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**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.

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**1. Name of Property**

historic name Shields-Ethridge Farm  
other names/site number n/a

NATIONAL REGISTER

**2. Location**

street & number At the intersection of GA Hwy 319 and County Road 125, approximately 5 miles southwest of Jefferson.  
city, town Jefferson (x) vicinity of  
county Jackson code GA 157  
state Georgia code GA zip code 30549

( ) not for publication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	58	7
sites	4	0
structures	3	0
objects	0	0
total	65	7

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

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

5/19/92  
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon  
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**

**Entered in the  
National Register**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Helena Byers

6/25/92

( ) determined eligible for the National Register

( ) determined not eligible for the National Register

( ) removed from the National Register

( ) other, explain:

( ) see continuation sheet

ju

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Keeper of the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC; single dwelling, secondary structure  
AGRICULTURE; storage, agricultural field, animal facility,  
agricultural outbuilding  
INDUSTRY; processing site, industrial storage  
EDUCATION; school

### Current Functions:

DOMESTIC; single dwelling, secondary structure  
AGRICULTURE; storage, agricultural field, animal facility,  
agricultural outbuilding

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

Classical Revival  
Bungalow/Craftsman  
Other: Plantation Plain  
Central Hallway  
Gabled Ell  
Extended Hall-Parlor

### Materials:

**foundation** stone  
**walls** weatherboard, concrete  
**roof** metal  
**other** log, wood, brick

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Shields-Ethridge Farm is a large, very intact, mid-19th- to mid-20th-century rural farm complex that includes two main dwelling houses, several tenant houses, two cemeteries, a schoolhouse, and a wide variety of agricultural, industrial, and domestic outbuildings, all set on 610 acres. The farm is located approximately five miles southwest of Jefferson, Georgia, off U.S. 129 on GA 319. GA 319 runs northeast to southwest through the property. County Road 125 bisects the property from east to west and intersects GA 319. The main concentration of buildings is located near the intersection of these two roads.

This district represents a very intact piedmont Georgia farmstead with a multitude of agricultural, industrial, and domestic resources. The farm's buildings, structures, and sites date from the 1830s to the 1940s.

The farm is located on typical piedmont Georgia land, with the topography ranging from gently to sharply rolling hills. The west property line is the Middle Oconee River. Virgin forest grows along a

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portion of the river. Through the center of the property is Martin Creek, with open bottom land on each side used as pasture.

Following are individual descriptions of each building, structure, and site:

No. 1 The MAIN DWELLING HOUSE (Joseph Shields House) (photos 1,2,3,17,20), built in 1866, is a two-story, wood-framed house that fits the plantation plain type category. Originally the house had a one-story shed porch across the front. The front facade is flush paneled under the original porch roof line, with clapboard to the sides and above to the house roof. There were two shed rooms in the rear, giving the house a two over four configuration. Three chimneys date to the original construction, one at either end of the main house and a third for the south shed room. The main house sills are hand-hewn, heart pine, mortise-and-tenoned and pegged, and sit on stone pillars. Roofing material for the two-story section is standing seam metal, with the original rolled metal roof still covering the porch. Later additions have composition shingled roofs.

The original interior arrangement of the house was the plan of many plantation houses of the era: one room on either side of a nine-foot wide hallway, both upstairs and downstairs. The downstairs also had two shed rooms in the rear with a sheltered porch between. The interior walls are tongue-and-groove, hand-hewn pine boards applied with square nails. These wall boards are random width, 7 to 10 inches. The two front rooms downstairs and the hall have 10-foot-high ceilings. The height of the ceilings in the shed rooms are 7 feet 4 inches; the two rooms upstairs have a ceiling height of 8 feet. The floors in the older part of the house are original pine boards. These are of random width, five to eleven inches. There are hardwood floors in the newer additions. The hearths and fireplaces are of old brick and stone taken from a dismantled chimney on the homeplace. Mantels and doors are original. The handcrafted mantels are of pine. The doors are of heart pine. The double two-paneled front door is framed by a transom and sidelights, and finished naturally. Some of the doors are painted with a graining technique; others are finished in natural pine. Most doors have porcelain knobs. The newel post and the balusters are plain and simple, although the newel post is chamfered gracefully. The posts for the balustrade are grouped in threes on each step. Ogee mouldings are found in the downstairs area, used at the ceiling, baseboards, door and window surrounds, and around the inside edges of the door panels.

The original kitchen was a log house (No. 30) placed some forty feet to the side of the main dwelling. This structure was moved to another spot on the farmplace in 1910, and still stands next to one of the tenant houses. Through the years compatible modifications were made

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to the main dwelling to accommodate modern living. Additions made during 1910-1912 included a dining room and kitchen, which were built in the rear off the south shed room. A sunroom was built on the south side of the house, and opens to the living room. These rooms were sealed with beaded pine. A lattice porch which enclosed the well was attached to the kitchen. In 1914, as indicated by the imprint on the steps, a new two-story, Neoclassical Revival porch was constructed on the front facade. The porch has four 15-inch square columns of stuccoed finish. The construction material for the columns is unknown, though more likely to be cast concrete block than brick. These two-story columns are spanned at the top by a spindled frieze. A cantilevered balcony was added over the double front doors. In 1944, the balcony was screened in, enclosing its spindled balustrade. In the early 1920s a change was made in the style of windows for the downstairs front rooms. The nine-over-nines were replaced by one solid pane for the bottom sash with four vertical panels in the top sash. The upstairs windows remain six-over-sixes. The changes in the 1920s also included the dismantling of the south wall of the hallway, creating a living room which includes the staircase. The rear open porch in the shed portion of the original house was enclosed and converted to a bath, closet, and hallway. In 1944 the upstairs bedrooms were panelled in white pine, and a full-size bath and dressing room were added. In 1959, the kitchen and dining room built in 1912 were torn away, and an additional room was put on the south side to join the sunroom. A great room and kitchen were built with a double chimney for fireplaces for these two rooms. This 1959 remodeling is sealed with pine sawn from the farm. Other rooms and a deck were added to the rear in 1986. Originally the main dwelling was heated with open wood fires. Later coal or wood stoves were used in some rooms. In the 1940s oil circulator stoves were installed. Then in the 1960s, natural gas space heaters were put in. The newest addition is heated by electricity.

The following structures are in proximity to the MAIN DWELLING:

No. 2 SMOKE HOUSE (photo 18), c.1916. Concrete block, dirt floor, corrugated metal roof. (See note about concrete block in COTTON GIN complex section.) Built at the rear of the residence. Last used for hickory smoked curing in 1970. Currently utility storage.

No. 3 POTATO CURING HOUSE (photo 16), c.1916. Concrete block. Windows and doors have raised lintels. Roof is metal, painted red, with three ventilators and a brick flue for the heater. Interior walls and ceiling are beaded pine. Presently used for storage.

No. 4 LOG HOUSE (photo 15), 1930s, one room. Exterior end rock chimney projects two feet. Cedar shingle roof. Logs are dressed pine, i.e., barkless and round. Saddle-notched, cement chinking. Has

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been used by family and friends for cookouts and a play house for children.

No. 5 SERVANTS' HOUSE (photo 21), c.1920. Five-room house. Shiplap siding, metal roof painted red. Now tenant housing.

No. 6 CHICKEN HOUSE (photo 18). Frame structure built for yard birds. Now used to store firewood.

No. 7 MEAT CURING HOUSE (photo 19). Frame structure. Converted to storage when the masonry smokehouse was built.

No. 8 PUMPHOUSE, 1986.

No. 9 BARN. Frame structure used for hay storage.

The following structures are across GA 319 from the MAIN DWELLING:

No. 10 WHEAT HOUSE (photo 4), c.1910. Two-story, with shed rooms on three sides. Clapboard, metal roof. Shed rooms originally were used to store wagons, buggies, and gear; now provide storage for wagons and tractors. Wheat was thrown to upstairs for storage. A grain shoot was built to move grain from upstairs. Shed room in rear has interior sliding door closure. An exterior detail of interest is a balcony over the center of the front door. The balustrade around the balcony has decorative sawn slats for balusters.

No. 11 GARAGE (photo 5), c.1920. Concrete block, metal roof. One-and-one-half story. Downstairs has space for three vehicles, and a pump room with a well. The garage closure consists of two door panels which hang on a track. To open, you push from the center and the doors follow the track down the sides of the building. A third door slides over the middle when opened. The shingled gable is interestingly done in several patterns.

No. 12 COMMISSARY (photos 5,14), c.1900. One-story, wood clapboard, shed porch, side-gabled metal roof with rear gabled extension. The foundation is stacked stone pillars. At one time used as a source for tenants and neighbors to buy staples. Presently used for storage of tools and supplies.

No. 13 BLACKSMITH SHOP (photo 14), c.1900. One-story, wood construction, dirt floor, metal roof. Houses the original blacksmith tools, equipment, forge, bellows. Main door is cut out of a 7-foot sliding door which hangs on a track. Attached to the rear is a carpenter shop, probably added in 1925, complete with wood-working tools.

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No. 14 GRIST MILL (photo 10), c.1900. Clapboard with shed porch, metal roof. South-side frame shed addition, housed a hammer mill. A rear shed addition houses a planing mill, and the stationary International Harvester engine which furnished power for all the mills. Also under the rear shed addition is an enclosed pipe cutting room. The GRIST MILL was installed to grind meal for family, tenants, and neighbors. The planing mill was used to dress lumber sawn on the farm. Present use is storage. Note: GRIST MILL could be made operational with the replacement of belts.

No.15 TRACTOR SHED (photo 7), 1940. This shed houses tractors and equipment.

COTTON GIN complex is comprised of a main GIN HOUSE, COTTONSEED HOUSE, WAREHOUSE, OFFICE, and WATER TOWER. Good potential for restoration to full working order.

No. 16 COTTON GIN HOUSE (photo 6), 1910. Cast concrete masonry, three stories, metal roof. This building replaced a wooden gin building, built c.1900, which had been destroyed by fire. Originally the GIN was steam-driven; converted to 75-horsepower electric motor in 1928. The three-stand Lummus machinery, Continental gin press, Howe scales, and other equipment are intact. Two-story shed porch on the front of the main building furnished a drive-through where wagons were weighed and the seed cotton was sucked from the wagons. A drive-under seed box with a trap door is also on the front. Another attached portion has three stalls for storage of seed cotton during a busy day at the gin. NOTE: the concrete block for the gin house and other structures on the farm, was manufactured in Jefferson by E. S. (Scott) Ethridge, brother of I. W. Ethridge, owner from 1898 to 1945. The blocks measure 24 inches by 7 1/2 inches high by 11 3/4 inches wide. The concrete blocks are of two decorative designs as well as plain-surfaced. One design is known as "granitoid" for its rusticated finish, and the other has a double wreath pattern. The inside face of each block states "MIRACLE HO LOW, Pat'd June 8, 1903." Other concrete buildings on the Shields-Ethridge Farm are made with these blocks.

No. 17 COTTONSEED HOUSE (photo 6), c.1904. Flush frame siding, shed porch, metal roof. Adjacent to GIN HOUSE, and housed cottonseed which was blown through a duct from the GIN. One bale of cotton is stored in the seed house.

No. 18 WAREHOUSE (photo 10), c.1900. Clapboard, metal roof. Main part of the warehouse has doors front and rear for vehicles to drive through. Used to store cottonseed for planting, cottonseed meal, hulls, and baled cotton. There is a shed addition on the south side used for storage. The shed on the north side was the original

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location of the wagon scales. (The plank footing is still there but rotting.) This shed now houses a mule-drawn International Harvester engine, 1910 Titan Model. The engine was used to power a threshing machine, and is operable. Also housed here is a mule-drawn metal rake, a wagon, and a hay rack fitting for a wagon.

No. 19 OFFICE BUILDING (photo 7), 1930. Shiplap siding, one room. Houses the old business records.

No. 20 WATER TOWER (photo 10), 1920s. 75 feet high, base diameter is 24 feet. Built for fire protection of gin complex. No longer usable.

The following section deals with buildings used for livestock. The original fence for this area was post and rail. The present fence is page wire.

No. 21 LOG CORN CRIB (photo 11), construction date unknown (probably moved to the spot from former home site). Stone pillars, roof is early corrugated metal. Hewn logs vary from 16 to 22 inches in diameter; dovetail notching. CRIB door is reached by a small ladder. Door hinges are fashioned of wood, attached to CRIB with pegs. A board-and-batten addition, housing two stalls, has handmade wooden latches.

No. 22 FEED HOUSE (photos 11,12), c.1900. Vertical pine board siding; corrugated metal roof. Pine pole rafters.

No. 23 MILKING BARN (photo 11), c.1900. Flush pine siding, corrugated metal roof. Has six stalls and a retaining area. A long trough served a dual purpose: cows were fed there while being milked, and the chickens laid eggs in the trough during the day which were gathered prior to the night feeding. Presently used for storage.

No. 24 CONCRETE CRIB (photos 12,13), 1916. Some decorative concrete blocks, both "granitoid" and double wreath designs, are used. An over-the-door cement sign reads "Ethridge 1916."

No. 25 MULE BARN (photo 13), c.1916. Central two-story section is 10 feet wide. First floor of plain concrete block, second is lapped siding, metal roof. Upstairs equipped to cure and store fodder. A rack is in the center of the feeding area downstairs.

No. 26 HOG SHELTER (photo 13).

No. 27 BARN. Frame structure with 11-inch-wide frame siding.

Other significant buildings:



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No. 28 TEACHER'S RESIDENCE (photo 8), c.1912. Clapboard. Ell addition with shiplap siding. Foundation is stacked stone pillars. Stone fireplace. Cornerboards painted red. One outbuilding: PRIVY.

No. 29 SCHOOLHOUSE (Bachelors Academy) (photo 27), c.1909. Clapboard, metal roof, two rooms. Mortared, stacked stone pillars. Built as a school for whites; later used for blacks. A WELL sits in front under a six-foot-square shed with a corrugated metal roof. The bell tower is intact but needs repair. The tower has louvered vents on the front and two sides. A wooden finial tops the pyramidal roof. No panes remain in the windows, but there is indication they were six-over-sixes. Window and door surrounds have molded entablatures. Some of the original shutters remain. The interior is of beaded pine, unpainted. Floors are of 3 1/2-inch pine. One enters the school through double front doors into a foyer, under the bell tower. (The bell was stolen by vandals.) Between the two classrooms there is a folding wall, which when open converts the two rooms into a small auditorium with a stage complete with a roll curtain.

No. 30 LOG KITCHEN (photo 24), prior to 1866. Metal roof. Possibly moved from a homesite on the property to a location about forty feet behind main dwelling house to serve as the kitchen c.1866. Moved to present location in 1910. Has a loft reached by ladder.

No. 31 DWELLING (photo 23), c.1915. Clapboard, metal roof, four rooms. Built as a tenant house; now rental property. One outbuilding: BARN, c.1915.

No. 32 DWELLING (photo 25), c.1915. Clapboard, metal roof, five rooms. Built as a tenant house; now rental property. One outbuilding: WELL SHELTER.

No. 33 DWELLING (photo 22), c.1915. Clapboard, metal roof. Built as a tenant house; now rental property. One outbuilding: PRIVY.

No. 34 DWELLING (photo 28), c.1925. Novelty siding, metal roof. Craftsman details, four rooms. Built as a tenant house; now rental property.

No. 35 DWELLING (photo 29), c.1925. Clapboard, metal roof. Craftsman details, five rooms. Built as a tenant house; now rental property. Five outbuildings: BARN, c.1925; two GARAGES, c.1930; BARBER SHOP, c.1930; STORAGE building.

No. 36 DWELLING (photo 26), c.1890. Asbestos siding over clapboard, metal roof, stone chimney, log foundation. Built as a residence, possibly for a family member; now rental property. Three outbuildings: BARN, c.1925; SHOP BUILDING, c.1925; PRIVY.

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No. 37 CEMETERY (photo 9), 1870-1910. Graves marked with headstones. Plantings of boxwood.

No. 38 WILLIAM SHIELDS' HOUSE (photos 31,32), c.1866. Two-story dwelling, plantation plain type, with rear shed rooms and a rear ell addition for a kitchen. Four exterior chimneys. Cellar under house on the south side. Ten outbuildings (photos 32,33,34): LOG CRIB, c.1866; TOOL HOUSE; BARN, c.1890; five STORAGE buildings; CHICKEN HOUSE; GARAGE.

No. 39 CEMETERY, 1834-1894. Graves marked with stone slabs and head markers. Plantings of yucca.

No. 40 COTTON HOUSE (photo 35), c.1925. Wood-framed, clapboard structure, metal roof. Built straddling a ditch.

No. 41 COTTON HOUSE. Built in a pasture.

No. 42 FORMER HOUSE SITE. House built c.1915, burned 1982. Stone chimney still standing.

No. 43 FORMER HOUSE SITE. Scattered foundation stones remain.

No. 44 "HOWL HOUSE", 1945. Small house at the lake used by the family for recreation. One outbuilding: nonhistoric PRIVY.

No. 45 BROILER HOUSES AND OFFICE, nonhistoric.

Landscape characteristics of the district:

The main residence is placed in a level area with the terrain falling at the rear of the house toward Martin Creek. The yard in front of the main dwelling house is enclosed by an iron fence installed in 1921. This date is set in the front steps. This fence was bought at a sale when the fence was removed from the Rabun County courthouse square. Magnolias were planted at either side of the porch when the house was built. Pictures of the front taken through the years show the growth of these trees. A wisteria vine planted in the early 1920s shades one side of the porch. In 1945 boxwoods were planted at the base of the porch. A spacious yard of four acres surrounds the dwelling. Nineteen different species of trees are on these grounds. A water oak at the rear of the house measures 15 feet in circumference. Cape jasmines were planted in 1915. Azaleas were added to the grounds in the 1940s.

In the GIN HOUSE area there is an oak which measures 13 feet 5 inches in circumference. The oldest family cemetery on the property is marked with plantings of yucca. Graves are marked with huge stone

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slabs and head markers. These graves date 1834-1894. Another cemetery has plantings of boxwood. Graves are marked with headstones and date 1870-1910. A virgin woodland of hardwood trees is a favorite spot on the Shields-Ethridge Farm. This area has many beech trees which have names and dates of family and friends carved into them. One very distinct carving is "I.L.E., Nov. 1921." This forest rises on a cliff with a free-flowing branch beneath. Along this creek grow wild azaleas and sweet shrubs. The thick carpet of leaves on the forest floor and the tall canopy of trees discourages undergrowth.

There are two previous homesites with no existing buildings. One apparently was located near the Middle Oconee River. In this immediate area some 300 feet from the river are indications of possible Indian mounds. These mounds were investigated by WPA in the 1930s and nothing was found. A second homesite was situated about 1600 feet from the present home. This is indicated by a huge flat stone which might have been a hearth, other stones likely to have formed the chimney and the foundation pillars, and old cedar trees.

Intrusions in the historic district include three modern broiler houses, 40 feet by 400 feet, of blue galvanized sheeting, neatly landscaped, and an accompanying office building. These are located on the south edge of the property, and are not visible from the main dwelling. They represent a modern continuation of the farming tradition of the Shields-Ethridge family. Other intrusions are a nonhistoric pumphouse and a small lake house and privy constructed in 1945 and used for recreation. Land use outside the district is primarily small homesites of people who commute to jobs in the area. The nearest farm is located across the river.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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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  
Agriculture  
Industry  
Education  
Landscape Architecture

**Period of Significance:**

1834-1942

**Significant Dates:**

1834 - date of oldest marked grave in cemetery  
1866 - construction of two main dwelling houses  
1909 - construction of schoolhouse  
1910 - construction of cotton gin  
1914 - addition of Neoclassical Revival front porch to main dwelling house.

**Significant Person(s):**

n/a

**Cultural Affiliation:**

n/a

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

Ethridge, E. S. (Scott)

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

**Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The Shields-Ethridge Farm is significant as an outstanding rural farm complex that developed from the mid-19th into the mid-20th century. The large collection of dwelling houses, agricultural and industrial outbuildings, and related sites represents the varied activities and lifestyle of a piedmont Georgia farmstead over more than a 150-year period. The Shields-Ethridge Farm is significant in the areas of architecture, agriculture, industry, education, and landscape architecture. These areas support National Register eligibility under Criteria A and C.

In the area of architecture, the Shields-Ethridge Farm is significant for its very intact collection of 19th- and early 20th-century domestic, agricultural, industrial, and educational buildings. The two main farmhouses, both constructed c.1866, were originally built as plantation plain type houses. The plantation plain type is an important type of vernacular farmhouse in Georgia constructed largely during the mid-19th century in the piedmont and coastal plain regions of the state. Its characteristic features include a main section that is two stories high and one room wide, a front one-story shed porch, and rear one-story shed rooms. A side-gabled roof and exterior end chimneys are usually also present. These two main farmhouses originally had all of these characteristic features. The Joseph Shields house has had several additions to the rear, and a two-story Neoclassical Revival style portico replaced the original shed porch in 1914, but the house's original profile can still be seen. (See historic photo.) It was quite common in Georgia for 19th-century houses to have been "updated" with popular Neoclassical Revival features in the early 20th century, and the Joseph Shields house is a good example of this updating. The William Shields house has also had additions to the rear, and its original front porch has been altered, but it also still retains the characteristic profile of the plantation plain type. These houses also represent the kinds of construction materials, techniques, and craftsmanship used during the mid-19th century. Both houses are constructed with large hand-hewn, heart-pine sills with mortise-and-tenon joints, sitting on stone foundation piers. The exteriors are covered for the most part with their original weatherboard siding. The Joseph Shields house still retains flush siding on the front facade in the area that was under the original shed porch, a feature often found on houses of this period. On the interior, both houses have wide-board walls, ceilings, and floors that are typical of interior materials of the mid-19th century. Doors, moldings, and stairs are simple, with only the mantels providing some hint of style.

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The outbuildings of the Shield-Ethridge Farm are important examples of the types of domestic, agricultural, and industrial outbuildings, and their construction materials and techniques, built and used on a piedmont Georgia farm from the mid-19th through the early 20th century. Some of these outbuildings are representative of the log and wood-framed structures typically found on such a farm, such as the log corn crib, milking barn, blacksmith shop, and meat curing house. Other outbuildings are innovative in terms of their use or their construction materials. These include the wheat house, commissary, grist mill, and schoolhouse which are not commonly found on most farms, and the cast-concrete-block cotton gin house, potato curing house, smoke house, and concrete crib, which document the use of a new, locally produced building material in the 1910s. The significance of this large and varied assortment of outbuildings is enhanced by the fact that so many of them survive and retain such a high degree of integrity. Indeed, these outbuildings represent the broadest assortment of 19th- and early 20th-century domestic, agricultural, and industrial outbuildings known to exist on a single farm in Georgia.

In the area of agriculture, the Shields-Ethridge Farm is significant as a major piedmont Georgia farmstead that operated historically from the early 19th century when the land was first purchased by the Shields family into the mid-20th century, and continues to operate today. This farm is a larger than average agricultural complex for piedmont Georgia and produced a large and important assortment of crops, livestock, and other products that characterized the agriculture of this region in the 19th and early 20th centuries. These products included wheat, corn, oats, cotton, peas and beans, sweet potatoes, apples, peaches, cows, pigs, sheep, chickens, wool, butter, molasses, and forest products. The storage and processing facilities that served not just this farm but others in the area were also regionally important agricultural resources. The large number and variety of agricultural outbuildings that remain represent the extensive agricultural activities of this farm.

In the area of industry, the Shields-Ethridge Farm is significant for the industrial activities and facilities that were part of the farm's operations. The grist mill, cotton gin, hammer mill, and saw mill were used on the farm as well as by farmers from the surrounding area. The Shields-Ethridge threshing machine was carried throughout the county to provide this service as well to other farmers. In addition, Susan Ella Shields Ethridge made and sold butter on the farm.

In the area of education, the Shields-Ethridge Farm is significant for the schoolhouse built in 1909 on land given to the county by members of the Shields family. The school was built and operated by Jackson County for white students in grades one through seven until 1938. The

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school was then used for black students until the 1950s. A teacher's residence constructed by Mr. Ethridge in 1912 for use by the school's teacher was also provided by the Shields-Ethridge family. This schoolhouse and teacher's residence represent one way in which more affluent rural Georgians were able to provide for the education of their children in the late 19th and early 20th centuries when public funding for rural schools was deficient. This system of education is a carry-over from the antebellum plantation school system when a school would be present on a plantation for the education of the children of plantation families.

In the area of landscape architecture, the Shields-Ethridge Farm is significant for its intact examples of two forms of historic landscaping. Overall, the property, and particularly the main complex of buildings, represents the "landscape of work" traditionally associated with farms. As its name suggests, the landscape of work was, first and foremost, functional. Occurring primarily in a rural-agricultural setting, it brought a sense of order, neatness, and efficiency to the working environment of the farm. Major components include a farmhouse, outbuildings, outdoor activity areas, and agricultural fields and woodlots. These components are linked by networks of paths, fences, and functional sight lines. The grounds around the Joseph Shields house represent the "ornamental yard" tradition as applied to rural properties. In the ornamental yard, a central core of land within a larger landscape of work, usually around or adjacent to the main house, is heavily embellished with landscaping. After the middle of the 19th century, it was common for this landscaping to be an informal, picturesque arrangement of trees, shrubbery, and lawn.

Although no formal archaeology has been done on this property, a relatively high archaeological potential can be inferred from the known sites of two prior homesteads and from the historic activity areas immediately surrounding different working parts of the farm, such as the cotton gin, grist mill, blacksmith shop, etc. While it is known from agricultural census records that the Shields family owned slaves, the location of slave housing is unknown.

**National Register Criteria**

The Shields-Ethridge Farm is eligible under Criterion A for its continuous agricultural and industrial operation as an extensive piedmont Georgia farmstead from the early 19th century up to the present. The Farm is eligible under Criterion C for its very intact and varied collection of domestic, agricultural, industrial, and educational buildings that together form this outstanding rural farm complex.

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**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

n/a

**Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance for this district is 1834-1942. 1834 is the beginning of the period of significance because it is the date of the earliest resource still remaining in the farm complex - the oldest marked grave in the older cemetery (No. 39). 1942, the 50-year cut-off date, is the end of the period of significance because of the continuous agricultural and industrial operation of the farm complex up to the present.

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

Contributing resources within the district are those that were constructed up through 1942. Noncontributing resources are those that were constructed after 1942. No historic resources have lost integrity due to alterations. The 58 contributing buildings identified include the houses, domestic outbuildings, and agricultural and industrial outbuildings of the main complex, William Shields' homeplace, and outlying tenant properties, as well as the schoolhouse. The four contributing sites are two cemeteries and two former house sites. The three contributing structures are the water tower and two well shelters. The seven noncontributing buildings are three broiler houses and their accompanying office building, a pumphouse, and a small recreational house and privy constructed at the lake on the property.

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

The Shields-Ethridge Farm is located in an area originally part of Franklin County which was opened to settlement in 1784 through Indian sessions. The first settlers were recipients of bounty and headright grants. Within twelve years the population had increased sufficiently for a new county to be formed, and Jackson County was incorporated on February 11, 1796.

A portion of the Shields-Ethridge farm acreage was originally granted to Elisha Groaghill by Governor Samuel Elbert in 1783 and 1784. Groaghill sold the land to Isham Matthews, who later deeded sixty acres to his grandson, Matthew Wiley. Another grant concerning a portion of this land was given to John Myrick on March 22, 1794. The



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plat shows the Middle Oconee River as a boundary line for the property, which is still recorded for the present property. Joseph Shields' ( ? -1818) apparently acquired part of this property just before 1800, although the exact date is undetermined at this time. A reference in Groves H. Cartledge's book, Historical Sketches of Presbyterian Churches and Early Settlers in Georgia, states that Joseph Shields and his brothers Patrick, Samuel, and Thomas moved from Bethsalem Presbyterian Church, Oglethorpe County, to Jackson County around 1796. A letter of character recommendation found in family papers reads as follows:

This is to certify that Joseph Shields and his wife have been long inhabitants of this place and have always behaved themselves in a sober, Christian manner and have been in full Communion and may be received into any Christian Communion of Presbyterians given under our hands this 20th day of November, 1792.

Thomas Smith  
James Bigers  
William Shields

Joseph Shields settled along the Middle Oconee River, and apparently set up an extensive operation. A bill of sale for slaves found in family papers is dated 1799. Also in family records there are Jackson County tax receipts for 1802, 1807, and 1808, the latter indicating that Joseph owned at least 294 acres. His will of May 17, 1818, makes reference to his "plantation", other land, farming tools, cows, pigs, and sheep.

In 1807 Matthew Wiley sold his sixty acres to James Shields (1785-1863), son of Joseph Shields. James Shields was willed land, livestock, and tools by his father Joseph in 1818. James married Charity Beavers on February 10, 1810. They had six children, three of whom were listed as living with them in 1850. When James died in April 1863, both of his sons (William and Joseph Robert) were away serving in the Confederate army. Charity took over the management of the farm as is evidenced by the Tax Assessment of the Confederate States, December 1863. Wheat, corn, oats, cured fodder, cotton, and wool were being produced on the Shields farm. When the slaves were freed in 1865, apparently they stayed away only a short time. A copy of an agreement executed in August 1865 between Mrs. Shields and her former slaves when they requested to return to the farm, was found in the family records.

Joseph Robert Shields (1827-1912) bought ninety-six acres from his father, James Shields, in 1858 for \$800. He also bought additional lands and inherited some from his father's estate. Joseph Robert married Nancy Hill on December 26, 1857, and they had seven children. In 1866, after returning from service in the Civil War, Joseph Robert

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Shields built the present main dwelling house on the property. According to family tradition, the money realized from two bales of cotton helped to build the house.

According to the 1870 Agricultural Census, Joseph Robert Shields had 50 acres of improved land and 50 acres of woodland, with no number recorded for unimproved acreage. His farm produced wheat, Indian corn, oats, cotton, wool, peas and beans, sweet potatoes, butter, and molasses. This amount of acreage in production was average when compared to other Jackson County farms. In 1880, Joseph Robert had 100 acres of tilled land, 3 acres of meadows, 60 acres of woodland, and 100 acres of unimproved land, making his farm larger than most of his neighbors by this time. Indian corn, oats, wheat, cotton, sweet potatoes, apples, peaches, wool, forest products, and butter were the farm products.

Joseph Robert's brother, William Shields, also received land from his father's estate. He built a small farmstead near the Middle Oconee River, including a house and a number of agricultural outbuildings.

Nancy, Joseph Robert Shields' wife, died on October 11, 1896, and Joseph Robert continued to operate the farm. As his health declined, he requested that his daughter, Susan Ella, return home. Susan Ella (1872-1952) had married Ira Washington Ethridge (1870-1945) on December 27, 1896, and they came to live with her father, probably in 1897. On October 26, 1908, Joseph Robert Shields deeded the homeplace to Susan Ella Ethridge. The deed shows that 114 acres were deeded to Susan Ella and refers to the land as a portion of the J. Robert Shields homeplace. After Joseph Robert's death in 1909, the place came to be known as the Ira W. Ethridge homeplace.

Mr. and Mrs. Ethridge made numerous improvements on the farm and added adjoining lands, so that at I.W. Ethridge's death in 1945 the farm included over 627 acres. Industrial operations, along with farming activities, were an important part of the Shields-Ethridge Farm. Early in the 1900s, a cotton gin was built. Ginning was a thriving business, as Mr. Ethridge ginned not only for himself but for surrounding farms. Another service provided by Mr. Ethridge during the busy summers was threshing grain. He and some of his sharecroppers moved from farm to farm with a mule-drawn engine. In this area of the county there were no other farms or businessmen who offered the kinds of services available at the Shields-Ethridge Farm--the cotton gin, grist mill, hammer mill, saw mill, threshing machine. Records showing income and expenses in 1917 have a letterhead which reads: "I. W. Ethridge & Son, Planters, Ginners and Dealers in General Merchandise". Ira Ethridge expanded his crop acreage and continued to grow cotton, corn, and grain. Susan Ella Shields Ethridge kept at least six cows for her butter trade. She had a

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butter mold with "Ella" cut into the top, so the imprint of her name would be on each pound.

The schoolhouse, known as Bachelor's Academy, was built in 1909 on land given by Alex and Emory Shields, grandsons of James Shields and cousins of Susan Ella who lived on adjacent tracts of land. The land was deeded to the Jackson County Board of Education for them to build a school, with a clause stipulating that when the property was no longer used for a school, the land would revert back to the Shields' property owners. The school was used for white students, grades one through seven, with one teacher employed by the county. In 1938, the schools in Jackson County were consolidated, and the white children attending Bachelor's Academy were transferred to the Jefferson city school system. Black students in the area were then educated at Bachelor's Academy until integration took place. Mr. Ethridge provided a house for the school teachers on his property.

Mr. and Mrs. Ethridge had one child, Ira Lanis Ethridge (1899-1970). Lanis grew up helping operate the farm, and at the death of his father in 1945, he was made a partner with his mother in the operation. At his mother's death in 1952, he inherited the entire estate. The I.L. Ethridge Farm saw the agricultural picture change. Lanis ceased operation of the gin in the late 1950s, and cotton production and cotton ginning were replaced with an emphasis on cattle and pasture land. I.L. Ethridge acquired some 170 acres of additional land in 1945. This acquired property was the original property owned by his great-grandfather James Shields. (It had only been out of the Shields family for 10 years.) Ira Lanis Ethridge died in 1970. His estate was willed to his wife, Joyce Storey Ethridge, whom he had married in 1944, with some of the acreage deeded to their daughters, Susan Ethridge Chaisson and Ann Ethridge Lacey.

Mrs. Joyce Ethridge continues to manage the livestock farm. Daughter Susan and her husband Darrell Chaisson moved back to the homeplace in 1985 to assist with the farm operation. The Chaissons and their two sons have built and operate three modern broiler houses on the property. The Shields-Ethridge Farm has been in continuous operation as a farm since it was started early in the 1800s. Each generation has added land, and made improvements to support a self-sustaining operation.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Ethridge, Joyce S., and Susan Deavers. Historic District Information Form, October, 1989. On file at the Office of Historic Preservation, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, with supplemental information. Much of the information in this National Register form is taken directly from the Historic District Information Form.

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):

n/a

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** 610 acres

**UTM References**

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1)	17	260090	3773440
2)	17	261960	3773650
3)	17	262080	3772310
4)	17	261850	3771510
5)	17	260035	3771550
6)	17	259450	3772600

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nominated property follows the current legal property lines of the Shields-Ethridge Farm. This boundary is shown to scale on the enclosed plat map and the USGS topographic map. The submitted plat map at a scale of 1" = 400' is the largest scale map of the property available.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the nominated property encompasses the 610 acres currently owned by the Ethridge family and provides an appropriate rural and agricultural setting for this extensive farm complex. All of this property was historically owned by the Shields and Ethridge families.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**name/title** Debbie Curtis, Architectural Historian  
**organization** Office of Historic Preservation, 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** March 30, 1992

(HPS form version 10-29-91)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Photographs

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**Name of Property:** Shields-Ethridge Farm  
**City or Vicinity:** Jefferson  
**County:** Jackson  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** December 1990

**Description of Photograph(s):**

- 1 of 35: MAIN DWELLING HOUSE, front facade, photographer facing northeast.
- 2 of 35: Living room of MAIN DWELLING HOUSE, main stairway, photographer facing northeast.
- 3 of 35: Living room of MAIN DWELLING HOUSE, photographer facing southeast.
- 4 of 35: WHEAT HOUSE, photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 35: GARAGE on left, COMMISSARY and BLACKSMITH SHOP on right, GRIST MILL in background, cast-iron fence in front of MAIN DWELLING HOUSE in foreground, photographer facing northwest.
- 6 of 35: COTTON GIN HOUSE on right, COTTONSEED HOUSE on left, photographer facing northwest.
- 7 of 35: OFFICE BUILDING on left, TRACTOR SHED in center, shed addition on WAREHOUSE on right, photographer facing northeast.
- 8 of 35: TEACHER'S RESIDENCE, photographer facing southwest.
- 9 of 35: Newer CEMETERY, photographer facing west.
- 10 of 35: GRIST MILL in foreground, WATER TOWER behind grist mill, WAREHOUSE in left background, TRACTOR SHED in right background, photographer facing northwest.
- 11 of 35: LOG CORN CRIB in foreground, FEED HOUSE in background, MILKING BARN behind feed house, photographer facing west.
- 12 of 35: CONCRETE CRIB in foreground, FEED HOUSE in background, photographer facing northwest.

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National Park Service

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Photographs

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13 of 35: MULE BARN on right, CONCRETE CRIB in center, HOG SHELTER on left, photographer facing northwest.

14 of 35: COMMISSARY on right, BLACKSMITH SHOP on left, photographer facing northeast.

15 of 35: LOG HOUSE on left, POTATO CURING HOUSE on right, photographer facing northeast.

16 of 35: POTATO CURING HOUSE, photographer facing northwest.

17 of 35: Rear facade of MAIN DWELLING HOUSE, SMOKE HOUSE on left, photographer facing west.

18 of 35: SMOKE HOUSE on left, CHICKEN HOUSE on right, photographer facing north.

19 of 35: MEAT CURING HOUSE, photographer facing northeast.

20 of 35: Side facade of MAIN DWELLING HOUSE, photographer facing northwest.

21 of 35: SERVANTS' HOUSE, photographer facing southeast.

22 of 35: DWELLING #33, photographer facing southeast.

23 of 35: DWELLING #31, photographer facing southwest.

24 of 35: LOG KITCHEN, photographer facing northeast.

25 of 35: DWELLING #32, photographer facing south.

26 of 35: DWELLING #36, with outbuildings, photographer facing southwest.

27 of 35: SCHOOLHOUSE, photographer facing west.

28 of 35: DWELLING #34, photographer facing east.

29 of 35: DWELLING #35, with BARBER SHOP, photographer facing northeast.

30 of 35: Outbuildings of DWELLING #35, photographer facing northeast.

31 of 35: WILLIAM SHIELDS' HOUSE, photographer facing west.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Photographs

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32 of 35: LOG CRIB on left, rear of WILLIAM SHIELDS' HOUSE on right, photographer facing northeast.

33 of 35: LOG CRIB on right, TOOL HOUSE in center, STORAGE HOUSE on left, photographer facing west.

34 of 35: GARAGE on left, STORAGE HOUSE on right, with WILLIAM SHIELDS' HOUSE, photographer facing north.

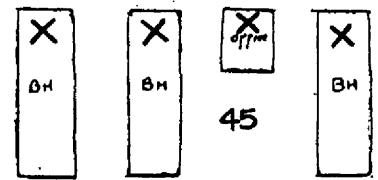
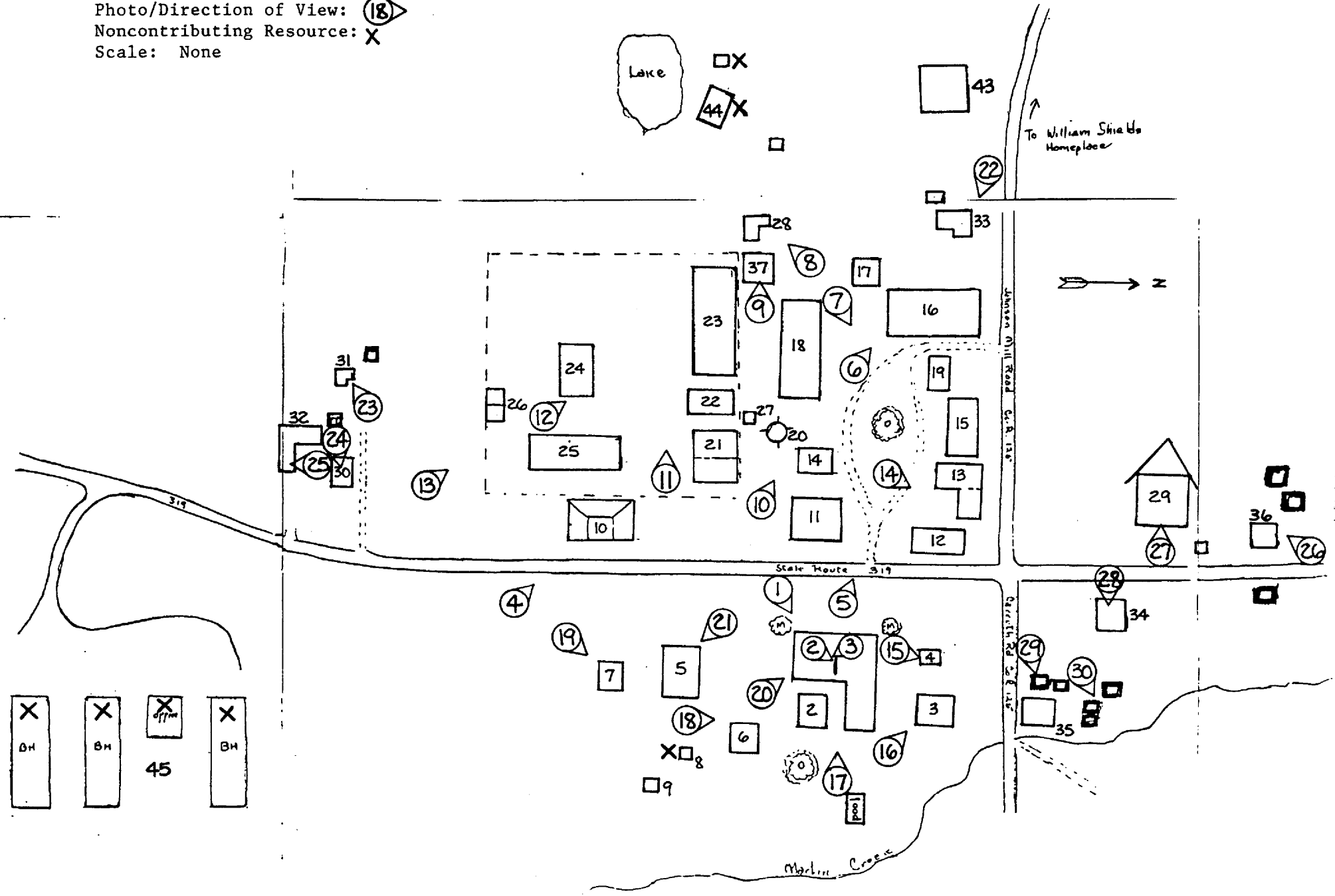
35 of 35: COTTON HOUSE #40, straddling ditch, photographer facing northwest.



SHIELDS-ETHRIDGE FARM  
 Jackson County, Georgia  
 Site Plan (Main Complex)  
 Resource Number: 18  
 Photo/Direction of View: 18  
 Noncontributing Resource: X  
 Scale: None

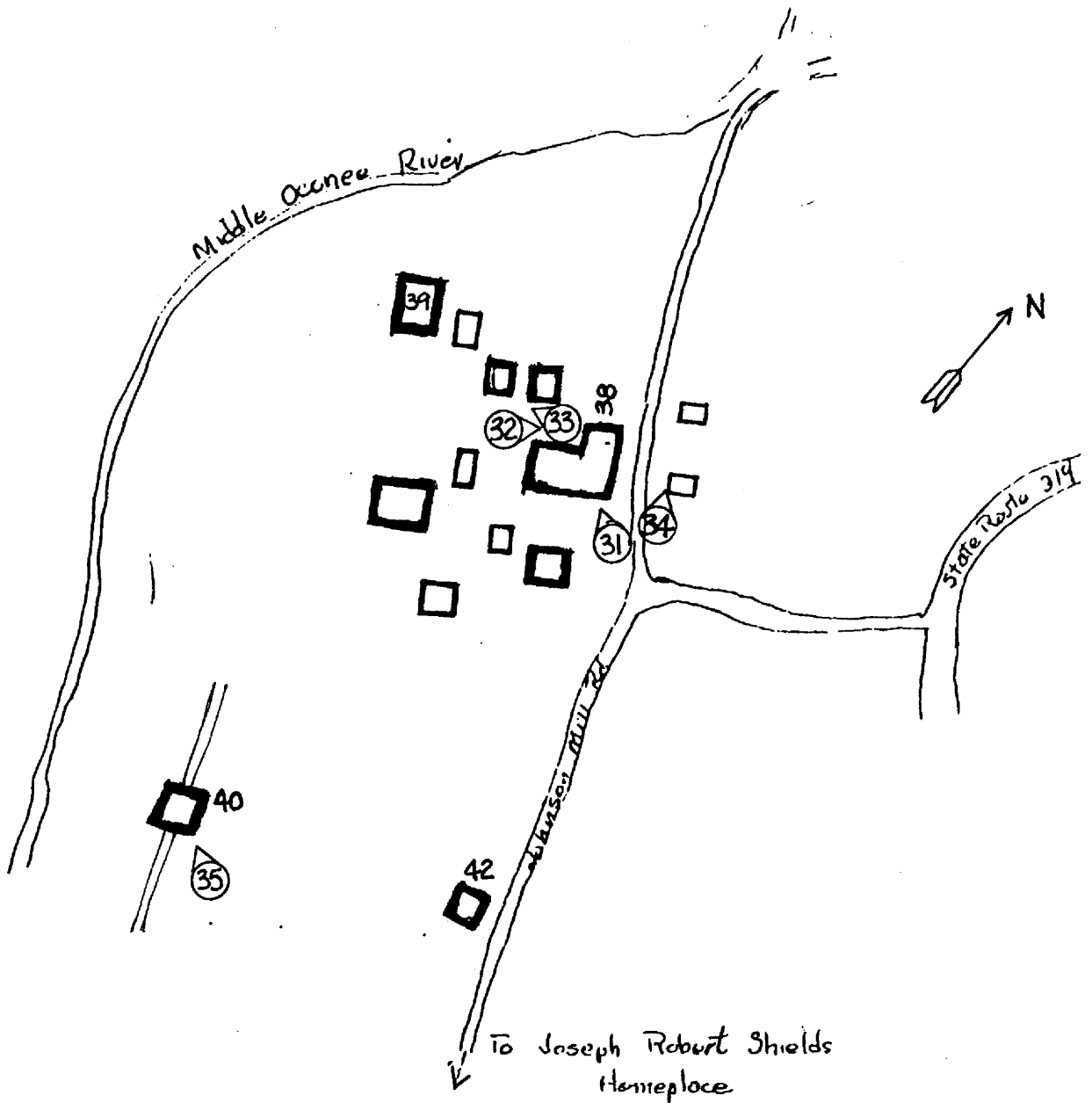
□ 41


(SITE PLAN)

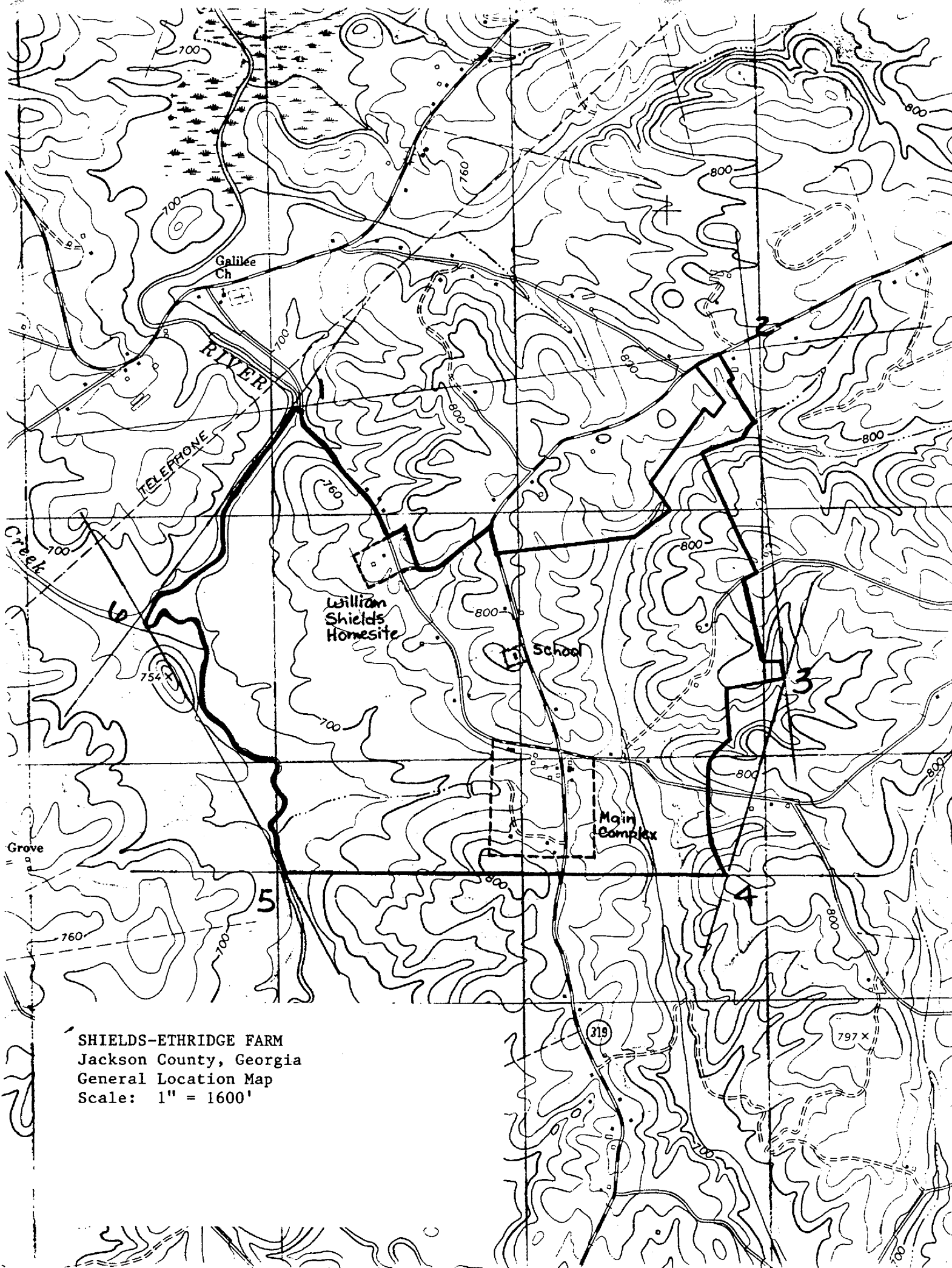


William Shields' Homesite, 1866

SHIELDS-ETHRIDGE FARM, Jackson County



SHIELDS-ETHRIDGE FARM  
Jackson County, Georgia  
Site Plan (William Shields Homesite)  
Resource Number: 38  
Photo/Direction of View: (32)   
Noncontributing Resource: X  
Scale: None



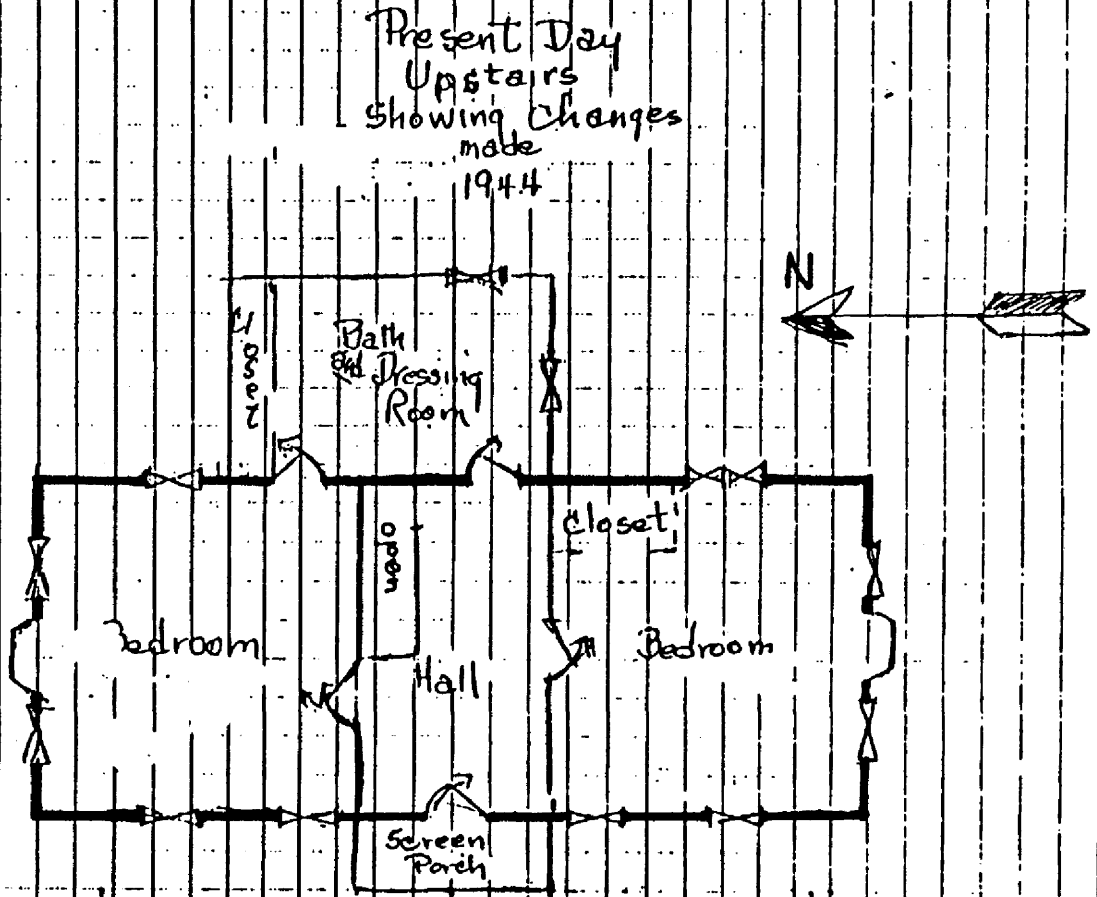
SHIELDS-ETHRIDGE FARM  
Jackson County, Georgia  
General Location Map  
Scale: 1" = 1600'

SHIELDS-ETHRIDGE FARM  
Jackson County, Georgia  
Historic Photo  
Joseph Robert Shields House with  
original front porch



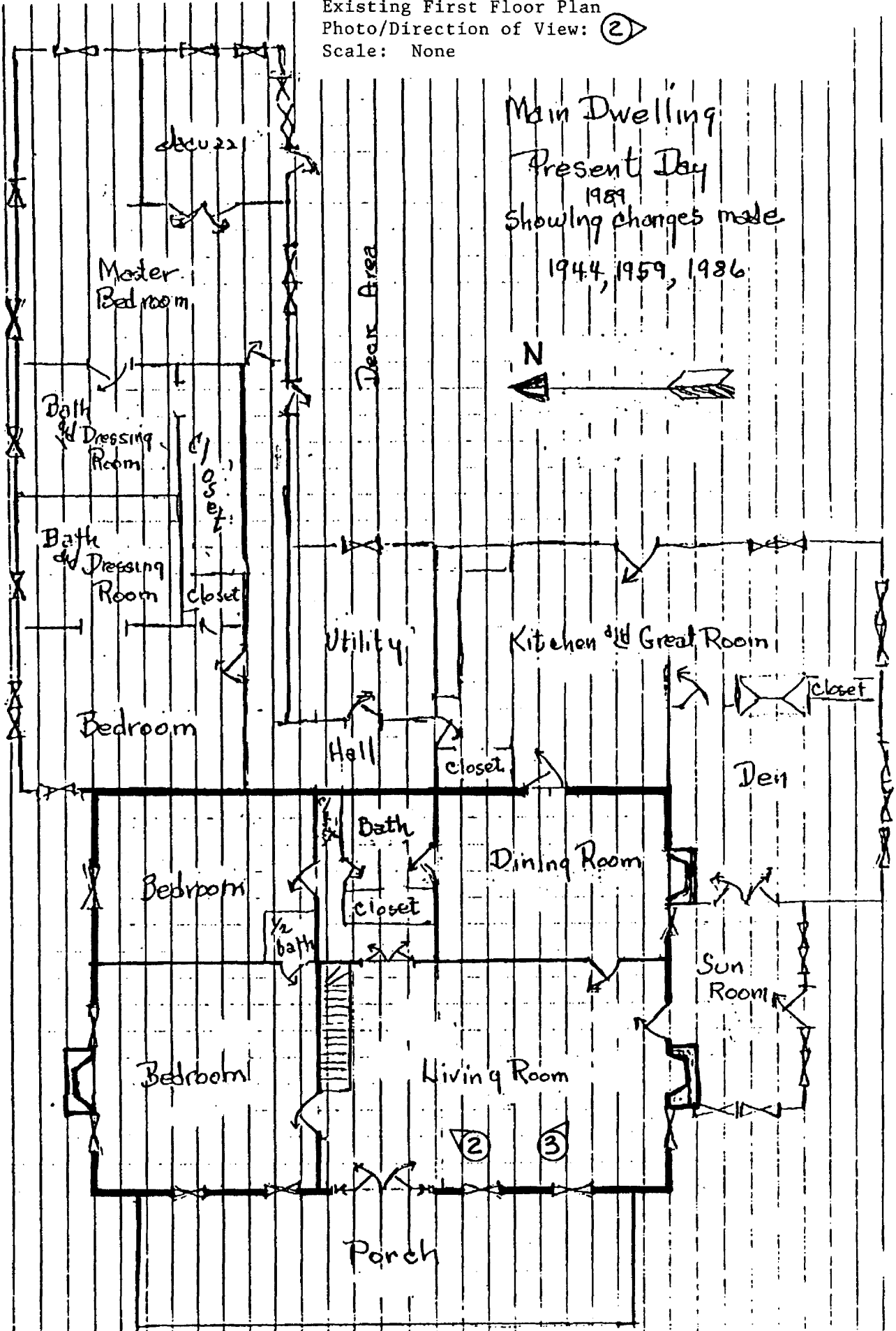
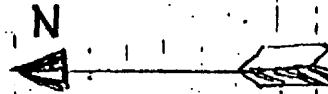
Photo p. 2

SHIELDS-ETHRIDGE FARM  
Jackson County, Georgia  
Existing Second Floor Plan  
Scale: None



SHIELDS-ETHRIDGE FARM  
Jackson County, Georgia  
Existing First Floor Plan  
Photo/Direction of View: ②  
Scale: None

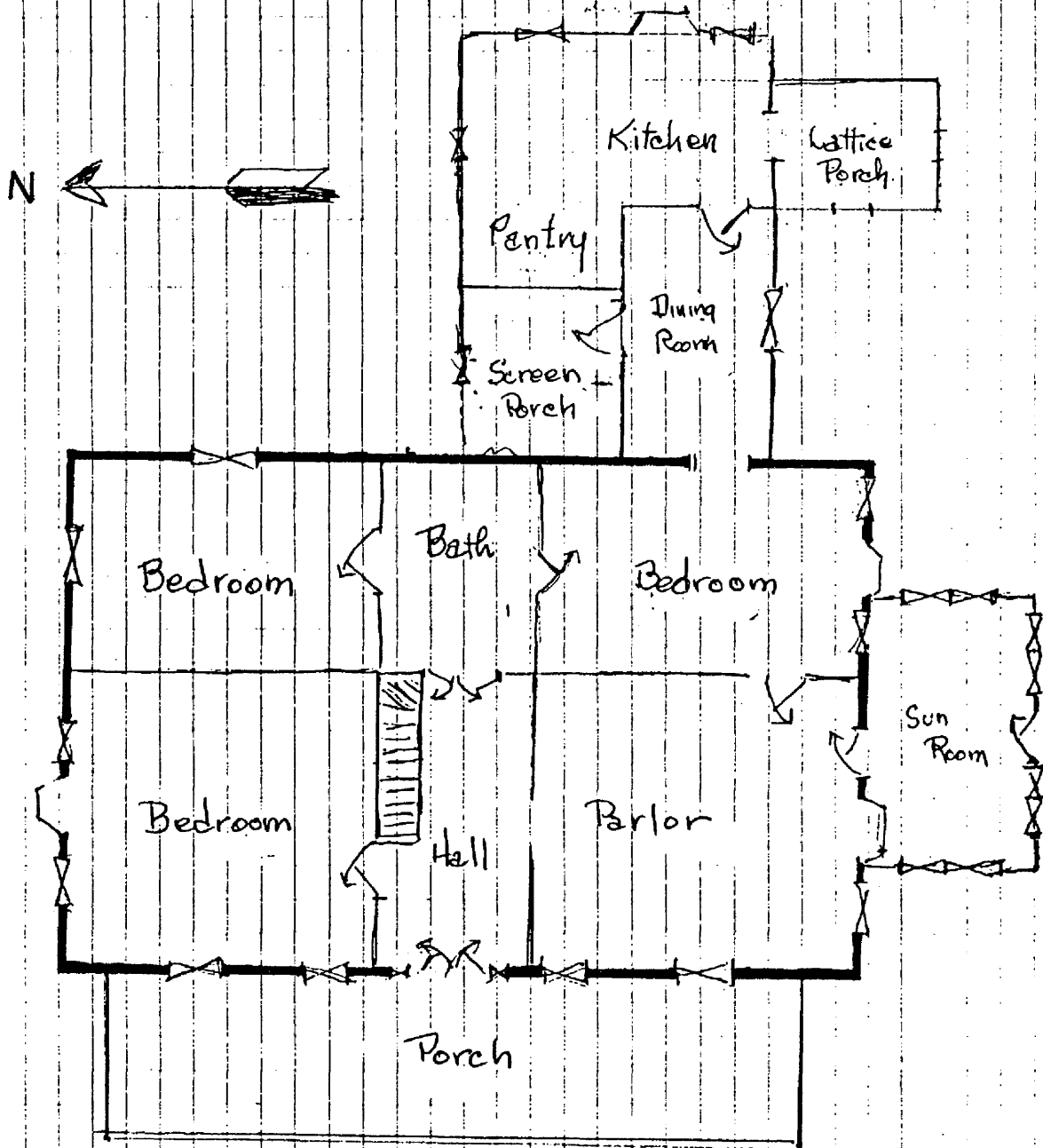
Main Dwelling  
Present Day  
1989  
Showing changes made  
1944, 1959, 1986



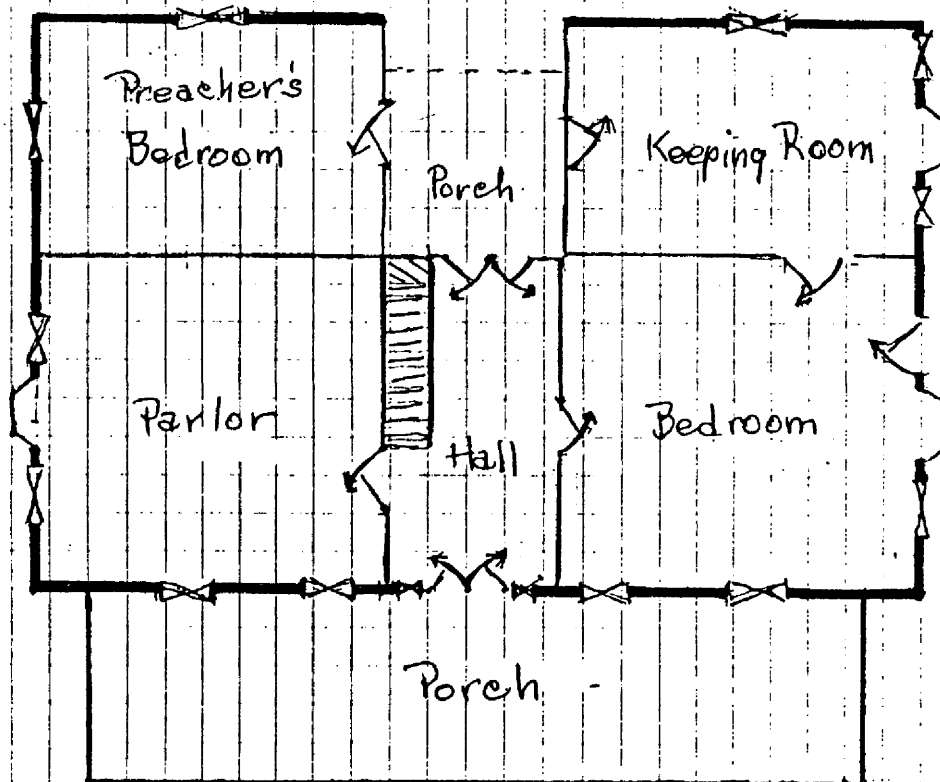
SHIELDS-ETHRIDGE FARM  
Jackson County, Georgia  
1910 Floor Plan  
Scale: None

Main Dwelling  
1910 Addition:  
Bathroom  
Kitchen and pantry  
Lattice Porch  
Dining Room  
Screen porch

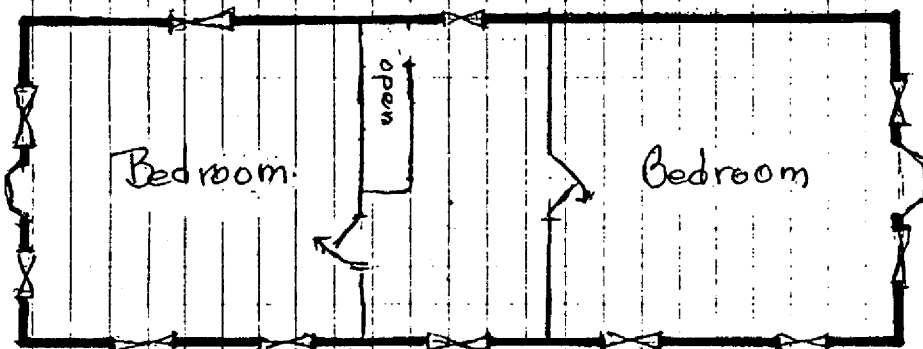
Upstairs same as original



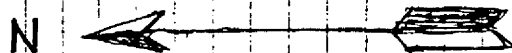
SHIELDS-ETHRIDGE FARM  
Jackson County, Georgia  
Original Floor Plan  
Scale: None



Log Kitchen  
was in  
yard



Upstairs





Shields-Ethridge Farm existing buildings

Main Dwelling House-nomination photos 1,2,3,17,20

Smoke House-nomination photos 18

Potato Curing House- nomination photos 16

Log House-nomination photo 15

Servants' House-nominations photo 21

Chicken House-nominations photo 18

Meat Curing House- nomination photo 19

Pumphouse (1986)

Barn

Wheat House- nomination photo 4

Garage-nomination photo 5

Commissary- nomination photo 2,14

Blacksmith shop- nomination photo 14

Grist Mill- nomination photo 10, website photo

([http://www.shieldsethridgefarm.org/grist\\_mill.php](http://www.shieldsethridgefarm.org/grist_mill.php))

Tractor Shed- nomination photo 7

Within the cotton gin complex:

Cotton Gin House- nomination photo 6

Cottonseed House- nomination photo 6

Warehouse- nomination photo 10

Office Building- photo 7, website restoration project with photo

(<http://www.shieldsethridgefarm.org/projects.php>)

Water Tower- nomination photo 10

Log Corn Crib- nomination photo 11

Feed House- nomination photos 11, 12

Milking Barn- nomination photo 11

Concrete Crib- nomination photos 12,13

Mule Barn- nomination photo 13

Hog Shelter- Nomination photo 13

Barn

Teacher Resident- nomination photo 8

Schoolhouse-nomination photo 27

Log Kitchen- nomination photo 24

Dwelling- nomination photo 23

Dwelling-nomination photo 25

Dwelling- nomination photo 22

Dwelling- nomination photo 28

Dwelling- nomination photo 29

Dwelling- nomination photo 26

Cemetery- nomination photo 9

William Shield's House- nomination photo 31,32

Ten outbuildings photos 32,33,34: Log Crib, Tool House, Barn, five Storage building,  
Chicken House, Garage

Cotton House-nomination photo 35

Cotton House

Former House Site

Former House Site

Howl House

Broiler House and Office.