

**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 Haywood English Family Log House  
other names/site number Big Holly Cabin

NATIONAL REGISTER

**2. Location**

street & number Georgia Highway 115  
city, town Clarkesville  
county Habersham code GA 137  
state Georgia code GA zip code 30523

(x) vicinity of

(n/a) not for publication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:**

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	1	1
sites	0	0
structures	0	1
objects	0	0
total	1	2

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 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.

Elizabeth A. Lyon  
Signature of certifying official

11/5/91  
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon  
State Historic Preservation Officer,  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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**

entered in the National Register

Delores Byrum 12/9/91

( ) determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

( ) determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

( ) removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

( ) other, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) see continuation sheet

fu \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC; single dwelling

### Current Functions:

RECREATION AND CULTURE; museum

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

Other: Single pen

### Materials:

foundation	stone
walls	log
roof	wood shingles
other	wood

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Haywood English Family Log House is a single-pen house of log construction probably built in the 1840s. It is located on Georgia Highway 115 approximately three miles west of Clarkesville in a rural part of Habersham County. The house sits back from the road in a clearing with woods on three sides. A new split-rail fence borders the property along the road.

The rectangular single-pen house sits on stone piers and has a front and rear door and one window. The house's heart-pine logs are hand-hewn with chinking between and full-dovetail corner notching. There is one exterior end chimney made of stone. The roof is side-gabled and covered with wooden shingles.

On the interior, the hewn logs are exposed, and their joints are covered with horizontal wooden battens. The wood floor is made of wide heart-pine boards, and the ceiling joists are exposed below a wide-board ceiling. The fireplace and hearth are made of stone.

The house was enlarged around 1890 with a two-room, wood-framed addition. During the house's restoration in 1986, this addition was removed due to its deteriorated condition. The log house was then moved approximately 14 feet to avoid damage from an adjacent large holly tree. The roof structure, floor, doors, window, and chimney of the log house were reconstructed at the time of the move. The log walls were dismantled, the logs numbered, and the walls then rebuilt on the new location. Three full-length and five half-length logs were replaced with new hand-hewn logs due to deterioration.

Two nonhistoric outbuildings, a well house and a storage shed, were also constructed at this time.

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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

**Period of Significance:**

c.1840s

**Significant Dates:**

c.1840s

**Significant Person(s):**

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation:**

n/a

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

unknown

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**Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:**

**Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The Haywood English Family Log House is significant as a rare surviving example of a c.1840s single-pen log house constructed in the northeast Georgia mountains. The house is significant in the area of architecture as an unusual example of the once common but now rare single-pen house type frequently associated with pioneer or frontier development. There are few authentic examples of single-pen houses remaining in Georgia due to these houses often being enlarged to a double-pen, saddlebag, or other similar house type, or being replaced with newer, larger houses. Also, few of these houses have been re-used due to their general unsuitability as a house today. The house is also significant as a rare surviving example of log house construction. Its hand-hewn logs joined with full-dovetail corner notching and chinking and the interior wooden battens are important examples of early log construction techniques. Very few early single-pen log houses such as this one remain in Georgia, making this example of statewide significance. This area of significance supports National Register eligibility under Criterion C.

**National Register Criteria**

The Haywood English Family Log House is eligible under Criterion C as an example of the once common but now rare single-pen house type and as a rare surviving example of log house construction from c.1840s.

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

The house was moved approximately 14 feet to avoid damage from the roots and branches of a large holly tree. The original orientation of the house was maintained. The general location and setting of the house are essentially unchanged given the short distance of the move.

**Period of significance (justification, if applicable)**

The c.1840s period of significance is the period during which the house is believed to have been built.

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

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The contributing resource on this property is the log house. The two noncontributing resources are a newly constructed wellhouse structure and storage shed.

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

According to written records, the English Family Log House appears to have been in existence at least since the mid-1850s. It was at that time that the first member of the English family purchased the land upon which the house now rests. A look at the history of the property will bring us to that point.

Habersham County was created in 1818 and its land distributed in the 1820 Land Lottery. The English Family Log House is located on Land Lot 5, and its associated property is in Land Lots 4 and 5.

In the 1820 Land Lottery, Lot 4 in the 10th district (adjacent to the nominated property) was drawn by Hezekiah F. Goss of Morgan County and granted to him in the 1820s. The title to Lot 4, a 250-acre lot, can be traced through a series of short-term owners until the entire lot was purchased by Andrew Prince on February 8, 1850 for \$100. In the 1850 population census, Haywood English and family, including his daughter Nancy, were living between Andrew Prince and his brother, Joseph Prince, both bachelors. Later that year in November, Joseph Prince married English's daughter, Nancy. No deeds have been located to indicate purchase by any member of the English family, but by 1860 Haywood English (c.1795-c.1860s) appeared to be in possession of the lot, as he identified himself in the 1860 Agricultural Census as owning 250 acres of which he was cultivating 35. After his death in the early 1860s, his heirs sold, in 1868, their undivided shares of Lot 4 (a full 250-acre lot) in a quit claim deed to one of his older sons, James M. English. James had been living next door to his parents in the 1860 population census, with no land, and thus presumably farming with his father. This deed would not exist unless Haywood English had had title (ownership) to Lot 4, despite the lack of a deed. The quit claim procedure was used to clear the title.

At this same time, the adjacent lot, Lot 5, upon which the nominated house/property actually sits, was also a 250-acre lot. It was drawn in the 1820 land lottery by Joshua Howard of Washington County, Georgia. He was granted the lot in 1829, and sold it immediately to Moses Link. After Link moved to Tennessee, he sold the full lot for \$100 to Joshua Butt of Union County, Georgia. It does not appear that any of these early owners actually lived on the land. Butt in turn sold it to Benjamin Cleveland, a well-to-do planter in Habersham County in 1855 for \$100. Since Cleveland owned extensive property in

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the county, it is unlikely that he lived on this one, since the sale price (\$250) remained low when he in turn sold it in 1856.

It was in 1856 that Isaac Newton English, third son of Haywood English, purchased the entire Lot 5 for \$250. It is apparently upon this lot that Isaac and family are living in the 1860 census and for which he declares farming 250 acres in the 1860 Agricultural Census. Isaac retained ownership of this lot (Lot 5) while his father presumably owned the adjacent lot (Lot 4).

With two branches of the English family owning adjacent lots, totaling 500 acres, over the next several decades they sold off parts of each of these parcels, and added others. A major part (65 acres) of Lot 4 and 50 acres of Lot 5 eventually came into the sole ownership of William Jasper English, another son of Haywood English.

William Jasper English sold the above mentioned parcels to his own son, William M. English, in 1905. After William M.'s death, his widow Gennie/Jennie (Morris) English had 113 acres, the above tract, set aside for her use in 1942. In 1956, she sold this tract to her son, Irenus. He in turn deeded the tract, intact, to his sister, Mrs. Willie English Shirley, in 1979. It was she who, in 1981, sold six acres of this tract, including the English Log House, to the current owner, Dr. Edward L. McConnell.

The log house has been specifically attributed to Haywood English, the progenitor of the English family. He appears to have been a colorful character who spent his first two decades in Habersham County as a "squatter" on a land lot some two miles northeast of the nominated property. There the land was owned by absentee land owners and thus he took advantage of their absence to live on and presumably farm the land. After the lot was sold to a local owner in 1841, he was sued for ejection, to get him off the land, and thus he apparently moved off the property in the early 1840s. The lawsuit was eventually appealed to the Georgia Supreme Court as English v. Register 7 GA 387 (1849).

Years before the case had come to the newly formed court, English had moved to the general area of the nominated property. It is clear from analyzing the U.S. Census returns that he was living as early as 1840 among the neighbors surrounding Lots 4 and 5 of the 10th district, specifically Joseph Prince, his future son-in-law. He remained within this same community until his death in the early 1860s.

In the 1850 Census, English is shown as a subsistence farmer, owning no property. Then by 1860 he indicated he owned 250 acres. It was during the same decade in which his son Isaac acquired Lot 5, that

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Haywood acquired Lot 4, although there is no deed on record in Habersham County for the latter purchase.

The confusion over who actually built this log house can best be resolved by noting Haywood English's earlier penchant for living twenty years on land he did not own, land owned by absentee owners. When he moved a few miles west to Land Lots 4 and 5, he once again settled on land under absentee ownership, and it can be reasonably assumed that he only purchased the land in the 1850s after the land came into the possession of a local resident (1850) who required payment. (The local owner, Benjamin Cleveland, who purchased Lot 5 in 1855 and later sold it to Haywood's son, Isaac N. English, also handled part of the elder English's court case before the Georgia Supreme Court in 1849. He was a very prominent local citizen acting as a real estate agent would today for absentee owners.) English also could have been working on a lease-purchase agreement, a mortgage of sorts, which remained unrecorded until paid off. This agreement could have run through several owners. This was found to be the case in another Habersham County property (now in Stephens County) at Traveler's Rest, now a State Historic Site. Without the original family papers, one reading the courthouse material would never know how long the Jarrett family had been involved in purchasing the Traveler's Rest property.

Presumably in his old age, Haywood English could have lived in the log house with his son's family, or as in the case of many families, they could have swapped houses. While there are many possible theories, the known facts are that the English Family Log House is on property which came in to that family legally in 1856 and could have been under their control as early as the 1840s.



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**9. Major Bibliographic References**

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Previous documentation on file (NPS): (x) N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- 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:

- 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** One acre.

**UTM References**

A) Zone 17 Easting 263975 Northing 3832275

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary encompasses one acre immediately surrounding the house with the house at the approximate center of the nominated property. The boundary is drawn to scale on the enclosed USGS map and Habersham County tax map. The tax map is the largest-scale local map available.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary encompassing one acre with the house at its approximate center provides an appropriate setting for the house.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**name/title** Debra A. Curtis, Architectural Historian  
Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian  
**organization** Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of  
Natural Resources  
**street & number** 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334  
**telephone** 404-656-2840 **date** October 15, 1991

(HPS form version 11-02-90)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
**Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

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**Name of Property:** Haywood English Family Log House  
**City or Vicinity:** Clarkesville  
**County:** Habersham  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** April 1990

**Description of Photograph(s):**

1 of 7: English Log House and its setting; photographer facing northwest.

2 of 7: Front and side facades of log house and nonhistoric wellhouse; photographer facing north.

3 of 7: Rear facade of log house; photographer facing southwest.

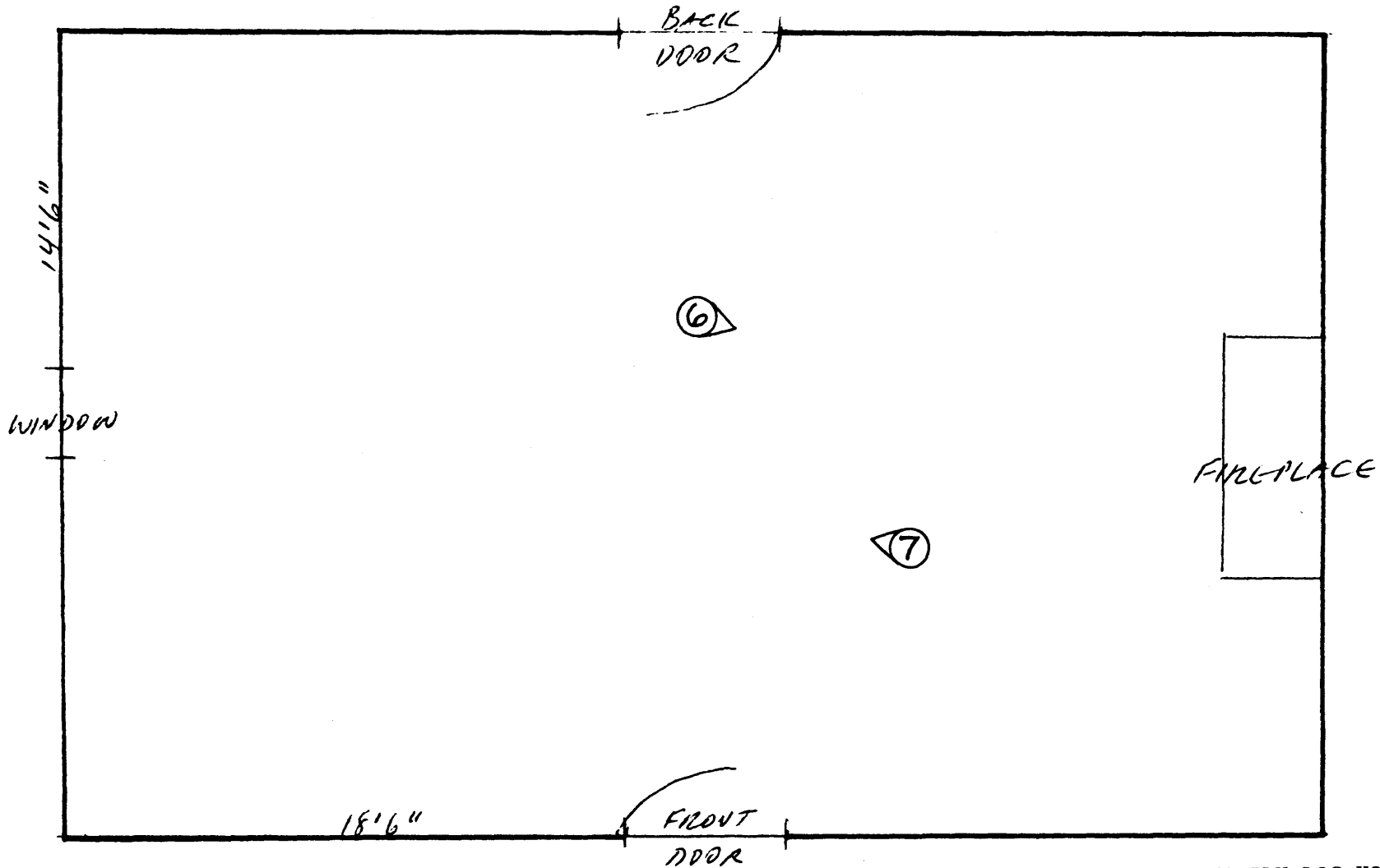
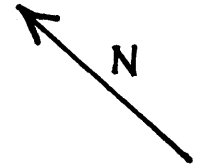
4 of 7: Rear facade of log house and nonhistoric storage shed; photographer facing south.

5 of 7: Detail of corner notching; photographer facing north.

6 of 7: Interior of log house; photographer facing southeast.

7 of 7: Interior of log house; photographer facing northwest.

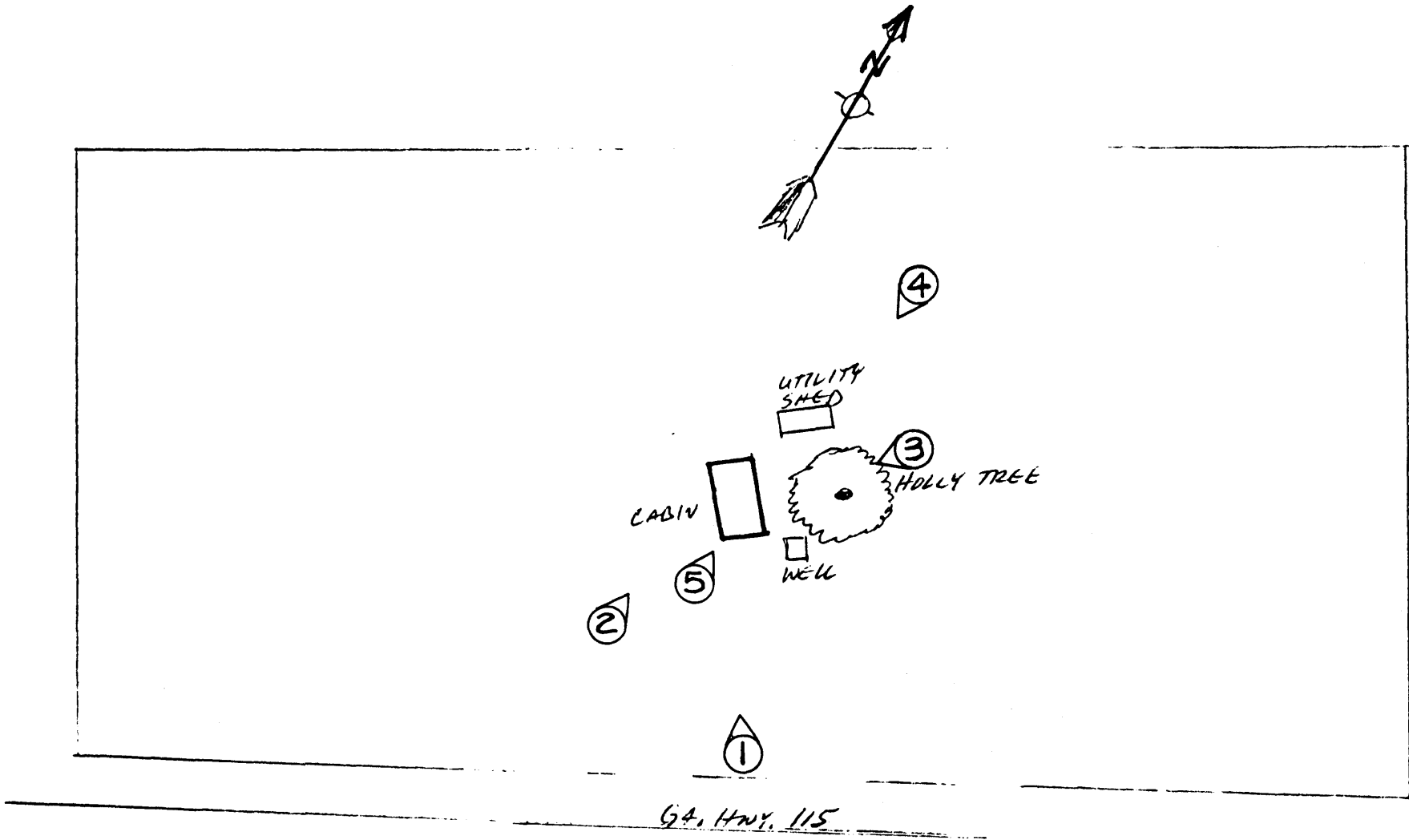
IV. F.



HAYWOOD ENGLISH FAMILY LOG HOUSE  
Habersham County, Georgia  
Floor Plan  
Scale: None  
Photo/Direction of View:

North:

IV. G. I.



HAYWOOD ENGLISH FAMILY LOG HOUSE  
Habersham County, Georgia  
Site Plan  
Scale: None  
Photo/Direction of View:

North:



HAYWOOD ENGLISH FAMILY LOG HOUSE  
Habersham County, Georgia  
Habersham County Tax Map  
Scale: 0' | 400'  
District Boundary: \_\_\_\_\_

North: 