

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only
received **JUL 20 1982**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic ~~The~~ McLemore - Sharpe Farmstead

and/or common

2. Location S W of Vidalia on GA 130

The Old Savannah Road, just off
street & number Georgia Highway 130 N/A not for publication

city, town Vidalia *vic.* vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Georgia code 013 county Toombs code 279

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name A) M.W. Ruffin
B) Richard M. Moore C) James W. McArthur

street & number A) Loop Road
B) 211 Stephens Street

city, town Vidalia N/A vicinity of state Georgia 30474

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Toombs County Courthouse

city, town Lyons state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records None

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The McLemore-Sharpe Farmstead is a two-generation family farm lying on a low ridge of land southwest of Vidalia, Georgia. The farmstead consists of two farmhouses and their many associated outbuildings along the Old Savannah Road. The older McLemore farmhouse is a log cabin with a detached kitchen built in 1864. The newer Sharpe farmhouse, built in 1903, is a one-story, wood frame house.

The McLemore Log Cabin is a single pen log structure with a front shed porch and rear and west side shed rooms sheathed in weatherboarding. To its rear is a late-nineteenth century kitchen building attached to the house by a 1964 covered walkway. This kitchen replaced an earlier log kitchen with a dirt floor. The hewn logs of the house and round logs of the kitchen are all saddle-notched. Both buildings have exterior end chimneys that were rebuilt in 1964. Originally, the main house chimney was constructed of slave-made brick and that serving the kitchen building was of sticks and clay. Huge pine block foundations, still in place under the kitchen, have been replaced with concrete blocks under the main house. The interior arrangement of the house consists of the large log living room and six small shed rooms, three to the rear and three to the west side. In 1964 the interior of the house and the kitchen were extensively remodeled. At this time horizontal battens between the logs in the living room were removed and placed on the exterior of the kitchen building, and the logs were covered with pine paneling. A staircase was built in the main room to provide access to the loft, which, until this time, had been accessible only from an exterior ladder.

The McLemore Log Cabin fronts Old Savannah Road and was originally separated from the road by a split rail fence. Historic water oak, crepe myrtle, cedar, magnolia and pecan trees are scattered around the house. To its southwest is a round-log, gable roofed syrup house, contemporary with the house, and to the southeast is the original deep well, dug about 1864. The known sites of a number of outbuildings including a smokehouse (to the south of the syrup house), a wash house, three log barns (to the east of the house) and slave cabins (to the west of the house) are also in the immediate vicinity of the house.

To the east of the McLemore House along Old Savannah Road, at the intersection with another dirt road, is the Robert L. Sharpe House, a one-story, wood frame farmhouse built in 1903 by C.B. McLemore's son-in-law. The multi-gable roofed, weatherboarded, balloon frame house features a front porch (now partially enclosed), a front bay window, six-over-six double hung sash, three interior chimneys and a rear ell with full length ell porch (also partly enclosed). The interior of the Sharpe House has four rooms with a central hall and a rear dining/kitchen ell. Interior finishing includes tongue and groove boards on the walls and ceilings and late-Victorian wood mantels.

Landscaping around the Sharpe House is informal and includes native plants such as oak, pine and pecan trees, arbors and a specimen palm tree. A number of historic outbuildings in the back yard and more across Old Savannah Road date from the turn-of-the-century and the early twentieth century. To the south of the house is a c. 1920

(CONTINUED)

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National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 2

concrete flower house. To the rear of the house are a c. 1920 wide flush-board sided smokehouse; a wide flush-board sided chicken house with a shed screened overhang; a small flush-board sided well house; a weatherboarded garage; and a flush-board sided wash house open on the east side. At the rear is a large flush-board sided double barn with two gabled cribs joined by shed extensions in the center and featuring shed overhangs on both sides.

To the north of the Sharpe House, across Old Savannah Road, are a 1912 weather-boarded commissary with central double doors flanked by windows on either side and protected by a shed roofed front overhang; two board-and-batten tobacco barns; a c. 1910 vertical flush-board sided engine house; an open ell-shaped sugar shelter with a brick chimney and iron boiler; and a one room board-and-batten tenant house with a door, one window and a chimney. To the west of the Sharpe House in a field between the two houses is the family cemetery, established in 1867. The area to the south and west of the farmhouses is open fields; the north and east sections of the property are timberland.

BOUNDARY

Due to changes in land ownership and use, historic boundaries do not exist for this property. Therefore, boundaries have been drawn to include the historic buildings, structures, and sites associated with the farmstead and its ridgetop setting. These boundaries, outlined with a heavy black line on the enclosed U.S.G.S. Map, coincide with the current legal property descriptions on the west, south and east and include the land presently owned by M.W. Ruffin and Richard M. Moore. The north boundary is a line 250 feet north of and parallel to Old Savannah Road. This has been drawn to include the known historic outbuildings associated with the McLemore-Sharpe Farmstead presently located on the property of James McArthur.

PHOTOGRAPHS

The Historic Preservation Section has determined that the photographs taken in August, 1981 still represent the character and appearance of the property. No significant changes have been made since that date.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates	McLemore House-1864 Sharpe House-1903	Builder/Architect	McLemore House: C.B. McLemore and Charles McLemore, Builders.
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Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Sharpe House: Bob Sharpe, builder

The McLemore-Sharpe Farmstead is historically significant in the areas of architecture, agriculture, and historic archaeology. In terms of architecture, the McLemore-Sharpe Farmstead is significant as a two-generation family farm complex with characteristic residential and support structures. The buildings and structures illustrate the evolution of rural architectural principles and practices in South Georgia from the mid-nineteenth to the early-twentieth century. In terms of historic agriculture the Farmstead is significant as an example of the two-generation family farm, typical of other historic farms in this part of the state. Chesley Bostwick McLemore and his son-in-law, Robert L. Sharpe, were both prominent farmers in Toombs County. The Farmstead represents agricultural practices and products typical of the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in southeast Georgia. In terms of historic archaeology, the property is significant for its archaeological potential, inferred from the known locations of previously existing structures. The above areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register criteria A, B, C and D.

Architecture. The buildings of the McLemore-Sharpe Farmstead represent typical rural architectural principles and practices in terms of design, construction, materials and workmanship. The McLemore Log House, built in 1864, and log outbuildings are typical of many nineteenth century farm complexes where sophisticated log construction techniques were utilized for both houses and outbuildings. The log core with many shed roofed extensions was a common house form as was the detached kitchen building. It is significant that much of the construction of the McLemore House was done by Charles McLemore, one of C.B. McLemore's slaves. It was he who prepared the logs and made the bricks for the chimney. Following the 1903 move of Robert L. Sharpe, his wife and mother-in-law (McLemore's widow) to the new farmhouse, the log house was used as a tenant house and later as a storage house before being restored in 1964.

The Sharpe House, built in 1903, and its outbuildings represent typical early-twentieth century building technology. The standardized milled lumber and balloon frame of the Sharpe House provide an important comparison to the earlier handcrafted McLemore Log House. Together they illustrate the evolution of rural architectural principles and practices from the mid-nineteenth to the early-twentieth century. The large variety of outbuildings provide excellent information about the form and function of typical farm support structures from the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.

Agriculture. Chesley Bostwick McLemore bought the first 2,857 acres associated with the McLemore-Sharpe Farmstead in 1855, and by 1875 his holdings had grown to about 4,000 acres. The Farmstead is an excellent example of a two-generation southeast Georgia farm which represents the agricultural practices and products typical of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries in that area. C.B. McLemore, like many

(CONTINUED)

9. Major Bibliographical References

McGregor, Inez. S., "Historic Property. Information Form - C.B. McLemore Homeplace."
June, 1981. On file Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of
Natural Resources

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 40 acres

Quadrangle name Vidalia, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	7	3	6	4	3	4	5	3	5	6	2	4	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

1	7	3	6	4	5	9	0	3	5	6	2	7	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

1	7	3	6	5	1	8	0	3	5	6	2	6	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

1	7	3	6	4	6	0	5	3	5	6	2	2	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification Boundary description and justification
are located in Section 7.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date June 22, 1982

street & number 270 Washington, St., SW telephone 404 656-2840

city or town Atlanta state Georgia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 7/14/82

For HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
Entered in the
National Register

date

8/19/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

of his regional contemporaries, was a diversified farmer who raised cotton, oats, sugar cane, peanuts, corn, potatoes, cattle, hogs, goats, sheep and timber, a typical mix that allowed for almost total self-sufficiency. Much of his land was long leaf yellow pine timber land that he never worked. Robert L. Sharpe, who married one of McLemore's daughters in 1899, expanded the operations to include turpentine and tobacco farming, two highly profitable ventures. The turpentine industry was introduced in Georgia after the collapse of the plantation economy at the end of the Civil War in order to make use of Georgia's pine forest, a vast undeveloped resource. Beginning about 1911, tobacco became known as Georgia's "miracle crop" because of the great prosperity it brought to the farmers of middle and south Georgia. Robert Sharpe was a particularly innovative farmer who invented a machine for threshing oats and wheat, developed an insulated smokehouse with sawdust in the walls and a ceiling compartment for a large block of ice, and was the first farmer in the area to install a dipping vat for his cattle.

The Farmstead represents the mid-nineteenth century change from slave to tenant farm economy and the early-twentieth century change in agricultural technology from hand labor to mechanization. In 1864 McLemore purchased eight slaves to help him run the farm and built them small cabins to the west of his log house. Some of them stayed on as tenant farmers under the new tenant farming system that developed after the Civil War. In 1912, Sharpe built a commissary, a small store where tenant farmers purchased their supplies, usually on credit.

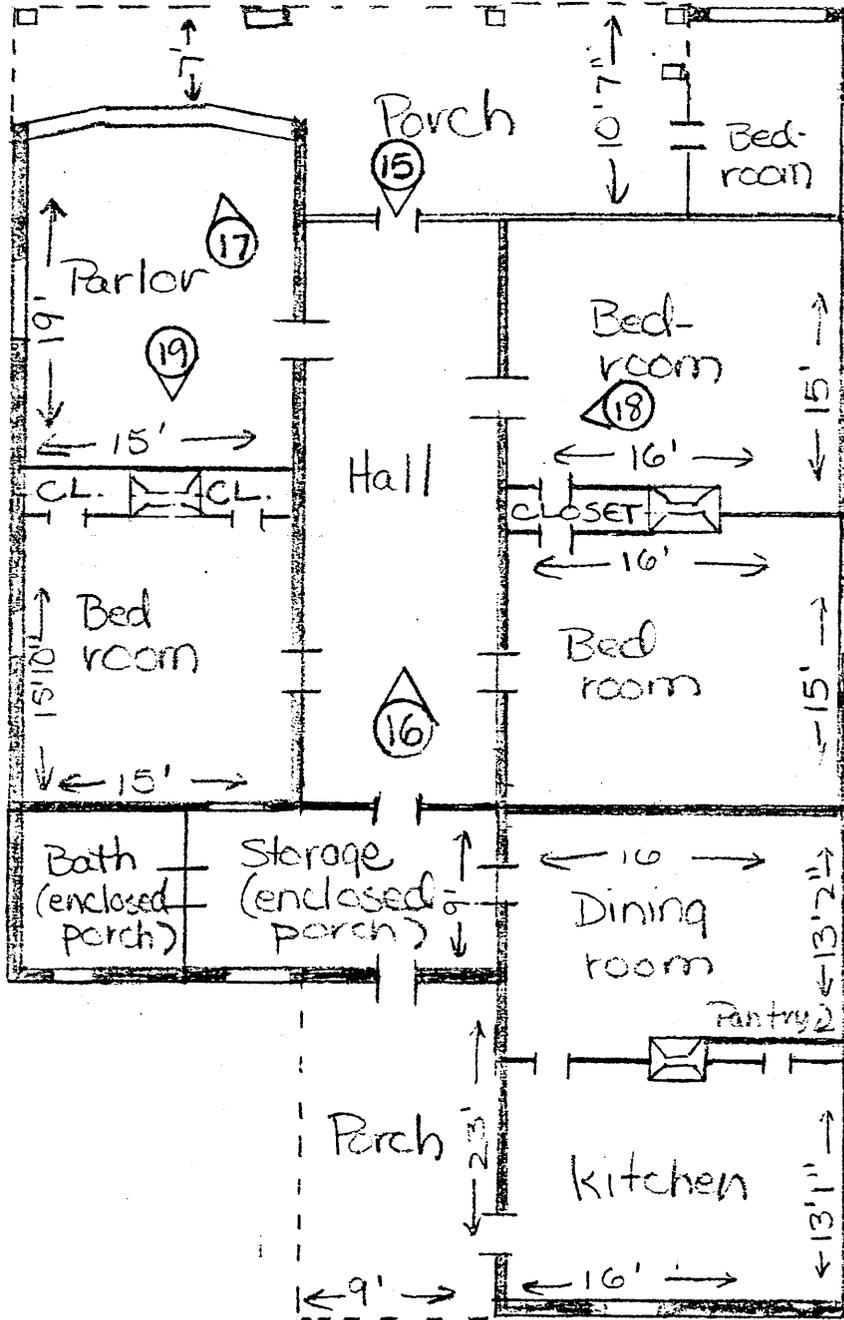
Historic Archaeology. The known sites of a number of early outbuildings surrounding the McLemore House give the property significance in the area of historic archaeology. The sites of these buildings which include a smoke house, a wash house, two one-story log barns, a two-story log barn and a group of slave cabins have the potential to provide additional information about rural life in southeast Georgia during the late nineteenth century.

MCLEMORE - SHARPE FARMSTEAD
Vidalia vicinity, Toombs County, Georgia

PROPERTY/SKETCH MAP: SHARPE HOUSE FLOOR PLAN

Scale: Not to scale

North: ←



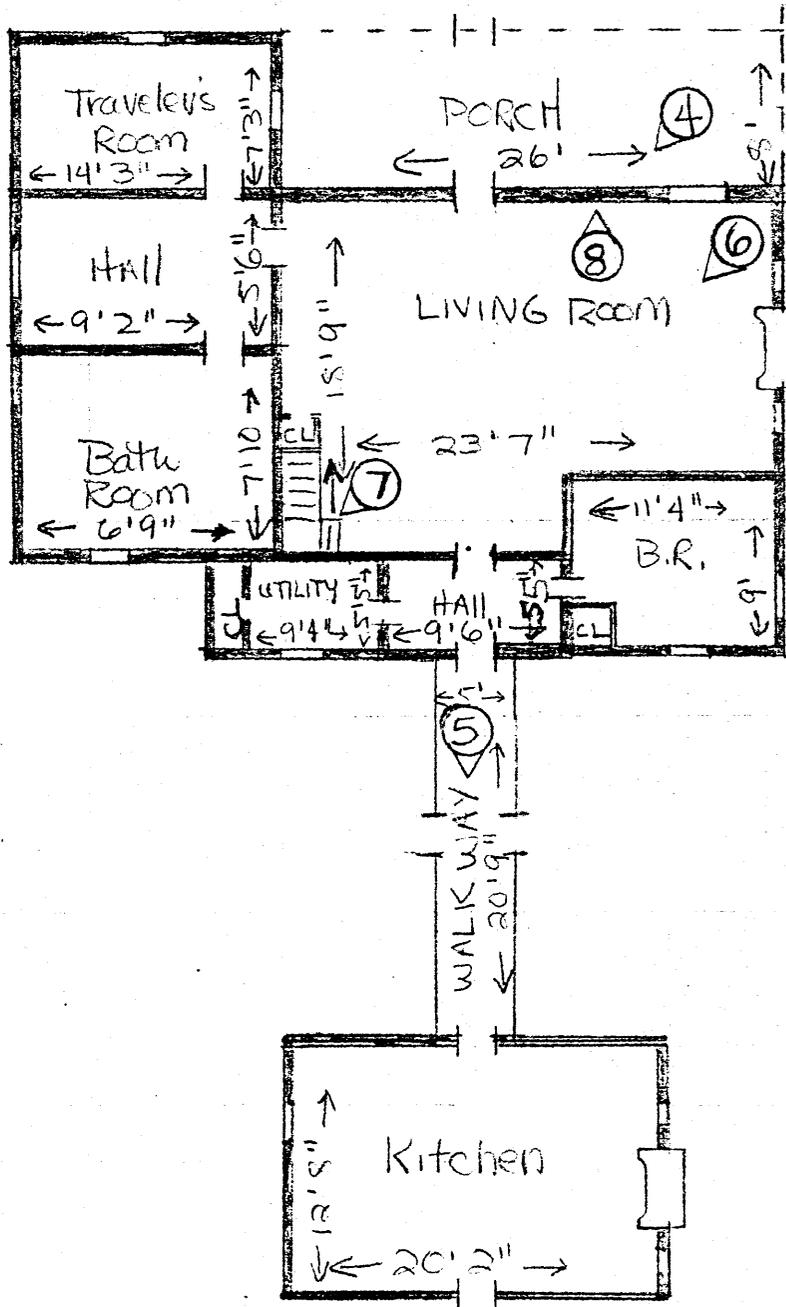
(not to scale)
sch
june, 1981

MCLEMORE - SHARPE FARMSTEAD
Vidalia vicinity, Toombs County, Georgia

PROPERTY/SKETCH MAP: MCLEMORE HOUSE PLAN

Scale: Not to scale

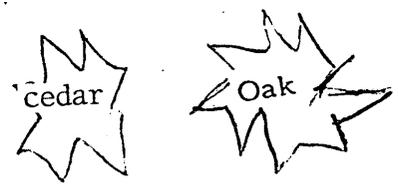
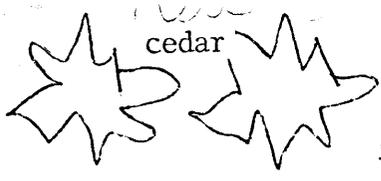
North: ↑



(not to scale)

June, 1981

Susan Ham



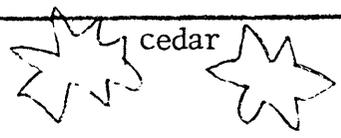
SKETCH MAP

①

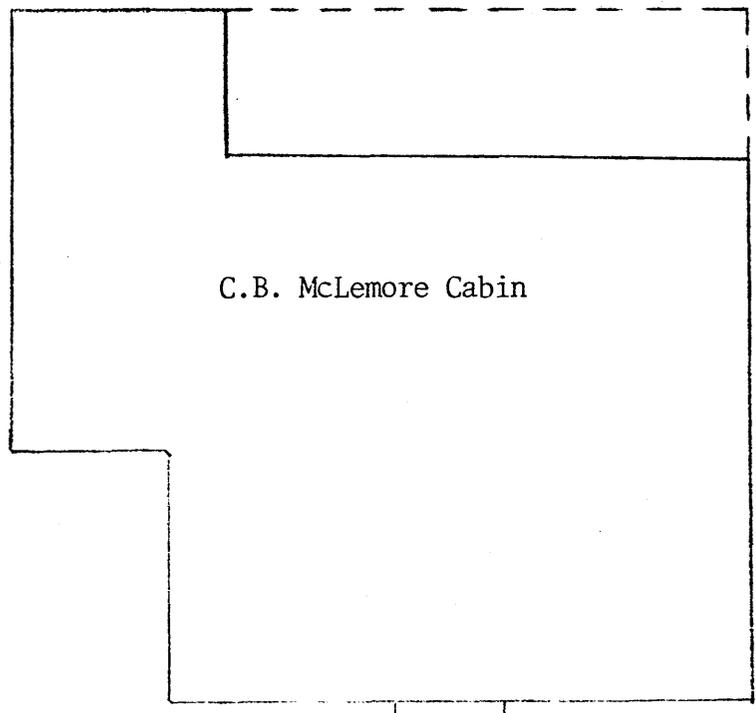
OLD SAVANNAH RD.

To Sharpe House →

Crepe Myrtle



⑩



silver maple



oak

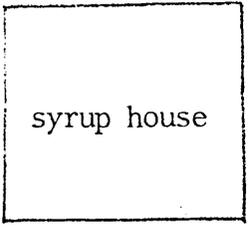


③

⑨

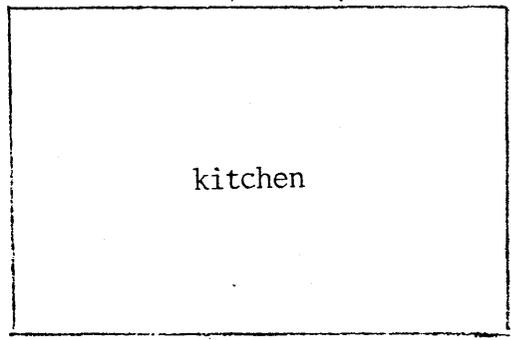
②

magnolia



syrup house

kitchen



well



cedar



apple



MCLEMORE - SHARPE FARMSTEAD
Vidalia vicinity, Toombs County, Georgia

PROPERTY - SKETCH MAP - MCLEMORE HOUSE AREA

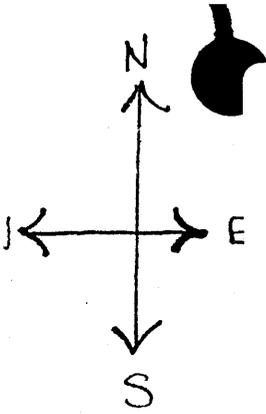
Scale: Not to Scale

North: ↑

(not to scale)
Susan E. Ham
June, 1981



Pecan



MCLEMORE-SHARPE FARMSTEAD
Vidalia vicinity, Toombs County, Georgia

PROPERTY/SKETCH MAP - SHARPE HOUSE AREA

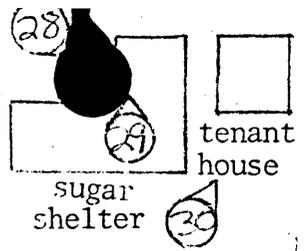
Scale: Not to scale
North: ↑



tobacco barns



engine house



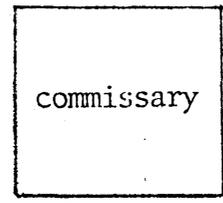
(28)

(29)

sugar shelter

tenant house

(30)



commissary

pine

pine

pine

pine

OLD SAVANNAH ROAD

TO CABIN

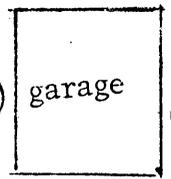
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(27)

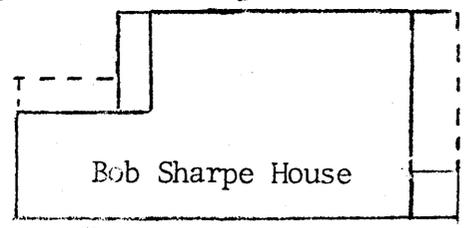
(14)

2 oak

wash shelter



garage



Bob Sharpe House

(26)

(24)

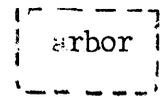
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(33)

(25)

(23)

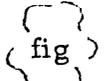
well house



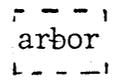
arbor



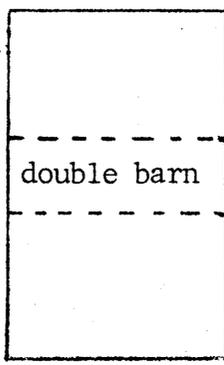
smoke house



fig



arbor



double barn

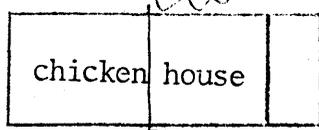
(32)



pecan

picnic table

black walnut



chicken house

(22)

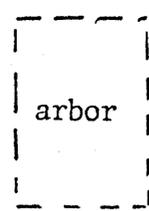


fig

red bud

palm

(20)



arbor

flower house



SKETCH MAP

(11)



pine



(not to scale)
Susan E. Ham
June, 1981