and shrubbery. To the sides and rear of the house are a collection of historic wood-framed outbuildings with unpainted weatherboard siding and tin roofs. These include a mule barn, smokehouse, wash house, chicken house, and commissary. A historic windmill and a non-historic flower pit are located on its south side. Far to the west of the house, surrounded by fields, is a dilapidated wood-framed tenant house, one of only three surviving from the more than twenty that at one time dotted the district acreage.

A third of a mile to the south of this complex is the William A. Webb House, built in 1875 as a two-room-with-central-hall house. It was enlarged by the addition of two front rooms with a central hall and a front porch in 1903 and a rear "ell" in the 1910s by Henry J. Webb who purchased the house from his older brother in 1897. The front addition to this house is also Victorian Eclectic in style, although less elaborately detailed on the exterior and the interior than the George Webb House. Its principal decorative features on the exterior include gable ends detailed with fishscale shingles, and a wrap-around porch with turned columns and sawn work brackets. On the interior, the original two rooms have wide board walls, floors, and ceilings held together with square-headed nails, and the 1903 rooms have narrower board walls and floors. Shade trees (oak, pecan, and cedar) and shrubbery remain in the front yard. A simple, rather deteriorated "L"-shaped house built for William Webb's son "Will" in 1902, a smokehouse, a barn(with sides removed) and a carriage house are situated to the rear and south side of the house. Further to the south is the second of the three remaining wood-framed terant houses. Directly across the road from the William Webb House is a non-historic brick ranch house, built on the site of an early Webb family house that burned in 1931.

The third and most southerly farm complex is located on the west side of Highway 19 about two-thirds of a mile south of the George Webb House. This, the Emory C. Webb House, also built in 1901, is very similar to the George Webb House. A wrap-around porch detailed with a spindlework frieze and sawnwork brackets, a sun-burst in a pediment over the porch roof at the main entrance, a front door recessed

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behind a segmental arched opening, and the same gable ends detailed with fishscale shingles, bay and stained glass windows, and tall corbelled chimneys are its main exterior features. Its interior has fine mantels, door and window surrounds, and stained glass windows similar to those in the George Webb House. A smokehouse, small barn, a chicken house, two cribs, a windmill, and a non-historic flower pit are associated with it. The third of the three tenant house is locate well behind it in the fields.

Boundary: The boundary, drawn to scale on the enclosed U.S.G.S. quadrangle for the district, encompasses a large portion of John R. Webb's farmland that was divided among his seven sons about 1900. The Webb family farmhouses included in the district are three of six built by the Webb sons that originally lined Highway 19 in the district. The seventh is still standing in dilapidated condition at some distances from the rest. To the north of the district are the few remaining buildings associated with the community of Sumter. To the south, east, and west is more farmland, some of it associated with the Webb family but none containing any associated structures.

## 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 checked="" 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
<input type="checkbox"/> invention				
<b>Specific dates</b>	1875–1920s	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Unknown	

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Webb Family Farms are historically significant in terms of architecture, agriculture, and local history. These areas of significance support National Register eligibility under National Register criteria A, B, and C.

Architecturally, the district is significant for its two excellent examples of Victorian Eclectic-style farmhouses, its one evolved farmhouse, and its representative collection of historic farm-related outbuildings. All these structures document late 19th and early 20th-century building materials, technology, types, and styles in the Sumter County area. The George F. Webb House and the Emory C. Webb House are finely finished late Victorian farmhouses. Both are Victorian Eclectic in style with Queen Anne-influenced detailing. The basic layout and main features of the houses including their central hall plan, high hipped roof pierced by projecting gables, and wrap-around porch are typical of turn-of-the-century farmhouses. More unusual for farmhouses of this period are their elaborate exterior and interior detailing including the George Webb House's turret, their extensive sawn and turned porch trim, the decorative shingle work, stained glass, and interior door and window molding and elaborate mantels. Plans and elevations used in the construction of the Emory C. Webb House are extant although, unfortunately, they provide no information about an architect or builder. Strong similarities between this house and the George C. Webb House suggest the same plans may have been used for both. The William A. Webb House is a good example of an evolved house, one enlarged and updated from its original two-room-with-central-hall configuration by the addition of a Victorian Eclectic-styled front with its new rooms, porch, and roofline. The wood finishes on the interior of the two portions of the house nicely reflect the changes in building materials between 1875 and the turn of the century from wide board floors, walls, and ceilings to narrower board finishes. The collections of outbuildings clustered behind each house provide good examples in Sumter County of typical farm-related structures including smokehouses, chicken houses, wash houses, barns, cribs, and windmills. Their wood-framed, unpainted, tin roofed construction is typical of outbuildings associated with small late 19th- and early 20th- century Georgia farms.

In terms of agriculture, the district is significant for documenting a group of typical turn-of-the-century cotton farms with their extant farmhouses, agricultural outbuildings, and a few of their tenant houses. The district illustrates one form of second-generation family farming operation in which one large land holding was subdivided among seven brothers who all built houses on the land and operated farms there. The Webb family moved to the Sumter County area in 1825. In the mid-1800s, John Ronaldson Webb (1822–1881) purchased 125 acres of farmland along the eastern bank of Muckaloochee Creek. He built a log house there (not extant) and raised most of his family of sixteen children. Gradually he purchased surrounding farms until he owned about 900 acres. In 1878 he enlarged and moved into an existing house located along the Americus road (Highway 19) opposite the house built in 1875 by his oldest son William. This John Ronaldson Webb House burned in 1931 and today a non-historic ranch house is located on its site. In 1900 John Webb's widow, Amanda Webb (1828–1918), divided the 900 acres among her seven living sons who built homes along Highway 19 on

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Sledge, John. Historic Property Information Forms. "The W.A. Webb House," "The George F. Webb Home," and "The Emory C. Webb Home." 1981, 1982. On file at Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property Approximately 800 acres

Quadrangle name Smithville West, GA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>	D	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
E	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	F	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
G	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	H	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary outlined with a heavy black line on the enclosed maps is described and justified in Section 7. It is drawn to scale on the enclosed U.S.G.S. map.

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

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher  
Historic Preservation Section  
organization Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources date 7-17-85  
street & number 270 Washington Street, SW 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 Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 7/22/85

### For NPS use only

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

for Melissa Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 9/5/85

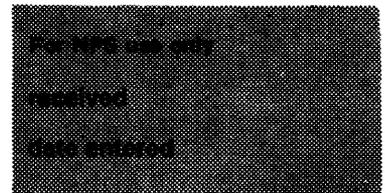
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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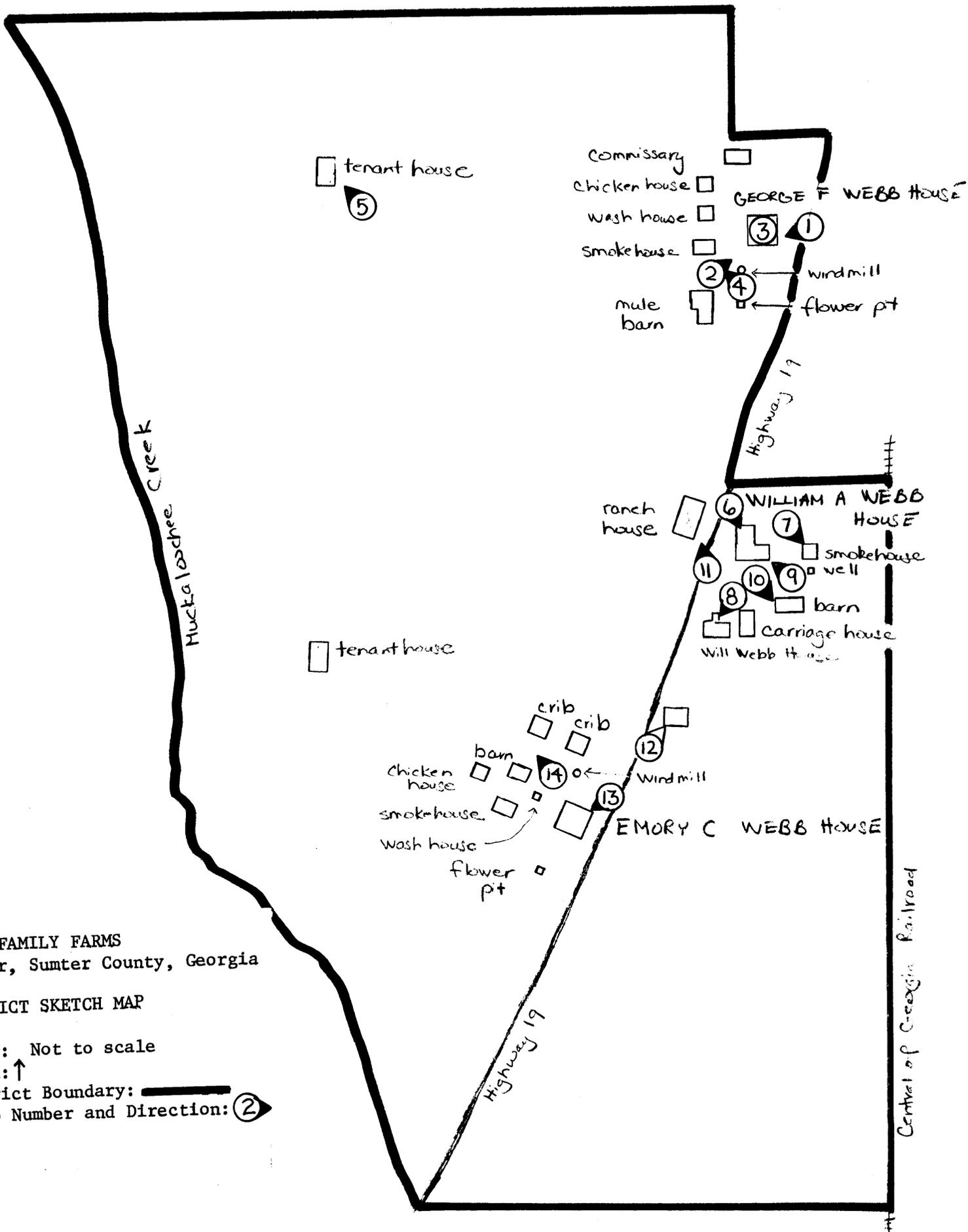
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their respective strips of farmland. The land, farmed as one piece until 1900, was farmed separately by each brother in the ensuing years. Cotton was the principal cash crop grown by the Webbs until the 1920s when the boll weevil ruined cotton farming in the area and the Webb's turned to more diversified farming. Most of the land in the district continues to be farmed by members of the Webb family, who inhabit two of the three historic farmhouses. The outbuildings associated with the farmhouses - barns, cribs, smokehouses, carriage houses, wash houses, chicken houses, and windmills - document the types of structures typically required for late 19th-and early 20th-century agricultural operations.

Local History

In terms of local history, the district is significant for its associations with the Webb family who contributed to the small community of Sumter. Members of the family owned stores and a cotton gin there (since replaced by newer structures) and shipped their cotton to market from the Sumter depot. They were actively involved with the local Liberty Primitive Baptist Church, and a number of them are buried in its cemetery.



WEBB FAMILY FARMS  
 Sumter, Sumter County, Georgia

DISTRICT SKETCH MAP

Scale: Not to scale

North: ↑

District Boundary: ———

Photo Number and Direction: (2) →