

PH0002955

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia  
 COUNTY: Hancock  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY DATE: APR 16 1974

**1. NAME**  
 COMMON: Sparta Historic District  
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: Sparta CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 10th Robert G. Stephens, Jr.  
 STATE: Georgia CODE: 13 COUNTY: Hancock CODE: 141

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

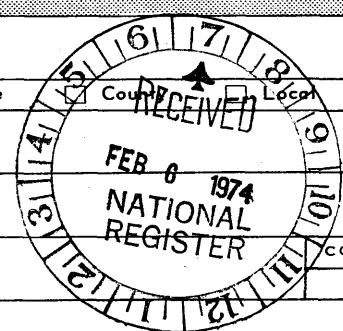
**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**  
 OWNER'S NAME: Multiple Owners  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: Sparta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Hancock County Courthouse  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: Sparta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
 TITLE OF SURVEY: None  
 DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The village of Sparta, the county seat of Hancock County, was founded in the late 1700's and took on its present appearance in the 19th century. In size and architectural style it is still primarily a 19th century town. The Sparta District has boundaries as follows: beginning at the intersection of Hamilton and Burwell Streets continue south on Burwell St. to Broad St.; from there one block east to Rabun Street and continue on Rabun Street south and west so as to include the Abercrombie-Fraley-Dickens House. The southern boundary is defined by West Street from Rabun Street to Boland Street; north on Boland Street to Adams Street; continue on Adams Street to Elm Street and continue north on Elm Street to Hamilton Street; continue back to intersection of Hamilton and Burwell including that portion of Jones Street as far as necessary to include Clinch Terrace property. The boundaries given above are intended to include properties on both sides of the streets designated.

The most impressive entrance into present-day Sparta is the sweeping tree-lined view up by Jones Street to the 1881 Victorian style courthouse. Along the road are two main estates; the Terrell-Stone House is the 1819 two story house with Palladian door and window treatments and parapet, an office-cottage and cut-rock kitchen that was first owned by the prominent physician and agriculturist, Dr. William Terrell; the other house, Clinch Terrace (1825), a full-blown Greek Revival structure with a full Doric Portico, was the home of Terrell's daughter. At one time elaborate gardens joined the two estates. On the other side of Jones Street, just out of sight behind a grove of trees is Old Dominion, a c.1806 derelict, Federal style home of one of Sparta's pioneer citizens, John Lucas.

The courthouse square acts as the center of town. The finely detailed brick courthouse was designed in 1881 by ~~Parkins~~ and Bruce, Architects, Atlanta. It has a mansard roof and a slightly projecting central section that only hints of the temple form; a spire rises from the central section. A variety of structures, a Victorianized two-story frame house, a raised cottage and a late 18th century cottage, along with commercial structures surround the square area.

Broad Street, that runs in front of the courthouse continues westward to the oldest part of town, the Rabun Street or Maiden Lane area. At the corner of Broad and Rabun streets are two important twin houses: The Sayre-Shivers House and the Bird-Campbell House. The Sayre-Shivers House was built 1830-9 for New Yorker, Robert Sayre, and is a transitional Federal-Greek Revival structure with a delicately leaded side and transom lights around the front door; four-room central hall in plan, this house is often called a twin to the Bird-Campbell House across Rabun Street. Farther up Broad Street is the Rossiter-Little house, generally considered the oldest house in Sparta. The present structure was built onto and around a log cabin (1797) used first as a fort and later by the Revolutionary surgeon, Timothy Rossiter. It is built on the highest point in Sparta. Nearby are several other structures including the Lula Rives House (c.1805), the Vardiman House (late 19th century) and the grand neo-classical Springer-Dickens House (c.1900), on Burwell Street.

Rabun Street, or Maiden Lane as it is usually referred to, behind the

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Georgia	
COUNTY	
Hancock	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 16 1974

(Number all entries)

7. Description

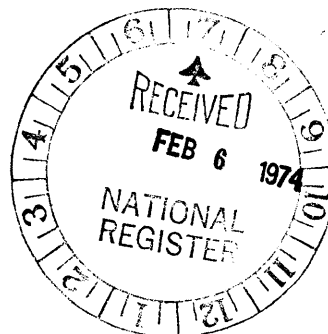
twin houses is a quiet residential street with a pleasant variety of architectural styles from the plantation plain style Baxter-Carswell House to the Federal styles of the Abercrombie-Fraley-Dickens House and the Berry-Morris House (1805-10) to the severe Greek Revival temple form structure as in the Old Dormitory of the "Sparta Female Model School" founded in 1832. One exception is the 20th century, California Greene brothers style house known as the Walker-Moore House.

The commercial section of Sparta is east of the courthouse on Broad Street. Especially noteworthy is the Drummer's or Lafayette Hotel (1840) with its broad portico and stepped gable, the brick Watkins Building with simple Italianate bracketing, the two story brick Dickens Law Office and several smaller commercial structures.

The eastern boundary of the district is defined by Elm Street on which several early 19th century structures still exist. At the intersection of Adams Street and Elm Street is the side hall planned, raised two-story Greek Revival structure called Pomegranate Hall (c.1830), named for the variety of pomegranates found in the yard. At the other end of Elm Street are the Harley-Rives House, (c.1850), a two story, four room, central plan structure with an unusually high entablature, and the smaller cottage-like structure known as the Lane-Walker House (c.1835).

Structures, as shown on sketch map from The Architecture of Middle Georgia

- |                                      |                                    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Old Dominion                      | 15. Treadwell-Blanchard House      |
| 2. Terrell-Stone House               | 17. Graves Barn                    |
| 3. Harley-Rives House                | 18. Little Red House on the Square |
| 4. Clinch Terrace                    | 19. Walker-Moore House             |
| 5. Pomegranate Hall                  | 20. County Courthouse              |
| 6. Sayre-Shivers House               | 21. LaFayette Hotel                |
| 7. Bird-Campbell House               | 22. Watkins-Fraley Building        |
| 8. Ethridge-Dubose-Peck House        | 23. Dickens Law Building           |
| 9. Lane-Walker House                 | 24. Presbyterian Church            |
| 10. Rossiter-Little House            | 26. Bank of Hancock County         |
| 11. Alston-Wiley House               |                                    |
| 13. Abercrombie-Skinner-Morris House |                                    |
| 14. Baxter-Carswell House            |                                    |



**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |  |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |  |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

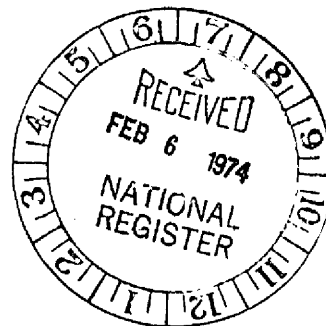
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |  |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)<br><u>History</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____   |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The central Georgia town of Sparta was one of the most advanced 19th century "plantation" towns in Georgia. Sparta's intellectual progressiveness was manifested in its educational institutions, its early experimental planting, and its architecture. It was and is the county seat of Hancock County. Designated the county seat in 1797, and incorporated in 1805, Sparta is the oldest city west of the Ogeechee River, even two years older than Milledgeville. George White in 1849 Statistics of Georgia notes that, "this place is proverbial for the intelligence of its inhabitants... From the earliest settlements of this county, the citizens have been particularly distinguished for their great attention to the subject of education. At this time there are four academies, besides 20 common schools in the county." Not only did Sparta have one of the first girls' schools, but more importantly early in the 19th century, experimental agricultural planting was carried on by the Hancock Planters Club. A Farmer's Gazette was published in Sparta from 1803-6 and the first agricultural fair in Georgia was held in 1841.

Most of the active remnants of these learned institutions have long since disappeared, but the progressive atmosphere that pervaded Sparta in the nineteenth century is still very much evident in the Greek Revival and Victorian architecture. Clinch Terrace was built as a completely realized Greek Revival style mansion with a full two-story portico in 1825. According to the transferral of deed in 1829, "a large columned house" was the subject of the transfer of property. The same pattern of up-to-date attention to architectural styles is found in the elaborate Victorian cottage, the Dubose-Peck House, built well before the Civil War in 1853. Architectural examples such as these made the major residential and commercial streets an outstanding collection and "fabric" of nineteenth century architecture deserving national recognition.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Linley, John, The Architecture of Middle Georgia. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1972).  
 Macgregor, Elizabeth, Georgia Historical Commission, Personal Inspection, May 1, 1973.  
 Mitchell, William R., Georgia Historical Commission, Consultant.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

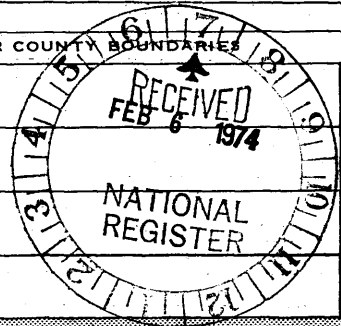
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	33°	17'	05" = 00	82°	59'	25" = 06			
NE	33°	17'	05" = 00	82°	58'	20" = 06			
SE	33°	16'	12" = 12	82°	58'	20" = 06			
SW	33°	16'	12" = 12	82°	59'	25" = 06			

No UTM  
ex

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **50 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Elizabeth Z. Macgregor, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: Georgia Historical Commission DATE: May 7, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
116 Mitchell Street

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Mary Gregory Jewett Title State Liaison Officer Date May 7, 1973

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

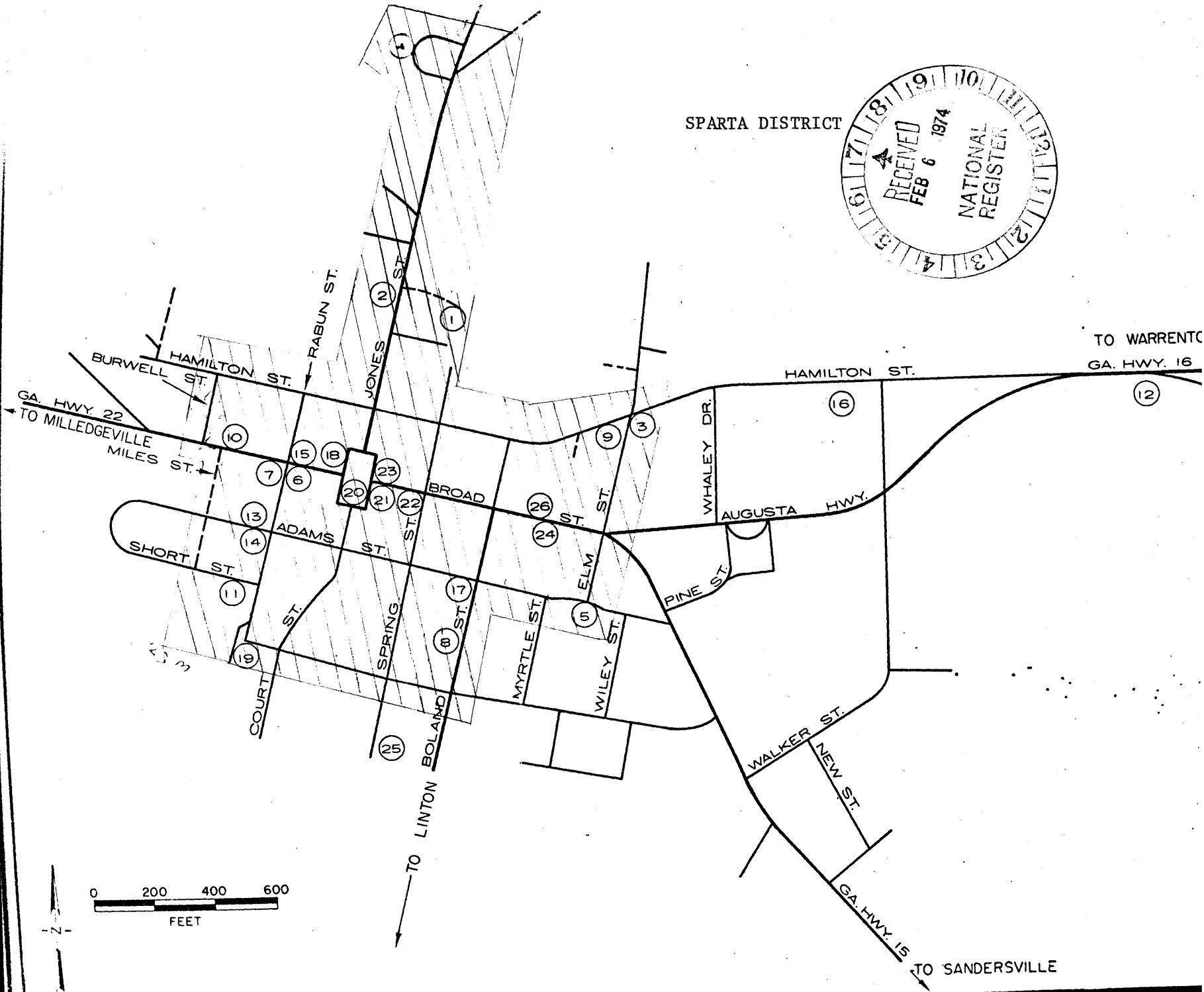
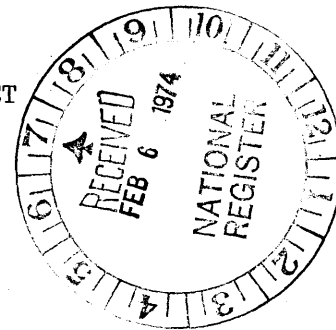
[Signature]  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/16/74

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
 Acting Keeper of The National Register

Date April 11, 1974

SPARTA DISTRICT



TO WARRENTON  
GA. HWY. 16

GA. HWY 22  
TO MILLEDGEVILLE  
MILES ST.

TO LINTON BOLAND

GA. HWY. 15  
TO SANDERSVILLE