

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 R.M. Jones General Store
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 6926 Whitesville Road
city, town LaGrange (X) vicinity of
county Troup code GA 285
state Georgia code GA zip code 31822

() not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property:

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

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings	1	1
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	1

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.

Richard Lewis
Signature of certifying official

11-24-08
Date

W.R. 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

Patrick Andrews
Keeper of the National Register

2/10/2009
Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store

Current Functions:

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER: vernacular fieldstone store

Materials:

foundation	STONE
walls	STONE
roof	METAL
other	N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The c.1903 R.M. Jones Store is located at the intersection of State Route 18 and State Route 219 in southern Troup County, approximately 12 miles due south of the county seat of LaGrange. The store is located at a crossroads in an area that is still rural and agricultural in character (photographs 9, 14, 16, and 17).

The one-story, rectangular building is constructed of uncoursed, local fieldstone. The front (south) and rear facades (north) have stepped parapets (photographs 11-13). The front façade parapet had a round-arched vent. The building has a front-gable metal roof (photograph 15) and an exterior fieldstone chimney on the rear (north) façade. The front façade is symmetrical with a central double-entrance door with a transom above and a six-over-six sash window on either side of the entrance (photographs 7, 11, and 25). The rear façade has a six-over-six wood window on either side of the central exterior chimney (photograph 13). There is a side entrance on the east façade with a transom above (photograph 15). Windows and transoms have exterior anti-theft bars.

The front façade has a raised porch with a fieldstone foundation (photographs 1, 10, and 11). Fieldstone steps are located on the front and east side of the porch and there is a steel threshold stamped with "R.M. Jones" inset into the top step on the east side (photograph 1). The porch has a metal shed roof supported by wood posts and exposed rafters. On the west side of the building is an attached wood shed-roof addition with a separate entrance (photographs 2, 12, and 14). The shed was always part of the building and retains its historic form. The shed was enclosed in 1996.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

The interior of the building is one large open space. The walls are lined with original shelving, ladders, display cases, and counter (photographs 6, 18, 19, 21, and 22). A fireplace is located in the center of the rear wall and has a plastered hearth with a simple wood shelf as a mantle (photograph 4). The store retains its original wood floor and ceiling and plaster walls (photograph 3). The store retains its historic teller's cage, which was historically used as a post office for the rural area (photographs 4 and 20). The teller's cage has elaborate carved-wood moldings and decorative trim and delicate metal grates over the glassed openings. The original safe remains near the front counter.

The R.M. Jones Store is located close to the right-of-way at the intersection of two state highways on a small parcel of land. This crossroads has always been known as Jones Crossroads and appears on the United States Geological Service's topographic map as such. There is a noncontributing, nonhistoric shed to the rear of the property.

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
COMMERCE

Period of Significance:

c.1903-1958

Significant Dates:

c.1903—construction of the store

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

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

The R.M. Jones General Store was constructed c.1903 on the property of Christopher Columbus Jones, Sr., in an area of Troup County called Jones Crossroads. The store is located at the crossroads of Georgia State Route 18 and Georgia State Route 219, historically and currently important routes through rural Troup County. C.C. Jones's youngest son, Robert Monroe Jones, ran the store until the late 1910s when the decline in farming and population forced a sale of the store to a wealthy neighboring landowner. In 1919, the store was leased to the Avery family, who purchased the building in 1935. Curtis and Lois Avery ran the store until the 1960s; their daughter reopened the store in 1985 as an antique store. The R.M. Jones General Store is being nominated at the local level of significance as an excellent example of an early 20th-century, fieldstone general store in Troup County.

The R.M. Jones General Store is significant in the area of architecture as an excellent and intact example of an early 20th-century general store constructed from local fieldstone. The store retains its historic character-defining features including the storefront, the interior open space, office, and wood walls, floors, ceiling, and original shelving.

The R.M. Jones General Store is significant in the area of commerce as an excellent example of an early 20th-century general store that continued to be operated as a general store through the end of the historic period. The general store was a vital part of rural Georgia life and served as a place to purchase a variety of goods from clothing, shoes, and dry goods to fertilizers, plows, and Model T car parts. The store also served as the community post office. A similar fieldstone store, the Potts Brothers Store, from the same time period and also located in Troup County was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on March 31, 1983.

National Register Criteria

The R.M. Jones General Store is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an excellent example of an early 20th-century rural, general store. The building is also eligible under Criterion A as an important center for commerce in a rural area of Troup County and as the location of the local United States Post Office.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for the R.M. Jones General Store is from the date of construction in c.1903 through 1958, the end of the historic period, because the building functioned as an important general store in a rural area of Troup County through the mid-1960s.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The R.M. Jones General Store is the only contributing building on the property. There is a noncontributing, nonhistoric shed at the rear of the property.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

NOTE: The following developmental history was prepared by Linda Straub, consultant. "R.M. Jones General Store," *Historic Property Information Form*, May 30, 2007. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Troup and Harris county residents first settled at the crossroads of the LaGrange-Whitesville-Columbus stagecoach route and the West Point to King's Gap Road in the late 1820s. Named of local landowner, Christopher Columbus Jones, the Jones Crossroads community once had several flourishing businesses. There was a cotton gin, a racehorse track, a tavern, and the Paulina United States Post Office. Although the post office used the postmark "Paulina", the unincorporated community is still marked "Jones Crossroads" on maps today. The rock store at Jones Crossroads was built in 1903 to replace a wood store that stood on the southwest corner of the intersection.

The store was built on property of Christopher Columbus Jones, who owned the land on all four corners of the intersection. Jones was born in 1831 in Troup County. He grew up on his father's farm and received limited schooling. Jones educated himself enough to become a teacher and taught school for more than 10 years. In 1855, he bought his first tract of land and added to it until he owned more than 3,000 acres in Troup and Harris counties. Jones and his wife, Lucy Anderson Jones, had seven children, six sons and one daughter. C.C. Jones received his moment of fame in 1904 when a bale of cotton grown on his farm in 1870 was carried to the St. Louis Exposition and proclaimed the "oldest bale of cotton in the United States." It was part of the Georgia exhibit at the exposition, and Jones received a bronze medal for allowing his bale to be shown. This same bale now resides in the Georgia State Capitol building.

Robert Monroe Jones, the youngest son of C.C. Jones, ran a general store at the crossroads in a wooden building on the southwest corner of the intersection. In 1902, he gathered local stones from his father's agricultural fields and had a new store building constructed. It appears that the rock work was done by a professional mason. A local legend says that all six sons were tasked with the gathering of stones and that a band of circuit-riding masons was engaged for the work.

Robert Jones inherited the store from his father's estate and ran the store until the late 1910s. The Jones Store sold a complete line of supplies for home and farm as well as gasoline and oil for the increasing number of trucks and cars that passed by. In a lateral bay, there was a gristmill. The memories of R.M. Jones' daughter and nieces paint a picture of a store with shelves crowded with cans and jars and bottles. Bags of seed and fertilizer were stacked on the floor along with bags of cement and homemade lard buckets. Patent medicines and all kinds of hard candy were kept near

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

the counter. The gas pumps were on either side of the front porch; they were hand pumps and were later removed. There was also a post office in the rear of the building with a Paulina postmark. A building north of the store housed a blacksmith shop (no longer extant).

By the late 1910s, the agricultural economy that supported the residents of the Jones Crossroads area was in decline. The boll weevil was devastating the cotton crop, and nearby cities were drawing young people from the farms to jobs in the textile industry. The decline in farming and population had economic consequences for R.M. Jones, who apparently was unable to earn enough from the business to pay the taxes on the store. The store was sold to M.L. Glenn, a wealthy owner of neighboring property who lived in the Salem community in Troup County.

Beginning in 1919, M.L. Glenn leased the store to Dr. R.M. Avery, who moved into the area to open a medical practice. Two younger brothers of Dr. Avery, Herbert and G.B. Avery, operated the store while another brother, Curtis Avery, ran a repair shop in the former blacksmith shop. The store continued to sell staple supplies to the local farmers. The store sold everything from flour and lard to overalls and agricultural tools. The business expanded to include an ice house with a delivery service. The post office continued through these years with the mail being delivered from West Point and carried on a Star Route by a rural carrier. The community was called Union at this time.

Herbert Avery left the business to pursue a career that culminated in a position as vice president of Winn-Dixie. G.B. Avery left to work successfully in a variety of dry cleaning businesses. By the late 1920s, Curtis Avery ran the store along with his wife, who was known to all as "Miss Lois." Lois ran the store while Curtis continued the repair shop. The store was a focal point for the community. About 32 small farms received supplies on credit at the store with advancements of fertilizer, seed, clothes, and staples. Payment was collected in the fall after the harvest. Avery charged the farmers no interest and made rounds to advise them on how to get the most from their crops. The Averys also accepted local produce in exchange for merchandise; they often had enough cornmeal and eggs to take to town for resale to a larger store.

The Averys finally acquired the title to the store in 1935 from the estate of M.L. Glenn. Soon after, Curtis Avery acquired additional land in the area to develop a cattle business. Miss Lois ran the store into the 1960s, until the state of Georgia instituted a sales tax. By that time, the store was not making a profit but remained the center of the community. In 1968, the store reopened with Embry Bailey as the proprietor. Bailey worked at the Avery dairy, Canaan Farms, and spent the last years of his life running the store.

In 1985, Curtis Avery, Jr.'s daughter Pam Avery stocked the store building with antiques and opened it on an occasional basis. Then in 1994, Ralph Skinner, a member of the Skinner family that operated furniture stores in Columbus and West Point, joined the business. The "Crossroads Store" is now open on a daily schedule as an antique store.

9. Major Bibliographic References

- Barfield, Louise Calhoun. *History of Harris County, 1827-1961*. Columbus, GA: 1961.
- Davidson, William H. *Pine Log and Greek Revival*. Alexander City, AL: Outlook Publishing, 1964.
- Lawrence, John and Julie Turner. *Travels Through Troup County*. LaGrange, GA: Troup County Historical Society, 1996.
- Smith, Clifford Lewis. *History of Troup County*. Atlanta: Foote and Davis Co., 1935.
- Straub, Linda. "R.M. Jones General Store," *Historic Property Information Form*, May 30, 2007. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

INTERVIEWS

- Katherine Jones Patterson, niece of R.M. Jones, conducted by Linda Straub, February 8, 2007, Lanett, AL.
- Willelia Jones Combs, niece of R.M. Jones, conducted by Linda Straub, February 8, 2007, West Point, GA.
- Ethel Doughtie, daughter of R.M. Jones, conducted by Linda Straub, April 2, 2007, Valley, AL.
- Curtis B. Avery, Jr., son of C.B. and Lois Avery, conducted by Linda Straub, February 23, 2007, Pine Mountain, GA.
- Pam Avery, granddaughter of C.B. and Lois Avery, conducted by Linda Straub, February 21, 2007, Pine Mountain, GA.

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 #

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 9—Major Bibliographic References

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): HS-CO-40

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 683819 Northing 3638359

Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary is indicated on the attached plat map with a heavy, black line, drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

The proposed boundary is the current legal boundary and the remaining historic acreage associated with the store.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Gretchen A. Brock/National Register Coordinator
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 34 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 1600
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** November 19, 2008
e-mail gretchen.brock@dnr.state.ga.us

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

name/title Linda Straub/Consultant
organization N/A
mailing address 404 Hopkins Farm Road
city or town Pine Mountain **state** Georgia **zip code** 31822
telephone (706) 663-2815
e-mail cemeteryhill@earthlink.net

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

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Pam Avery
organization (if applicable) N/A
mailing address 5520 Highway 18
city or town Pine Mountain **state** Georgia **zip code** 31822
e-mail (optional) crossroads99@bellsouth.net

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: R.M. Jones General Store
City or Vicinity: LaGrange vicinity
County: Troup
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: January 2008

Description of Photograph(s):

Number of photographs: 25

1. Detail of front porch; photographer facing west.
2. Interior, shed addition; photographer facing north.
3. Interior; photographer facing north.
4. Interior, teller's cage; photographer facing northwest.
5. Interior; photographer facing north.
6. Interior; photographer facing south.
7. Detail, front entrance; photographer facing north.
8. Detail; east façade; photographer facing west.
9. Front façade; photographer facing northwest.
10. Detail, front façade; photographer facing northwest.
11. Front façade; photographer facing north.
12. Rear (north) façade; photographer facing southeast.
13. Rear (north) façade; photographer facing south.
14. Front and west facades; photographer facing northeast.
15. East façade; photographer facing west.
16. Front and east facades; photographer facing northwest.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

17. Front and east facades; photographer facing northwest.
18. Interior; photographer facing south.
19. Interior; photographer facing south.
20. Interior, detail of teller's cage; photographer facing northwest.
21. Interior; photographer facing east.
22. Interior; photographer facing southeast.
23. Detail, front entrance; photographer facing northeast.
24. Detail, front window; photographer facing north.
25. Detail front entrance; photographer facing northwest.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

R.M. JONES GENERAL STORE
TROUP COUNTY, GEORGIA

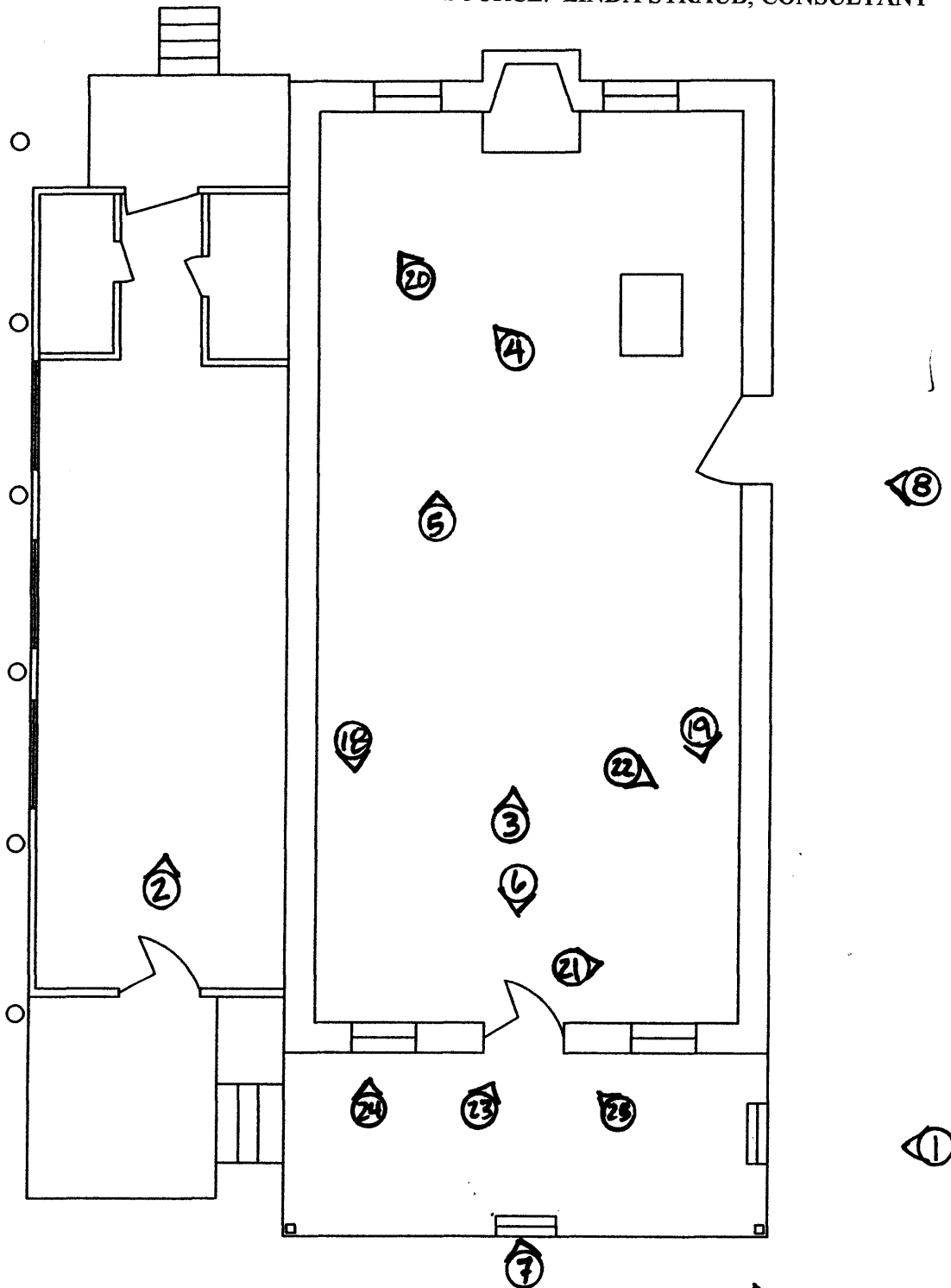
FLOOR PLAN

PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: ①

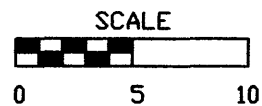
NORTH: ↑

SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

SOURCE: LINDA STRAUB, CONSULTANT



JONES STORE



J Straub 8 May, 2007

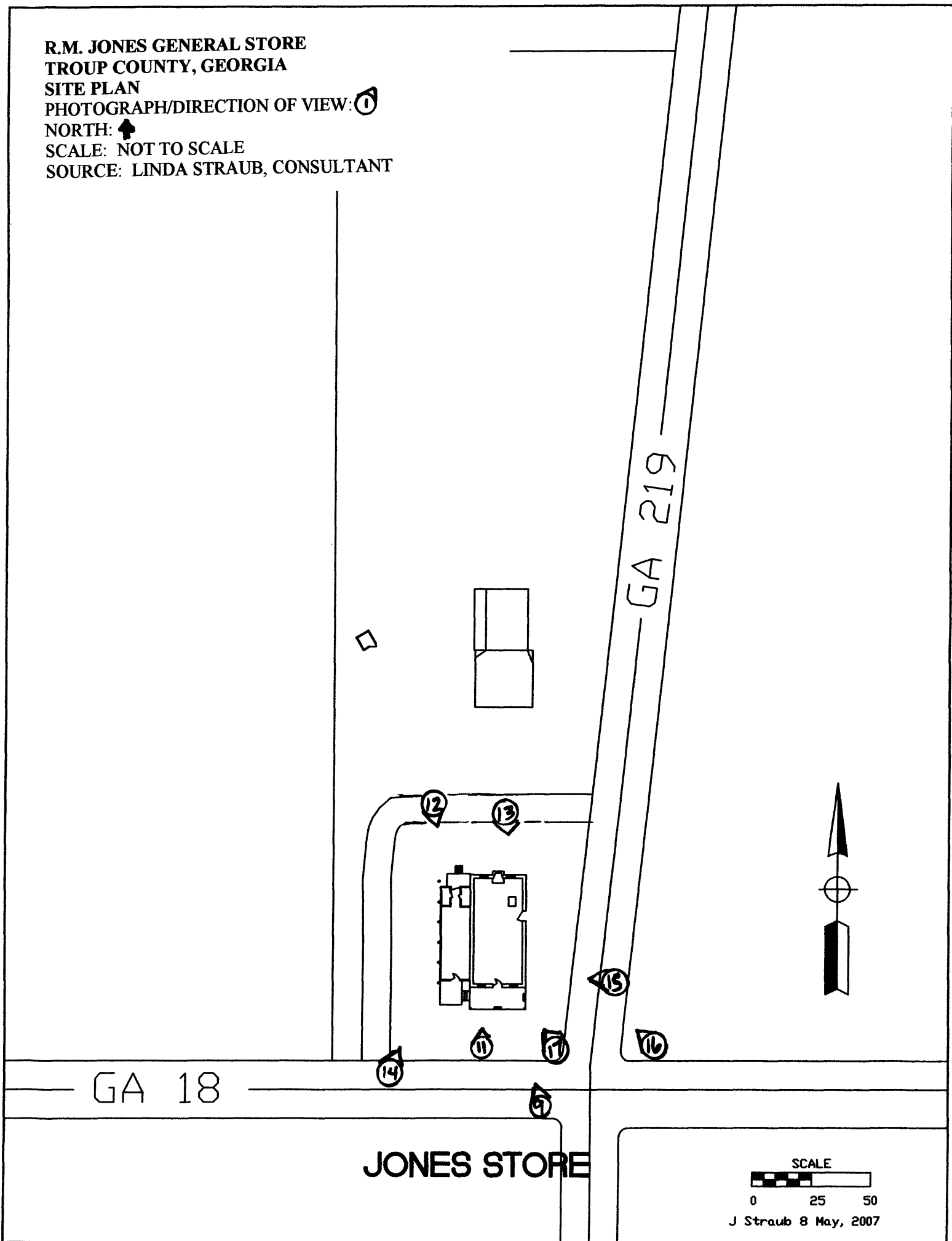
**R.M. JONES GENERAL STORE
TROUP COUNTY, GEORGIA
SITE PLAN**

PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: ①

NORTH: ↑

SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

SOURCE: LINDA STRAUB, CONSULTANT

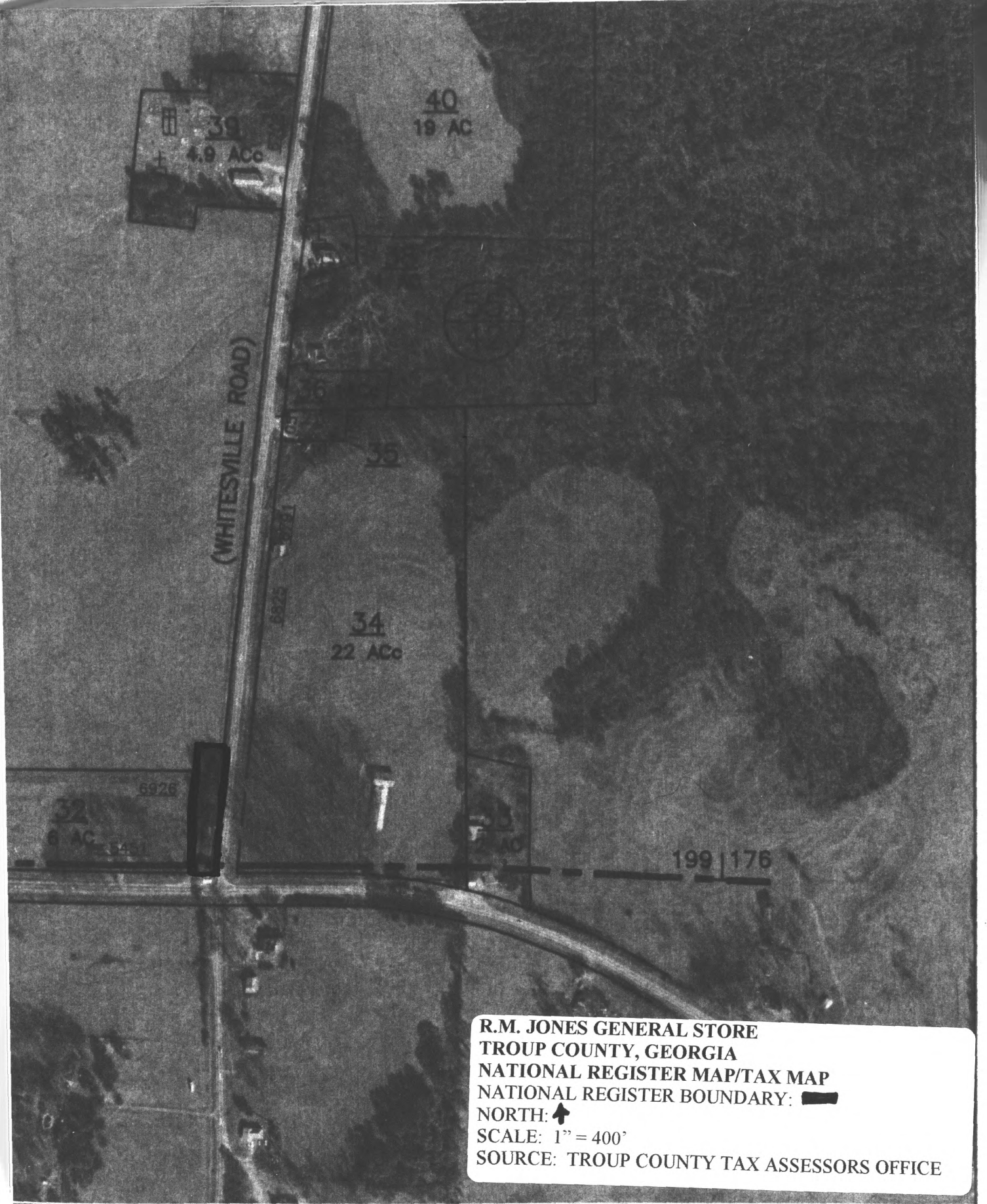




GA 18

GA 219

JONES STORE

SCALE
0 25 50
J Straub 8 May, 2007



R.M. JONES GENERAL STORE
TROUP COUNTY, GEORGIA
NATIONAL REGISTER MAP/TAX MAP
NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY: 
NORTH: 
SCALE: 1" = 400'
SOURCE: TROUP COUNTY TAX ASSESSORS OFFICE

PING &
 VICE, INC.
 GEORGIA 30162

REMARKS:
 SCALE: 1" = 400'
 DATE OF PHOTOGRAPHY: FEB, 1992



TROUP COUNTY, GEORGIA
MAP 56