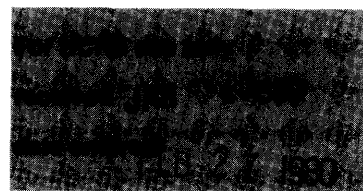


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Dahlonega Consolidated Gold Mine

and/or common Dahlonega Consolidated Gold Mine

**2. Location**

street & number Approximately one mile northeast of Dahlonega,  
on the southwest side of the Yahoola Creek Valley  not for publication

city, town Dahlonega vic.  vicinity of congressional district 9th - Ed Jenkins

state Georgia code 13 county Lumpkin code 187

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 B. Ed Robuck, President, Dahlonega Gold, Inc.

street & number 2248 Rugby Avenue

city, town College Park  vicinity of state Georgia 30337

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Lumpkin County Courthouse

city, town Dahlonega  vicinity of state Georgia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date 1975  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources 4

city, town Atlanta  vicinity of state Georgia 30334

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input 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 Dahlonega Consolidated Gold Mine is located approximately one mile northeast of downtown Dahlonega on the southwest side of the Yahoola Creek Valley. The mining complex covers about ninety acres of mostly hillside, with some bottom land. Contained within this ninety acres are an assay building, a flue chamber and smokestack, the foundation walls of a stamp mill, the subsurface remains of numerous buildings and structures including a chlorination plant, shaft houses, a machine shop, a boiler room, railroad tracks, and sluices, and the mine itself.

The assay building is located on bottom land near the banks of the Yahoola Creek. The building is rectangular in plan (84' x 36'), one story high, and gable-roofed, with a full-length, gabled monitor. It has a heavy timber frame sheathed on the sides and the roof with No. 24 corrugated-sheet steel. Windows are 6 x 6 double-sash, and doorways are either hinged or sliding. The assay building is the only remaining mining building on the property.

The flue chamber is located on the hillside north of the assay building. Partly above ground and partly buried, the flue chamber is constructed of fieldstone, with segmental brick arches over the flue and vent openings. The smokestack sits on top of a hill just northwest of the flue chamber. It is 66 feet high, square-sectioned, with a tapered profile. The lower half of the smokestack is constructed of fieldstone; the upper half is of brick, laid in American bond. The chimney has a corbelled cornice. The smokestack and the flue chamber are directly connected through an underground masonry tunnel.

The foundation walls of the stamp mill are located on the hillside northwest of the assay building and southwest of the smokestack. The walls measure 100 feet by 300 feet and are constructed of fieldstone. The stamp mill has been totally dismantled, leaving only these foundations. The stamp mill was originally a long, narrow, gable-roofed, four-story building built with a heavy timber frame and sheathed with corrugated-sheet steel. It housed the principal ore-stamping machinery for the gold-mining operation.

No formal archaeology has been done on this site. However, the existence of extensive subsurface archaeological resources is indicated by surface remains, especially foundation materials, and by photographs of the complex during construction and operation. This documentation shows a chlorination plant adjacent to the flue chamber, shaft houses on the hillside, railroad tracks and sluices, and other buildings in the valley and on the hillside, two of which have been tentatively identified as a machine shop and a boiler room. All of these structures were apparently gable-roofed, timber-framed, and sheathed with corrugated-sheet steel.

[continued]

5

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The gold mine itself, tunneled through solid rock under the hillside, consists of a central corridor with lateral runs and vertical shafts. The central corridor is more than one-half mile long and varies considerably in profile and alignment. A glory hole, resembling a large pit in the ground, can still be discerned at the southwest end of the mine, although it is now overgrown and partially filled with debris. Two tunneled openings into the hillside still exist at the northeast end of the mine. The mine is now partially collapsed, and numerous cave-ins mark the hillside. A level, winding road, presumably following the course of the mine's surface railroad, connects the northeast and southwest ends of the mine via the stamp mill and smokestack.

The property designated here for nomination includes all known and inferred architectural and archaeological resources associated with the Dahlonega Gold Mine, with the exception of a twenty-mile sluice which once provided process water from the Yahooola Creek seven miles north of Dahlonega; the original location and construction of the sluice, now obliterated, has not been determined. Boundaries have been adjusted to correspond with the current legal description of the property.

Note: Some photographs included in this nomination were taken in October, 1976. These photographs were individually field-verified on May 8, 1979. Additional photographs were also taken in May, 1979. Copies of two historic photographs are also included.

# 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 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 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1899 Builder/Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Dahlonega Consolidated Gold Mine is significant in commercial history primarily because it was one of the largest gold mines in the country at the time it was built.

Gold had been discovered in north Georgia in 1828, and the first gold rush began soon afterwards. In 1838, a branch United States Mint was opened at Dahlonega. The mines fell into disuse when gold that was easier to extract was discovered in other states. By the 1870s and 1880s, the Georgia mines began again to be worked, and, by 1900, it is estimated that 100 mines were being developed within a two-mile radius of Dahlonega. A new process called chlorination which had not previously been used in Georgia was used. Many people thought this process was the hope for the redevelopment of Georgia's gold fields.

Lumpkin County offered a favorable climate, cheap labor and fuel, extensive water power and proximity to railroad, telegraph, and telephone lines, all attractive advantages for the Dahlonega Consolidated Gold Mining Company. This company, which began organizing in 1897, owned 4,671-5/6 acres of land in Lumpkin County, as shown in an 1898 prospectus. It consolidated ten well-known mining properties; controlled the Etowah and Hand Canals, and owned a tannery, saw mill and city property in Dahlonega.

In the spring of 1899, construction began on a new stamp mill and chlorination plant at the Old Hand Mine. The E.O. Allis Company of Milwaukee built the necessary equipment. The Engineering and Mining Journal reported in 1901 that the Consolidated was one of the best-equipped gold mines anywhere.

The mine, which began operation May 1, 1900, is said to have been the largest mining complex constructed east of the Mississippi River. Besides the stamp mill, chlorination plant, numerous shaft houses, an assay laboratory, and workshops, the company owned a commissary in Dahlonega. This building, along with other public and private residences in Dahlonega, was provided with electricity from the plant until 1915.

[continued]

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Arnold, Craig R. Gold Mining in Georgia: Properties of the Arnold Consolidated Gold Mines, ca. 1940.

Boatright, Sherry, Personal interview with Mrs. Madelaine Anthony, local historian, Dahlonega, Ga.; and with Mr. John Boatfield, resident of [continued]

# 10. Geographical Data

**UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreage of nominated property 92.51 acres

**ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED**

Quadrangle name Dahlonega, Ga.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	7
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2	2	7	5	0	0
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3	8	2	6	2	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

B 

1	7
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2	2	7	7	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	8	2	6	2	7	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

  
Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	7
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2	2	7	8	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	8	2	5	4	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

D 

1	7
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2	2	7	3	5	0
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3	8	2	5	1	6	0
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E 

1	7
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2	2	6	9	5	0
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3	8	2	5	1	8	5
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F 

1	7
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2	2	6	9	8	0
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3	8	2	5	6	1	0
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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

All that property currently owned by the designated owners and marked by a heavy black line on the accompanying property map.

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., historian; Helen Lynn, intern; Richard Cloues, architectural historian

organization Historic Preservation Section, Ga. Dept. of Natural Resources

date August 9, 1979

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 Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

date 12/18/79

For HCRS use only

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

*W. Ray Luce*  
Keeper of the National Register

date 2/27/80

Attest:

*Carl A. Gubbi*  
Chief of Registration

date 2/25/80

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In 1906, the company failed financially, and the property was sold at a trustee's sale where only \$20,000 was raised to satisfy the \$175,000 debt. Miners in the area have many theories about what caused the failure. Some say that the big businessmen who owned the company knew nothing about mining and simply made many errors in judgment. Others blame it on the use of college-trained engineers and western mining men who had come from Colorado to assist in construction and were unfamiliar with Georgia ores. Dr. Craig R. Arnold, later owner of the property, believes the stamps used were too heavy for crushing the soft ores, and that the highly acclaimed chlorination plant proved expensive and inefficient.

Some people believed that the Consolidated was from the beginning a great scheme for selling gold stock at highly inflated prices by building a show plant that was never to be developed. An Atlanta newspaperman warned of this during the first stages of building, saying that such a scheme had been tried many times before. The documentation that has come to light suggests that the Consolidated was, despite all its modern, scientific equipment, another great gold-mining dream gone awry.

After the 1906 closing of the Consolidated, the site was used for the generation of electricity for the town of Dahlonega until 1921. Eventually the Water Power Mining Company sold it in the early 1930s to Dr. Arnold, who died in 1948. His heirs owned it until it was sold in 1965 to Dahlonega Gold, Inc., the present owners.

The stamp mill and chlorination plant -- both large, three-story buildings of timber covered with tin -- were dismantled and sold to local people. The timbers for the latter were used in a hardware store. The machine shop and Shaft No. 1 building were also dismantled. Nothing is known to have burned down.

Some mining activities have taken place at the site since 1906, usually with a ten-percent royalty going to the owners on any gold found.

In 1934, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Boatfield moved there and have continued to live on the site in the one remaining building, the assay office. They have a garden adjacent to the building and a small garage

[continued]

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built for their vehicles.

Archaeological Significance

The photographic documentation of the original gold-mine construction suggests many resources no longer present. The archaeological potential of the site is, thus, a rich one. No archaeological investigation has taken place, but would add to our knowledge about the site's development and decline. If a full understanding of a turn-of-the-century gold mine is desired, then all of the resource potential -- inferred as well as observed -- must be recognized.

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the site since 1935; October 23, 1976.

Colvin, Wilber. "Goldmining Development in Georgia," The Engineering and Mining Journal, Vol. LXXI, January 26, 1901.

The Dahlonega Nugget, Dahlonega, Ga., various issues, 1897-1935.

Jones, S.P. Second Report on the Gold Deposits of Georgia, Bulletin No. 19, Geological Survey of Georgia (Atlanta, 1909).

Prospectus of the Dahlonega Consolidated Gold Mining Company, 1898.

Yeates, W.S., S.W. McCallie and F.P. King. A Preliminary Report on a Part of the Gold Deposits of Georgia, Bulletin No. 4-A, Geological Survey of Georgia (Atlanta, 1896).

Boatright, Sherry L. Consultant, draft nomination, 1976.

Personal inspection, Helen Lynn, Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Richard Cloues, May, 1979.



Dahlonega Consolidated Gold Mine  
Dahlonega, Lumpkin County, Georgia

PROPERTY MAP FEB 27 1980

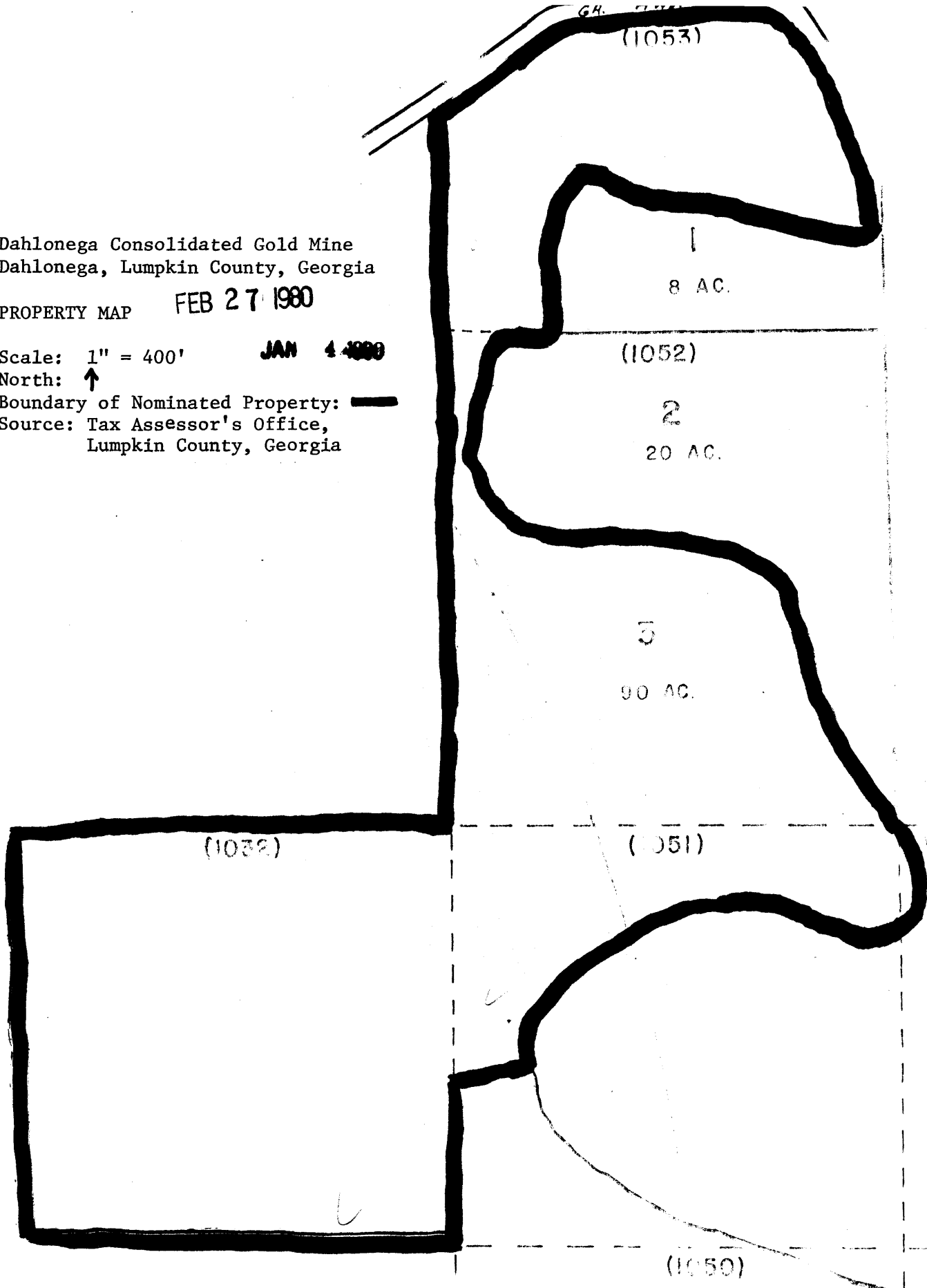
Scale: 1" = 400'

JAN 4 1980

North: ↑

Boundary of Nominated Property: ———

Source: Tax Assessor's Office,  
Lumpkin County, Georgia



SEE MAP D40  
PARCEL -1