

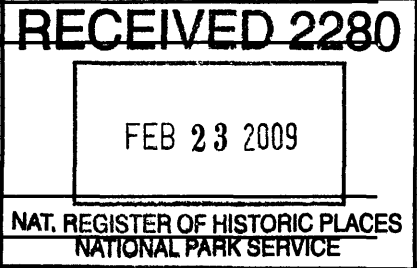
187

# 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 Harris-Murrow-Trowell House  
other names/site number N/A



## 2. Location

street & number 473 Old Louisville Road  
city, town Oliver ( ) vicinity of  
county Screven code GA 251  
state Georgia code GA zip code 30449

( ) not for publication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	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

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#### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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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.

Raymond Luce  
Signature of certifying official

2.17.09  
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

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#### 5. National Park Service Certification

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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

Don DeLine  
Keeper of the National Register

3/20/09  
Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

### Current Functions:

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

OTHER: Gabled wing cottage

### Materials:

<b>foundation</b>	brick
<b>walls</b>	wood
<b>roof</b>	metal
<b>other</b>	N/A

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Harris-Murrow-Trowell House is located in the town of Oliver, which is a small town located in Screven County in the eastern part of Georgia along the Savannah River. Built c.1888-1889, the house is a balloon-frame, T-shaped building with a gabled-wing-cottage floor plan. The house has a moderately pitched standing-seam gable roof with boxed eaves and gable-end return, brick ridgeline chimney, clapboard exterior, six-over-six wood windows, brick pier foundation, and partial-width hip porch. The porch, which has square vernacular Doric columns and a simple vernacular balustrade, appears to be either a historic replacement or the remnant of an original wrap-around porch. Evidence that the windows in the façade gable end were once floor-length, double-hung windows supports this theory. The main entrance to the house features a door surround with three-light sidelights and square vernacular Doric pilasters flanking a heavy paneled door. The interior of the T-shaped house retains much original material including beadboard walls and ceilings, baseboards, crown molding, paneled wood doors, and wood door and window surrounds. A small, wood, side-gable building was attached to the back of the house sometime in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This portion of the house may have been a tenant house. Original beadboard walls and ceilings remain intact in this portion of the house.

*Note: The following physical description was prepared by Bob Ciucevich, Quatrefoil Consulting, and edited by Lynn Speno, National Register Specialist, Historic Preservation Division. "Harris-Murrow-Trowell House," Historic Property Information Form May 12, 2006. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.*

The Harris-Murrow-Trowell House is located at 473 Old Louisville Road, Oliver, Screven County. The original portion of the house was built c.1888-1889, only a few years after an initial offering of building lots in 1885 served as a catalyst for the rapid development of the small village of Oliver along the

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

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Central of Georgia Railroad during the last decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The house is typical of the type of middle-class residence built in small rural Georgia towns during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The house is a gabled wing cottage with a standing-seam gable roof, clapboard exterior, six-over-six wood windows, brick pier foundation, and partial width hip porch (photograph 1). Five wooden steps with a simple wooden handrail lead to the porch. Wood skirting surrounds the porch. The porch, with square vernacular Doric columns and a simple balustrade, appears to be a remnant of an original wrap-around porch. Visual evidence that the two windows in the front gable end were once floor length supports this theory (photograph 9). This theory is also supported by the fact that, according to a survey of Screven County, a number of homes in the area had floor-length porch windows. The front entrance to the house is a heavy paneled door surrounded by three-light sidelights and square vernacular Doric pilasters. There are two six-over-six windows on this porch elevation. Latticework has been installed all around the house over the piers (photograph 10).

The west elevation has two six-over-six windows centrally spaced, one in each of the two rooms (photograph 8). The east elevation has one centrally placed six-over-six window (photographs 2-5). The north elevation has a new, small deck with a door leading into the kitchen. The original window opening was expanded slightly to accommodate the door (photograph 7).

The floor plan of the cottage was originally centered on the entrance hall. The east wall of the hall was removed at some point to increase the size of the living room (photograph 12). The single window on the north elevation of the living room was removed and a heating system with brick chimney installed during a previous renovation (photograph 5). On the opposite side of the hall are two equal size rooms, which were originally used as bedrooms (photographs 14-17). The back room is now used as a kitchen. A chimney is located in the center of the wall separating the rooms, with built-in closets located on both sides of the chimney (photographs 16-17). Both rooms feature vernacular neoclassical mantels in which flat Doric pilasters flank the hearth and support a mantelshelf resembling a simple entablature (photographs 15 and 17). The house retains a good deal of interior historic fabric. All rooms have beadboard walls and ceilings, simple baseboards and crown molding, solid paneled wood doors, and simple molded door and window frames (photographs 12-18). All rooms have simple plank flooring that is covered by carpet today.

Sometime during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, a small, frame, side-gable house was attached to the back of the gabled-wing cottage. The second house appears to be a c.1930s tenant house, although it is possible that the building originally served as a detached kitchen. The tenant house has a hall-parlor plan with a standing seam roof, clapboard exterior, six-over-six wood windows, and brick pier foundation (photographs 2, 3, 6 and 7). The east elevation has a small deck and new door leading into one of the rooms (photograph 2). The west elevation had a shed-roof porch, part of which was enclosed in the 1970s to make a bathroom. The rest of the porch was enclosed in the recent rehabilitation to create an additional bathroom (photograph 7). A small shed-roof addition off the rear of the building (east side of the house as a whole) has been enclosed as a closet (photograph 2). The two houses may have been attached as late as the 1950s, when it appears that the back room of the gabled wing cottage was made into a kitchen, thus necessitating more bedrooms and living space.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

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The floor plan of the attached tenant house consists of a rectangular-shaped room separated into two smaller, unequal spaces by a thin board-and batten-partition (technically classifying the building as a two-room, hall-parlor type). These rooms appear to have been used as bedrooms. The interior contains a mix of original fabric and historic scrap material. Original beadboard walls and ceilings remain intact, although the ceiling of the larger room has been replaced with board and batten. Additional interior features include simple baseboards and simple window and doorframes (photographs 19-21).

There have been few alterations to the interior of the house. It appears that the back bedroom of the gabled wing cottage was converted into a kitchen during the 1950s. At that time, linoleum was installed over the floorboards and built-in cabinets were added along the north wall of the room. During the 1970s, the living room was remodeled. It was probably during this time that the east wall of the central hallway was removed to increase the size of the living room. Also during the 1970s, half of the rear shed porch was enclosed to create a bathroom.

The interior of the house today features a large living room, two or three bedrooms, a kitchen, and two bathrooms. Apart from the addition of the tenant house on the rear of the building, the house retains its original configuration and architectural integrity with only a few alterations.

The cottage is situated in the southwest corner of a one-acre town lot facing Old Louisville Road. Landscaping is minimal.

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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

**Period of Significance:**

c.1888-1889

**Significant Dates:**

c.1888-1889 – 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 Harris-Murrow-Trowell House has local significance in the area of architecture as a good example of a c.1888-1889 gabled wing cottage type house with an attached tenant house on the rear elevation. According to *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*, gabled wing cottages were built throughout Georgia primarily between 1875 and 1915 on farms and in Georgia's towns and cities. It was a popular house type that was built throughout the state in both modest and well-to-do parts of the state. The gabled wing cottage is either T-or L-shaped and usually has a gabled roof. Other than the rear addition, the Harris-Murrow-Trowell House retains its historic exterior and interior finishes and materials and has changed little since its construction.

**National Register Criteria**

C - The Harris-Murrow-Trowell House is significant in architecture as a good example of a gabled wing cottage, a common house type built in both rural and urban areas throughout Georgia between 1875 and 1915. Built c.1888-1889, the Harris-Murrow-Trowell House was one of the first houses built in Oliver, a small village located along the Central of Georgia Railroad that developed rapidly following the subdivision of the Lufburrow family land into building lots in 1885. Apart from the addition of the tenant house on the rear of the building, the house retains its original configuration and architectural integrity with only a few alterations.

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

**Period of significance (justification)**

c.1888-89 – approximate date the cottage was constructed

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

There is one contributing building - the gabled-wing cottage with hall-parlor addition.

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

*Note: The following historic context was prepared by Bob Ciucevich, Quatrefoil Consulting, and edited by Lynn Speno, National Register Specialist, Historic Preservation Division. "Harris-Murrow-Trowell House," Historic Property Information Form May 12, 2006. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.*

The area that eventually became Oliver was settled c.1790 with the establishment of the Little Ogeechee Baptist Church along the Louisville Road, an important 18<sup>th</sup>-century stagecoach route

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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connecting the principal Georgia seaport of Savannah to the new state capital at Louisville (1796-1809). As a result, several settlers established homesteads near or within traveling distance of the church, which is located in the center of present day Oliver at the corner of Highway 24 and Old Louisville Road (the existing sanctuary, the fourth on the site, was built in 1912). The church became a stop along the stagecoach road where visitors to the homes of Noel Lanier, Matthew Lufburrow, and families of other nearby plantations (Graham, Brewer, Connor, Lee, Morgan, Hollis, and Tullis) would be dropped off or picked up.

The Central of Georgia Railroad was built through Screven County in late 1838 and early 1839, beginning with Mile Post 46 (which later became Oliver) and ending with the "80 Mile Depot" (which later became Millen, Georgia, originally a part of Screven County). The railroad entered Screven County through the lands of Louis Lanier and proceeded through the lands of George Oliver. As the railroad followed the practice of establishing a service stop every 10 miles, a whistle stop was established on the lands of George Oliver, 45.9 miles from Savannah, which became known as No. 4 ½. This stop and the dispersed community centered around the Little Ogeechee Baptist Church became known as Oliver.

The village of Oliver was established in 1885 when S.B. Lufburrow and Dr. William Lufburrow subdivided the family lands into building lots for sale to those who wanted to live near the railroad. As a result of the subdivision, a commercial center was established along the railroad that included several stores, a telegraph office, and a bank. Several houses were built along Louisville Road. The Harris-Murrow-Trowell House was built during this early period of the village's development.

According to deeds located in the Screven County Courthouse, it appears that Frank J. Boyd and W.G. Brewer owned the original building lot. In 1888 Boyd and Brewer sold the property to Mrs. John T. Harris for the sum of \$37.50. According to deed records, Harris sold the property in 1889 to Mrs. Julia Murrow for the sum of \$700. It is apparent that the house was built in 1888 or 1889 as the deed specifically indicates a "dwelling house" as part of the improvements included in the sale of the property (and hence, the considerable difference in the sale price of the lot from 1888 to 1889). Harris may have purchased the lot and built the house as a speculative venture, as she only owned the property for 14 months before selling it to Julia Murrow.

Murrow, the second owner of the property, lived in the house from 1888 until her death in 1918. She was 40 years of age when she purchased the property in 1888. According to the 1900 census, Julia J. Murrow was a widow with no occupation, who owned her house free of a mortgage.

Following the death of Murrow, the property passed through five different owners over a nine-year period (1918-1927) until Ivey Trowell purchased the house in 1927. Trowell lived in the house until she sold it in 1969, a period of 42 years. It is likely that the c.1930s tenant house (which may have been built earlier) was attached to the main house during Trowell's ownership. Whether or not the tenant house was originally located on the property or moved from another property is unknown. The kitchen appears to have been updated during Trowell's ownership as well. Christian S. Trowell (1869-1955) was a master machinist with a shop on Porterlane Road. Ivey Tuttle Trowell (1891-1971) was a schoolteacher at the one-room Oliver Public School where she taught grades one-three



National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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until around 1951. Her father owned a sawmill and grew timber in the Kildare area of Effingham County. He provided the wood to build the Oliver Methodist Church. Mrs. Trowell bought the Murrow House for about \$150 in 1927. She also purchased her house across the street at 314 Old Louisville Road and a house nearby at 472 Old Louisville Road. The Trowells lived at 314 Old Louisville Road and rented the other two houses. The tenant house likely came from the large tract of farmland behind the Trowell's personal home. Mr. Trowell probably farmed the land or leased it to a tenant farmer. The tenant house was added on to the Murrow house as a means to increase the living space.

In 1969 Thomas Farmer purchased the property. Farmer lived in the building until he sold it to the present owner, Linda Davis, in 2004, a period of 35 years. Shortly after obtaining the property, Farmer remodeled the living room and enclosed part of the tenant house porch to create a bathroom (c.1970s). According to the family, Farmer used the small, unfinished shed room on the rear of the tenant house as a chicken coop.

The present owner has recently rehabilitated the house for use as a rental property and received Georgia state tax incentives.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Ciucevich, Bob. "Harris-Murrow-Trowell House." *National Register Nomination Form*, May 12, 2006. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Hollingsworth, Clyde. Pioneer Days: A History of the Early Years in Screven County. Sylvania, Georgia: The Partridge Pond Press, 1947.

Hollingsworth, Dixon. "The History of Oliver". Non-published paper available at the Sylvania Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Center.

Screven County Historical Society. The History of Screven County, Georgia. Dallas, Texas: Curtis Media Corporation, 1989.

**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 17      Easting 450172      Northing 3597750

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached tax map.

### **Boundary Justification**

The boundary is the current legal boundary.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**State Historic Preservation Office**

**name/title** Lynn Speno, Survey and Register Specialist  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**mailing address** 34 Peachtree Street, Suite 1600  
**city or town** Atlanta      **state** Georgia      **zip code** 30303  
**telephone** (404) 656-2840      **date** February 2009  
**e-mail** lynn.speno@dnr.state.ga.us

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

**name/title:** Robert A. Ciucevich  
**organization:** Quatrefoil Historic Preservation Consulting  
**street and number:** 22 West Bryan Street, #139  
**city or town** Savannah   **state** GA   **zip code:** 31401  
**telephone:** (912) 233-8655

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

**Property Owner or Contact Information**

**name (property owner or contact person)** Linda Davis  
**organization (if applicable)** N/A  
**mailing address** 411 Railroad Avenue  
**city or town** Newington **state** GA **zip code** 30446  
**e-mail (optional)** N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

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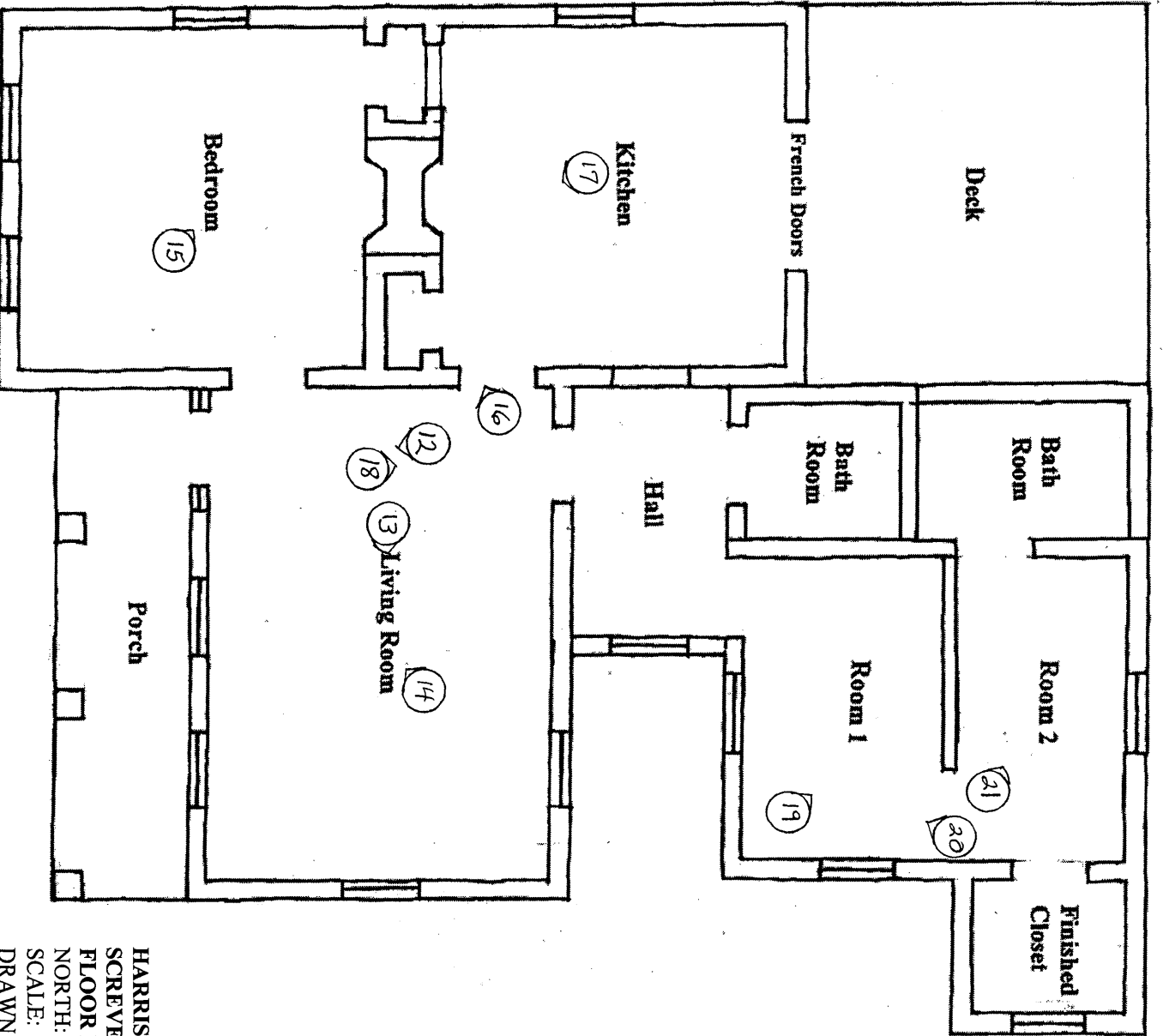
**Name of Property:** Harris-Murrow-Trowell House  
**City or Vicinity:** Oliver  
**County:** Screven  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** July 2008

**Description of Photograph(s):**

Number of photographs: 21

1. South and east elevations of house; photographer facing north.
2. East elevation of house; photographer facing northwest.
3. East elevation of house; photographer facing northwest.
4. East elevation of house; photographer facing northwest.
5. East elevation of house; photographer facing west.
6. Back elevation of house; photographer facing southwest.
7. Back elevation of house; photographer facing southwest.
8. Front and west side elevations; photographer facing east.
9. Front façade; photographer facing northeast.
10. Front façade; photographer facing northeast.
11. East elevation of house; photographer facing northwest.
12. Living room facing front door; photographer facing south.
13. Living room; photographer facing southeast.
14. Living room; photographer facing southwest.
15. Bedroom; photographer facing northwest.
16. Towards kitchen; photographer facing west.
17. Kitchen; photographer facing south.
18. Living room; photographer facing north.
19. Rear addition; photographer facing north.
20. Rear addition; photographer facing southwest.
21. Rear addition; photographer facing north.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)



HARRIS-MURROW-TROWELL HOUSE  
 SCREVEN COUNTY, GEORGIA  
 FLOOR PLAN  
 NORTH: ↖  
 SCALE: Not to Scale  
 DRAWN BY: Bob Cicevich  
 PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: ①

**HARRIS-MURROW-TROWELL HOUSE  
SCREVEN COUNTY, GEORGIA**

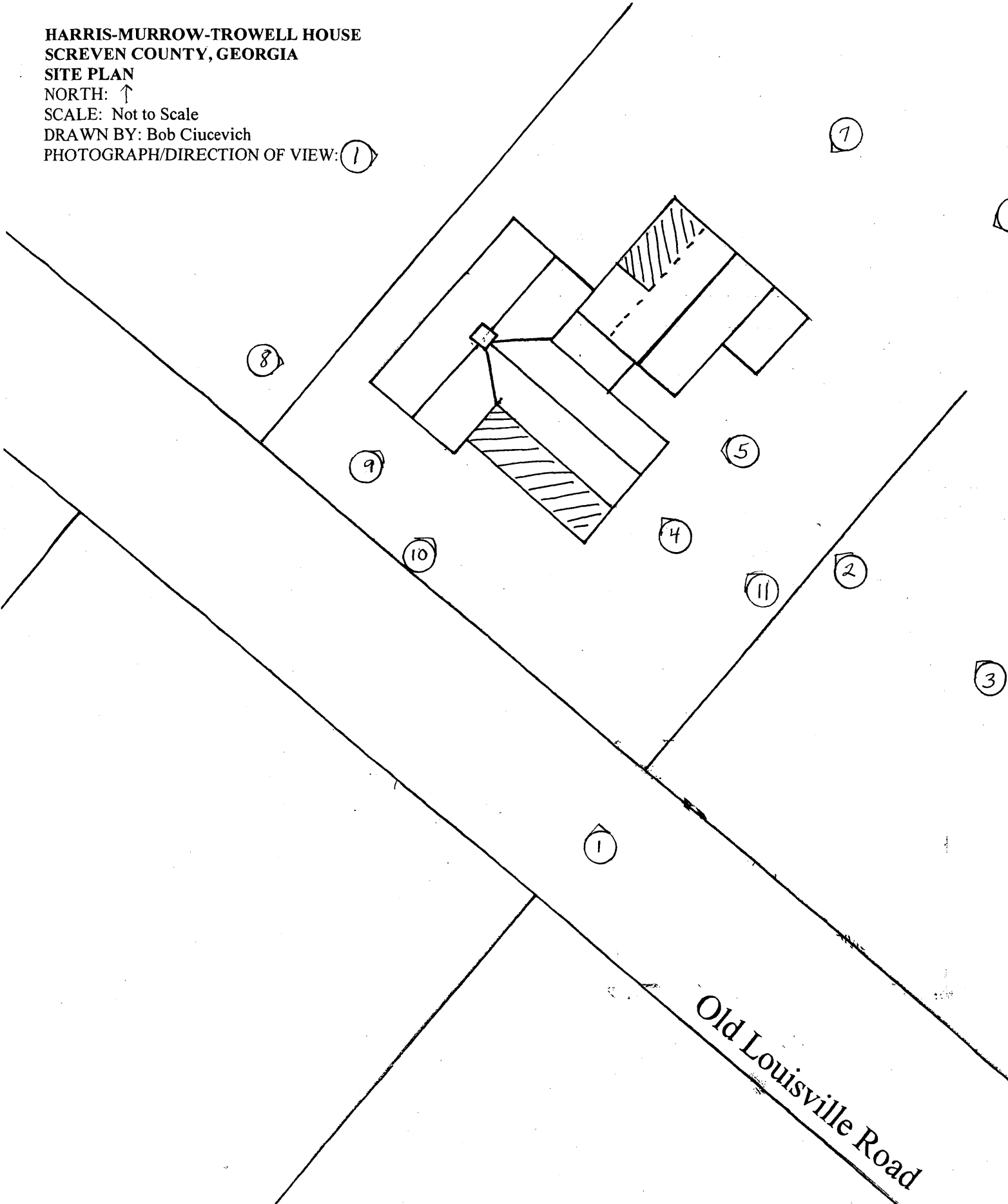
**SITE PLAN**

NORTH: ↑

SCALE: Not to Scale

DRAWN BY: Bob Ciucevich

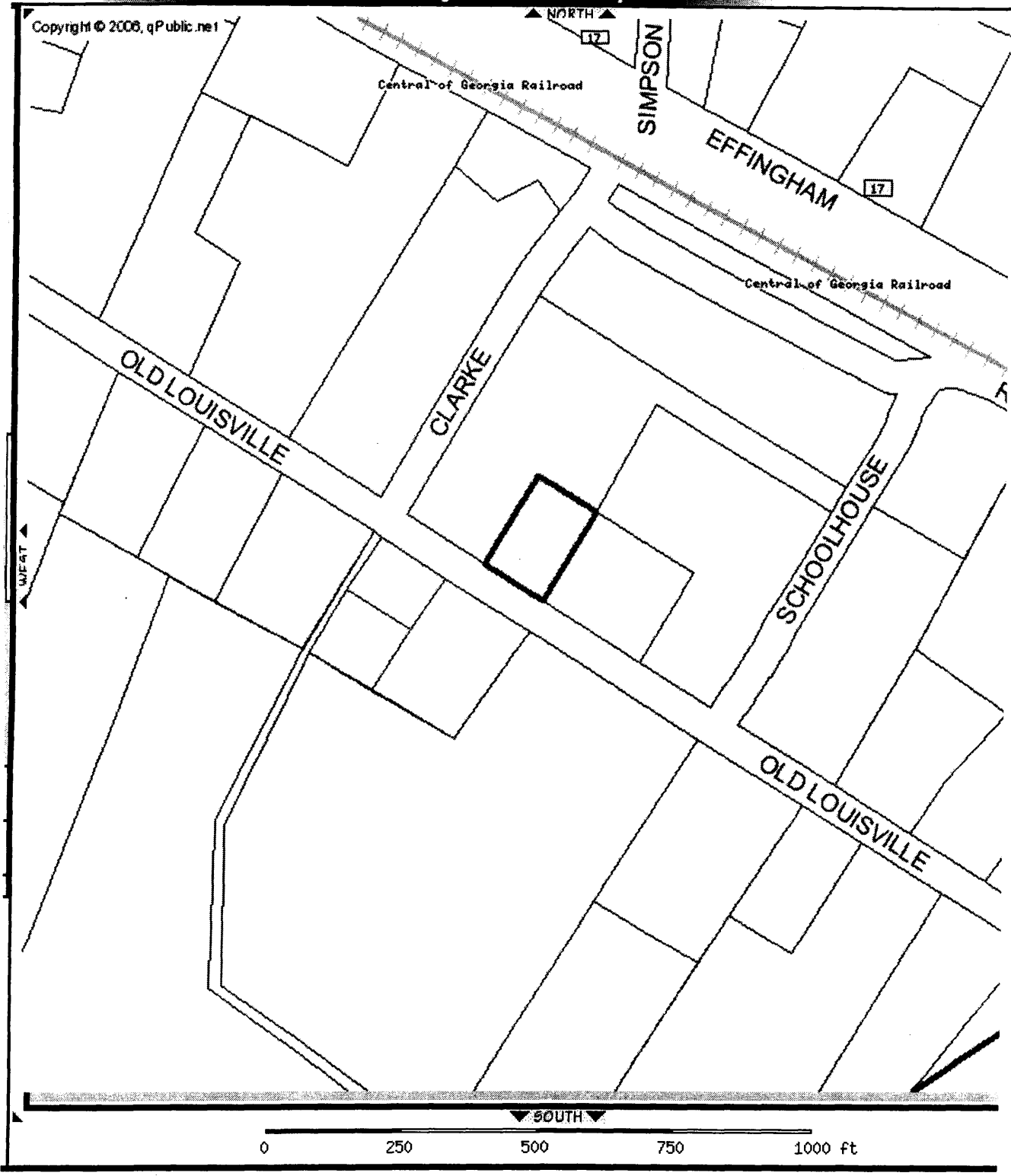
PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: ①



# Scriven County Parcel Maps

Scriven

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**HARRIS-MURROW-TROWELL HOUSE**  
**SCRIVEN COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**NATIONAL REGISTER MAP/PLAT MAP**  
National Register Boundary: —

NORTH: ↑  
SCALE: 1" = 250'

SOURCE: SCRIVEN COUNTY BOARD OF ASSESSORS