

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

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



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

1. Name

historic Mitchell J. Green Plantation

and/or common Cottonham Plantation

2. Location

NE of Claxton off U.S. 301 and GA 169

street & number near the intersection of U.S. 301 and Georgia 169 not for publication

city, town Claxton me vicinity of congressional district First Bo Ginn

state Georgia code 013 county Evans code 109

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Green

street & number Route 1

city, town Register vicinity of state Georgia 30452

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Evans County Courthouse

city, town Claxton state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title none has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

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 Mitchell J. Green Plantation is located on a slight elevation near the intersection of U.S. 301 and Highway 169. Approximately eight miles northeast of Claxton, the Green Plantation includes a Plantation Plain farmhouse, log cabin, syrup house, corn cribs, a barn, a commissary, smokehouse, and several tenant houses on approximately 433 acres of cleared and forested land.

The Green Plantation house, built in 1878, is a two-story Plantation Plain-type structure. The painted weatherboard house has a brick-pier foundation that has been filled with brick. The shed porch with decorative Victorian woodwork is located on the northeast facade of the house. The double front doors with overlight and sidelights have screen doors. The screen doors also have Victorian woodwork. The overlight and sidelights have etched glass. Windows with shutters are located on the first and second floors of the house. Two exterior chimneys with recessed brickwork are located on the southwest and northeast facades of the structure. A new roof has been added to the house. A shed-type addition connects the main portion of the house with the kitchen and dining room. The rear shed porch, adjacent to the kitchen, has been enclosed. A well is located within the enclosed porch. Adjacent to the enclosed porch is an octagonal bath house. The date of the bath-house addition is not known. Narrow openings that served as windows have now been filled with glass. A twentieth-century garage is located south of the house. A white picket fence surrounds the house.

The Green Plantation house has a floor plan typical of the Plantation Plain style: two-over-two with central stair hall. The structure retains the original pine-board ceilings and floors. The interior walls are of beaded tongue-and-groove board. Wainscoting is found in the living room. The house retains the original mantles, as well as the original hardware.

Located directly behind the house is an 1868 log cabin. The two-room structure has a shed porch and wooden-block foundation. It has one exterior chimney. Wired for electricity, the log cabin now serves as a guest house.

The southernmost structure in the agricultural complex is the commissary. The one-story frame structure has a tin, gable roof. Several wooden counters remain inside the structure. The commissary now serves as storage space for various items.

Southwest of the log cabin is a double pen smoke and curing house. The frame structure has a tin roof. Smoking racks remain inside the structure. It is presently used for storage. A small frame privy is located southwest of the smoke house.

Northeast of the plantation house is a syrup house. The frame shed has a tin, gabled roof with a brick chimney at the northeast end of the structure. A

[continued]

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

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



Continuation sheet Description Item number 7 Page 2

syrup boiler and other equipment remain under the shed. A windmill is located northeast of the log cabin and east of the syrup house.

Two log corn cribs are located north of the syrup house. The log structures have tin, gabled roofs. One of the corn cribs has a shed porch. The corn cribs presently serve as storage space for farm equipment.

The northernmost structure in the complex is a barn. The largest frame structure in the complex, the barn has a tin, gabled roof. The barn is used for the storage of farm equipment.

Three-tenths of a mile southwest of the agricultural complex is a tenant house and a tobacco barn. The tenant house is a frame structure with a shed porch and tin, gabled roof. It is presently occupied. The tobacco barn is located across the road from the tenant house. The one story frame structure has a tin roof and pipe chimneys.

Another tenant house of similar qualities is located three-tenths of a mile northwest of the complex near the intersection of U. S. 301 and a smaller road.

Also located on the nominated property is a twentieth century ranch style house. It is located northeast of the farm complex at a fork in the road. It does not contribute to the significance of the property.

The land surrounding the agricultural complex is forested except for the land under cultivation. Several streams with dams and ponds are located on the nominated property.

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 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 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 1868, 1878

Builder/Architect Mitchell J. Green

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Mitchell J. Green Plantation is significant to the architectural, agricultural, and local history of Georgia. The Green Plantation house is an excellent example of the Plantation Plain-type house. The structures on the property display building techniques that are common to the Claxton area. The intact farm structures form an agricultural complex that represents the typical post-Civil War plantation found in Southeast Georgia. The plantation has remained in the Green family since the plantation was developed after the Civil War. Mitchell J. Green served as the postmaster of the community of Green, Georgia, for the duration of the post office, 1882-1904.

Architecturally, the Green Plantation structures represent several types of building styles and techniques. The Green Plantation house is an excellent example of the Plantation Plain-type house with a two-over-two-with-central-stair-hall floor plan. The plantation house, built in 1878, remains essentially unaltered. Other structures on the property reflect building techniques and styles that were used for residential and agricultural structures. The log cabin, built in 1868, is an example of rural architecture that was used prior to and after the Civil War. The log corn cribs are examples of this type of architecture adapted for use in utilitarian structures. While the log cabin and corn cribs reflect an early type of building technique, the plantation house and other farm structures display a more sophisticated building style and technique. Several late-nineteenth/early-twentieth-century tenant houses and a tobacco barn reflect the distribution of farm buildings and facilities on a typical post-Civil War plantation. This distribution of farm buildings is much different from the distribution on a pre-Civil War plantation.

It is significant that the structures remain in such close proximity to each other. They form an agricultural complex that was typical of the Southeast Georgia plantation after the Civil War. The log cabin provided shelter for the Green family while they began to establish their plantation and, after several years of successful farming, they built the larger plantation house. While it was not uncommon to build the necessary agricultural outbuildings near the plantation house, it is significant that these structures remain in such good condition.

Agricultural records and surviving agricultural buildings indicate that the Green family operated a rather self-sufficient plantation. The syrup house produced molasses for the plantation, while the smokehouse cured meat for the Green family. The commissary sold supplies to the tenant families that lived on the

[continued]

9. Major Bibliographical References

[See continuation sheet.]

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 433 acres

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle name Register, Ga.; Nevils, Ga.; Daisy, Ga. Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References Claxton, Ga.

A	1 7	4 1 8 7 4 0	3 5 6 8 0 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 7	4 1 7 2 9 0	3 5 6 7 3 5 0
E	1 7	4 1 7 1 5 5	3 5 6 9 1 4 0
G			

B	1 7	4 1 8 5 3 0	3 5 6 7 7 6 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
D	1 7	4 1 6 7 0 0	3 5 6 8 3 2 0
F			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Boundaries are indicated by heavy black line on the enclosed Bulloch County Tax-Map No. 52. The nominated property includes the land that has been associated with the Green plantation since the late 1860's.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kacy Ginn, National Register Researcher

organization Historic Preservation Section/
Georgia Department of Natural Resources date February 11, 1980

street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W. telephone (404) 656-2840

city or town Atlanta state Georgia 30334

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 date 2/14/80

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>W. Ray Juice</u>	date <u>4/9/80</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>W. A. Donkin</u>	date <u>4/8/80</u>
Chief of Registration	

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

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



Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

plantation, as well as other families living near the Green community.

Mitchell J. Green (1845-1921) began cultivation of the Green Plantation land shortly after returning from military duty in the Civil War. He acquired some land upon his marriage to Ann Jane Beasley (1849-1919), daughter of Luke Pridgen Beasley (1812-1913). Luke Beasley and James Anderson had received a land grant of 991 acres in 1855, and it is part of this land that Mitchell Green began to farm in the late 1860s. While the plantation produced Indian corn, oats, and some cotton, the Green Plantation also raised sheep. Prior to the Civil War, Bulloch County was located in the midst of the largest wool-producing counties of Georgia. A sharp decline in the production of wool was experienced after the Civil War, but due to a publication by the Georgia Department of Agriculture and several years of recovery from war damage, wool production began to rise once again. By 1880, Mitchell Green had on his plantation ninety-nine sheep, the county average being sixty-two per farm. It is typical of the plantations that were so prevalent in that area of Georgia after the Civil War. Seven tenant families helped the Green family operate the plantation, an average number of hands for the size of the plantation.

The Green Plantation has remained in the Green family since cultivation began in the late 1860s. After Mitchell Green's death in 1921, the plantation became the property of Caddie Green Hamilton (1878-1969), daughter of Mitchell Green. After her death in 1969, the plantation became the property of the current owner, A.B. Green. Mr. Green currently rent-farms the plantation land.

Mitchell Green was a prominent member of Bulloch County society. He served as the postmaster of Green, Georgia, for the duration of the post office, 1882-1904. The family still has many of the postal records on the plantation, as well as the desk that served as the headquarters for the post office. Members of the Green family assisted Mitchell in handling postal matters. The post office served the area when the railroad was built through the Statesboro-Claxton area in 1890. After mail service became available in Claxton, the post office eventually was deactivated in 1904.

As well as serving as the postmaster for Green and operating a plantation, Mitchell served Bulloch County as tax receiver, Justice of the Peace, and road commissioner. (Evans County was created out of Bulloch County in 1914.)

No formal archaeology for the Green Plantation has been reported. Knowledge of previous structures is available through maps and oral tradition. An archaeological report would be useful in understanding the developmental patterns of the plantation as well as the inhabitants of the plantation.

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

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



Continuation sheet

Bibliography

Item number 9

Page 2

Bybee, Dave. "Georgia History Mirrored in Green Homestead," Statesboro Southern Beacon, May 31, 1979.

"Change as Little as You Can," Metter's Town and Country News, Sept. 27, 1968.

Department of Agriculture. A Manual of Sheep Husbandry in Georgia, 3rd ed. Atlanta: J.P. Harrison and Co., 1883.

Department of Agriculture. Publications of the Georgia State Department of Agriculture, 1878, Vol. IV. Atlanta: Jas. P. Harrison, State Printers, 1879.

Derry, Joseph T., and Wright, R.F. Georgia Statistics, 1908-09. Atlanta: State Printers, 1909.

Hodges, Lucile. A History of Our Locale. Macon: Southern Press, Inc., 1965.

Personal inspection by Richard Cloues, Kacy Ginn, Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Nov. 5, 1979.

Range, Willard. A Century of Georgia Agriculture, 1850-1950. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1954.

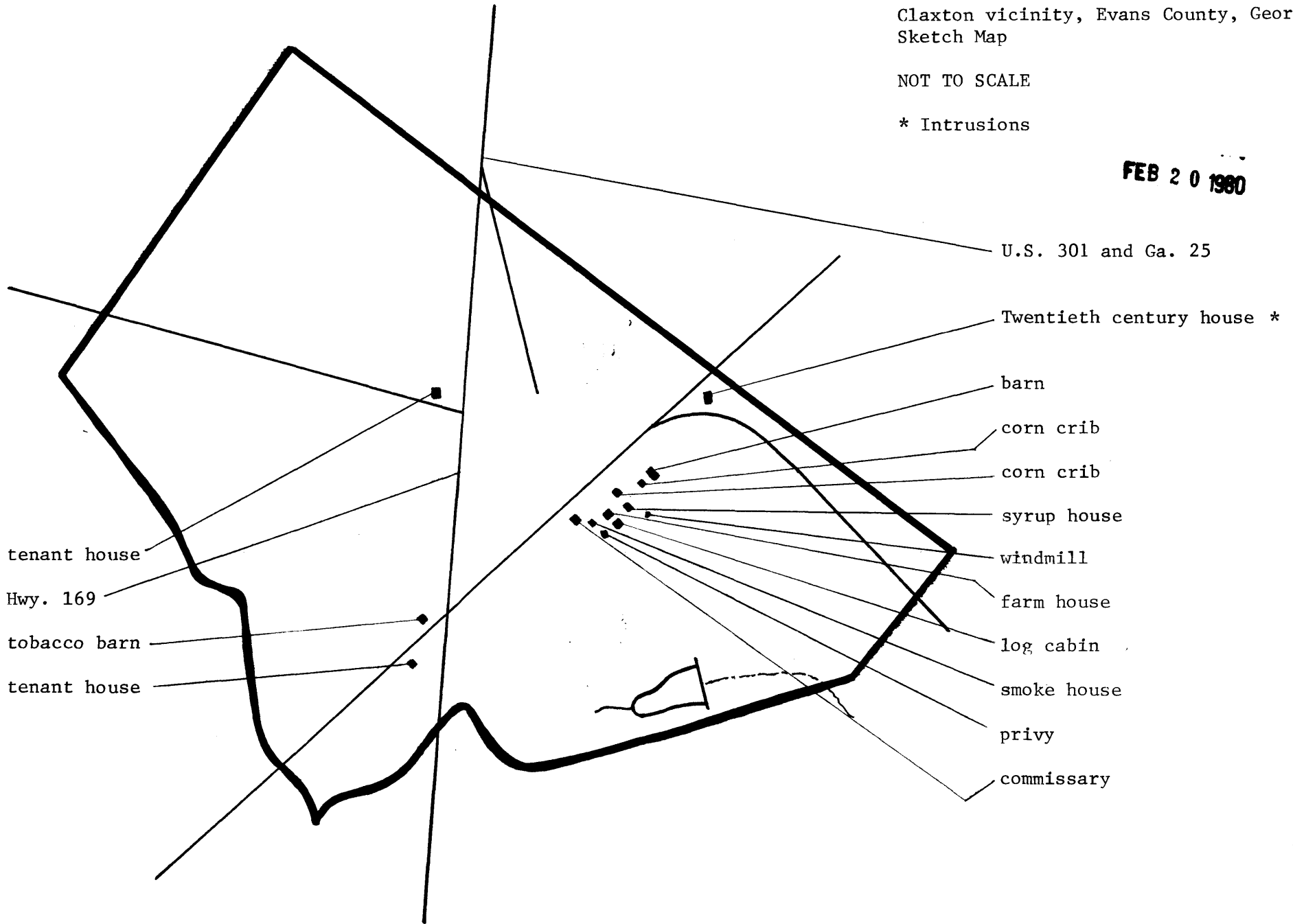
10

MITCHELL J. GREEN PLANTATION
Claxton vicinity, Evans County, Georgia
Sketch Map

NOT TO SCALE

* Intrusions

FEB 20 1980



tenant house

Hwy. 169

tobacco barn

tenant house

U.S. 301 and Ga. 25

Twentieth century house *

barn

corn crib

corn crib

syrup house

windmill

farm house

log cabin

smoke house

privy

commissary

