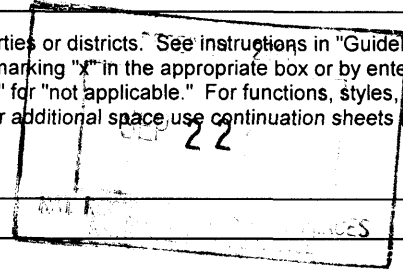


1212

# 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 Thornton Plantation  
other names/site number N/A

## 2. Location

street & number 702 Piedmont Lake Rd. (Thornton-Williams House), and 404 Hopkins Farm Rd.  
(Swint-Hopkins House)  
city, town Pine Mountain (X) vicinity of (7 miles west of Pine Mountain, off Hopewell Church Road)  
county Harris code GA 145  
state Georgia code GA zip code 31822

(N/A) not for publication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	4	1
sites	2	0
structures	1	1
objects	0	0
total	7	2

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

Name of previous listing: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Thornton Plantation  
Pine Mountain vicinity, Harris County, Georgia

**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.

*Russell Clowes*

*9-15-04*

Signature of certifying official

Date

*for*

W. Ray Luce, Ph. D.  
Historic Preservation Division Director  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

In my opinion, the property ( ) meets ( ) does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

*Daniel J. Vinton 10/29/04*

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

*for*

Keeper of the National Register

Date

Thornton Plantation  
Pine Mountain vicinity, Harris County, Georgia

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
FUNERARY/cemetery  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field/animal facility/agricultural outbuilding

### Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
FUNERARY/cemetery

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

MID-19TH CENTURY/Greek Revival  
OTHER: Georgian Cottage type

### Materials:

<b>foundation</b>	fieldstones
<b>walls</b>	wooden
<b>roof</b>	asphalt shingles
<b>other</b>	N/A

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

#### Summary Description:

The Thornton Plantation consists of two family-related houses, the Thornton-Williams House and the Swint-Hopkins House, as well as two cemeteries. The two houses and cemeteries are surrounded by open fields and wooded fence lines along an unpaved country road.

The **Thornton-Williams House** (photo 1) is a frame, 2-story, Greek Revival-style, I-house-type house with a full-height front porch supported by six tapered square columns with pier bases and simple capitals. Gable and shed roofs are covered with standing seam metal roofing (photos 5 and 6). The symmetrical front facade retains its original 9/9 windows. The front entrance has double doors, five-light sidelights, and an eight-light transom within an elaborate door surround (photos 9 and 10). A sheaf-of-wheat patterned balustrade encloses the balcony (photo 8). The house is raised on fieldstone piers with brick infill and timber beams. The original chimneys were fieldstone, since reconstructed in brick (photo 5). The structural system is braced frame with mortise-and-tenon joints. The original well exists beneath the back porch decking. The house has original board walls and ceilings in the upstairs rooms and the floors are wide heart pine. Each fireplace has a tall wood surround and mantel (photos 12, 14, 15, and 16). Doors have grained vertical panels (photo 13). The house sits on a rise above the driveway, which was formerly a public road. Landscaping is recent with the exception of oak trees, which appear to be as old as the house. The gardens are enclosed

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Thornton Plantation  
Pine Mountain vicinity, Harris County, Georgia

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

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with a white picket fence (photos 6 and 7). The only remaining outbuilding is a transverse-crib hay barn 140 feet north of the house (photo 17). Changes to the original house include the pre-1900 additions to the north side to include a dining room and attached kitchen. The 1970s brought a final addition to the north rear of the house as well as the demolition of most of the outbuildings. Those years also brought interior remodeling including Sheetrock walls, additional bathrooms, moving the kitchen to the dining room, converting the old kitchen to a bedroom, and bricking the chimneys.

The **Swint-Hopkins House**, one-quarter mile north, is a frame vernacular farmhouse built c.1890 for a Thornton descendant on Thornton family property (photo 18). It has a front entrance with sidelights (photos 23 and 24). The house is raised on fieldstone piers with block and fieldstone infill. The original well exists beneath back porch decking. The house includes rooms with original board walls, simple picture molding, with some rooms retaining their original heart pine floors. The interior is simple and each of the three fieldstone fireplaces has plain wood surround and mantel (photos 27 and 29). The house has seen many changes due to expansion, including one addition with a dining room, kitchen and bedroom in it (photo 28). The central hall, once removed, was restored in the 1980s and stairs added to reach the new upstairs bedroom (photo 25). Landscaping is reflective of early 20th century farmhouses, utilizing foundation plantings and perennial planted beds. Large camellia trees and azalea bushes are in the front yard. The vegetable garden, pecan trees and pond are typical of local farms. There are two barns, one historic from the 1950s (photo 30), and one nonhistoric, from the 1980s (photo 31), and well as a noncontributing swimming pool (photo 30) and a contributing lake/pond built around 1945 (photo 32).

The stone-walled **Thornton Cemetery** (photo 33) lies between the two houses; the wire-fenced **Mullins Cemetery** (photo 36) is located on a hill west of the Swint-Hopkins house, beside the old roadbed of the Whitesville to Chipley Road. The property appears as rural agricultural development. This pattern is continued to the north; however, the surrounding property has been, or is being, developed for residential subdivision and recreational uses.

Full Description:

The two houses and cemeteries are surrounded by open fields and wooded fence lines along an unpaved country road. The Thornton-Williams House is a white-painted, 2-story, Greek Revival-style plantation house with a full-height front porch supported by 6 tapered square piers (photo 1). The house has exterior clapboard that is lapped except on the front facade and adjacent to the back door; in both locations the board siding is wider and flush mounted. The porch is supported by 6 full-height tapered squared wood piers, which are decorated with simple capitals (photo 8). The porch has a simple cornice along its length. (Photograph 1.) Gable and shed roofs are covered with standing seam metal roofing. Windows in the original house are 9/9 single-hung sash. The front facade has eight windows symmetrically oriented on either side of the front entrance; the second story mirrors the first story (photo 2). The front entrance has double doors, 5-light sidelights, and 8-light transom, all with elaborate door surround (photos 9 and 10). The second story mirrors the first with entry to the balcony. A sheaf-of-wheat patterned balustrade encloses the balcony (photo 8). The original house had two 17-foot square rooms upstairs and downstairs with a wide central hall. Subsequent additions

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

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added rooms to the rear of the downstairs, preserving and extending the central hall. More recent additions have extended the rear of the house. (Photographs 5, 6, and 7.) The two original downstairs rooms and central hall were plastered (now Sheetrock). Upstairs rooms have original board walls and ceilings (photo 16). The floors are wide heart pine. The upstairs landing floor has been painted in a diamond pattern. The interiors are simple, with little ornamentation.

Each fireplace has a tall wood surround and mantel; fireplaces in the original rooms are more elaborate than later ones. (Photographs 12, 14, 15, and 16.) Doors have grained vertical panels. (Photograph 13.) The elaborate door surround at the front entrance and the balustrade of the upstairs balcony have more intricate woodwork.

The house is raised on fieldstone piers with brick infill and timber beams. The original chimneys were fieldstone, since reconstructed in brick (photo 5). The structural system is braced frame with mortise-and-tenon joints. The original well exists beneath the back porch decking. Heat was supplied by fireplaces in each of the rooms and the house was piped for gas lighting. Rural electrification came in the 1930s as did telephone service, utilizing a crank telephone in the front hall.

The house sits on a rise above the driveway, which was formerly a public road. Landscaping is recent with the exception of oak trees, which appear to be as old as the house. The gardens are enclosed with a white picket fence (photo 6) which extends from both sides of the house around the rear of the building.

The only remaining outbuilding is a transverse crib hay barn which is located approximately 140 feet to the north of the house (photo 17). The barn is of mortise-and-tenon construction originally but has been through many changes and alterations. It is currently used for storage.

Archaeological potential should exist due to the size and length of use as a plantation/farm. Local oral history indicates that there were four or five tenant houses associated with the Thornton-Williams House, three south of the house and two north; they were on the opposite side of the road. Directly across the road were a cotton house and a buggy shed immediately to its north. There was a cane mill between the house and the barn. Behind the house stood the old kitchen building, with a smokehouse to its north. There was also a store building north of the house adjacent to the road. None of these are extant today.

The property appears as rural agricultural development. This pattern is continued to the north; however, the remaining surrounding property has been, or is being, developed for residential subdivision and recreational uses. Both the Thornton-Williams House and the Thornton Cemetery are accessed through a gated community of single-family houses.

Major alterations to the house occurred prior to 1900 and in the 1970s. Pre-1900 additions were a shed-roofed addition to the rear of the original two-story house and the extension of the north side of the house to include a dining room and attached kitchen. (Photos 5 and 6.) The 1970s brought a final addition to the north rear of the house as well as the demolition of most of the outbuildings. At that time there was interior remodeling which included the addition of a door between the front and rear

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

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parlors (formerly a bedroom, photo 15); addition of a bathroom upstairs and a bathroom off the rear parlor (since removed); Sheetrock on most interior walls (removed upstairs); closets in the upstairs rooms (one of which has been removed); moving the kitchen into what had been the dining room and making the room which had been the kitchen into a master bedroom (this included removal of a door between the dining room and the kitchen; addition of columns in the central hall to carry HVAC system upstairs; removal of picture moldings and addition of crown moldings downstairs; and the rebuilding of the original fieldstone chimneys in brick.

The Swint-Hopkins House, one-quarter mile north, is a painted clapboard vernacular farmhouse built circa 1890 for a Thornton descendant on Thornton family property. The stone-walled Thornton Cemetery lies between the two houses; the wire-fenced Mullins Cemetery is located on a hill west of Swint-Hopkins House, beside the old roadbed of the Whitesville to Chipley Road. The house is painted clapboard. The exterior clapboard is lapped except on the back porch, where it is flush mounted. Turned columns support the front porch. (Photos 18 and 23.) The hip roof has asphalt shingles; the shed porch roofs are tin.

The front entrance is distinctive with 3-lights and panel sidelights (photos 23 and 24). Windows vary in size and age, most being 9/9 double-hung sash. The original central hallway has been maintained through incremental changes. Rooms have been added by infilling portions of the front and back porches (photo 27). Most rooms have original board walls with simple picture molding. All surfaces are unornamented and painted. Some areas retain original heart pine floors. The interior is simple with little ornamentation. Each of the three fieldstone fireplaces has plain wood surround and mantel (photos 27 and 29).

The house is raised on fieldstone piers with block and fieldstone infill. Three original fieldstone chimneys remain (photos 19 and 23). It has balloon frame construction utilizing sawn timber.

The original well exists beneath the back porch decking. Water was pumped by a gasoline engine into an elevated tank in the back yard to provide running water to the house and barns. Heat was supplied by fireplaces, which were later outfitted with gas space heaters. There was a Delco battery system, replaced by rural electric service in the 1930s. A crank telephone exchange was located in the back hallway.

The location is close to an unpaved county road. Three oak trees in the front yard probably predate house. The landscaping is reflective of early 20<sup>th</sup> century farmhouses, utilizing foundation plantings and perennial planted beds. Large camellia trees and azalea bushes are in the front yard. The vegetable garden, pecan trees and pond are typical of local farms.

There is one remaining historic work shed/storage building from 1952 built behind the house (photo 30). The existing nonhistoric/noncontributing barn, adjacent to the storage building, was constructed in the 1980s (photo 31) on the site of a previous barn which had burned. It is used for hay and equipment storage for farm operations. There is also a nonhistoric swimming pool (photo 30), and an historic lake constructed in 1945 (photo 32).

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

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The location of a number of non-extant outbuildings is known. The Swint-Hopkins House had two or three tenant houses on the hill west of the house. Behind the house were a barn and shop building as well as a smokehouse and Delco house. A cotton house was directly across the road. The sites of the Maddox School, one of the one-room schoolhouses replaced in 1920 by Sunnyside School, and the original roadbed for the Whitesville to Chipley Road are on the property associated with the Swint-Hopkins House.

This house started out as a two-room central hallway tenant house which was enlarged incrementally from 1892 to 1985. It is not possible to date the changes to the house prior to the 1930s. These changes included an addition to the rear of the house which accommodated the dining room, kitchen and one bedroom; this addition extended the original central hall configuration. A shed-roofed addition to the kitchen was added in the late 1920s to offset the loss of kitchen space occasioned by the installation of an indoor bathroom. A gable-roofed addition to the south of the front of the house was for a bedroom. The house was remodeled in the 1950s and the work included the removal of the original central hall (since restored), Sheetrocking the large room created by the removal of the hallway and the replacement of the mantel in the large room. In the 1980s the central hallway was restored and new stairs added to access an upstairs bedroom. At that time, a portion of the rear porch was utilized for expansion of the kitchen area.

The Thornton Cemetery is surrounded by a stacked-rock wall on all four sides with an entrance on the west wall. (Photos 33, 34, and 35. ) There are some vertical marble tombstones, and some marked only by stacked rocks. The layout and arrangement of the graves are very typical of a rural, family cemetery begun in the antebellum period. There seem to be a number of clusters of burials, suggesting family plots. The Mullins Cemetery is delineated only by a wire fence. There are twelve known grave spaces in a row, side by side. Of these, ten are known, and most have visible markers of marble, such as the obelisks in photo 36. Some graves are marked only by rock markers, as in photo 39.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally       statewide       locally

**Applicable National Register Criteria:**

A       B       C       D

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

A       B       C       D       E       F       G

**Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):**

ARCHITECTURE  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance:**

c. 1850-1954

**Significant Dates:**

c. 1850 Thornton-Williams House  
c. 1890 Swint-Hopkins House

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

N/A



National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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**Statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The Thornton Plantation is significant in architecture. The Thornton-Williams House is a good example of a simple, Greek Revival-style, I-house-type house with a full-height front porch supported with 6 tapered square piers. The house retains much of its original materials and an elaborate balustrade on the second floor balcony. Original materials include doors, door hardware, original window panes, mantels, floors and ceilings. The front entrance retains its original 5 sidelights under an 8-light transom. A second-story balcony includes an elaborate balustrade and uses double doors. The house is also an excellent example of the central-hallway version of the I-house type of house with its distinctive form, proportions, and floor plan. This is a relatively rare type of historic house in Georgia.

The Swint-Hopkins House is architecturally significant as a good if somewhat altered variant of the more common Georgian Cottage house type with its main, hip-roofed block containing four principal rooms and a central hall.

The property is significant in landscape architecture for excellent surviving examples of two historic family cemeteries associated with the property. Distinctive design features include stacked-rock walls, rock grave markers, two obelisk-type marble monuments, and large cedar trees. The Thornton Cemetery reflects an arrangement of graves in irregular groupings of family plots within a stacked-rock wall. The Mullins Cemetery has the known graves side-by-side in a row and many graves marked only by rocks as a headstone. The property also is reflective of the character of early 20<sup>th</sup> century farmhouses. It utilizes foundation plantings, mature hardwoods, perennial planted beds, a vegetable garden and 5-acre pond.

**National Register Criteria**

The Thornton Plantation nomination meets National Register Criterion C because it reflects a very well-constructed Greek Revival-style plantation house (the Thornton-Williams House) which retains its original craftsmanship and its distinctive front porch and reflects the antebellum workmanship skills of that era. The Swint-Hopkins House retains much of its original form as a Georgian Cottage of a later era. Both of these houses as well as the two cemeteries on the property are all important components of a once large family farm complex.

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

**Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance runs from c.1850 when the Thornton-Williams House was built until 1954, the end of the historic period since it remained an operating farm and residence during that entire century.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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

Contributing:

Buildings: 4- The Thornton-Williams House, the Swint-Hopkins House, the barn at the Thornton-Williams House, and one barn at the Swint-Hopkins House.

Structures: 1-the lake/pond, constructed in 1945.

Sites: 2-the Thornton Cemetery and the Mullins Cemetery.

Object: 0

Total: 7

Noncontributing:

Buildings: 1- the newer barn at the Swint-Hopkins House

Structures: 1- the swimming pool at the Swint-Hopkins House

Sites: 0

Objects: 0

Total: 2

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

The Thornton Plantation's history begins with the settlement of the area of west Georgia due to the opening of the land due to the 1827 Georgia Land Lottery. That lottery, giving free land to participants, opened up a vast area from the Flint River to the Chattahoochee River for white settlement. It was only a few years after the area was available for settlement that the Thornton family moved there from easternmost Georgia, in the same mode as would be thousands of other families over the next few decades. The area was Georgia's westernmost land, ending at the Chattahoochee River with Alabama on the other side.

William H. Thornton and his wife Mary moved to Harris County (which had opened for settlement only in 1827) from Wilkes County, Georgia, in 1832 with their sons John and T. J., and daughter Frances, and other members of their family. The Thorntons bought about 800 acres of land for farming between what is now Whitesville and Beech Springs and became active in the Whitesville community.

Both William H. and his son, John Turner Thornton, became members of the Rose Masonic Lodge #102, which met above one of the stores in the then-bustling town of Whitesville. Both were also members of Mountain Creek Baptist Church. John became a trustee of the church and a member of

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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the building committee which moved the church into Whitesville in 1855. (In the 1920s it was moved again and became Midway Baptist Church, a part of the Sunnyside Historic District (NR)).

John Turner Thornton married Lucinda Castleberry in 1834, probably in Wilkes County. During their 42 years of marriage, the couple had 10 children. William H. Thornton died in 1840, leaving most of his Harris County property to John. Around 1850 John built a house for his growing family; this house is now known as the Thornton-Williams house.

The U. S. Agricultural Census for 1860 shows the Thornton plantation at its height. It contained 1150 acres, with 400 improved. Seven mules and two oxen worked the land along with 17 slaves, shown on the U.S. Slave Census of 1860. Crops produced included wheat (1500 bushels), Indian corn (1500 bushels) and cotton (60 bales). The family kept milk cows, sheep and pigs; they raised peas and beans, potatoes and cane. Their orchard had apple and peach trees. Legend from a great-granddaughter says that Lucinda raised silk worms on mulberry trees planted in a grove near the house and that she spun, wove and made all five of her daughters' wedding dresses from silk produced on the plantation.

During the Civil War (1861-1865) two of the Thornton sons - William and Jarrel - served in the Confederate Army. William served first in Company B, 20<sup>th</sup> Regiment, transferring in 1862 to Company H, 17<sup>th</sup> Regiment. Family record shows he died September 30, 1863; he is buried in the Thornton Cemetery. Jarrel returned from the war in the spring of 1865 but died shortly thereafter on September 26, 1865; he too is buried in the Thornton Cemetery. During the war another Thornton son, 9-year-old Ira Hood, died and was buried in the family cemetery. In addition to their sons, the Thornton's lost many friends and neighbors to the war as well as their son-in-law, Abner Bankston, husband of daughter Emily.

The aftermath of the Civil War brought great difficulty and hardship to the Thornton family. The U. S. Agricultural Census for 1870 shows that the size of the plantation had decreased to 750 acres. By 1880, after the death of John Turner Thornton, the next Agricultural Census shows only 220 acres improved. The 1876 estate records of John Turner Thornton give a fairly good picture of the plantation operation through the inventory of perishable property. The sale details equipment (wagons, saws, cotton gin), livestock (cows, mules, hogs), and produce (sweet potatoes, wheat, sorghum) as being owned by him at his death.

Because John Turner Thornton, Sr., did not leave a will, his widow, Lucinda, and their son, John T. Thornton, Jr., had to buy as much as they could to keep the farm operating. They purchased 477 acres for the family, of which 220 was improved. Lucinda died in 1878. By the mid-1880s, John T. Thornton Jr. was having financial difficulties and was mortgaging land to keep the farm in operation. In 1888 and again in 1891 he sold land to J. M. Swint, who was married to his niece Lizzie Bankston; the Swint property totaled 108 acres. He eventually sold the remaining acreage with the house to T. W. Haralson, who lived there briefly before selling to A. F. Copeland in 1906.

Cornelia Elizabeth (Lizzie) Swint was born on a farm about a mile and a half from the Thornton plantation in 1855. She was the first child of Abner Bankston and his wife Emily Frances Thornton. When she was six years old, her father went off to war and she never saw him again. Her mother managed their farm and raised four children, one born after her husband left to fight; one child Eddie,

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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born in 1860 and died in 1861, was probably the first burial in the Thornton family cemetery. Abner Bankston was killed in 1864 at the battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia.

Lizzie Bankston married Jim Swint, a neighbor in the Beech Springs area, in the early 1880s. They bought 108 acres from her uncle John Turner Thornton, Jr. The property probably had several tenant houses, one of which the young Swint family added to over their years of residency to accommodate the growing family of three girls and three boys, one of whom - Abner Bankston Swint - was buried in the Thornton Cemetery.

In 1905, the Swints sold their farm to Addis H. Hopkins, a cousin of Lizzie's, and moved into the town of Chipley (now, Pine Mountain), where Jim was working as a banker. Addis Hopkins' mother was the former Amanda Thornton, sister of Lizzie's mother Emily; she had married Powhatan Hopkins in 1865. For several years Hopkins co-owned and farmed the property with neighbor J. A. Reid, both of them living in houses on Hopewell Church Road. The Swint-Hopkins house was rented to families who helped work the land, and the land was used primarily for the production of cotton. In the 1920s Hopkins ran into financial difficulties and lost his primary house and land. He bought out J. A. Reid's half-interest in the Swint property and moved into the house.

Addis Hopkins continued to live in the Swint-Hopkins house and farm the land there until his death in 1940. His obituary in the *Harris County Journal* described him as "a farmer throughout his lifetime and prominently connected with all matters pertaining to community development." His wife and children continued to live on the property after his death; one daughter remained until the property was sold out of the family in 1985. Betty Cox Beegle, granddaughter of Addis Hopkins, remembers visits to the farm every Sunday from her home in Whitesville. The children often rode their pony over to visit their grandparents and aunts. They were paid 5 cents per bag for helping pick cotton, a generous sum which allowed them to buy themselves treats.

In 1911, the main house of the Thornton plantation was sold by A. F. Copeland to L. O. Williams, a farmer from the New Hope community. The Williams family lived in the house and farmed the land until 1942. Paul Williams, a grandson of L. O. Williams, lived in the house with his parents, Reuben and Louise Williams, until the property was sold. He describes the farm as a "two-horse farm" which grew cotton, corn and velvet beans. Hay was raised on the bottoms on the creek, and the family kept milk cows, hogs and chickens. He recalls that the uses for the rooms have changed: the front parlor was the parlor but also served as a guest room; the dining room was his grandparents' bedroom; the back parlor was the "boys' room"; the kitchen was a dining room with the pantry in the southwest corner; the master bedroom was the kitchen and had a huge fireplace for cooking; the girls stayed in the upstairs bedrooms but generally the boys were not allowed up there to play; the front steps led to a sand walkway to the road and had a sweet gum tree on each side.

After the boll weevil came through west central Georgia, there was little money in farming. Reuben Williams farmed but he also worked cutting trees for other people. After the death of Mrs. L. O. Williams, the place was sold to W. H. Plowden from Atlanta. Mr. Plowden is remembered as being retired military. He had great expectations of being a "gentleman farmer," apparently with plans to raise chickens. Five years after purchasing the place, Mr. Plowden sold it to E. Gerry Eastman. Mr. Eastman was another absentee owner from Atlanta who came for occasional visits. During his ownership, the house started to deteriorate and the property became overgrown.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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In 1970 the property was acquired by Cason J. Callaway, Jr., who owned much of the surrounding property. During the ten years in which he owned the property, Mr. Callaway demolished most of the historic outbuildings and modernized the house. He utilized all but 29 acres for lots in the Piedmont subdivision development which he platted around a 200-acre lake created by damming Mountain Oak Creek. The house and its surrounding fields were included in the subdivision. In 1980 he sold the house to his son Kenneth Callaway, who in turn sold it to the C. A. "Gus" Evans family of Columbus, Georgia, in 1984. The fields around the house have been used as hay fields since Mr. Callaway's acquisition of the property.

In 1984, Jim and Linda Straub acquired the Swint-Hopkins House from the estate of Addis Hopkins and continue to live there. D. Steven Sharp and Kenneth A. Shaw, Jr., bought the Thornton-Williams house in 1991 from the Evans family and they continue to live in that property. The Thornton Cemetery occupies a portion of the lots in Piedmont Subdivision purchased by Walter P. and Dancy Stroman in 1994. The Mullins Cemetery lies within the Straubs' property.

The resources of the Thornton Plantation are in a section of Harris County which is developing into large-lot subdivisions. The owners of the two houses and the surrounding fields continue to pursue agricultural practices through the production of hay and the raising of cattle. The owners of the land on which the Thornton Cemetery rests have won an award from the Historic Chattahoochee Commission for their stewardship of the cemetery. These resources are less than a mile from the Sunnyside School-Midway Baptist Church Historic District, a National Register property.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Barfield, Louise Calhoun. *History of Harris County, Georgia, 1827-1961*. Columbus: Columbus Office Supply Co., 1961.

*Columbus Ledger-Enquirer*, October 11, 1987 (article on the Thornton house).

Davidson, William H. *Pine Log and Greek Revival: Houses and People of Three Counties in Georgia and Alabama*. Alexander City, Alabama: Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society, 1964.

*Folk and Kinfolk of Harris County*, Vol. II, No. 1, pp.32-33: "Miss Lona Hopkins." [Published by Harris County High School, Hamilton, Georgia, c.1976.]

*Harris County Herald*, July 14, 1999 (article on the Thornton cemetery).

*Harris County Journal*, August 29, 1940 (obituary of A. H. Hopkins).

Harris County Records at Harris County Courthouse - Superior Court: deeds found in the following deed books: B-696, F-387, N-61 & 195, P-317, &-303 & 466, V-90, 2-346, 3- 472, 13-169, 18-215, 51-535B, 103-810, 123- 535 & 662, 213-316; and in the Probate Judge's office in the following estate records books 57-164 & 305, 33-393, and also in the marriage records. Plat books were also utilized at the courthouse, especially those in the following volumes: PB9-165 (1978), PB17-54 (1991), PB11-246 (1985), PB18-46.

Interviews by Linda Straub with: Betty Cox Beegle, Roy and Dorothy Ford, and Paul Williams, in 2000.

Sears, Helen Davis. "A Confederate Lady and Her Family" (Xeroxed typescript in possession of Linda Straub.)

United States Census Records - Agricultural for 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880  
- Population for 1840, 1850, 1860

**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 #**

**National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

Section 9—Major Bibliographic References

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**Primary location of additional data:**

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

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

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property**      137 acres

### UTM References

A)	Zone 16	Easting 688094	Northing 3632170
B)	Z16	E688114	N3631225
C)	Z16	E687074	N3631227
D)	Z16	E687058	N3632167

### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is marked on the enclosed Harris County Tax Map and two plat maps.

### Boundary Justification

The property includes the land remaining associated with the two historic houses as well as the two historic cemeteries. Due to encroaching development, this is all the land remaining associated with these historic houses and cemeteries.



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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**State Historic Preservation Office**

**name/title** Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**mailing address** 47 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 414-H  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334  
**telephone** (404) 656-2840 **date** June 21, 2004  
**e-mail** ken\_thomas@dnr.state.ga.us

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

**name/title** Linda J. Straub  
**organization** private consultant  
**mailing address** 404 Hopkins Farm Rd.  
**city or town** Pine Mountain **state** GA **zip code** 31822  
**telephone** 706-663-2815  
**e-mail** N/A

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

**Property Owner or Contact Information:**

Note: There are three sets of owners for the land included within this nomination. Ms. Straub and her husband, Jim Straub, above, who served as consultant for this nomination, is one set of them, and own the Swint-Hopkins House and the land surrounding the Mullins Cemetery. Their address is listed above. The other two sets of owners are below:

**name (property owner or contact person)** Steve Sharp and Ken Shaw (owners of the Thornton-Williams House)  
**organization (if applicable)** N/A  
**mailing address** 702 Piedmont Lake RD  
**city or town** Pine Mountain **state** GA **zip code** 31822  
**e-mail (optional)** N/A

**name (property owner or contact person)** Mr. and Mrs. Walter P. Stroman (owners of the land surrounding the Thornton Cemetery)  
**organization (if applicable)** N/A  
**mailing address** 61 Piedmont Point  
**city or town** Pine Mountain **state** GA **zip code** 31822  
**e-mail (optional)** N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

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**Name of Property:** The Thornton Plantation  
**City or Vicinity:** Pine Mountain vicinity  
**County:** Harris  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** August 2002

**Description of Photograph(s):**

Number of photographs: 39

1. Thornton-Williams House, front facade; photographer facing northeast.
2. Thornton-Williams House, front or west facade; photographer facing east.
3. Thornton-Williams House, front facade; photographer facing southeast.
4. Thornton-Williams House, north facade; photographer facing southeast.
5. Thornton-Williams House, south facade showing rear additions; photographer facing northwest.
6. Thornton-Williams House, rear or east facade showing rear additions; photographer facing northwest.
7. Thornton-Williams House, north side of rear addition; photographer facing south.
8. Thornton-Williams House, front facade corner with barn in distance; photographer facing northeast.
9. Thornton-Williams House, front facade porch under repair; photographer facing east.
10. Thornton-Williams House, front entrance/central hall looking toward front door; photographer facing west.
11. Thornton-Williams House, door in front room/parlor to right of entrance looking through the central hall toward the dining room; photographer facing north.
12. Thornton-Williams House, dining room/room to left of front entrance, with view toward the kitchen at the rear; photographer facing northeast.
13. Thornton-Williams House, view from dining room through hall towards front parlor; photographer facing south.
14. Thornton-Williams House, front parlor to right of front door with view toward back parlor; photographer facing south.

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Thornton Plantation  
Pine Mountain vicinity, Harris County, Georgia

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

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15. Thornton-Williams House, back parlor, behind the front parlor; photographer facing southwest.
16. Thornton-Williams House, upstairs south bedroom; photographer facing southeast.
17. Thornton-Williams House, barn, facade that is parallel to rear of the main house; photographer facing northwest.
18. Swint-Hopkins House, front or east facade; photographer facing northwest.
19. Swint-Hopkins House, north facade with porch on the left; photographer facing southeast.
20. Swint-Hopkins House, further west on the north facade; photographer facing southeast
21. Swint-Hopkins House, rear or west facade; photographer facing southeast.
22. Swint-Hopkins House, closer look at rear or west facade; photographer facing southeast.
23. Swint-Hopkins House, front porch on east/front facade; photographer facing southwest.
24. Swint-Hopkins House, entryway looking out front door; photographer facing northeast.
25. Swint-Hopkins House, entryway/stair hall, with master bedroom on the right; photographer facing northwest.
26. Swint-Hopkins House, master bedroom to right of front door; photographer facing northeast.
27. Swint-Hopkins House, livingroom and front room to the left, all to left of front door; photographer facing southeast.
28. Swint-Hopkins House, dining room behind the living room; photographer facing northeast.
29. Swint-Hopkins House, back bedroom, on right behind the master bedroom; photographer facing northwest.
30. Swint-Hopkins House, swimming pool and barn/storage building; photographer facing southwest.
31. Swint-Hopkins House, two storage buildings behind the house; photographer facing northwest.
32. Swint-Hopkins House, lake or pond; photographer facing west.
33. Thornton Cemetery, showing entrance on left, rock wall and monuments within; photographer facing northeast.
34. Thornton Cemetery, rock wall with birdhouse (?) in southeast corner; photographer facing northwest.

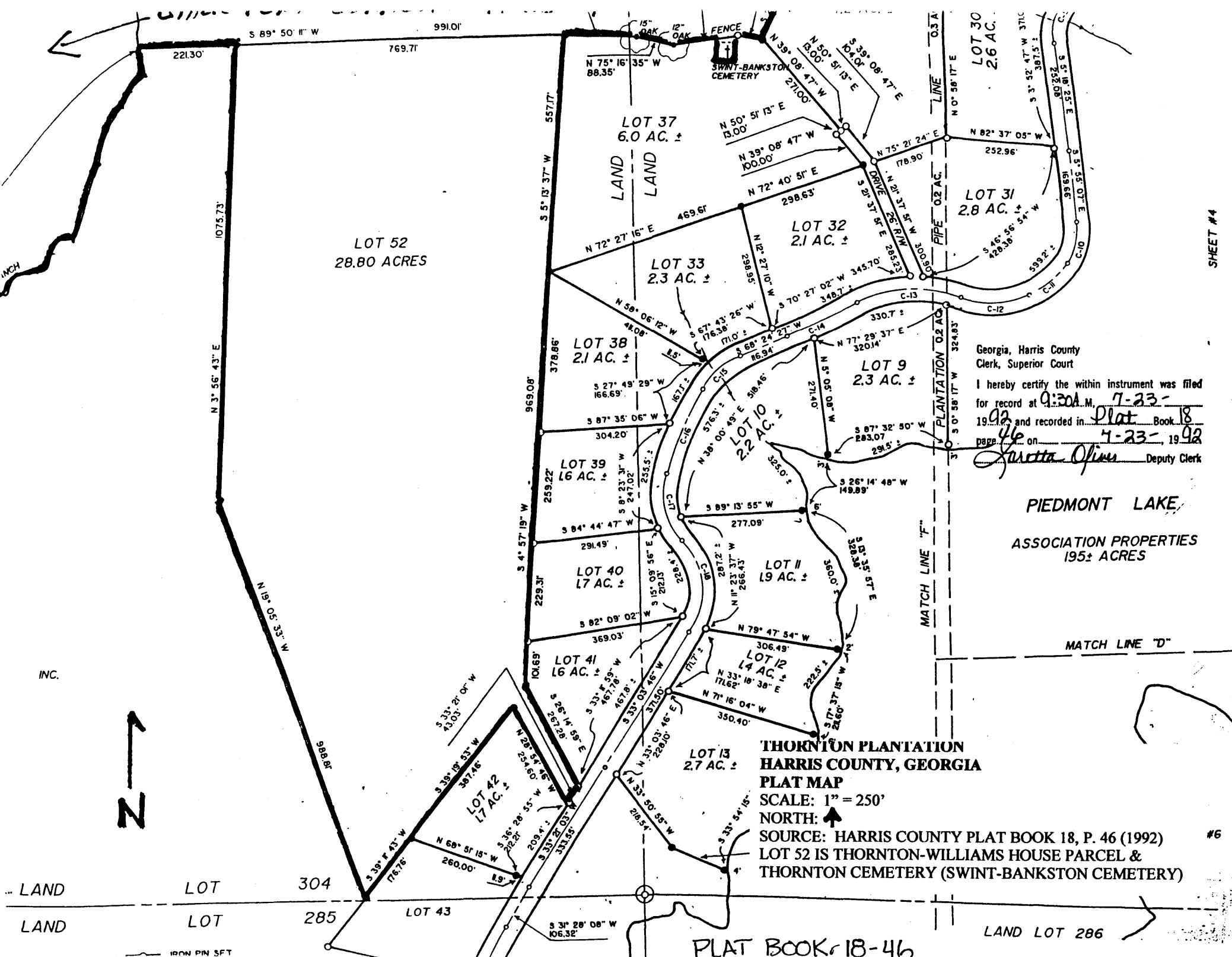
National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

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35. Thornton Cemetery, inside the wall from the southeast corner showing monuments and rock grave covers; photographer facing northwest.
36. Mullins Cemetery, two marble obelisks in a row of burials, south side of the cemetery; photographer facing northwest.
37. Mullins Cemetery, a distant view of the same markers or similar ones; photographer facing southwest.
38. Mullins Cemetery, center of row of burials, showing rock mounds; photographer facing southwest.
39. Mullins Cemetery, northeast corner of cemetery showing rock burial markers; photographer facing southeast.

(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)



Georgia, Harris County  
 Clerk, Superior Court  
 I hereby certify the within instrument was filed  
 for record at 9:30 A.M. 7-23-  
 1992 and recorded in Plat Book 18  
 46 on 7-23-1992  
*Suzetta Ojima* Deputy Clerk

**PIEDMONT LAKE**  
 ASSOCIATION PROPERTIES  
 195± ACRES

**THORNTON PLANTATION**  
**HARRIS COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**PLAT MAP**  
 SCALE: 1" = 250'  
 NORTH: ↑  
 SOURCE: HARRIS COUNTY PLAT BOOK 18, P. 46 (1992)  
 LOT 52 IS THORNTON-WILLIAMS HOUSE PARCEL &  
 THORNTON CEMETERY (SWINT-BANKSTON CEMETERY)

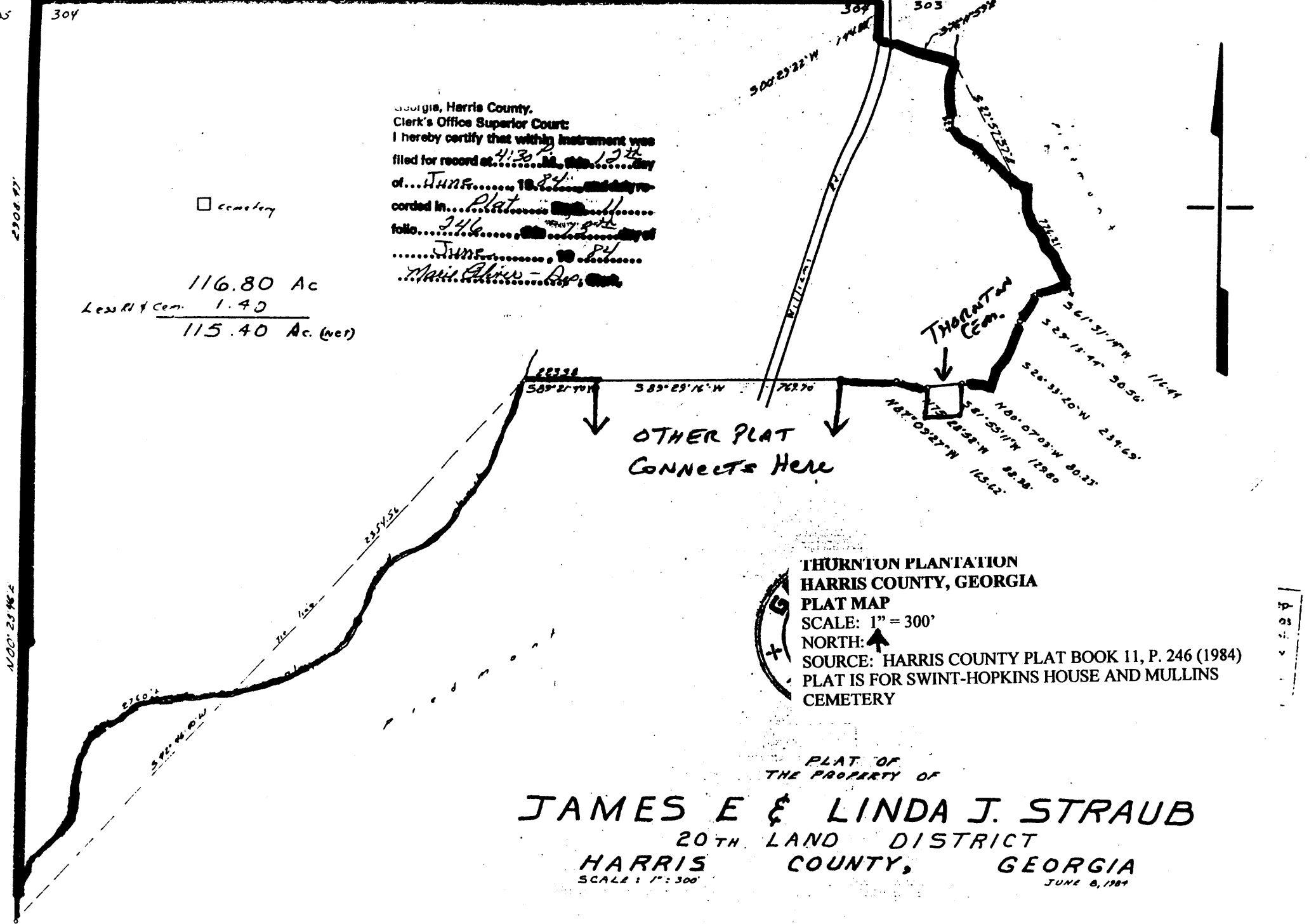
PLAT BOOK 18-46

SHEET #4

#6



IRON PIN SFT



Georgia, Harris County.  
Clerk's Office Superior Court:  
I hereby certify that within instrument was  
filed for record at 4:30 P.M. this 12<sup>th</sup> day  
of June 1984.  
Recorded in Plat 11  
follows 246  
June 1984  
Miss Alvin - App.

116.80 Ac  
Less RT Cem. 1.40  
115.40 Ac. (net)

OTHER PLAT  
CONNECTS HERE

THURNTON PLANTATION  
HARRIS COUNTY, GEORGIA  
PLAT MAP  
SCALE: 1" = 300'  
NORTH: ↑  
SOURCE: HARRIS COUNTY PLAT BOOK 11, P. 246 (1984)  
PLAT IS FOR SWINT-HOPKINS HOUSE AND MULLINS  
CEMETERY

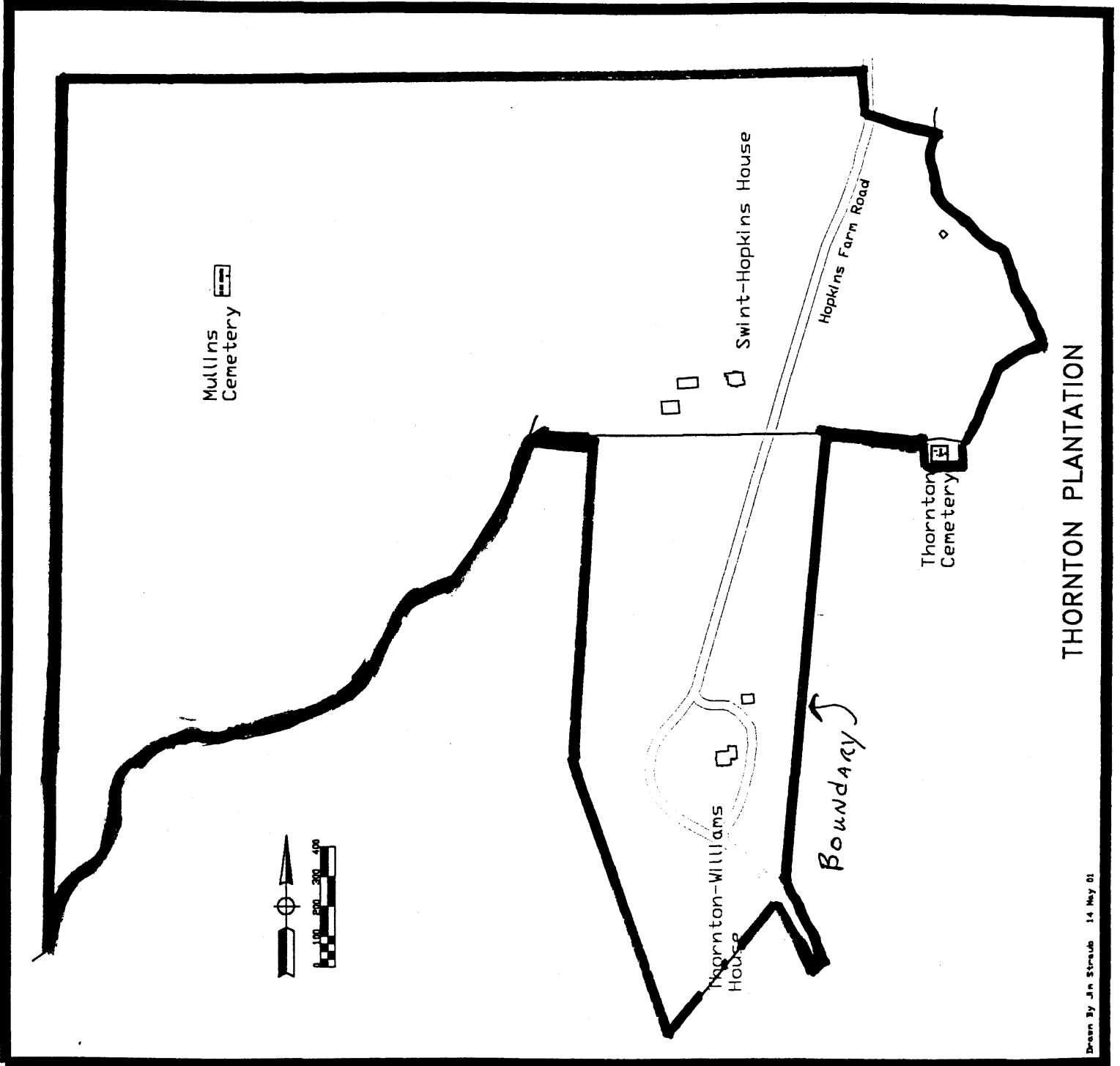
PLAT OF  
THE PROPERTY OF  
**JAMES E & LINDA J. STRAUB**  
20<sup>TH</sup> LAND DISTRICT  
HARRIS COUNTY, GEORGIA  
SCALE: 1" = 300'  
JUNE 8, 1984

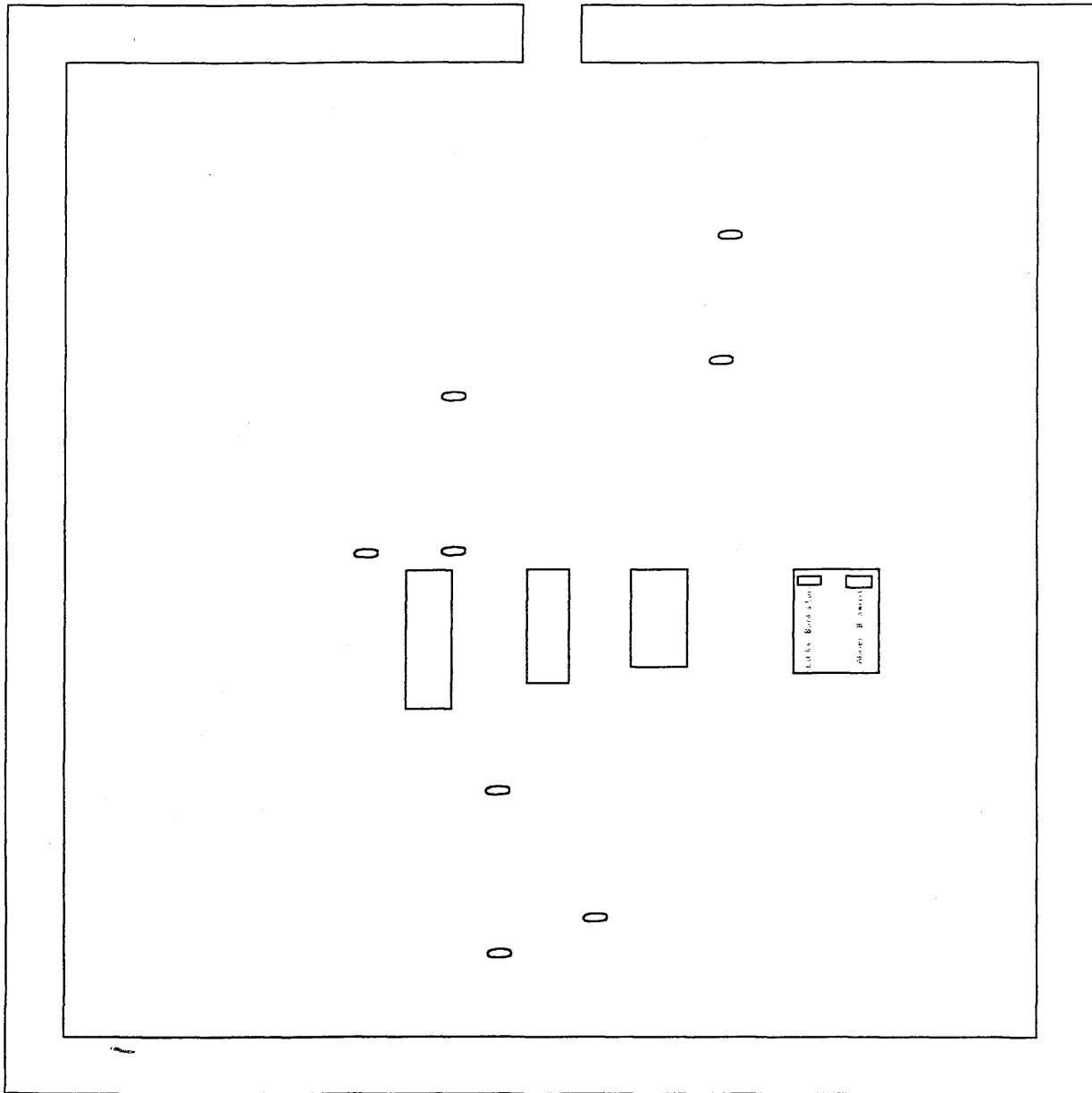
**THORNTON PLANTATION  
HARRIS COUNTY, GEORGIA  
SITE PLAN**

SCALE: NOT TO SCALE

NORTH: 


SOURCE: DRAWN BY JIM STRAUB, 2001



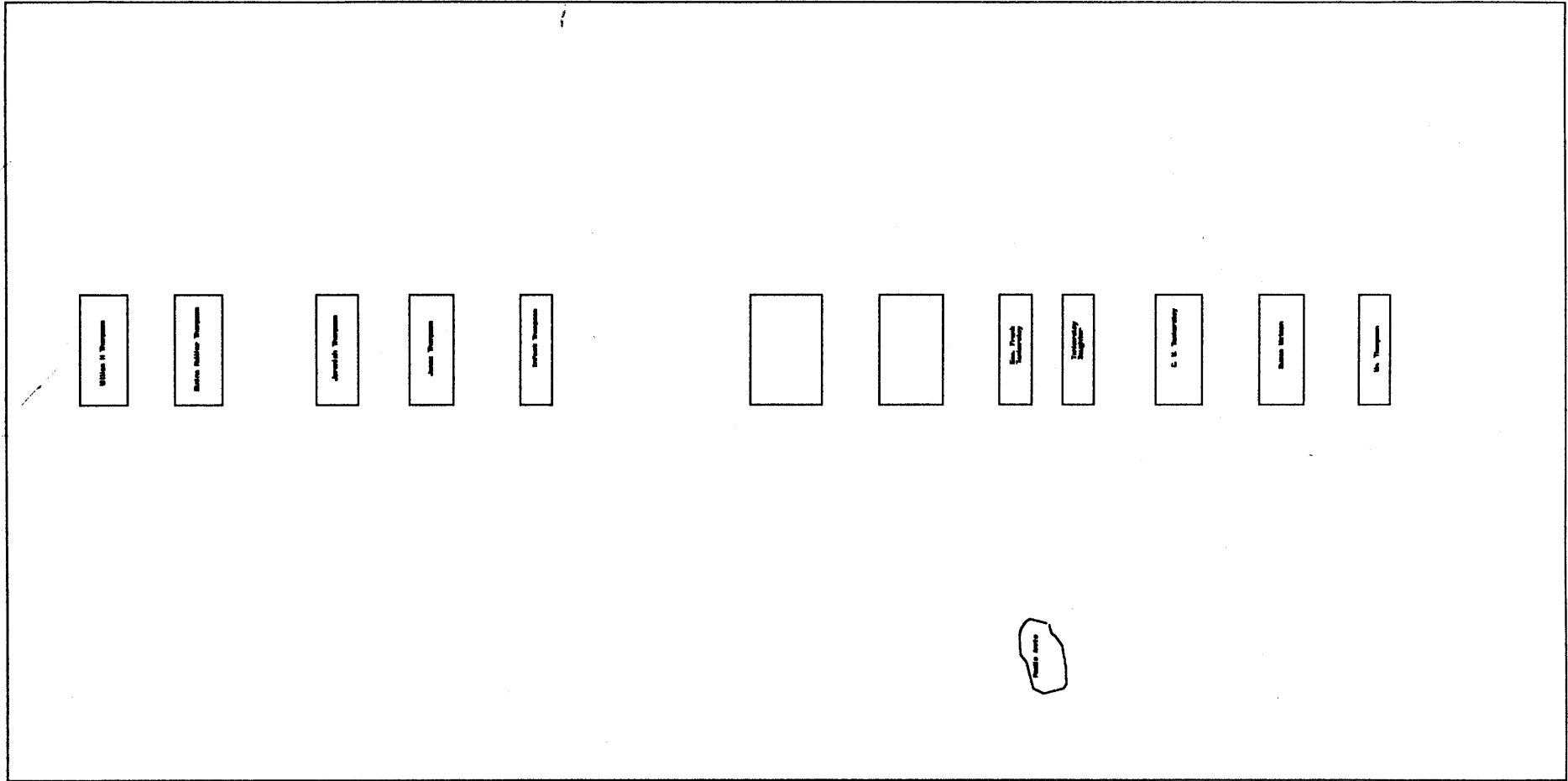


# THORNTON CEMETERY



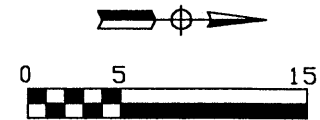
**THORNTON PLANTATION**  
**HARRIS COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**SITE PLAN—THORNTON CEMETERY**  
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE  
 NORTH:   
 SOURCE: DRAWN BY JIM STRAUB, 2001

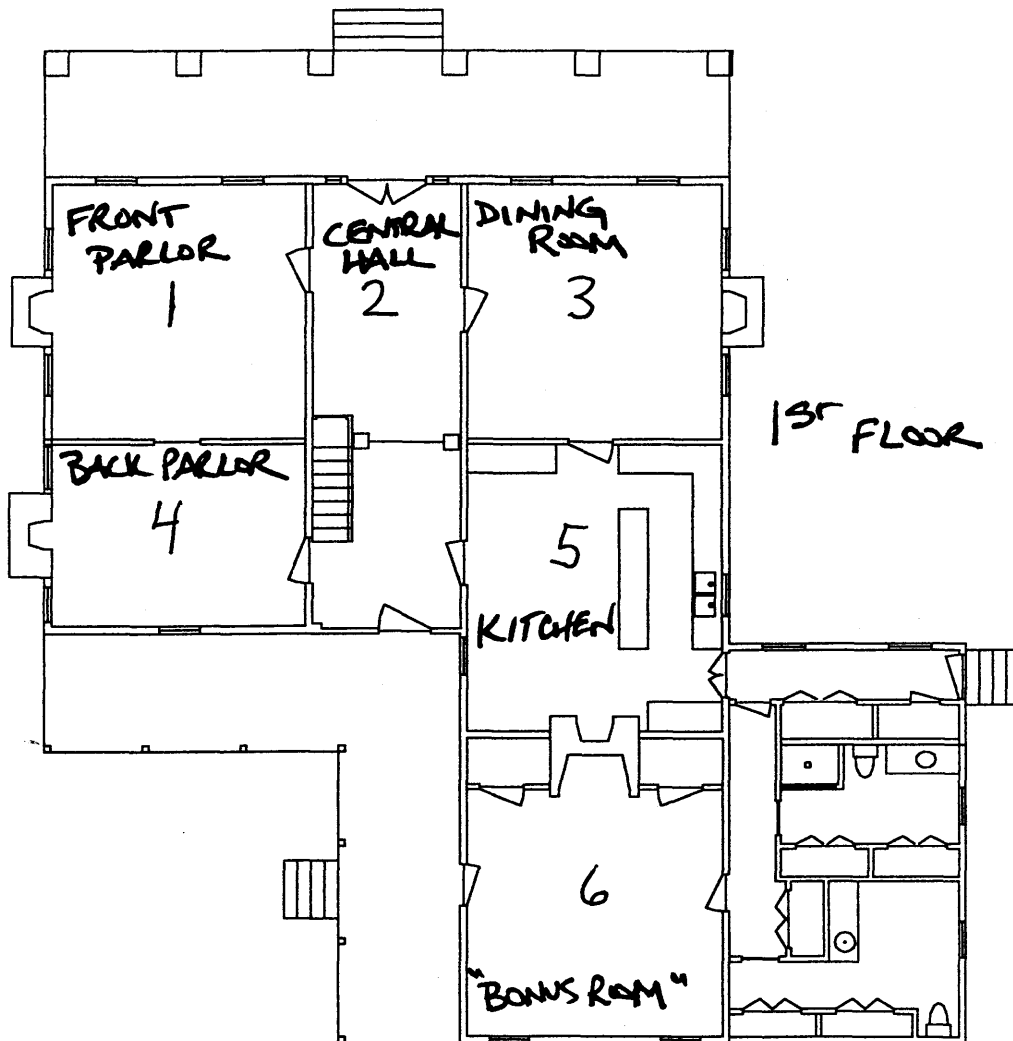
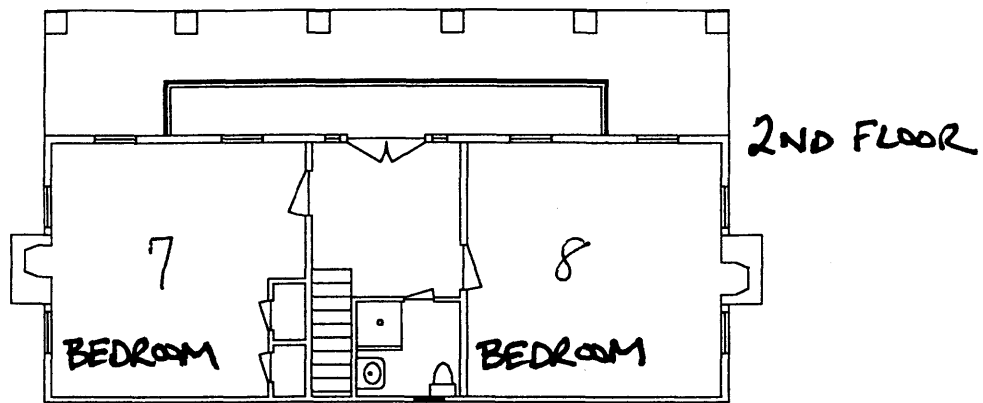





# MULLINS CEMETERY

**THORNTON PLANTATION  
HARRIS COUNTY, GEORGIA  
SITE PLAN—MULLINS CEMETERY  
SCALE: NOT TO SCALE  
NORTH: →  
SOURCE: DRAWN BY JIM STRAUB, 2001**

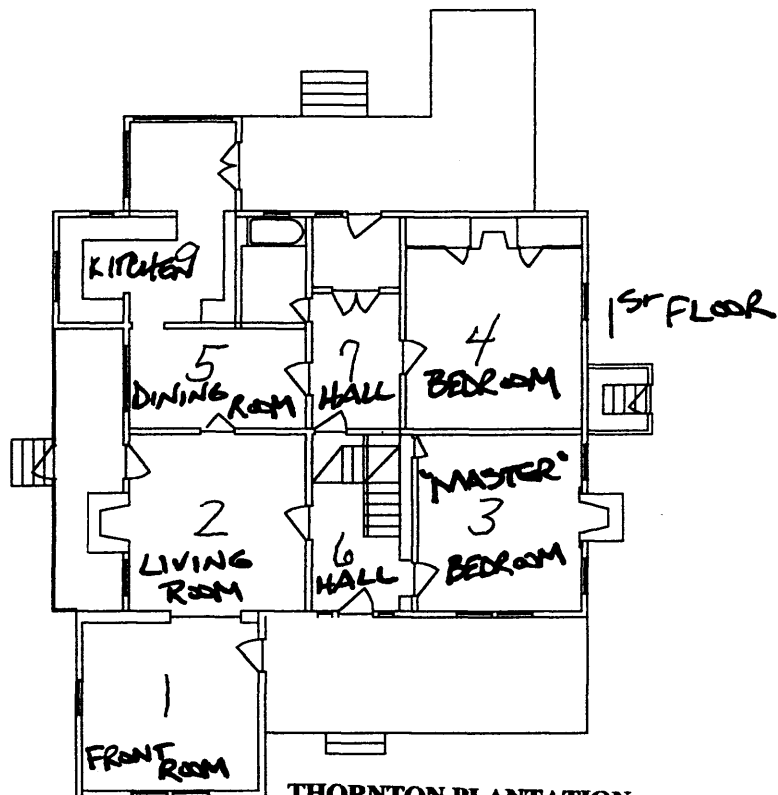
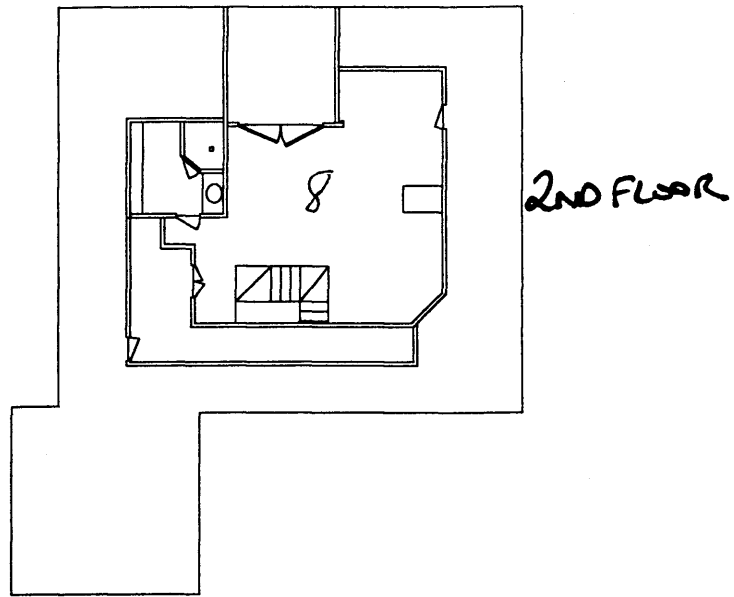





# Thornton-Williams House

**THORNTON PLANTATION**  
**HARRIS COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**FLOOR PLAN—THORNTON-WILLIAMS HOUSE**  
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE  
 NORTH:   
 SOURCE: DRAWN BY JIM STRAUB, 2001

Drawn: Jim Straub  
 20 February, 2001



**THORNTON PLANTATION**  
**HARRIS COUNTY, GEORGIA**  
**FLOOR PLAN—SWINT-HOPKINS HOUSE**  
 SCALE: NOT TO SCALE  
 NORTH:   
 SOURCE: DRAWN BY JIM STRAUB, 2001

SWINT- HOPKINS HOUSE

