

**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 Potts Brothers Store

and/or common

2. Location

street & number One mile southeast of Georgia Highway 29 on Gabbettville Road. N/A not for publication

city, town LaGrange X vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Georgia code 013 county Troup code 285

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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> 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 Paul French and Partners, Inc./Paul French, President

street & number The Old Rock Store at Long Cane Creek

city, town LaGrange N/A vicinity of state Georgia 30240

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Troup County Courthouse

city, town LaGrange state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Structures Field Survey: Troup County has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1977 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

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 Potts Brothers Store, built about 1894, is a simple one-story fieldstone structure located on a cleared lot in the tiny community of Gabbettville, in rural Troup County, Georgia.

The rectangular building is constructed of granite fieldstone, laid somewhat more regularly on the front facade, in the area protected by the porch, than elsewhere. The stonework is built up into a stepped gable on the front, masking the ridgeline of the hipped roof. The roof's unusually wide boxed overhang extends around the other three sides. The front facade has a full-width, shed-roofed porch supported by four crude wooden columns. The main entrance, protected by the porch, has double, wood-paneled doors with a segmentally arched transom above. One large, segmentally arched, eight-over-eight pane sash window is located to either side of the entrance. Metal grilles cover the front windows and transom and also two rear six-over-six pane windows which flank a central rear bricked-in door. An additional paneled door towards the rear of the south-east side led into a wooden shed which has been demolished. A single interior brick chimney is located on the northwest side near the front.

The interior was originally one large room with pine flooring (now covered with carpet), plaster walls, and a ceiling of beaded tongue-and-groove boards. A simple hand-carved mantel on a raised hearth, located near the front, may or may not have been original. During the 1970s the majority of the interior space was subdivided into offices, leaving a large open area at the rear. Beaded wainscoting in the front reception area has been made from the old post office and store counters which remained in the building.

The store building is located on a corner lot at the junction of Gabbettville and Cannonville Roads in rural Troup County. It sits on a slight rise, near the banks of Long Cane Creek. The property is close to a railroad track and is surrounded by farmland. To the front of the building are several large shade trees and a low granite and brick retaining wall.

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 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates ca. 1894 **Builder/Architect** "Mr. Hart," builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Potts Brothers Store is historically significant in the areas of architecture and commerce. Architecturally, the building is a good example of a late-nineteenth century country store located in rural Georgia. It is one of the few, and by far the most substantial structure, remaining in the tiny community of Gabbettville. Its construction of fieldstone, a relatively rare building material in Georgia, adds to its architectural significance. In terms of commerce, the store is significant as an example of the type of all-purpose country stores that served the farms and plantations of rural Georgia at the turn-of-the-century. The above areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register Criteria A and C.

Architecturally, the store is at the same time typical and rather unique for a late-nineteenth century rural commercial structure in Georgia. The one-story, open room interior is typical; the use of fieldstone, apparently quarried on a family plantation near the Chattahoochee River, is most unusual. Rural commercial structures were more typically constructed of wood. The stepped gable at the front probably relates to the "sign board" facades of the wooden commercial structures that were erected in Georgia's rapidly developing towns earlier in the nineteenth century.

The location of the Potts Brothers Store and Gabbettville, the tiny community surrounding it, can be explained by the railroad. In 1854 when the local railroad was extended from nearby LaGrange to West Point, a coaling station was established at this point, and later, in 1886, a pass track was constructed here. A small community began to form and in about 1894 Fanning and Frank Potts located their store here, no doubt because the pass track provided a convenient unloading point for the store merchandise. Like other all-purpose country stores of the period, the Potts Brothers Store sold a complete line of supplies for home, farm, and plantation, as well as horses and mules. In addition, the post office was located in the store for some years. Nearby the brothers operated two cotton gins, a flour mill, and a grist mill. About 1907, the store became the property of William Metz, in whose family's hands it remained until the 1970s. The building has been used as a tenant house and for storage before being turned into offices by the present owners. The existence of the store ledger books from the 1890s adds to its commercial significance.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Davidson, William H. Pine Log and Greek Revival. Chattahoochee Valley Historical Society, 1964, pp. 10-14.
 McGreevy, Brian. "Potts Brothers/Metz Store: Historic Property Information Form," March 1982. On file at Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 0.84 acres

Quadrangle name Lanett North, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property consists of all the acreage presently and historically associated with the building and is identified as "Tract 1" on the enclosed plat map.

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 February 14, 1983
 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

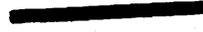
title State Historic Preservation Officer

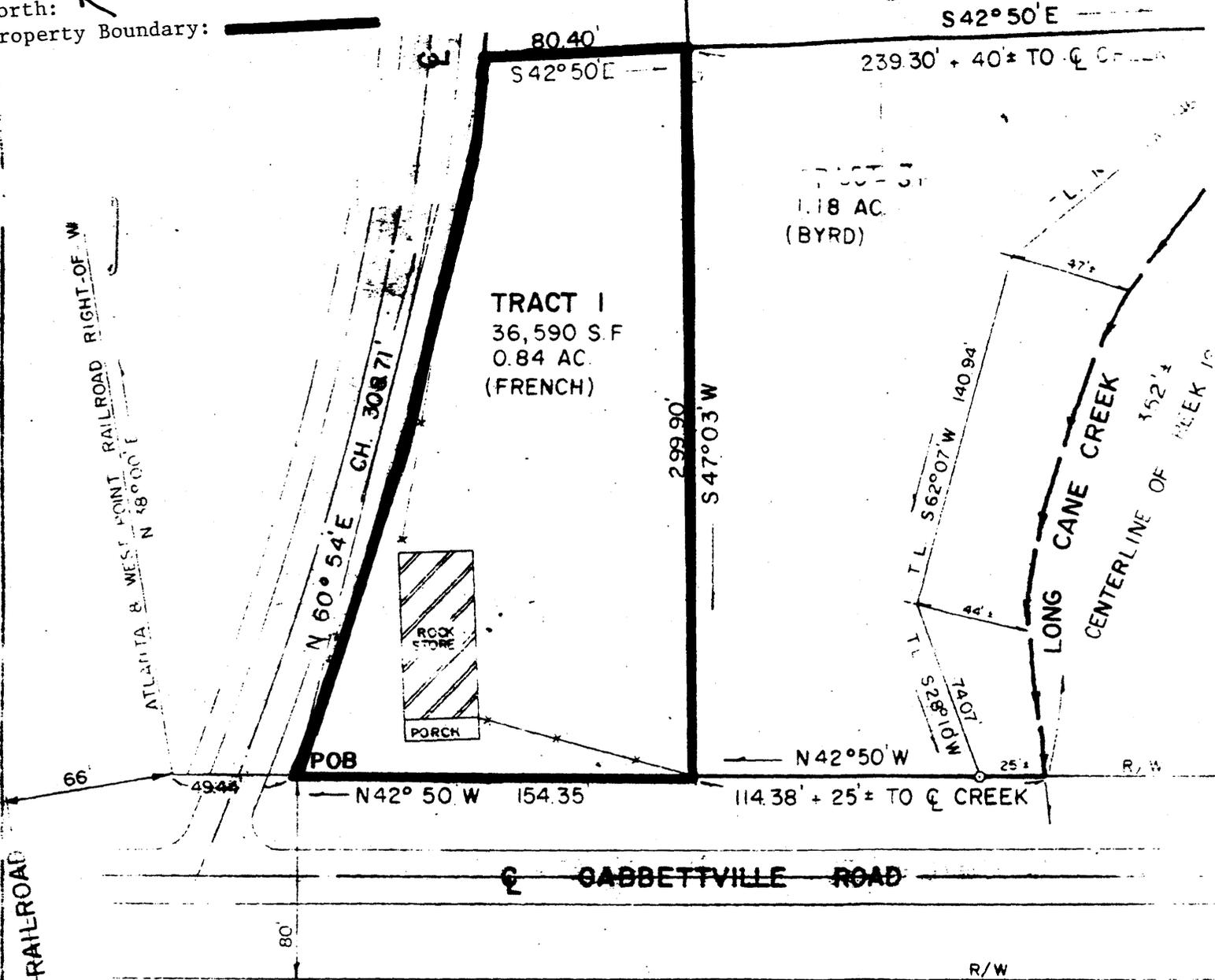
date 2/22/83

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<i>John A. Lyons</i> Keeper of the National Register	Entered in the National Register date <u>3/31/83</u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

POTTS BROTHERS STORE
 La Grange Vicinity, Troup County, Georgia

PROPERTY/PLAT MAP

Source: Surveyor's Map
 Scale: 1" = 60'
 Date: 2/9/82
 North: 
 Property Boundary: 



CERTIFICATION
 STATE OF GEORGIA, TROUP COUNTY
 I DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PLAT IS A TRUE AND CORRECT PLAT OF A SURVEY MADE BY ME AND THAT THE PROPERTY SURVEYED IS FREE FROM ENCROACHMENTS UNLESS INDICATED HEREON

LAND EXCHANGE BETWEEN
 THE PROPERTY OF
NELLIE M. BYRD — PAUL FRENCH
 LOCATED IN
 LAND LOT 188 5TH DISTRICT
 TROUP COUNTY GEORGIA
 SCALE: 1" = 60' DATE: 9 FEBRUARY 1982

REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR NO 939
 IA-574
 CALC - PH
 FW - FLB
 FEB 1982
 DWG SRH, HJ

SURVEY & PLAT
J. HUGH CAMP & ASSOCIATES
 LAGRANGE