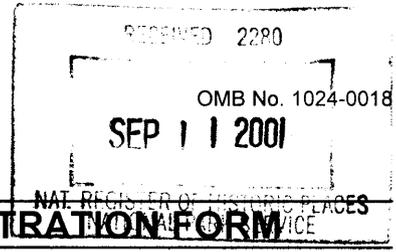


1181



# 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** Raburn-Casteel House

**other names/site number** N/A

## 2. Location

**street & number** Located approximately 4 miles north of Blairsville on the east side of U.S. Highway 129 and State Road 19.

**city, town** Blairsville

**vicinity of**

**county** Union **code** GA 291

**state** Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 30512

**not for publication**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:

#### Contributing

#### Noncontributing

buildings	2	1
sites	0	0
structures	1	0
objects	0	0
<b>total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>

**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.

Richard Cloves  
Signature of certifying official

9-5-01  
Date

*FR* 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

**Entered in the  
National Register**

10-26-01

determined eligible for the National Register

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other, explain:

see continuation sheet

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of the National Register

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/SINGLE DWELLING/RESIDENCE

### Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/SINGLE DWELLING/RESIDENCE

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

OTHER: HALL-PARLOR

OTHER: SINGLE-PEN

### Materials:

<b>foundation</b>	Stone/Concrete
<b>walls</b>	Wood/Weatherboard
<b>roof</b>	Metal
<b>other</b>	N/A

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Raburn-Casteel House is located in rural Union County approximately four miles northwest of Blairsville, Georgia. The I-house type farmhouse features a full-facade front porch, four gabled roof dormers, three exterior stone chimneys, a garage addition, and three outbuildings on the property. The exterior of the house is finished in heart pine and poplar weatherboard siding painted white. The windows are two-over-two and four-over-four double-hung-sash except the dormer windows that are six-over-six double-hung-sash, many containing the original glass. The house has a standing seam metal roof and sits on large hand-hewn oak sills and the floor system is supported by poplar logs.

The one-and-a-half-story house has had several periods of development. The original section of the house, the northern end, was built c.1885, as a one-and-a-half-story hall-parlor type log house. The logs remain underneath the exterior weatherboard cladding and feature half-dovetail notching that is still visible in the attic. The single-pen rear ell attached to the original house was added between c.1885 and 1913. The ell addition is also constructed of logs, however the logs are smaller than those in the original house and feature saddle notching. Both sections feature similarly-sized exterior chimneys. In 1913, the house was enlarged with the addition of a wood-framed, one-and-a-half-story hall-parlor type section to the southern end of the original log house. At that time, the dormers and porches were also added. In 1920, an enclosed garage was added to the rear of the 1913 addition.

The front (west) facade features three front doors; the far northern door opens into the main room of the c.1885 section, the center door opens into a hallway of the 1913 addition, and the far southern door opens into a main room of the 1913 addition (photograph 1). The full-facade front porch has a shed roof with exposed rafters supported by square wooden columns on brick piers (photograph 2). Other features include four roof dormers with six-over-six double-hung-sash windows, and two-over-

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**Continuation Sheet**

Section 7--Description

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two double-hung-sash windows on the main level. The south facade features an exterior chimney constructed of stone that has been whitewashed and four two-over-two double-hung-sash windows (photograph 3). The rear (east) facade includes the garage, the rear porch, and the c.1885-1913 rear ell addition which all contain four-over-four double-hung-sash windows (photograph 4). The rear also addition features a stone chimney (photograph 5). The north facade includes the entrance to the rear addition, a stone chimney, and six two-over-two double-hung-sash windows (photograph 6).

The interior of the Raburn-Casteel House features original materials and newer materials. The original heart pine flooring still exists in two rooms of the house (photograph 12). Other portions of the house have oak flooring laid on top of pine floors. Most of the interior appears to have been constructed out of heart pine, even the attic floor and ceilings. Much of the interior was sheetrocked in the 1950s. Beaded board ceilings and walls are still visible in the stairway (photograph 13). Two of the three fireplaces in the house have brick surrounds while the third has a wooden overmantel (photographs 9, 10, and 12).

There are three outbuildings on the nominated property (photograph 7). The smokehouse was constructed between c.1913 and 1920. It is a frame structure constructed of oak and has a metal seam roof. The well was constructed c.1913 of concrete block with an asphalt roof. The nonhistoric 1950s storage house is a frame structure with a flat roof.

Originally located on 114 acres, the property now includes one acre (photograph 8). The property is mostly level, sloping to the rear towards a spring fed stream. Several large sycamore trees are located in front of the house and near the stream. Foundation shrubs and hardwood trees are located throughout the property. The house sits close to the highway.

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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  
Medicine

**Period of Significance:**

c.1885-1939

**Significant Dates:**

c.1885-Construction of original hall-parlor log house.

c.1885 to 1913-construction of rear ell addition

1913-construction of hall-parlor addition

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

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

Hodge Raburn  
Andy Colwell

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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

The Raburn-Casteel House is a vernacular building that illustrates typical evolutionary changes to a building over time. The property is eligible in the area of architecture as an excellent example of a vernacular building changing over time which was added to and altered several different times in response to changing family needs and circumstances. The building encompasses four sections, built at different times, retaining their historic character-defining features. The c.1885 log hall-parlor section retains its original floor plan, wood floors and ceilings, mantel, and half-dovetail notching; the c.1885 to 1913 single-pen section retains its original floor plan, wood floors and ceilings, and saddle notching; the 1913 wood-framed hall-parlor section retains its original floor plan, mantel, and wood floors and ceilings; and the enclosed 1920 garage retains its original pen floor plan. All the sections are incorporated under a metal roof and clad in weatherboard conveying a single historic residence. This house is a relatively rare resource featuring two types of log notching; less than one percent of the resources surveyed in Georgia feature log construction with either half-dovetail or saddle notching. This type of evolutionary development is typical of many vernacular houses; this is an especially good example because the different sections are well documented and clearly evident. The property is eligible in the area of medicine for its use as an office for treating patients by two physicians. Hodge Raburn built the c.1885 hall-parlor residence. Dr. Casteel lived and treated patients in the residence. In 1913, Casteel sold the property to his brother, Dr. William J. Casteel, and he added the wood-framed addition and later the garage. Casteel treated patients in the log sections of the house and resided in the 1913 section of the house. Casteel housed his Model-A Ford in the garage. He never learned to drive so his wife would drive him to visit patients at their homes. Casteel continued to treat patients in the residence until his death in 1939.

#### **National Register Criteria**

The Raburn-Casteel House is eligible under Criterion A in the area of medicine for its use as an office for treating patients and under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an excellent example of a vernacular building that evolved over time.

#### **Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

#### **Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance includes the date of construction of the original log house and the period the house evolved and served as a physician's office.

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**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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

There are two contributing buildings on the nominated property: the original c.1885 hall-parlor type house with additions and the c.1913 to 1920 smokehouse. One contributing structure on the property is the 1913 well. The one noncontributing resource on the property is the 1950s storage house.

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

**\*\*Note: The following history was compiled by the current property owners. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.**

The name Hodge Raburn has some unusual significance in North Carolina. The earliest Raburn family in North Carolina is referred to in the book, History of the State and Raburn Families by Ruby Haley Moore. Her account shows that the given name "Hodge" was carried in every generation starting in Halifax County, North Carolina, from William Raburn, born 1730-1830. Three Raburn brothers, sons of Hodge Raburn, who was state senator from Bunscomb County, North Carolina, 1835-1838, moved from Rowan County, North Carolina to Carroll County, Georgia in 1829 and ultimately became the founders of what is now Villa Rica, Georgia. This is documented in History of Villa Rica. This part of the Raburn family moved to Texas and spelled their name Rayburn and were ancestors of Mr. Sam Rayburn, former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Hodge Raburn, who acquired the land and built the nominated house not later than 1885 in Union County, Georgia, is shown in the 1870 census of Union County as having been born in North Carolina and being 19 years of age and unable to read or write, and being the son William Raburn and Sofia Raburn. Apparently, the tradition of the eldest son taking the name "Hodge" continued. The relationship between the Raburns who founded Villa Rica and Hodge Raburn who built the house on the nominated property is unknown. The 1870 census is the first to show Raburns residing in Union County. A Henry Raburn is known to have been a landowner around 1870. It is believed that Hodge Raburn and his family, along with one Joseph Raburn became residents about the same time, which was between 1845 and 1872.

It has been discovered that there is a twin house built in Cobb County, Georgia, that is presently occupied by relatives of the Casteel family. This house was also built by Hodge Raburn, but the details and history are unclear. It is also unclear what happened to Hodge Raburn. There is no deed recorded conveying the property to Van Casteel or anyone else, nor any death record. The last record on Hodge Raburn is the 1900 census in which he is shown as being forty-nine years of age, living in Gumlog, and being married to Becky, who was twenty-eight years of age, and giving the names of their children. Records in Union County had shown that the same Hodge Raburn had married Katherine Simpson in 1875. Hodge Raburn disappeared from the records in the tax office

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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and elsewhere in Union County about 1905. The last record found is a Power of Attorney recorded in Book J, Page 318 of the Union County Deed Records, in which Rebecca Stephens appointed Hodge Raburn as her Power of Attorney for the purpose of conveying eighty (80) acres of land and stated that Hodge Raburn resided in "Napollens," Georgia. These deeds may have been destroyed when the Union County courthouse burned.

It is believed that Hodge Raburn was related by marriage or had some strong connection, to the Casteel family. There is a marriage record in Union County showing that William Casteel married Emily Raburn on November 12, 1866.

Dr. Van Casteel graduated from the Atlanta Dental College in 1906. He practiced dentistry in the log cabin built by Hodge Raburn until he sold it to his brother in 1913. Dr. William J. Casteel graduated from Tennessee Medical College, Knoxville, Tennessee, in 1906. He is listed in records in the Union County Courthouse as being the first Union County physician to take and pass the newly required examination under the Acts of the Georgia Legislature of 1894. Dr. William J. Casteel added the 1913 portion of the house to the existing log house. The addition was designed with three front doors to accommodate the medical practice.

In 1906, there were other physicians in Blairsville, Union County, Georgia, but there is no record of a licensed doctor living and practicing in the remote northern district where Dr. William Casteel set up his practice. "Practical Doctors" helped residents with various remedies and techniques, but Dr. Van Casteel and Dr. William Casteel are believed to be the first licensed dentist and physician to live in and serve this area. Dr. William J. Casteel was well known. There is a picture of Dr. William J. Casteel riding a big horse, "Charlie," making house visits in Sketches of Union County. Dale Elliot, long-time supporting member of the Union County Historical Society, remembers Dr. Casteel, and remembers that the house caught fire when he was a school boy riding a wagon going by and he and the other boys got off of the wagon and put out the fire. He also remembers an instance where a young woman was shot and was being administered to by Dr. Casteel, and his wife, Belle Casteel, and the unbelievable dialogue made a lasting impression on this now elderly gentleman. Mrs. Belle Kelley Casteel was not a mid-wife nor did she have any formal medical or nursing training. The Casteels had no children, and she devoted her time to helping the doctor. Some of the residents thought she had become more knowledgeable than Dr. Casteel.

The 1913 addition to the log house was built by Andy Colwell who was a carpenter and worked on many buildings and houses in Union County. William Casteel also added an enclosed garage on the rear of the home in the 1920s. While owned by William Casteel the property was not a working farm. He rented most of the land to tenant farmers. Dr. Casteel kept a small vegetable garden. He plowed in his suit coat, using his horse Charlie. The sharecroppers raised wheat and corn and various kinds of vegetables.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section 8--Statement of Significance**

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Clyde and Dot Wehunt bought the property in 1949. They acquired but sold off 60 acres across the highway at or near the time they acquired the home and acreage. Clyde Wehunt was born in Dahlonega, Georgia, in 1917. He attended North Georgia College for one year and then went into the service during World War II. Clyde Wehunt installed the electrical and plumbing systems in the house. Bill Wehunt, Clyde's son, says the home is almost exactly as it was in 1949. Some interior remodeling was already done, and the Wehunts did the rest. Mr. Wehunt and his son built the storage building in the 1950s.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Duckworth, William H. "Raburn-Casteel House." Historic Property Information Form, November, 1995. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, 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):** N/A

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** 1 acre

**UTM References**

A) Zone 16 Easting 773192 Northing 3866740

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the nominated property is indicated on the attached map by a thick black line.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the nominated property encompasses the Raburn-Casteel House, smokehouse, well, and nonhistoric storage house. Much of the land historically associated with the house was sold leaving one acre on which the house stands. The property was not a working farm, but is significant for the house and its associations with early medical practices in rural Georgia communities.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**State Historic Preservation Office**

**name/title** Holly L. Anderson, National Register Historian  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**street & number** 156 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Suite 101  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303  
**telephone** (404) 656-2840 **date** September 5, 2001

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

**name/title** William and Caroline Duckworth  
**organization**  
**street and number** 264 Wynn Drive  
**city or town** Hampton **state** Georgia **zip code** 30228  
**telephone**

( ) **consultant**  
( ) **regional development center preservation planner**  
(X) **other: Property Owner**

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

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**Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

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**Name of Property:** Raburn-Casteel House  
**City or Vicinity:** Blairsville  
**County:** Union  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** August, 1998

**Description of Photograph(s):**

- 1 of 16: Front (west) facade; photographer facing northeast.
- 2 of 16: Front porch, detail; photographer facing southeast.
- 3 of 16: South facade, 1913 addition, 1920 garage; photographer facing north.
- 4 of 16: East facade, 1920 garage, 1913 porch, c.1885 to 1913 rear addition; photographer facing northwest.
- 5 of 16: Detail, c.1885 to 1913 rear addition; photographer facing northwest.
- 6 of 16: East and north facades, c.1885 to 1913 rear addition; photographer west.
- 7 of 16: Storage house, smokehouse, and well house; photographer facing east.
- 8 of 16: East facade, setting; photographer facing west.
- 9 of 16: Interior, first floor, 1913 addition, mantel; photographer facing southwest.
- 10 of 16: Interior, first floor, c.1885 to 1913 addition; photographer facing south.
- 11 of 16: Interior, first floor, c.1885 to 1913 addition, c.1885 original log house; photographer facing northwest.
- 12 of 16: Interior, first floor, c.1885 original house, mantel; photographer facing north.
- 13 of 16: Interior, first floor, 1913 addition, stair to attic; photographer facing west.
- 14 of 16: Interior, attic; photographer facing west.

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**Continuation Sheet**

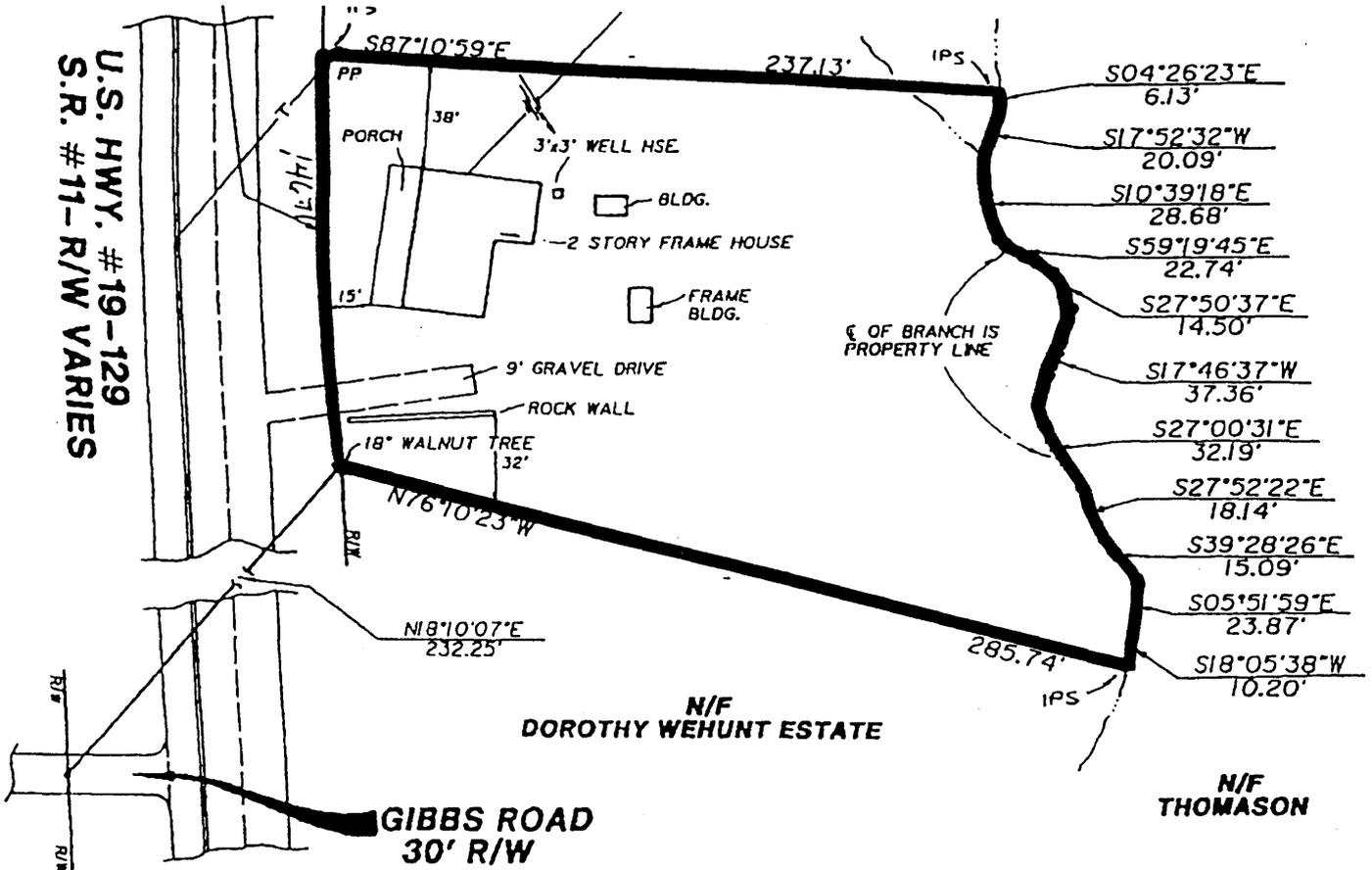
Photographs

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15 of 16: Interior, attic, detail of construction techniques and materials; photographer facing north.

16 of 16: Front (west) and south facades; photographer facing north.

U.S. HWY. #19-129  
S.R. #11-R/W VARIES

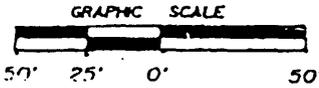


TOTAL AREA = 1.000 ACRE



IN MY OPINION, THIS PLAT IS A CORRECT REPRESENTATION OF THE LAND PLATTED AND HAS BEEN PREPARED IN CONFORMITY WITH THE MINIMUM STANDARDS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE LAW.

*James L. Alexander*  
MEMBER SURVEYING AND MAPPING SOCIETY OF GEORGIA



THIS PLAT HAS BEEN CALCULATED FOR CLOSURE AND IS FOUND TO BE ACCURATE WITHIN ONE FOOT IN 23,750 FEET. TOPCON GTS-2 USED FOR ANGULAR AND LINEAR MEASUREMENTS. THE FIELD DATA UPON WHICH THIS PLAT IS BASED HAS A CLOSURE PRECISION OF ONE FOOT IN 15,542 FEET AND AN ANGULAR ERROR OF 0.4 SECONDS PER ANGLE AND WAS ADJUSTED USING THE COMPASS RULE.

JOB # 95136-2382

SHEET 1 OF 1  
DATE JUNE 9, 1993  
SCALE 1" = 50'  
DISE NO. COX-8  
FILE NO. 602D

SURVEY FOR  
**W.H. DUCKWORTH**  
LOCATED IN  
LAND LOT 207 9TH DISTRICT 1ST SECTION  
UNION COUNTY, GEORGIA

rochester  
rochester & associates inc.  
phone 577-1132 • fax 577-5106  
bulletin 141-5100

Raburn-Casteel House  
Union County, Georgia  
Site Plan  
National Register Boundary  
Scale: On map  
North: ↑

