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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

SEP 28 1994

INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Nicholson, Dr. Malcolm, Farmhouse
other names/site number Nicholson Farmhouse, Nicholson Farmhouse Restaurant/ 8GD161

2. Location

street & number State Road 12 n/a not for publication
city or town Havana vicinity
state Florida code FL county Gadsden code 039 zip code 32333

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility 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 does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Suzanne P. Walker / Deputy SHPO 9/22/94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Florida State Historic Preservation Office, Division of Historical Resources
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:
 entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register.
 removed from the National Register.
 other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper Edson H. Beall
Entered in National Register 10-29-94
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Domestic: Secondary Structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: Restaurant

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Frame Vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood: Weatherboard

roof Metal

other Glass

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement

Agriculture

Period of Significance

c1825-1944

Significant Dates

c1825

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Nicholson, Dr. Malcolm

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

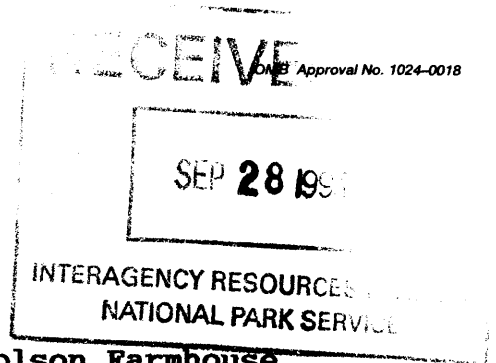
Unknown/

Unknown

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:



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Dr. Malcolm Nicholson Farmhouse,
Gadsden Co., FL

Section number 7 Page 1

SUMMARY

The Dr. Malcolm Nicholson Farmhouse, located in rural Gadsden County, Florida, is a one-and-a-half story, frame vernacular house built c1825. The house has a dogtrot floor plan and is clad in weatherboard. It has single, 6/6, sash windows and a side gabled roof with a rear shed roof extension. The entire roof is covered with pressed metal and is pierced by two gabled dormers on the front and one interior chimney on the rear. The interior walls feature exposed timbers filled in with bricks for insulation (nogging). Other contributing resources within the boundaries are a smokehouse (c1900) and a small power house (c1923). One non-contributing building, a kitchen building (1988), also lies within the boundaries.

SETTING

The Nicholson Farmhouse is located on the north side of State Road 12, between the towns of Havana and Quincy in rural Gadsden County, Florida. Built c1825, it originally served as the main residence for Malcolm Nicholson's four thousand acre cotton plantation. After his death in 1840, the plantation was subdivided between his three sons. Archibald, the oldest son, inherited 1300 acres and the farmhouse. Although the land was subdivided again in succeeding generations, the farmhouse and the surrounding acreage remained in the Nicholson family as a working farm until the mid-1960s, when it was sold to someone outside of the family.

In 1987, the farmhouse and a small parcel of adjoining land were purchased by Paul Nicholson, a descendant of Malcolm Nicholson, and his wife, Ann. Over the past seven years, they have acquired thirty acres of the original Nicholson cotton plantation surrounding the farmhouse. Since 1988, they have operated the Nicholson Farmhouse Restaurant on the property. An old smokehouse and a Delco battery building are the only other contributing resources from the historic period of significance (c1825-1944) that survive intact within the boundaries defined in this nomination (See Site Plan).

Today, the farmhouse serves as the reception area and main dining room of the restaurant complex. It is surrounded by new buildings that were constructed for use as restrooms and kitchens. Several old buildings from the local area were moved onto the property for use as additional dining areas and an

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antique store (See Site Plan). These buildings rest on piers, and their placement in the area has not disturbed the site.

A white picket fence (1988), built to resemble an earlier fence seen in turn-of-the-century photographs of the residence, encloses the front yard of the farmhouse. A large camellia bush, two large oak trees and some small trees and shrubs are located within the fence (Photo 1). The setting around the complex remains rural, with open fields and more large oak trees (Photos 2 & 3). An old tobacco barn, extensively altered, and the Nicholson family cemetery are located east of the restaurant complex.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Nicholson Farmhouse - Exterior

The Nicholson Farmhouse is a one-and-a-half story, frame vernacular building constructed of heart of pine harvested from the plantation by Malcolm Nicholson's slaves. Set on enclosed brick piers, the house is clad in weatherboard and has a side gabled roof covered with pressed metal. Two gabled dormers are located on the front (south) side of the roof. Fenestration is generally single, 6/6, sash windows. The original house is rectangular in shape; there are two small additions on the east elevation.

The main entrance, on the south elevation of the original house (Photo 4), is sheltered by an incised, open porch with square posts and a stick balustrade. The porch is accessed by semi-circular, brick steps. The main entrance has double, wooden doors and is flanked by single windows. Doors accessing shed rooms are located at the east and west ends of the porch. Single windows are located at the east and west ends of the elevation. A one-story, shed roofed addition is centered under the end gable of the east elevation of the main house, and a one-and-a-half story, gable roofed kitchen addition is offset to the northeast (Photo 5). Both of these additions date to c1900. The rear (north) elevation has a central door flanked by three single windows. Covered, screened walkways connect the main house to the main restaurant kitchen and restroom facilities behind the house (Photo 6). The west elevation (Photo 6) has three single windows at the first floor level and a single window at the attic level. A similar attic window is located on the east elevation.

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Nicholson Farmhouse - Interior

The Nicholson Farmhouse retains its original interior plan and finishes to high degree. The exterior walls are notable because the structural timbers, which remain visible, are infilled with brick (Photo 7). This use of brick is known as nogging. Interior partitions are of planks nailed to the wall timbers. The original wood floors remain throughout the house, and the original wood ceilings are intact in the shed rooms. The doorways leading from the dogtrot into the main rooms retain their original doors.

The main entrance enters into what originally was an open dogtrot through the center of the house. Now enclosed, it is a central hallway that provides access to three rooms on each side of the original house (Photos 8-10). The hall is distinguished by an unusual curved ceiling. A small closet and an exit are located at the rear (north) end of the hall. The three rooms on each side of the house include a small shed room which adjoins the front porch; a large, central room; and a smaller rear room. The main room on the east side of the house served as the family dining room. It has a double fireplace (Photo 11) which warms the main room and the back room immediately behind it. A door on the east wall of the east main room leads to the c1900 additions. An open deck is located between the c1900 kitchen and the main house, and provides access to a screened walkway that leads to the main restaurant kitchen behind the house (See Floor Plan). To the west of the fireplace a quarter-turned-with-landing stairway leads to the attic level, where there are two bedrooms, a bathroom, and a hall.

Nicholson Farmhouse - Alterations

Between c1825 and 1944, the Nicholson Farmhouse was altered to meet needs for expansion and to take advantage of new technologies. Two small additions were made to the east end of the house, electricity powered by a Delco battery was added in 1923, and in the 1930s, the roof and weatherboarding were replaced, the front porch was screened, and a bathroom was installed. The open dogtrot was enclosed c1950 for use as a parlor.

In the 1960s, running water was installed in the house; until then, water was hauled by hand to the house from a spring on the property. Also in the 1960s, the original mortar of the

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interior bricks began to fail, and bricks began to fall off the wall. In the 1970s, the bricks were reset with new mortar. In the west main room, which originally served as the family parlor, a deteriorating brick fireplace was removed. At the same time, the attic space was made into living quarters accessed by stairs from the east main room, and the dormers were installed. The brick foundational piers were infilled and the brick steps at the entrance were added. Also, small parts of the interior walls of the shed rooms and back rooms were removed to provide easier access to those spaces (See Floor Plan).

Although the list of alterations is lengthy, the house retains its historic configuration and materials and evidence of the early workmanship and nineteenth century construction techniques that were used to build it.

Smokehouse

A rectangular, one story, frame vernacular, c1900 smokehouse (Photo 12) is located directly behind the farmhouse. It has a side gabled roof covered with pressed metal. A shed roofed porch is attached to the main (south) elevation, and a hip roofed, open shed is attached to the east elevation. It is now used as a dining room for the restaurant, but has not been altered structurally.

Delco Battery Building

A small, front gable roofed, frame vernacular building that originally housed a large Delco battery and generator to provide electricity for the house is located behind the main restaurant kitchen (Photo 13). It was constructed c1923 and is now used for general storage.

NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE

There is only one non-contributing building within the boundaries, the main kitchen for the restaurant (Photo 13). It is a frame vernacular building with some wooden features; most of it, however, is screened and without walls. It is located between the Delco battery building and the farmhouse, and is attached to the house with a screened, wooden walkway.

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Section number 8 Page 1 Dr. Malcolm Nicholson Farmhouse,
Gadsden Co., FL

SUMMARY

The Dr. Malcolm Nicholson Farmhouse, built c1825, is significant under Criterion A in the areas of Exploration and Settlement and Agriculture as an intact example of an early nineteenth century farmhouse, dating from Florida's early territorial period. The building was used as a farmhouse by the Nicholson family until the mid-1960s. The Nicholson farmhouse is also significant under Criterion B for its association with Dr. Malcolm Nicholson, a medical doctor and cotton planter who was one of Gadsden County's first territorial settlers and a participant in early county and territorial affairs.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Gadsden County was created and named for U.S. Army lieutenant James Gadsden in June 1823, two years after the United States acquired Florida from Spain. The county initially encompassed all of the lands between the Apalachicola and Suwannee rivers, an area known as Middle Florida. New counties were created in Middle Florida as its population increased, and by the beginning of the Civil War, Gadsden County had been reduced to its present size (Stanley 1948:13-14).

Americans had begun establishing cotton plantations in Middle Florida during the last years of Spanish rule. Most of the early plantations were located in an area known as the Forbes Purchase on the Apalachicola River (Womack 1976:10). The success of cotton growing attracted more planters to Florida after it became a U.S. possession. Federal legislation in 1824 and 1826 encouraged additional migration to the territory by granting land rights to settlers who had inhabited and improved property (Stanley 21-22). The first territorial census, conducted in 1825, estimated the population of Middle Florida to be 2,370 (Tebeau 1985:134). Of the 1,374 people listed in Gadsden County, 813 were white and 561 were black slaves (Stanley 23).

The governmental leaders of Gadsden County chose a site for the county seat in 1825. Named Quincy, the new town became the center of local government and the site of the county courthouse, a log structure that remained in use until it burned in 1849 (Womack 15-16; Stanley 30-31, 34). Throughout the antebellum period, routine local government concerns included the collection of taxes, the conducting of elections, and the protection of citizens from Indian attack. In addition, roads and bridges were

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constructed to speed the transfer of cotton to the Gulf shipping ports of Apalachicola and St. Marks (Territorial Papers 1834-1839:284; Stanley 25,36,41).

In 1833, the Union Bank was chartered in Tallahassee, the territorial capital located approximately twenty-five miles southeast of Quincy. Many Gadsden County planters bought shares in the bank, which allowed its investors to borrow heavily against their plantations and slaves. Fraught with controversy from its inception, the Union Bank was overcome with financial problems compounded by a nationwide depression in 1837. It closed permanently a few years later (Tebeau 145; Stanley 45-47).

At the end of the 1830s, Gadsden County's population had increased to 5,543 persons, of whom 2,351 were white, 3,180 were slaves, and 11 were free blacks. The collapse of the cotton economy and the closing of the Union Bank ruined the county's cotton planters. In an attempt to recover, many turned their efforts to the cultivation of tobacco (Stanley 41). The new crop created an economy which brought even greater wealth to Gadsden County in the years remaining before the Civil War. In the 1880s, Northern investment in Gadsden County tobacco began another period of economic growth and prosperity that lasted until the beginning of the Great Depression (NR nomination for the Quincy Historic District 1978:7-1). Today, Gadsden County, with approximately 42,000 residents, remains primarily agricultural (Florida Statistical Abstract 1992).

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE

Malcolm Nicholson was born in 1789 in Cumberland County, North Carolina, the son of Scottish immigrants. He studied medicine in South Carolina, and later started a medical practice in Burke County, Georgia (Floridian 1840). Sometime during the early 1820s, he moved to Gadsden County, Florida, where, in addition to his medical practice, he established a cotton plantation on the Little River and became active in civic affairs.

In April 1825, the Gadsden County Court appointed Dr. Nicholson to a three-member commission with the task of choosing a site for the county seat. The court accepted the commission's recommendation the following month and directed the county surveyor to plat the town of Quincy (Womack 15-16). Dr. Nicholson received three dollars for his efforts, while the other

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two commissioners received only two dollars each (Stanley 31). Nicholson's participation in county government continued in 1826 when he served as a precinct judge for the election of a territorial representative (Territorial Papers 1824-1828:619). That same year he married twenty year old Mary Avirett of Laurens County, Georgia, and brought her to the wood frame farmhouse on his Florida plantation.

Early in 1827, Henry Bryson, a traveling minister, visited the Nicholson farm. In his travel diary, Bryson noted that Dr. Nicholson treated him for a toothache and that he spent the night at the farm (Bryson 33:163). Later that year, land records indicate that Dr. Nicholson purchased eighty acres near the Little River from the federal government, including the acreage where his farmhouse still stands (U.S. Department of the Interior). Under federal legislation, he was able to acquire the property which he had occupied and improved (Stanley 23).

The 1830 federal census listed eight whites and thirty-one black slaves living on Malcolm Nicholson's property. Of the whites, three were children under the age of five, two were males between twenty and forty, and three were females between fifteen and thirty. Of the slaves, fifteen were under ten years of age, five were between the ages of ten and twenty-four, seven were between twenty-four and thirty-six, and four were older than thirty-six (1830 Federal Census).

In 1831, the Territorial Council appointed a five-man commission to recommend a new site for the territorial capitol, then located in Tallahassee. Dr. Nicholson was one of the two men chosen to represent Middle Florida. The matter was later dropped, however, for lack of agreement on a better site (Capitol Removal 1925:4-10). The governor also appointed Dr. Nicholson an appraiser of the Union Bank in 1833 (Territorial Papers 1828-1834:815). Nicholson owned stock in the Central Bank of Florida, which was also heavily invested in by planters. The Central Bank was later absorbed by the Union Bank (Territorial Papers 1834-1839:47).

During the Second Seminole War (1835-1842), Gadsden County citizens organized patrols to protect their properties from Indian attack. At the county courthouse in May 1836, a group of concerned citizens appointed Dr. Nicholson and two other men to make an appeal to the President of the United States for protection from Indian attack. Local concern focused on bands of

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Creek Indians who were living along the Apalachicola River and on Seminoles who were living to the east (Territorial Papers 1834-1839:284-285). The remaining years of the war were marked by increased U.S. military intervention as tensions between white settlers and the Indians worsened.

Malcolm Nicholson died in 1840, three months short of his fifty-first birthday. The Floridian, a Tallahassee newspaper, published an obituary that noted his reputation as a gentleman and fine physician, and referred to him as the "Father of Medicine in Florida," attesting to his active and significant role in the practice of his profession in Florida's frontier territorial history.

In the meantime, his plantation in Gadsden County had grown to over four thousand acres along the Little River (Taylor interview with Paul Nicholson). Gadsden County probate records indicate that at the time of his death, the bulk of his plantation was still committed to the growing of cotton. His will, filed in 1839, left lands in Laurens and Lee Counties, Georgia, to his eldest daughter. Other lands in Georgia and cattle on the Flint River were to be sold. The plantation in Gadsden County and its resident slaves were to be kept together until the youngest of his six children reached adulthood.

The plantation in Gadsden County was eventually inherited by Dr. Nicholson's three sons, Archibald, Angus, and Malcolm. The three brothers farmed the land together and grew tobacco. Archibald inherited the portion of the farm with the family home. It was subsequently passed on to his son Joseph Rice Nicholson and then his grandson, also named Archibald Nicholson. It remained a working farm until the 1960s, producing a variety of crops such as tobacco, corn, and sugarcane. In 1971, the land and house were sold to Mr. and Mrs. Charles Eubanks who rehabilitated it for their home and for use as an antique store and floral shop. Paul Nicholson, a direct descendant of Dr. Nicholson, and his wife Ann bought the house and thirty acres around it in 1987. It is currently in use as the main dining room and reception area for the Nicholson Farmhouse Restaurant (Taylor interview with Paul Nicholson).

Today, the Nicholson Farmhouse is one of the few surviving examples of Florida's earliest rural plantation homes. Despite 20th century alterations, it retains much of its original design materials and workmanship, and continues to demonstrate the

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accomplishments of one of the leading figures in Gadsden County's
settlement and frontier development.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the SW corner of the picket fence that encloses the front yard of the farmhouse, proceed 122.6 feet E to the SE corner of the fence; then proceed 101.3 feet N to the NE corner of the fence; then proceed 13.3 feet W toward the old kitchen addition; then proceed 123.3 feet N to a point just W of the Cooler; then proceed 73.3 feet W behind the old Smokehouse; then proceed 101.3 feet S to a point just E of the SE corner of the Restrooms; then proceed 46.6 feet W; then proceed 122.6 feet S to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encompasses all of the historic buildings and their immediate surroundings associated with the Nicholson Farm c1825-1944. No other buildings that would have been necessary for the operation of a territorial plantation, such as slave quarters or barns, are extant and their sites are not known at this time. Because there are few known, undisturbed antebellum plantation sites in North Florida, archaeological testing of the property would be valuable because of its potential to yield information about Florida's antebellum plantation economy and lifestyle. Until such testing has been completed, however, the boundaries are defined as stated above.

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-
- 1 1) Dr. Malcolm Nicholson Farmhouse
 2) Gadsden County, Florida
 3) Scott B. Taylor
 4) December 1993
 5) 1509 Kessel Drive, Tallahassee, FL
 6) Front (S) elevation of house, camera facing NE
 7) 1 of 13

Items 1-5 are the same for the remaining photos, unless noted otherwise.

- 2 6) Front elevation of house and picket fence, camera facing NE. The Shady Rest Motel is located to the left of the house (See Site Plan).
 7) 2 of 13
- 3 6) Front elevation of house, camera facing NW. Porch of the Shelfer House is located on the right edge of the picture (See Site Plan).
 7) 3 of 13
- 4 6) Front (S) elevation of house, camera facing N.
 7) 4 of 13
- 5 6) E elevation, camera facing NW.
 7) 5 of 13
- 6 6) W & N elevations of house, camera facing SE
 7) 6 of 13
- 7 6) Interior brick nogging, camera facing SE
 7) 7 of 13
- 8 6) Interior of enclosed dogtrot, camera facing N
 7) 8 of 13
- 9 4) July 1994
 6) Interior of enclosed dogtrot, showing curved ceiling, camera facing NW
 7) 9 of 13
- 10 4) July 1994
 6) Interior of enclosed dogtrot, showing curved ceiling, camera facing W into W main room
 7) 10 of 13

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Photos 2
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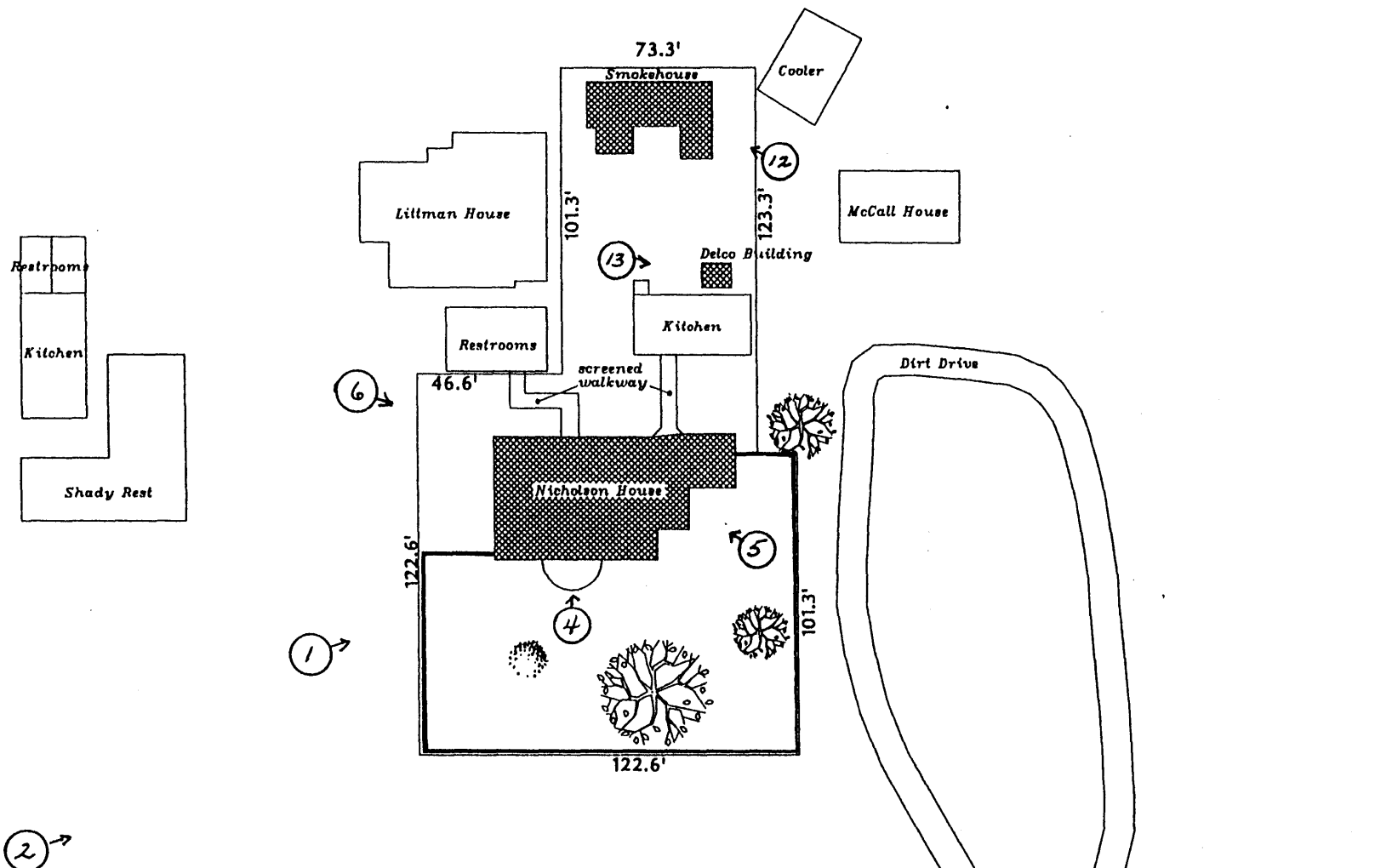
**Dr. Malcolm Nicholson Farmhouse,
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- 11 6) Fireplace in E main room, camera facing N
7) 11 of 13

- 12 6) Old Smokehouse, camera facing NW
7) 12 of 13

- 13 6) Old Delco Battery Building (on left) and back of
restaurant kitchen (on right), camera facing SE
7) 13 of 13

Site Plan for the Nicholson Farmhouse, Gadsden County, Florida



Note: Size and location of buildings are approximate.

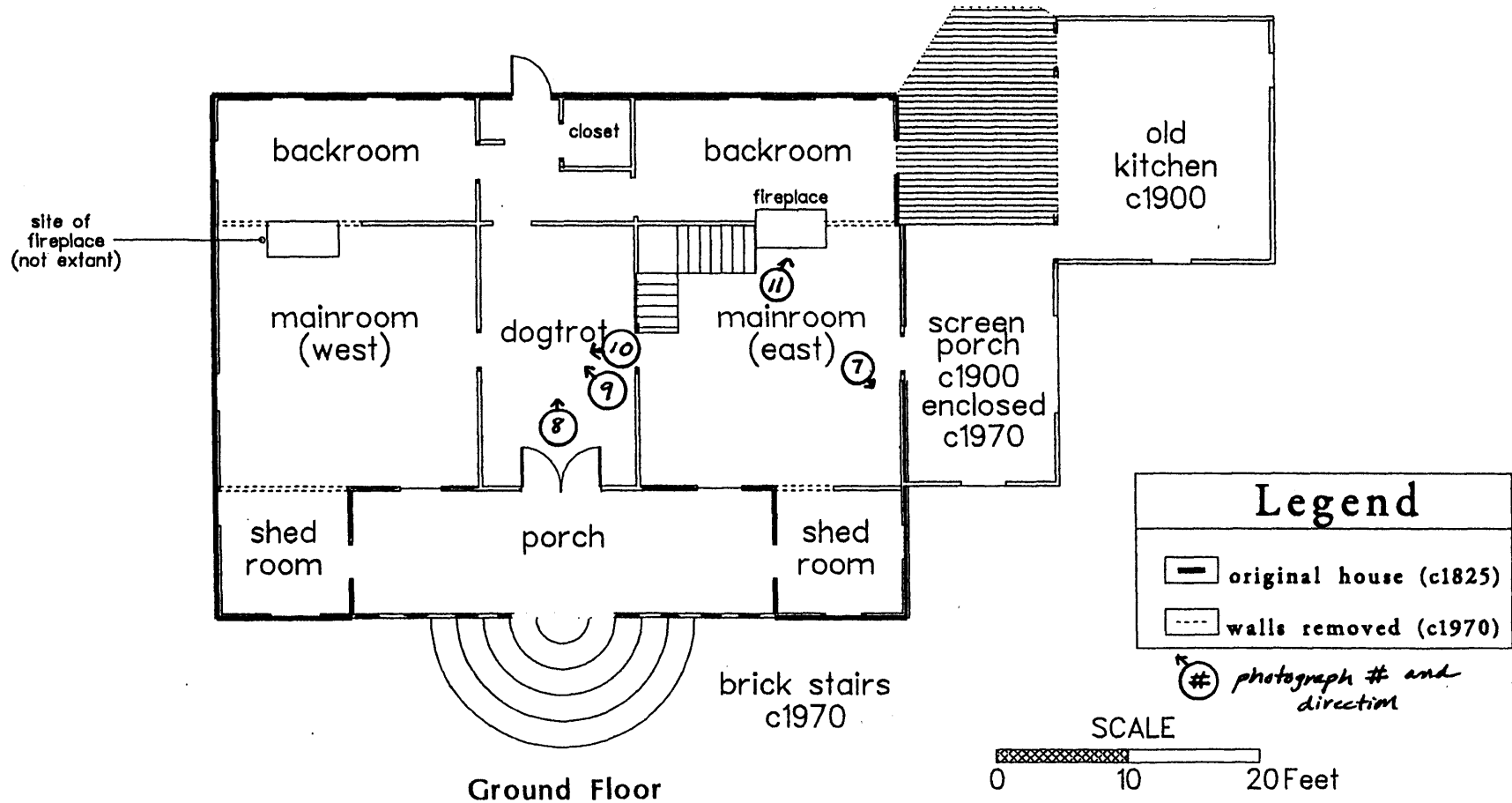
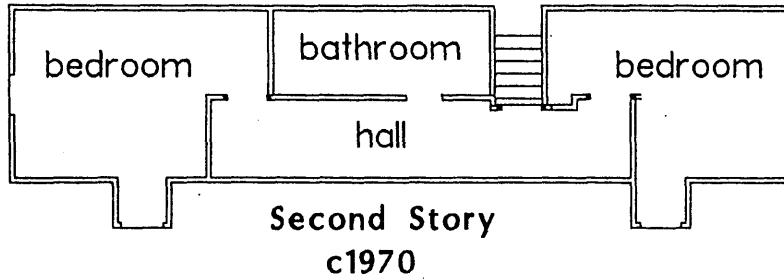
N

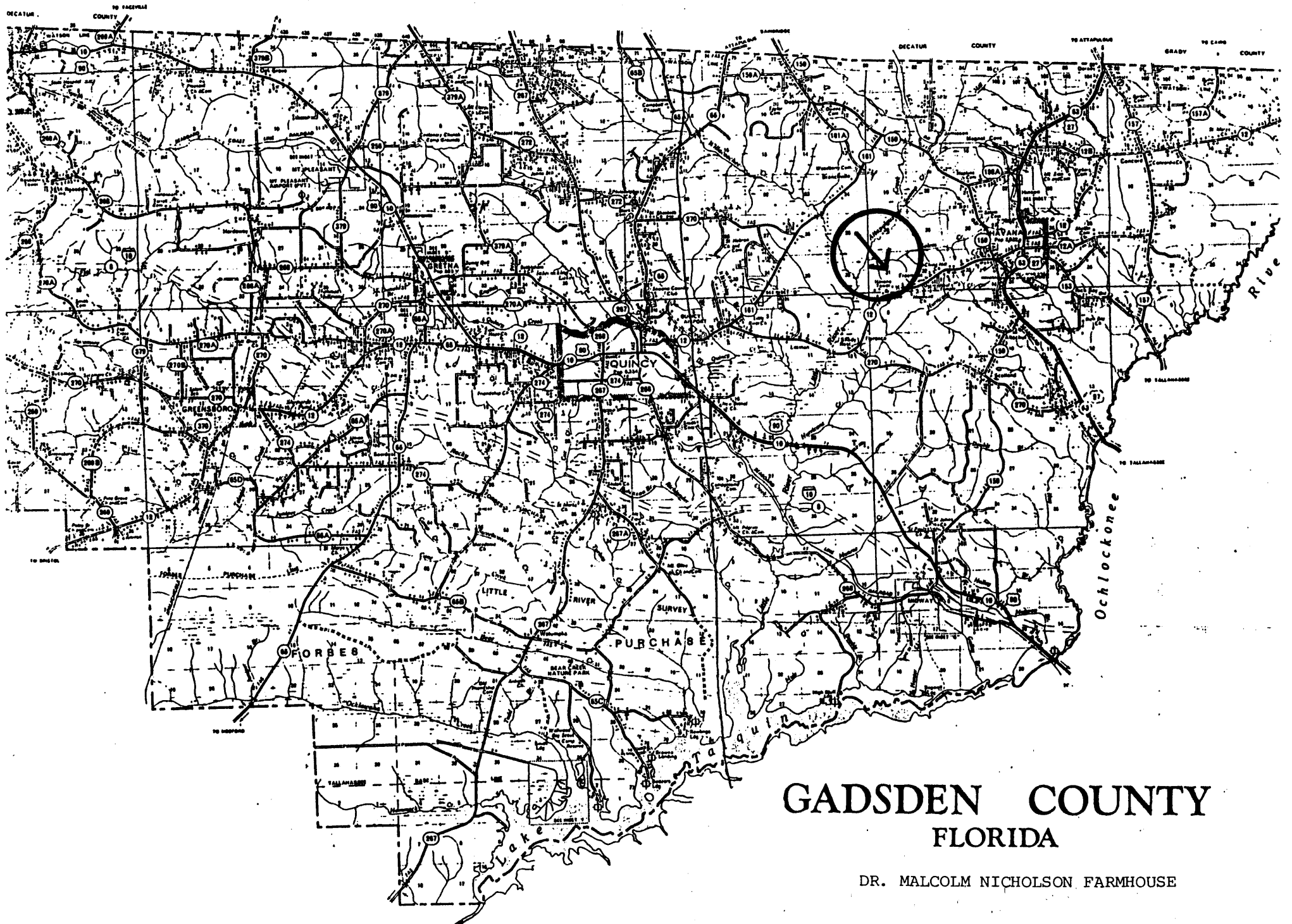
= Contributing Property
 = picket fence
 = boundary

Scale
 0 40 80 feet

Photograph # and Direction

Nicholson Farmhouse Floor Plan





GADSDEN COUNTY FLORIDA

DR. MALCOLM NICHOLSON FARMHOUSE