

**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 Acoa

and/or common Acoa

2. Location

street & number Mathis (Mathewes) Road, east of
the Old Tallulah Falls Highway N/A not for publication

city, town Hollywood vic, vicinity of congressional district 9th - Jenkins

state Georgia code 013 county Habersham code 137

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. John Martin, Jr.

street & number Route 3

city, town Clarksville vicinity of state Georgia 30523

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Habersham County Courthouse

city, town Clarksville state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Structures Field Survey:
Habersham County, Georgia has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977 federal state county local

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

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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

Acoa is an early-nineteenth-century seasonal residence located in the foothills of the Georgia mountains approximately five miles northeast of Clarkesville.

The main house at Acoa is a large but simple early-nineteenth-century wood-framed, Greek Revival-style residence. It is arranged in a six-over-six variation of the traditional foursquare central-stairhall antebellum plan. The exterior of the house is uniformly weatherboarded. Windows and doorways feature simple wood surrounds; some of the windows are flanked by hinged paneled shutters. Facades are formally arranged, and the symmetrical five-bay front facade features centered double front doors with sidelights under a lighted transom and a two-story, early-twentieth-century porch. The original low, metal-surfaced hip roof is covered by a mid-nineteenth-century gable roof. The interior of the house consists of six rooms on either side of a wide central stair hall on each of the two floor levels. The interior is finished with plank floorboards, plastered walls and ceilings, and simple grained baseboards, doorway and window surrounds, and mantels. Some original hardware, including window and door locks and self-closing door hinges, survives in the house. Four interior chimneys service the fireplaces in each room; most of the fireplaces retain their simple original wood mantels. Interior doors are paneled, with either four or six panels. The double front doors are reproductions of the originals. The structure of the house consists of hand-hewn timbers mortised, tenoned, and pegged together. This heavy frame rests on a fieldstone foundation.

Although the overall form of the main house has survived intact, changes have been made to the roofline and porch. As originally built in the mid-1830s, the house featured a low, metal-covered hip roof with stuccoed chimneys and one-story front and side porches. In the middle of the nineteenth century, the roof was raised in a gable configuration (the original metal roof was left to form the new attic floor) and the chimneys were extended in brick. Late in the nineteenth century, the original porches were replaced by two-story front and side verandahs. In the early-twentieth century, these verandahs were themselves replaced by the current two-story front porch.

Behind the house (to the north) stand a nineteenth-century gable-roofed, fieldstone smokehouse and a twentieth-century workshop. The workshop stands on the site of a nineteenth-century detached kitchen. A depression resembling a small shallow cellar hole is located nearby. Southwest of the house are an early-twentieth-century masonry-and-concrete dam with millpond and the stone foundation ruins of an associated mill. No other structures or the sites of structures related to Acoa are known.

Acoa is situated on a truncated hilltop in a tributary valley of Deep Creek. The grounds around the house are informally landscaped with lawn, shrubbery, and

[continued]

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1834 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Acoa is historically significant in terms of architecture as a fine, intact example of an antebellum Greek Revival-style country house in north Georgia; in terms of landscape architecture for its setting, treatment of grounds, and plantings; and in terms of society as one of several antebellum summer homes of coastal planters in the Georgia mountains. It is also significant in terms of historic archaeology for the potential to recover archaeological data from the otherwise-undocumented mill site on the property.

Architecturally, Acoa is an excellent example of the large but plain Greek Revival-style antebellum country houses found in the mountains of northeast Georgia. Its overall form, simple detailing, interior arrangement, materials, hardware, construction, and craftsmanship are of high quality and represent the very best of this type, style, and period of house. Its size, however, especially as reflected in the wide central hall and the six-over-six variation of the more common four-over-four plan, is unusually large. Changes to the roofline and porches are evolutionary in nature and common to houses of this kind and age; the essential historical architectural integrity of the house survives virtually intact. This house, like others in the vicinity, was designed as a seasonal residence, for summer occupancy by coastal planters seeking relief from the heat, humidity, and malaria of the lowland summer. Comfort, utility, and a casual atmosphere were valued here more than the pretension that often characterized the planters' winter residences on the coast. The house was also intended as a residence only, not as the headquarters for a profitable working farm or even a self-sufficient farmstead; hence, there were few outbuildings associated with the house. The one remaining historic outbuilding, the smokehouse or curing shed, is a common adjunct to nineteenth-century residences but is distinguished by its relatively unusual fieldstone masonry construction.

In terms of landscape architecture, Acoa is significant for its picturesque setting in a tributary valley of Deep Creek. The site takes full advantage of the natural scenery in the area, including hills, slopes, valley bottoms, fields, forests, and a stream. The setting is enhanced by the damming of the creek to form a millpond in front of the house. The millpond acts as a reflecting pool for views toward and away from the house. An unusual historic landscape feature at Acoa is the truncated hill or mound upon which the house was built. The location upon this hilltop afforded the house a relatively high, dry setting, advantageous to views in the valley; leveling the very top of the hill created an even plateau upon which to locate the house and its immediate grounds. Also of

[continued]

9. Major Bibliographical References

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 22 acres

Quadrangle name Tallulah Falls, Ga.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	7	2	7	3	8	4	5	3	8	3	6	8	8	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

1	7	2	7	3	7	4	0	3	8	3	6	7	5	5
Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

1	7	2	7	3	2	6	5	3	8	3	6	9	8	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

1	7	2	7	3	3	9	0	3	8	3	7	2	2	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

Boundary is described by a heavy black line on the attached U.S.G.S. Map and Sketch Map, and is justified in Section 7 of this form.

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 Richard Cloues, architectural historian

Historic Preservation Section,

organization Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

date March 27, 1981

street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W.

telephone (404) 656-2840

city or town Atlanta

state Georgia 30334

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

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4/21/82

For HCRS use only

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

William H. Brannan

date 6.22.82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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date entered

Continuation sheet

Description

Item number 7

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trees. Some of the trees appear to date from the nineteenth century; holly trees in front of the house have been dated to 1842. Surroundings include fields, woods, the stream and millpond, and a gravel road and driveway.

The nominated property consists of a tract of land owned by the current property owner. Acreage historically associated with Acoa varied drastically, and no intact historic boundaries have survived. The nominated property includes all known historic architectural and landscape architectural features associated with Acoa. It also conforms to natural or environmental boundaries in the vicinity.

Photographs

The Historic Preservation Section has determined that the photographs taken in December, 1980 still provide an accurate view of the property. No significant changes have been made since that date.

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Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

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note at Acoa are several historic plantings dating from the nineteenth century. Among them are two holly trees in front of the house dating from 1842.

Acoa is historically significant as one of several summer houses built in this part of the state during the first half of the nineteenth century. These seasonal residences were built by wealthy plantation owners from the Georgia and South Carolina coasts who were seeking relief from the summer heat, humidity, and malaria in the lowlands. Acoa was built by John R. Matthews, a planter from Charleston, South Carolina, in the mid-1830s, and is one of the oldest seasonal houses in the vicinity. It is also the largest and most impressive Greek Revival-style house in this group. Less than two miles to the west, across Deep Creek, are the antebellum summer homes of the Kollock family from Savannah. Built in the 1840s, shortly after Acoa, they are in the carpenter Gothic style. (The Kollock family houses were listed in the National Register on December 30, 1975, as the Woodlands-Blythewood Historic District.) The summer-house tradition was continued into the second half of the nineteenth century; for example, several summer houses were built in the Nacoochee Valley, located approximately twelve miles west-northwest, by Charleston families in the last two decades of the nineteenth century (the Nacoochee Valley, in White County, was listed in the National Register on May 22, 1980).

No formal archaeology has been done at Acoa. However, significant historic archaeological potential is inferred from the remains of a waterpowered mill located southwest of the house below the millpond. These remains include a concrete-and-masonry dam, a wooden raceway, stone foundations, and a turbine site. If recovered, archaeological data about this mill could contribute to knowledge about an aspect of the property that is at present poorly documented and understood.

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Continuation sheet Bibliography

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Page 1

Bass, Addie. Habersham County History, 1962.

Church, Mary. Hills of Habersham, 1962.

Kollock, John. These Gentle Hills, 1976.

Matthewes, John R. Family letters, 1830s-1950s, and plantation book, 1830s-1840s.

Habersham County Courthouse Deeds and 1821 Land Grant.

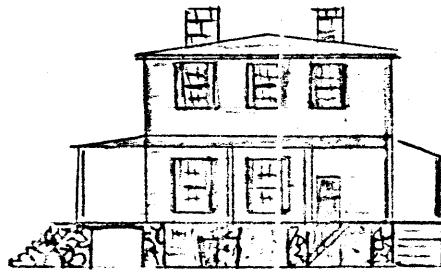
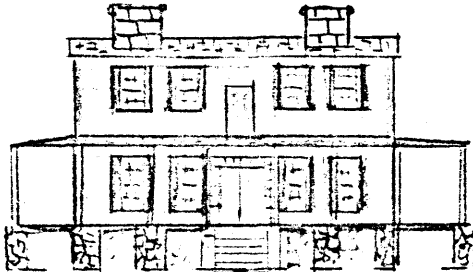
Acoa
Hollywood vicinity, Habersham County, Ga.

EXTERIOR CHANGES TO PORCHES AND ROOFLINE

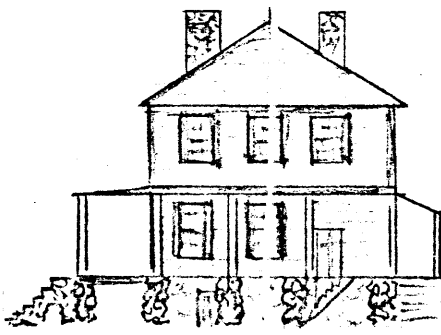
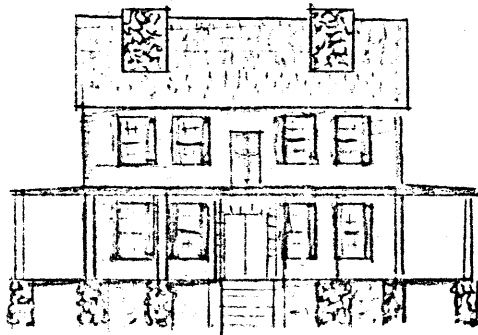
Drawn by John Martin, July 25, 1979
Not to scale.

SOUTH

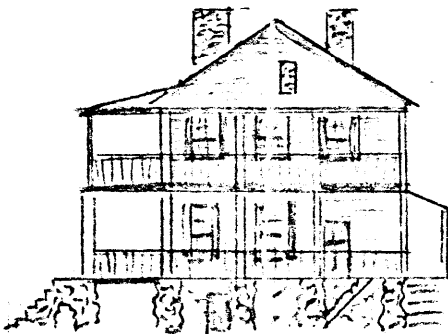
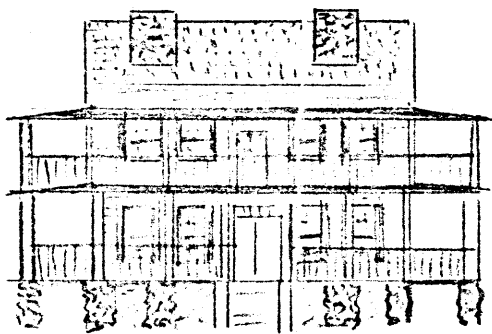
EAST



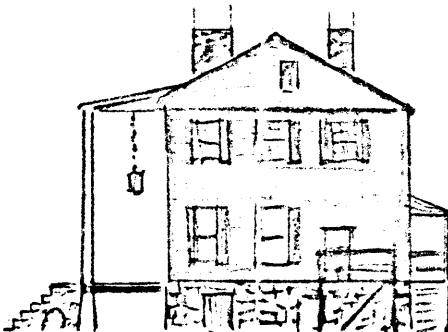
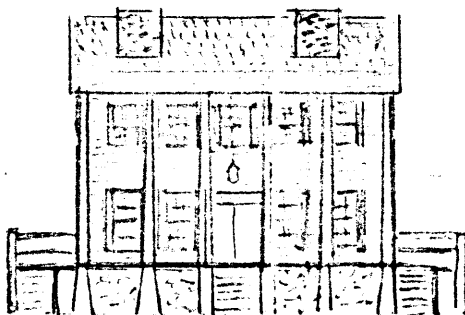
1834 & 5



CA 1850



CA 1890



1976

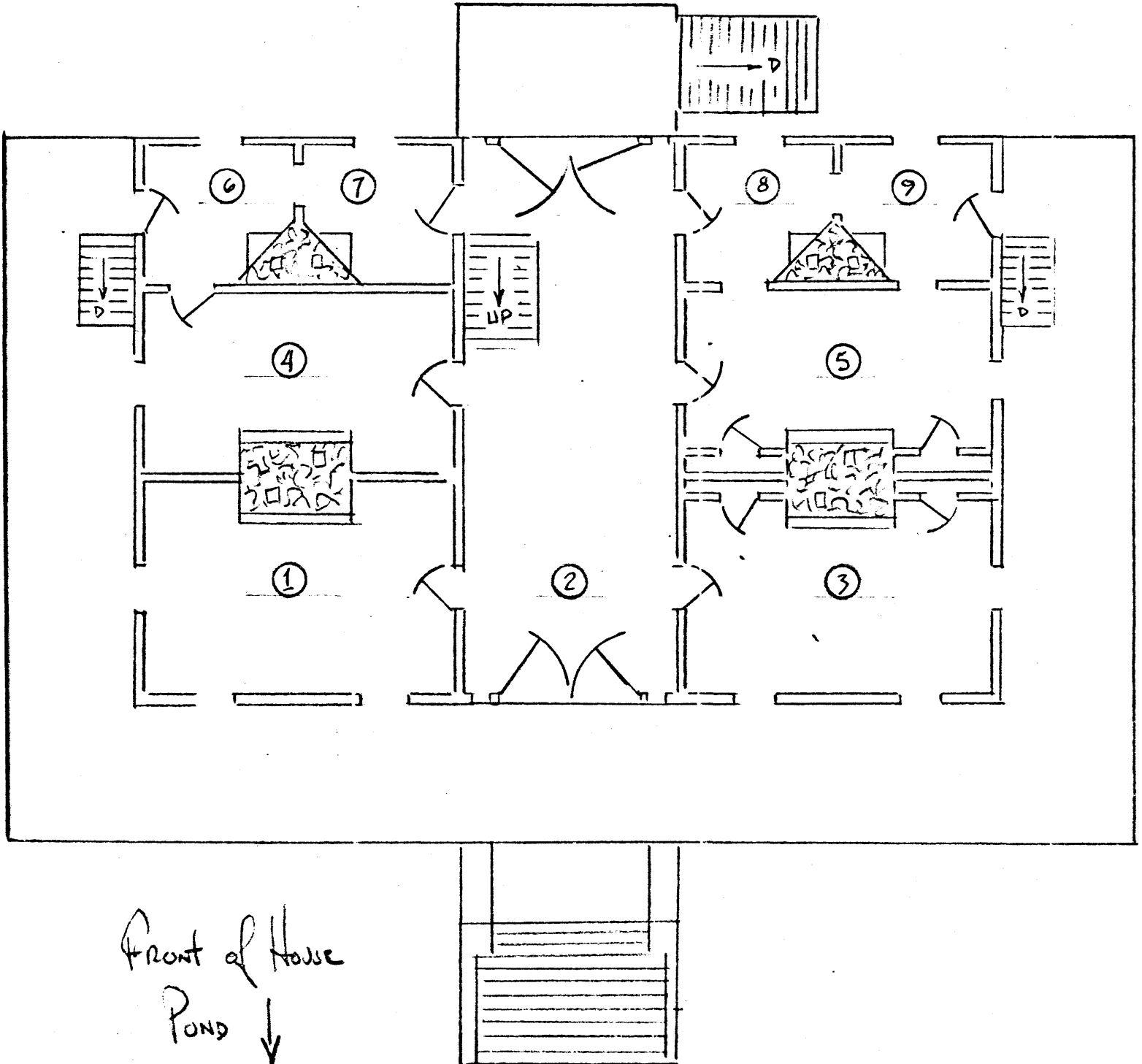
Acoa
Hollywood vicinity, Habersham County, Ga.

FIRST FLOOR PLAN, AS BUILT

Drawn by John Martin, July 25, 1979

Approximate scale: 1" = 10'

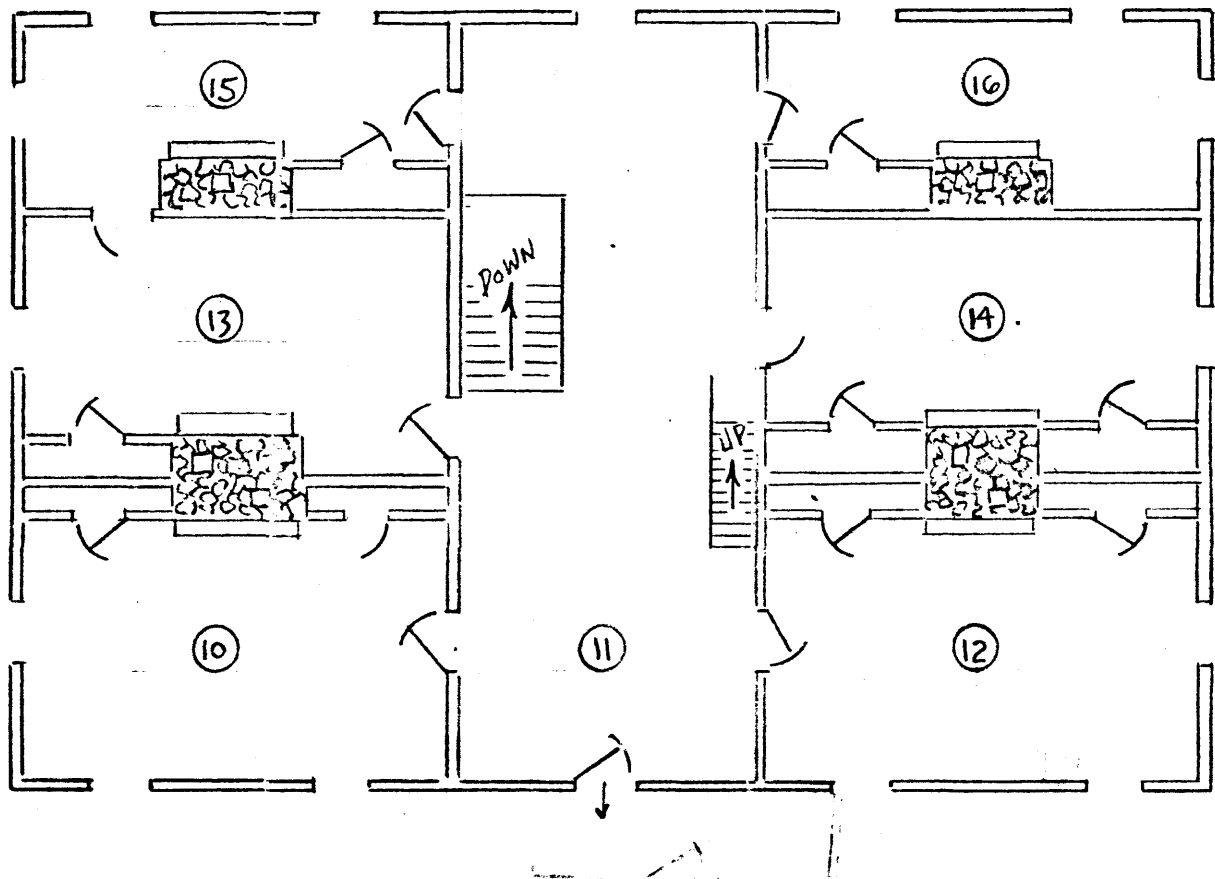
North: ↗



Acoa
Hollywood vicinity, Habersham County, Ga.

SECOND FLOOR PLAN, AS BUILT

Drawn by John Martin, July 25, 1979
Approximate scale: 1" = 10'
North: ↑



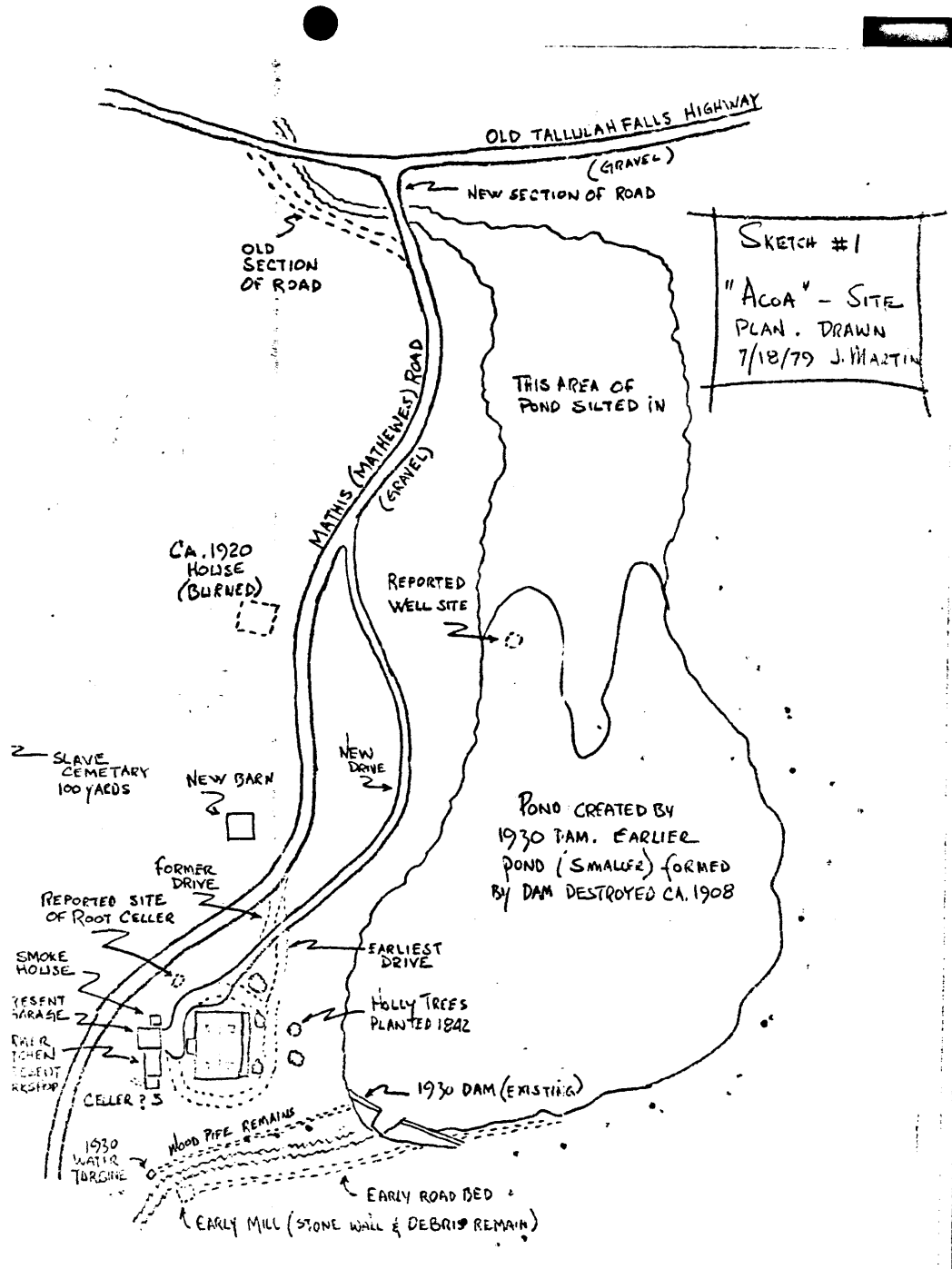
Acoa
Hollywood vicinity, Habersham County, Ga.

SKETCH MAP

North: ↙

Not to scale.

Drawn by John Martin, July 18, 1979.



Acoa
Hollywood vicinity, Habersham County, Ga.

SITE ANALYSIS

North: ←

Not to scale:

Drawn by Dale Jaeger, 1980.

