

NATIONAL REGISTER

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 Jefferson Hall
other names/site number None

2. Location

street & number Georgia Highway 12
city, town Union Point (X) vicinity of
county Greene code GA 133
state Georgia code GA zip code 30669

(N/A) not for publication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	3	2
sites		
structures		
objects		
total	3	2

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

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

7/6/89
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Deputy 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

Michael Byers 8/10/89

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Federal
Early Classical Revival

Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	wood
roof	asphalt shingle
other	none

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Jefferson Hall is an antebellum plantation consisting of a main house with two historic outbuildings, a tenant house and a barn, as well as two non-historic outbuildings, a modern garage and a large birdhouse. It is located in rural Greene County, Georgia, one and one-half miles east of Union Point near the county line. The plantation is situated in the Piedmont region of Georgia, a rural region consisting, as its name implies, of low hills.

The main house at Jefferson Hall, also called "Jefferson Hall," is a ca. 1830, two-story, Federal/Early Classical Revival-style house with Jeffersonian proportions, mainly in the columned front portico. The house has an L-shape, with six rooms.

On the exterior, there are wooden clapboards of heart pine and three original, exterior brick chimneys. The most significant exterior detail is the two-story, front portico. It has four round, Ionic columns made of brick and stuccoed. The entrance doorway is in the high Federal style with fanlight, sidelights, paired, reeded pilasters, and paneled, double doors. Double doors are also found on the rear and upstairs entranceways. The upstairs front portico/balcony doorway has sidelights, but no fanlight. The original sheaf-of-wheat banister railing still ornaments the balcony of the portico. A wooden fan design is found in the center of the gable end of the portico. The windows on both floors have nine-over-nine lights.

On the interior, the house is just one room deep, having a central hall and two rooms on the first and second floors of the front portion, and two rooms in the right or west wing. There are two open

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National Park Service

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stairs, one in the main entrance/central hall and the other in the right wing.

The original wide, pine floors are found in all rooms except the kitchen, dining room, and the downstairs central hall. The present hardwood floors were added over the pine floors in these three rooms in the 1940s. Most rooms have original plaster walls, and most of the window panes are original. The ceilings were refinished in the 1940s with a Celotex-like substance.

The most outstanding interior ornamentation are the mantels found in each of the front two first floor rooms. These mantels are Adamesque in design, with central sunburst medallions and other classical details. The other mantels in the house are plain by comparison. The three second floor rooms, as well as the dining room, and kitchen on the first floor have chair rails with moldings. The first floor hall has paneled wainscoting, and wainscot panels of similar design are also found underneath the first floor parlor windows. Fluting frames the parlor windows and the first floor, entrance doorway. The railings, spindles, newel posts, treads, and risers of both stairs are original. All interior doors are original and are of the cross and open Bible design. The three sets of double entrance doors are also original. A few original locks remain in the house. Among these are the iron box lock on a door leading from the first floor room of the right wing to a rear porch, and the second floor lock on the balcony doors.

The method of construction found in the house is that of mortise and tenon, with large, hand-hewn heart of pine timbers.

The house rests in a rural farm setting on gradually sloping land. The house stands 180 feet from the highway, with a grass lawn in front. Large boxwoods grow in front of the house. On the eastern side are found red camellia, boxwood, crape myrtle, Buford holly, Magnolia, and a large pecan tree. There are other pecan trees near the house on other sides. The driveway is partially lined with dogwoods. Many of these plantings date from the 1940s, while others are much older.

Of the four outbuildings, two are historic and two are not. An historic one-story, frame tenant house sits some distance west of the house. Dating from the late 19th century, it is now used for storage. An historic, frame early 20th century barn sits southwest of the main house. A modern garage sits just southwest of the main house, and a large (36 feet by 45 feet), modern cement block birdhouse is just east of the house.

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The locations of previous outbuildings, generally known from the days of the Harwell ownership and visible surface remains, are marked on the enclosed sketch map/site plan.

The house and farm are located in a rural setting with a small pasture surrounding the house and yard. The nearby highway has a low traffic volume.

Changes to the house have been minimal. The most significant have been the addition of hardwood floors over some of the original pine floors in three rooms and the Celotex ceilings, both of which were done in the 1940s. At this same time, bathrooms and closets were added, the latter having been placed fairly unobtrusively.

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
transportation
exploration/settlement
agriculture

Period of Significance:

1830-1939

Significant Dates:

1830

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)

Jefferson Hall is significant in agriculture, architecture and transportation/exploration and settlement.

In agriculture, this property is significant because it is the remaining historic portion of an important antebellum and postbellum farm complex or plantation. From this house was operated a large slave work force for a cotton plantation. Besides the "big house", there were once slave quarters, numerous outbuildings, and extensive cotton fields. After the Civil War, the work force, the freed slaves, became sharecropping tenant farmers, as in the rest of the South. The surviving tenant house is from this era.

In architecture, the house is significant as a fine example of the Federal and Early Classical Revival styles of architecture in Georgia. The house was built around 1830 during a period when both styles were being used. Federal style influences include the front entrance with its fanlight and sidelights, and the Adamesque mantels on the first floor. Early Classical Revival influence can be seen in the monumental, front, two-story portico with its paired, Ionic columns, Jeffersonian in proportion. The house is built of heavy timber framing, a characteristic of most early 19th-century residential structures in Georgia. The house has a high degree of integrity of construction materials for one so old, including weatherboarding, floors, windows, and bricks. The house has both a very typical floor plan, that of two over two with a central hall in the main section, and a very atypical plan for the Georgia Piedmont with the two story rear ell or wing. The house is also well sited on a low rise of ground, in keeping with the grandeur being invoked by using these styles.

The house is also significant in transportation and exploration/settlement because, while it preceded the arrival of the Georgia Railroad at this location, the house became a focal point for a rural community which took the name Jefferson Hall, but which has now disappeared. This community became a railroad stop in 1838 and, from 1840 to 1844, a post office. It was through this plantation and the community that grew up around it and around the railroad stop that the Georgia Railroad ran on its route that ended in the junction which became Atlanta. As Georgia's first railroad, the route of the Georgia Railroad was a very important one. The house has remained intact through the creation, rise, decline and virtual disappearance of a

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once thriving, railroad based community. It is now the only structural evidence of this historic rural community.

National Register Criteria

These areas of significance support the property's eligibility under National Register criteria A and C.

Under Criterion A, broad patterns of American history, this house reflects the juncture of an agriculturally based society, that of the slave-owning, plantation farmers at the high point of the antebellum South, with the advancing technology of the railroad. While the house reflects the combination of architectural styles, that of Federal and Early Classical Revival, the arrival of the railroad to this plantation in the 1830s-1840s brought many changes, and these changes exemplify those that American farms and other rural communities have been facing ever since. The railroad brought people who formed a community, with stores, a post office, and other necessary facilities. While many of these railroad-based communities grew into towns and cities (such as Atlanta), "Jefferson Hall" did not. The plantation house remains today as a reminder and remnant of that once thriving era when the most modern technology of transportation of the day, the railroad, came here. But this plantation is also symptomatic of the many "dead towns" in Georgia and elsewhere as the only reminder of this once thriving community, which took the name of the plantation for its name, as did many other localities. It is a very rare example of a house and plantation remnant that preceded the advancing transportation changes, and growth, and yet survived the decline of both the town and the railroad, to survive, in almost the same rural atmosphere as it must have had in the 1830s when it was built.

The house meets Criterion C because it embodies architectural details and massing which show the influence of a master craftsman or architect. The knowledge of the Federal style of architecture is quite obvious in the front entrance with its reeded pilasters, sidelights and fanlight as well as in the classically inspired, Adamesque mantels in the front two parlors. The growing Early Classical Revival style is reflected here in the, two-story portico with its four Ionic columns, Jeffersonian in proportion. It is an unusual portico in that the columns are made of brick, with stucco. These bricks were no doubt made on the plantation by slave labor. The house also reflects heavy timber framing, characteristic of most early 19th century residential architecture in Georgia, and it retains a high degree of integrity of construction materials for a house of its age, including weatherboarding, flooring, windows, and bricks. The floor plan is also important because it reflects both the typical, two

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over two plan with central hall, joined with a very atypical two story, one room ell or wing. The house's overall massing, and siting are also important features because they created the "effect" that the Early Classical Revival movement wanted, that of nostalgia for the grandeur of Greece and Rome and the monumentality of that earlier, Democratic experience.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

Continous agricultural use 1830-1939 (50 year cut-off)

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

Jefferson Hall appears to have been built on this site around 1830 during the ownership of Augustine Greene. Greene had been born in 1797 in this county to a couple who had migrated to Georgia a decade or so earlier from North Carolina. His father, William Greene, Jr., was said to be a first cousin of General Nathanael Greene for whom this county was named.

Greene County, Georgia is located on what was the western frontier of Georgia in the early, post-Revolutionary War era. When the area was opened for settlement in 1784, many of the original land grantees were Revolutionary War soldiers who got land from the State of Georgia. William Greene, Jr. first appears obtaining land in this county in 1801.

It appears from the various land transactions of William Greene, Jr., that at the time of his death in 1819, when he willed his son, Augustine, "the tract of land whereon he now lives" along with a half interest in the mill tract, the elder Greene owned several tracts and over 30 slaves.

Jefferson Hall stands between the north fork of the Ogeechee River (on the south) and Sherrell's Creek (on the north, north of the railroad). William Greene, Jr. owned tracts on both bodies of water. The road in front of Jefferson Hall (now Georgia Highway 12) was originally known as the road from Greensboro (the county seat) to Augusta. It was along this road that William Greene, Jr. purchased property in 1811.

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Since Jefferson Hall rests along this early route to Augusta, it is quite possible that Augustine Greene built the house on land obtained from his father. That is the belief by at least one of his descendants. But Augustine Greene also purchased land himself in the same area. In March of 1828 he bought 43 1/3 acres along Sherrell's Creek. The following December he bought 369 acres along the same creek. In 1845 he purchased 322 more acres on the same creek, and of course, along the way he also sold parcels from the same area as well.

Tax digests reveal that the total holdings of Augustine Greene bordering Sherrell's Creek totalled 220 acres in 1822, and almost 500 acres in 1837. At his death on April 23, 1852, he owned 727 acres in one block bordering Sherrell's Creek and running south to just below the railroad, as shown on the plat recorded at his death. The house and approximately 80 acres were south of the railroad. It is due to this land acquisition, the ownership of the land upon which Jefferson Hall rests at his death in 1852, that the original owner and builder of Jefferson Hall is believed to be Augustine Greene (1797-1852).

The date of 1830 is attributed to the house due to the construction techniques and architectural styles exemplified by the house and by the analysis of Frederick D. Nichols and other architectural historians.

In 1834, Augustine Greene deeded a right of way through his property to the Georgia Railroad Company which was building the state's first railroad from Augusta toward what eventually became Atlanta. The railroad reached his property in November, 1838 according to Adiel Sherwood's Gazetteer of Georgia (1860). The railroad reached Greensboro in May, 1839. The fact that the stop at Greene's property was the "end of the line" for nearly six months appears to be one reason a village, also known as Jefferson Hall, sprang up at this location. Shortly afterwards, in 1840, a post office was created and named Jefferson Hall. It lasted until 1844, with Augustine Greene as its only postmaster. The village does not appear in any extant gazetteers, but appeared on Bonner's Map of Georgia in 1847.

The use of the placename "Jefferson Hall" has been randomly found in a few sources. No doubt there are many others. An advertisement for the Georgia Railroad in June, 1840 discusses freight being conveyed from Augusta through Crawfordville to Jefferson Hall and Greensboro (all of the others being towns, and thus we assume Jefferson Hall was also considered a town) with "A. Green" listed as the agent at Jefferson Hall. One of Augustine Greene's marriages, in 1844, was reported in the Milledgeville newspaper, stating that he was "of Jefferson Hall," and the death of a non-resident, Mrs. Sophia Russell

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of Lawrenceville, Georgia, was said to have taken place in 1844 "at Jefferson Hall".

Greene County historians have said that the community once contained several stores, an inn, post office, warehouse and other buildings.

At the time the railroad arrived and the community developed and thrived, Greene was a prosperous plantation owner. He had 25 slaves on his 500-acre plantation at this location. By 1850, when the first Agricultural Census exists, the plantation operations indicate that he had 18 slaves, raised 9 bales of cotton and 600 bushels of corn. He also raised oats, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, wheat, barley and hay, as well as livestock. At his death in 1852, he had eleven slaves, and the total value of his estate was \$7,871.

The inventory of the house taken in 1852, at the time of Greene's death, indicated a well-furnished house, in keeping with its high-style architecture. It had curtains and carpets, and high-valued furniture. There were decorative items such as eleven bowls of dried fruit, candlesticks, flower vases, a looking glass, a clock, and a large stock of books.

It would appear that Augustine Greene married several times. His first wife, Phebe, died at the age of 37, in 1834. She was probably the mother of his children. A second wife, Nancy, died in 1843, at the age of 50. In 1844, he remarried to Nancy Fisher of Boston, Massachusetts, in Augusta, Georgia. In the 1850 census, Augustine Greene appeared, age 53, with wife Anne/Nancy, age 47, a daughter Ann Greene, age 17, and another, widowed, daughter, Harriet Boon, age 32, and her son Benjamin, 15.

At the death of Augustine Greene, the house passed from the Greene family. James Brooks Hart (1816-1875) purchased the house and 717 acres on July 21, 1854 and sold it March 1, 1859. Due to the fact that this took place in between census years, very little is known about their occupancy. Hart, born in 1816, was in his late 30s when he purchased the estate. He and his wife, Maria Virginia Collier (1818-1890), had previously married and resided in Augusta, where he was partner in a mercantile establishment. The only clue discovered as to whether or not the Harts actually lived at Jefferson Hall is that at the time of the death of their son, John Collier Hart, state Attorney General and state Tax Commissioner, it was stated in an official memorial sketch that he was born "at their [his parents] Greene County home, known as 'Jefferson Hall'... on the first day of July, 1854". It can be assumed from that statement that they actually lived there, even if only seasonally, for a brief five years. After they sold

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Jefferson Hall, they continued to reside in Greene County in 1860, and had extensive land and slave holdings. They lived at Union Point, another Greene County railroad community that did survive, and are buried there.

The next owner of the plantation also kept it a very short time. The new owner, Ibjan H. Ragan, formerly of Oglethorpe County, Georgia, bought it in 1859 and owned 1,111 acres and 30 slaves, according to the tax digest that year. Ragan sold to Richard G. Carlton (born in 1814), an adjacent land owning-planter and his brother-in-law, 544 acres on December 22, 1859. Carlton's aggregate property value (\$47,083) in 1859 for his total 1,887 acres and 35 slaves made him the wealthiest landowner of Jefferson Hall in antebellum days. His wife, nee Eugenia Ragan (1824-1877), is buried just west of Jefferson Hall, off the nominated property.

During the Civil War (1861-1865) the plantation remained in the ownership of Carlton. There are several traditions about activities that are said to have taken place on the property. They are presented here as part of the traditions associated with this property, and many are similar to those associated with other plantations which were in the path of fighting and which also survived the war. One is that Augustine Greene's daughter, Susan Amorette, wife of Benjamin Green, presented the names(?) of the candidates for the presidency and vice presidency of the Confederate States of America from the veranda. Secondly, there is a story that Jefferson Davis spoke to citizens of Greene County from the balcony of Jefferson Hall. This is possible, since it was adjacent to the railroad along which he travelled. Thirdly, there is the story that the house was used as one of Sherman's headquarters on his March to the Sea in the fall of 1864.

On February 20, 1867, Richard G. Carlton sold the house and property south of the railroad track, combining part of the original Greene tract as well as other adjacent land he owned in that location, to Samuel Jackson Harwell. He and his family owned the property longer than any other owners, from 1867 until 1944.

Samuel Jackson Harwell (1840-1921), a native of Jasper County, Georgia, was a farmer of moderate means although he had a number of share croppers who worked for him. In 1910, he owned 275 acres, valued only at \$1,375. His first wife was Annie Eliza Stewart (1844-1887).

Tom Newland, a retired naval officer whose father had been a presbyterian minister in nearby Union Point, purchased Jefferson Hall on November 24, 1944. He and his wife remodeled the house, installing bathrooms, closets, Celotex ceilings, and hardwood floors. They also

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improved the landscaping. On August 30, 1950, they sold the house to Robert Booth, who after less than a year, sold it to Col. Clem Gunn, a retired army officer on March 1, 1951. After a decade of ownership, Col. Gunn sold it on April 10, 1961 to the present owner, William M. Turner. At the time of the Turner purchase, the attached acreage was 146.5 acres lying wholly on the south side of Georgia Highway 12 and the Georgia Railroad. That is the acreage of the nominated property.

William Turner and his wife, Jeannette Bodiford Turner, both were raised in the Union Point area of Greene County. He has been a full-time cattle, hay and specialty farmer for about twenty-five years, raising purebred Herefords, Shetland ponies, brood mares, Border Collies, parakeets, and even llamas and miniature horses.

The Turners have continued to maintain and preserve this historic dwelling.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Cawthon, William L., Jr. "Jefferson Hall." Historic Property Information Form, July 10, 1987. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

Armor, E. H. The Cemeteries of Greene County, Georgia Athens: Agee Publishers, 1987.

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:

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

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 30 acres

UTM References

- A) Zone 17 Easting 310570 Northing 3719910
- B) Zone 17 Easting 311050 Northing 3719830
- C) Zone 17 Easting 311030 Northing 3719560
- D) Zone 17 Easting 310680 Northing 3719600

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property is bounded by US Highway 278 to the north, woods to east and west, and woods and fields to the south. The boundary is drawn to scale on the attached plat map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property includes the historic house, outbuildings, sites of former outbuildings, and representative acreage which form the core of historic Jefferson Hall.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title 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** May 25, 1989

Will have to
Be reduced

3

4

Sketch Map
Jefferson Hall
Union Point vicinity, Greene County,
Georgia

Scale:----- = 48'

Source: Drawn by William L. Cawthon

Date: 1987

Key: 1 = Main house

2 = Garage

3 = Barn

4 = Tenant house

5 = Domestic birdhouse

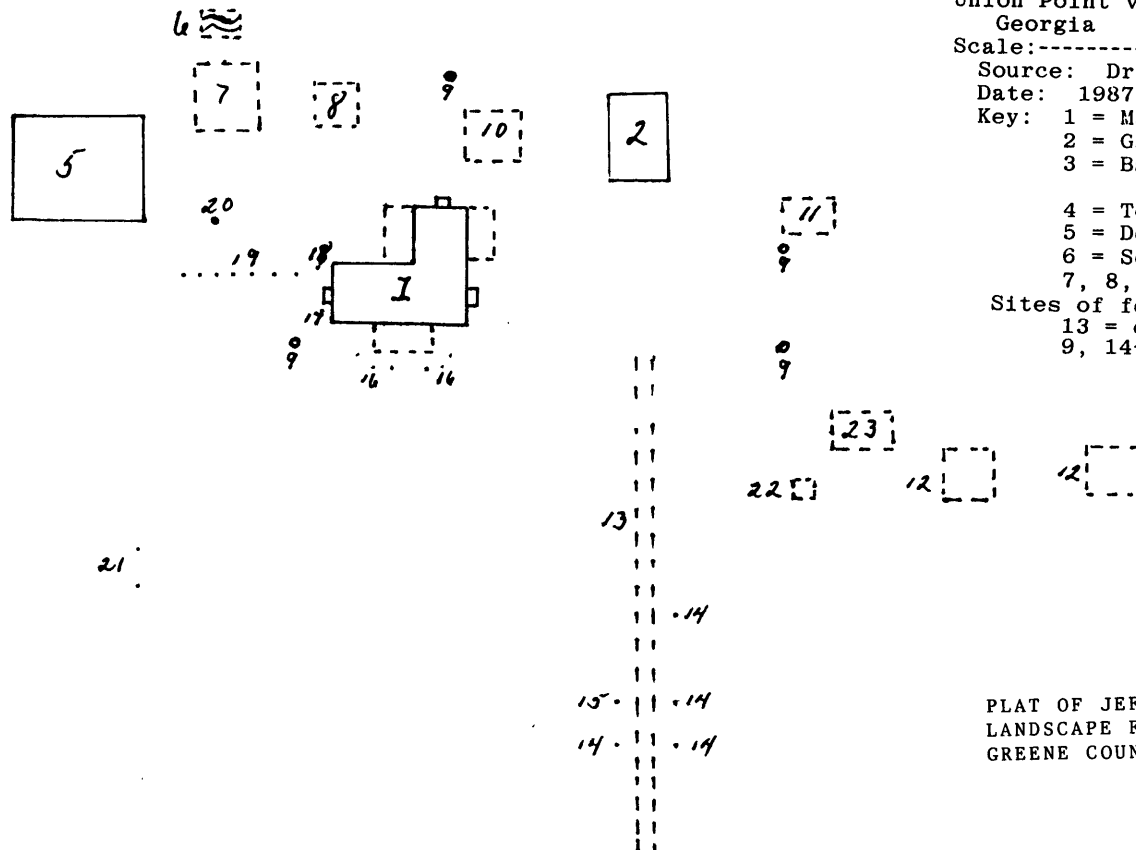
6 = Scuppernong arbor

7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 22, 23 =

Sites of former outbuildings

13 = entrance road to house

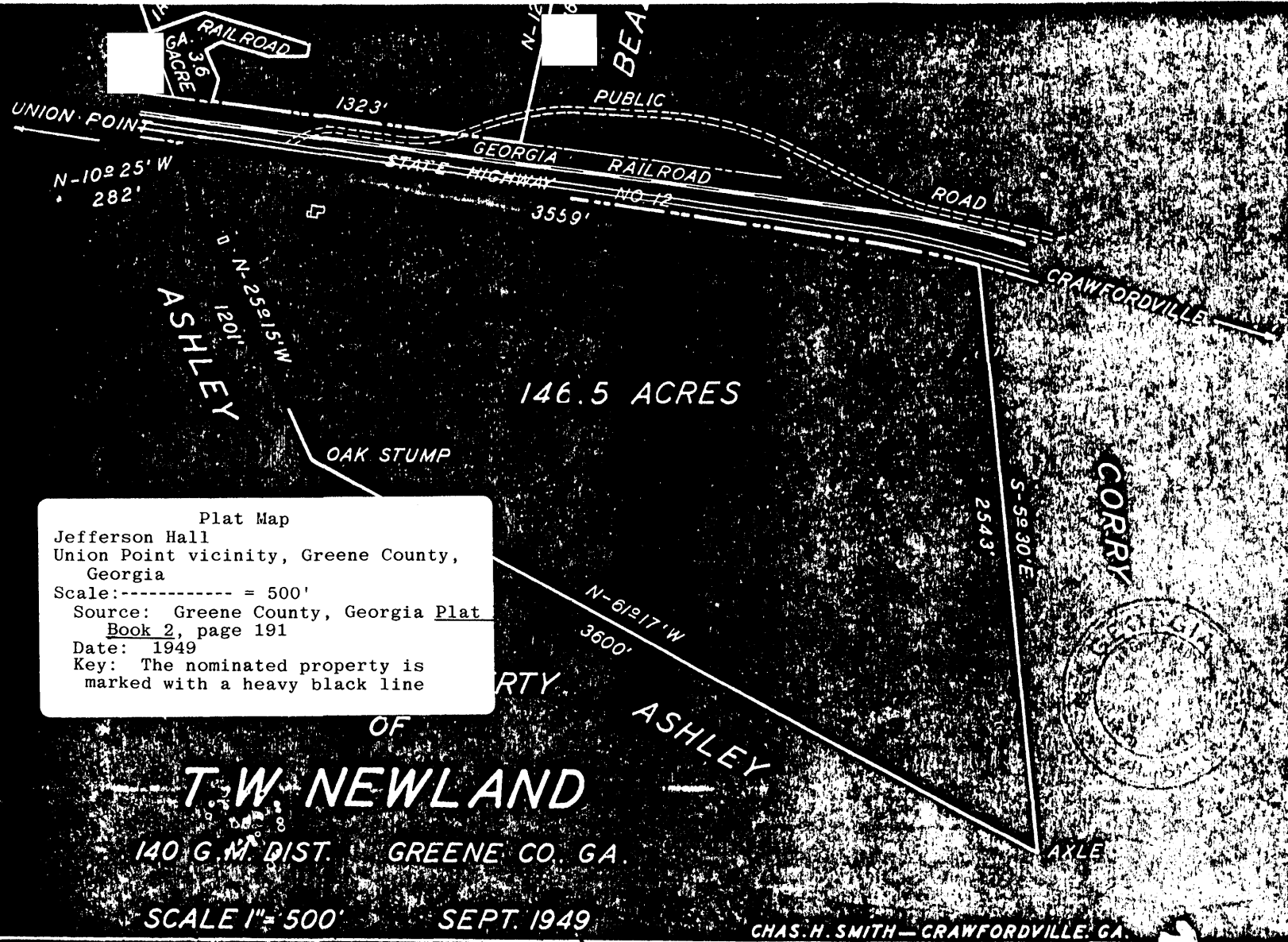
9, 14-21 = Plantings



PLAT OF JEFFERSON HALL AND ITS OUTBUILDINGS AND
LANDSCAPE FEATURES, TWO MILES EAST OF UNION POINT,
GREENE COUNTY, GEORGIA: Survey taken March 1987

One inch = 48'

3 acres
188'



Plat Map
 Jefferson Hall
 Union Point vicinity, Greene County,
 Georgia
 Scale:----- = 500'
 Source: Greene County, Georgia Plat
 Book 2, page 191
 Date: 1949
 Key: The nominated property is
 marked with a heavy black line

Jefferson Hall
 property of
 W. M. Turner,
 recorded in
 Clerk's Office
 Superior Court
 of Greene Co.,
 Georgia.

Plat Book #2,
 Page 191

The suggested
 boundary of
 the National
 Register
 nomination is
 shown by the
 dotted pencil
 line.

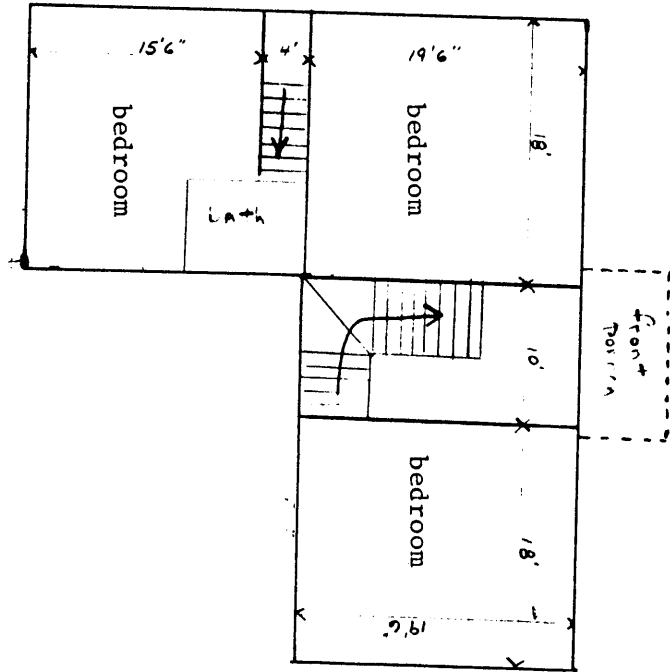
Floor Plan
 Jefferson Hall
 Union Point vicinity, Greene County,
 Georgia

Scale: not to scale

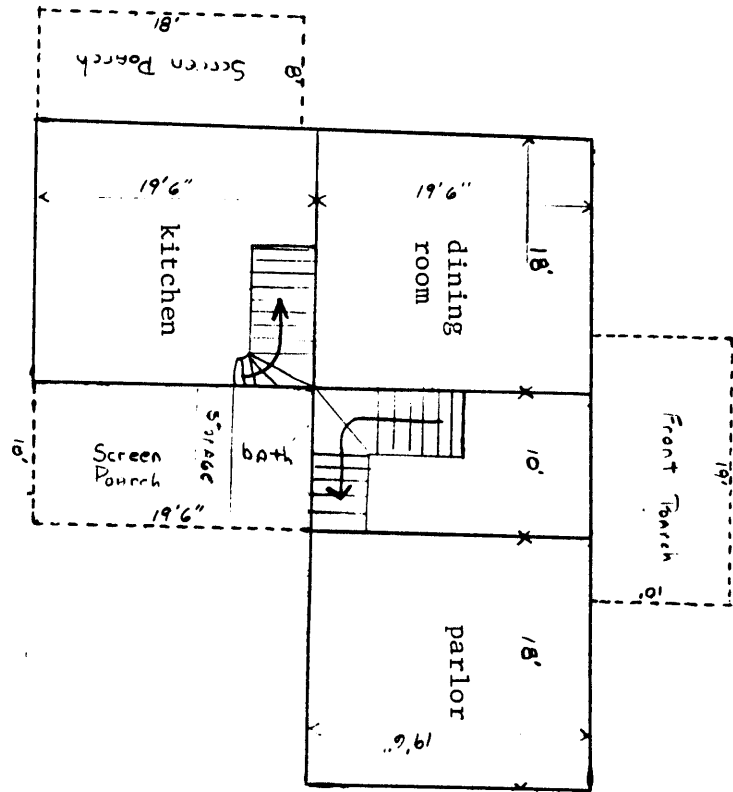
Source: Drawn by Jeannette Turner

Date: c. early 1980s

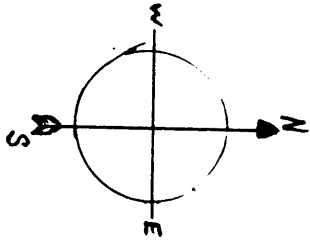
Key: The room usage is marked
 directly on the map



Upper floor



Lower floor



Scale - 1 inch equals 10 feet