

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received MAY 30 1984

date entered JUN 28 1984

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

1. Name

historic John S. Jackson Plantation House and Outbuildings

and/or common Jackson Place

2. Location

street & number ~~Greensboro-Sparta Road (Veazy Road)~~, off Ga. Hwy 16 N/A not for publication

city, town ^{VIC} White Plains ~~(Greene Co.)~~ X vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Hancock code 141

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	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 Mr. Robert E. Lanier, Jr.

street & number 4251 East Side Drive

city, town Decatur N/A vicinity of state Georgia 30034

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Hancock County Courthouse

city, town Sparta state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1975 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Dept. 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 John S. Jackson Plantation House and Outbuildings consists of a frame weatherboarded house, ten outbuildings, and associated agricultural acreage.

The main house is built on the four-over-four-with-central-hall plan. It sits atop a fully exposed, above-ground masonry basement. It has Greek Revival details in its front colonade and other exterior trim. Italianate brackets detail the cornice. There are green shutters on the upper two floors. The lower floor is rock and plaster. The interior rooms on the main and third levels contain their original doors, plasterwork, mantels, stairway, and ceiling medallion. Large, paneled pocket doors separate the front two parlors from the central hall. Several doors contain Greek Cross-styled panels. The front door is framed by pilasters, pierced dentil moulding, and sidelights and transom with frosted glass. The third floor supports a balcony overlooking the front entrance. There are four interior arcaded chimneys with corbeled caps.

The west or front facade is a two-story temple front with a full entablature and three fluted Doric columns to either side of the main entrance. The bracketed frieze is continuous on all four sides of the house. The main door, entered from the front porch, is framed by a pilaster to each side, pierced dentil moulding and transom lights (six panes) and sidelights (four panes). These panes are a pattern of clear and frosted glass. The door is Cross-and-Bible style but has a small block placed in each corner of the panels to create a more ornate design. This same technique is used in the front two parlors inside the house. On each side of the main doorway are two full-length windows which could be opened onto the porch. Above the main entrance is balcony which can be accessed by a door flanked by sidelights (four panes) and two over-sized windows (six-over-six panes). Currently, the rear facade of the house is framed by a two-story porch reaching from the ground floor upward. The entablature with dentil moulding is supported by four fluted Doric columns. This porch was probably added in the 1940s. The east facade is similar to the west with a center door on the lower two floors and two windows to each side. The top floor has five windows instead of a center door.

Each of the three floors has the same basic plan: four rooms with a central hallway. The ground floor may have originally had only three rooms; the wooden wall that divides the southwest and southeast rooms may have been added. All the other walls on the ground floor are rock and plaster and twenty inches thick. The interior of the ground floor is the simplest of the three floors with plaster walls and approximately twelve- to thirteen-inch baseboards. Only the three rooms had fireplaces. One of those rooms serves as a kitchen. A wood stove has been installed in front of the fireplace. The other room is used as a family room, and the fireplace is framed by a very simple Neoclassical-type mantel. Oral tradition states that this floor was originally used for the horses. Uhl Lanier remembers one of the front rooms being used as a meat-curing room.

The elevated main floor is the most ornate. It was used for entertaining, dances, etc. The ornate design used on the front doors is repeated on the sliding

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double doors which separate the front two rooms from the hallway. There are twelve- to thirteen-inch baseboards throughout the main floor, and the more elegant Neoclassical mantels are painted with a method known as graining. The graining on the mantels in the front two rooms is done in a manner that resembles marble. Graining can also be found on the doors and the risers of the main staircase leading to the third story. Most of the doors appear to be original and are joined by pegs. All walls are painted plaster. The back two rooms also contain fireplaces but have plain mantels and simpler woodwork framing the door leading into the hallway. The front two rooms contained shouldered architrave trim. Two other special features to be mentioned are as follows: the strip of wood in the hallway for coat and hat hooks when company came, and the moulding surrounding the hook to hold the chandelier in the main-floor hallway.

A straight, wooden interior staircase with marbelized risers leads to the third floor. At the top of the stairs, one passes through a door which was added along with a wall to block drafts between the third and main floors. Each of the four third-story rooms contains a fireplace and mantel similar in style to the ones on the ground floor and wide baseboards. A small staircase extends into the attic and provides access to the roof, where one could view the countryside. There are no closets. Most of the windows throughout the house have the original glass.

The ground-floor walls are field-rock and plaster. The upper two floors are plaster-and-wood lathing. Exposed beams covered with a faint coat of white-wash are found in the ground-floor kitchen. All the floors are heart pine. This house was built with a natural ventilation system of high ceilings and wide hallways to catch cooling breezes. The ground floor with its thick rock walls would remain even cooler than the upper floors in the summer months. All sills are handhewn.

The siting of the house is one of its most important features. The Jackson House rises dramatically from the surrounding pasture and farmland. It is parallel to the Greensboro-Sparta Road. The house is framed by a variety of large hardwoods, including pecan trees, hickories, various oaks, apple, fig, pear and others. Large boxwoods frame the front facade of the house. According to Uhl Lanier, the house had fewer trees and shrubs than it currently does. There are currently ten wooden clapboard outbuildings surrounding the house, five of which are historic. The five historic ones include a wellhouse and privy directly behind the house. Between these two buildings, traces of the foundation of the old kitchen can be found. It was used as a tool shed before it was torn down. The three other original buildings are a buggy-shed, referred to in oral tradition as a commissary for the slaves, a storage barn, and a corn crib.

Few changes appear to have been made to the house. The current rear porch was probably added after 1936. The porch may have been through other transformations between 1850 and 1936. The columns of the back porch were originally on

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the front of the house and the current columns on the front porch were taken from another house in the area. This swap was made due to deterioration. The ground floor, as mentioned earlier, may have been only three rooms. A modern bathroom has been added totally within one room. Until recently, the front exterior staircase of the house was stone with steps descending to each side. The owners have removed those steps and plan to replace them with a straight wooden staircase as shown in earlier photographs. The front yard is being landscaped.

The house is situated in a very rural area along the Greensboro-Sparta Road. From the front and rear porches, all one can see is farmland and one nearby house.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				Local History

Specific dates ca. 1856 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The John S. Jackson Plantation is significant in architecture, landscape architecture, and local history. Architecturally, the house is an excellent example of a plantation house that reflects Greek Revival details as well as the four-over-four room plan and the raised basement for ventilation. Its setting is an important part of its imposing appearance and grandeur. Its retention of almost all of its original materials and workmanship make it a fine example of the rural architecture of the era. In landscape architecture, the property is significant for the way in which the plantation house was sited on the highest ground in the area. This is characteristic of antebellum plantation house site location in Georgia. In local history, it is a good example of the life and death of an antebellum plantation. John S. Jackson moved here from Greene County about the time of his marriage in 1856 to Artemesia Hall. He built the big house and was listed as a planter worth \$30,000 in the 1860 census. But by 1870, the havoc of the Civil War and the loss of his first wife brought him to sell the plantation's house and 1,400 acres to a neighbor, Robert M. Grimes. Jackson moved back to his mother's lands near Greensboro and farmed those for her. He left the area in the late 1870s. These areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register criteria A and C.

Historical Narrative

The history of the Jackson Place begins with the purchase of the property and the building of the existing house around 1856. This is the date of the marriage of John Swinney Jackson and his first wife, Artemesia Hall.

John Swinney Jackson was born around 1827 to William Jackson and his wife Nancy Swinney. His parents had married in 1826 in Hancock County. He was living with his parents in 1850 in adjoining Greene County. Thus, he had deep roots in the area. The land on which the plantation was developed belonged to neither his parents, nor his wife's family. It is thus a good example of a farmer seeking to build his own future by securing land and building his own home and farm.

In 1860, the agricultural census shows that the plantation consisted of 1,000 acres of land, 600 improved and 400 unimproved. Cotton was the main staple crop with fifty bushels being produced during the previous year; 1,250 bushels of corn were also produced. The size and production level place the plantation at about average for the surrounding Greene-Hancock County area. There were six slaves houses and thirty-eight slaves on the place in 1860.

When the Civil War began in 1861, Mr. Jackson was about thirty-four, and despite his management of the plantation and his growing family, he had to serve

[continued]

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 47 acres

Quadrangle name White Plains, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	7	3	0	5	5	0	0	3	6	9	8	0	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	7	3	0	6	0	9	0	3	6	9	8	1	1	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

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

D

1	7	3	0	5	4	8	0	3	6	9	7	7	7	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

The nominated property consists of two parcels the owner owns at this location that are still associated with the house. It is the historic core of a once-larger plantation. The parcels are marked on the enclosed plat.

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 Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian

organization Historic Preservation Section
Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

date April 23, 1984

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 5/22/84

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 6/26/84

for [Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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the Confederate cause. In September, 1865, like most Southerners, he took the Amnesty Oath and received a pardon.

The war had depleted his finances and, as did many Southerners, he was forced to sell his plantation. Eventually, he moved with his second wife, Alice G. Jones Jackson, and his children to Greene County, where they lived on his mother's property. When Jackson sold the plantation on February 23, 1870, he did so for \$8,000 to Robert M. Grimes, a neighbor, who had married into the nearby Jernigan family. The land was described as being 1,500 acres, lying in the counties of Greene and Hancock on Little Shoulderbone Creek.

Jackson's arrival in Greensboro was noted in the local newspaper in February, 1871: "Mr. J. Swinney Jackson has moved to the city." He paid taxes for his mother's 1,000-acre farm near Greensboro until 1877. Shortly thereafter, he moved to Texas, where he continued farming. He, his family and his mother appeared on the 1880 Census of Harrison County, Texas. It was to this same county that his sister, Henrietta Harris, and her husband, Captain John A. Harris, also moved. Thus, like many Georgians, the Jacksons went West, seeking a better future.

Robert M. Grimes (born 1848), who bought the Jackson Place in 1870, owned it only briefly, selling it in December, 1874, to James M. Harris (born 1819), another neighbor. This time, the 1,415 acres and other lands sold for \$4,866. In November, 1880, the land once again returned to Grimes, and after a law suit over debts, was sold again to Harris in late 1881.

Harris owned the Jackson Place until 1900, when he sold 1,100 acres to Henry Thomas Lewis, a member of a prominent Greene County family. It appeared to contain just that part of the Jackson Place that was in Hancock County.

In 1913, Mrs. Harriette Poullain Lewis, widow of Henry T. Lewis, deeded the plantation, then consisting of 661 acres, to Jeff W. N. Lanier, for \$3,500. Other members of the Lanier family lived nearby. Mr. Lanier was a cotton farmer. It remained in the ownership of Lanier, great-grandfather of the present owner, until 1926, when he sold it to D.B. Taylor for \$6,000. It was owned by Dorsey L. Campbell from 1936 to 1981. He sold 500 acres for timber and did light farming on the remaining acres. Campbell divided his lands among his children. He deeded the house tract to his daughter, Alice Hartley. She deeded the house tract back to the Lanier family in 1982, when she sold it to the present owner. The Campbell family still owns some of the surrounding land.

James M. Harris, who owned the Jackson Place off and on for over twenty years, was also a native of the area. His parents settled on Shoulderbone Creek before his birth. In 1895, during the time he owned this house, Harris was described as a planter, and as a "representative of an old and aristocratic

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family, which has for long years wielded a powerful influence for good in Hancock County." His family was said to have "unsurpassed technical knowledge of farming, a clever business judgment," which kept them ahead of other farming families. It was estimated that Harris' holdings totalled 5,000 acres, one of the largest in the county. Harris was forced by 1895 to leave the management of his vast acreage to his adopted son, Moses Wiley Harris. The elder Harris was said to have never cared for politics or public life "in any form" and even turned down honorary positions. It was said that he "has simply done his duty as a private in the ranks of democracy."

Henry T. Lewis (1847-1903) was a lawyer who served as an associate justice of the Georgia Supreme Court from 1897-1902, part of which time he owned this farm. He and his family were always associated with Greensboro and it was there that he lived. It is doubtful that he personally did any farming here.

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Norton, Nancy E. "Jackson Place," Historic Property Information Form, April 6, 1983. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. (This included copies of all deeds and oral interviews with former owners' families.)

Thomas, Kenneth H., Jr. Additional research into agricultural, slave and population censuses; contact with relatives of Swinney family; contact with Harrison County, Texas, researchers; biographical information on owners Harris and Lewis from Georgia Archives; Greene and Hancock County Tax Digests, also at the Georgia Archives; and newspaper research, The Greensboro Herald issues of 1871.

JOHN S. JACKSON PLANTATION HOUSE
AND OUTBUILDINGS
Near White Plains (Greene County)
Hancock County, Georgia

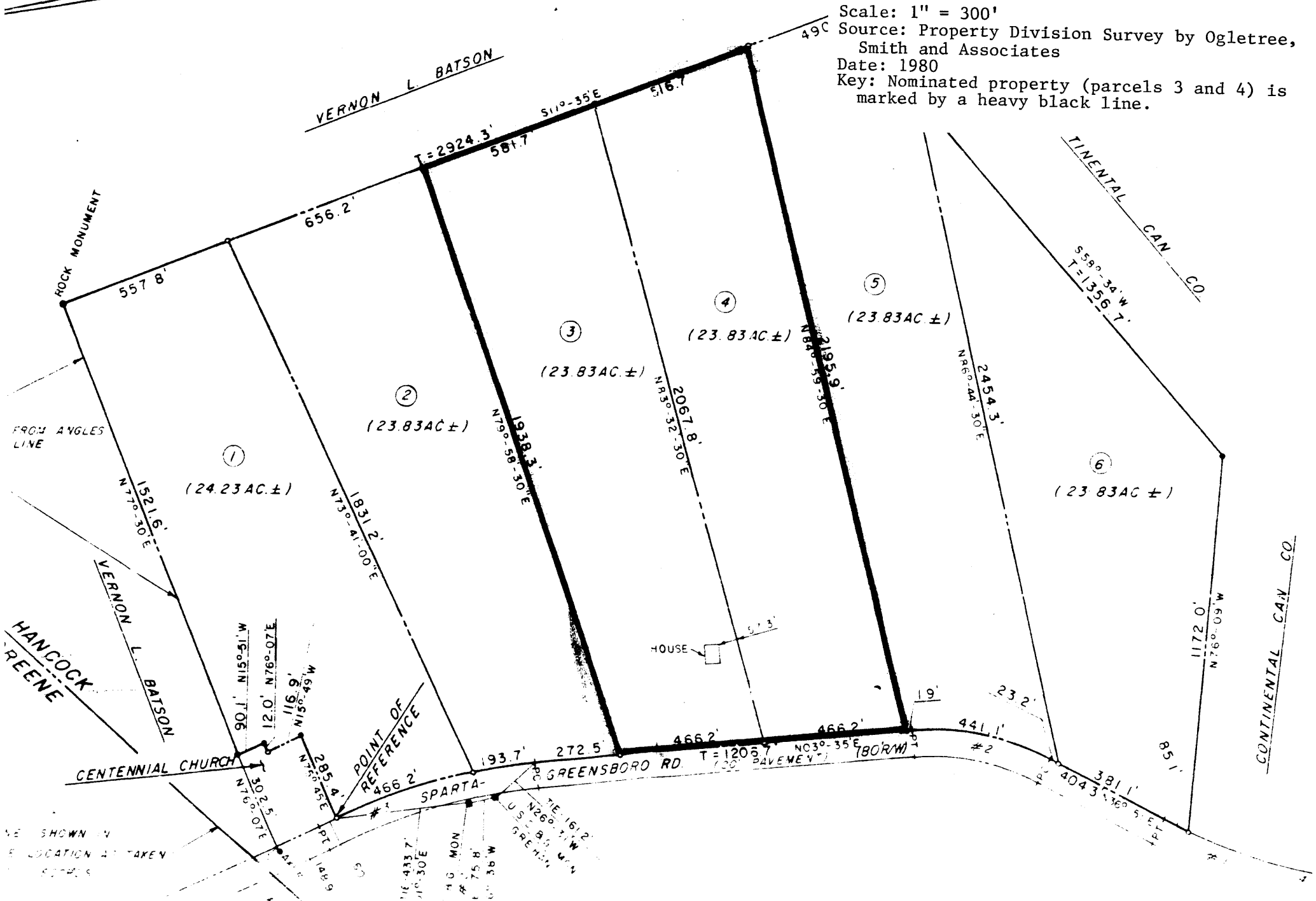
PLAT MAP

Scale: 1" = 300'

Source: Property Division Survey by Ogletree,
Smith and Associates

Date: 1980

Key: Nominated property (parcels 3 and 4) is
marked by a heavy black line.



NOT SHOWN IN
LOCATION AS TAKEN
BY...

JOHN S. JACKSON PLANTATION HOUSE
AND OUTBUILDINGS
Near White Plains (Greene County)
Hancock County, Georgia

Jackson House
G1

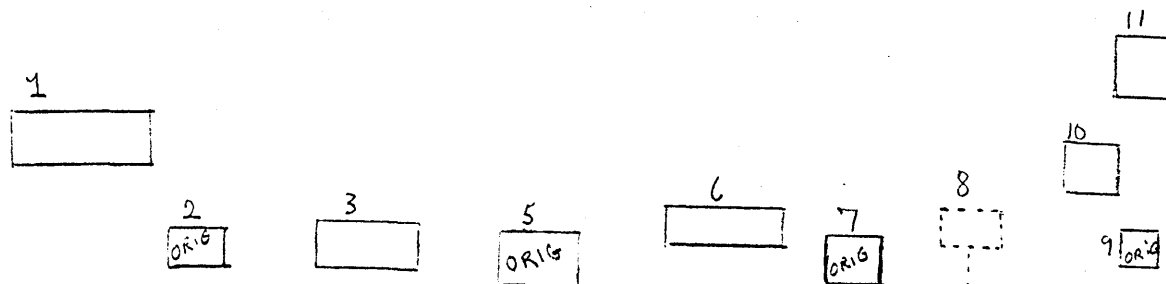
SKETCH MAP

Scale: Not to scale

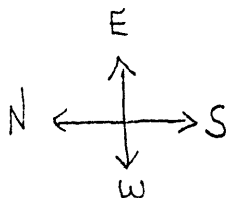
Source: Drawn by consultant

Date: 1983

Key: The outbuildings or locations of lost
outbuildings are keyed to the legend on map.



- 1 - Hay shed - 1940's
- 2 - Corn Crib - 1850's
- 3 - Livestock stall + Catchpen
- 4 - Buggy Shed 1850's
- 5 - Storage barn - 1850's
- 6 - Vehicle Shed - 1940's
- 7 - Well House 1850's
- 8 - Location of orig kitchen
- 9 - Out house 1850's
- 10 - Chicken house - 1930's
- 11 - Wood shed - 1930's
Garage

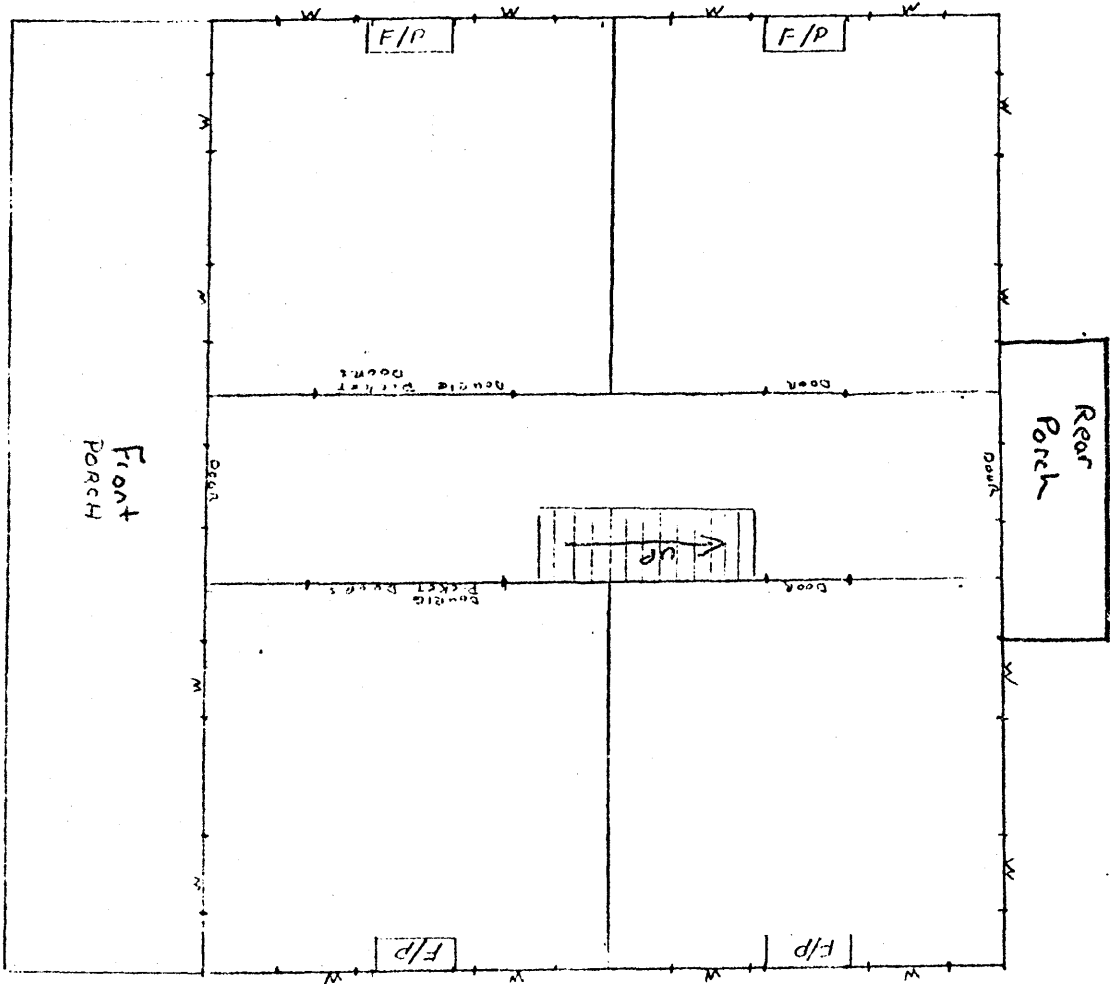


LAY OUT FOR HOUSE
AND OUT BUILDINGS

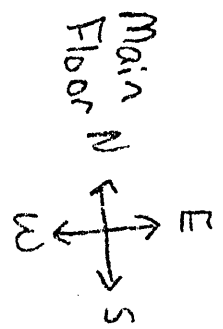
JOHN S. JACKSON PLANTATION HOUSE
 AND OUTBUILDINGS
 Near White Plains (Greene County)
 Hancock County, Georgia

FLOOR PLAN

Scale: Not to scale
 Source: Drawn by Nancy Norton
 Date: 1983
 Key: This is just the main floor.



Basic Floor Plan For All Three Stories



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