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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 Brick Store
other names/site number N/A

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

2. Location

street & number U.S. Highway 278 at Little River Road/ Social Circle Road
city, town Covington (X) vicinity of
county Newton code GA 217
state Georgia code GA zip code 30025

() not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property:

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

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	1
objects	1	0
total	2	1

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

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 Luce

11-24-08

Signature of certifying official

Date

W. Ray Luce

Historic Preservation Division Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

for

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

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

Edson H. Beall 4.9.09

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store

GOVERNMENT: post office

GOVERNMENT: courthouse

RECREATION AND CULTURE: monument/marker

SOCIAL: meeting hall

Current Functions:

RECREATION AND CULTURE: monument/marker

SOCIAL: clubhouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

NO STYLE

Materials:**foundation** STONE**walls** BRICK**roof** WOOD: Shingle**other** N/A**Description of present and historic physical appearance:**

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Brick Store is an excellent and rare example of an early 19th-century country store in Georgia. It is located in northeast central Georgia at the intersection of Little River Road/ Social Circle Road and U.S. Highway 278, about seven miles east of Covington and five miles south of Social Circle in Newton County.

EXTERIOR

The Brick Store is a one-and-a-half-story rectangular building with load-bearing red brick walls, a fieldstone foundation, and a gabled front. The store was built in 1821. The building is 24-feet wide and 36-feet long. The red brick was set using an American bond pattern. The building's façade has a double-door entryway centered by two window bays. The front gable has a single window. The gable is clad with weatherboard. The sides of the building are solid brick with no windows. The rear pediment has two double-hung windows. The building has an accessible crawlspace with an entry door located on the front. There are two small bronze plaques on the front of the building. The oldest was installed by the Newton County Historical Society in 1975 as part of that organization's commemoration of the upcoming American bicentennial. The same body installed a second plaque in 1990. This plaque identifies the store as the temporary site of the first courthouse in Newton County (Photographs 1-14, 25, 26).

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

INTERIOR

The Brick Store has retained its historic floor plan. The building's first floor is a large, open rectangular space. A fireplace is located along the western wall of the first floor. Stairs located on the northwest corner of the floor lead to the building's half-story. The half-story is a large, open rectangular space with a fireplace located along the western wall. The building underwent a significant renovation in 1973 when roof, plaster walls, flooring, windows, doors, shutters, and front and rear stoops were replaced. An interior plank wall was added to the half-story during the 1980s (Photographs 15-24).

LANDSCAPE

The Brick Store is located on a narrow lot directly adjacent to State Highway 278. The front of the store is less than 20 feet from the highway. The Brick Store property contains a contributing object. The Sergeant Newton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) erected a medium-sized granite monument with an iron faceplate on the Brick Store property in 1933. The monument recognizes the historic significance of the Brick Store community as an important part of the early history of Newton County. The property also contains a noncontributing well house (Photographs 27, 28).

The property is located in a historically rural area now undergoing suburban residential development. The rapidly growing county seat, Covington, is approximately seven miles to the west. Atlanta is located approximately 40 miles to the west. Interstate Highway 20 is located one mile to the north of the Brick Store.

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
COMMERCE
EXPLORATION/ SETTLEMENT
SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance:

1821-1935

Significant Dates:

1821—Brick Store was constructed by Solomon Graves.

1879—Brick Store Lodge Number 479 of the Independent Order of Good Templars holds meetings at the Brick Store for the next five years.

1933—Sergeant Newton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution erect monument on the Brick Store property.

1935—The mercantile business at the Brick Store closed.

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Brick Store is a 19th-century store built by Solomon Graves for Martin Kolb. Both men were among the earliest white settlers in Newton County. The store is located in Newton County, Georgia, approximately seven miles east of the county seat of Covington. It was built in 1821. The store remained in operation from 1821 until 1935. Today, the Newton County Historical Society owns and manages the property. The Brick Store meets National Register Criteria "A" and "C" at the state level of significance in the areas of architecture and exploration/settlement because the building is an exceptional and rare example of an antebellum-era store located along a major transportation route that contributed to the settlement of west Georgia and the Deep South. The Brick Store meets National Register Criterion "A" at the local level of significance in the area of commerce because the building is an excellent example of a general goods store that operated from 1821 to 1935 during several periods of substantial change in the rural merchandising business. The store is also significant at the local level of significance in the area of social history because of the building's association with the Independent Order of Good Templars (I.O.G.T.), Brick Store Lodge Number 479—a 19th-century fraternal order that advocated prohibition.

The Brick Store is significant statewide in the area of architecture because the building is an exceptional and rare example of an antebellum-period store. This one-and-a-half-story, rectangular, red brick store has maintained its historic form, floor plan, and exterior building materials. As documented in Georgia's Natural, Archeological, and Historic Resources GIS (NAHRGIS) survey, there are only four extant general stores in the state whose date of construction predates the Brick Store. As a collection of buildings, general stores represent less than one percent of Georgia's surveyed historic properties to date.

The Brick Store is significant statewide in the area of exploration/settlement because of the store's prominent location along a series of historic roads used by migrants who settled portions of west Georgia and the Deep South during the antebellum period. The store was located along a stagecoach route that ran from Charleston, South Carolina, to New Orleans, Louisiana, and another road that connected Ruckersville, South Carolina, to Milledgeville, Georgia—the state capital from 1804 to 1868. During the antebellum period, tens of thousands of settlers traveled along the stagecoach route in Newton County making their way toward west Georgia, Alabama, and beyond. The opening of new lands made possible by the removal of eastern Native American tribes (Creek, Cherokee, and Choctaw) attracted migrants from the coastal United States. Economic conditions in coastal Virginia and throughout South Carolina resulting from declining agricultural yields and fluctuations in international commodity prices pushed farmers into relocating to parts west of the Appalachian Mountains.¹

Roadside stores, such as the Brick Store, made significant contributions to the settling of the Deep South. A store's principal purpose was commercial. Travelers needed a variety of items ranging

¹ The phrase "best poor man's country" refers to the availability of relatively inexpensive (or free) land in the Deep South during the early antebellum period. Such conditions enabled poor whites—defined as non-landholders—to move into the yeoman—landholder—class. Historians disagree about whether the Deep South provided an environment where upward social mobility was either possible or egalitarian in nature.

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

from foodstuffs to cookware. The Brick Store also served as a place of rest for weary travelers. Settlers socialized with merchants and clerks as well as other travelers. Stores were an important point of exchange for ideas as travelers swapped stories about their destination.

In Newton County, the Brick Store was part of a larger rural community known as Winton, but referred to locally as the Brick Store Community. According to local historian William Bailey Williford, "the first session of Newton County Superior Court was convened at the Brick Store on 15 April 1822." Later that same year, the hamlet of Newtonsboro (later renamed Covington) was chosen as the county seat and bids were submitted for the construction of a courthouse and courthouse square. The rise of the city of Covington hampered Winton's development. The Brick Store remained Winton's most visible community landmark building throughout the 19th and 20th centuries. During the antebellum period, the Brick Store Community included a number of family farms, an inn, school, and church. The store was a community-gathering place where local men socialized with one another. Political speeches and debates were held at the store as well as a number of ordinary court sessions. The store also served as the post office from 1851 until 1866, then later from 1887 to 1906. During the 1850s and 1860s, a thriving carriage industry existed at the Brick Store.

The Brick Store is significant locally in the area of commerce because the building housed a mercantile between 1821 and 1935 and thus embodies the evolving operation of such enterprises during that period. The store evolved through at least two distinctive periods of development. During the antebellum period, this store was a waypoint for migrants and early white settlers who purchased supplies and used the building as a social gathering place and campsite. Frontier merchants maintained contact with distant wholesalers as well as with local suppliers. They always walked a fine line between overstocking their inventory and running out of critical goods due to the period's underdeveloped transportation networks. This balancing act often led to severe fluctuations in prices as well as credit problems for merchants seeking goods from distant mercantile wholesalers. Merchants needed cash to purchase supplies from wholesalers, but the limited cash resources of their customers fostered a mixed barter/cash trade that often left the storeowner cash poor and unable to restock their inventory. Merchants, like other professionals during the period, satisfied their cash needs by maintaining dual occupations. Only a handful of professionals during the 19th century devoted their entire efforts toward a single occupation. Peter P. Knox, who owned the Brick Store between 1861 and 1882, for example, identified farming as his principal source of income when questioned by the federal census enumerator in 1870 and 1880. Knox also earned income working as a shoemaker and tanner. Most merchants maintained a farm that produced a cash crop that could be sold or traded for merchandise that could then be sold in their store.²

Southern stores had a profound effect upon a community's development and filled large geographic holes created by the region's paucity of cities. The Brick Store was a portal for local residents to purchase goods from distant markets such as Savannah, Georgia, and Charleston, South Carolina, that otherwise would have been practically unavailable. The store maintained important cultural and economic connections between the frontier and more established areas of settlement.³

² Lewis E. Atherton, *The Pioneer Merchant in Mid-America* (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1937).

³ Lewis E. Atherton, *The Southern Country Store, 1800-1860* (Baton Rouge: LSU Press, 1949).

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

The role of the "country store" changed following the American Civil War. Thomas Clark's *Pills, Petticoats, and Plows: The Southern Country Store*, published in 1944, portrays the typical postbellum merchant as a businessman caught amidst radical changes in the regional economy. Clark argues that "because of conditions that increased the friction of distance, the importance of country trade increased during this period . . . and this trade continued to be a viable component of retailing and service activity in many Southern areas into the first half of the twentieth century."⁴ In Newton County, the number of tenant farmers increased sharply following the Civil War. As the overall percentage of landowners in the county declined, the need for the development of new economic practices and credit lending institutions increased. These demands sparked the creation of the crop lien system that ultimately transformed the country store from a mercantile focused business into the region's major credit lending institution. Tenant farmers needed goods and supplies such as flour, seed, and fertilizer that could only be purchased through local merchants. Most tenant farmers lacked enough cash to pay for these essential items at the point of purchase. In exchange for these goods, merchants extended credit to local farmers. The only collateral tenant farmers had available was their next crop. Merchants placed an interest-heavy lien on a farmer's future crop during most transactions. Unfortunately, few tenant farmers could ever repay their debts due to poor agricultural yields and high rental fees charged by local landowners. Consequently, merchants frequently rolled a farmer's previous debt into future liens in exchange for additional goods. Most merchants profited regardless of whether or not farmers repaid their original debts. The crop-lien system allowed local merchants to monopolize their area's cotton crop. Merchants often stored cotton in warehouses or temporary shelters waiting for the price to reach its peak. Unlike farmers, most merchants had enough cash available on hand that they did not have to sell their cotton as soon as it was harvested. This provided merchants with a distinct advantage.⁵

Merchants faced financial ruin when their cash reserves dwindled to such a point that they could no longer pay wholesalers. Some merchants became deeply burdened by debts accumulated from their transactions with wholesalers (who charged excessive interest and late payment fees for goods delivered to country stores on credit). Merchants tried to pass those costs along to their consumers, but cash-poor farmers lacked enough fluid capital to satisfy their external debts. The postbellum economy devolved into a cycle of debt and peonage that at times reaped huge rewards for merchants, but more commonly precipitated the collapse of their business. In *The Souls of Black Folks*, historian W.E.B. Du Bois aptly described the condition of Georgia's merchant economy: "A pall of debt hangs over the beautiful land; the merchants are in debt to the wholesalers, the planters are in debt to the merchants, the tenants owe the planters, and laborers bow and bend beneath the burden of it all."⁶ The Brick Store represents a rural store that operated in a cash-poor environment that began operations in 1821 and remained in business until the depths of the Great Depression in 1935.

The Brick Store is significant locally in the area of social history because the store served as the

⁴ Thomas D. Clark, *Pills, Petticoats, and Plows: The Southern Country Store* (New York: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1944), 50.

⁵ Harold D. Woodman, *King Cotton and His Retainers: Financing and Marketing the Cotton Crop of the South, 1800-1925*, 2d. ed. (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1990). Woodman provides a detailed account of the risks and inequalities experienced by farmers and merchants caused by the region's distinctive cash crop economy.

⁶ W.E.B. Du Bois, *The Souls of Black Folks: Essays and Sketches*, 3d. (Chicago: McClurg and Company, 1903), 126.

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meeting hall for the Independent Order of Good Templars (I.O.G.T.), Brick Store Lodge Number 479, between 1879 and 1884. The I.O.G.T. was initially formed as the British Association for the Promotion of Temperance in 1835 by Joseph Livesey. The organization's development followed the decision of Livesey and seven co-workers to refrain from drinking alcohol. Their action was one of the beginning events in the history of the Temperance Movement. The first I.O.G.T. chapter was formed in Utica, New York, in 1851.

Three decades prior to the I.O.G.T.'s first appearance in the United States, an organized Temperance Movement began in Georgia. From the late 1820s through the 1930s temperance reformers had a major effect upon the state's political parties and directly influenced public policy decisions. Reformers were typically evangelical Protestants who regarded the consumption of alcoholic beverages as unhealthy and sinful. According to historian David M. Fahey:

In 1867, James G. Thrower, a British immigrant, introduced the Order of Good Templars to Georgia, assembling the first state lodge in Atlanta in 1869. Unlike most fraternal societies, the Good Templars admitted both men and women and let local affiliates decide about African Americans.⁷

The I.O.G.T. had over 30,000 pledged members in the state of Georgia during the 1870s. The state chapter briefly published a newspaper *The Temperance Watchman*. The organization's state leader was Colonel William E. H. Searcy of Griffin. The group's roster included some of the state's prominent business leaders. The I.O.G.T.'s membership grew following a period of great uncertainty among some citizens about the state's future. Cultural issues such as temperance gained attention during the late 19th century as reformers constructed new statewide political coalitions. The I.O.G.T. also grew during a period when illegal distillers in the north Georgia mountains were battling federal revenueurs during the throes of the Moonshine Wars. The violence associated with that war led many to support temperance crusades as a means of cleansing the state's image. By the late 1880s, most chapters in the state had disbanded as organizations such as the Women's Christian Temperance Union emerged.⁸

Peter P. Knox, owner of the Brick Store between 1861 and 1882, was a central figure in the Newton County I.O.G.T. chapter. Knox, like many I.O.G.T. leaders in America, was born in western New York during a period when that region was being transformed by changes associated with the Second Great Awakening. As the owner of a store, Knox came into constant contact with alcoholic beverages and alcoholics. Stores were a key point of exchange for alcohol suppliers and consumers. While Knox may not have sold alcohol at his store, the central location of the business made it an ideal location for more clandestine transactions. Merchants were often frustrated by the poor behavior of drunken customers. A merchant's daily routine often included breaking up fights among drunks. Knox's support for the Temperance Movement likely had much to do with his experiences as a storeowner.

⁷ David M. Fahey, "Temperance Movement," *New Georgia Encyclopedia*, <http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/nge/Article.jsp?id=h-828> (site accessed on July 28, 2008).

⁸ Lucian Lamar Knight, *A Standard History of Georgia and Georgians*, Vol. 4 (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1917).
Brick Store, Newton County, Georgia

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National Register Criteria

The Brick Store meets National Register Criterion "A" at the state level of significance in the area of exploration/settlement because the building housed an antebellum-era mercantile that was located along a series of historic roads used by migrants who settled portions of west Georgia and the Deep South.

The Brick Store meets National Register Criterion "A" at the local level of significance in the areas of commerce and social history because the building housed a general goods store that operated from 1821 until 1935 during a period of great change in the nature of the rural mercantile business. The Independent Order of Good Templars (I.O.G.T.), Brick Store Lodge Number 479—a 19th-century fraternal order devoted to prohibiting the sale and manufacture of alcohol—held meetings here between 1879 and 1884.

The Brick Store meets National Register Criterion "C" at the state level of significance in the area of architecture because the building is an exceptional and rare example of an antebellum store.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins with the date of construction in 1821 and ends with the cessation of commercial activities on the property in 1935.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

Brick Store—Contributing Building
Brick Store Community Monument—Contributing Object
Well—Noncontributing Structure

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

On May 25, 1821, Martin Kolb, one of the first white settlers in what would become Newton County, purchased 250 acres of land—located in Land Lot # 161 of the 1st District—from William Ebby Deaton, Sr. who had drawn title for that property during the 1820 Land Lottery. Like many land lottery drawers, Deaton, who lived in Hall County, Georgia, never relocated and quickly resold his newly acquired land. Kolb paid \$200 for the property. The plot of land was then part of Walton County. One year following the 1820 Land Lottery, the state of Georgia created Newton County from portions of Walton, Henry, and Jasper counties.

Martin Kolb was born on May 6, 1787, in east Georgia. He was the oldest of Peter Kolb and Theney Gates' nine children. Martin Kolb was named after his paternal grandfather who during the mid-18th

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century migrated from Shippack, Pennsylvania, to Craven County, South Carolina. Martin Kolb's paternal great-grandfather, Johannes Kolb (b.1683-d.1759), migrated from his birthplace in Wolfsheim, Germany, to Pennsylvania and then to the Pee Dee River area in South Carolina. Peter Kolb (b.1763-d.1835) served as a teenager in the South Carolina militia alongside several brothers during the American Revolution under the command of Abel Kolb and General Francis Marion (a.k.a. The Swamp Fox). Peter Kolb drew Land Lot #265 in District Seven in Jones County, Georgia, in 1827. His Revolutionary War service made him eligible for that land lottery.

Martin Kolb lived in Jackson and Hall counties prior to moving to Newton County. Kolb also worked as an agent who handled land sales for large landholders. The *Milledgeville Reflector* published an advertisement on January 20, 1818, for Law. F. Baldwin of Monticello, Georgia. Baldwin "has land for sale" and advised prospective buyers to contact "Martin Kolb or John Boyle, Esqs of Jackson County" to negotiate a sale.⁹

Martin Kolb likely moved to Newton County with other family members. Inferior court records also refer to a Captain Wilds Kolb during several 1822 sessions.¹⁰ Wilds Kolb was born c.1803 in Georgia. The Newton County Inferior Court appointed Wilds Kolb, John Stocks, Thomas Jones, and Solomon Graves, Sr. "commissioners on all public roads that is laid out and that may be laid out through Capt. Wilds Kolb's district" in 1822. Captain Kolb was assigned the additional task of appointing local overseers who would supervise future road construction and maintenance projects in their respective districts. Wilds Kolb moved to neighboring Morgan County sometime during the 1830s. He and his wife, Nancy, purchased a house in Madison at 375 Academy Street in 1854.¹¹ As documented in the 1850 census, Kolb was an affluent farmer who owned \$18,000 worth of real estate and over 100 slaves.

Martin Kolb held several appointed and elected positions in Newton County. He supervised road construction for the county during the 1820s. Between 1824 and 1828, Kolb served as a state representative and represented the county in 1831 during the Georgia Improvement Convention. Martin associated with many of the state's leaders. Alston Greene, an affluent land speculator and farmer, recommended Kolb to Governor George R. Gilmer in 1831 to be selected as a state agent to rent state-owned lands along the Chattahoochee River. Like Greene, Kolb engaged in land speculation. Kolb married Susan T. Butt of Warren County on November 25, 1821. Susan was born on April 17, 1802, and was the daughter of affluent planter class members William Butt and Clara Mathews. Martin and Susan Kolb had four children. She died on November 30, 1831.

Martin Kolb likely hired Solomon Graves in 1821 to build a brick store. Newton County Inferior Court records for 1822 mention the Brick Store (a.k.a. Kolb's Store). The court:

ordered that John Stock, Matthew Lyle, and John Hodnetta be appointed . . . [to

⁹ *Milledgeville Reflector*, January 20, 1818, [Microfilm], Georgia Archives, Morrow.

¹⁰ *Inferior Court Minutes, County Purposes, 1822-1837, Newton County, Georgia, March 1822 Court Session, Newton County, Clerk of Court, Covington, Georgia.*

¹¹ The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, *Newton County, Georgia, Teacher's Heritage Resource Guide, Volume 2* (Washington: US Department of the Interior, NPS, 1996), 9-11.

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

survey the] best way to cross the Alcova River between Stocks and [illegible] and intersect the Shoal road from Kolbs and Whatleys and have the shoal road from Kolbs Store past W. Whatleys.

Solomon Graves was born on April 29, 1766, in Caswell County, North Carolina. He served in the North Carolina House of Commons in 1795 and 1797. Graves moved to Newton County c.1819. He married Frances Byrd Lewis of Virginia and the couple had seven children. Shortly after arriving in Georgia, Graves built a large plantation house named Mount Pleasant. Graves owned at least 69 slaves and was one of the wealthiest men in the county. Graves recorded a will in the Newton County Courthouse on November 1, 1830, that divided his estate between his wife, Joanna Graves, and their eight children. Graves died in October of 1830. He was buried in the family cemetery located at Mount Pleasant. The sole reference to Graves' part in constructing the Brick Store was included in William Bailey Williford's *The Glory of Covington*. Williford provided no reference to his source. The author also suggests the unlikely possibility that Graves built the store using bricks imported from England. Whether Graves built the store remains uncertain.¹²

Martin Kolb did not remain in Newton County long after the Brick Store's construction. Kolb sold the store and adjoining property to James E. Todd of Lincoln County, Georgia, on December 25, 1826. Kolb had relocated westward to Campbell County by 1830 where he started a plantation along the eastern bank of the Chattahoochee River. Kolb owned at least 51 slaves in 1850. Martin Kolb died in Atlanta on April 10, 1857. He was buried alongside his wife in the Kolb-Aderhold Cemetery in present-day Fulton County, across from the mouth of Sweetwater Creek at the Chattahoochee River.¹³

The Brick Store was located along a series of historic roads. Based on map overlays, including Marion Hemperley's "Early Roads and Trails," the store appears to have been situated along an extension of the Upper Road from Virginia that extended across the Carolinas. This road was also known as the Carolina Road and Rogue's Road. Portions of Georgia Highway 11 are aligned with this historic road. As the railroad expanded in the 1830s, stagecoach routes were established for passenger travel and mail delivery. Post coaches delivered mail from towns served by the railroad to local post offices. The Brick Store also served as a stagecoach stop for coaches traveling between Charleston, South Carolina, and New Orleans, Louisiana, and between Ruckersville, South Carolina, and Milledgeville, Georgia. Portions of State Highway 278 are aligned with this historic stagecoach road. The stagecoach road ran east to west. Such roads were conduits for westward settlement.

An economic recession struck parts of the coastal South, during the 1820s and 1830s, caused by declining agricultural yields and fluctuations in international commodity prices. Antebellum agriculture required a constant supply of fresh arable land in order to sustain the crop yields necessary for the region to control a significant portion of the world's staple crop market. While fertilizers and scientific farming techniques were being introduced during the period, falling yields and prices led many farmers—rich and poor—searching for new land and opportunities elsewhere. These demands

¹² William Bailey Williford, *The Glory of Covington* (Atlanta: Cherokee Publishing Company, 1973), 2.

¹³ *They Were Here, Volume 2* (Georgia: Privately Published, 1966). The Georgia Archives in Morrow has a copy of this book.

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

occurred during a period when state and federal governments were placing additional demands upon the Deep South's remaining Native American population. As Native American tribes such as the Creek and Cherokee were removed by force to the west, white settlers poured into those surrendered lands eager to start new farms and communities.¹⁴

The Brick Store, as part of a larger frontier community known as Winton, represented two distinct phases in white settlement. First, the store and its adjoining roads served as a conduit that facilitated the accelerated pace of white settlement. Hundreds of similar stores existed throughout Georgia along further points westward. This group provided a critical network of support that settlers depended upon. Stores provided much needed supplies as well as opportunities for social interaction among weary travelers.

While the Brick Store assisted the pace of white settlement in the Deep South, the store also represented a central community landmark building constructed by and patronized by some of Newton County's earliest white inhabitants. Newton County, Georgia, was part of an expanding frontier that during the 1820s moved westward in leaps and bounds every year. The county was formed on December 24, 1821, from parts of Henry, Jasper, and Walton counties. "In 1821," according to historian Susan D. Morris, "the center of the area's activity was a settlement called Winton at the Brick Store, a general store and stagecoach stop." Prior to the creation of an official county seat, the Brick Store was the focal point of local government. The county held its first Superior Court session at the Brick Store in April of 1822. Local elections were also held at this location. The Brick Store's role in county government would be short-lived. A state law required counties to locate their courthouses as close as possible to the central geographic point of their legal boundaries. County officials surveyed the small town of Newtonsboro in 1822 and designated it as the county's future seat. The town's name was changed to Covington in December of 1822. The rise of the city of Covington limited the potential growth of neighboring Winton. Nonetheless, the Brick Store continued as a recognized community landmark building throughout the 19th and 20th centuries because locals associated the site with the founding of Newton County.

During the antebellum period a small community remained in the store's vicinity. The community included several family farms, a school, church, and inn. Like most 19th-century Georgia localities, social life in Winton revolved around an extended network of kinship relations that closely bound together hundreds of locals into groups of common association such as churches and schools. The Brick Store was a place where the bonds of kinship merged with an expanding sense of community belonging. Customers socialized with each other while conducting their business with the merchant. The bartering and sale of cash and goods remained the store's primary purpose, but the exchange of conversation among customers helped forge a larger sense of shared identity.

The Brick Store changed ownership several times during the antebellum period. James E. Todd paid Martin Kolb \$1,200 for the 250-acre tract in 1826. Todd owned the property for five years. He sold the store and land to Charles W. Harris of Newton County on November 5, 1831. Less than one year later, Harris sold the property for \$1,300 to Thomas Dacus. Dacus was among the first white settlers

¹⁴ Denise Messick, J.W. Joseph, and Natalie Adams, *Tilling the Earth: Georgia's Historic Agricultural Heritage—A Context* (Atlanta: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 2001), 17.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

in Newton County. He had served as a witness in 1822 during a real estate sale between William Duke of neighboring Walton County and John Moss of Newton County. No deed exists for the sale of the property from Dacus to another party. Thomas Dacus died without a will in 1837. The Newton County Probate Court transferred title to his widow, Delany Dacus. She then sold the property sometime between 1837 and 1848 to her son-in-law Jesse Haralson. No recorded deed exists for the sale of the property from Haralson to anyone else, or for the purchase of the property by Isaac H. Parker, but a combination of tax records and later deeds indicate that the latter bought the property in late 1848 or early 1849. The United States Post Office Department published a list of post offices that identified Parker as the agent for Brick Store in 1855. During his ownership, Parker built carriages at the Brick Store. Parker employed and housed seven workers and owned five slaves in 1850 who provided labor for his business. Following Parker's death in 1860, ownership of the Brick Store passed to his wife, Elizabeth Parker.

Elizabeth Parker sold the Brick Store to her son-in-law, Peter Parley Knox, in 1861. He was born in New York c.1829. Peter's father, James Knox, was born near Edenborough, Scotland, on July 4, 1797 and immigrated to the United States in the early 19th century. He and two brothers, George and Peter Knox, first settled in New York then moved to Virginia before relocating to Columbia County, Georgia, in 1832.

Peter Parley Knox worked as a shoemaker in Walton County, Georgia, in 1860, and lived with his brother, George W. Knox, age 37, tanner, also born in New York. It appears that George was recently widowed in 1860. Peter's name does not appear in the 1864 state militia census. Peter was likely drafted into military service by the state of Georgia. He served in Company I, 8th Georgia State Guards. Sometime prior to 1861, Knox married Georgia A. Parker, whose family owned the Brick Store between 1848 and 1861. Georgia was 21 years younger than her husband. She was born c.1844 in Georgia. The couple had eight children and settled in the Brick Store Community near her family. There they owned and operated an inn as well as the Brick Store. The inn was located next to the store. Knox leased the half-story of the Brick Store to the trustees of the Brick Store Lodge No. 479, Independent Order of Good Templars (I.O.G.T.) in 1879. The I.O.G.T. was a fraternal order that worked in support of the Temperance Movement. The organization began in England before coming to the United States during the midst of the Second Great Awakening. In Georgia, the I.O.G.T.'s membership peaked during the 1870s as reformers began to politicize the ills of alcoholic consumption and production. During this period violence erupted in northeast Georgia between distillers and federal revenue agents leading to the Moonshine Wars. The violence sickened many in the state who capitalized upon the bloodshed to reinvigorate the state's impotent Temperance Movement. According to the 1880 census, Knox, age 57, lived in the Brick Store District of Newton County and identified himself as a farmer. At that time, the Knox household included his wife and six children ranging in age from one month to 14 years old. The couple moved to Atlanta due to financial reasons in 1882. Peter Parley Knox died on January 3, 1904. Georgia Knox died on January 3, 1907. Both are buried in Social Circle, Newton County.

Peter Parley Knox sold the Brick Store on February 18, 1882, to Ollie Jane Stanton. A Newton County native, she was married to Isaac A. Stanton. Prior to purchasing the Brick Store, the couple lived with Isaac's father. During the sale, Knox subdivided the 220 acres that had comprised the sum

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

of the Brick Store property. Stanton's deed included the store and 10 adjoining acres. The remaining 210 acres were sold to several individual buyers. Ollie Jane Stanton owned the store from 1882 until 1932.

Stanton sold the Brick Store to Mrs. J. M. Lewis on August 11, 1932. Three years later, due to unknown circumstances, Lewis closed the Brick Store. Perhaps the declining economic conditions experienced throughout the Georgia Piedmont brought on by the Great Depression led to the store's closure. She lived in the store for a number of years. Lewis owned the store property from 1932 until 1954. C. M. Jordan purchased a 0.10-acre lot in 1954 that contained the Brick Store from Lewis. Jordan never reopened the Brick Store. The building fell into a state of disrepair and survived at least three fires between 1954 and 1971. Jordan donated the store to the Newton County Historical Society (N.C.H.S.) in 1971. The following year, the N.C.H.S. hired a local firm, Rite-Way Construction Company, to renovate the damaged building.

Today, the Newton County Historical Society owns the property. The N.C.H.S. holds its monthly meetings as well as other special events at the Brick Store.

9. Major Bibliographic References

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- Bell, Debbie. "Brick Store." Historic Property Information Form. File located at Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta.
- Clark, Thomas D. *Pills, Petticoats, and Plows: The Southern Country Store*. New York: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1944.
- Du Bois, W.E.B. *The Souls of Black Folks: Essays and Sketches*, 3d. Chicago: McClurg and Company, 1903.
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- Morris, Susan D. "Newton County." *New Georgia Encyclopedia*.
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- Woodman, Harold D. *King Cotton and His Retainers: Financing and Marketing the Cotton Crop of the South, 1800-1925*, 2d. ed. Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 1990.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 9—Major Bibliographic References

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

Acreeage of Property 0.10 acre

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 245285E Northing 3721133N

Verbal Boundary Description

The Brick Store National Register boundary includes 0.10 acres. It is drawn to scale on the attached "plat map." U.S. Highway 278 is the southeast boundary of the property. The boundary extends 10 feet into the highway right-of-way to include the full extent of the relatively level land to the south and east of the building. It does not include the ditch along the north side of U.S. Highway 278. The property of C.M. Jordan comprises the property's north and west boundary. Little River Road is the east boundary of the property.

Boundary Justification

The Brick Store National Register boundary includes 0.10 acres of property that remains of the historic property once associated with this resource.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office**name/title** Keith S. Hébert/ Historian**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources**mailing address** 34 Peachtree St., N.W.**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303**telephone** (404) 651-5568 **date** 11-05-2008**e-mail** keith.hebert@dnr.state.ga.us**Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable) (X) not applicable****name/title** Debbie Bell/ County Arborist**organization** Trustees of the Newton County Historical Society**mailing address** 1113 Usher Street, Ste 201**city or town** Covington **state** GA **zip code** 30014**telephone** (770) 784-2197**e-mail** dbell@co.newton.ga.us

- property owner
 consultant
 regional development center preservation planner
 other:

Property Owner or Contact Information**name (property owner or contact person)** Debbie Bell**organization (if applicable)** Trustees of the Newton County Historical Society**mailing address** 1113 Usher Street, Ste 201**city or town** Covington **state** GA **zip code** 30014**e-mail (optional)** dbell@co.newton.ga.us

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: Brick Store
City or Vicinity: Social Circle
County: Newton
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: 04-2008

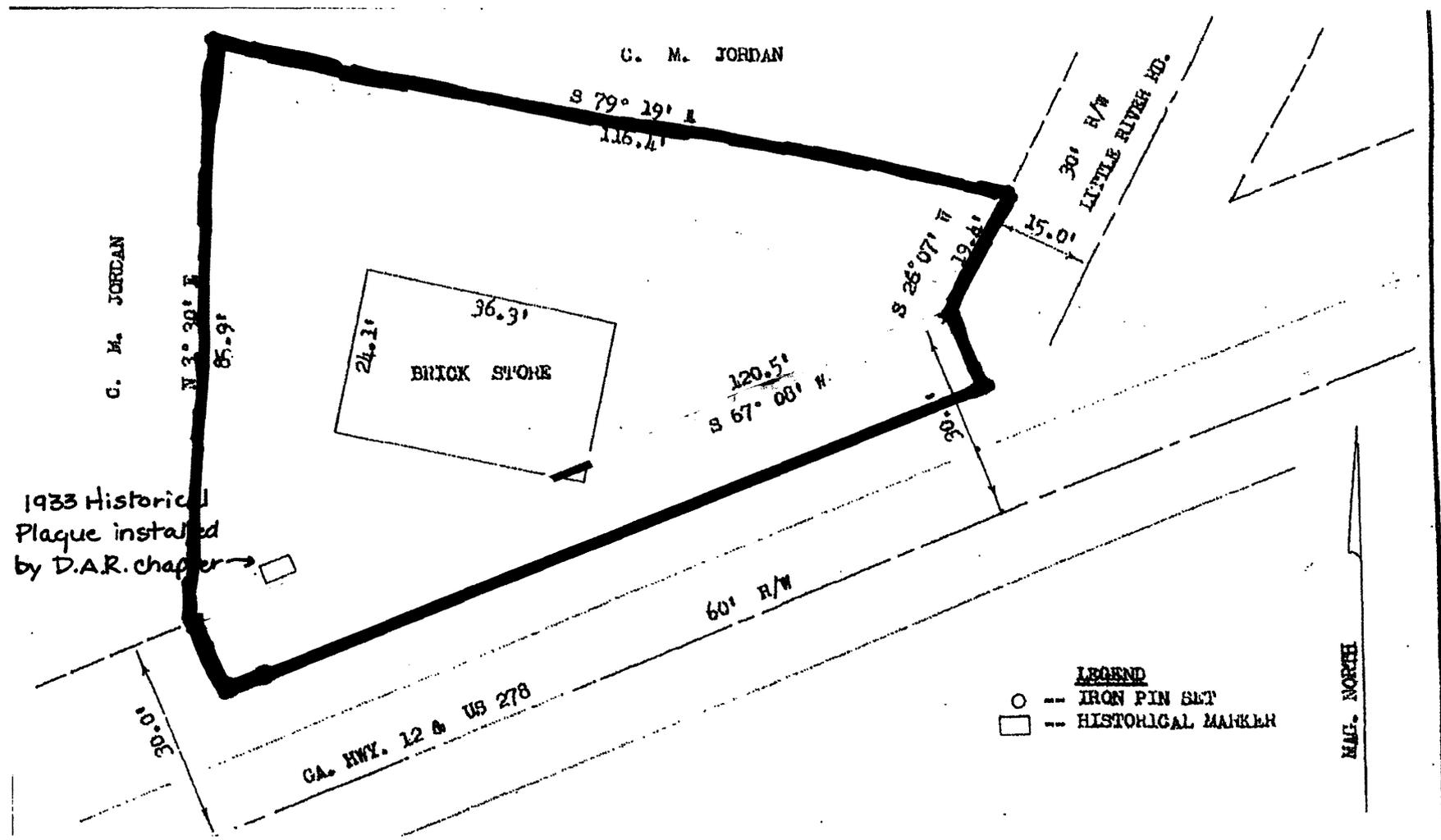
Description of Photograph(s): 28

Number of photographs:

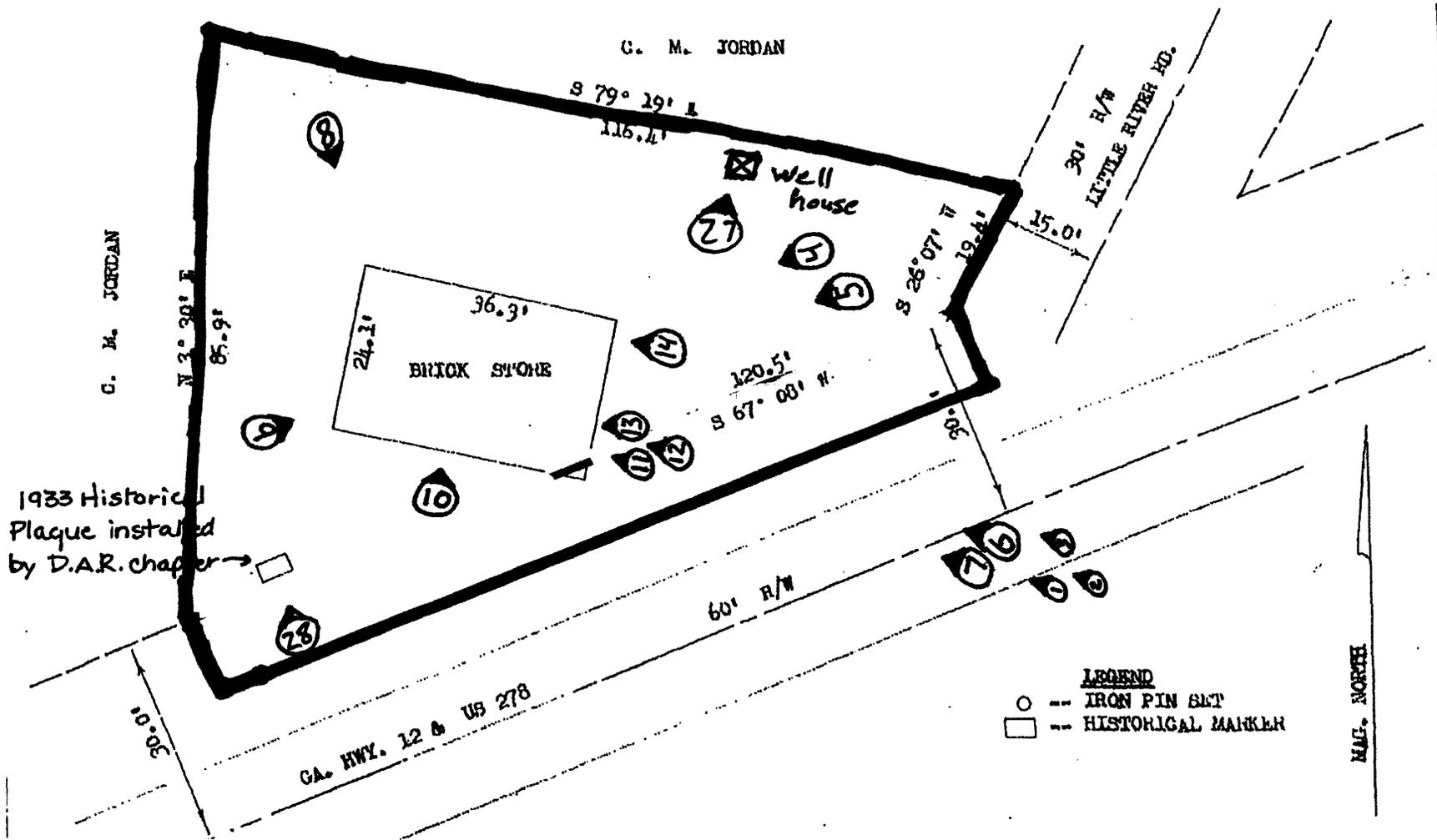
1. Exterior, front of store; photographer facing west.
2. Exterior, front of store; photographer facing west.
3. Exterior, front of store; photographer facing west.
4. Exterior, front of store; photographer facing west by southwest.
5. Exterior, front of store; photographer facing west.
6. Exterior, front of store; photographer facing west.
7. Exterior, front of store; photographer facing west.
8. Exterior, rear of store; photographer facing southeast.
9. Exterior, rear of store; photographer facing east.
10. Exterior, detail of brick wall; photographer facing north.
11. Exterior, front of store; photographer facing west.
12. Exterior, front of store; photographer facing southwest.
13. Exterior, 1990 Newton County Historical Society plaque; photographer facing southwest.
14. Exterior, 1975 Newton County Historical Society plaque; photographer facing northeast.
15. Exterior, main floor; photographer facing west.
16. Interior, main floor; photographer facing southwest.
17. Interior, main floor; photographer facing south.
18. Interior, main floor; photographer facing west.
19. Interior, main floor; photographer facing east.
20. Interior, main floor; photographer facing east.
21. Interior, main floor; photographer facing northwest.
22. Interior, half-story; photographer facing east.
23. Interior, half-story; photographer facing west.
24. Interior, half-story; photographer facing west.
25. Interior, crawlspace; photographer facing west.
26. Interior, crawlspace; photographer facing south.
27. Exterior, well house; photographer facing north.
28. Exterior, 1933 D.A.R. Monument; photographer facing northwest.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

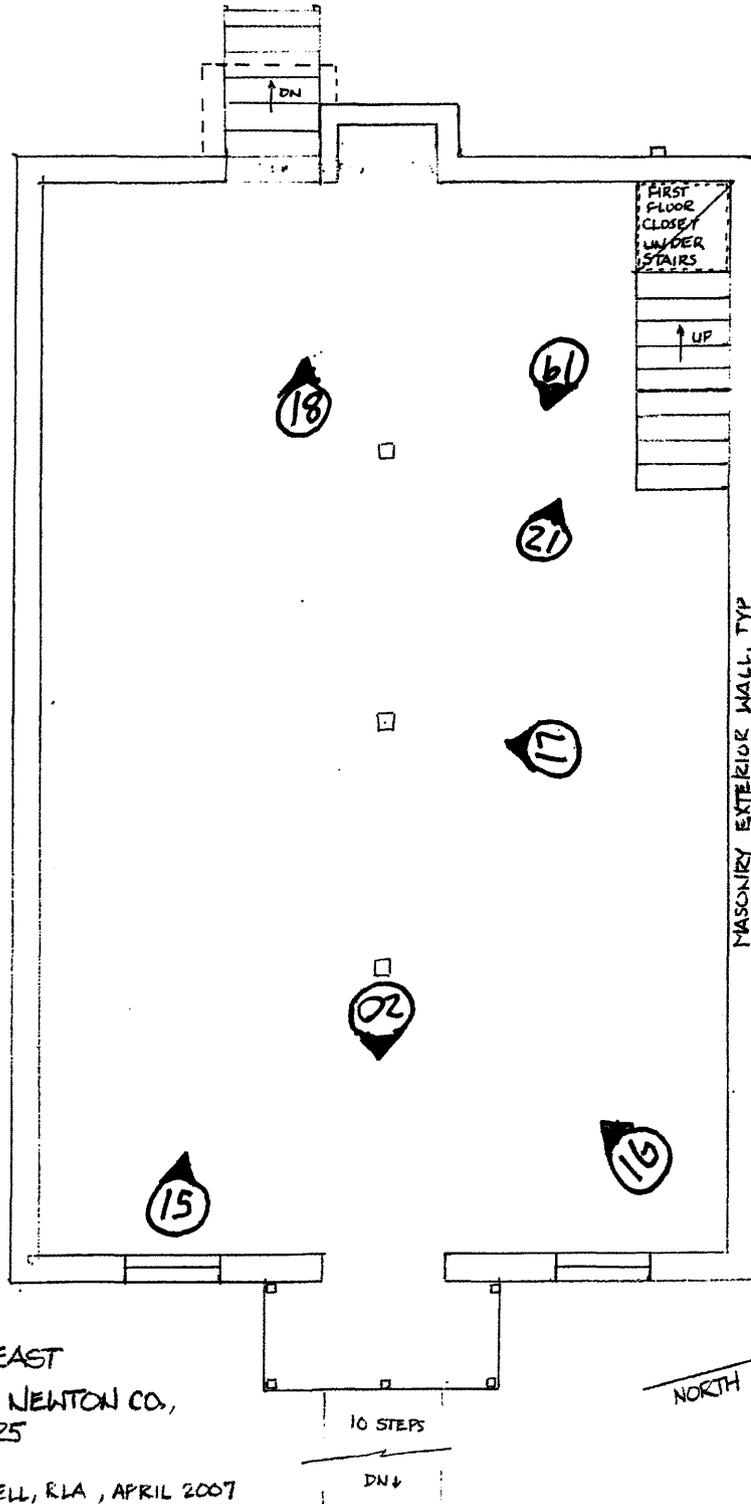
BRICK STORE
NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA
PLAT MAP
NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY: 
NORTH: ↑
SCALE: 1" = 25'



BRICK STORE
NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA
SITE MAP
DIRECTION OF PHOTOGRAPH: 
NORTH: 
SCALE: 1"=25'



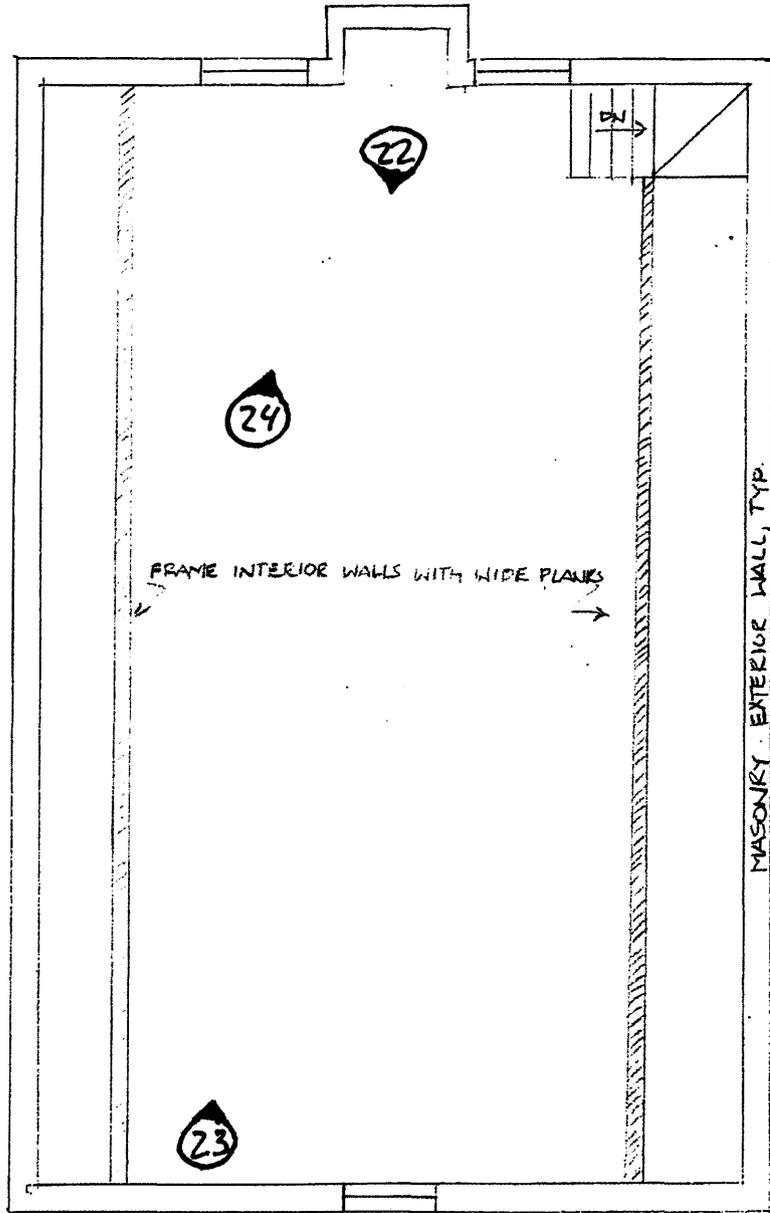
BRICK STORE
NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA
MAIN FLOOR PLAN
DIRECTION OF PHOTOGRAPH: 
NORTH: 
SCALE: 1"=6.6'
SOURCE: Debbie Bell, Newton County Arborist



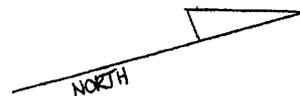
BRICK STORE
U.S. HWY 278 EAST
SOCIAL CIRCLE, NEWTON CO.,
GEORGIA 30025

DRAWN BY DEBBIE BELL, RLA, APRIL 2007

BRICK STORE
NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA
HALF-STORY FLOOR PLAN
DIRECTION OF PHOTOGRAPH: ↗
NORTH: ↗
SCALE: 1"=6.25'
SOURCE: Debbie Bell, Newton County Arborist

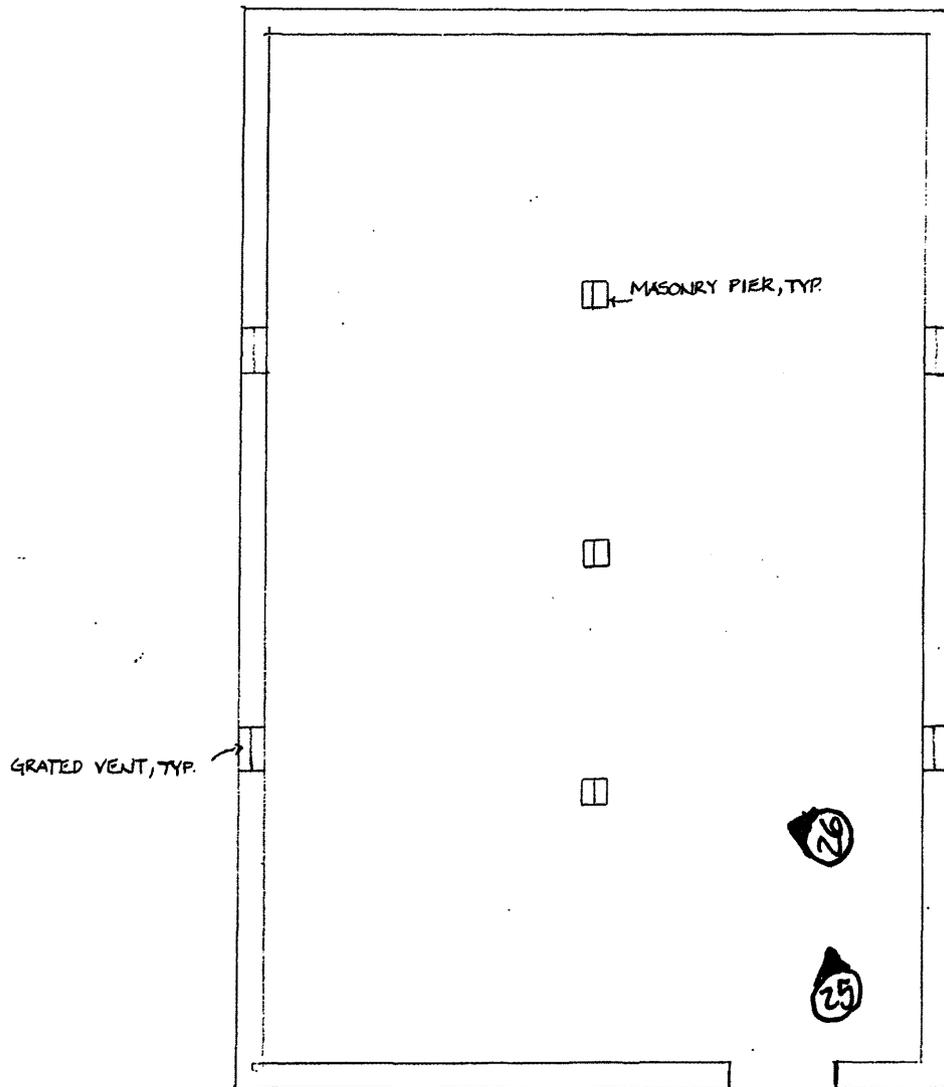


BRICK STORE
U.S. HWY. 278 EAST
SOCIAL CIRCLE, NEWTON CO.,
GEORGIA 30025



DRAWN BY DEBBIE BELL, RLA, APRIL 2007

BRICK STORE
NEWTON COUNTY, GEORGIA
CRAWLSPACE PLAN
DIRECTION OF PHOTOGRAPH: ↻
NORTH: ↗
SCALE: 1"=6.6'
SOURCE: Debbie Bell, Newton County Arborist



BRICK STORE
U.S. HWY 278 EAST
SOCIAL CIRCLE, NEWTON CO.
GEORGIA, 30025

DRAWN BY DEBBIE BELL, RLA, APRIL 2007