

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Head's Mill
other names/site number Healan's Mill

2. Location

street & number R#1 Whitehall Road
city, town Lula (x) vicinity of
county Hall code GA 139
state Georgia code GA zip code 30554

(n/a) not for publication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	1
sites	0	0
structures	3	1
objects	0	0
total	6	2

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: n/a

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

12/5/89
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

Mark J. Butler **Entered in the National Register** 12/5/1990

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

for
Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Agriculture:processing
Industry:processing site

Current Functions:

Vacant/Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Other:functional

Materials:

foundation stone
walls wood
roof metal:tin
other

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

Head's Mill is located in the vicinity of Lula, along Whitehall Road (County Road 928), at the North Oconee River, approximately six miles northeast of Gainesville, Georgia.

The Head's Mill complex consists of a grist mill, millrace, dam, portions of the sluiceway between the millrace and dam, barn, and garage. The grist mill was built about 1850 and is a two and one half story, wood-framed structure with an overshot type waterwheel and millrace. The existing metal wheel and elevated millrace replaced the previous wooden structures during the 1930s. The dam is made of early poured concrete that probably dates from the 1880s. A large part of the earthen and wooden sluiceway that directed water from the dam to the millrace remains visible. A one-story brick structure built into a sloping bank also dates from the mid-19th century and was reused around 1940 as a garage. A c. 1890 wood-framed barn stands across the road from the mill.

The mill structure is the focal point of the site. This two and one half story frame building of mortise-and-tenon construction is situated on the east bank of the North Oconee River. The mill is set on concrete piers with a rock foundation in several locations (photograph 1, 2). The pitched roof is covered with tin and porches are located on the south, east, and north sides of the structure. Water is captured by a small dam (photograph 8) above the mill and guided to the millrace through a channel or sluiceway (photograph 9). Power is produced when water is sent through the metal millrace and forces the large water wheel into a circular motion (photograph 3). The millrace is elevated and extends across the grassed landscape in a northeastern direction from the wheel (photograph 4).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 7

Minor changes have been made on the interior, but much of the original handhewn wood remains exposed (photograph 7). A fireplace was added on the interior in 1970. The mill stone is still intact within the structure and other machinery used in the operation is stored within the mill (photographs 5, 6).

The dam is constructed of a composite of rubble and a mortar, probably a rough mixture of sand and lime, a commonly used predecessor of modern concrete. The dam is located at the intersection of the northern property boundary and the North Oconee River. Presently, only a very small amount of back water results from this dam.

A one-story brick building with a rock foundation and a pitched roof covered in tin is located to the east of the mill (photograph 11). This structure is set into the slope with access provided through a large wooden doorway on the front facade. There is metal hardware above this door which appears to be the remains of an earlier "lift" system. There is also a metal track above the door which extends across the front facade. It appears that an earlier door was attached to this tract and would have functioned as a typical garage door.

A large frame barn is located further east on the opposite side of Whitehall Road (photograph 10). This two-story structure contains a basement with a floor of concrete and was apparently the location for a former wine press. In the 1960s, an open porch was added on the south side of the barn.

This segment of the North Oconee River is located in the headwater region and is filled with a number of rocks which create a shoal. Access on Whitehall Road at the southern boundary is provided by a wooden bridge (photograph 12). The property slopes to the south and is primarily open. The natural features of the site include grassed and wooded areas, the river, and various trees including river birch, bald cypress, red maple, and pine. The overall character of the area is rural.

There are two noncontributing resources, a rental house constructed about 1967 and the wooden bridge. The bridge underwent reconstruction by the county in 1985 and contains almost all new materials.

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
industry
engineering

Period of Significance:

c. 1850-1939

Significant Dates:

c. 1850
c. 1880s
c. 1890
c. 1930s

Significant Person(s):

n/a

Cultural Affiliation:

n/a

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

William Head

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

Head's Mill and its associated structures represent a rural milling operation that was active from the 1850s to the 1950s.

In the area of architecture, the mill is significant as a representative example of a mid-19th century, wood-framed mill building used for a variety of milling operations. It illustrates typical materials, construction techniques, and design for the period. The building is a simple two and one half story frame structure of mortise-and-tenon construction clad in unpainted weatherboard. The grist mill is functionally designed without architectural ornamentation and is set on concrete piers with a rock foundation. Corrugated tin forms the gable roof, and wooden porches are located on the south, north, and east facades. The upper story windows are framed with wooden shutters. The lower story windows on the west side have been altered and are now jalousie windows. The interior arrangement of Head's Mill is typical of mid-19th century grist mills. The ground level contains the gearing mechanisms which transferred power from the horizontal waterwheel shaft to the various horizontal and vertical driveshafts. The main floor was used for primary and secondary milling operations, such as grinding, sifting, and bagging. The mill stone and some machinery used in the mill operation are still stored on the ground and main floor. The interior structure features hand hewn floor and wall paneling and exposed ceiling beams. The second floor consists of a single room and is currently used for storage. The mill contains two fireplaces, the original one is built of stone and is located in the northeast corner of the building. The other is along the east facade and was built of brick in 1970. Located to the northeast of the mill is a single story brick garage with a clerestory tin roof. The structure is set into the ground slope with access provided through a large wooden doorway on the front facade. Metal hardware above this door appears to be the remains of an earlier lift system. The large two-story frame barn is built in a typical functional design with a gable roof. A concrete floor in the basement marks the location of a former winepress. Head's Mill represents a good example of the type of grist mill commonly built in north Georgia during the 19th century.

In the area of industry, the mill complex is significant as an example of a mid-19th century rural industrial complex which processed locally grown agricultural products. It also served the surrounding community as a grist mill and at various times as a feed crusher,

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

sawmill, and shingle mill. Operating on a moderate scale, Head's Mill ground mostly corn, feed, and some grain. During the late 19th century, the mill operated year around and had a maximum grinding capacity of 30 bushels per day. In the early 20th century, surplus corn meal from the mill was sold to markets in Gainesville. Since its beginnings, the mill has had various owners, some operating the mill themselves, others hiring operators. The mill also illustrates the economic activities of the White Sulfur Springs area. During the late 19th century, a cotton gin was located on the property. Later, a 1920s shingle mill and a 1930s sawmill (which replaced the shingle mill) were supplemental operations built under the grist mill in order to utilize the power from the water wheel. Also during the 1920s, a feed crusher was added to the milling operation. These activities reflect the rural industrial pursuits which aided the economic base for the area. Head's Mill is a technological record of the history of rural milling industry in Georgia from 1850 to the early 20th century.

In the area of engineering, the mill complex is significant as a relatively intact example of the overshot waterwheel type with a raised millrace, dam, and connecting sluiceway, typical of 19th century rural industrial facilities, but now relatively rare. Head's Mill illustrates the evolution of millworks in design and materials. The design of the waterwheel and millrace is unique to north Georgia. This is the only mill in this area known to utilize this type of millrace and overshot wheel. The present waterworks--mill race and wheel--replaced the wooden ones in the 1930s but retain the same design and illustrate the change from wood to metal materials. Water was directed from the dam through the sluiceway to the millrace. Power was produced when water forces the water wheel into a circular motion using the principle of water striking the blades from above. The mill complex is a good example of engineering technology during from the mid-19th century prior to steampowered milling operations. The riverside location illustrates the need of harnessing available waterpower for milling needs; the dam, sluiceway, millrace, water wheel, and turbines show how energy was harnessed. The Head's Mill equipment is of the mid-19th century and was operational until the 1950s.

Archaeological potential

There are five sites within the boundaries which may offer some archaeological potential. The site of a former cotton gin is located in the northern section of the district. A former shingle mill and a saw mill were both located, at different time periods, under the grist mill. The site of a wine press is located in the basement of the barn and the possible site of a blacksmith's shop is located by the garage.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

Although the archaeology of Head's Mill has not been investigated, archaeology potential is inferred from the sites and their historical documentation.

National Register Criteria

The Head's Mill complex meets Criteria A as it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Head's Mill was an important rural industrial resource for the White Sulphur Springs area of Hall County. The area was noted for its rich farm land, where corn, wheat, rye, and cotton were grown. The grist mill provided a local processing site for the area's residents. Flour and corn meal were also sold in markets in nearby Gainesville. Feed was also ground for livestock. Besides a grist mill the complex also included, at various time periods, a cotton gin, shingle mill, saw mill, and feed crusher. Head's Mill is a good example of the type of rural milling industry found in north Georgia during the mid-19th to early 20th century. Based on current information, it is the only surviving grist mill in Hall County.

The Head's Mill complex meets Criteria C for possessing the architectural characteristics of a mid-19th century grist mill. The mill is functionally designed and built using mortise-and-tenon construction. The structure is typical of those built with overshot waterwheels, in order to harness available waterpower. The interior is also designed for industrial usage; the ground level contains the various mechanical equipment; the first and second floors were large rooms containing space for the grinding, sifting, and bagging operations. The entire complex was in operation for over 100 years and provides a good example of the type of facility used by a rural agrarian industry.

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

- c. 1850 - construction of Head's mill
- c. 1880s - construction of the dam
- c. 1890 - construction of the barn
- c. 1930s - replacement of the waterwheel and millrace
- 1939 - 50 year cut-off period (continuous operation of the mill)

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanatory notes)

Contributing

3 buildings (mill, barn, garage)
3 structures (mill race, dam, sluiceway)

Noncontributing

1 building (rental house)
1 structure (bridge)

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

It appears that there was a mill on this site as early as 1852. In that year, Guilford (Gilford) Thompson sold an undivided half interest of a 70 acre tract on the North Oconee River in the Glade District of Hall County. The deed notes that this was the "place on which said Thompson's and Head's Mill are situated." Thompson and Head were apparently brother-in-laws.

William Head was born in 1810 and married Sarah Thompson in 1829. They had nine children and were said to have raised five other children besides their own. After his purchase of the mill site in 1852, William Head became the miller. Head also ran a farming operation in conjunction with the mill.

Head's Mill is located on the headwaters of the North Oconee River in the Glade District of Hall County, six miles from the county seat of Gainesville. It is approximately three miles from the former summer resort hotel of White Sulphur Springs, a fashionable summering place for tourists during the 1800s. The mill is also located in what is considered some of the best farm land in the county. Corn, wheat, rye, and some cotton were the major crops grown.

William Head appears to be representative of the middle class farmer of the mid-nineteenth century. Between the years 1849 and 1852, deed records show that Head purchased approximately 676 acres. According to tax records, Head owned a total of 822 acres with an aggregate value of \$2,500.00 in 1852. In 1853, his acreage increased to 1,000 acres valued at \$3,000.00. Head appears to have reached the peak of his farming and financial career by the eve of the Civil War - 1860. The U. S. Agricultural Census for that year lists William Head as owning a total of 1200 acres. In addition to raising swine, he also grew wheat and Indian corn for profit. His livestock included five horses, eight sheep, two mules, thirteen cattle and three pair of

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 8

working oxen. Head also grew 8 bushels of peas and beans, 200 bushels of sweet potatoes, churned 200 pounds of butter and 200 gallons of molasses, presumably for home consumption. At the age of 65, Head gave the mill to his son and son-in-laws in 1875. These men (J. D. Head, J. J. Hulsey and J. C. Browning) were each given a third interest in the property. William Head died on December 7, 1889 and is buried in the Air Line Church cemetery.

It appears that his son, James (or J. D.) Head took charge of the milling operation. The U. S. Manufacturing Census for 1880 lists James Head as the miller. According to the Census, James Head employed one other person and ran the mill in full operation for 12 months out of the year. He did custom grinding, mostly corn and feed, and had an estimated maximum grinding capacity of 30 bushels per day. The height of the fall was 20 feet (as compared with the fall of 4-5 feet today) and the wheel was of the overshot type.

B. J. Hulsey, one of the son-in-laws, was able to acquire the other two-thirds interest from Browning and Head and in 1886, the 70 acres with the mill were sold to J. D. Heard of Washington, Georgia. Heard was an elderly bachelor who resided on the property on a seasonal basis. Heard planted grapes in the northern section of the 70 acre site and hired a caretaker to oversee the milling and farming operations. According to the deed, the property contained "a mill site on which is located a flour grist mill, also dwelling and gin houses." The cotton gin was located in the northern section of the present 5+ acre tract on the west side of the road. There were two frame dwelling units situated on two sides of the mill. One house was located to the west of the North Oconee River. A caretaker's residence was cited on a hill to the east of the mill. A barn located directly east of the mill contained a wine press in the basement. There was also a frame pavilion to the south of the barn situated beside a spring.

In 1901, Heard sold 15 acres of the 70 acre tract to A. J. Greenway and in 1905, the remaining 55 acres which contained the mill and an additional 103 acres were sold to R. Martin. Martin retained ownership until 1908 when the property which totalled 173 acres was sold to J. A. McCubbins. McCubbins, in turn, sold the property to R. M. Shore in 1911. In this transaction, the size of the mill tract was 70 acres.

It is unknown whether or not Martin or McCubbins ever served as millers during their ownership. It seems possible that Shore may have served in this capacity prior to his ownership of the property in 1911. The deed which transferred the 15 acres in 1901 refers to Shore as having the bond for title before it was transferred to Greenway.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

Shore was primarily involved in the milling operation and did not maintain the vineyards planted by Heard. Shore, his wife, son, and daughter-in-law resided on the property until 1913. In that year, Shore sold 58 acres which contained the mill to J. J. Bennett of Hall County.

Bennett owned the property for approximately six years. He supplemented his income by purchasing corn, grinding it at the mill, and hauling the corn to the markets in Gainesville. This business venture was short-lived and in 1919, the 58 acres were sold to Giles Hathcock, who died soon after the purchase. The mill tract which now contained 60 acres was purchased by M. B. Carter that same year through a public sale.

Carter was apparently an investor, who employed a miller, Tom Hyde, during his ownership of the property. Hyde lived in one of the frame residences and added a shingle mill to the complex. Now called "Hyde's Mill," community residents brought timber to the mill, as well as grain and corn. Following Hyde's death, Carter sold the 60 acres, noted in the deed as the "Head Mill tract," to F. H. Turner in 1935.

During this time period, the White Sulphur Springs area declined. The Depression had affected tourism and then in 1933 a fire burned every building in the resort complex except one. These factors affected the economic viability of the surrounding community including Head's Mill.

Under Turner's ownership, major changes were made to improve the property and his business. The frame dwellings and the pavilion were demolished and the materials reused in the construction of one residence on the east side of the river, south of the mill. This structure still survives and is occupied by the present owner's daughter. Turner either built or reused a brick structure to the east of the mill as a garage. Changes to the mill included the addition of a saw mill in the previous location of the shingle mill and the replacement of the wheel. The wooden wheel had deteriorated and was replaced with a metal wheel and millrace. According to Mrs. Blackstock, a Head descendent, the wheel and millrace came from the copper mines in Hall County. Turner also added a crusher to the mill which made it possible to provide feed. In 1951, E. J. Witt acquired the mill with 60 acres from Turner. Witt, a doctor from Atlanta, died soon after the purchase.

The property was then acquired by Warren Castle of Memphis, Tennessee, who had moved to Hall County. Castle and his wife used the mill as a weekend retreat. For a short time, corn was ground and sold in Gainesville. Castle began acquiring large amounts of acreage in

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section 8

the vicinity of the mill and eventually sold the majority of this land to the Georgia Kraft Company. The company had purchased the land for its timber potential and began planting pine trees on the former farming land and tearing down structures once associated with families who had lived in this community. Castle retained a 5+ acre tract which included the mill, the frame residence built by Turner, the garage, and another small tract of land containing a residence and outbuildings known as the B. J. Hulsey place.

In 1967, this 5+ acre tract containing the mill was sold to Fred Healan, a Gainesville resident who operated an automobile business in town. Healan remodeled the frame house built by Turner as a residence for himself and his wife. A Boy Scout hut was added to the north of the mill on the east bank of the North Oconee River and this hut was later adapted as a rental house. Healan also added a porch to the existing barn. To the south of the barn, a small pond was constructed and a pump house was built on the site of the original spring. Healan also allowed an elderly man to homestead the property. This man continues to reside there today and is housed in a trailer. Healan later purchased the B. J. Hulsey place and relocated his residence. Minor changes were made to the mill by Healan and for a short time it was used as an antique shop.

Today, the property is occupied by Healan's daughter and the mill is used occasionally by the family for recreational purposes.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Jaeger, Dale, and Healen, Bernice. "Historic Property Information Form - Head's Mill." 1982. On file at the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office.

Markuson, Kevin, and Healen, Bernice. "Historic Property Information Form - Head's Mill." 1983. On file at the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office.

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 3 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 248790 Northing 3806850

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for Head's Mill have been drawn to include all the important buildings and structures: the grist mill, garage, barn, sluiceway, millrace, and dam. The boundaries also include enough land around the mill complex to illustrate its rural setting.

Boundary Justification

The proposed boundary includes the most concentrated section of intact historic buildings and structures associated with the mill's operation and excludes nonhistoric and intrusive resources.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lisa Raflo, National Register Researcher
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** 11/28/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Photographer _____ Page 1

Head's Mills Historic District
Lula, Hall County, Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative: Filed with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date: January 1989

Description:

1 of 12: View of south side of Head's Mill; photographer facing north.

2 of 12: View of southwest side of Head's Mill; photographer facing northeast.

3 of 12: View of metal water wheel; photographer facing southwest.

4 of 12: View of metal mill race; photographer facing southwest.

5 of 12: View of grist mill mechanisms; photographer facing east.

6 of 12: Interior view of Head's Mill; photographer facing southwest.

7 of 12: First floor, interior view of Head's Mill; photographer facing northeast.

8 of 12: View of dam; photographer facing north.

9 of 12: View of wooden sluice way; photographer facing northeast.

10 of 12: View of wood frame barn; photographer facing northeast.

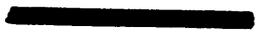
11 of 12: View of one-story brick garage; photographer facing north.

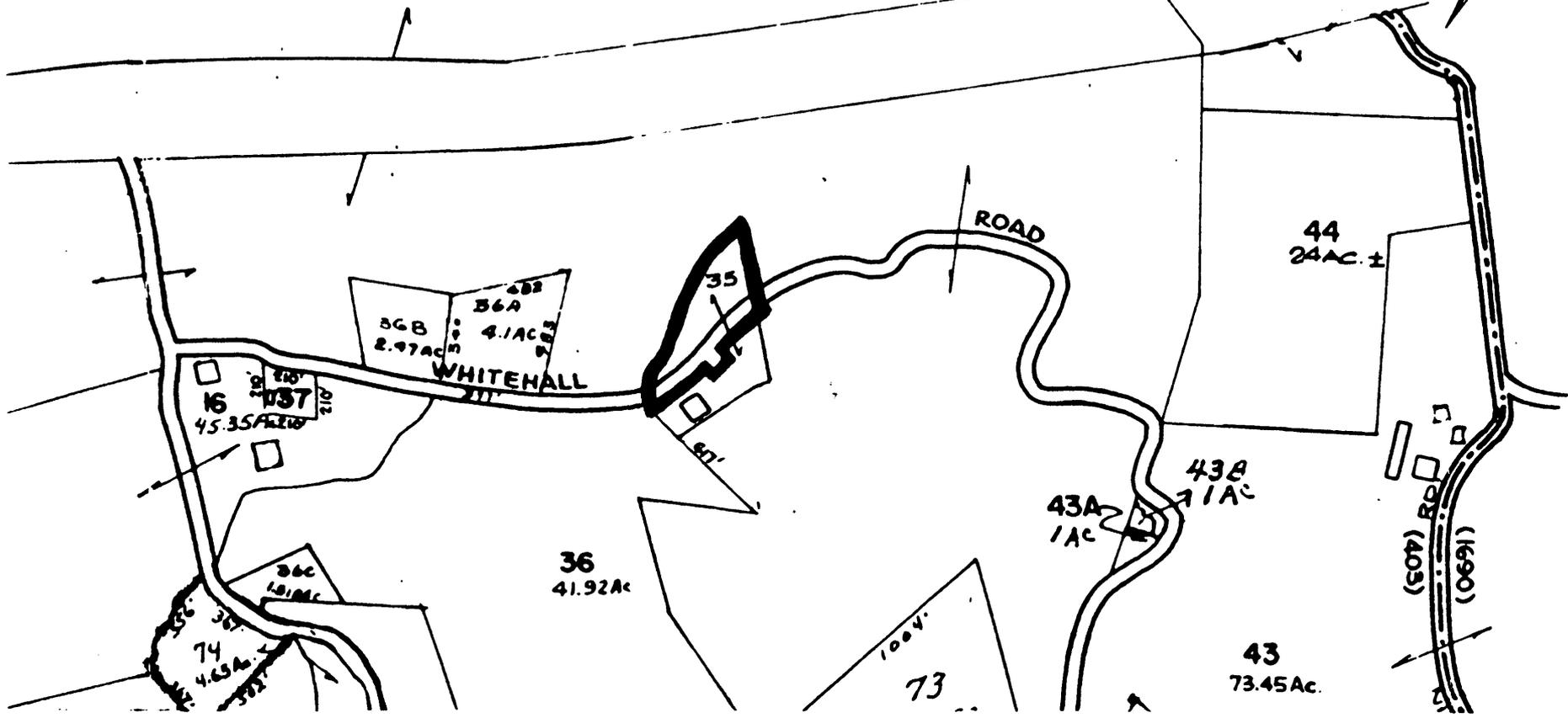
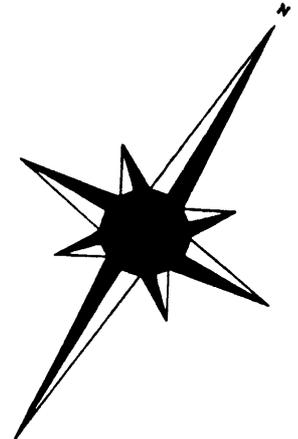
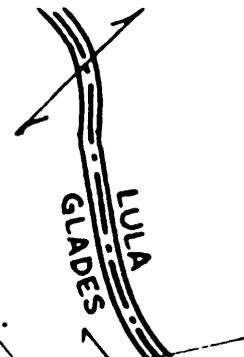
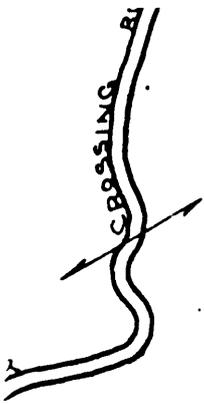
12 of 12: View of Oconee River and the one-lane wooden bridge; photographer facing northeast.

HEAD'S MILL, LULA, HALL COUNTY
GEORGIA

District Tax Map

Scale: 0-----600'

Boundary: 



HEAD'S MILL, Lula, Hall County,
Georgia

District Sketch Map

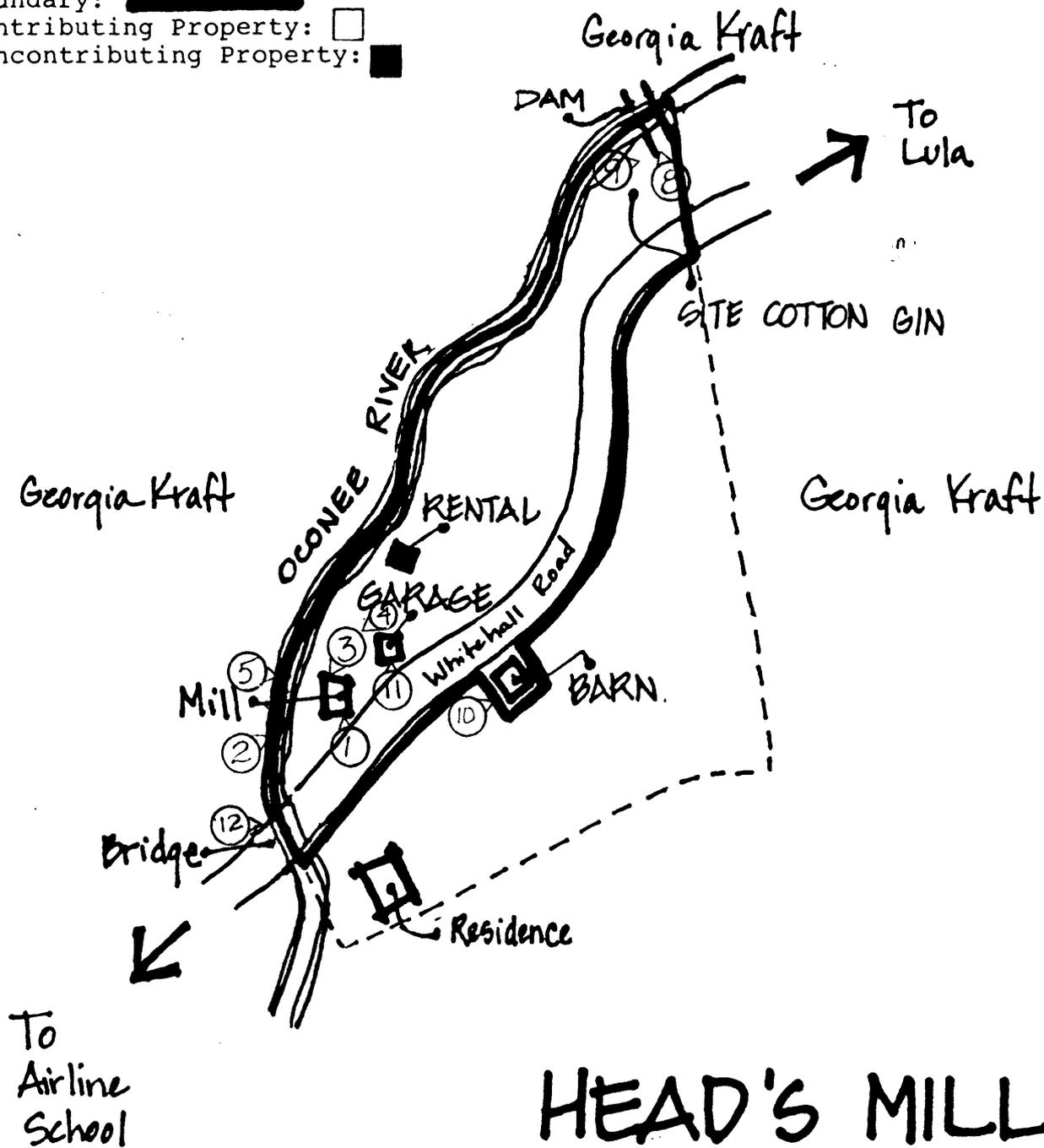
Scale: none

Photographs: indicated by ③

Boundary: 

Contributing Property: 

Noncontributing Property: 



HEAD'S MILL

Sketch Map



NORTH

----- OWNER'S PROPERTY
NOT INCLUDED IN
DISTRICT NOMINATION

FLOOR PLAN

NORT - →

NO SCALE

HELD'S MOUNTAIN
HALF CITY

