

(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



365

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Skyline Commissary
other names/site number Cumberland Mountain Farms Store, The Rock Store

2. Location

street & number NE Corner of Intersection of Co Rd 25 and Co Rd 107 not for publication
city or town Scottsboro vicinity
state Alabama code AL county Jackson code 071 zip code 35768

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 for 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.)
[Signature] Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer Date 23 April 2013
Signature of certifying official/Title
State or 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] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall 6-12-13

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 count.)

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

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

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

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

Skyline Farms Resettlement Project, Jackson County, Alabama, 1931-1960

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

n/a

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade: department store

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture: museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone: sandstone

walls stone: sandstone

roof composite shingles over wood shingles

other

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.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government

Architecture

Period of Significance

1935-1960

Significant Dates

1935 construction of original building

1937 construction of ell wing

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation**Architect/Builder****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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Skyline Farms Heritage Association

Skyline Commissary
Name of Property

Jackson County, AL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 580100 3852420
Zone Easting Northing
2 _____

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing
4 _____
 See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David Sprouse, Graduate Assistant
organization MTSU Center for Historic Preservation date Nov. 30, 2011
street & number MTSU Box 80, 1416 East Main Street telephone 615-898-2947
city or town Murfreesboro state TN zip code 37132

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Skyline Farms Heritage Association (contact Cindy Rice)
street & number 802 Co. Rd. 25 telephone (256) 587-6626
city or town Scottsboro state AL zip code 35768

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Skyline Commissary
Jackson County, AL

7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Skyline Commissary is located at the intersection of County Road 107 and County Road 25 in Jackson County, Alabama, and was built in 1935 as part of the Cumberland Mountain Farms Project, now known as Skyline Farms. Constructed from locally quarried sandstone, this one-story building is of the Colonial Revival style and features a symmetrical facade and multi-light windows. The commissary features a pedimented entryway and parapet walls on either end of the building. An addition was added to the back of the commissary in 1937, forming an ell-wing, and a garage was added to the building's north side at an undetermined point in time. The garage has since been removed. An Alabama Historical Marker has been placed at the southwest corner of the building at the intersection of County Road 107 and County Road 25. Portions of a historic sandstone sidewalk are extant at the northwest corner and along the south elevation.

The west facade of the commissary features three bays and a pedimented portico. The foundation and wall are constructed of sandstone. All materials appear to be original to 1935 except as noted. The center bay includes a double-door entrance with a pair of six-light/three-panel wood doors and a two-light, awning transom. On the north side of the door is a stone sign reading "Cumberland Mt Farms STORE." The north flanking bay includes a twenty-light/fixed wood frame window with concrete sill, and an interior, accordion-style security grate which runs the length of the window opening. A nine-light/one-panel wood door with four-light/transom is likely an addition (c.1937) that replaced the northern end of the window bay. The south flanking bay window was filled in with local sandstone c.1990. Photographic evidence confirms that it was originally a twenty-eight-light/fixed window. The concrete sill remains in good condition. An accordion-style security grate is retained on the interior of the former window opening. Wood cornice molding is extant on the west facade, and the eaves are in fair to poor condition. The roof is covered in composite shingles. Two basement level vents, each covered by a metal grill, are located at the south end of the facade.

The north elevation consists of the north gable end of the original commissary and the set-back ell wing. The gable end of the original building features a parapet roof line. The foundation and wall are constructed of sandstone. All materials appear to be original to 1935 except as noted. This portion of the building is where the garage addition once stood, and most of the sandstone wall has been painted. To the east is a single door entrance with concrete and stone stairs and stoop. The door has been boarded over but appears to have provided access to an interior room which is inaccessible at present. In addition, there are three window openings with concrete sills, irregularly placed and boarded over, at least one of which retains a twelve-light/double-hung window. Two regularly spaced hopper windows provide ventilation to the basement. These windows have security bars affixed to their exterior. Two, triangular wood vents for the attic flank an interior chimney, which is centrally located on the wall and is constructed of sandstone. Two exposed ends of ceiling beams are present on the wall. These appear to have been associated with the garage addition, as there are no such exposed beams on the southern, gable end.

The north elevation of the ell-wing dates to c. 1937. The foundation and wall are constructed of sandstone. All materials appear to be original except as noted. Located just below the cornice molding are four, regularly spaced hopper windows with security bars affixed to their exterior. A fifth window, located at the westernmost point of the wall, has been enclosed with sandstone. All five contain concrete sills. Four regularly spaced hopper windows provide ventilation to the basement. These wood frame windows have

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Skyline Commissary
Jackson County, AL

security bars affixed to their exterior and have been boarded over. The windows also feature concrete retaining walls below ground level. What had been the fifth basement window, located at the westernmost point of the wall, has been enclosed with sandstone. An interior chimney, constructed of sandstone, is located to the west. Wood cornice molding is extant on the north elevation, while the eaves are in fair to poor condition. The roof is covered in composite shingles; however, sections of the original wood shingles are visible where the newer shingles have separated.

The east elevation of the building contains the northern portion of the original commissary and the gable end of the ell wing. The east elevation of the original commissary consists of a sandstone foundation and sandstone wall. All materials appear to be original to 1935 except as noted. At the south end is a twenty-light fixed window with concrete sill. This window retains an interior, accordion-style security grate. Centered below that window is a basement level vent with missing metal screen. At the north end is a boarded-over window opening with concrete sill. Below that window is a boarded-over basement level opening featuring a prominent sandstone lintel, unique in this structure in that it is the only one. Wood cornice molding is extant on the east elevation, and the eaves are in fair to poor condition. The roof is covered in composite shingles.

The east elevation, gable end of the ell-wing addition consists of a sandstone foundation and sandstone wall. Concrete and stone stairs and small loading dock provide access to the building through a pair of board and batten doors. Flanking the doors are two windows. The window on the north side is a wood frame, six-light hopper window with iron security bars installed. The window on the south side is missing, however the security bars remain in place. Both windows have concrete sills. A metal security light, historic in appearance, is centered over the double doors. A louvered wood vent with concrete sill provides ventilation to the attic. All materials appear to be original to 1937.

The south elevation of the ell-wing features a sandstone foundation and sandstone wall. All materials appear to be original except as noted. Located just below the cornice molding are five, regularly spaced hopper windows with security bars affixed to their exterior, all five with concrete sills. Four regularly spaced hopper windows with concrete sills provide ventilation to the basement. These wood frame windows have security bars affixed to their exterior and have been boarded over. Located at the western end of the ell is a dugout driveway terminating in a basement level pair of board and batten doors. Wood cornice molding is extant on the south elevation, while the eaves are in fair to poor condition. The roof is covered in composite shingles.

The south elevation, gable end of the original building contains a parapet roof line. The foundation and wall are constructed of sandstone. All materials appear to be original to 1935 except as noted. Located just below the cornice molding are two, regularly spaced, wood frame, hopper windows with concrete sills. Security bars are affixed to their exterior. From photographic evidence it appears that the original windows were larger, twelve-light, double-hung windows. Two basement level vents, each covered by a metal grill, are located at the west and east ends of the facade. The openings of two basement level windows remain, however the windows have been removed and replaced by iron bars covered by metal screens, which have themselves been boarded over. Two, triangular wood vents for the attic flank an interior chimney, which is centrally located on the wall and is constructed of sandstone. An original sandstone sidewalk runs from the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Skyline Commissary
Jackson County, AL

front elevation of the building and alongside the south elevation. The sidewalk terminates at the basement entrance on the south elevation of the ell-wing.

The interior floor plan consists of five rooms. The main room measures 58 feet by 20 feet, including the former post office, and is accessed from a double door and a single door on the west facade. All materials appear to be original to 1935 except as noted. Wood flooring runs parallel to the west facade. The walls are constructed of concrete block with a skim coat of plaster. Two interior chimneys are situated at either end of the room in the north and south walls. The chimneys were configured for use with traditional coal/wood-burning stoves, which are no longer present. Historic merchandise shelving and cabinets are present throughout the interior and appear to be constructed of oak and pine. Square support posts are of wood. The ceiling surface is wood covered with asbestos tiles.

The former post office is a partitioned area at the northeast corner of the main room and measures 28 feet by 10 feet. The room is accessed through two separate doors situated on the west wall of the post office. The south door is a four-light, three-panel wood door, while the door on the north is a five-panel wood door. The north, south, and west walls are sheathed in wood paneling while the east wall is constructed of concrete block covered by a skim coat of plaster. The south wall contains a sliding service window constructed of wood with a rectangular mail slot below it. Along the upper length of the south wall is framing of approximately 2.5 feet in height for what may have been transom windows or latticework consistent with that used in the ell-wing addition. The west wall contains similar framing above the doors. A small bathroom, which is a later addition, is located on the north wall and is accessed through a five-panel wood door.

The ell-wing addition extends eastward from the south end of the main room and is open to the eastern portion of the original building. The primary room of the ell-wing measures 27 feet by 38 feet. All materials appear to be original to 1937 except as noted. Wood flooring runs parallel to the south elevation. The walls are constructed of concrete block with a skim coat of plaster. One interior chimney is situated on the north wall near the western end of the room. The chimney was configured for use with a traditional coal/wood-burning stove, which is no longer present. Historic merchandise shelving and cabinets are present throughout the interior and appear to be constructed of oak and pine. Square support posts are of wood. The ceiling surface is wood covered with asbestos tiles.

The ell-wing storage room is located at the eastern elevation and measures 21 feet by 12 feet. It is separated from the main room by a wood paneled wall with approximately 2.5-foot-high latticework running along its upper edge. The room is accessible to the interior through a pair of strap hinged, wood panel doors located on the west wall. Centered on the east wall is a pair of board and batten doors which provide access to the loading dock. All materials appear to be original to 1937 except as noted. Wood flooring runs parallel to the south elevation. The south and east walls are constructed of concrete block with a skim coat of plaster, while the north wall is of wood paneling. Square support posts are constructed of wood, and the ceiling surface is wood covered with asbestos tiles.

Situated at the northern elevation of the ell-wing is an office area. Measuring 6 feet by 12 feet, the office is partitioned from the storage room by a wood paneled south wall. Providing access to the office are two,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Skyline Commissary
Jackson County, AL

five-panel wood doors which are evenly spaced along that wall. Features include a service window and wire mesh grill located to the west of the doors. This service window was used to provide telephone service to the community. Jotted down in pencil on the interior wall of this room are a multitude of telephone numbers, which remain clearly visible.

The basement of the 1935 building measures 58 feet by 20 feet. The floor is concrete; the foundation is stone, and large, rough cut, tapered stone piers support the structure. It is unlikely that the basement was used for any other purpose than as a crawl space.

The basement of the ell-wing addition dates to 1937 and measures 27 feet by 48 feet. The floor is concrete; the foundation is stone, and metal posts support the structure. The basement is accessed from the south elevation of the ell-wing through a set of double doors constructed of wood boards. The basement is also accessed via an enclosed stairwell consisting of six steps, a landing, and another four steps. A wood door is located at the basement level of the landing. The basement contains an inoperable coal furnace with asbestos-covered ductwork servicing the structure. The basement may have been used as part of the commissary at one time, or simply as storage.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Skyline Commissary
Jackson County, AL

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Skyline Commissary is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places for its local significance under Criterion A in Politics/Government and under Criterion C for Architecture. The Commissary played a vital role in the New Deal community of Skyline Farms as the cooperative store for the Skyline Farms Cooperative Association. Colonists depended on the store for goods and also saw it as a local gathering place in the heart of the community. The Commissary is also significant as perhaps the most intact stone building constructed at Skyline Farms. The period of significance ranges from its construction in 1935 until 1960. It is being nominated under the Multiple Property Listing, *Skyline Farms Resettlement Project, Jackson County, Alabama, 1931-1960*.

Historical Significance

In keeping with the "back to the farm" movement that had been gaining in popularity throughout the 1910s and 1920s, New Deal social theorists believed that providing a means for people in need to own land and produce their own crops would not only improve their physical standard of living but would also make them better citizens. One of the many efforts undertaken by the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration to alleviate the grinding poverty of the Great Depression was to provide funding for community development programs in rural areas. One such program was Skyline Farms, which was a federally implemented resettlement project established to provide jobs and social welfare to unemployed and sometimes homeless farmers of Alabama.¹ Located at the intersection of County Road 107 and County Road 25 in Jackson County, Alabama, the Skyline commissary played a vital role in the lives of participants in this pioneering socioeconomic program.

The National Industrial Recovery Act authorized the creation of a Division of Subsistence Homesteads within the Department of Interior in 1933, thereby enabling the Federal Emergency Relief Agency to launch a rural rehabilitation program the following year. These rural housing programs were reorganized in 1935, at which time Skyline Farms came under the purview of the Resettlement Administration.

The Resettlement Administration was comprised of two divisions: one was focused on the resettlement of suburban communities while the other concentrated on rural rehabilitation and resettlement, which was its function at Skyline Farms. Historian Carroll Van West characterizes the homestead ideal, "The projects were described as 'subsistence homesteads' because reformers assumed that the best living environment for these depressed rural areas was one in which a family had enough land to produce a garden, raise some livestock and poultry, and then have good roads to provide access to nearby factories where cash wages could be earned."²

1. Originally called Cumberland Mountain Farms, the name was changed to Skyline Farms in 1937 to avoid confusion between it and Cumberland Mountain Homesteads in Tennessee, another resettlement project.

2. Carroll Van West, *Tennessee's New Deal Landscapes: A Guidebook*, (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2001), 128-129.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Skyline Commissary
Jackson County, AL

Bunkhouses and temporary houses were the first dwellings built as part of the Skyline Farms project. The first settler's home was opened for inspection on February 7, 1935, and was referred to by the Skyline residents as "Colony House Number 1." This colony home is extant on Alabama Highway 79. All of the project homes were numbered as they were constructed. Most of the house's interior features were provided by residents of Jackson County. Furniture was mostly made at the colony, and rugs and linens were handmade by women across the county. The resettlement community eventually included approximately one hundred seventy-one colony houses of the two hundred planned.³

The community's center at the crossroads of County Road 25 and County Road 107 included a school, commissary, warehouse, cotton gin, and an administrative office. These buildings are all extant, and like the colonists' housing, were constructed by residents of Skyline Farms. Land was divided among settlers in forty to sixty acre units, with unit size varying based on the number of family members living on the land. Each family received materials to clear the land and construct a three to five room home on the property. In addition, each family received an apple tree, mule, barn, and smokehouse.

Originally established as the Cumberland Mountain Farms Store, the Skyline Commissary was constructed of locally quarried sandstone in 1935, with assistance from the Construction Unit of the Resettlement Administration. Cumberland Farms Cooperative Association⁴ was formed the following year as a non-profit corporation without capital stock. Colony residents, as well as those from surrounding communities served by the association, became members of the co-op upon the payment of a one-dollar (\$1.00) membership fee. Participants purchased food at the commissary through a stamp program, which provided families with a monthly allowance that ranged from \$5.50 for a family of two, to \$8.50 for a family of eight or more. Beginning operations in January 1937, the cooperative sold provisions to Skyline residents at the commissary at cost plus ten percent (10%) to cover operating expenses.⁵ Members were entitled to receive a share of the net proceeds at the end of each business year upon presenting their trade receipts, which were disbursed with each commissary purchase.⁶ Area farmers who were not project participants were permitted to purchase food and supplies at the commissary, but were charged higher prices.

The cooperative store played an important role in the marketing of farm products produced by Skyline Farms, from grading to shipping to selling. A newspaper article from 1939 provides an account of the marketing of a forthcoming potato crop, which was delayed that year due to heavier than normal rainfall during the growing season. The potatoes were first to be sorted by a grader crew chosen by a three-member farmer's committee. After processing, the potatoes were set to move in car-load lots from Skyline Farms to be sold on consignment at markets in Chicago, New York, and other cities. The cooperative was set up in such a way that all of the farmers would share equally in expenses and profits. Each farmer would receive an accounting of the number of bags he or she sold, and, at the end of the marketing season,

3. Campbell and Coombs, "Skyline Farms," 246; Davidson and Loomis, "Standards of Living," 6; "Cumberland Mountain Farms Physical Set-Up," 2; "Cumberland Mountain Farms: Outline of Plan and Procedure of Operation of the Cumberland Mountain Farms, Jackson County Rural Homesteading Project," 1-2.

4. Cumberland Farms Cooperative Association's name was changed to Skyline Farms Cooperative Association to avoid confusion between it and Cumberland Mountain Homesteads in Tennessee, another resettlement project.

5. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Security Administration, LAW 8-20-40

6. "Cooperative Association for Colony," *Jackson County Sentinel*, August 5, 1936.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Skyline Commissary
Jackson County, AL

selling prices would be averaged and marketing expenses subtracted before the farmer received payment. The objective was that losses and gains would be shared by all cooperative members, with no one farmer more seriously affected than another.⁷ Other crops marketed that year included 9,000 bushels of ripe tomatoes and thirty acres of pole beans.⁸

The Skyline Farms Cooperative Association "soon branched out into other fields of activity, managing a workshop, garage, blacksmith shop, and canning plant, in addition to operating a livestock service for members. It also developed an informal health association to provide medical care to colony residents."⁹ In addition, a post office was established in November of 1937, to serve the Skyline Farms community. The rural station, which was located within the commissary building, was named Scottsboro, Skyline Station, Alabama.¹⁰

As the place to purchase farm supplies, goods for the home, or groceries for the family, the Skyline Commissary became the central gathering place for residents of the Skyline community. Whether mailing letters to loved ones serving overseas during World War II or gathering around the wood stove on a cold winter's day, the "Rock Store" lay at the very heart of this remarkable community. What began as a socioeconomic program carved out of the wilds of northern Alabama's Cumberland Mountain became something much more — a close-knit community united by an enduring spirit of optimism greater than any of the challenges that lay ahead.

At its peak in 1936, the resettlement project in Jackson County, Alabama, aided over two hundred families, but by the close of WWII the project had come to an end — its assets sold to private parties by the federal government. Following the project's liquidation, the buildings located in the community center were each purchased privately. Many of them have since been converted for new uses, including the commissary, which came under private ownership. Though no longer operated on the cooperative system, the commissary continued to serve the needs of Skyline residents as a community general store for over sixty-five years. During this time of private ownership, an automobile garage was added to the building. This garage was removed when the commissary was purchased and converted for use as a community heritage museum in 2005. Additionally, the warehouse located behind the commissary has been maintained as a storage space and remains in such use today.

Commonly known as the "Rock Store," the commissary is today being used by the Skyline Heritage Association as a museum and meeting space. Through their laudable efforts, the Skyline commissary once again provides a welcoming space for residents and visitors alike to gather and remember those pioneering farmers whose hard work and tireless efforts built the remarkable community that is Skyline.

Architectural Significance

7. "Skyline Potato Deal Nearing Maturity," *Progressive Age*, June 22, 1939.
8. "Farm Cooperative Plans Big Year," *Progressive Age*, September 14, 1939.
9. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Security Administration, LAW 8-20-40
10. "Post Office at Skyline Farms," *Progressive Age*, November 4, 1937.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Skyline Commissary
Jackson County, AL

The Skyline Farms Commissary is one of the most intact community buildings constructed at Skyline Farms. As was typical of many New Deal project designs, the commissary made extensive use of local materials in its construction, utilizing such building materials as were readily available on the mountain. Program participants provided labor for the construction, which was overseen and administered by the Resettlement Administration. Timber was locally sawn, consisting mainly of hardwoods such as oak, poplar, and gumwood. The walls and chimneys were constructed of locally quarried sandstone, and the roof was shingled using locally sawn wood shingles. The Commissary features a pedimented entryway and parapet walls on either end of the building. Elements of the Colonial Revival style are seen in the symmetrical facade and multi-light windows. Colonial Revival was a popular style in the southeastern region of the United States between World War I and World War II. The Great Depression was a time of uncertainty and instability for most Americans. In response, many looked to the past for a sense of continuity, embracing the architectural harmony they saw in so many of the classically inspired buildings of colonial America. Preservation efforts beginning at Colonial Williamsburg also influenced the popularity of the Colonial Revival style in the South.

One of the primary objectives of New Deal agencies was to put people back to work. The construction of the Skyline Commissary is illustrative of how this was put into practice. For example, locally quarried sandstone, precisely shaped and placed, form the walls of the building. Not only did a higher level of craftsmanship provide for an attractive appearance, it was also more labor intensive. A sense of permanence infuses the structure, which can be seen in its substantial, concrete pier footings and heavy timber joists. The simple and durable design of the Commissary building reflects the ethos of the community of hard-working farmers it was built to serve and stands today as a hallmark of progressive, New Deal design.

The Colonial Revival detailing and use of local sandstone at Skyline was mostly reserved for public buildings at the core of the community. These elements are also reflected in the Administrative Office and Skyline School; however, the commissary is the most intact of the three structures. Although historic, the school was reconstructed in the 1940s after the original was lost to a fire, and some changes have been made to the interior of the Administrative Office with efforts to convert it to residential use. Although the office and school both retain a high degree of integrity, the commissary is perhaps the most intact structure of the original Skyline community.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 9

Skyline Commissary
Jackson County, AL

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Campbell, David, and David Coombs. "Skyline Farms: A Case Study of Community Development and Rural Rehabilitation." *Appalachian Journal* 10, no. 3 (Spring 1983): 244-254.

"Cumberland Mountain Farms: Outline of Plan and Procedure of Operation of the Cumberland Mountain Farms, Jackson County Rural Homesteading Project." Skyline Farms Heritage Association Collection, Skyline, Alabama.

"Cumberland Mountain Farms Physical Set-Up." Skyline Farms Heritage Association Collection, Skyline, Alabama.

Davidson, Dwight M., Jr., and Charles P. Loomis. "Standards of Living of the Residents of Seven Rural Resettlement Communities." *Social Research Report No. XI*. Washington D.C.: United States Department of Agriculture, The Farm Security Administration, and the Bureau of Agricultural Economics Cooperating, 1938.

Jackson County Sentinel, 1934-1945.

The Progressive Age, 1934-1945.

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Security Administration, LAW 8-20-40.

West, Carroll Van. *Tennessee's New Deal Landscapes: A Guidebook*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2001.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 10

Skyline Commissary
Jackson County, AL

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for the nominated property are shown on the accompanying Jackson County, Alabama, tax map as parcel 21-03-05-0-000-036.000, PIN 013662, map #72578.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The nominated boundaries contain all of the extant historical property associated with the Skyline Farms Commissary during its period of significance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number PHOTOS Page 11

Skyline Commissary
Jackson County, AL

PHOTOGRAPHS

Name of Property:	Skyline Commissary
City of Vicinity:	Scottsboro
County:	Jackson
State:	AL
Name of Photographer:	Elizabeth Moore Humphreys
Date of Photographs:	September 2011
Location of Original Digital Files:	Center for Historic Preservation MTSU Box 80, Murfreesboro, TN 37132

- 1 of 21 West Façade, photographer facing east.
- 2 of 21 Detail of entrance on west façade, photographer facing east.
- 3 of 21 Detail of stone sign on west façade, photographer facing east.
- 4 of 21 Detail of window bay on west façade, photographer facing northeast.
- 5 of 21 North and east elevations of 1935 building, photographer facing southwest.
- 6 of 21 North elevation of 1937 ell wing, photographer facing south.
- 7 of 21 East elevation of 1935 building, photographer facing west.
- 8 of 21 East elevation of 1937 ell wing, photographer facing west.
- 9 of 21 South elevation of 1937 ell wing, photographer facing north.
- 10 of 21 South elevation and west façade of 1935 building, photographer facing northeast.
- 11 of 21 Interior, main room of 1935 building, photographer facing west.
- 12 of 21 Interior, main room of 1935 building, photographer facing south.
- 13 of 21 Interior, main room toward post office of 1935 building, photographer facing northeast.
- 14 of 21 Interior, post office in 1935 building, photographer facing southwest.
- 15 of 21 Interior, main room of ell wing, photographer facing east.
- 16 of 21 Interior, storage room of ell wing, photographer facing west.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number PHOTOS Page 12

Skyline Commissary
Jackson County, AL

- 17 of 21 Interior, storage room of ell wing, photographer facing east.
- 18 of 21 Interior, office of ell wing, photographer facing west.
- 19 of 21 Interior, detail of lattice work in office of ell wing, photographer facing west.
- 20 of 21 Interior, basement of 1935 building, photographer facing northwest.
- 21 of 21 Interior, basement of 1937 ell wing, photographer facing west.

4.001
0.54Ac

40
18Ac(c)

23.001

213-S
200'

18

18.002

24 211-S

24.001

26

17

27

28

29 16

39

420.65'

170's

360'

271.45'
210-S
42

41

38

37

290'

30

15

14

13

148.9'
31
148.9'

31

271.21'

135'

183'

148'

138.5'

130'

157'

210'

145'

217.2'

124'
336'
12-S

47

48

35

34

32

61

62

63

49

50

48.001

60

117.13'

62.001

589.1'

575'

310'

213.2'

210'

209-S

209.32'

89'

200'

134

50.002

200'

145'

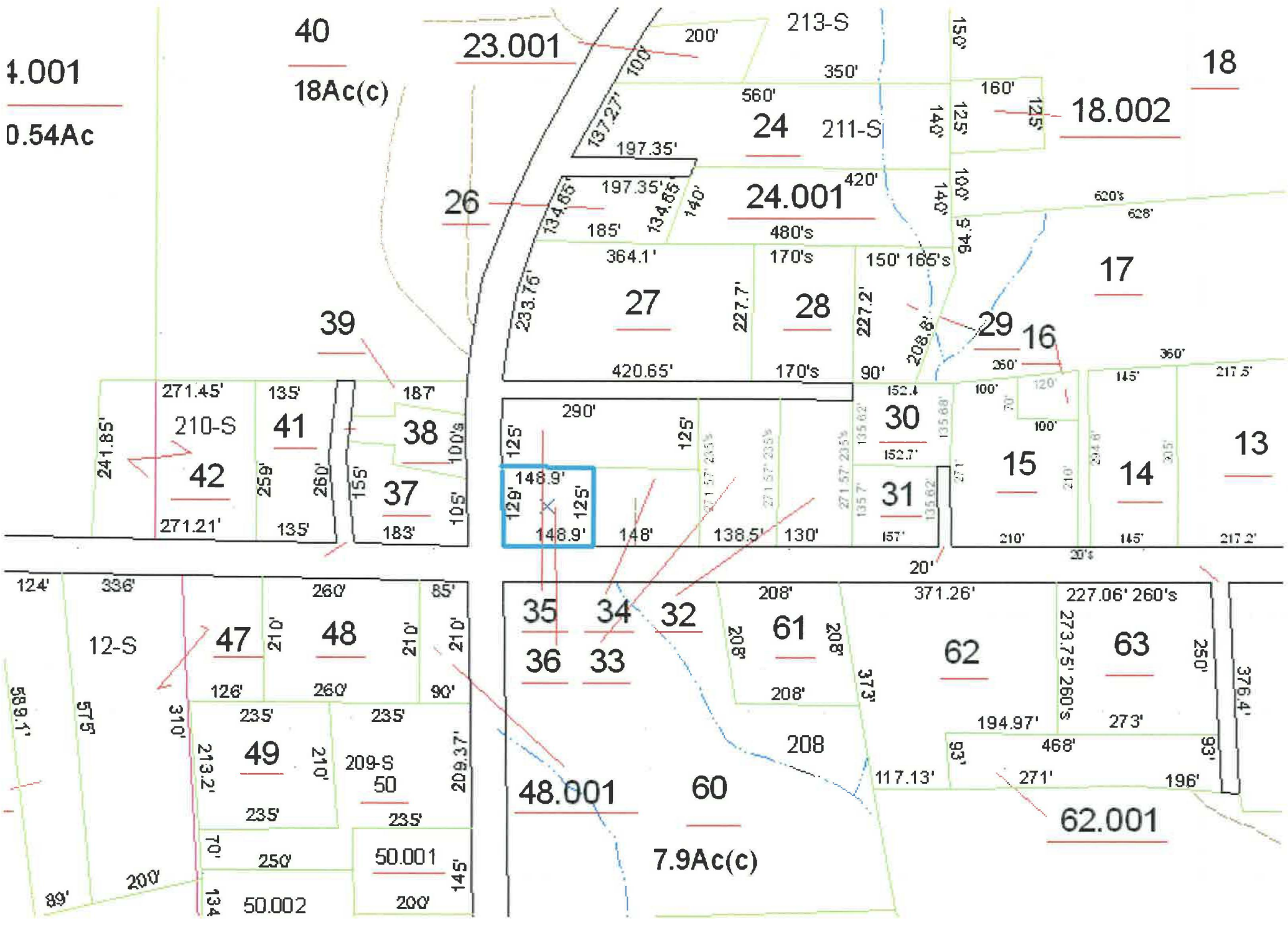
7.9Ac(c)

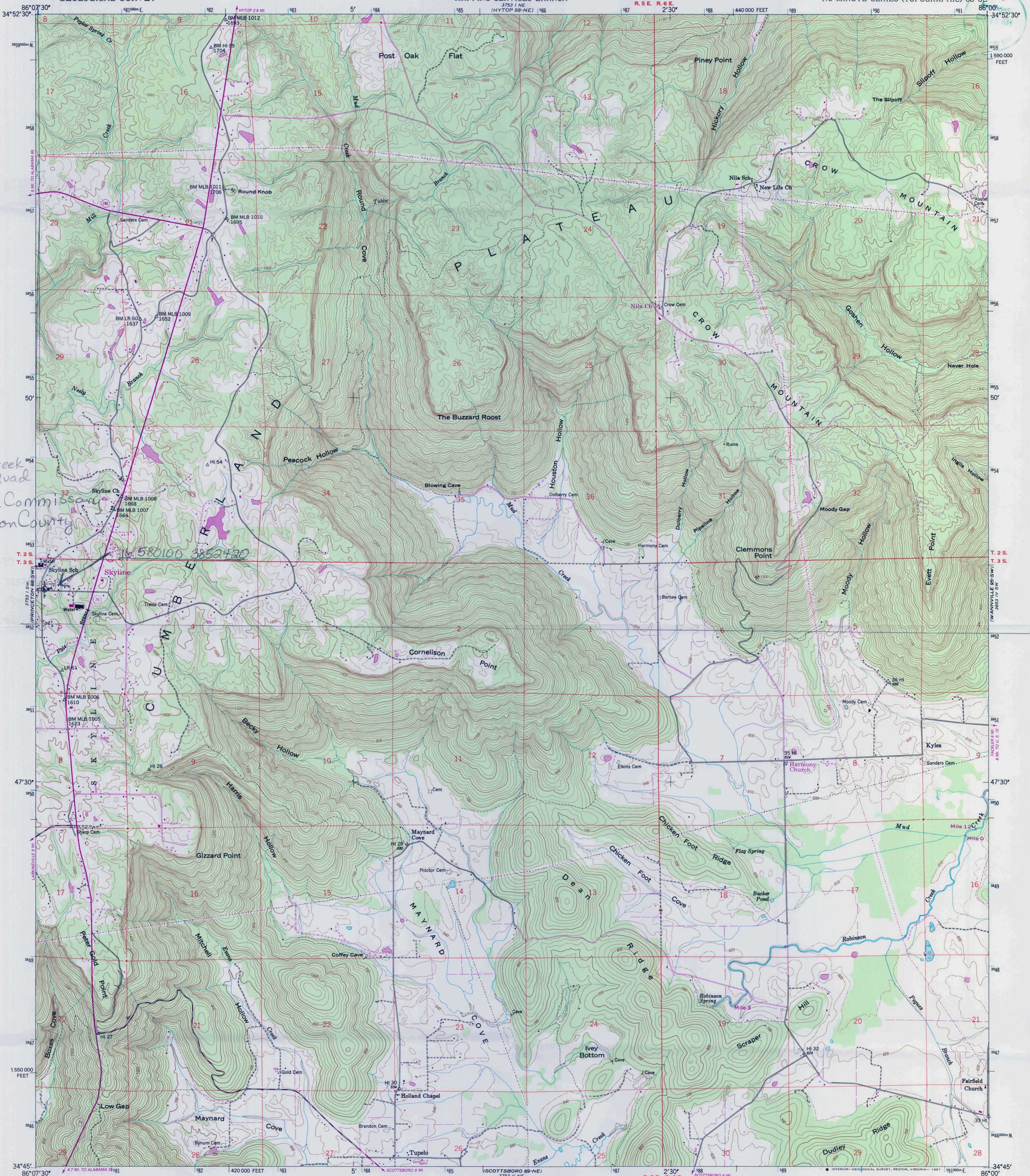
376.4'

250'

93'

196'

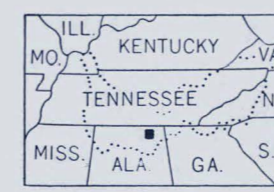
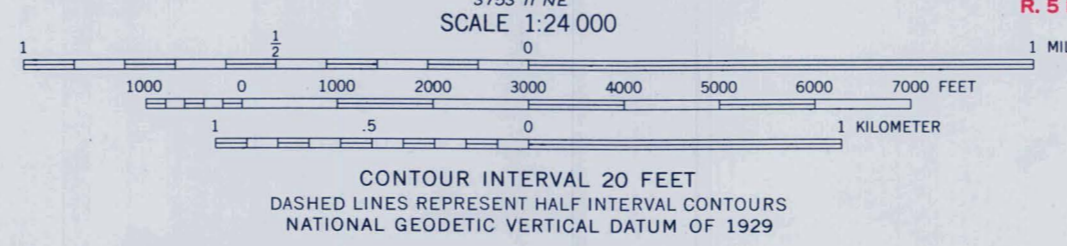




Mapped and edited by Tennessee Valley Authority
Published by the Geological Survey
Control by NOS/NOAA, USGS, and TVA
Topography by USGS and TVA by photogrammetric
methods using aerial photographs taken 1946
Map field checked by TVA, 1948

Polycyclic projection, 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Alabama
coordinate system, east zone, 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator
grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue, 1927 North American Datum
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move
the projection lines 7 meters south and 2 meters west as
shown by dashed corner ticks

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled by
the Tennessee Valley Authority from aerial photographs
taken 1979 and other sources. This information not
field checked. Map edited 1982



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Fine purple dashed lines indicate selected fence and field
lines where generally visible on aerial photographs.
This information is unchecked

ROAD CLASSIFICATION (TVA 88-SE)

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
TENNESSEE DIVISION OF GEOLOGY, NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37219
AND U. S. TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY, CHATTANOOGA 37401 OR KNOXVILLE, TENNESSEE 37902
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

MUD CREEK, ALA.
34086-G1-TF-024

1948
PHOTOREVISED 1982
DMA 3753 1 SE-SERIES V844





CUMBERLAND MT
FARMS
STORE

Under 18
No Tobacco
3%
Cash

CUMBERLAND M'T
FARMS.
STORE





CUMBER
F
S T

















75 Year Old Recliner

rms
ociation
op



Originally
the post
office, this
room later
was used for
the barber
shop.

Barber
Shop



















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Skyline Commissary
NAME:

MULTIPLE Skyline Farms Resettlement Project, Jackson County, Alabama
NAME: MPS

STATE & COUNTY: ALABAMA, Jackson

DATE RECEIVED: 4/26/13 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 5/20/13
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 6/04/13 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/12/13
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 13000365

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 6-12-13 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
468 SOUTH PERRY STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-0900



FRANK W. WHITE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

April 23, 2013

TEL: 334-242-3184
FAX: 334-240-3477

Ms. Carol Shull
Keeper of the National Register
U. S. Department of the Interior, NPS
Cultural Resources
National Register, History & Education Programs
1201 "I" Street NW (2280)
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear ~~Ms. Shull~~: *Carol*:

Enclosed please find the nomination and supporting documentation to be considered for listing the following Alabama resource in the National Register of Historic Places:

Skyline Commissary
Scottsboro, Jackson County, Alabama

Your consideration of the enclosed National Register of Historic Places nomination is appreciated.

Truly Yours,

Elizabeth Ann Brown
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

EAB/sme/nw

Enclosures