

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

FEB 28 1989

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

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 Tall Timbers Plantation  
other names/site number Tall Timbers Research Station

2. Location

street & number County Road 12, 3 miles west of U.S. 319 N/A  not for publication  
city, town Tallahassee  vicinity  
state Florida code FL county Leon code 073 zip code 32312

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>5</u>	<u>9</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>13</u>	<u>10</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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  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.  See continuation sheet.  
[Signature] 2/22/89  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Florida State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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 and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:)  
Amy Schulz 4/7/89  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Single dwellingRecreation and Culture/ Outdoor recreationEducation/ Research facility

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Education/ Research facility

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century/Other: Frame vernacular

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brickwalls Wood/weatherboard

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roof Metalother Wood

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

(PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Agriculture  
Conservation  
Education  
Science  
Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1895-1940  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1895  
1921  
1931

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

Henry L. Beadel

Architect/Builder

Edward Beadel/ Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

(PLEASE SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property 2,800

UTM References

A              
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B              
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The western, northern, and eastern boundaries of Tall Timbers Plantation are delineated by the heavy broken line on the accompanying USGS map. The southern boundary follows the northern shoreline of Lake Iamonia, including Sheep Island and Hall Island.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the structures, fields, hunting courses, and wooded areas historically associated with the Tall Timbers Plantation that retain historic integrity.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kevin McGorty, C. Lea Wolfe, W.N. Thurston/ Historic Preservationists  
 organization Bureau of Historic Preservation date February 1989  
 street & number R.A. Gray Bldg., 500 S. Bronough Street telephone (904) 487-2333  
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**National Register of Historic Places  
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SUMMARY STATEMENT

The historical boundaries of the Tall Timbers Plantation encompass approximately 2,800 acres of rolling landscape in northern Leon County, Florida, near the Florida-Georgia border. Originally part of a vast longleaf pine forest, the area was extensively cleared for timber production and agricultural use in the early to mid-19th century. It was occupied by tenant farms following the Civil War, and after 1895 was managed as a private quail hunting and wildlife preserve. In the early 20th century, it became the site of extensive experimentation in woodland and game management practices. Under scientific habitat management by the Tall Timbers Research Station Foundation since 1963, the area continues to reflect the character of the 1895-1940 period of its historic significance in the early development of scientific conservation and ecological experimentation.

The area contains a total of 13 contributing historical resources, including 5 buildings, 7 structures, and 1 site comprised of the fields, hunting courses, and a network of trails used historically for both access to fields and hunting courses and for fire control, and a swamp area of approximately 70 acres known as Gannet Pond, a shallow water wildlife habitat.

Non-contributing resources include 8 recent buildings, 1 structure, and a television transmission station complex.

An archaeological reconnaissance survey in 1979 recorded a total of 26 prehistoric sites. Although the data currently available is not sufficient to allow an assessment of these sites in terms of the National Register eligibility criteria, test excavations indicated that at least 2 of these sites may be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Intensive archaeological survey could be expected to reveal evidence of historic agricultural activity as well as additional information relating to prehistoric occupation.

LANDSCAPE FEATURES

Tall Timbers is located on the north shore of Lake Iamonia, a large (12 square mile), naturally eutrophic body of water. There is diversity in the topography of the property, which encompasses three small islands in Lake Iamonia, five miles of undulating shoreline, small cypress and black gum swamps and a 70 acre pond. The elevation of the property ranges from 100 feet above sea level at the lakeshore, to approximately 250 feet at the highest point. The plantation is bisected by County Road 12. Although the region was once part of a vast longleaf pine forest, extensive periods of cultivation and timber cutting by early settlers have left few longleaf trees. Most of the landscape at Tall Timbers is covered in second growth timber dominated by loblolly and

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shortleaf pines. The original wiregrass understory has also been replaced by native herbaceous cover. About 400 acres remain in fields and open land. Annual controlled burning has produced an open park-like pine forest on the remaining acreage.

The dominant contributing landscape features, encompassing nearly 95 percent of the upland portions of Tall Timbers, are the 17 hunting courses that were laid-out in the early years of the 20th century and which have been carefully maintained through controlled burning. Each course roughly follows the field margins of the old tenant farms and forest borders which are favorite quail habitats. The courses were mapped and usually named after the tenant families who worked the fields. Also contributing to the historic landscape is an extensive network of dirt drives or hunting trails which wind around the irregularly shaped courses (map 1). On many plantations the hunting courses were laid out to provide a half-day's hunt each. This practice offered a diversity of courses for the hunting party and ensured that the quail coveys in any one section of the plantation would not be depleted. The hunting drives were cut wide enough to allow mule-drawn shooting wagons to pass. These drives also served as fire lanes during the annual burning of the pine forest and fields (photo 1).

As on other post-Civil War cotton and tobacco plantations where share and tenant farm units emerged, the hunting preserves continued the practice of fragmented cultivation in which small row-crop parcels were scattered in areas of the estate that had productive soil and good drainage. This patch agriculture, combined with the open pine forest managed by frequent controlled burnings, provided the border vegetation, food and cover necessary for quail habitation. The resulting pattern of dispersed fields and tenant dwellings became the universal settlement feature on the hunting plantations before World War II. The tenant farm system was discontinued at Tall Timbers in the 1940s, and most of the tenant dwellings were razed. But the small patch-crop pattern of cultivation essential to quail propagation was continued on a more efficient system of cash labor and mechanization (photo 2).

Crop farming is still carried on at Tall Timbers utilizing the field patterns and parcels of the old sharecropper farms which historically dotted the landscape. These patch and open fields follow the original network of hunting courses and drives. The northern half of the property, above County Road 12, is under corn cultivation. The southern portion of Tall Timbers includes patch fields planted in wheat, milo, partridge peas, brown top millet and other game and non-game bird crops.

Gannet Pond is a shallow, v-shaped, rain-fed basin encompassing 70 acres. Prior to the Civil War, when the property was known as Woodland Plantation, the pond was drained and ditched and planted in corn. After the war, with the

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decline in farming, the drain outlet was allowed to silt up and the impoundment was returned to a pond. However, during prolonged droughts the pond repeatedly dried up. In 1934 Henry Beadel built a small dam to raise the water level by three feet to encourage bird nesting along the borders of the pond. Near the northwest section of the pond flooding occurred and boat channels were cleared through the bushes and trees along the borders. Recent droughts have again dried up the pond as indicated in the enclosed photograph (photo 3).

With the shift from tenant to cash-laborers the settlement pattern on the plantation changed. Employee housing was moved closer to the main residence compound at the eastern edge of the estate (map 2). This 50-acre area also contains the farm and maintenance buildings and three brick, Neo-Colonial Revival style buildings constructed after Tall Timbers became a research station in 1963. In this main residence compound, 15 of the 22 buildings and structures on Tall Timbers are situated in three clusters, with the centrally-placed Beadel Homestead occupying five acres on a hill overlooking Lake Iamonia. West of the entrance drive are four workers' houses, two of which were former tenant houses that have been extensively remodeled. Southwest of the superintendent's house is a complex of old and new farm and maintenance buildings. All the wooden buildings in this complex are painted yellow with white trim to complement the main house. The three contemporary research station buildings are located east of the Beadel House. While their brick exterior fabric and Neo-Classical appearance are in contrast to the older buildings on the estate, their one-story height and mass are compatible. Furthermore, these modern research and educational facilities reflect the continuation of the historic use of the property in the study of fire ecology and wildlife conservation that began in the 1919-1940 period.

CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURAL RESOURCES

As a former hunting preserve, the Tall Timbers Plantation reflects a distinct pattern of spatial organization between the landscape and structural elements. This is reflected in the siting and orientation of the main house, tenant dwellings and fields, farm structures, hunting courses and the network of trails.

The most prominent structure on the plantation is the Beadel House, originally constructed by Edward Beadel circa 1895 and substantially altered and enlarged by his nephew Henry L. Beadel in 1921. The original building is believed to have been designed by Edward Beadel, a wealthy New York architect, and constructed at a cost of \$3,000.00. This two-story, frame vernacular building, resting on brick piers, is rectangular in form with a one-story kitchen ell off the northwest corner. The building is clad with clapboard siding with plain board trim. Fenestration is regular, with double hung 2/2

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sash flanked by shutters. Three interior chimneys project through the edge of the gabled roof. Originally, the main (south) facade was distinguished by a projecting porch with a shed roof supported by chamfered columns, with simple balustrade railings and wisteria trellises flanking the open central entrance. The front slope of the gable roof was broken by a single gabled dormer in the center (photo 4).

In 1921, Henry L. Beadel, also an architect by profession, remodeled the original building by extending the eaves of the front half of the roof to cover the porch, and replacing the original gable dormer with a three-bay shed dormer decorated by a low, projected balustrade. This provided additional bedroom space without altering the basic interior plan. At this time, too, the first floor area was substantially increased by the construction of a one-story, T-shaped addition at the east end of the main structure. This addition followed the original construction in design and materials, and the extension of the porch, including its balustrade and trellises, completed the harmonious linkage of old and new (photo 5).

The original house contained four main rooms on each floor with a central hall and rear U-shaped stairway. That basic plan is still intact. The main entrance, through glazed wooden double doors opens on a central hallway. To the west of the hall is the former parlor and dining room, which are now used as an office and lounge respectively. Across the hall is another office. A fourth room in the northeast corner has been altered into a storage room and bathroom. Although the original wainscoting in the hall and rooms has been maintained, veneer paneling, suspended acoustical tile ceilings and new floor covering, installed in 1983, have covered original surface details. Three large bedrooms upstairs are used today to accommodate visiting scholars (Plan 1).

The 1921 east wing, which contained a master bedroom (photo 6), a bath, and a large living room/study, has been carefully maintained with the large (36'x 40') living room/study preserved as a museum room containing Henry Beadel's books, photographic equipment and tools used for his research and collecting. The rustic character of the room is highlighted by the brown sweet gum paneling and heavy oak beamed 12-foot-high ceiling. A large seven-foot wide brick fireplace dominates the north end wall. This section of the room is a sitting area (photo 7). Hanging from the walls are mounted fish, bear heads, bee hives, and stuffed birds. On exhibit are Beadel's hand-made photo guns which held his movie and still cameras and some of the nature photography for which he became famous. The second half of the room was the workshop/office area, containing a large wooden work bench, book shelves, storage drawers, a desk and safe, along with a Mission style dining table and chairs. Beadel built two small "duck" boats in this room which were used for hunting and fishing, and in his extensive observation and study of wildlife.



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Screened by live oaks and magnolia trees, the Beadel house sits at the top of a long slope facing Lake Iamonia and commands a panoramic lake view. According to an 1890s photograph, the front lawn was landscaped with native grasses framed by pines and hardwoods. Other photographs taken in the first two decades of the twentieth century show a picket fence, with planted flowers, a vegetable garden, and imported palm trees. Today an open, rural lakeside vista is maintained (photo 8). Clusters of old magnolias grow near the east and west sides of the building. A row of large pecan trees lines the rear yard. Plantings of tea olive, dogwoods, and other ornamentals are scattered on both sides of the house. The main entrance drive leads from the main house some 2,000 feet north to County Road 12. Typical of other plantations, the dirt drive is lined with a canopy of live oaks.

The complex of outbuildings in close proximity to the Beadel House includes five contributing buildings dating from the 1895 development of the plantation: the Cook's House, the Pump House, the Hay Barn, a corn crib, and the dairy barn. These are simple, wood frame, gable roofed buildings with clapboard siding and board trim. Like the main house, they are painted yellow with white trim.

The Cook's House (photo 9) is a well-preserved example of the type of housing provided for Black household staff in its period. Rectangular in plan, it is of wood frame construction on brick piers, with metal, gabled roof. It is 16'x 31' with full length porches 5' wide on front and rear. Interior arrangement consists of two rooms of equal size separated by an interior wall (plan 2). A central chimney serves fireplaces in each room. Front and rear doors in each room provide access to the two porches that span the length of the building. A double hung, 2/2 window is centered in each end wall.

The Pump House (photo 9) is a small (11'x 15'), wood-frame utilitarian building designed in architectural harmony with the main house and other original outbuildings. The doorway, centered in one gable end, is surmounted by a fixed window with 2 vertical lites. It continues to serve its original purpose. The generating equipment currently in use is housed in an 8' shed extension at the rear of the building, although the Fairbanks Morse style-c 3 horsepower engine and generator believed to be the original equipment installed in 1895 is still in place and is functional, with its pulley system intact. A low, open shed attached to the east side of the building protects propane fuel tanks. Although of recent but uncertain date, these additions do not substantially impair the integrity or impinge on the character of the original building.

The Hay Barn (photo 10) retains its original exterior integrity, altered only by the attachment of a shed roof, supported by columns, on its south side.

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The interior was completely renovated in the 1970s to provide laboratory and educational facilities for the Tall Timbers Research Station. New interior partitions were installed to provide workshops, meeting rooms, and a lecture room. In order to seal the building for air conditioning, the barn door and hay mow shutters were permanently closed, and an access door was cut into the barn door with minimal intrusion on the original fabric.

The Beadel Corn Crib (photo 11) is a wood frame utilitarian structure on brick piers with a metal shed roof. It measures 46' x 16' and is clad with vertical corrugated metal over horizontal board siding. An irregular pattern of wood shuttered access doors and windows provides ventilation and interior access. Although its date of construction is uncertain, it is typical of such buildings dating from the 1920-1940 period.

The Beadel Dairy Barn (photo 12), probably dating from the 1900-1920 period, is a frame enclosure partially clad with horizontal weatherboard. It has a metal gabled roof and encloses a series of stalls and pens for livestock. Although somewhat deteriorated, it remains structurally sound.

Two tenant dwellings and two corn crib structures, believed to date from the 1895-1919 period, are all that remain from the twenty farm sites and two "quarters" compounds that once dotted the remainder of the plantation landscape. All are simple wood-frame structures set on brick or cement piers, with unpainted weatherboard siding and corrugated or sheet metal roofs. All are essentially intact, but in various stages of deterioration.

Tenant Dwelling No. 1 and corn crib (photos 13 & 14) are located on the point of land jutting into Lake Jamonia on the south side of the plantation (map 1). The dwelling, originally almost square (27'x 28'), was expanded in the early 1930s by a 10'x 28' lean-to addition at the rear. A shed-roofed porch shelters the two doors on the front elevation. The doors and the window shutters are missing. A brick fireplace and exterior chimney are located at one end. The interior arrangement consists of the original two rooms plus a kitchen and small bedroom in the rear addition (plan 2). The corn crib is typical of its type of southern farmstead outbuilding, i.e.: a simple, rectangular, gable roofed, enclosed structure with open-shed extension on either side. It is in an advanced state of deterioration.

Tenant Dwelling No. 2 (photo 15) is located approximately one-third of a mile northwest of the Beadel House. It is reported to have been moved to its present site from another location on the plantation in the late 1940s to replace an earlier building that had been demolished. The original chimney and front porch were not replaced, but the building retains its vertical plank doors and window shutters, and otherwise provides a good example of the

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architectural character of this type of building in its materials, construction methods, and workmanship. As in Tenant House No. 1, its simple, unadorned interior, devoid of plumbing, electrical fixtures and even window glass, attests to the living conditions prevailing among tenant farmers in the first half of the 20th century (plan 2).

The Tenant Barn structure (photo 16) is located in the northwest quadrant of the plantation. It differs from the tenant corn crib in that its gable roof covers the entire structure and only one shed wing remains open, the other having been enclosed at an early date if not originally. Its door and window sash are missing. Although badly deteriorated, it is still usable for storage.

Uniquely representative of the significance of Tall Timbers after 1921 are two small boats built by Henry L. Beadel and used in his studies of aquatic wildlife as well as for recreation purposes. Quite different in design, both are of wooden construction with canvas covered decks, and are reported to have been built by Beadel to his own plans and specifications in the office/workshop of his 1921 addition to the Beadel House. They testify to his skill and versatility as a craftsman.

The Punt (photo 17) is a flat-bottomed, square-ended craft with a center cockpit of plywood construction over oak frames. The forward and after decks are slightly crowned and covered in canvas. Punting or sculling crotches are centered over the bow and stern transoms. The hull is 12' in length, 4' in beam, and 10" in depth. A 3'4" x 4'8" plywood cabin enclosing the center cockpit is painted in camouflage pattern. A row of shuttered square ports provided visibility for wildlife observation.

The Duck Boat (photo 18) is a double ender with flared sides and flat bottom. It has a large, oval center cockpit with a full hatch cover in three separately removable segments. The deck and hatch covers are canvas covered. The hull has been covered in fiberglass, but is of plywood construction over oak frames. Its dimensions are length 15'6", beam 3'5", depth 12". Sophisticated and aesthetically pleasing in design and workmanship, it is typical of the small craft used by the wealthier sportsman in the area for hunting duck and other waterfowl.

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NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

The non-contributing resources are located within or near the Beadel House/Research Station complex, as indicated on map 2. They include the following:

The Vickers House (photo 19) is a one-story, wood-frame, rectangular building with drop siding and metal gable roof, built in 1950.

The Sloan House (photo 20) is a one-story, concrete-block ranch style residence, built circa 1950.

A Worker's House (photo 21) is a one-story, wood-frame residence dating from the historic period, but substantially altered and renovated in the 1950s. Similar in basic plan to a typical tenant house, it is larger in scale and finished in board and batten siding.

The Superintendent's House (photo 22) is also an older, one-story, wood-frame dwelling with weatherboard siding and metal gable roof. It was also substantially altered and renovated in the 1950s.

The Tall Timbers Research Station Archives (photo 23), built in 1961, is a small one-story, rectangular building with brick-veneer siding and metal gable roof.

The Herbert L. Stoddard Research Laboratory (photo 24) is a one-story, brick-veneer building constructed in 1969. An addition in 1972 resulted in a T-shaped building with Colonial Revival architectural details. It houses Research Station staff offices, laboratories, and a small museum and library.

The Quail Laboratory (photo 25) is a one-story brick-veneer building with an asphalt shingled, gable roof, built in 1983.

A Storage Shed (photo 26), which is partially enclosed, with metal gable roof over eight open storage bays used for protection of farm vehicles and equipment, was erected in the 1950s.

A Garage/Workshop (photo 27), also dating from the 1950s, is a wood-frame structure with metal, gabled roof. An enclosed workshop occupies one-third of the structure.

The WCTV Transmitting Station complex (photo 28), includes the two-story glass and brick-veneer office and transmitter station building constructed in 1975,

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a 1,010 foot tall steel transmission tower erected in 1960 to replace an earlier tower, and a detached satellite dish antenna.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

An archaeological reconnaissance survey of Tall Timbers Plantation by the Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties, Florida Department of State, was completed in 1979, and reported in Tesar, Louis D., 1980. A total of twenty-six sites were recorded (Map 3). On the basis of the surface indications, test excavations were conducted at three sites, two of which (8LE471 and 8LE473) were considered to be potentially eligible for National Register listing, pending further investigation to determine site boundaries and confirmation of their potential to yield significant information.

In addition, the property contains a number of potentially significant historic archaeological sites. Henry Vickers, a former plantation worker who resided on Tall Timbers from his birth in 1891 to 1981, recalled in a series of interviews the location and names of various tenant fields and related buildings. Vickers identified 17 tenant homesites, six sugar cane mill sites, three tenant cemeteries, and a former tenant church site. All the homesites were in the upland sections of the plantation near or along the hunting drives. Outbuildings such as barns, corn cribs, oxen and mule sheds were located near the dwellings.

Intensive archaeological survey will be required before an analysis and evaluation of these archaeological resources can be made.

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Summary Statement

Tall Timbers Plantation is significant under Criterion A, in the area of agriculture as an example of the late 19th and early 20th century evolution of a former cotton plantation landscape to that of a private quail hunting preserve and tenant farming area, and in the areas of conservation, education, and science for its association with early experimentation in wildlife and timber resource management. It is significant under Criterion B for its historic association with nationally prominent conservation pioneer Henry L. Beadel. It is significant under Criterion C for the structural resources that reflect in their architecture, materials and workmanship the use of the property during the period 1895 to 1940.

Historical Context

The area encompassed by this nomination was originally developed for agricultural production in the mid-nineteenth century by Griffin W. Holland, and was known before the Civil War as Woodlawn Plantation. One of Leon County, Florida's largest plantations, it produced 225 bales of cotton and 7,000 bushels of corn in 1860. This basic use of the land continued through several changes of ownership in the post-Civil War period.

By 1890, however, the conversion of former cotton plantations to private hunting preserves had become a common phenomenon throughout the southeastern states. The gradual diversification of agriculture, with an emphasis on food crops rather than cotton production, made large tracts of open, unused land available at attractive prices. The steady encroachment of ground cover made them excellent natural habitats for wildlife, including small game birds and animals. The expansion of railroad transportation made them readily accessible from northern centers of population and prosperity. These factors combined to lure scores of wealthy sportsmen away from harsh northern weather to the milder climate and invigorating outdoor recreation of the southern winter hunting season.

In Leon County, as in adjacent areas of Florida and South Georgia, the specific attraction was found in quail hunting. By the turn of the century, some 10,000 acres in Leon County had been acquired by such prominent and wealthy northern owners as Edward Beadel, Clement A. Griscom, and Alfred Heywood Mason for use as private hunting preserves. In the early 20th century, this land use became predominant in northern Leon County, and it continues in limited areas or in modified form at the present time.

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The maintenance of a productive quail habitat required careful attention to land use management. A pattern of "patch" farming, interspersed with open pine woodlands in which the undergrowth was controlled by annual burning, soon developed. Thus, the practice of patch farming on absentee-owned hunting preserves became an important factor in the tenant farming economy that prevailed throughout the South prior to World War II, while the systematic study of and experimentation with woodland management, including the use of controlled burning, contributed to the early establishment and growth of the conservation movement in the United States.

Under the ownership of Edward Beadel from 1895 to 1919, and his nephew and heir, Henry L. Beadel, throughout the remainder of the historic period and beyond, the Tall Timbers Plantation played a significant role in these developments. Although Tall Timbers is no longer used as a hunting preserve, it continues to serve its historic role in the area of wildlife and forestry management research and experimentation as the site of the Tall Timbers Research Station.

Historic Significance: Criterion A, Agriculture

Tall Timbers Plantation reflects today the land use patterns that prevailed throughout the period 1895-1940. When Edward Beadel acquired the property in 1895, the former cotton plantation originally developed by Griffin W. Holland had already been converted by subsequent owners to the tenant farm system. Census records indicate that five tenant families were located on the property, and the characteristic pattern of crop lands and tenant housing interspersed with woodlands was well established. As this land use pattern was ideally suited to Beadel's interest in maintaining the property as a hunting preserve, it continued throughout the following half century. The one-acre tenant homesites were adjacent to or within walking distance from the patch fields. A full-size tenant farm contained 40 acres (in irregularly-shaped parcels) and a house. Rent averaged \$100 a year. Some tenants rented "half-farms" of 20 acres while others rented two farms, or 80 acres. Most tenants paid rent in cash. A few families, however, paid with shares of their cotton or corn crop. Farms were separated by the irregularly-shaped hunting courses. Some corn was grown in the hammock areas near Lake Iamonia, but the largest island was reserved for cattle grazing. North of County Road 12, which runs east to west and divides the plantation, two tenant family burial sites are located - one near Butler Gate and the other south of Gerald Field. Neither has any remnants or marked graves. Another graveyard was located

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south of the Beadel House. Around the turn of the century Mrs. Edward Beadel had a small tenant church constructed near the plantation's entrance drive. This church was torn down and later replaced by the Hickory Hill Primitive Baptist Church located a mile east of Tall Timbers. When Henry L. Beadel inherited the property from his uncle in 1919, he continued to combine the tenant farm pattern with his increasingly intensive efforts toward scientific wildlife habitat management. An estimated 20 different tenant families worked the Tall Timbers croplands during the 1920s and 1930s, although the number of tenants varied from year to year, from a high of 13 in 1920 to a low of four in 1936. The final demise of the tenant farm system on the property took place in the 1940s.

Several factors contributed to the decline of the tenant farm system. One was the impact of the cotton boll weevil infestation which, combined with the efforts of state and county agricultural agents to restrict cotton cultivation as a means of improving soil conditions, had by the mid-1920s virtually eliminated cotton as a cash crop in north Florida. Another was the general depression in agricultural prices during the 1920s and 1930s. By the mid-1930s several tenant fields were abandoned and overgrown with broom sedge and briers, as their former occupants sought better opportunities in other areas.

At Tall Timbers, as on many similar hunting preserve plantations, the tenant farm system was subsequently replaced by wage labor employment. But because of Henry Beadel's continued activity in the field of habitat management, which led to the establishment of the Tall Timbers Research Station, the basic pattern of land use on the property has remained essentially unchanged. Although farming methods are now mechanical, and quail are now studied for scientific purposes rather than hunted as game, the Tall Timbers landscape continues to reflect the impact of the era of combined tenant farming and hunting preserve land usage.

Historic Significance: Criterion A, conservation, education, and science;  
Criterion B, association with persons significant in the conservation movement

Under the ownership of Henry L. Beadel after 1919, Tall Timbers Plantation played an increasingly significant role in the scientific study of woodland and wildlife habitat management. Beadel's activities throughout the 1920s and 1930s, in association with Herbert L. Stoddard, Sr. and other prominent conservationists, established the base upon which Tall Timbers Research, Inc. later developed its present day ecological research station.



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The hunting preserve developed by Edward Beadel at Tall Timbers in the 1890s flourished in the early 20th century, using the pattern of small tenant crop farming interspersed with open pine woodlands that prevailed throughout the region. Annual burning of the undergrowth was used as the basic woodland management procedure. These practices produced an exceptionally fine environment for quail. Henry Beadel was familiar with these practices, having regularly visited and hunted on Leon County plantations.

The Beadel family fortune had been made by his grandfather, Henry Beadel Sr., and was based on New York City real estate holdings. Henry, his father, and his uncle Edward were all architects, but their private income allowed them to actively pursue their common interest in wildlife. The Beadels began quail hunting in the Florida red hills in the early 1890s. Henry's father purchased part of Live Oak Plantation in 1894. His uncle, Edward, purchased Tall Timbers in 1895. The younger Beadel visited Leon County every winter from 1894 until he inherited Tall Timbers in 1919, when he became a permanent resident.

Henry Beadel's interest in natural history was very much in the tradition of his fellow New Yorker and naturalist, Theodore Roosevelt. As a young boy growing up at the Cedars, the family's 36-acre estate on rural Staten Island, Beadel was an avid sportsman. He began a life-long study of wild animals that increasingly concentrated on bird life. As a member of a group that eventually established the present Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences, Beadel associated with many noted botanists and naturalists in the Northeast.

Henry Beadel had enough of the Puritan ethic to make his avocation as much work as most people's professions. He retired from practicing architecture in his mid-forties. In the succeeding four decades of his life, Beadel devoted his time to wildlife research. His still and motion picture film libraries on quail and other birds are among the most outstanding in the Southeast. In 1962, Florida Governor Farris Bryant formally recognized Beadel for his contributions in wildlife photography.

Henry Beadel was never an absentee plantation owner. Although he traveled extensively and owned a hunting lodge in Quebec, Canada, Beadel was a permanent Florida resident. He continued to hunt until the day of his death, but his papers demonstrate a definite lack of interest in making his plantation a multiple-use business.

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At about the time that Henry Beadel acquired the Tall Timbers property by inheritance from his uncle, the federal government embarked on an extensive program of forest conservation which, based on the assumption that fire was the major agent of forest destruction, excluded annual burning as a woodland management practice. Like many other plantation owners, Beadel succumbed to the arguments of the government conservationists and followed their policies against annual burning. Within three years, the pine woods on many plantations throughout the region had become choked with bush and undergrowth, and the quail population had decreased dramatically.

In 1924, Beadel joined with a number of other plantation owners to sponsor a scientific investigation into the decrease in quail population in cooperation with the United States Bureau of Biological Survey. To lead the field investigation, the Bureau selected Herbert L. Stoddard, Sr., the leading ornithologist at the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Without benefit of formal academic training, Stoddard had developed a childhood interest in wildlife and woodcraft into an established professional career. Born in Rockford, Illinois in 1889, his boyhood years were spent in central Florida, where his early fascination with wildlife emerged. Back in Rockford by 1900, he learned the art of taxidermy through self-directed study and experimentation. Later as a farm laborer in Wisconsin, he managed to continue his field studies of wildlife in the summer months, and worked as a taxidermist in the winter. He joined the staff of the Milwaukee Public Museum in 1910 and moved to the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago three years later, where his career was temporarily interrupted by Army service in World War I. In 1920, he returned to the Milwaukee Public Museum, where he was given responsibilities for all work involving ornithology.

Throughout his museum career, Stoddard's work had combined taxidermy, laboratory analysis, and field collection and investigation of all types of wildlife. His experience, his publications in professional journals, and his participation in the American Ornithologists' Union and other organizations had established his reputation. But his interests had increasingly focused on field investigation of bird life. Thus, he saw the Cooperative Quail Investigation as an opportunity to redirect his career along these lines.

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The initial quail habitat experiments were carried out on Colonel Lewis S. Thompson's plantation, the Hall, located just above the Georgia-Florida border, near Tall Timbers, and on the adjoining plantation, Birdsong, owned by the brothers E. V. and Ray Komarek. As a part of the program, and under Stoddard's tutelage, Henry Beadel conducted experiments on the effects of fire on wildlife habitat at Tall Timbers. He later recalled his own experiments:

So the frequency of burning experiments [on Tall Timbers] consisted simply in excluding fire from selected plots for terms of one, two or three consecutive years. Three years of exclusion were enough to convince me that the old-time settlers knew very well, in fact better than some of us do now, what they were about when they burned yearly.

But these experiments also involved the constant monitoring, meticulous recording, and careful analysis of their effects on wildlife habitation, which Beadel pursued with diligence and dedication.

The results of Beadel's experiments were entirely consistent with those experienced by Stoddard and the Komarek brothers, which Stoddard published in 1931 in The Bobwhite Quail: Its Habits, Preservation and Increase, by which he gained a worldwide reputation as the father of modern game management. These findings were later summarized by E.V. Komarek:

Stoddard pointed out that the abundance of quail in the red hills was due to man-made land patterns created by farming, forestry, and regular burning of the woodlands. He demonstrated that with the proper type of land management, the Bobwhite could be increased and that the Forest Service's fire exclusion policy had an adverse effect on quail habitat. He thus outlined the principles of what is now termed habitat management.

After the conclusion of the Cooperative Quail Investigation, Beadel suggested the formation of the Cooperative Quail Study Association as a non-profit consulting service to the plantations in game management. Beadel represented the plantation owners as Secretary-Treasurer. Stoddard was named director with E. V. Komarek as assistant director. From 1931 to 1943, the Association worked with the owners of over 100 hunting plantations from North Carolina to Arkansas in establishing proper forestry, agricultural and prescribed burning practices. The Association was disbanded due to World War II and the desire of both Stoddard and Komarek to enter private consultant businesses.

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Today at Tall Timbers quail are no longer hunted, but tagged for study. Population biology and habitat management are the two primary areas of research. Biological studies range from earthworms, to tree frogs, to small mammals, with a major emphasis on ornithology. The oldest of these studies (begun in 1955) uses bird casualties from the TV tower located on the site. Habitat studies range from experiments with controlling aquatic vegetation on the 70-acre Gannet Pond to the 84 half-acre fire plots which were laid out in 1959 to study the long-term effects of fire on pine woodlands. Ongoing studies in 26 acres are being conducted by both professional and amateur scientists. Tall Timbers has sponsored 15 science conferences with over 400 authors contributing to the published proceedings. Thus, the studies and the legacy left by earlier field experiments and the men associated with them on Tall Timbers and neighboring plantations have had a major influence in shaping quail management on the Southeast quail preserves and providing a greater understanding of the ecology of the Coastal Plains region.

Historic Significance: Criterion C, Architecture

The contributing architectural resources on the Tall Timbers property are significant for their reflection of their historic occupation and use, and their integrity of location, design, setting, materials and workmanship. The Beadel House and its complex of outbuildings are in many respects typical of the residential and utilitarian buildings provided by game plantation owners for their own use, and for the use of their household and plantation management staffs, and for the support of their hunting activities. The outlying tenant houses and corn cribs are examples of housing and working facilities that reflect the tenant farm experience.

The Beadel House, even as modified and expanded by Henry L. Beadel during the historic period, is a relatively modest example of its type, despite the fact that Beadel was one of the few plantation owners to establish permanent residence in the region. A frame vernacular building of wooden construction, its exterior architectural detailing is tastefully designed and well executed, but reflects Beadel's unpretentious personality as well as his professional ability as an architect. Its most distinctive interior features, found in the east wing addition living and workshop spaces, reflect his avid pursuit of his vocational career as a naturalist during the period in which the main block of the building provided accommodations for hunting parties and other visitors. With only minor interior modification in recent years, it retains its integrity of materials and workmanship as well as its southern hunting lodge character to an unusually high degree.

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The Cook's House is a good example of the type of housing provided for household staff on the game plantations. Similar in basic plan to the tenant house, of simple frame vernacular design, it is well built of quality materials. Unaltered and well maintained throughout its lifetime, it also retains its historic architectural integrity and residential character although it is currently used as a storage facility.

Despite the interior modification of the hay barn, it and the pump house, corn crib, and dairy barn that complete the historic Beadel House complex likewise retain their historic appearance and character, as well as their spatial and visual relationship to the Main House and Cook's House.

In contrast, the outlying tenant houses and corn cribs, all that remain of some twenty tenant farmsteads that once dotted the Tall Timbers landscape, provide graphic evidence of the living and working conditions endured by tenant farmers and their families throughout the period of significance. Of wood frame construction, these structures are unpainted and unadorned, providing little more than basic shelter for housing and storage purposes. The survival of the two tenant houses despite sporadic and inadequate maintenance over the years ironically attests to the durability of both the original materials and the basic, unsophisticated workmanship involved in the construction of the houses. Their one-story, double-pen plan and wood-shuttered windows, lacking either glass or screening, and the absence of electrical and plumbing facilities are typical of the other tenant dwellings on the property that have been burned or demolished. The corn cribs, despite their present deteriorated state, continue to exhibit their basic structural design and construction qualities as well as their utilitarian character.

Finally, the two small craft built by Henry Beadel in the office/workshops of his home reflect the dual nature of his use of the property. The Duck Boat, sophisticated in both design and execution, is typical of the type used by sportsmen of means during the historic period of the private hunting preserve. As such it is a tangible reminder of this phase of the Tall Timbers Plantation experience. In contrast, the Punt provided the vehicle by which Beadel conducted the waterfowl and wetlands fauna elements of his wildlife studies. Its elementary design, simple construction, and ungainly appearance reflect its utilitarian role, and one can readily imagine the discomfort Beadel endured in the cramped confines of its cabin, under the broiling Florida sun, in the dedicated pursuit of his scientific avocation.

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Thus, the contributing resources reflect both the tenant farm and the quail plantation land uses on Tall Timbers Plantation during the historic period 1895 to 1940, and its association with the scientific study of wildlife and forest resource management and conservation.

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Published Works:

Beadel, Henry L. "Fire Impressions." Proceedings Tall Timbers Fire Ecology Conference. Tallahassee: Tall Timbers Research Station, 1962.

Brueckheimer, William R. "Leon County Hunting Plantation Survey Final Report." Tallahassee, Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board, 1988

Komarek, E.V., Sr. "History of Prescribed and Controlled Burning in Wildlife Management in the South." Prescribed Fire and Wildlife in Southern Forests Conference, Gene W. Wood, ed. Georgetown: Belle W. Baruch Forest Science Institute of Clemson University, 1981.

Paisley, Clifton L. From Cotton to Quail: An Agricultural Chronicle of Leon County, Florida, 1860-1967. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1968.

Stoddard, Herbert L., Sr. The Bobwhite Quail: Its Habits, Preservation and Increase. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons 1931.

Miscellaneous Sources:

H. L. Beadel Papers and Account Books. Tall Timbers Research Station Archives, Tallahassee, Florida.

Brueckheimer, William R., and Komarek, E. V., Sr., "History of Tall Timbers" (manuscript in progress). Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board, Tallahassee, Florida.

Komarek, E. V., Sr., interview by Kevin McGorty and C. Lea Wolfe, October 3, 1984. Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board, Tallahassee, Florida.

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UTM COORDINATES

- A. 16 764160 3392500
- B. 16 764160 3395820
- C. 16 764500 3396660
- D. 16 766800 3396600
- E. 16 767600 3395680
- F. 16 767600 3392500



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Photographs 1

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The following identification information is the same for all photographs, except as otherwise indicated for photo number 4:

1. Tall Timbers Plantation
2. Tallahassee vicinity, Leon County, Florida
3. Kevin McGorty
4. 1988
5. Historic Tallahassee Preservation Board

Photo No.

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 1 . | 6. Typical hunting course trail                               |
|     | 7. 1 of 28  |
| 2.  | 6. Typical cultivated field                                   |
|     | 7. 2 of 28  |
| 3.  | 6. Gannet Pond, east end, looking west                        |
|     | 7. 3 of 28  |
| 4.  | 3. Unknown  |
|     | 4. c.1913   |
|     | 6. Edward Beadel House, south facade, looking north           |
|     | 7. 4 of 28  |
| 5.  | 6. Henry L. Beadel House, southwest corner, looking northeast |
|     | 7. 5 of 28  |
| 6.  | 6. Beadel House, Master bedroom, looking south                |
|     | 7. 6 of 28  |
| 7.  | 6. Beadel House, Henry Beadel office/workshop, looking north  |
|     | 7. 7 of 28  |
| 8.  | 6. Beadel House grounds, looking south from main entrance     |
|     | 7. 8 of 28  |

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Photographs 2  
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9. 6. Pump House and Cook's House looking west  
7. 9 of 28
10. 6. Hay Barn, looking northwest  
7. 10 of 28
11. 6. Beadel Corn Crib, looking northwest  
7. 11 of 28
12. 6. Beadel Dairy Barn, looking southwest  
7. 12 of 28
13. 6. Tenant Dwellings #1, looking northwest  
7. 13 of 28
14. 6. Tenant Corn Crib, looking north  
7. 14 of 28
15. 6. Tenant Dwelling #2, looking west  
7. 15 of 28
16. 6. Tenant Barn, looking northwest  
7. 16 of 28
17. 6. Punt Boat  
7. 17 of 28
18. 6. Duck Boat  
7. 18 of 28
19. 6. Vickers House, southeast corner looking  
northwest  
7. 19 of 28
20. 6. Sloan House, east elevation, looking west  
7. 20 of 28
21. 6. Worker's House, east elevation, looking west  
7. 21 of 28

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Photographs 3

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_ Tall Timbers Plantation





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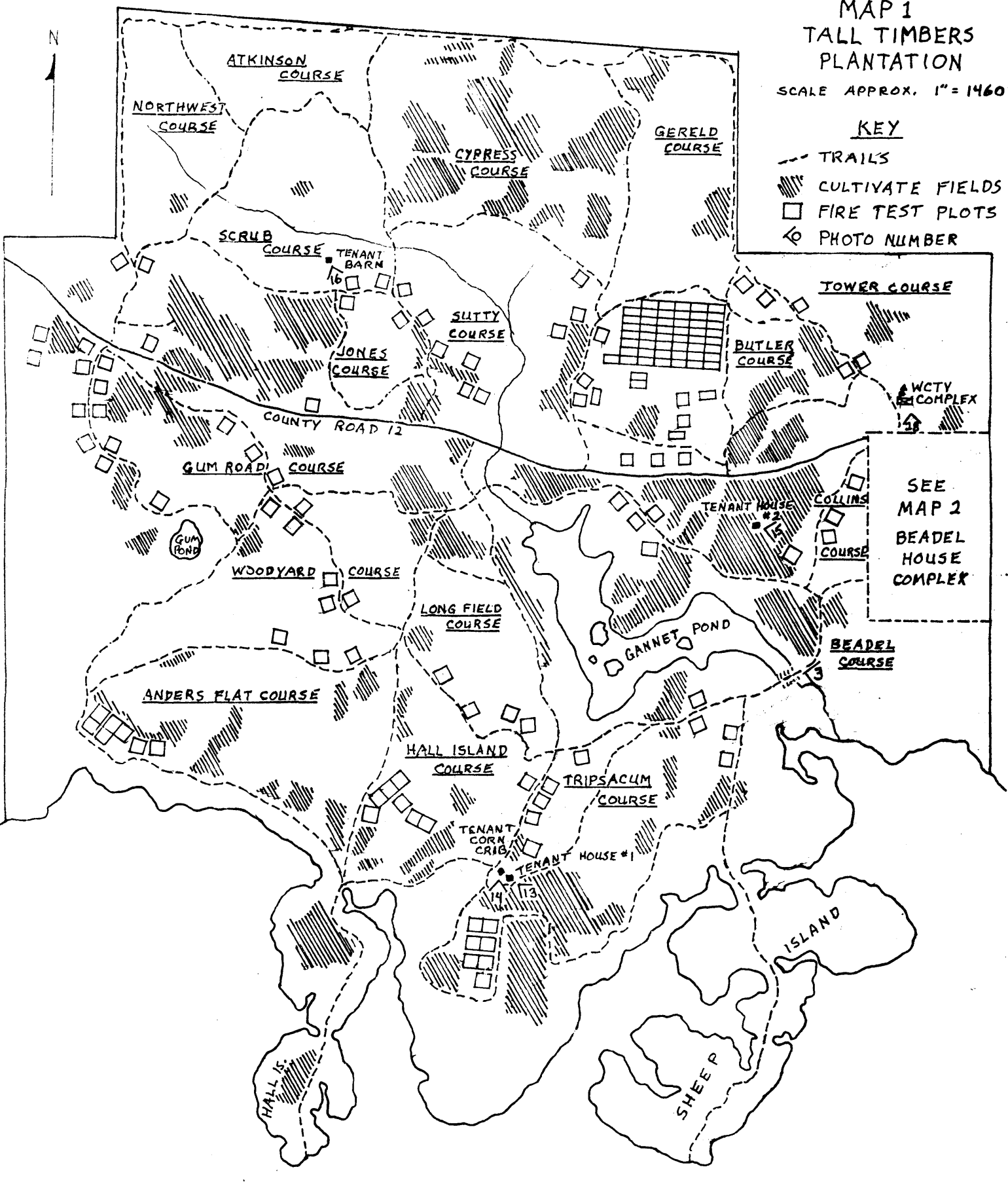
- 22.           6. Superintendent's House, east elevation,  
              7. looking west  
              7. 22 of 28
- 23.           6. Tall Timbers Research Archives Building,  
              7. southwest corner, looking northeast  
              7. 23 of 28
- 24.           6. Stoddard Research Laboratory, southwest  
              7. corner, looking northeast  
              7. 24 of 28
- 25.           6. Quail Laboratory, west facade, looking east  
              7. 25 of 28
- 26.           6. Storage Shed, from south side, looking north  
              7. 26 of 28
- 27.           6. Garage/Workshop, southeast corner, looking  
              7. north  
              7. 27 of 28
- 28.           6. WCTV Station Complex, southeast corner,  
              7. looking north  
              7. 28 of 28

# MAP 1 TALL TIMBERS PLANTATION

SCALE APPROX. 1" = 1460'

## KEY

-  TRAILS
-  CULTIVATE FIELDS
-  FIRE TEST PLOTS
-  PHOTO NUMBER



SEE  
MAP 2  
BEADEL  
HOUSE  
COMPLEX

L A K E I A M O N I A

COUNTY ROAD 12

20

SLOAN HOUSE

VICKERS HOUSE

19

WORKER'S HOUSE

21

# MAP 2

## TALL TIMBERS PLANTATION

### BEADEL HOUSE COMPLEX

SCALE APPROX. 1" = 210'  
BUILDINGS NOT TO SCALE

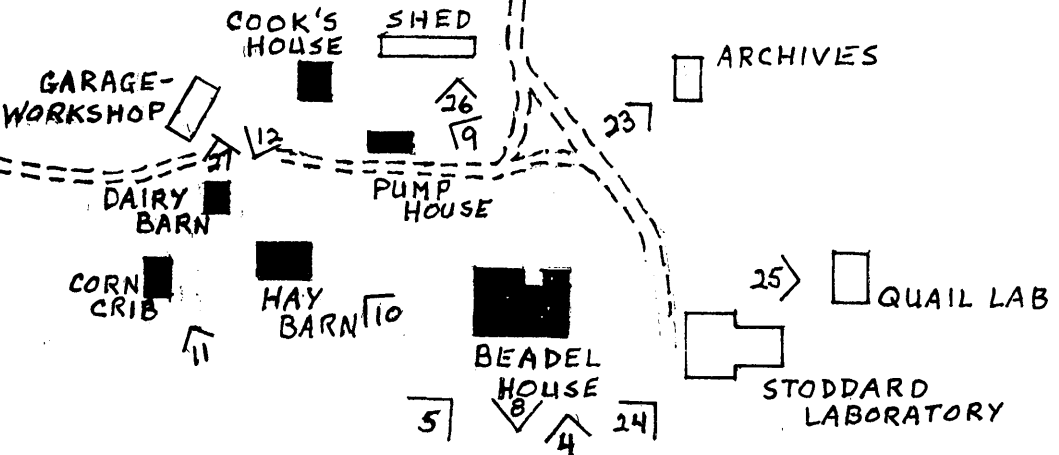


SUPERINTENDENT'S HOUSE

22

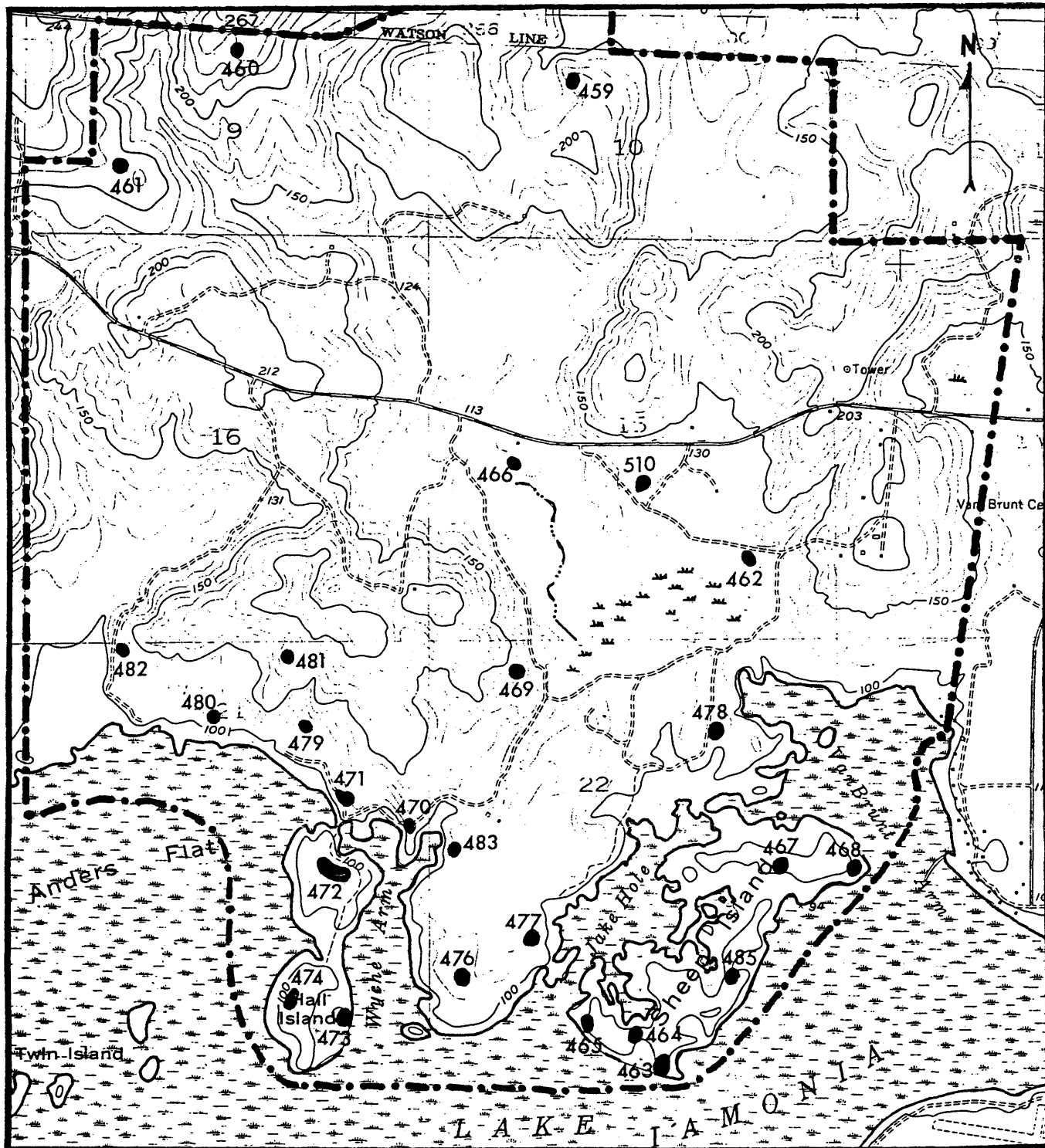
MAIN ENTRANCE DRIVE

- CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES
- NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES
- DIRT DRIVES



# MAP 3 TALL TIMBERS PLANTATION

Archaeological Sites Identified by reconnaissance Survey



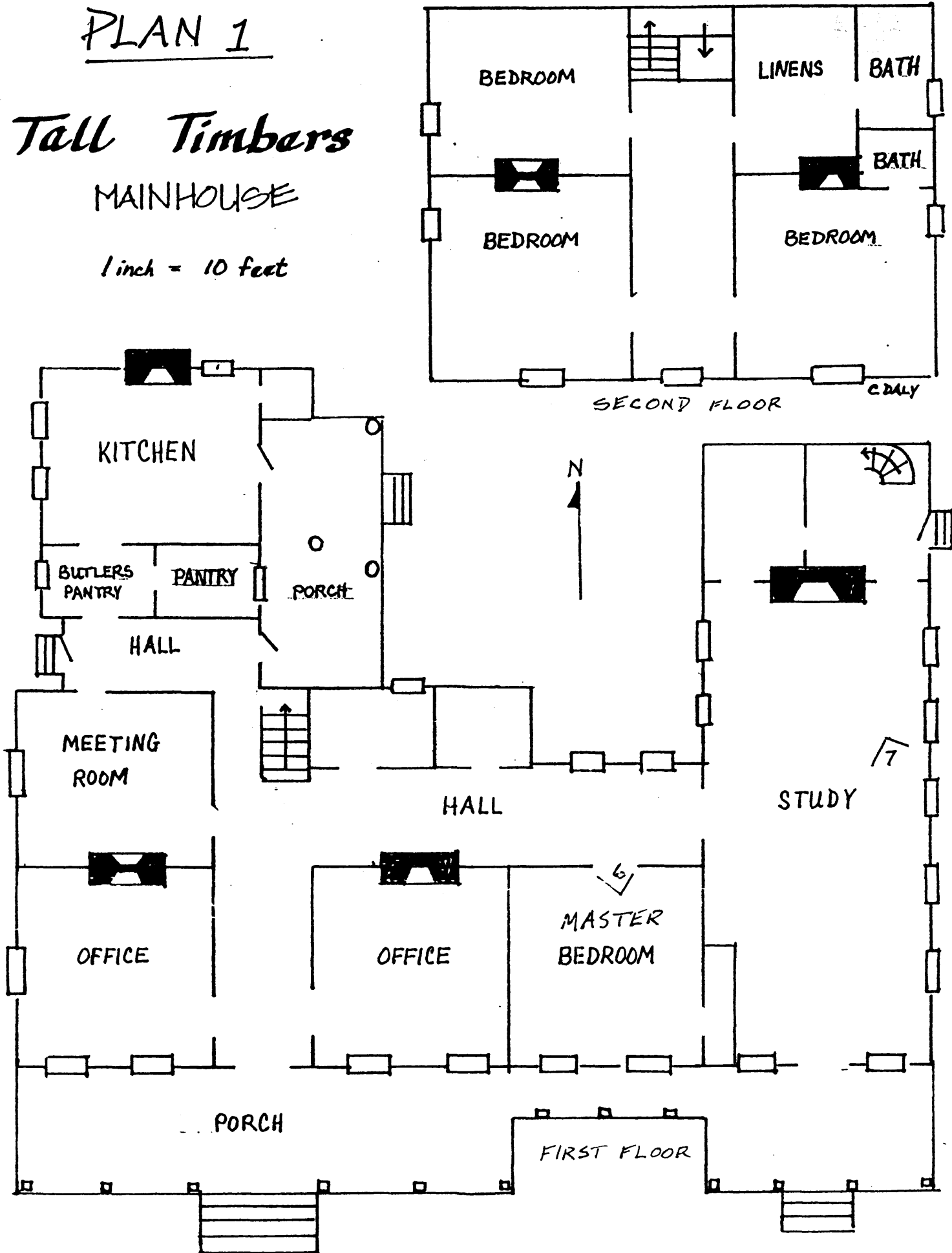
Map 36. Site locations in Survey Area 2 in northern Leon County, Florida. (From: Tesar, Louis D., An Archaeological Survey of Selected Portions of Leon County, Florida, Division of Archives, History and Records Management Miscellaneous Report Series, No. 49, December, 1980)

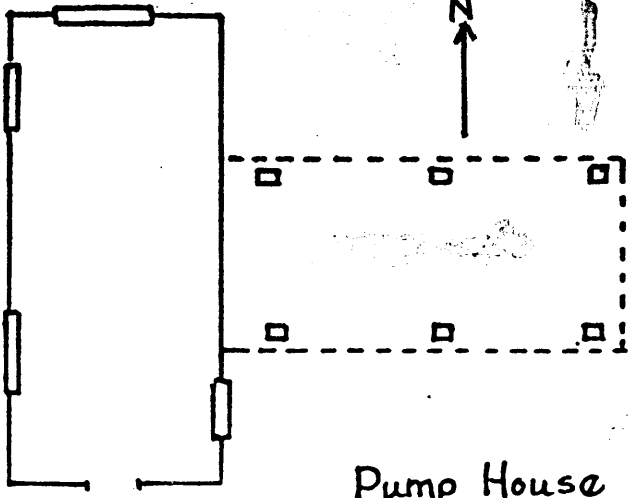
# PLAN 1

## Tall Timbers

MAINHOUSE

1 inch = 10 feet

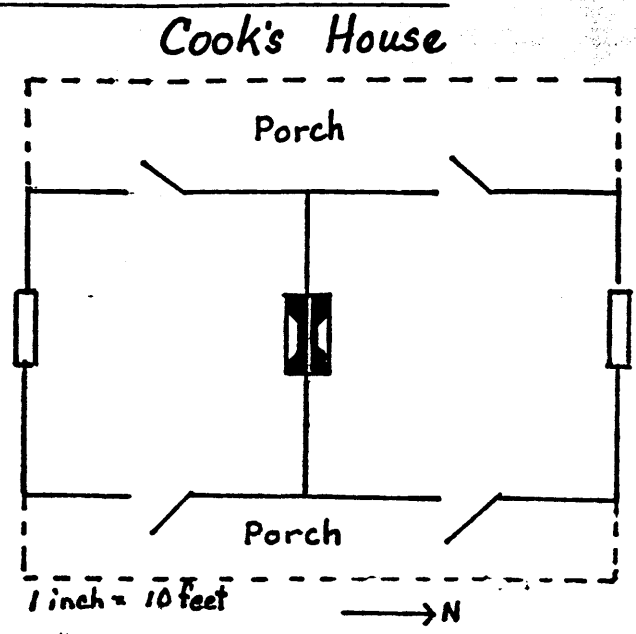




Pump House

1 inch = 10 feet

FMSF TT3



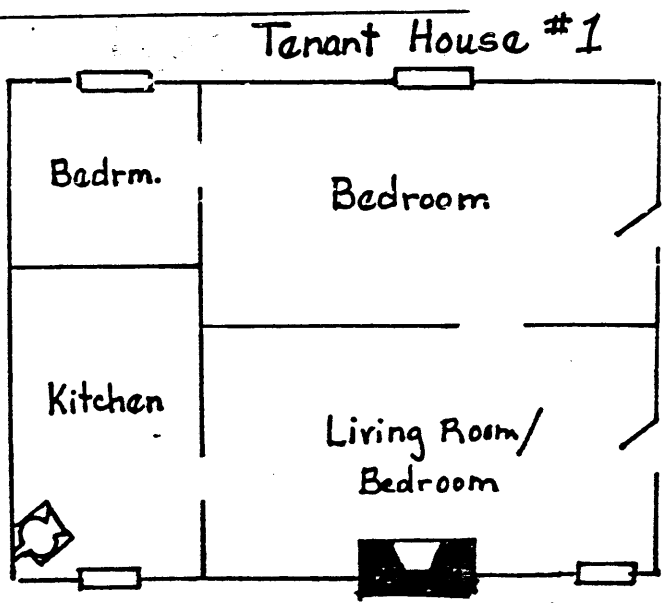
Cook's House

1 inch = 10 feet

FMSF TT2

# PLAN 2

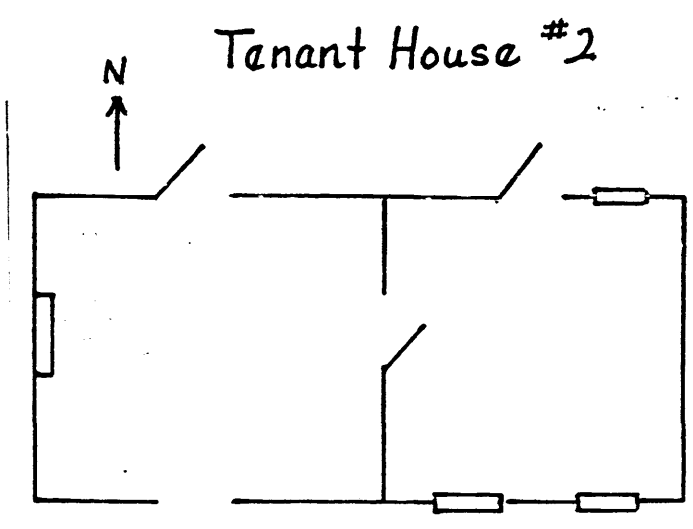
## TALL TIMBERS PLANTATION



Tenant House #1

1 inch = 10 feet

FMSF TT5



Tenant House #2

1 inch equals 10 feet

FMSF #17