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		NATIONAL PARK SERVICE			

RECEIVED 2280 No. 024-0018

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	Barker,	William, Whis	skey Bonding	Barn
other names/site r	number	N/A		

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PL

2. Location

street & nui	m ber 9450	Old Zebulon Road	
city, town	Molena	(X) vicinit	y of
county	Pike	code GA 231	
state	Georgia	code GA	zip code 30258

() not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

Category of Property:

(X) private

N

- () public-local
- () public-state
- () public-federal

- (X) 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

State/Federal Agency Certification 4.

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.

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

State or Federal agency or bureau

National Park Service Certification 5.

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

ben K Bosh S.R.C



Keeper of the National Register

Date

Reend	Cloven
ature of certifying	official

<u>5-26-68</u> Date

Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE: storage AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions:

RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER: barn

Materials:

foundation	STONE
walls	BRICK
roof	METAL
other	N/A

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Located in central Georgia, Pike County is a largely rural county that is rapidly experiencing commercial and residential growth. The William Barker Whiskey Bonding Barn is located in a rural, agricultural area of Pike County east of the town of Molena and approximately 14 miles southwest of Zebulon, the county seat of Pike County.

The William Barker Whiskey Bonding Barn is a c.1870 large, one-and-a-half story, brick building with a front-gable metal roof (photographs 1-3). The building is solidly built with four-course thick walls, a stone foundation, and high, small, barred windows along the side facades (photographs 6-8 and 12). The front façade has two doors, one leading into the main space and one leading to a staircase to the half-story loft, and one window opening (photograph 4). There are two window openings in the halfstory gable on the front and rear facades (photograph 4 and 5). The window shutters and doors are built of reinforced wood with rows of nails to provide additional security (photographs 9 and 10). A larger freight door is located on the west side of the building, and there is a small opening leading to the crawl space on the rear façade (photographs 20 and 13, respectively). The interior of the building is a large open space with four, large, chamfered, wood posts supporting the center beam (photographs 14-17). There is a wooden staircase leading to the second story loft space (photographs 18 and 19). The interior retains its plaster walls, which have historic graffiti written in pencil from the time when the barn was used for cotton storage (photographs 21, 22, 24, and 25). The second-story loft space is unfinished with a wood floor (photographs 23). The first floor wood floor was recently removed to stabilize the foundation and will be repaired and replaced. The surrounding area is generally agricultural fields and woods.

Section 7--Description

FULL DESCRIPTION

NOTE: The following description was prepared by Christine Curry, President, Pike Historic Preservation, Inc., and edited by Gretchen Brock, National Register Coordinator, Historic Preservation Division. "William Barker Whiskey Bonding Barn," <u>Historic Property Information Form</u>, July 27, 2006. On File at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

The William Barker Whiskey Bonding Barn is located on three acres of the property on a low rise that overlooks the Pine Mountain range to the south. The adjoining land is mostly open and used for raising cattle. The site and the viewshed retain their rural character.

The Whiskey Bonding Barn is a one-story, single-gabled rectangular masonry building that sits alone on a low rise in southwestern Pike County. It has massive, fired-brick walls punctuated by small barred rectangular windows along its length. The barn was constructed c.1870 as a storehouse for bonded whiskey.

The exterior is of fired brick with penciled brick joints. The southeast corner has separated from the walls and shows evidence of numerous attempts to resolve long-term settling issues. The foundation is of stacked rock and the roof is metal.

There are two narrow wooden doors on the north end. The left door leads up a steep set of wooden stairs to the loft. The right door with a stone sill opens into the main floor of the Barn. There is a window to the right of the second door with a wooden plank shutter. The remnants of hand-forged hinges remain on the windows and doors. A larger freight door opens to the interior on the west side of the building. On the south end, a doorway leads into a dug out cellar. The doors and large window each have an elliptical arch detail in the brick, which lack soldier courses and are simply arches of running bond that are slightly off center. Along the long east and west sides there are a series of small rectangular windows that have horizontal bars across the openings. The windows are approximately 7-8 feet above the foundation.

The large open main room of the Whiskey Bonding Barn is approximately 55 x 21feet. A large center beam runs down the middle of the ceiling and is supported by four chamfered posts. The beams are joined by hand carved wooden pegs. The walls are four courses thick and covered with a smooth, white plaster skim coat on the interior. The plaster around every doorway is embellished with ad hoc penciled lists of seed and supplies that date from 1899. At the south end, there is a small, shallow fireplace opening in the center, however there is only a suggestion of an internal flue through the south wall with no opening visible from the exterior.

The overhead loft is accessible only by an exterior door that opens to a steep wooden stairway. The main floor's entrance door is in the center of the north wall. Before the remnants of the pine flooring were removed in order to stabilize the walls, an opening for a trap door to the cellar could be seen.

Section 7--Description

This cellar is dug out approximately one-fourth of the barn area and can be accessed from a small door on the south foundation.

The Whiskey Bonding Barn sits right by a two-lane road named Old Zebulon Road. The road was formerly known as Eppinger Bridge Road until its name was changed in the mid-20th century to be included in an adjacent paving project. The building sits on a rise that overlooks a rough pasture that slopes to Georgia Highway 109 West. Beyond the highway, looking south, are fields and woods that are at the foot of low hills of the Pine Mountain range. A mature oak tree serves as the northeast boundary of the property, which is bordered by woods running to a creek that is known locally as Still Branch and is the former site of at least two liquor stills.

The Barn's surroundings are typical of rural west central Georgia and demonstrate the transition of local agriculture from vast areas of staples such as cotton, wheat, and corn to forestry and cattle. Elkins Creek runs nearby and the ruins of the dam creating the millpond for the Barker Mill can still be seen. This pastoral landscape, with the Pine Mountain range running parallel to Highway 109 is a prized asset for the people of the area. Nearby land use has followed the historic progression of agriculture and cultural history of west central Georgia. Until the post-WWII era, the land was completely cleared of vegetation to accommodate the monoculture of cotton. This continued until after the War when farming began to shift toward cattle and poultry production in the area around the barn. The landscape is now open pasture dotted with areas of hardwood and pine. The projected new use for the barn will be as an event space and gallery for the organization's photography program that focuses on the rural South. Plans call for rehabilitation of the barn without any major structural changes and the addition of a smaller, compatible outbuilding that will contain bathrooms and a catering kitchen. Every effort will be made to preserve the three acres around the barn by retaining the land in an open fashion as it has appeared for over a century.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

() nationally (X) statewide () locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

(X) A () B (X) C () D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): (X) N/A

()A ()B ()C ()D ()E ()F ()G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

ARCHITECTURE COMMERCE

Period of Significance:

c.1870-1897

Significant Dates:

c.1870—construction of the barn

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

N/A

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

William Thomas Barker (1839-1902), a farmer in Pike County, who owned Land Lot 190 and served in the 53rd Georgia Regiment during the Civil War, built the whiskey bonding barn c.1870. The barn served as a bonding barn from the time of its construction probably until the late 1800s when the 1897 Bottled-in-Bond Act established more rigorous stipulations for whiskey production. After his death in 1902, William Barker's wife Amanda owned the property, and the barn was used to store cotton during the early 20th century. The property passed through several family members until it was sold in 1951 to Jack Pilkenton, who raised turkeys on the property. In 2005, Pike Historic Preservation, Inc., purchased three acres and the barn and has plans to rehabilitate the barn as event space and photograph gallery.

The William Barker Whiskey Bonding Barn is significant in the area of <u>architecture</u> as a good, intact, and relatively rare example of a brick barn in Georgia. The barn was constructed with thick brick walls and limited access for security as well as insulation for aging and storing whiskey. The barn retains its historic exterior and interior materials, craftsmanship, and design and has changed very little since its construction in c.1870.

The William Barker Whiskey Bonding Barn is significant in the area of <u>commerce</u> for its association with the production and sale of whiskey in Pike County. The development of whiskey production in America is more famously connected to Kentucky where corn whiskey (bourbon) as opposed to rye whiskey became the preferred and uniquely American spirit, however whiskey was produced locally throughout the states including Georgia. The production of whiskey made from corn spread throughout the states because corn was easily grown, grows rapidly, and requires minimal acreage for the amount of grain produced as opposed to rye. During the 1770s, whiskey (bourbon) production began to be refined into the process that is still used today in which whiskey made from corn is stored and aged in new, charred, oak barrels. In 1791, the first U.S. federal tax on the production of spirits was enacted. In 1862, a permanent federal excise tax was placed on liquor to pay for the federal governments costs during the Civil War, and the amount of tax collected was one-quarter of the government revenue. By 1870, liquor taxes were one-half of the federal government's revenue.

In 1868 as a result of heavy campaigning by large whiskey distillers, bonding barns or warehouses for the storage of whiskey were established by Congress across the whiskey-producing region in order to delay the payment of the federal excise tax while the whiskey was aging (up to four years). Small distillers and farmers made sour-mash whiskey out of corn and sent the whiskey to a bonded warehouse for aging. The whiskey was stored in charred oak barrels until it was ready for sale at which time the federal taxes were paid. An 1898-1899 Georgia *Gazetteer* lists at least five distilleries in Pike County and the William Barker Whiskey Bonding Barn most likely served as the local bonding warehouse for the county.

Until the end of the 1800s, whiskey was generally delivered and sold in 55-gallon barrels. In many cases, unscrupulous salesmen would alter or "cut" the whiskey with grain alcohol, unaged whiskey, colored or flavored liquids, and various other items to make higher profits. This led to the large distilleries in Kentucky calling on Congress to pass legislation to insure the quality and authenticity of

Section 8--Statement of Significance

bourbon. In 1897, the U.S. Congress passed the Bottled-in-Bond Act that required straight whiskey to be stored in government supervised warehouses for a period of at least four years after which the government would certify with a seal or stamp that the straight whiskey was bottled at 100 proof, was distilled during one season, and would verify the number of years the whiskey was aged. Local bonding warehouses or barns were essentially obsolete with the passage of the Bottled-in-Bond Act, and the William Barker Whiskey Bonding Barn was later used for agricultural storage.

National Register Criteria

The William Barker Whiskey Bonding Barn meets National Register Criterion A for its association with the production and sale of whiskey in Pike County. The bonding barn meets National Register Criterion C as an excellent, intact, and relatively rare example of a late 19th-century brick barn in Georgia.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the construction of the barn c.1870 and ends in 1897 when the barn no longer served as a bonding barn.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The barn is the only contributing building.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

NOTE: The following developmental history was prepared by Christine Curry, President, Pike Historic Preservation, Inc., "William Barker Whiskey Bonding Barn," <u>Historic Property</u> <u>Information Form</u>, July 14, 2006. On File at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

The first owner of the property was Pitt Milner, who obtained Land Lot 190 in the land lottery of 1821 (Monroe County, Ninth District, Section 190). The land lot passed to Milner's son who then sold the property to J.C. Holmes. Thomas Barker purchased the property in 1859. Thomas Barker was a prosperous farmer who came to the area from South Carolina in the 1820s. Barker amassed extensive land holdings along the Flint River and the Mt. Olive community on Elkin Creek. Thomas Barker died soon after the purchase of the land and the property was purchased by his son, William Thomas Barker, in an estate sale that liquidated all of his father's lands and possessions. A record of the inventory of Thomas Barker lists the names of sixteen slaves, some of who most likely labored on his extensive land holdings.

Section 8--Statement of Significance

William Barker farmed the property and he also served in the 53rd Georgia Regiment Company H that was organized in June 1862. Three of his brothers also served in other regiments. In his father's estate sale, he also purchased several African-American slaves and it is probable that the land was farmed using their labor until the Civil War.

William Barker owned the property until his death in 1902. The whiskey bonding program began in 1868, thus it is believed that he built the barn on the property c.1870 (Pike County History Book, 1989, Barker family history, p. 345). At the time of his death in 1902, the land passed to his wife Amanda (William Thomas Barker will).

The barn has always been known locally as the Whiskey Bonding Barn and older members of the community report that their fathers purchased whiskey at the barn and/or mentioned storage and distilling functions there in the late 1890s and early 1900s.¹ The building's massive walls speak to its function of providing enough thermal mass to keep the interior temperature regulated for the storage of whiskey. The placement of barred windows high on the walls and limited access to the main floor imply security arrangements for this valuable product. The 1898-99 *Gazetteer and Directory of Georgia* lists at least five distilleries in Pike County and it is probable that this building served as the local bonding warehouse. Whiskey could be stored in the warehouse for a fee for up to four years without having to pay federal excise taxes until it was aged and ready for purchase. The precise dates of the barn serving as a bonding warehouse are unknown but it is reasonable to assume that bonding operations ceased with the 1897 Bottled-in-Bond Act, which was superceded by more rigorous stipulations for the production of whiskey.

By the early 20th century, the temperance movement was in full swing in the region and began to impact the availability of legal spirits. This was an era when illegal stills proliferated in the area (several whiskey still sites are known to exist along Still Branch near the property). A rise in cotton prices in the early 20th century ushered in a new use for the barn when it served as a furnish store (1899 to the1930s) for nearby sharecroppers who were growing cotton on land immediately adjacent to the barn. The penciled lists of supplies on the plaster walls are still intact in the barn and list accounts carrying the names of many current residents whose grandfathers were sharecroppers.

The land was managed by General D. Dominick (stepson of William T. Barker) and later, his son-inlaw "Colonel" Carl Johnson, Jr. General D. Dominick was a prominent lawyer in Zebulon, the county seat of Pike County, and was serving in the Georgia state senate at the time of his death in 1931. Carl Johnson, Jr., was also a lawyer in Zebulon, served in the state legislature, and was the mayor of Zebulon.

Pike County was one of the longest-lasting cotton producers in the Lower Piedmont and the barn served as a temporary cotton warehouse when the small gins in Molena, Concord, and Zebulon were running at capacity. The area persisted in cotton production due to the superior rail accessibility and a huge infrastructure of gins, mercantile stores, and large landowners (most notably R.F. Strickland in nearby Concord who sharecropped over 20,000 acres and owned a mercantile store, gin, several

<u>1 Interviews with Homer and Elna Capel, John Thomas Pilkenton, William Lawrence, and Lo Parks.</u> Barker, William, Whiskey Bonding Barn, Pike County, Georgia

Section 8--Statement of Significance

cotton warehouses, and a fertilizer business).

In the early 1940s, a tornado demolished the nearby African-American Mt. Olive Church School and the school was housed in the barn for a year until a new building could be finished (oral history from a former student, Lo Parks, of Molena). The New Deal did not appreciably impact the large number of African-American sharecroppers in Pike County. The county did begin getting electricity during this period. Since the barn functioned as a storage facility, it never was wired for electricity.

The loss of a low-cost labor force after World War II coincided with the introduction of mechanized equipment for the cultivation of crops. Beef cattle and poultry were introduced around this time and ushered in a new use for the property. In 1951, the barn and the surrounding land were purchased by Jack Pilkenton who raised turkeys. He constructed several turkey houses below the barn and used the building for storing seed, feed, and equipment. The turkey houses directly to the south of the barn appear in the 1986 plat map, but by 1989, they were dismantled along with two others directly across the road on the west side. After Jack Pilkenton's death in 1981, his son, Jack William (Bill) Pilkenton, Jr., purchased the tract of land including the barn from the estate. Bill Pilkenton continued to raise turkeys until 1991 when he closed the business. The turkey business in Pike County, once known as the "Turkey Capital of the U.S.", gradually faded as large agribusiness firms consolidated the industry. During the Pilkenton era, the main floor of the whiskey bonding barn was used to store equipment and the upper floor was used to dry grain that was produced on the farm for turkey feed. The land around the barn became rough pasture that was used to graze cattle on an intermittent basis.

The barn was empty until Pike Historic Preservation purchased it in 2005. Pike Historic Preservation is in the process of rehabilitating the barn for use as an events space and gallery for the organization's photography program that supports the history and cultural heritage of the rural South.

9. Major Bibliographic References

- Cowdery, Charles. "All-American Bourbon." Accessed via Internet on December 7, 2006. http://home.netcom.com/~cowdery/page2.html
- Curry, Christine. "William Barker Whiskey Bonding Barn," *Historic Property Information Form*, July 27, 2006. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

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:

- (X) State historic preservation office
- () Other State Agency
- () Federal agency
- () Local government
- () University
- () Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3.06 acres.

UTM References

Zone 16 Easting 736282 Northing 3654750

Verbal Boundary Description

The National Register boundary is indicated on the attached tax map drawn to scale with a heavy, black line. It is the legal parcel of land currently associated with the building.

Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary is the land historically associated with the William Barker Whiskey Bonding Barn and its historic setting.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Gretchen A. Brock/National Register Coordinator
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
mailing address 34 Peachtree Street, Suite 1600
city or town Atlanta state Georgia zip code 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 date February 29, 2008
e-mail gretchen.brock@dnr.state.ga.us

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

name/title Christine Curry, President organization Pike Historic Preservation, Inc. mailing address PO Box 489 city or town Zebulon state Georgia zip code 30295 telephone (770) 567-3600 e-mail

(X) property owner

- () consultant
- () regional development center preservation planner
- () other:

Property Owner or Contact Information

name (property owner or contact person) Christine Curry, President organization (if applicable) Pike Historic Preservation, Inc. mailing address PO Box 489 city or town Zebulon state Georgia zip code 30295 e-mail (optional) N/A

Photographs

Name of Property: City or Vicinity:	William Barker Whiskey Bonding Barn Molena vicinity
County:	Pike
State:	Georgia
Photographer:	James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed:	Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed:	October 2006

Description of Photograph(s):

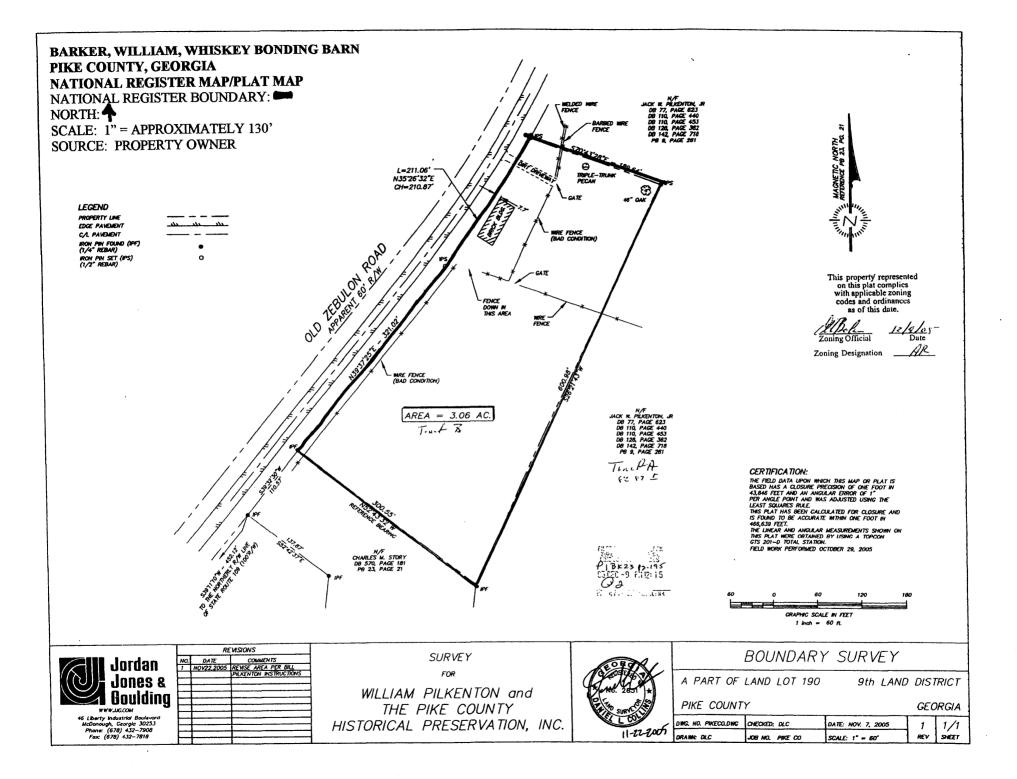
Number of photographs: 27

- 1. Front (north) and west facades; photographer facing south.
- 2. Front (north) and east facades; photographer facing southwest.
- 3. Front (north) and east facades; photographer facing southwest.
- 4. Front (north) façade; photographer facing southwest.
- 5. Rear (south) façade; photographer facing northeast.
- 6. Rear and east facades; photographer facing north.
- 7. Rear and east facades; photographer facing north.
- 8. East façade; photographer facing west.
- 9. Detail, front façade window; photographer facing south.
- 10. Detail, front façade window; photographer facing south.
- 11. Detail, west façade window; photographer facing east.
- 12. Detail, ventilation window, west façade; photographer facing east.
- 13. Detail, crawl space entrance, rear (south) façade; photographer facing northwest.
- 14. Interior; photographer facing southwest.
- 15. Interior; photographer facing north.
- 16. Interior, detail of rear wall; photographer facing southwest.

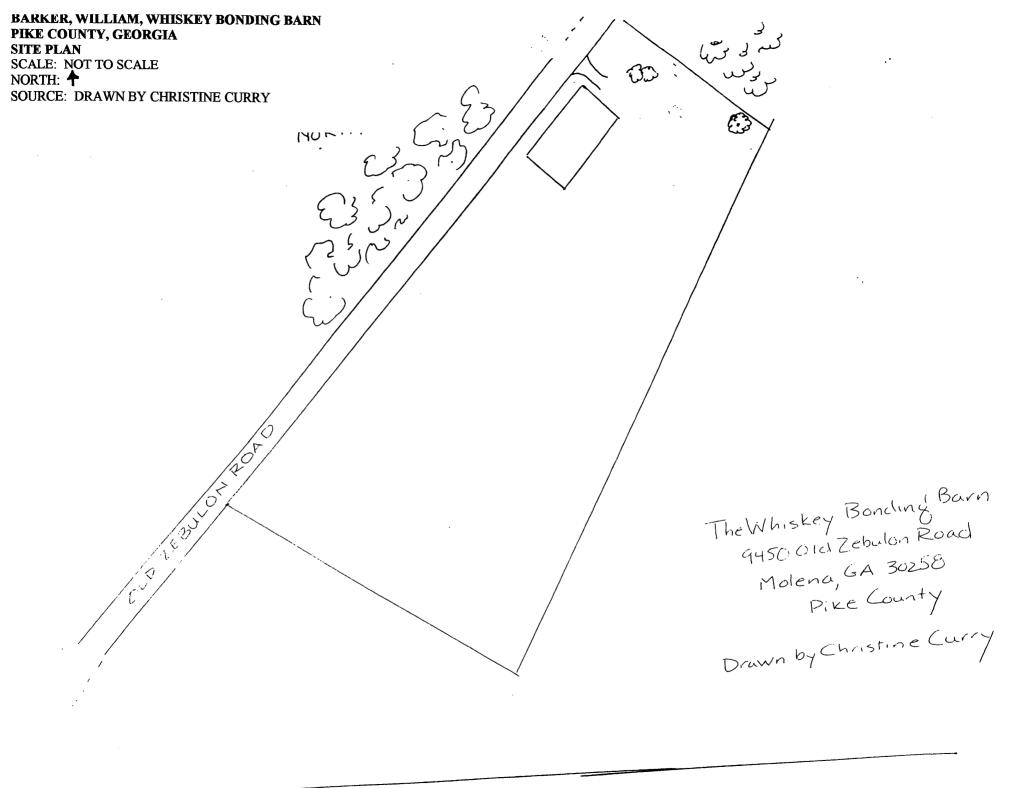
Photographs

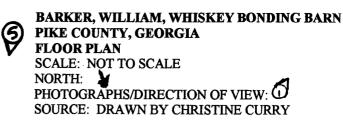
- 17. Interior, detail of ceiling beam; photographer facing southwest.
- 18. Interior, staircase; photographer facing south.
- 19. Interior, staircase; photographer facing northeast.
- 20. Interior, detail of window; photographer facing southeast.
- 21. Interior, detail of wall; photographer facing east.
- 22. Interior, detail of wall; photographer facing east.
- 23. Interior, detail of wall; photographer facing east.
- 24. Interior, detail of wall; photographer facing east.
- 25. Interior, detail of wall; photographer facing east.
- 26. Interior, second floor; photographer facing east.
- 27. Interior, second floor; photographer facing south.

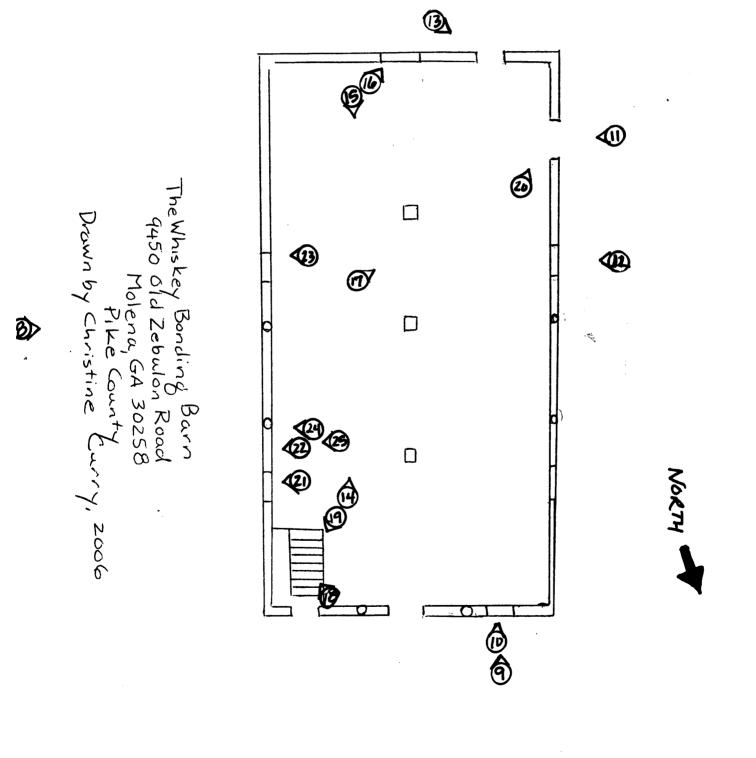
(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)



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