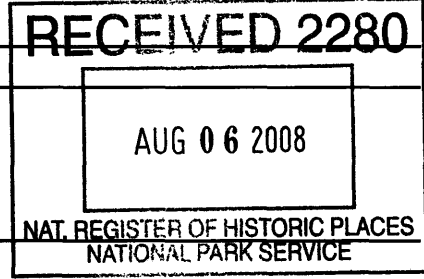


# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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 Bond Family House  
other names/site number N/A

909

## 2. Location

street & number 1226 Rock Chapel Road  
city, town Lithonia (x) vicinity of  
county DeKalb code GA 089  
state Georgia code GA zip code 30058

( ) not for publication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	1	1
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	1

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of previous listing: 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.

*William C. Luce*

*7.25.08*

Signature of certifying official

Date

*for* W. Ray Luce  
Historic Preservation Division Director  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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

*Edson H. Beall* *9.17.08*

( ) determined eligible for the National Register

( ) determined not eligible for the National Register

( ) removed from the National Register

( ) other, explain:

( ) see continuation sheet

*for*

Keeper of the National Register

Date

---

## 6. Function or Use

---

### Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

### Current Functions:

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

---

## 7. Description

---

### Architectural Classification:

OTHER: Plantation Plain

### Materials:

**foundation** BRICK  
**walls** WOOD: weatherboard  
**roof** ASPHALT  
**other** BRICK (chimney)

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

#### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Bond Family House faces the six-lane-wide Rock Chapel Road (State Route 124) in a rapidly growing portion of DeKalb County, north of the city of Lithonia. Constructed c.1872, the two-story frame Plantation Plain house has weatherboard siding, a brick foundation, and a side-gabled asphalt-shingled roof. The one-story rear section of the original house has a steeply pitched shed roof that intersects the front portion at an unusually high point on the second floor. The three-bay main façade features a central door with narrow transom and sidelights, a wide hip-roofed porch (rebuilt in 1998), and six-over-six double-hung sash windows. The exterior end chimney is brick with a corbelled shoulder and stone base. A second brick chimney extends from the rear interior. End gables and the shed-roofed rear extension have returns and frieze boards. Additions (c.1985) on the rear include a one-story kitchen extension and wing, and a large second-floor dormer above the shed roof. The original floor plan is intact with a central hallway separating the four main rooms on the first floor. The balustrade on the central staircase exhibits elaborate sawn woodwork. Four original fireplace mantels remain, three downstairs and one upstairs. The upstairs hallway and front bedrooms retain flush plank walls and ceilings. Other significant features throughout the house include wood floors, wood paneled doors, and simple woodwork trim. The landscape includes a concrete side driveway, a relatively flat grass lawn, hardwood trees, foundation shrubs, and one small non-contributing outbuilding in the rear. A portion of the front yard has been impacted by recent road construction. Trees were lost in the early 2000s, and replacement trees were planted. In 2001 the Georgia Department of Transportation constructed a concrete retaining wall with granite block veneer, which separates the yard from the recently widened roadway, and keeps the grade of the remaining front lawn at its previous level.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

---

## FULL DESCRIPTION

The Bond Family House is located in a fast-growing suburb of the greater Atlanta metropolitan area. Its setting includes other residences on large lots along Rock Chapel Road (SR 124), but most houses are of relatively recent construction. There are also several subdivisions in the vicinity. An old granite quarry to the east is not visible from the property. SR 124 has become a major thoroughfare through widening over the years (photograph 21). The most recent road project resulted in the front portion of the yard losing its gradual grade toward the road. A new concrete retaining wall a few feet from the pavement visually and physically separates the front lawn from the highway (photographs 19 and 20), and preserves the major portion of the yard with its original grade. The wall is faced in rough-cut granite blocks with granite capstones topped by a metal picket type fence. The south end of the wall has a "return" at the concrete driveway.

The house is oriented facing west. Its simple façade is symmetrical with three bays, featuring a door in the central bay (photograph 18). The plan is a variant of the house type known as a Plantation Plain, as identified in *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*. These were commonly built in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century in rural areas of the Georgia Piedmont region. The Bond house has a two-story block at the front, featuring a central hallway with a staircase that divides two front downstairs rooms and two upstairs rooms. This section is side-gabled with an almost full-width one-story front porch. A lateral one-story shed-roofed section provides another range of rooms on the rear. The angle of the shed is steeper than usually found on this type of house (photograph 16). The Bond house also breaks from the traditional Plantation Plain design by having a deeper one-story rear extension on the north side (photograph 2). This perpendicular cross-gabled wing appears on a 1890s photograph, but it was slightly expanded in the 1980s. A rear porch was enclosed to make the current kitchen and part of the back hallway. The front section of the house has a rear second-floor dormer that was also added at that time. This plan gives the house a complex roofline when viewed from the back yard (photograph 1).

It is not presently known whether the house has a balloon-frame structure or whether it used the earlier technology of a post-and-beam timber frame. Based on a photograph from the 1890s, the exterior retains a very high degree of integrity. It has always had wood weatherboard siding finished with vertical cornerboards. Roofing material is now asphalt shingles. The gabled roof has eave returns and wooden fascia boards (photograph 16). The foundation is brick. The house's front section has an exterior brick chimney on the south side. It features a stone base, topped by stretcher bond brick with a stepped shoulder at the attic level. The corresponding north wall apparently never had a chimney. Instead there is an interior chimney between the north parlor and the room behind it (now a bedroom, probably once a kitchen), visible in photograph 3.

The front porch covers most of the width of the façade. It is reached by three central steps. The porch has a hip roof, wood floor, and elaborately sawn wooden posts (photographs 17 and 18). Although the posts, railings, and part of the structure were rebuilt in 1998 (photograph 15), the porch looks similar in shape and form to that in the 1890s photograph. The main discernable difference is that the previous posts appear to have been simple squared columns on masonry pillars. There is

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

---

another porch on the rear of the north side, which was probably added when the kitchen space (a former porch) was enclosed in the 1980s.

Most of the windows in the front section of the house retain their historic six-over-six double-hung sashes. A few panes also retain their historic glass. Some new windows were added with rear additions and renovations. The window in the shed-roofed section (photograph 16) was not there in 1890. Storm windows were added to the entire house in 1998. In the 1890s photograph, the house had operable exterior shutters. Replacement shutters are decorative and inoperable. The front door (photograph 5) is wood with decorative ovals and circles. It is surrounded by a deeply recessed divided transom and sidelights.

The interior retains its historic floor plan and most materials. The two front parlors have plaster walls with wide wooden baseboards (photographs 7 and 10). Each parlor has a simple mantelpiece that appears to be original. The current downstairs bedroom and one upstairs room also have fireplaces (photographs 9 and 14). There are wood floors and wide flush-board plank walls in the hallway, stairwell, and upstairs rooms (photographs 4, 11, 12, and 14). Most ceilings in the house are also flush wood planks. There are historic four-panel doors throughout the house. The staircase has an unusual jigsaw-cut balustrade in a style that might more commonly be associated with exterior stairs (photographs 11 and 12). Much of the woodwork is thought to have come from the Bond family sawmill. It appears that the balustrade may post-date the c.1872 construction of the house.

In 1985 the upstairs bathroom was constructed by placing a large rear dormer over the shed roof. That same year the L-shaped rear porch was also enclosed to form the current kitchen. Based on historic photos, as well as an examination of the building, the porch had once extended around the southeast corner, including part of what is now the rear central hall. Exterior siding is visible on the wall between the bedroom-hallway door and the kitchen (left side of photograph 6). New electrical wiring and plumbing were also installed in 1985. Recent alterations in 1998 were mostly cosmetic, except for the reconstruction of the front porch and railings.

The one-acre yard is flat, and includes a non-historic outbuilding, now used as an office, in the rear. (Oral sources indicate that there may have once been a historic barn or shed on this site, but if this is the same building, it is no longer recognizable.) The Bond Family House once had more acreage, but the land was subdivided and sold over the years. In the 1920s the property included a smokehouse, a wood shed, a large barn, and a corn crib. These buildings are no longer extant. The historic setting also included other relatives' property across the road, with another barn, another house, a garage, and a family store. These buildings are also gone. There are several large hardwood trees, including oaks, to the rear of the Bond house. The front yard now consists of mostly smaller trees and foundation shrubs. The concrete driveway ends in a small graveled parking area to the south of the house.

---

**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

SOCIAL HISTORY

**Period of Significance:**

c.1872-1958

**Significant Dates:**

c.1872 – construction of the house

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

Unknown.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

---

**Statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The locally significant Bond Family House was constructed c.1872 as the home of one of DeKalb County's leading citizens, Eason Jackson Bond (1834-1893). It remained in his prominent family for several generations until 1985. The house is significant under Criterion C in architecture as a good example of a Plantation Plain house type, and because it retains much of its original form and materials. Minor alterations to the rear do not impact the integrity of the historic house. According to *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*, the Plantation Plain house has a two-story block at the front (usually gabled) and a one-story range of rooms at the rear (usually shed-roofed), and typically has a full-width one-story front porch. It was mostly a rural phenomenon, and most surviving examples date from c.1820 to 1850. This portion of DeKalb County was a rural farming community in the 1870s, and a house of this size would have stood apart from many of the rest. The house displays significant intact features from its date of construction, including chimneys, walls, windows, doors, floors, mantels, staircase, balustrade, moldings, and hardware. Family descendents believe that the wood used in the house was milled at the Bond family lumber mill. The house is significant under Criterion A in social history for its associations with the Bond family. Eason Bond was the son of an early DeKalb County pioneer who moved to the area c.1834. Eason served as Chairman of the DeKalb County Commission, was a Justice of the Peace, and was very involved with Rock Chapel Methodist Church.

There is little left in the Rock Chapel area that relates to any of the pioneer families. Joseph Ballard Bond (1790-1863), originally of Virginia, moved to the area from nearby Hall County c.1834. He constructed a house that no longer exists, which had been located just south of where the Bond Family House now stands. He also donated the land for nearby Rock Chapel Methodist Church in Land Lot 190 of the 16<sup>th</sup> District, and is buried in the church cemetery. Joseph and his wife Sarah had six children, including Eason Jackson Bond who was born in 1834. Eason and his wife Mary Eveline Nail Bond had the house built c.1872 on what was a larger tract of land. The family also owned what would become an early 20<sup>th</sup> century granite quarry located at Rock Chapel. Eason's five sons who lived in the Bond Family House included Joseph Bryan (J. B.) Bond (1872-1952), and four others who were most commonly referred to by the initials A. Y., G. R., I. A., and W. A.

Joseph Bryan Bond (known as "Uncle Joe") was best known as a long-time correspondent for the *DeKalb News Era* newspaper, and a chronicler of the area's history. Various family members owned other tracts of land in the vicinity. Brothers and sons founded several local enterprises in the Lithonia area, such as the W. A. and J. B. Bond Sawmill, a photography business owned by J. B. and I. A. Bond, and the Bond Brothers Store, which was once a popular stop across the road from the Bond house. Joseph Bryan Bond eventually built a house next to his family store (neither is extant), and the Bond Family House was passed down through subsequent generations through his brother William A. Bond. William's great-granddaughter Rachel Bond Sorrow Sheppard lived in the house until 1985. The house retains its significance as an important part of the social history of DeKalb County.

The architecture reflects the county's rural roots. The Plantation Plain house type is one of the earliest forms in Georgia, and is almost strictly a rural phenomenon. Agricultural land once

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

---

surrounded the Bond Family House. Located between Stone Mountain and Lithonia, the area was rocky and most farms were not large. Bond family members were likely early subsistence farmers who eventually earned most of their livelihood from other enterprises. Because they also owned a lumber mill, the family would have been able to build the relatively substantial house with manufactured pieces on both the outside and inside. While there are still a few similar houses remaining in parts of DeKalb County, the Bond Family House is a good example of an early type.

**National Register Criteria**

The Bond Family House is significant at the local level under Criteria A and C as a good example of a late-19<sup>th</sup>-century Plantation Plain house that was associated with a prominent DeKalb County family.

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

**Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins with the construction of the house c.1872. Because several generations of the Bond family continued to reside in the house until 1985, the date of significance ends with the end of the historical period in 1958.

**Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

The house is the one contributing building. A rear outbuilding, identified as a "shed" on the plat map, is noncontributing due to its construction after the period of significance.

**Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)**

DeKalb County was created in 1822 from portions of Fayette, Henry and Gwinnett counties. Settlers established claims along former Indian trails and the old post road between Decatur (the county seat) and Augusta. Many came directly or indirectly from Virginia and the Carolinas, and tended to be of Irish, Scots, or English descent. The Rock Chapel area is about six miles southeast of Stone Mountain and three miles northwest of Lithonia. It was settled in the 1820s or 1830s, with the Rock Chapel Methodist meetinghouse as a central gathering place in what was known as "Diamond's District." The church cemetery contains the graves of several Bond family members. The area also had the nickname of "Soap Factory." A popular camp meeting was established in 1840 in association with the church.

Rock Chapel Mountain is a nearby granite outcrop that was once owned by Eason Bond and David Chupp. The land was initially considered worthless, and was later sold to individuals who started a mining operation that became the Georgia Granite Company in 1904. Consolidated Quarries bought the mountain in 1928, and installed a large stone-crushing plant. This was connected by railroad to nearby Lithonia. For part of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, granite quarrying was an important industry for



National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

---

large portions of the county.

Corn, wheat, rye, oats, and apples were grown in the area, but the soil was extremely rocky and farmers could not make much more than a subsistence living. Lumber mills and grist mills were powered by local rivers and tributaries. DeKalb County produced cotton until the 1930s, and later turned to the dairy and beef industries. The area remained mostly rural until after World War II when it started to become a suburb of Atlanta. Growth escalated even further with the construction of Interstate 20 in the 1960s. By 1970, 94 percent of DeKalb County was classified as urban. Housing subdivisions first appeared near the interstate, and then along other major roads such as SR 124 (Rock Chapel Road).

---

## 9. Major Bibliographic References

---

Bond, Joseph B. "History of Rock Chapel Methodist Church." Undated.

*The Collections of the DeKalb County Historical Society*, Volume 1. Decatur, Georgia: Bowen Press, 1952.

DeKalb County Superior Court, Decatur, Georgia. Deeds and Records. Grantor Indexes. Grantee Indexes. Deed Books. Plat Books.

Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division. *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*. 1991.

Lithonia Public Library. Miscellaneous topical files and clippings related to the Bond family.

McCrary, Victor and Faye. Historic Property Information Form: Bond-McCrary House. On file at Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta. 1999 with 2006 updates.

Price, Vivian. *The History of DeKalb County, Georgia, 1822-1900*. Fernandina Beach, Florida: Wolfe Publishing, 1997.

Sheppard, Rachel Bond Sorrow. Interview by Faye McCrary. 2006.

Vanishing DeKalb Photograph Collection. On file at the DeKalb County Historical Society, Decatur, Georgia.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested**
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued**  
**date issued:**
- 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:**

- State historic preservation office**
- Other State Agency**
- Federal agency**
- Local government**
- University**
- Other, Specify Repository:**

**Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** 19185 (NAHRGIS database)

---

## 10. Geographical Data

---

**Acreage of Property**      Approximately one acre.

### **UTM References**

Zone 16      Easting 770383      Northing 3738888

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is marked with a heavy line, shown on the enclosed plat. On the north, east, and south sides it corresponds to the current legal boundary. On the west side it extends to the outer (roadside) edge of the stone-faced retaining wall, which appears to approximately correspond to the SR 24 highway right-of-way.

### **Boundary Justification**

The original tract is no longer intact. The nominated property includes the lot on which the house now rests and all that remains associated with the house, up to and including the new front retaining wall. The strip between the retaining wall and the road pavement has been cut away by highway construction, and is not included in the boundary.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

**State Historic Preservation Office**

**name/title** Denise P. Messick, Historian  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**mailing address** 34 Peachtree Street, Suite 1600  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303-2316  
**telephone** (404) 656-2840 **date** June 2008  
**e-mail** Denise.Messick@dnr.state.ga.us

**Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable)** ( ) not applicable

**name/title** Faye S. McCrary  
**organization** N/A  
**mailing address** 1226 Rock Chapel Road  
**city or town** Lithonia **state** GA **zip code** 30058  
**telephone** (404) 819-7477  
**e-mail** N/A

- ( x ) **property owner**
- ( ) **consultant**
- ( ) **regional development center preservation planner**
- ( ) **other:**

**Property Owner or Contact Information**

**name (property owner or contact person)** Victor and Faye McCrary  
**organization (if applicable)** N/A  
**mailing address** 1226 Rock Chapel Road  
**city or town** Lithonia **state** GA **zip code** 30058  
**e-mail (optional)** N/A

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

---

**Name of Property:** Bond Family House  
**City or Vicinity:** Lithonia  
**County:** DeKalb  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negatives Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** April 2007

**Description of Photograph(s):**

Number of photographs: 22

1. Rear of house (southeast corner); photographer facing northwest.
2. Rear of house; photographer facing west.
3. Rear of house (northeast corner); photographer facing southwest.
4. Looking into central hallway and staircase from front door; photographer facing east.
5. Exterior of front door; photographer facing east.
6. Rear portion of central hall; photographer facing east.
7. First floor south parlor; photographer facing southwest.
8. Doors to side porch and laundry; photographer facing northeast.
9. First floor bedroom; photographer facing west/southwest.
10. First floor north parlor; photographer facing northeast.
11. First floor landing staircase detail; photographer facing south.
12. Second floor landing staircase detail; photographer facing southeast.
13. Second floor landing staircase detail; photographer facing southeast.
14. Second floor south bedroom; photographer facing southwest.
15. Front porch; photographer facing north.
16. South side of house; photographer facing north.

National Register of Historic Places **Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

---

17. Front and south side of house; photographer facing northeast.
18. Front of house; photographer facing east.
19. Front yard and Rock Chapel Road; photographer facing northeast.
20. Front of house from across Rock Chapel Road; photographer facing east.
21. Front of house from across Rock Chapel Road; photographer facing east.
22. Front yard, driveway, and southwest corner of house; photographer facing northeast.


(HPD WORD form version 11-03-01)

MAG. NORTH

LUI  
BLOCK  
UNIT  
SUB.

**BOND FAMILY HOUSE  
DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA  
NATIONAL REGISTER MAP/PLAT MAP**

NATIONAL REGISTER BOUNDARY: 

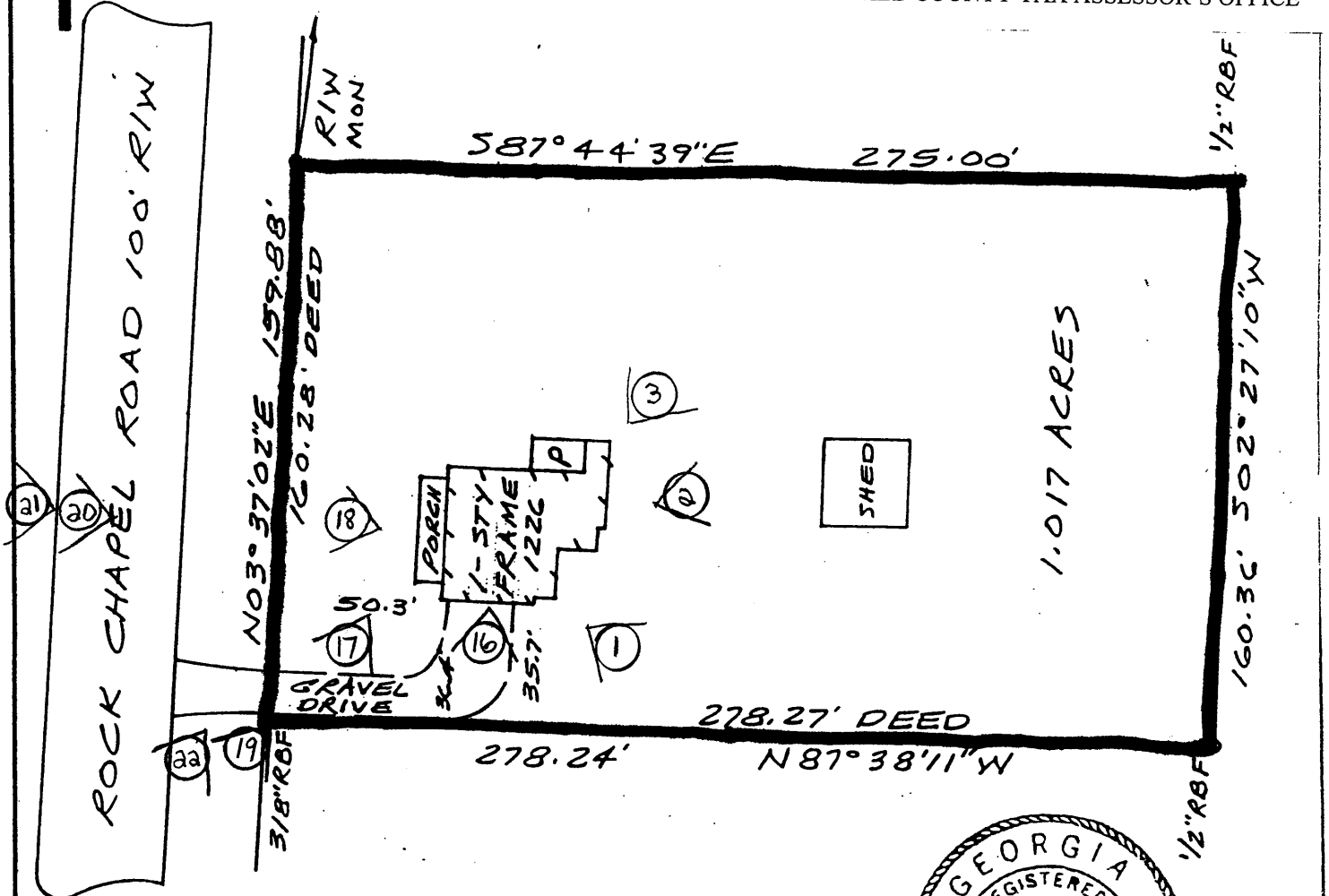
NORTH: 

PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: 

SCALE: 1" = 50'

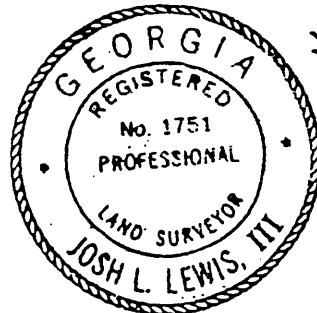
SOURCE: DEKALB COUNTY TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

1477.18' TO  
STEPHENSON



LAND LOT 190  
DEKALB

VICTOR M. McCRARY  
16TH DISTRICT  
COUNTY, GEORGIA  
DATE: 12-3-98



This map or plat has been calculated for closure and is found to be accurate within one foot in 10,000 feet.

REFERENCE: D.B. 9605 PG. 712  
EQUIPMENT USED: TOPCON TOTAL STATION

THIS PLAT WAS PREPARED TO SHOW THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF THE IMPROVEMENTS AND IS NOT RECORDABLE. FENCES SHOULD NOT BE PLACED USING SIDE DIMENSIONS FROM HOUSE. ALL MATTERS OF TITLE ARE EXCEPTED. THIS PLAT IS SUBJECT TO ALL LEGAL EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAYS, PUBLIC OR PRIVATE.

IN MY OPINION, THIS PLAT IS A CORRECT REPRESENTATION OF THE LAND PLATTED.

REG. LAND SURVEYOR NO. 1751  
GEORGIA LAND SURVEYING CO., INC.

NO. 161530

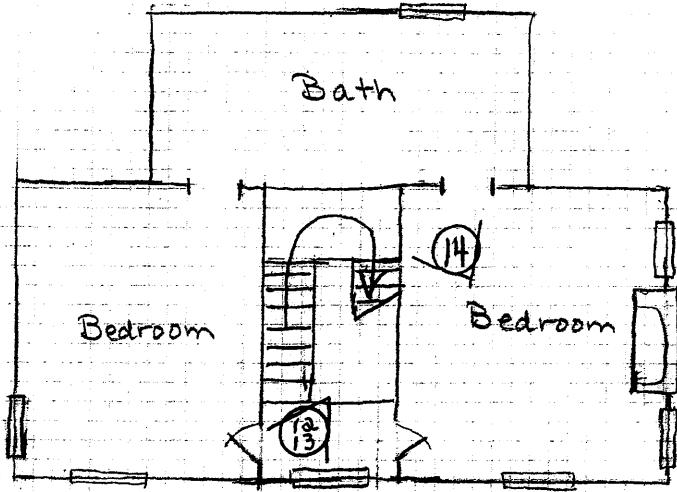
BOND FAMILY HOUSE  
DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA  
SKETCH FLOOR PLANS

NORTH: ←

PHOTOGRAPH/DIRECTION OF VIEW: (#)

SCALE: NOT TO SCALE  
SOURCE: DRAWN BY DENISE MESSICK

Second  
Floor



First  
Floor

