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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 Idlewilde
other names/site number Rastello House, Idlewild

2. Location

street & number Lake Clark Road, Indian Springs State Park
city, town Indian Springs () vicinity of
county Butts code GA 035
state Georgia code GA zip code 30216

() not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- () private
- () public-local
- (X) public-state
- () public-federal

Category of Property:

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

Number of Resources within Property:	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	5	1
sites	1	0
structures	1	0
objects	0	0
total	7	1

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

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 C. Coover
Signature of certifying official

2-3-99
Date

W. Ray Luce
Interim 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

Edson H. Beall 3-12-99

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

Keeper of the National Register

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
DOMESTIC/hotel

Current Functions:

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Other: New South House

Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	wood
roof	metal
other	n/a

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Idlewilde and its associated outbuildings are located in a landscaped setting at the entrance of Indian Springs State Park (photo 1). Constructed in ca.1908, Idlewilde is a two-story, frame, New South-type house. It has a steeply pitched hipped roof, asphalt-shingled roof, brick chimneys, weatherboard siding, 1/1 double-hung windows with beveled glass, hipped-roof front porch with wood columns in the ell of the projecting bay, brick foundation, rear shed porch, and rear, one-story, historic kitchen addition. There is also a nonhistoric, wood, barrier-free access ramp on the rear of the house (photo 3).

Characteristic of the New South House, the intact floor plan consists of a central hall with two rooms on either side of the hall, with one side projecting forward to create the projecting bay on the front facade (photo 7). The interior features high ceilings, sand-finish plaster walls, wood moldings, wood window and door surrounds, wood floors, wood U-shaped staircase with balustrade and newel posts located in an alcove off the rear hallway (photo 8), wood mantels, wood paneled doors, hardware, fixtures, built-in storage space, and arched entrance way on the second floor. All of the mantels are simple wood mantels with curved brackets and simple classical lines (photos 9-11 and 13). The ceilings are an early 20th century form of wallboard with wood battens covering the seams (photos 7, 12, and 13). An unusual feature is that there is a fireplace and mantel in the northside of the central hall which also feeds the first and second floor front bedrooms. There are also double panel doors which divide the first floor central hall, presumably so that during the times when Idlewilde was used as a boarding house, the central hall could be utilized as an additional parlor for guests (photo 7). The fireplace in the front north bedroom on the first floor has a tile hearth (photo 11).

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Section 7--Description

There are four historic outbuildings and one nonhistoric outbuilding on the property. The four historic outbuildings include a gable-front, weatherboard-sided garage (photo 2); a gable-front, weatherboard-sided cottage with 6-light windows (photo 4); a hipped-roof, flared-bottom, and weatherboard-sided well house (photo 3), and a weatherboard-sided shed. These historic outbuildings date to ca.1910. The nonhistoric beauty parlor is a concrete-block building dating to ca. 1950 (photo 4). The garage is beside the house on the south side. The cottage and beauty parlor are behind the house at the northwest corner. The shed is north of the house and the well house is next to the house on the north side.

The landscaping consists of a formal garden with boxwoods, New South-type landscaping, terracing, stone walls, and a variety of shrubs, flowers, trees, and grassed lawn (photo 1). The boxwood garden is on the south side of the house (photo 5). The terracing and stone walls run north to south in front of the house (photo 6). The yard's informal almost casual quality, its great variety of landscape features, and soft, curvilinear lines and contours are typical of New South landscaping. The nonhistoric concrete walk provides access from the parking lot in front of the house (outside the boundary of the nomination) to the front door of the house. There is also a nonhistoric asphalt driveway and parking area on the south side of the house curving around to the north (photos 2 and 3).

The house and the landscaping have recently been restored by the Indian Springs State Park within the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. The area surrounding Idlewilde is the state park and the small historic resort town of Indian Springs. Indian Springs State Park is a natural and recreational park with a 105 -acre lake and beach, 90 tent and trailer sites, miniature golf course, pedal or fishing boat rental, 10 cottages, and a museum of Creek Indian, resort, and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) history. Most of the facilities were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the 1930s.

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
Landscape Architecture
Commerce
Health/Medicine
Entertainment/Recreation
Other: Women's History

Period of Significance:

1908-1943

Significant Dates:

1908-Construction of Idlewilde
1922-Closing of the boarding house
1925-Bryans sell the house to the Powells
1943-Powells sell the house

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

unknown

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

Located in the historic resort town of Indian Springs, Idlewilde is a two-story New South-type house with associated outbuildings and New South landscaping that is significant for architecture, landscape architecture, commerce, health/medicine, entertainment/recreation, and women's history.

Idlewilde is significant for its architecture as an excellent and intact example of a New South House with intact massing, floor plan, and original interior and exterior features such as the brick chimneys, beveled glass windows, plaster walls, wood floors, moldings, mantels, and staircase. Of the 38,592 properties in the Georgia Historic Resources Survey, only 49 New South Houses have been identified. With only 0.12 percent represented in Georgia's survey, the New South House is an extremely rare house type.

According to *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*, the New South House is the two-story form of the New South Cottage which was more popular between the 1890s and 1920s for middle- and upper-middle income families. New South Cottages account for about three percent of the single-family houses in the Georgia Historic Resources Survey. This house type was named for the turn-of-the-20th-century period of great economic growth and regional confidence as coined by Henry Grady, the Atlanta journalist and great promoter of the South. Although found statewide, the New South Cottage is found most commonly in the Piedmont, upper Coastal Plain, and Georgia's larger cities and towns. The New South House also seems to follow this pattern.

The New South House resembles the Queen Anne house in that it has a central square mass, usually with a hipped roof and gable projections, as does Idlewilde. The main distinguishing feature between the New South and the Queen Anne types is the central-hall plan of the New South which gives it symmetry. This central hall is flanked by a pair of rooms on each side with one or both of these rooms on one side projecting forward. Idlewilde contains the central hall, projecting room, hipped roof, and projecting gable which make it an excellent, intact, and rare example of the New South House type.

The property is significant in terms of landscaping for its historic gardens which consist of a variety of flowers, shrubs, and trees laid out from the construction of the house through the 1930s. Included in the yard is a formal boxwood garden, terracing, and stone walls. The type of landscaping is considered to be New South which like the house type was popular during the late 1800s and early 1900s, as identified by *Georgia's Living Places: Historic House in their Landscaped Setting*. This type of landscaping can be described as a popular, mass-marketed version of the earlier Downingesque landscaping with elements of the horticultural landscape and the ornamental yard worked in for good measure. The overall effect of New South landscaping is informal and even called "picturesque randomness." Its distinguishing features include soft, curvilinear lines and

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contours, the blending of trees and plants, low retaining walls, and the use of grassed lawns as green space.

Idlewilde is also significant in commerce, health/medicine, and entertainment/recreation for its use as a boarding house until 1922 by the original owners in response to the need to house visitors who came into the area to seek the healing waters of the nearby Indian Springs. In addition, running a boarding house was considered a respectable way for single women to support themselves which gives this property additional significance in women's history since economic opportunities for women were limited in rural Georgia during the early 20th century.

Boarding houses were once common places to stay throughout Georgia and the South, especially in smaller towns where there were no hotels. Boarding houses provided room and a meal for both overnight and long-term guests who shared bathrooms and public spaces, as was the case with the Idlewilde visitors. Although boarding houses are not considered rare resources in Georgia, the documentation of these boarding houses like Idlewilde is unusual and the listing in the National Register even more so.

There are about 50 properties listed in the National Register in Georgia which have listed as their historic function "DOMESTIC/hotel." The majority of these buildings are actually hotels designed to be hotels and located in downtown commercial areas such as the Jaekel Hotel in Statesboro, Bulloch County, the Dixie Hunt Hotel in Gainesville, Hall County, and Hotel Row in Atlanta, Fulton County. A good number of these in downtown areas are listed within historic districts such as the Covington Historic District, Newton County, the Comer Historic District, Madison County, and the Kingsland Historic District, Camden County.

Similar to Idlewilde, Glen Ella Springs Hotel in Habersham County in North Georgia was specifically designed to be an Inn and a residence. However, the Glen Ella Springs Hotel was much larger with 27 rooms. The hotel operated from 1885 until the 1920s catering to Tallulah Falls visitors. Also listed in the National Register as individual buildings are two documented boarding houses. The Brown House in Henry County and the Ritch-Carter-Martin House in Wayne County are both houses which were converted into boarding houses and located in small towns.

Locally, the Indian Springs Hotel has been listed in the National Register since 1973. This hotel may be the only extant antebellum hotel in the state. Located across Georgia Highway 42 from Idlewilde, the Indian Springs Hotel is much larger than Idlewilde and represents the early history of the Springs as a white visitor destination. Indian Springs is also the only surviving hotel of three grand hotels which were in the Indian Springs area.

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Jennie (GiGi) Bryans purchased the property from her brother, Dr. Robert G. Bryans, in 1907 and constructed the house sometime before 1910. Jennie Bryans and her sister Bessie ran a boarding house until 1925 when the Bryans sold the house to Mr. and Mrs. Willis B. Powell. Like Jennie Bryans, Willis Powell was an avid gardener who continued to maintain and develop the gardens which Jennie Bryans had started. The Powells owned the house until 1943 when they sold the property to Mrs. Lynda T. Rastello, who then deeded the property to the State of Georgia in 1979. The house is currently a part of the Indian Springs State Park.

National Register Criteria

Idlewilde is eligible under National Register National Register Criterion C for its architectural significance as an excellent, intact, and rare example of a New South-type house with understated classical details and for its landscape architectural significance for its intact historic gardens creating a good example of New South landscaping. Idlewilde meets National Register Criterion A for its significance in commerce, health and medicine, entertainment/recreation, and women's history as a boarding house run by women during the time which Indian Springs was a popular resort town for visitors seeking the believed healing powers of the nearby springs.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

Period of significance (justification)

Idlewilde was constructed in 1908 and 1943 is the year that the Powell family sold the property to Mrs. Lynda Rastello. Because Mr. Willis B. Powell was an avid gardener who maintained and added to the historic landscaping started by Jennie Bryan, the end of his ownership was chosen as a closing date for the period of significance.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The main house and four historic outbuildings are the contributing buildings. The gardens are the contributing site and the extensive rock work the contributing structure. The nonhistoric beauty parlor building is the only noncontributing resource.

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Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

NOTE: The following narrative is taken from *The Rastello House: Indian Springs State Park, Indian Springs, Georgia Report*, prepared by Helen M. Goldsmith, Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, June 1992. On file at the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

The Rastello House, or Idlewilde, was built between 1907 and 1910, during Indian Springs' popularity as a health resort. The springs were popularized for their medicinal benefits to the troubled and sick. With the influx of tourists came demand for tourist housing. Jennie and Bessie Bryans chose to capitalize on the growing tourist industry by opening Idlewilde as a boarding house. During the summer season especially, the Bryans home became crowded with tourists from throughout the United States.

Below is a brief history of Indian Springs. The section in this report describing Indian Occupation is generally an excerpt from The Georgia Review by Christine Hankinson, written in 1947.

Indian Occupation

Indian Springs was part of a large tract of land located in middle and south Georgia. This land belonged to the Creek Indians, who were named by white settlers for the numerous creeks running through their land. England recognized the Creek land ownership from the earliest settlement of Georgia. Oglethorpe secured land from the Creeks for his initial settlement and additional land was acquired from them as needed.

After several generations, white settlers began to view the Creek land as their own. A 1763 treaty, signed in Augusta, Georgia, forced the Creek Indians to the northern and western boundaries of their own land. By 1773, the Creeks relinquished more land to the white settlers in order to settle outstanding debts. In 1785, the whites asked for additional land near the Altamaha river. The Creeks initially refused to relinquish the land, however, it was eventually ceded in the Treaty of Galphinton. The terms of this treaty were later reaffirmed at Shoulderbone Creek.

At this time, the United States Congress was dissatisfied with the trend of individual states signing treaties with various parties. Soon after the Treaty of Galphinton was signed, the U.S. Congress declared both the Treaty of Galphinton and the reaffirmation at Shoulderbone Creek null and void. Congress had adopted a policy whereby individual states generally could not create and enforce treaties. With this Federal support, the Creek Indians initiated a war on the frontier sections of their land.

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The settlers felt betrayed by both the government and the Indians. In order to address the situation, Indian chiefs were invited to New York to discuss disposition of the land sought by the whites. Twenty-three Indian leaders and two representatives for America attended, including:

Birdtail Kinn, Second Man, Blue Giver, Tallisee King, Long Sie, Young Second Man, Great Natchez Warrior, Warrior Brother, The Mole, Big Lieutenant, Leader, Dry Pine, The Measurer, The Miser, Good Humour and The Disputer. Chief Alex McGillivray, part Indian, acted for the Indians, and George Washington and David Francis acted for the United States Government.

A treaty was signed between the United States and the Indians. Good faith was established, and the President presented the Chief with a string of beads and a pouch of tobacco. The Indians sang a song of friendship and gave the salute of peace. The lands in question passed into the hands of the white people, and the cession of lands by former treaties was confirmed.

Both parties were pleased with the treaty, as the whites received the land they sought, and the Creeks received protection from further land loss and intrusion by whites on Indian property. Shortly after the signing of the treaty, it became apparent to the Creek Indians that the agreement would not be enforced.

Georgians were indignant at the prospect of the Indians retaining land in the very heart of the state. They felt that allowing Indian possession of prime land was a sign that the Federal Government was hostile. In addition to the controversy surrounding the disposition of the land located in the central part of Georgia, lands for army posts and trading stations were greatly needed. The Federal government sought another treaty with the Indians, and the required land was secured.

The United States Government entered into an agreement with the State of Georgia to obtain land for the state from South Carolina, and from the Indians. This 1802 agreement was made in an effort to solve the difficulty of defining the western boundary of the state, and to offer the United States government control of all of the land in Georgia that was west of the Chatahoochee. While this agreement accomplished some necessary goals of the U.S. government, it was in direct conflict with the Treaty of Galphinton offering protection from further land loss.

The U.S. Government managed to acquire some fishing rights and a horse path through Creek land from Ocmulgee to Mobile in 1805. This acquisition was made with the involvement of William MacIntosh, a young chief of Scotch and Indian descent.

Chief MacIntosh joined the American forces in the War of 1812, and was considered a distinguished officer and man. He won distinction in the battle of the Horseshoe, and in the Florida campaigns. Furthermore, his association with the nation was considered crucial to the relationship between the Creeks and the United States.

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In 1818, prodded by the State of Georgia, the Federal Government induced the Creeks, for a sum of money and three blacksmiths, to yield another million and a half acres of land. With this additional land acquisition, the central portion of the state of Georgia had been secured. When the transfer of land was to occur, the Indians refused to release the property. A meeting was called at Indian Springs in 1821. The Indians refused to consent to vacating the land, and sought refuge in their earlier treaty with the United States, which provided security of land ownership.

The meeting was held around a great Council fire. The Commissioners were met with pipes and the right hand of fellowship. The Indians were reminded that 20 years had passed since the United States Government had offered to buy all Indian lands lying within certain limits. They were advised that Georgia wanted this action taken at once, and that this end was the sole purpose of the meeting. The Indians were advised that there was ample land lying beyond the Mississippi. Government officials offered that, if the Indians would migrate beyond the Mississippi, the Commission would pay them for the territory abandoned, would see after the great exodus, and would guarantee the security and comfort of the new settlement.

The Indians were told that their own fathers had come from the West and had taken the land from people living in the East and used it for their own. The Indians were also told that 92 years before, white people had come over the Big Waters and had taken some land from the Indians, that 60 years ago they had extended their boundaries to the St. Mary's, that war had come, and that the British, with whom the Indians were allies, had been defeated and treated accordingly. Yet the Indians, because of treaties with the United States Government, had been given protection.

The Indians were told that the United States government had a genuine interest in their welfare. The Committee went so far as to say that the President wanted them to live and prosper, to have schools and churches, and to advance in civilization. They were advised that 1,000 acres, with the Spring as a center, would be reserved for the Creeks, as well as certain other lands, including the home of Chief MacIntosh, until abandoned. But the Indians had decided that they would not yield. Many went home and into Council. The treaty of 1814 had said, "The land granted to you on August 9, 1814, is your land, and the President, who holds your nation by the hand, will take care that no part is ever taken from you except by your consent, and for valuable considerations." The Creeks continued to hold their land and the government's mission had failed.

The United States Government could not accept this defeat and the Commissioners were ordered to renew negotiations. Many Indians, particularly the Upper Creeks, refused to assemble. Some 400 of the Lower Creeks met at Indian Springs in February and negotiated the treaty of 1825. In this treaty, the Lower Creeks gave up all land in Georgia for an equal amount of land in the West, plus monetary compensation totaling \$400,000. Governor Troup approved the treaty, and quit claims were executed.

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The Upper Creeks were outraged at this treaty and declared that they would murder MacIntosh, who had signed away their hunting grounds and fishing waters. Appeals were made for his protection, but to no avail.

The Upper Creeks selected their bravest warriors, and equipped them with detailed instructions for the murder of MacIntosh. At three o'clock in the morning, MacIntosh was riddled with bullets and pierced with a long knife by one of the Oofuskee Indians at his home near Carrollton. His two wives, Peggy and Susannah, were dragged into the yard, and the house was burned to the ground. A son-in-law, who lived nearby, was murdered the same night, and the scalps of the two men were carried home and exhibited on a pole on the public square of the Oofusfees.

The Indians continued to refuse to move. A meeting was called at Washington in January, 1826. Here the Indians ceded all lands except a small reservation. But their retention of even this small strip drew sharp words from Governor Troup. Another meeting was held in November, 1827. By this treaty the Indians gave up the very last of their lands in Georgia. Indian Springs was now a possession of the white men.

Douglas Watson

It was not until 1792 that Indian Springs was first discovered by the white man. Douglas Watson, a government scout, detected the odor of the sulphur fumes emitted by the water and discovered the spring. Watson assumed the odor to be gun powder, and he initially avoided the springs, assuming that hostile Indians were the cause of the smell. Watson retained a native guide, who showed him directly to the springs.

Resort Hotels

While Chief MacIntosh had recognized the value of the Spring as a tourist attraction much earlier, the first buildings in Indian Springs were not erected until 1821 or 1822, and were located adjacent to the Spring. MacIntosh and Joe Bailey built a hotel for the accommodation of these tourists. In fact, it was in this building that the remaining Creek lands were signed away, and it was from a nearby boulder that Hopoethleyoholo denounced MacIntosh as a traitor for signing the treaty that resulted in his murder. After MacIntosh's death, the hotel passed into the hands of Edward Varner and became known as the Varner House. (Georgia Review: 504) In 1827 an article in the "Gazetteer of Georgia" gave the following account of Indian Springs:

This is at present the most fashionable watering place in the State. From 600 to 800 people are frequently here at a time. There is a large public hotel capable of accommodating 100

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persons, besides 30 or 40 cabins which are comfortable and rented every year to one or more families.

When the Indians owned the Spring, they brought their sick to the healing waters, and pitched their tents on the hillsides roundabout. The Creeks had a superstition that it would be unwise for any of their tribe to make a permanent residence near the Spring because the noise and gambols of the squaws and papooses would drive the healing spell from the water. The tents of the Indians were always found on the adjacent fills, filled with invalids who were brought to be cured and returned to the warpath or to their hunting grounds. Now that the Spring belonged to the white man, those who sought the advantage of the waters lodged at the hotel. W.A. Elder, a young Virginian who was in ill health, came to the Spring on horseback. He built a home that gradually developed into a 50-room hotel. In 1897, that house was destroyed by fire, but a new 75-room Elder Hotel was built in 1903. (History of Butts County: 5) The Elder Hotel burned to the ground in the early 1980s and was not rebuilt.

On December 25, 1837 an Act was passed to incorporate the village of Indian Springs into Butts County. After Indian Springs became a part of Butts County, the fame of its waters spread and the number of visitors increased each year (Ibid: 180). In the 1860s and later, Indian Springs was known as the Saratoga of the South. Wealthy and prominent visitors came from all over the country. They brought their finery, horses, carriages, and servants, and spent several weeks at the Springs each year. During the "season" there would be hundreds of visitors at the hotels and boarding houses, and more still in the cabins and small houses for rent. Sick and unhealthy visitors came to be restored to health by the curative value of the water, the pleasure seekers came to enjoy the freedom and comfort of this famous resort.

In 1864 during Sherman's March to the Sea, the village suffered heavily. Many homes and businesses were burned, including the business of B.A. Wright, who manufactured carriages, buggies, coffins, and blacksmith supplies. In 1866 a legislative Act changed the name of the village of Indian Springs to McIntosh and extended the limits of its incorporation. On November 23, 1900, the town charter of McIntosh was repealed and the village was named Indian Springs again.

By 1874 the population of the village of McIntosh was about 400, with five stores, two millinery shops, two bars and billiard salons, three resident physicians, and two lawyers. There was one weekly newspaper, "The Indian Spring Echo," which was the first newspaper in Butts County.

About 1878 the Rock Castle (later called the Collier Motel) was built by Dr. H. M. Edge, the editor of the newspaper. This picturesque house overlooked the historic Hopoethyeloho Creek on the north, and every piece of stone used in this structure was quarried directly on the scene. Although dilapidated, Rock Castle was still standing in the early 1980s.

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The Wigwam Hotel was built on a plateau above the Spring on the ten-acre reservation originally designated for the Indians, and then owned by the State of Georgia. The company which built the hotel leased the property from the State for an annual rental of \$110. Funds for erecting the hotel were obtained through a bond issue, and it was constructed in 1890 by a joint-stock company headed by George W. Collier, president, and Whit Collier, secretary. The Wigwam opened for business, with 134 sleeping rooms, in 1891. The hotel was said to have one of the most elegant ball rooms in the South, and a commodious kitchen. Its 1,115 feet of porches were shaded by the branches of giant oaks. In spite of this grandeur, the original company failed. The property was then sold to Mr. Strother, the construction contractor for the hotel, at a receiver's sale. This famous hostelry was a popular and fashionable rendezvous, as well as a convention center, for quite sometime. In the summer of 1921 three mysterious fires destroyed the home of G.C. Head, then the Wigwam Hotel, and, finally, the Bryans House.

The Foy Hotel was built sometime before 1896 and was known as the Hoard House. Originally it was a 14-room house but, after its purchase by Edward E. Foy, it was enlarged and improved. At this time, its name was changed to the Hotel Foy. This structure was also located in the Indian Springs Reserve. In 1956, when it was owned by Spencer Johnson, it too was destroyed by fire.

The Calumet House was erected on the main highway north of the bridge across the Big Sandy Creek. It is not known when it was built, but the 1896 directory of Indian Springs listed W.A. Elder Jr. as the proprietor. The hotel flourished, but it too burned many years ago while it was under the management of Logue King.

Bryan's House (different family from the Bryans), which advertised "reasonable rates and particular attention to comfort of guests," burned on August 21, 1921 in the last of the three fires at Indian Springs on the night of the big Wigwam fire. (Hotel descriptions, History of Butts County: 187)

Of all these grand hotels, only the Indian Springs Hotel remains today. By 1900, the hotel had ended its hostelry career. In 1953 the hotel was sold to J.H. Elliott, an antique dealer, who operated it as a museum. In 1974, Mr. Elliott sold the hotel to the State of Georgia. A restoration plan by the state failed when the cost was estimated at \$300,000.00. In 1982, the State deeded the property to Butts County, and the county leases it to the Butts County Historical Society for \$1 a year. The Indian Spring Hotel is the only known antebellum mineral springs hotel still standing in Georgia. Since 1985 the Historical Society has been in the process of restoring the structure to its original 1823 condition. (Butts County Historical Society: Brochure)

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Idlewilde

The Chain of Title for the property begins with an 1880 deed of sale. The property was sold in an effort to pay delinquent taxes. The grantor, Mrs. Martha Dumble, was the wife of John B. Dumble, a former staff writer for the Cincinnati Enquirer and the Atlanta Intelligencer. He came to Indian Springs for his health, and was assistant editor for the Indian Springs Echo. According to The History of Butts County, Georgia, page 332, "he lived where the W.B. Powell home, Known as "Idlewilde" is located west of the Spring." According to the tax assessment records, John B. Dumble owned 2.40 acres valued at \$1,500.00; a household, kitchen, and furniture valued at \$100.00; plantation and mechanical tools valued at \$25.00; other property not before enumerated except crops, provisions, etc. valued at \$100.00. For many years after the sale of the property, the deeds referred to the property as the "Old John B. Dumble home place."

The grantee in the 1880 transaction, Robert G. Bryans, was born January 2, 1855, married to Florida May Hudson on December 11, 1885, and died November 24, 1903. After graduating from the Medical College of Georgia, Dr. Bryans studied surgery in New York City. He returned to Jackson, the county seat of Butts County, where he practiced as a surgeon and physician.

The next major event related to the property was Jennie Bryans' 1907 construction of Idlewilde. The boarding house had four rental rooms upstairs, two downstairs, and the parlor was turned into an additional room during the summer.

The hotel property was purchased for \$400.00 from her brother's estate. After construction of the hotel, Ms. Jennie and her sister, Bessie, made the home into a boarding house called "Idlewilde." A woman named Mrs. Morgan, who was interviewed for the purposes of this report, moved into the house at age two-and-one-half and lived in the house from 1912 until 1925. Mrs. Morgan's father, Oscar Bryans, was one of Jennie and Bessie's brothers. Members of the family often slept on the porch of Idlewilde during the warm summer months. This enabled the sisters to accommodate more paying guests in the main part of the house. The family porch had three beds, chairs, and curtains, and in the yard, there was a large yellow rosebush, named "Lady Bankshire," which provided additional privacy for the family.

Idlewilde was constructed by Ms. Jennie (GiGi) Bryans with funds inherited from her father. As noted before, the hotel was constructed between 1907 and 1910. The house is a frame New South-type house with a steeply pitched hipped roof, asphalt shingling, brick chimneys, weatherboard siding, 1/1 double-hung windows with beveled glass, a hipped roof front porch in the ell of the projecting bay with wood columns, brick foundation, rear shed porch, and a rear one-story historic kitchen addition. The original floorplan remains intact, with a central hall flanked on either side by two rooms. Many of

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

the materials are original. Although there is no evidence of it today, Mrs. Morgan claims that the original roof was clad in wood shingles.

There are existing landscape features including a variety of flowers, shrubs, and trees laid out from landscaping which occurred from the date of construction through the 1930's. The type of landscaping present at Idlewilde is identified in *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in their Landscaped Setting* as the New South type, which, like the house type, was popular during the late 1800's and early 1900's.

In 1916, Jennie sold the northern half of the Idlewilde lot to Mr. Edward W. Alfriend. The sold parcel contained one acre and was "known as part of the John B. Drumble Home Place."

By this time, Mrs. Morgan recalls that there was a commode, only used as an auxiliary facility to the first-floor full bath, located behind the second landing of the stairway. The space is currently a closet. There was a special spring and supply system that all of the Indian Spring community used for commodes and bathing, but not for drinking.

After 1922, Jennie built a new kitchen which included a large rock fireplace. The pantry, which had been part of the porch opposite the sleeping quarters, was moved to the new kitchen. There was also a smoke house joining the kitchen at the far end. According to records, the house was used for boarding until 1922.

In 1925, Idlewilde was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Willis B. Powell. Mr. Powell, an avid gardener, maintained the Idlewilde garden as the Bryans sisters had left it. This sale of property included the remaining portion of the original lot 7. When Jennie Bryans sold Idlewilde in 1925, Bessie Bryans purchased "Rockridge Terrace," also in Indian Springs. Apparently, the Bryans sisters, and their brother, Oscar, lived at Rockridge Terrace for the rest of their lives.

In 1929, the northern half of the lot was granted from Edward Alfriend to J. Mote Watts. In the same year, Mr. Watts sold his land to Mr. and Mrs. Powell. This transaction rejoined the parcels which comprised the original lot.

The Powells permanently moved to Idlewilde after Mr. Powell's retirement from a St. Petersburg, Florida newspaper. Mr. Powell was a civic-minded person, who enjoyed building doll houses, and developed the "sand bar" as a children's playground which was located somewhere on the Idlewilde property. Mrs. Powell was active in social clubs, including the Mimosa Garden Club, and the now-inactive Butts County Historical and Archaeological Society.

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

According to Mrs. Morgan, the existing wellhouse was built after 1925 by the Powell family. The original well covering was a shed with a shingle roof and a clay floor. This original well was located just off the porch.

In 1943, Mr. and Mrs. Powell sold Idlewilde and its property to Mrs. Lynda Tingle Rastello. The deed describes the property's existing structures in detail, as described below:

....said land being more particularly described as the south half of Lot No. Seven (7) and containing one acre of the Indian Springs Reserve as per plat of said....; on which said half of Lot No. 7 there is now situated a two story dwelling house. Said lot No. 7 being formerly known as the John B. Dumble Place. Also; a parcel of land lying and being in...and being the north half of Lot No. Seven (7) as per plat...and containing one acre, and commonly known as the John B. Dumble Home Place...There is now situated on the above entitled property a small one story cabin.

Mrs. Rastello built a concrete block building behind the house in 1950. This building was used as a beauty parlor by Mrs. Rastello's sister. The current garage, probably built during the Rastello's ownership, is located on the site of a round chicken house and nesting area. Mrs. Morgan says that the bottom part of the house was made of chicken wire so that the air could circulate under the structure and keep the chickens cool.

Mr. Pierre Sylvester Rastello, husband of Mrs. Rastello, was born in France, owned and operated a cafe in Thomaston, Georgia. Mr. Rastello died on April 16, 1962 in Indian Springs.

On June 13, 1979, the State of Georgia put an option to purchase on Mrs. Rastello's property, and on September 25, 1979, this option was exercised. Closing of sale occurred on December 20, 1979, and Mrs. Rastello vacated the property on August 12, 1980. Mrs. Rastello died during the late 1980s.

After first acquiring the property, the State of Georgia included the property in the boundaries of Indian Springs State Park, overseen by the Parks and Historic Sites Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, which surrounded the former Rastello property. However, the future of the house, outbuildings, and grounds was uncertain. The house was referred to as the Rastello House and its early link to the tourism history of the area was forgotten. In 1992, the Office of Historic Preservation within the Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources hired a consultant to research and write a Historic Structure Report on the property. This report titled *The Rastello House, Indian Springs State Park, Indian Springs, Georgia* convinced the Parks and Historic Sites Division that Idlewilde and its outbuildings and grounds were indeed worth preserving, as well as worth being restored and interpreted. The

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Office of Historic Preservation worked with the Park on a restoration plan which was completed in 1995. Idlewilde is now the park headquarters office and interpretive area.

The Springs

The mineral spring is located near Big Sandy (Hopoethyclohoho) Creek at the entrance to the Indian Springs State Park. The water trickles in a tiny stream from a rift in the rock, and it has maintained its even flow of one gallon per minute throughout the years. There are over 200 springs in the vicinity, but this is the only one of them that yields the water considered useful in the treatment of various diseases, such as rheumatism, pleurisy, malaria, liver and nerve problems, and many other disorders. The water has a distinct odor of sulfurated hydrogen, and it forms a little bit of grayish or whitish precipitate in the shallow basin into which it flows. (History of Butts County: 186)

For many centuries, the Creek Indians made their way through the woodlands to the sulphur spring whose waters were believed to restore health to their sick and provided extra vigor to the healthy. The Indians accessed the Springs via a major trail known as the Seven Islands Trail, which passed nearby.

The spring area received special recognition in 1821 when it was reserved from cession in the treaty between the United States and the Creeks, which deeded all lands between the Flint and Ocmulgee Rivers. The 1,640 acre tract was called the Indian Springs Reserve, and from 1821 until 1825 the chief of the Creeks, William McIntosh, maintained control of the Reserve.

In the Indian Springs Treaty of 1825 the Indian Springs Reserve was deeded to the United States, but was later declared null and void, and another treaty was negotiated which gave the area to the State of Georgia.

In 1827 the State divided the area into a ten-acre lot around the spring and 72 town lots that ranged in size from two acres to 39 acres. The ten-acre lot "Indian Springs Lot 1" was reserved for public use. A regulation provides that Indian Springs shall always be public property and that nothing shall ever be done to prevent public access to it. (Townsend, Statement of Significance, 7-86)

In the early days the stream of water emptied into a bowl-shaped hollow in the rock. People came with their long-handled dipper for a drink of the "healing water." In 1932, realizing the need for better and more modern sanitary methods, the State Forestry Board enclosed the spring with a covering of indestructible glass, and placed an open faucet through which the water flows. Over this was erected an open pavilion of stone supported by stone pillars and covered with tile. Stone seats were built in the pavilion for visitors who wished to rest and visit with friends (History of Butts County: 187)

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Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

By the mid-1920's many states were acquiring and operating state parks. Indian Springs State Park Reservation was created by the Georgia Assembly in 1927 (Georgia Laws, 1749). The resolution placed the ten-acre Reserve under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Forestry to be used for a State Park. The name of the agency controlling Indian Springs has changed several times but, since 1986, the Parks, Recreation and Historic Sites Division of the Department of Natural Resources manages Indian Springs.

The primary planning and design of the state park was done by the U.S. Department of the Interior through the National Park Service. Much of the development was done during the depression of 1929 through 1941. The National Park Service was charged with the responsibility of coordinating with state agencies to develop comprehensive park systems in each state. The facilities were mainly built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) (Townsend, Statement of Significance, 7-86)

Today the center of interest in Indian Springs is the Indian Springs State Park, considered to be one of the oldest state parks in the United States. The 523-acre park features a 105-acre lake and beach, 90 tent and trailer sites, miniature golf, pedal or fishing boat rental, 10 cottages, 7 picnic shelters, and museum of Creek Indian, resort, and CCC history.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Boatright, Sherry L. The McIntosh Inn and Its Place in Creek Indian History. Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, 1976. On file at the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Eaddy, Mary Ann and Carole Moore, ed. Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Setting. Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 1991

Goldsmith, Helen M. The Rastello House, Indian Springs State Park, Indian Springs, Georgia Report. Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, June 1992. On file at the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Hankinson, Christine Park. "Indian Springs." The Georgia Review (Winter 1947).

McMichael, Lois, ed. History of Butts County, Georgia 1825-1976. Atlanta: Cherokee Publishing, 1978.

Mineral Springs of Georgia. Bulletin Number 20. S.W. McCallie, 1913.

Norwood, Martha F. The Indian Springs Hotel as a Nineteenth Century Watering Place. Office of Historic Preservation, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, 1978. On file at the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Records - Butts County Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, Butts County Courthouse, Jackson, GA.

Butts County Historical Society, Jackson, GA.

Identified Sites files. On file at the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

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 #**

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9--Major Bibliographic References

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office**
- Other State Agency** Indian Springs State Park, GA Department of Natural Resources
- Federal agency**
- Local government**
- University**
- Other, Specify Repository:**

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): BS-9

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property

2.68 acres

UTM References

Zone 17 Easting 227640 Northing 3682340

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary includes the house and immediate grounds as indicated on the attached plat map with a heavy black line, drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the house, five outbuildings, and immediate grounds which were the legal boundaries sold to the State of Georgia in 1979.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Leslie N. Sharp, National Register Coordinator

organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

street & number 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street

city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303

telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** January 26, 1999

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable)

() not applicable

name/title Helen M. Goldsmith, Consultant

organization Parks and Historic Sites Division, Georgia DNR

street and number 205 Butler Street, Suite 1100 east tower

city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334

telephone 770-993-8512

consultant

regional development center preservation planner

other:

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Idlewilde
City or Vicinity: Indian Springs
County: Butts
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: June 1997

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 13: Front or east facade of Idlewilde, also shows landscaping with terracing, rock work, and lawn; Photographer facing west.
- 2 of 13: Southwest corner of Idlewilde and garage; Photographer facing northeast.
- 3 of 13: Northwest corner of Idlewilde and well house with garage in right background; Photographer facing southeast.
- 4 of 13: South facade of cottage and nonhistoric beauty parlor building; Photographer facing north.
- 5 of 13: Landscaping in the southern portion of the property showing plantings, lawn, terracing bench, and rock work; Photographer facing west.
- 6 of 13: Landscaping showing rock work, terracing, lawn, trees, and plantings; Photographer facing west-northwest.
- 7 of 13: Central hall looking back toward the front door; Photographer facing east.
- 8 of 13: Rear portion of central hall, looking at staircase and back door; Photographer facing southwest.
- 9 of 13: First floor front south parlor, looking into central hall; Photographer facing northwest.
- 10 of 13: First floor south bedroom; Photographer facing northeast.
- 11 of 13: First floor north bedroom, looking into dining room; Photographer facing southwest.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

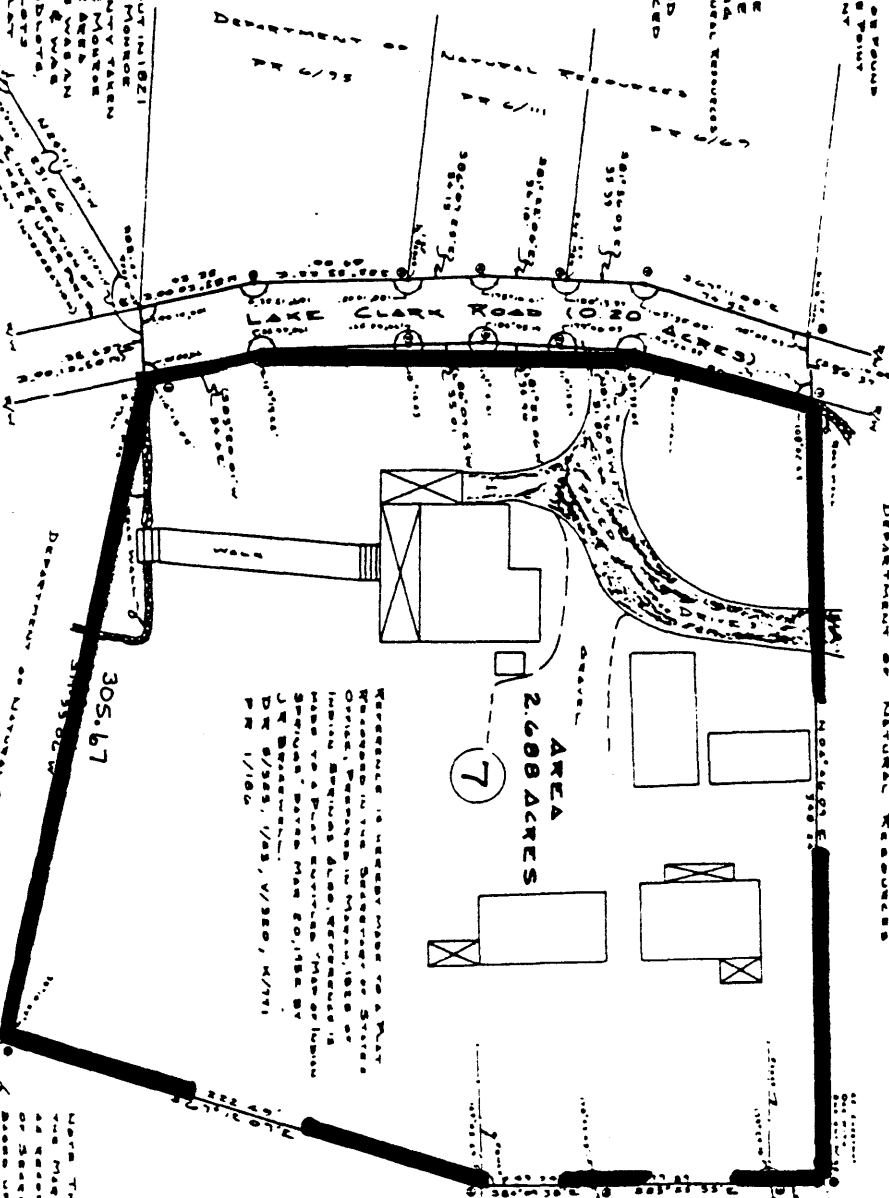
12 of 13: Second floor central hall, looking toward the front of the house; Photographer facing southeast.

13 of 13: Second floor front south bedroom; Photographer facing southeast.

Roadside Insect

LEGEND

- Iron Stake, Pile, or Pound
- o Survey or Traverse Point
- o Corner Monument
- Key Wall
- R/W Line
- Upland Drive
- ① Stake (Wire)
- Plat Reference
- Plat Reference
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NOTE: LANDS LAY OUT IN 1821 FOR ORIGINAL HENRY & MORSE COUNTY, BUTTS COUNTY TAKEN FROM SAID HENRY & MORSE COUNTY IN 1821, THE AREA ACROSS THE LINE BETWEEN SAID HENRY & MORSE COUNTY AND BUTTS COUNTY IS NOT SHOWN ON THIS PLAT ARE SHOWN ON THIS PLAT

REPRESENTS TO BE NEARLY AS TO A PLAT RECORDED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OFFICE, RECORDED IN MARCH, 1868 BY JAMES W. GRIFFIN, CIVIL ENGINEER. THIS PLAT WAS MADE BY A PLAT SURVEYOR, JOHN W. GRIFFIN, CIVIL ENGINEER, IN 1916. BY J. W. GRIFFIN, CIVIL ENGINEER, D. M. 8/285, V. 25, P. 380, W/171 P. M. 1/106

NOTE: THIS PLAT OF SURVEY WAS MADE BY J. W. GRIFFIN, CIVIL ENGINEER, IN 1916. THE PLAT WAS MADE BY A PLAT SURVEYOR, JOHN W. GRIFFIN, CIVIL ENGINEER, IN 1916. BY J. W. GRIFFIN, CIVIL ENGINEER, D. M. 8/285, V. 25, P. 380, W/171 P. M. 1/106

I hereby certify: (a) that this plat of survey is an accurate, complete, and correct representation of the land plat and that it has been prepared in conformity with the primary standards and requirements of law; (b) that it is complete as to both directions and dimensions; (c) that it is a true and correct representation of all sides;

Idlewild
 Indian Springs, Butts County, Georgia
 Plat map
 National Register boundary:

North:

GRIFIN ENGINEERING COMPANY
 A DIVISION OF THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
 CONSULTING ENGINEERS
 LAND SURVEYS
 GRIFIN, GEORGIA



J. W. Griffin
 Civil Engineer
 1916


Idlewild

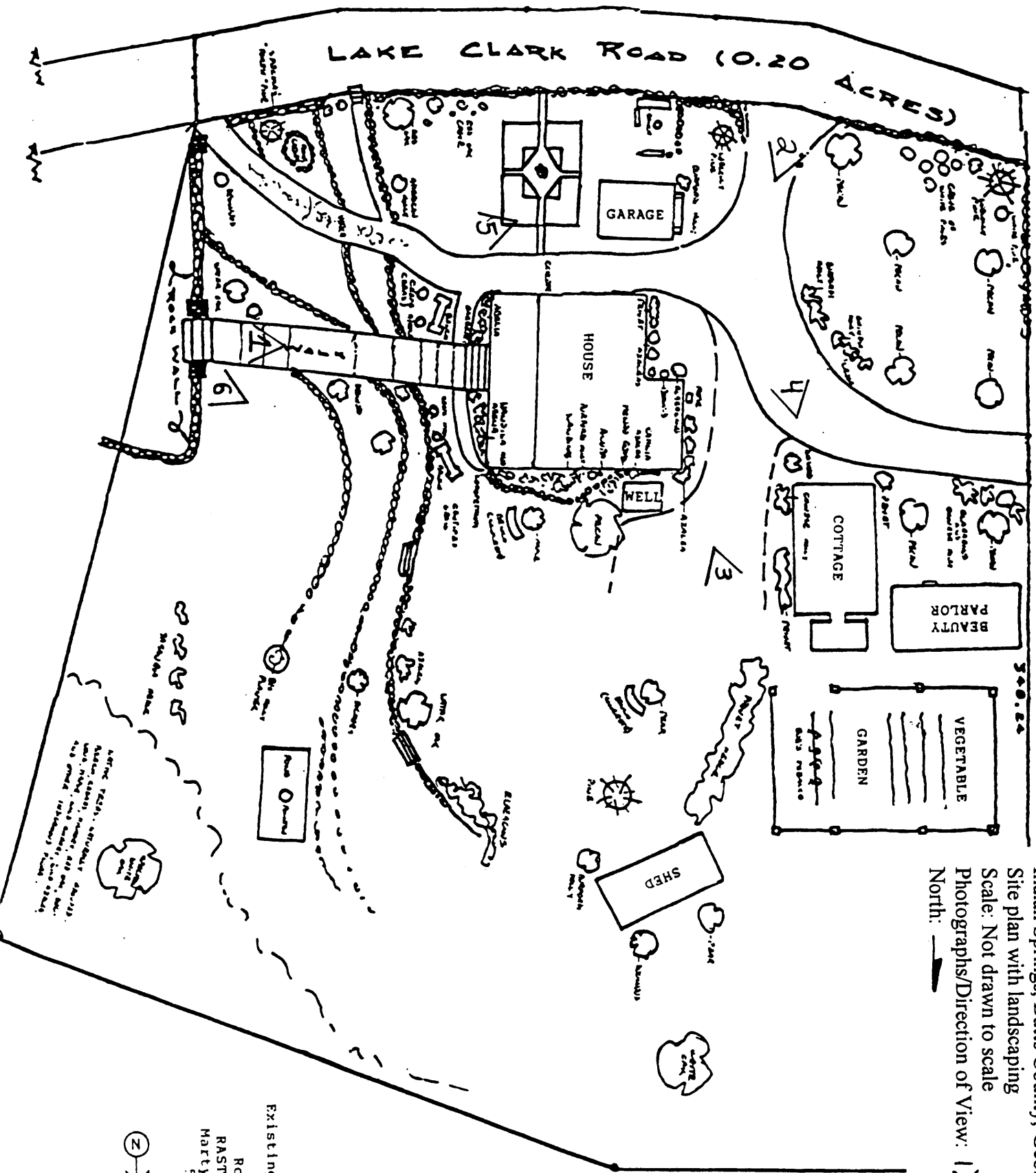
Indian Springs, Butts County, Georgia

Site plan with landscaping

Scale: Not drawn to scale

Photographs/Direction of View: 1 >

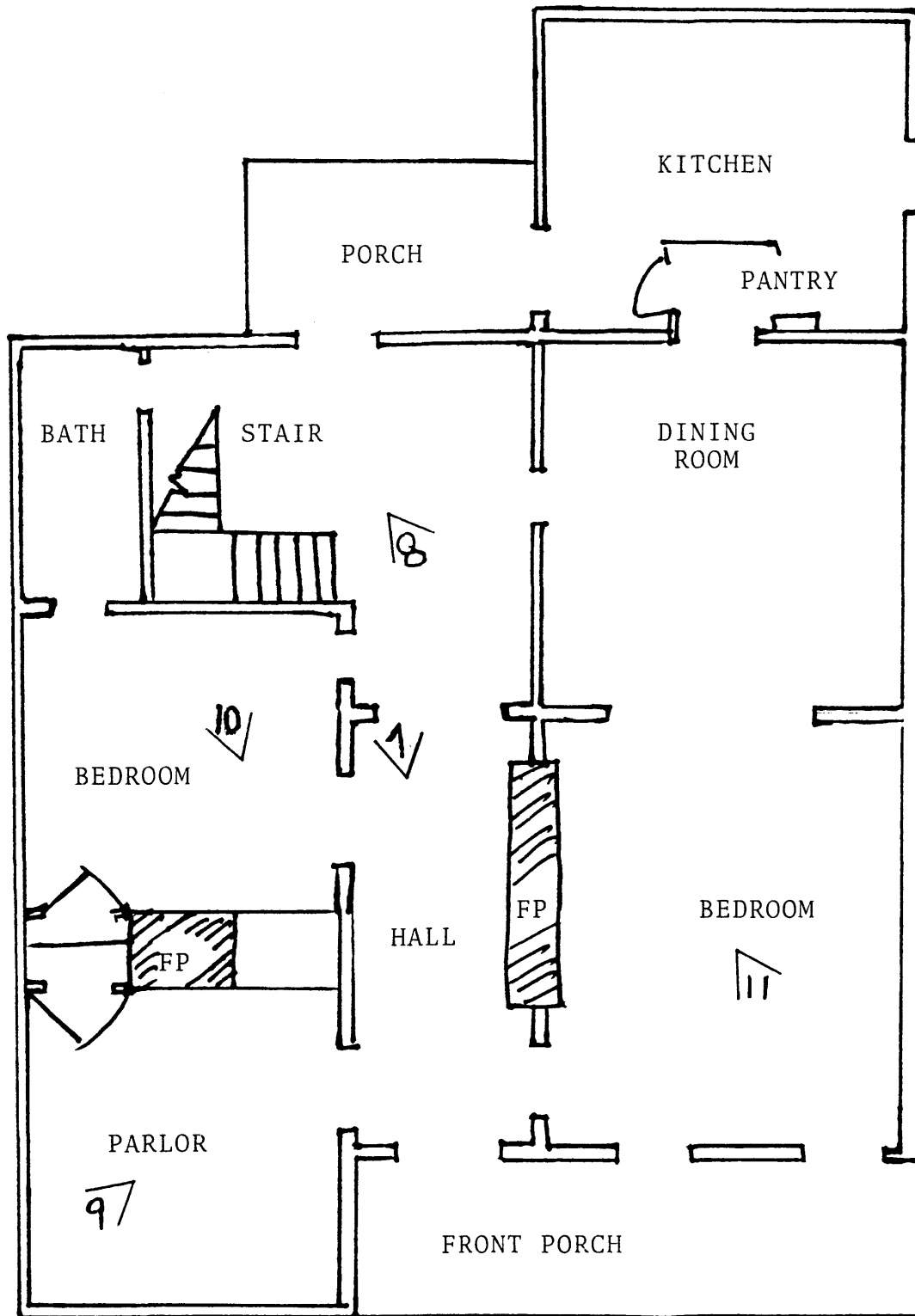
North: 



Plan of Existing Landscaping and

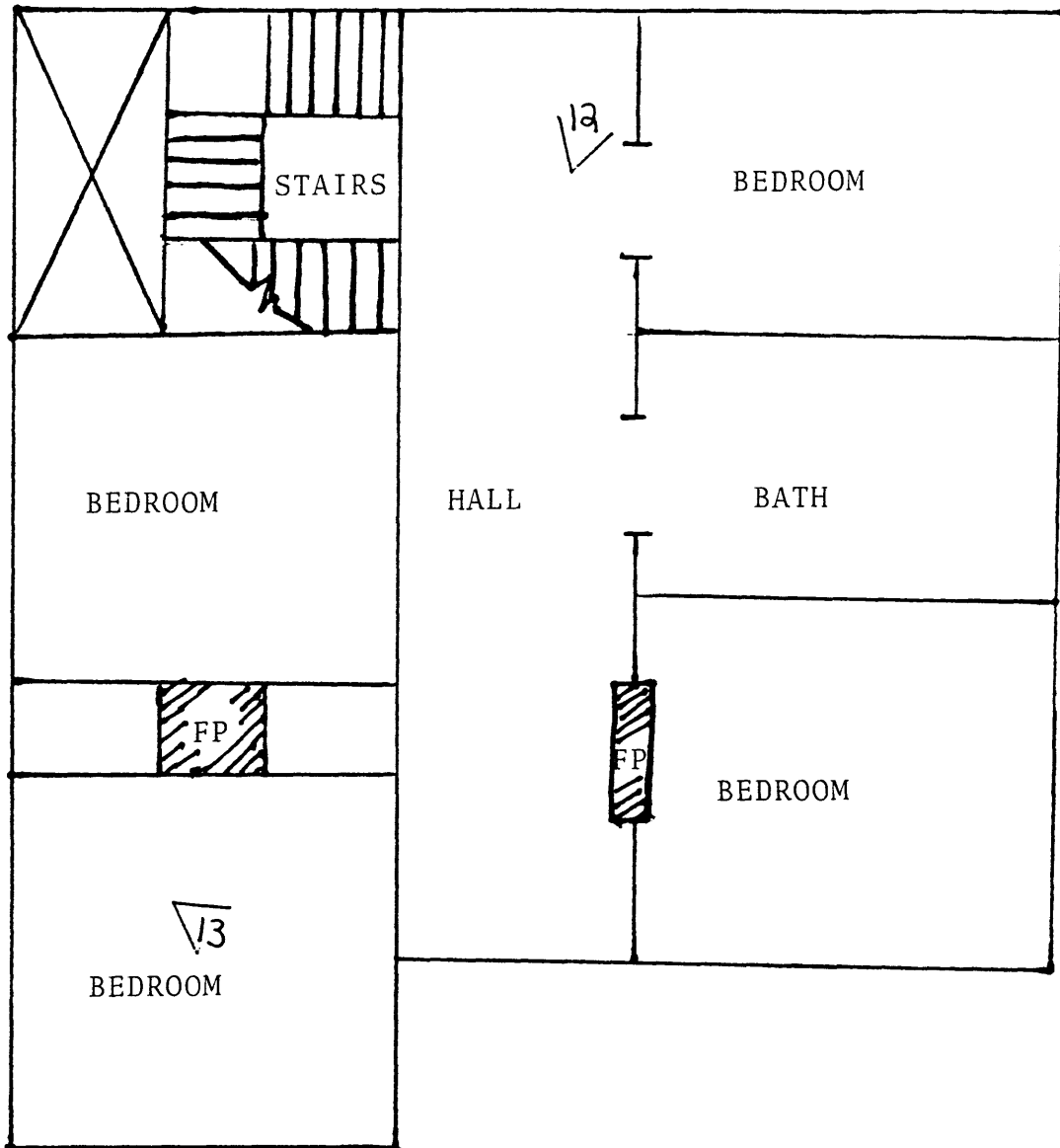
Rock Work
 RASTELLO HOUSE
 Marty Goljsmith
 5-6-97





FIRST FLOOR
(NOT TO SCALE)

Idlewilde
Indian Springs, Butts County, Georgia
First floor plan
Photographs/Direction of view: 1 >
Scale: Not drawn to scale
North: —▶



SECOND FLOOR

(NOT TO SCALE)

Idlewilde
 Indian Springs, Butts County, Georgia
 Second floor plan
 Photographs/Direction of view: 12
 Scale: Not drawn to scale
 North: 