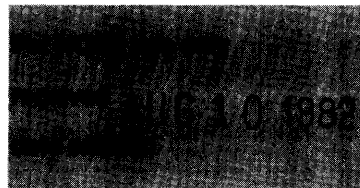


**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 York House

and/or common York House, Gibson-York House

**2. Location**

*N of Mountain City off US 23/441*

street & number East of U.S. Highways 23-441 N/A not for publication

city, town Mountain City *vic.*  vicinity of congressional district 9th Ed Jenkins

state Georgia code 013 county Rabun code 241

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<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 checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A 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 John and Mildred Dillon

street & number Box 126

city, town Mountain City N/A vicinity of state Georgia 30562

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Rabun County Courthouse

city, town Clayton state Georgia

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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

date 1978  federal  state  county  local

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

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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

The York House is a two-story, wood-framed, L-shaped structure sheathed in weather-board. The original structure, a two-story plain-styled log cabin built with two rooms over two rooms on a central hall plan, is contained within the present York House structure. This log portion is built on a foundation of granite stones which forms a basement. The basement contains a huge stone fireplace at one end and may have originally functioned as a kitchen. The basement is also believed to have served as slave quarters. The log cabin, now used as living quarters by the owners, is located in the northwest corner of the structure and is outlined by former chimneys. One chimney is now situated on the interior where the building has been added to, and the other chimney remains on the exterior.

To the east of the log portion, the structure extends to form the L-shape. This two-story wing was added in 1907 and consists of a series of rooms and baths to accommodate the guests. To the rear of the log structure, additional living quarter space for the owners was added to the structure in 1974. This addition replaced former living space and the dining room, kitchen, and porch as well as a full basement.

Porches at each level almost encircle the entire structure. These porches have chamfered posts and a balustrade of geometric design. Details on the porch apparently date from 1907, since different gingerbread-type detailing appears in a 1902 photograph of the log structure. Baths have been added within several of the rooms and more recently several baths have been built within the porch space on the rear of the structure.

The interior of the York House consists of two floors and a basement. On the first floor there is a living area for the owner/proprietor that consists of a kitchen, dining room, living room, den and bedroom and then a series of bedrooms and baths for guests. The second floor consists of bedrooms and baths for guests primarily. There are two rooms in the old section of the building for the owners quarters.

Some rooms retain original tongue and groove paneling and flush boards. In others there are plaster walls, sheetrock, and new paneling. Guest rooms also now contain gas heaters, storm windows, and storm doors in order to house guests on a year-round basis. The living room in the family quarters contains a simple mantel whose fireplace has been closed and replaced by a woodburning stove. The adjacent den contains an identical mantel whose fireplace is closed and likewise replaced by a modern heating apparatus. This room retains its original door. The ceilings of both rooms have been replastered. The bedroom on the second floor in the family wing (original wing) contains a simple mantel, low windows, a lowered, modern ceiling and wallpapered walls. The stairway between the family section and the guest section has an ornamented railing. The guest rooms are decorated very plainly and many retain original iron bedsteads, and other furnishings. The walls and ceiling are horizontal tongue and groove paneling and the floors are now carpeted.

New plumbing and electrical systems have been added, but in some cases, the wiring from the Delco system, added in 1907, is still in use. The foundation of the structure was infilled with concrete blocks as a replacement to former lattice slats.

(CONTINUED)

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A dirt drive within the property joins the York House Road and leads to a graveled parking area to the front of the inn structure and also to the east side of the structure. The topography of the property is fairly flat in the northern portion of the lot and surrounding the York House structure. To the south and the east, the property extends a short distance up a wooded and sloping hillside. A non-historic cistern, located on the hill outside the boundary of the property, stores water for use at the York House. Two streams enter the property from the hillsides, one from the south and one from the east. These streams unite near the western boundary line and the stream exits the property at the northwestern corner of the lot. A one-story, historic frame springhouse with lattice work is located near the junction of the two streams. The area surrounding the springhouse serves as a picnic ground. Fir trees, informally planted within this area, are quite large and create a cool and shady environment. Boxwoods, now approximately five feet high, are placed in two rows to the south of the springhouse and appear to have at one time outlined the entrance to a patch. The picnic area is surrounded by the hillsides, wooded predominately in young hardwoods, and indigenous vegetation, such as rhododendrums, along the stream. The springhouse is the only surviving outbuilding.

The landscape surrounding the York House is grassed. To the front of the structure, a low rock retaining wall divides the grassed landscape from the parking area with two hemlock trees denoting the entrance. There are approximately four fir trees in the front yard, placed in a symmetrical arrangement, and a row of boxwoods in the side yard.

Although the locations of several previously existing outbuildings are known, it is believed their potential for yielding archaeological information is minimal. This is because of the site disturbances due to the building of the adjacent ranch house, driveway, and lawn, as well as from the removal of the other structures to the nearby Foxfire Center in Mountain City, Georgia.

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history

**Specific dates** c. 1851, 1896, 1907 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The York House is significant in architecture as an example of the evolution of architecture from a log cabin to a Victorian inn. The 1907 enlargement with the addition of the L shaped wing created a hotel in keeping with designs of similar hotels at that time. Its features reflect the simple room arrangement for hotels with community dining and entertainment rooms. The York House is significant in commerce because it opened in 1896 in the midst of Rabun County's resort era which had been brought on by the opening of the railroad. It was operated by the same family until the 1970's. It was important as a rural inn rather than the more familiar in-town ones. The landscape architecture significance of the property is derived from the siting of the house/hotel to take advantage of aesthetic features such as the natural setting, commanding a view of the Little Tennessee River Valley. The L-shaped addition appears to be designed in that direction for the view, which was one of the reasons people stopped here. In local history, the York House was famous as a place for local activities since it had a dance pavilion (now gone). It is also significant for the Gibson and York families' roles in local politics. In transportation the house is significant in that it began as an inn when the railroad was completed to Clayton, the county seat, in 1905 and then on to Franklin, North Carolina. The use of the house as an inn began when work on the railroad reached the area. Later a flag-stop was created there. The completion of the line lead to expansion of the hotel facility and a boom in business which declined with the demise of the railroads. These areas of significance support property eligibility under the National Register criteria A and C.

In architecture, the York House is an example of the evolution of architectural styles from a modest log cabin to a Victorian era inn. The original York House structure was a two-story log cabin. The room arrangement was two over with two end chimneys and a central hall containing the stairway. The structure was built on a foundation of stones, set into a hillside and, thus, forming a basement. It appears that the log structure was sheathed in weatherboard in the 1880's by Mollie and Bill York and the structure assumed the appearance of a Victorian era country home. There may have also been an addition made to the rear, but a 1902 photograph of the structure which shows the front facade documents that this portion of the original shape was still intact. The photograph also shows a one-story porch extending across the front facade. Porch posts appear to be chamfered and trimmed at the top by scroll work. The foundation is infilled with lattice slats.

In 1907, the structure was enlarged with a L-shaped wing and a dining room. The L-shaped wing which connected with an end wall of the the original structure became an extension of the front facade. The one-story dining room was added to the rear. Porches were added at each level on the front and under the porch roof; flushboard replaced the earlier clapboard. Scroll work was removed from the porch posts and it appears that the existing balustrade was added. The balustrade gives the structure a craftsman touch that illustrates an additional evolution of its design.

(CONTINUED)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Attached Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4.49 acres

Quadrangle name Dillard GA-N.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

**UMT References**

A 

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

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing						

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing						

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing						

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing						

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing						

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing						

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing						

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property is marked as Tract 4 on the enclosed Tax Map. It is all that remains associated with the property under single ownership.

**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

A) Dale Jaeger, Preservation Planner B) Stephen Dillon and Peggy Ryan, owner name/title C) Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr. Historian representatives

A) Georgia Mountains Area Planning and Development Commission organization B) York House C) Historic Preservation date September, 1981

Section, GA Dept. of Natural Resources street & number A) P.O. Box 1720 B) Box 126 telephone 404 656-2840

C) 270 Washington Street A) 30503 B) 30562

city or town A) Gainesville B) Mountain City C) Atlanta state Georgia C) 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

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 7/26/82

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Alton Roper</u> Keeper of the National Register	Entered in the National Register date <u>9/9/82</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Throughout the history of the York House, the landscape has been an integral part of its development. The siting of the original structure appears to have been for aesthetic as well as utilitarian reasons. Not only was the residence given a commanding view of the Little Tennessee River Valley, but the rear facade was also given a warm, southern exposure. Views appear to have dictated the direction of the L-shaped addition, which also created desirable orientations to the south and east at the rear of the structure. The landscape surrounding the York House appears to have also served utilitarian and aesthetic functions. The landscape in the front yard was planted in a formal arrangement of Norway spruces, hemlocks, and boxwoods. Two hemlocks were strategically placed to designate the entrance. In contrast, the landscape design of the rear yard is informal. Norway spruces and other fir trees planted in a scattered arrangement near the springhouse create a cool outdoor living space. The use of the land for the production of crops not only supplied food for running the inn but became an amenity to the guests. Visitors were allowed access to the grape, plum, and apple orchards.

In transportation, the history of the York House is closely tied with the development of the Tallulah Falls Railroad. This rail line, which reached Clayton, the county seat, in 1905 and soon after was completed to Franklin, North Carolina, made this isolated area accessible to the outside world. The use of this property as an inn was created by the team of surveyors, who came to the area to plan the route of the rail line. A flag stop was created near the York House, known as the York siding, so the property became a part of the network of stations along the Tallulah Falls line.

In commerce, the York House is an example of an inn from Rabun County's "resort era." The inn began operation in 1896 as a direct result of the Tallulah Falls Railroad. It became a self-sufficient operation. Water was piped into the structure from a stream on the surrounding hillsides. A Delco power system was installed and a spring in the back yard provided drinking water. The family farm complemented the inn operation, which provided three meals a day for the guests. The York House has been managed and owned through most of its history by descendants of Mollie and Bill York. The management of the inn called for all members of these families to assist and the women of these families have always played a dominant role. Mrs. Fannie York Weatherly single-handedly ran the inn following her husband's death in 1924 until the early 1970's. The entire mountain region experienced the resort era and inns became fairly common. Most inns, though, were located on town squares and most of these structures have been demolished. It is significant that this inn also illustrates a rural adaptation of city inns.

In local history, the York House has always been a community landmark. The dance pavilion, once standing beside the inn, housed a variety of local social events. The York House property is also associated with Hiram Gibson, a former sheriff of Rabun County; William York, who served as sheriff of the City of Clayton; and the colorful personalities of Mrs. Molly Gibson York and Mrs. Fannie York Weatherly, who owned and managed the inn.

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HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

The York House property was once part of an 1,000 acre mountain plantation, purchased by Hiram Gibson in 1851. Gibson, who had been a plantation owner on the Keowee River in South Carolina, moved to Rabun County in the early 1850's with his family and slaves. Although the slaves, which totalled 14 in 1862, were freed through Lincoln's Proclamation, many chose to stay with the Gibson family and continued to reside on the property. With the assistance of these slaves, Gibson apparently maintained a farming operation on most of the bottomland acreage.

In 1873, Hiram Gibson deeded a 40 acre tract to his 14 year old granddaughter, Mollie Gibson. She was married in the 1880's to William Terrell York, a Confederate soldier and later the sheriff of the city of Clayton. The couple moved into a two-story log cabin which stood within the 40 acre tract. It is not known whether this log structure was built by Gibson or whether it existed at the time of the purchase in 1851. The couple also purchased additional acreage from Hiram Gibson and his daughter, Fanny Gibson Fisher. By 1895, the York property totalled approximately 400 acres and consisted of the enlarged cabin, springhouse, smoke house, corn crib, barn, wagon shed and several tenant cottages. The property was used primarily as a working farm. In addition to building the outbuildings, William York, also known as "Papa Bill," had filled in some of the marshy bottomland acreage and used this land in the production of barley, corn, and rye.

The use of the York property expanded with the construction of the Tallulah Falls Railroad. This line began in Cornelia, Georgia, and eventually extended to Franklin, North Carolina. In approximately 1896, surveyors for the railroad began staying in the York home and thus an inn, the York House, was created. The inn flourished as visitors were transported along the Tallulah Falls Railroad to a stop near the York House, known as the York Siding. In 1907, an L-shaped addition and a dining room was added to the structure to accommodate the guests. Stationery from the York House in the early 1900's describes the inn as "the large, ideal country home with a farm run in connection with the house where all kinds of fresh vegetables are raised: chicken and fresh meats daily, milk, and butter in plenty." Amenities were noted as "tennis court, mountain spring water, large verandas, shade trees, free access to grape, plum and apple orchards, and a new system of hot and cold waterworks and bathrooms on each floor." There was also a frame dance pavilion located to the northwest of the house. The Yorks, who had become known as "Little Mamma" and "Papa Bill," operated the inn during the summers until 1916. They were followed by their daughter, Mrs. Fannie York Weatherly, and her husband, George Weatherly, who continued to run the inn on a seasonal basis.

The Tallulah Falls Railroad closed in 1961, but the York House, located off of U.S. Route 23-441, continued to operate. In 1975, the third generation of the York family, Mrs. Bea Weatherly Broadrick, daughter of George and Fannie Weatherly, began managing the inn with her husband, Ed. The Broadricks renovated the family living quarters by replacing the former dining room with a bedroom. They also demolished the dance barn, which was in a deteriorated state, and donated several outbuildings - the smoke house and a log cabin - to the Foxfire Foundation. These outbuildings were moved from the York

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House property and reconstructed at the Foxfire Center in Mountain City, Georgia. The Broadricks continue to own portions of the original 400 (approximate) acres, but their land does not contain any structures associated with the York House. In 1979, the York House with 4.49 acres was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. John Dillon. This acreage contains the only surviving structures associated with the York family - the York House and the springhouse - and its immediate historic landscaping. The Dillons continue to manage the inn, but they have expanded it to a year-round operation.



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Andrew Jackson Ritchie. Sketches of Rabun County History. Clayton, Georgia: Foote and Davies, Inc. Publishers, 1959.

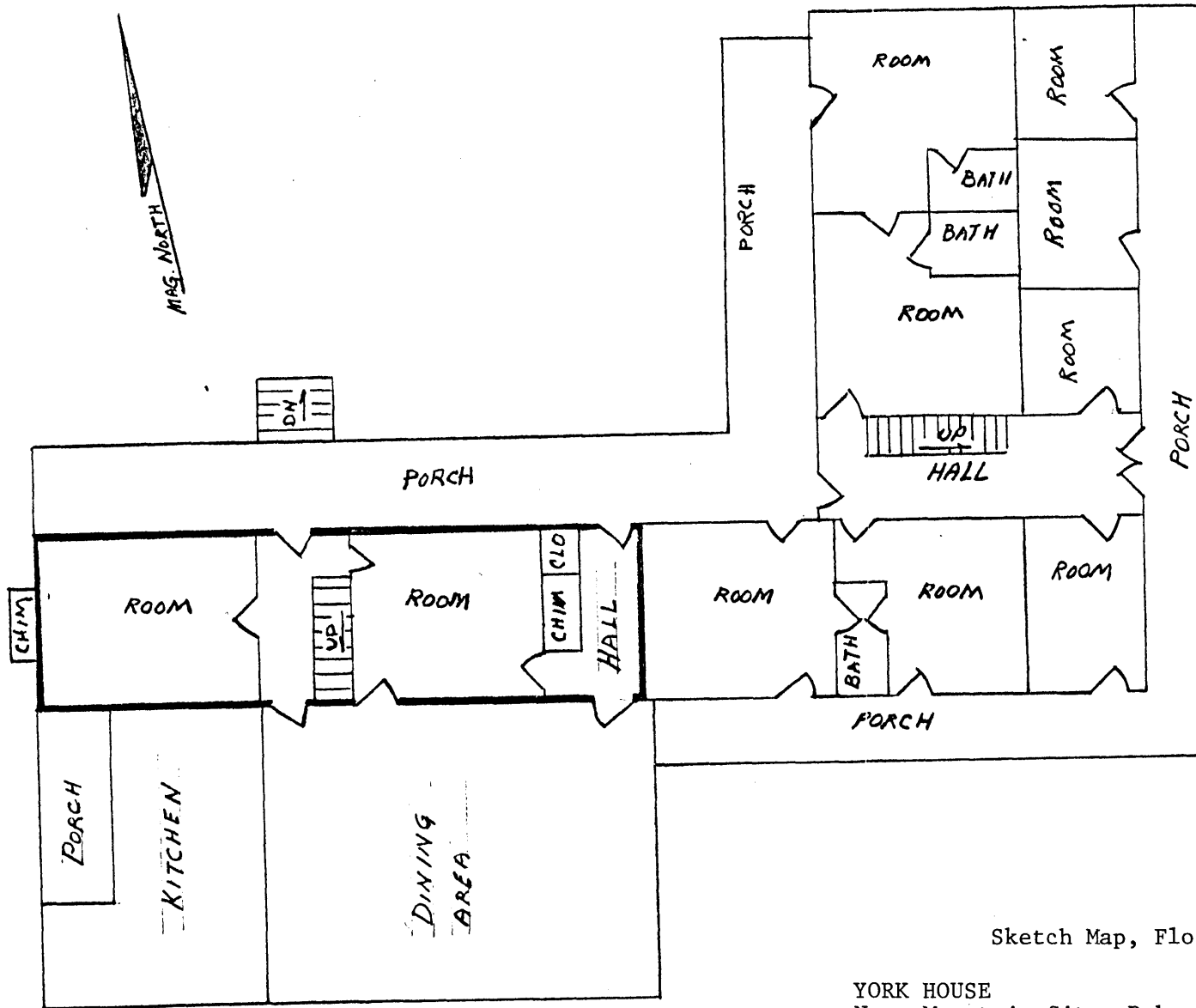
Deeds and Tax Records, Rabun County Courthouse, Clayton, Georgia.

Letter from Mrs. Frances Adams, Tarplee (a visitor to York House in 1930's) to Foxfire, March 30, 1980.

"Tallulah Falls Railroad." Atlanta Journal. Atlanta, Georgia, September 20, 1961.

Interviews with: Mrs. Bee Weatherly Broadrick (York family descendant); and Mrs. T.M. Stubbs (frequent visitor to York House since 1930's).

Sketch prepared by John Dillon who holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Tech.



Sketch Map, Floor Plans

YORK HOUSE  
Near Mountain City, Rabun County, Georgia

Scale:  $3/32" = 1'$

Source: Drawn by John Dillon

Date: c. 1981

Key: First floor showing Log House and  
1907 addition.

YORK HOUSE  
Near Mountain City, Rabun County, Georgia

Scale: 1" = 100'

Source: Drawn by John Dillion

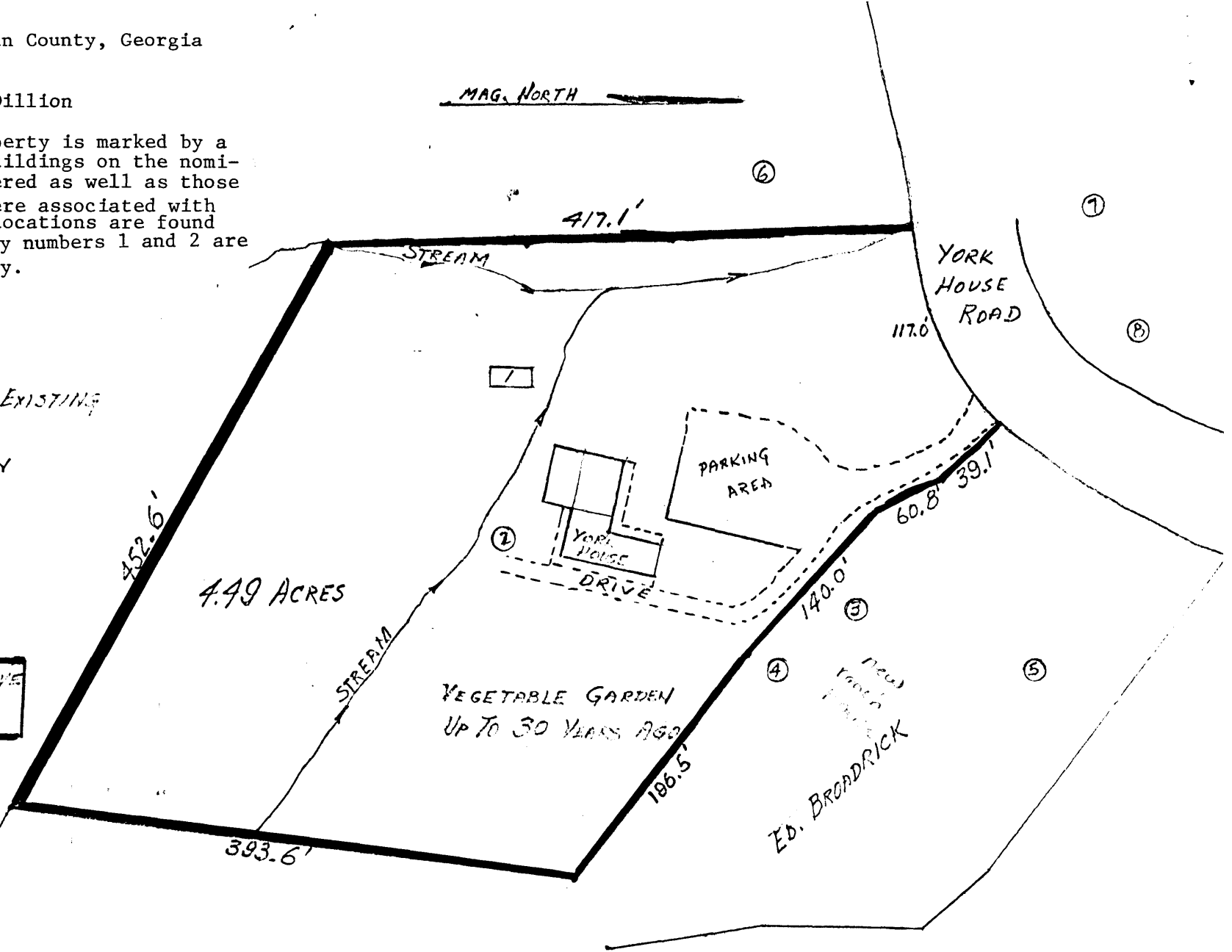
Date: c. 1981

Key: The nominated property is marked by a heavy black line. Outbuildings on the nominated property are numbered as well as those that once existed and were associated with the property but whose locations are found on nearby property. Only numbers 1 and 2 are on the nominated property.

MAG. NORTH

- 1. SPRING HOUSE - EXISTING
- 2. SMOKE HOUSE
- 3. DANCE PAVILLION
- 4. WAGON SHED
- 5. PIG PENS
- 6. LOG CABIN
- 7. CORN CRIB
- 8. STABLES

BUILDINGS 2-8 HAVE BEEN REMOVED

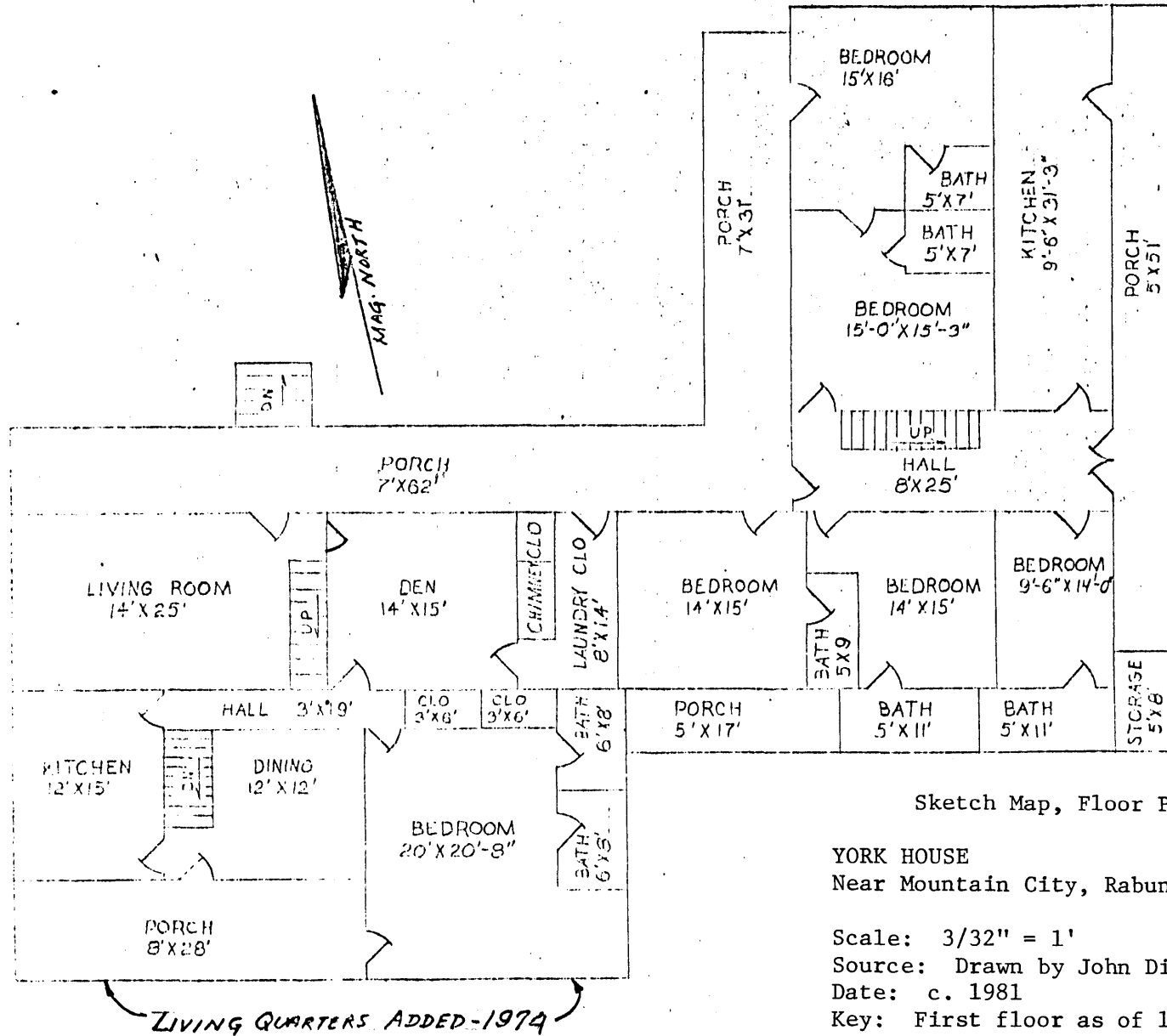


CISTERN - 450 YARDS FROM HOUSE; 100' ELEVATION ABOVE HOUSE

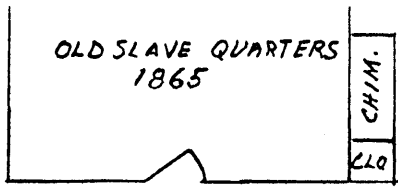
Ed. Broadrick

JOHN DILLON

Sketch prepared by John Dillon who holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Tech.



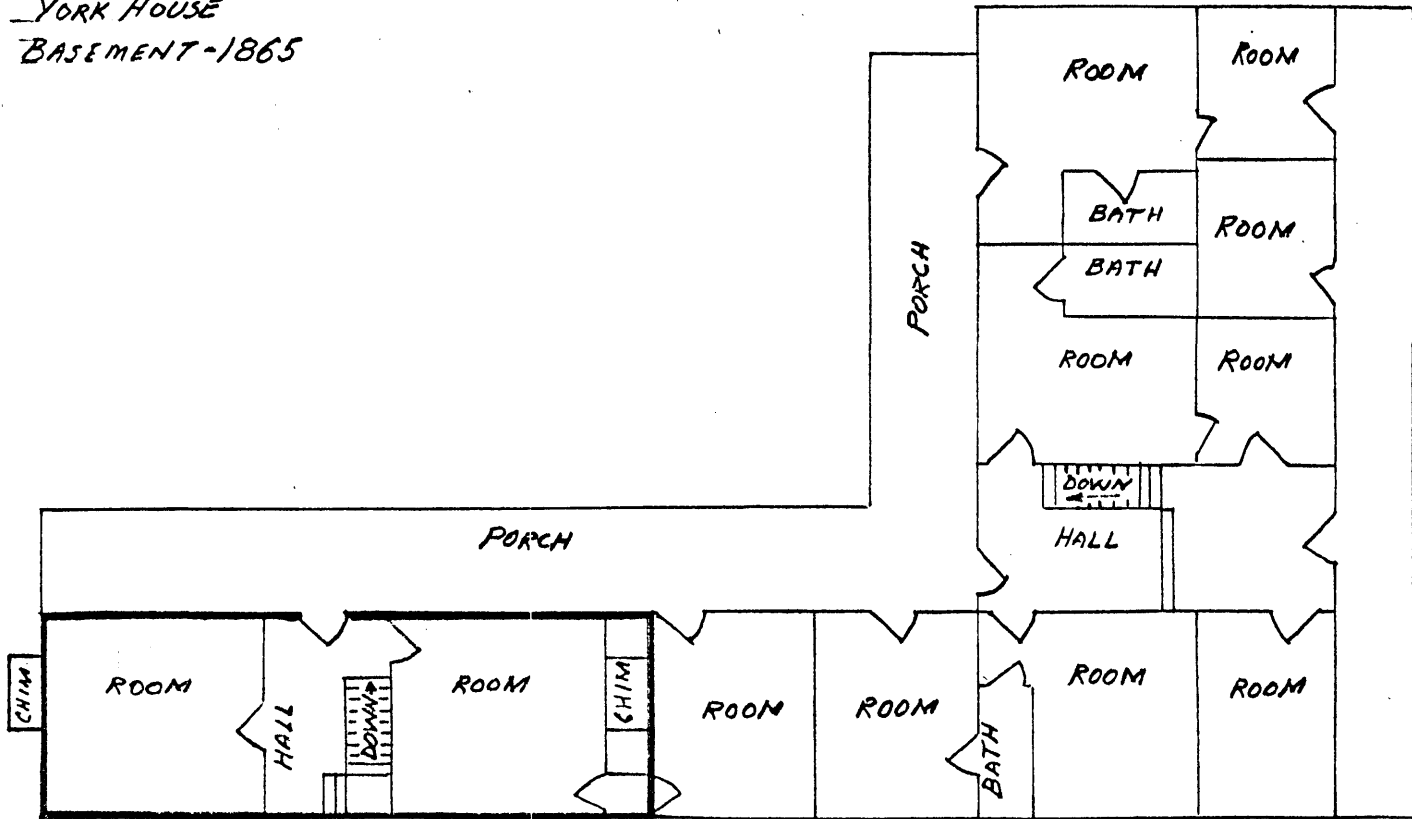
- 1) Baths for rooms added 1980 by enclosing part of back porch.
- 2) Large kitchen added by combining 3 bedrooms - 1980.
- 3) Kitchen, dining room, porch, bedroom of current living quarters added 1974 after tearing down old back porch, kitchen and dining room of 1907 construction.



Sketch prepared by John Dillon who holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Tech.



YORK HOUSE  
BASEMENT-1865

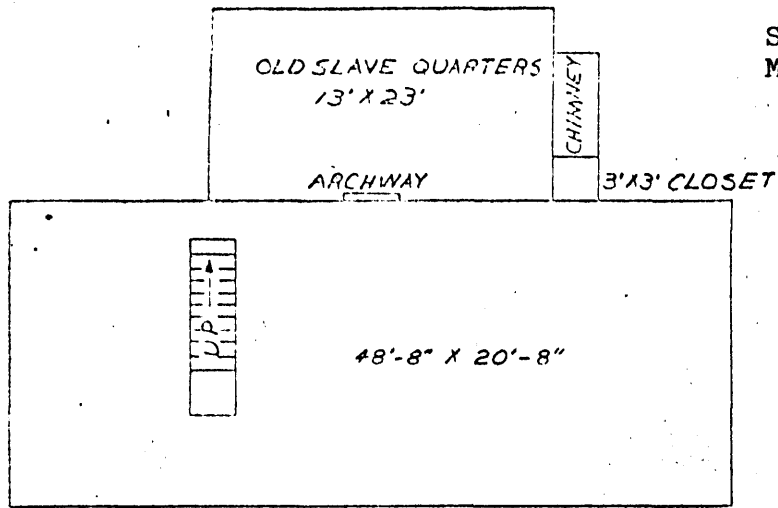


Sketch Map, Floor Plans

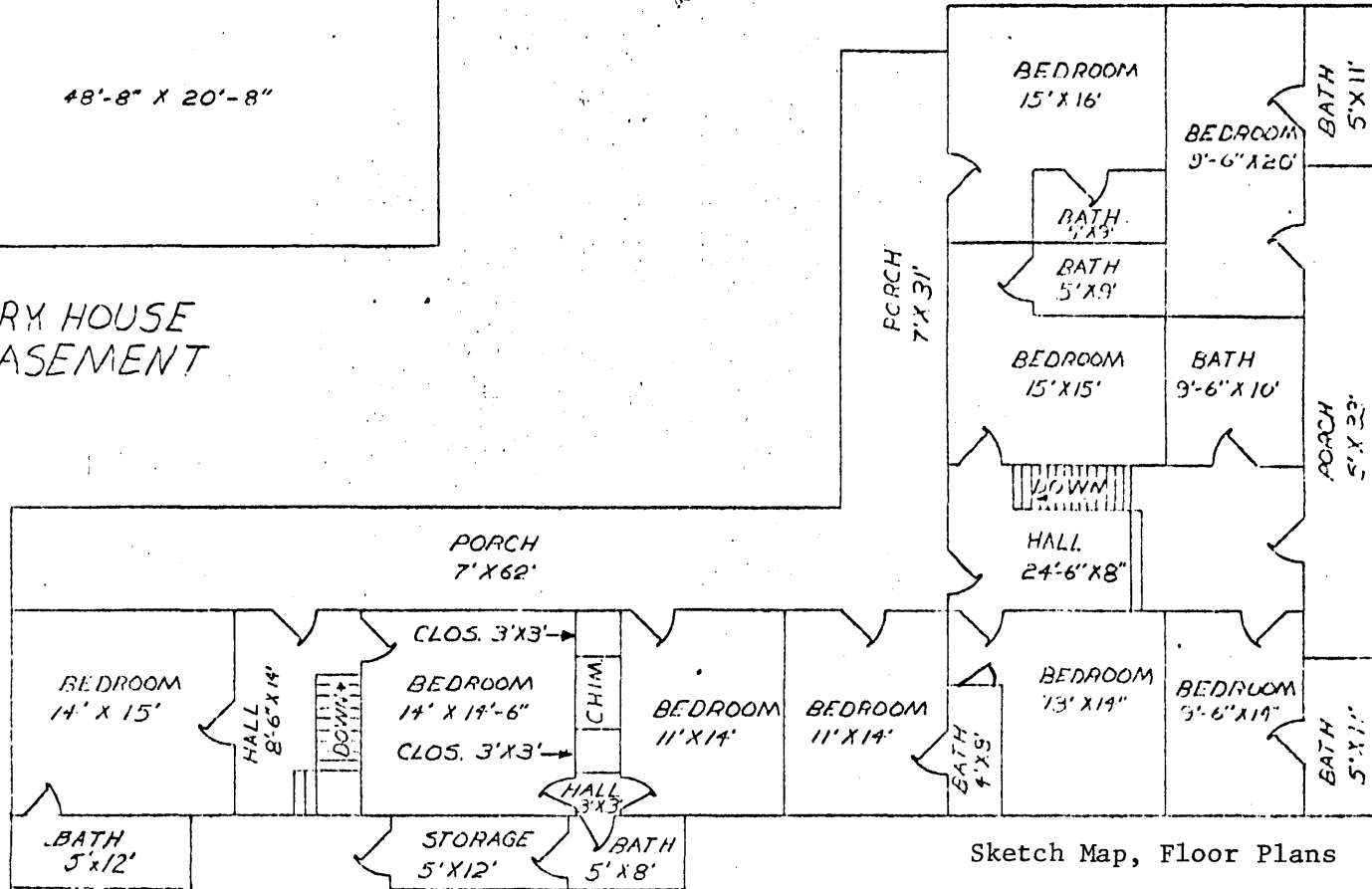
YORK HOUSE  
Near Mountain City, Rabun County, Georgia

Scale:  $3/32'' = 1'$   
 Source: Drawn by John Dillon  
 Date: c. 1981  
 Key: Second floor showing log house and 1907 addition.

Sketch prepared by John Dillon who holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Tech.



YORK HOUSE  
BASEMENT



Sketch Map, Floor Plans

YORK HOUSE  
Near Mountain City, Rabun County, Georgia

Scale:  $\frac{3}{32}'' = 1'$   
Source: Drawn by John Dillon  
Date: c. 1981  
Key: Second floor as of 1981

YORK HOUSE  
SECOND FLOOR

1981

SCALE:  $\frac{3}{32}'' = 1'-0''$

- 1) Baths added 1980 by enclosing part of porch and using room at head of stairs.
- 2) Bath for room on west end added 1980.
- 3) Storage and adjoining bath added 1974.

