

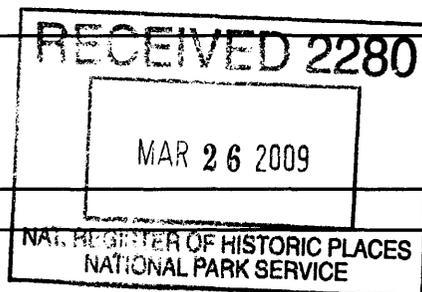
271

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Parker, Aaron and Margaret, Jr., House  
other names/site number N/A



## 2. Location

street & number 4835 Flat Bridge Road, S.W.  
city, town Stockbridge (X) vicinity of  
county Rockdale code GA 247  
state Georgia code GA zip code 30281

( ) not for publication

## 3. Classification

### Ownership of Property:

- ( ) private
- ( ) public-local
- (X) public-state
- ( ) public-federal

### Category of Property:

- (X) building(s)
- ( ) district
- ( ) site
- ( ) structure
- ( ) object

### Number of Resources within Property:

### Contributing

### Noncontributing

|            |   |   |
|------------|---|---|
| buildings  | 1 | 0 |
| sites      | 0 | 0 |
| structures | 0 | 0 |
| objects    | 0 | 0 |
| total      | 1 | 0 |

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of previous listing: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

**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.

*Allen C. Cloven*

Signature of certifying official

*3-19-09*

Date

*for* W. Ray Luce  
Historic Preservation Division Director  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

*Edson H. Beall 5.6.09*

*for*

Keeper of the National Register

Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling

### Current Functions:

Vacant/Not In Use

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

Other: Plantation Plain-type house

### Materials:

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>foundation</b> | Stone              |
| <b>walls</b>      | Wood: weatherboard |
| <b>roof</b>       | Metal              |
| <b>other</b>      | N/A                |

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Aaron and Margaret Parker, Jr., House is a one-and-a-half-story Plantation Plain-type house located in the Panola Mountain State Conservation Park in rural Rockdale County. Built c.1830 on the east side of Panola Mountain, the Parker House is among the oldest houses in Rockdale County. It is a wood-frame dwelling raised on a stone pier foundation, clad in weatherboard, and covered with a sheet-metal roof. The main (south) façade is sheathed in flush boards and includes two center entrances as does the rear facade. Both facades include full-width front porches, though the porch across the main façade is shortened by an enclosed travelers' room. Exterior chimneys are located on each end wall. The interior hall-parlor plan comprises two unequal size rooms, each with front and rear entrances. The winder stair to the second floor is located in the smaller east room, but entered from the west room. The second floor is also divided into two rooms. Since its inclusion in the Southernness Golf Club in 1991, the house underwent a series of changes that include new wood weatherboard siding, reconstruction of the rear porch, brick veneer on the chimneys, and new doors and windows. Three historic mantels survive and the overall form of the house is intact. The house, which is surrounded by a historic stonewall, stands as an "island" amid the sea of asphalt parking laid by the golf club.

*The following description was taken from the Historic Property Information Form prepared by Sarah Craig.*

The Aaron and Margaret Parker, Jr., House is a one-and-a-half-story, hall-parlor, Plantation Plain-type house located in the Panola Mountain State Conservation Park in rural Rockdale County, Georgia, just 15 miles southeast of downtown Atlanta. Situated on what used to be a golf course

Parker, Aaron and Margaret, Jr., House, Rockdale County, Georgia.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

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entrance, the house is on a small parcel of land that is surrounded by a paved turn-around and parking lot, as well as the now abandoned buildings that once comprised the golf club complex. The house is situated on the extreme northern part of this land parcel, with the north façade and porch of the house directly adjacent to the pavement. A small yard buffers the house on its east and west sides. A rock wall surrounds the house (Photographs 1-4).

The Parker house is a Plantation Plain-type house that is one-and-a-half stories tall, three bays wide, and one-room deep with a shed room projecting off the south side. Both the east and west gabled ends have a single red brick chimney. A one-story, full-length porch is attached to the north façade of the house, while a one-story porch also extends out from the south ell for the remaining length of the house. The north porch is accessed by stairs leading out to the turn-around from the east, while center stairs projecting to the south access the south porch. Two separate doors provide entry into the house from both porches, one for each room in the main portion of the building. Two four-over-four, double-hung, sash windows are located on the second story on both the north and south facades. On the ground floor, the window openings have been covered with plywood. A side-gabled roof covers the main body of the house, while shed roofs cover the porches and shed room in the ell (Photographs 1-4, 6-8, 15-18).

The house is simple in decoration and adornment. Tapered square wood porch posts support the south porch and original weatherboard siding is present beneath the porch roof on the south side of the building's ground floor (Photographs 16-18). Modern weatherboard siding covers the remaining walls of the house, and wood planks provide flooring for both porches. The foundations of both porches are covered in modern latticework. The original chimneys appear to have been bricked over in a running bond by more modern outer chimneys, built to lean away from the house (Photographs 1,3). Modern doors are present and the north porch is made of modern materials. All windows on the upper story appear to have been replaced. Shutters that appeared in historic photographs have since been removed. Finally, modern standing-seam roofs are present on both porches and on the main portion of the house.

Entrance to the house is presently made through the east door on the north side of the house. The door provides entry into the east room of the two-room, hall-parlor floor plan. This room's materials have been extensively modified, including flooring, walls, and mantel. A mantel is present on the east wall, with one modern, double-hung, sash window directly on either side (Photograph 9). A pair of modern, double-hung, sash windows is also present to the left of the main entrance to the room. The other entrance to the room, accessible from the south porch, is in the southwest corner of the room. The space, it appears, served as a multi-purpose room and is now vacant.

Directly across from the entrance is the doorway to the shed room. Though it is unknown what the room's historic purpose was, there is evidence that, in modern times, the space was used as a bathroom, with a counter and bathtub present. The west room has similar proportions compared to the east room (Photographs 11-13). Like the east room, the west room can be accessed from a door leading to the south porch. A fireplace hearth is present on the west wall, with one modern, double-hung, sash window on either side. Two modern, double-hung, sash windows are present on the north wall, similar to the pair of windows on the north wall in the east room.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

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The west room has a stair room with an enclosed stairway. The enclosed stairway is original to the house and leads upstairs to the east room (Photographs 11-13). This room was historically used as a bedroom. A second room is located in the upper story. Both rooms share an identical floor plan.

The first floor of the house has been extensively modified. Modern carpeting covers the flooring in the east and west rooms. Recent golf-motif wallpaper covers the drywall, while the walls in the shed extension are painted. Modern moldings and light fixtures are present, as are modern window sashes and doors. The upper floor is almost completely comprised of original materials. Original flushboard siding covers the ceilings and walls, though some wallboards are missing in the east room. The wooden floors appear to be original. Both wooden fireplace mantels are original. Wood trim and baseboards, where present, appear to be original. The closets, windows, and doors appear to be made of modern materials and installed at a later date (Photographs 9-11).

The only contiguous land now remaining with the house that is associated with its historic period of significance is a small island amidst a sea of pavement. The pavement forms a turn-around driveway for the former Southernness Golf Course, the buildings of which are still scattered around the turn-around today. The house is on an elevated piece of land with a historic rock wall separating it from the remainder of the island. The north façade faces a small yard, elevated by the brick wall, with rock steps leading down to the remaining piece of land on the island. Beyond the golf course turn-around and buildings, overgrown evidence of the former golf course still remains. Overgrown shrubs are located immediately in front of the north and south facades and a large cedar tree is present on the west side of the island.

The former golf course and the land on which this house sits are now part of the Panola Mountain State Conservation Park. Plans for this part of the park include removing the golf course buildings, restoring the house, and re-creating a more rural landscape.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**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  
EXPLORATION/ SETTLEMENT

**Period of Significance:**

c.1830

**Significant Dates:**

c.1830—The date of construction

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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**Statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The Aaron and Margaret Parker, Jr., House meets National Register of Historic Places Criteria "A" and "C" at the local level of significance in the areas of Architecture and Exploration/ Settlement because the building is a good and rare example of a Plantation Plain house, an early Georgia house type built in the rural Piedmont and Coastal Plain areas mostly from the 1820s to the 1850s, and because it is one of the oldest houses in a multi county area and represents the first wave of white settlement that began locally during the 1820s into former Native American lands. The period of significance is c.1830—the date of construction. The one-and-a-half-story Plantation Plain-type house is located in north central Georgia in the Panola Mountain State Conservation Park in rural Rockdale County.

The Parker house is significant in the area of Architecture because it is a good early example of a Plantation Plain-type house. As documented in *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*, the Plantation Plain-type house was "one of the earliest house types in Georgia. . . . Most of the few surviving examples were built between about 1820 and 1850 in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain regions." Like most Plantation Plain-type houses, the Parker house has a two-story block at the front, with a central hallway, and a short rear hallway flanked by a pair of rooms. The rear section is shed-roofed; the two-story block is gabled; and there is a full-width, one-story front porch. The Parker house is a good and rare example of a Plantation Plain-type house constructed during the early antebellum period. As documented in Georgia's statewide historic resources survey database (NAHRGIS) only 179 examples of a Plantation Plain-type house have been identified in the state to date.

The Parker house is significant in the area of Exploration/ Settlement because it represents the early white settlement of this part of the state. Rockdale County was created from parts of Henry and Newton counties in 1870, but white settlers first populated the area in the 1820s and 1830s. The Plantation Plain-type house was built c.1830 by Aaron Parker, Jr. and his wife, Margaret. The Parker family's experiences on the Georgia frontier were consistent with those of tens of thousands of other white settlers. The Parkers, like most settlers along the western frontier in Georgia, migrated westward from eastern counties in the state in search of fresh lands and eager to build new communities. Parker, a War of 1812 veteran, moved from Clarke County, Georgia, in 1822 to a tract consisting of three consolidated land lots located on the east side of Panola Mountain in what is today Rockdale County. The lives of frontier settlers such as the Parker family contrast sharply from the mythical images portrayed by past historians of a hardscrabble people who moved west to create self-sufficient farms. The family's Plantation Plain-type house was larger than many houses built by early white settlers, but this was far from uncommon. The Parker family had achieved moderate wealth during their period of residence in Clarke County. Their decision to move west was a strategic decision to invest their existing capital into new land and enslaved laborers as a means of achieving upward mobility. The Parker house was once the centerpiece of a sprawling 2,700-acre cotton plantation worked by as many as 24 slaves. Aaron Parker, by 1860, owned enough slaves and property to be considered a member of the region's elite planter class.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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**National Register Criteria**

The Aaron and Margaret Parker, Jr., House meets National Register of Historic Places Criterion "A" at the local level of significance in the area of Settlement/ Exploration because it is one of the oldest houses in a multi county area and represents the first wave of white settlement that began locally during the 1820s into former Native American lands.

The Aaron and Margaret Parker, Jr., House meets National Register of Historic Places Criterion "C" at the local level of significance in the area of Architecture because it is a good and rare example of a Plantation Plain house, an early Georgia house type built in the rural Piedmont and Coastal Plain areas mostly from the 1820s to the 1850s.

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

**Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance is c.1830. The house was constructed around 1830.

**Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

The Aaron and Margaret Parker, Jr., House is the only historic resource associated with this nomination. There are no other resources located within the National Register of Historic Places boundary.

**Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)**

*The following historic context was taken from the Historic Property Information Form submitted by Sarah Craig in August of 2006.*

Aaron and Margaret Parker, Jr. built a Plantation Plain-type house in Henry County (now Rockdale County), Georgia, around 1830 shortly after moving to the area from nearby Clarke County. Henry County was located on the state of Georgia's western frontier during the early 1820s. White settlers from Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina first came to the county during the 1820s and 1830s. Aaron Parker, Jr. was born in North Carolina on November 12, 1788. His parents, Aaron and Charity Shuffield Parker, Sr., moved to Franklin County (now Clarke County), Georgia, in 1789. Aaron Parker spent his childhood in Clarke County. There, in 1806, he married Margaret Browning (she was also born in North Carolina—June 30, 1789—and had moved to Clarke County as an infant). The couple had 14 children during their 55 years of marriage.

The Parker family first arrived in the Panola Mountain area of Henry (now Rockdale) County on March 9, 1822. The move came one month after Aaron Parker purchased his first piece of property

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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in the county from John Mattox. Parker accumulated an additional large tract of land three years later from Britton Allums. Parker purchased Land Lot # 230 from George W. Darden of Jasper County on March 27, 1830. He then built the extant house on Land Lot # 230.

Like many Southern planters, Aaron Parker held several public offices. His posts included tenures as the county justice of the peace and postmaster general. His primary occupation remained farming. He maintained a large plantation. He owned nearly 3,000 acres of land and 15 slaves by 1850. The bulk of his plantation's profits derived from the production of wheat rather than cotton. As Aaron Parker aged, he redistributed most of his land to his children and their spouses. During the 1850s Parker's plantation produced larger amounts of cotton than it had during previous decades. In 1860 he managed slightly more than 1,000 acres and owned 24 slaves. Following the Civil War Parker sold nearly 400 acres of his antebellum plantation.

Aaron Parker, Jr. died on January 5, 1881. He and his wife are buried in the Parker-Stanley Cemetery (located in Rockdale County). Parker's children inherited his remaining 606 acres of land. The Aaron and Margaret Parker, Jr., House (Land Lot # 230) was sold several times during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The surrounding property was redeveloped into the Southernness Golf Course in 1991. The golf course closed a few years later. The Conservation Trust purchased the land in the late 1990s. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources purchased the house and property in 2004 from the Conservation Trust as part of a planned expansion of the Panola Mountain State Conservation Park.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Brockington and Associates, "A Brief History of the Parker House." Unpublished, 2005.

Craig, Sarah. "Aaron and Margaret Parker, Jr., House." Historic Property Information Form, August 1, 2006. On file at the Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Rainer, Vessie Thrasher. *Henry County, The Mother of Counties*. McDonough, GA: Robert A. Rainer, Jr., 1988.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A**

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

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

**Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A**

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property**      Less than one acre.

### **UTM References**

A)    Zone 16      Easting 764804      Northing 3724745

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

Most of the land historically associated with the Parker house has been subdivided, including land for the former Southernness Golf Club. This nomination includes the small parcel surrounding the house. The National Register of Historic Places boundary includes the less than one-acre tract of land located inside of the paved turn-around that surrounds the house.

### **Boundary Justification**

Most of the land historically associated with the Parker house has been subdivided, including land for the former Southernness Golf Club. This nomination includes the small parcel surrounding the house.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**State Historic Preservation Office**

**name/title** Keith S. Hébert/ Historian  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**mailing address** 34 Peachtree Street, N.W., Suite 1600  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303  
**telephone** (404) 651-5568 **date** 03/09/2009  
**e-mail** keith.hebert@dnr.state.ga.us

**Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable)** ( ) not applicable

**name/title** Sarah Craig  
**organization** Project Assistant, GA DNR, Parks Division  
**mailing address** 980 Walther Blvd. #2536  
**city or town** Lawrenceville **state** GA **zip code** 30043  
**telephone** 770-682-3607  
**e-mail** smcraig@uga.edu

- (X) **property owner**  
( ) **consultant**  
( ) **regional development center preservation planner**  
( ) **other:**

**Property Owner or Contact Information**

**name (property owner or contact person)** David Freedman  
**organization (if applicable)** Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Parks Division  
**mailing address** 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Suite 1352 East  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** GA **zip code** 30334  
**e-mail (optional)** David.Freedman@dnr.state.ga.us

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

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**Name of Property:** Aaron and Margaret Parker, Jr., House  
**City or Vicinity:** Stockbridge vicinity  
**County:** Rockdale  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** Spring 2007

**Description of Photograph(s):**

Number of photographs: 18

1. Exterior; Photographer facing southwest.
2. Exterior; Photographer facing southwest.
3. Exterior; Photographer facing southeast.
4. Exterior; Photographer facing east.
5. Interior; Photographer facing west.
6. Exterior; Photographer facing south.
7. Exterior; Photographer facing south.
8. Exterior; Photographer facing east.
9. Interior; Photographer facing east.
10. Interior; Photographer facing west.
11. Interior; Photographer facing east.
12. Interior; Photographer facing east.
13. Interior; Photographer facing west.
14. Interior; Photographer facing west.
15. Exterior; Photographer facing west.
16. Exterior; Photographer facing northeast.
17. Exterior; Photographer facing north
18. Exterior; Photographer facing northeast.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

**AARON AND MARGARET PARKER, JR. HOUSE  
ROCKDALE COUNTY, GEORGIA**

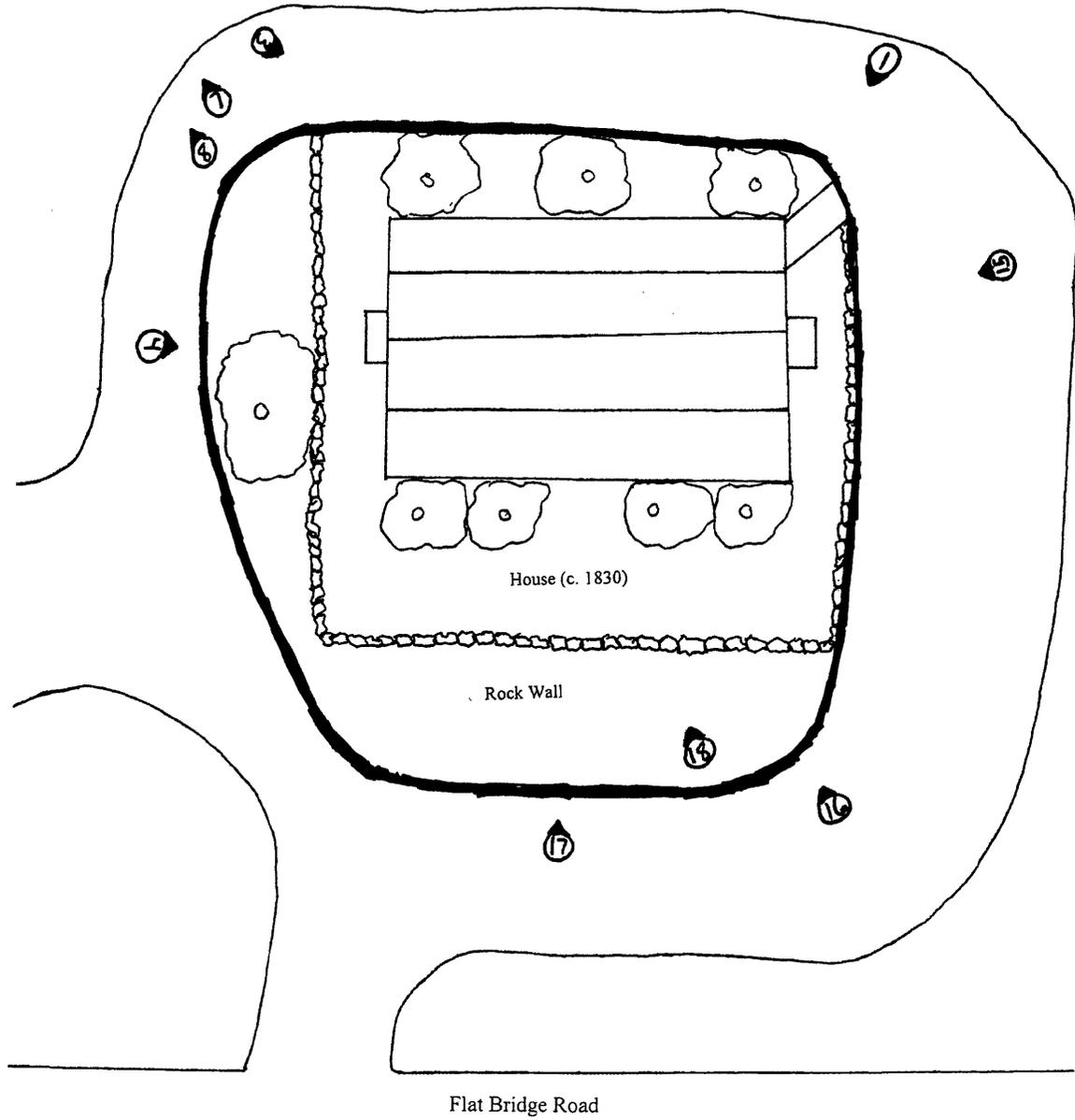
**SITE MAP**

**NORTH:** ↑

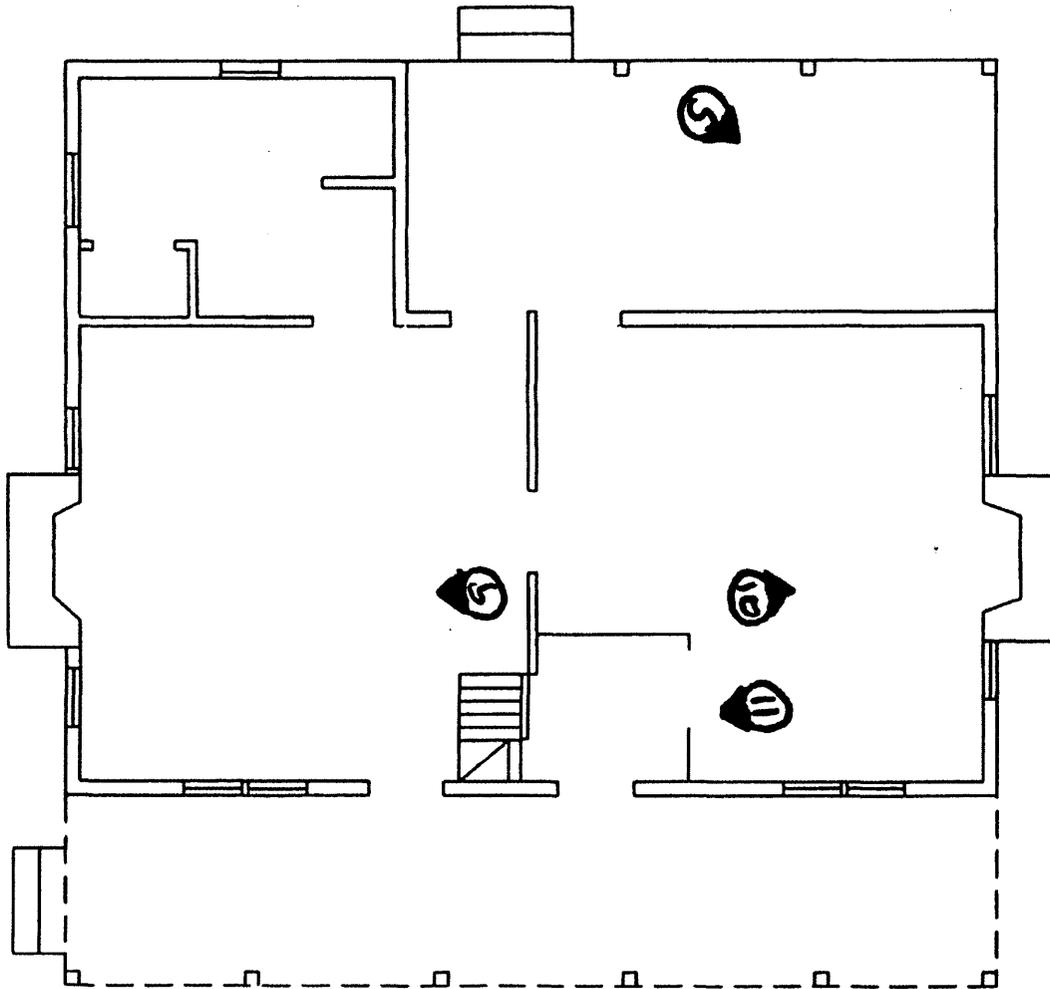
**SCALE:** 1" = 18'

**NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY:** 

**DIRECTION OF PHOTOGRAPH:** 



AARON AND MARGARET PARKER, JR. HOUSE  
ROCKDALE COUNTY, GEORGIA  
FLOOR PLAN  
NORTH: ↑  
SCALE: 1" = 8'  
DIRECTION OF PHOTOGRAPH: ↙



Porch addition

AARON AND MARGARET PARKER, JR. HOUSE  
ROCKDALE COUNTY, GEORGIA  
SECOND FLOOR PLAN:  
NORTH: ↑  
SCALE: 1" = 8'  
DIRECTION OF PHOTOGRAPH: ↻

