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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name John Rountree Log House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number State Route 192
city, town Twin City 107 () vicinity of
county Emanuel code 137
state Georgia code GA zip code 30471

(N/A) not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property:

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

Number of Resources within Property:	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of previous listing: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Mark R. Edwards _____ Date 6/25/97

Mark R. Edwards
State Historic Preservation Officer

In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register Ma J M. W. J. 8/15/97
 - () determined eligible for the National Register _____
 - () determined not eligible for the National Register _____
 - () removed from the National Register _____
 - () other, explain: _____
 - () see continuation sheet
- for _____ Date _____
Keeper of the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling

Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural field, agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions:

Vacant/Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Other: saddlebag log house

Materials:

foundation	Concrete: block
walls	Wood: log
roof	Metal
other	Brick

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The John Rountree Log House is located on a level 10-acre wooded lot situated between U.S. Route 80 and State Route 192 within the Twin City town limits. The house is a one-story, three-bay, double-pen saddlebag log house with a rear shed addition. Built in c.1830, The house measures approximately 37 feet across the front and 32 feet along the side, from the front porch to the rear shed rooms. The logs of the house are joined with diamond-notching. The logs are not chinked but sealed with wood battens applied mostly on the interior. A large brick chimney rises through the center of the house and heats both the north and south rooms. The house is set on hewn pine sills and raised on concrete-block piers. The full-width front porch features chamfered posts and the side-gable roof is covered with sheet metal. The house has never had plumbing, though there is evidence of a rudimentary electrical system that may have been introduced early in this century.

The front and rear floor sills are 10" x 10" hewn-pine members, the front (west) sill is continuous for the full width (37') of the house, proving that the house was built in a single stage. The south sill is similarly continuous and supports the front porch and confirms that the front porch is original to the building. Floor joists are 8" round, peeled pine logs (puncheons) spaced at approximately 24" on center and flattened on their top surface to receive the wood flooring above.

The entire rear (east) wall framing and siding is a mixture of reused and later material and is in poor condition. The original wood siding on the shed room end walls is circular sawn pine showing a 5" exposure and installed with cut nails. The circular sawn pattern on the wood siding suggests that

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Section 7--Description

perhaps the shed rooms are not original to the house as does the discontinuity of the sill log. Additionally, the lack of weathering of the logs on the west wall of the dwelling indicate that this wall, if it was an exterior wall to the house, did not remain so for any significant length of time. The shed rooms, therefore, were probably added no later than c.1845-1850. The eastward expansion of the shed rooms is considered to be an early 20th-century (c.1925) modification to the house.

The front porch is original to the house. The porch floor framing, which is similar to the main block of the house, is constructed of peeled pine logs. These hand-hewn logs are 9 " wide and taper to achieve a sloped porch floor. Porch flooring is 6" wide pine and is in fair to poor condition. Three original porch posts with chamfered corners remain.

The interior plan comprises two rooms of roughly equal size on each side of the chimney. A front vestibule connects both rooms. The south room provides access to the shed addition. The plain interior features wood floors and original interior doors, which are wide-width board and batten doors. The south front door still retains a portion of an original HL wrought-iron hinge. The center front door fits awkwardly into a modified (or added) frame. There are three window openings in the entire house. The north window is not historic and is in poor condition. The window in the south wall is fitted with a single batten shutter, similar to the treatment of the north window. The window opening in the east wall of the rear shed room retains neither sash nor shutter.

Timber on the property surrounding the John Rountree house was harvested in the early 1960s. The current second-growth timber is a mixture of 12" to 15" pine and slightly smaller hardwoods. Trees immediately surrounding the house site include pecan, cherry and elms. The under story of the entire site is filled in with palmetto, gooseberry, saw grass and small dogwood trees. A row of mature dogwood trees are located at regular intervals along the drive. No outbuildings survive.

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): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Architecture
Exploration/Settlement

Period of Significance:

c.1830-1858

Significant Dates:

c.1830 - John Rountree built a saddlebag log house in Emanuel County.
1845-1850 - Rear shed addition constructed.
c.1925 - Rear shed addition enlarged.

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Not known.

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The John Rountree Log House is significant under the theme of architecture because it is an outstanding example of an early 19th-century log saddlebag dwelling. The saddlebag is among the most distinctive and easily recognizable house types in Georgia. It derives its name from a central chimney flanked by two rooms. The rooms are usually square and the roof is usually gabled. Two subtypes include those with exterior doors to each room and those with an center entrance vestibule.

Saddlebag houses were most commonly built during three periods, the 1830s-1840s, 1870s-1900, and from the period of mill village construction, 1910-1930, with most examples surviving from the last period. Few saddlebag buildings survive from the earliest period.

The diamond notching of the Rountree house is an unusual method of construction in Georgia. (Half-dovetail notching is the type of notching most common, especially in North Georgia.) Less than ten examples of diamond notching are known to survive. These are located mostly in the coastal plain with three located as far north as Wilkes County. Diamond notching was most likely brought to Georgia by migrants from the eastern Virginia-North Carolina border and, to a lesser extent, the Delaware Valley. Diamond notching as a method of construction in Georgia ceased after the middle of the 19th century.

The John Rountree Log House is also significant in the area of exploration and settlement because the house is among the oldest surviving buildings in Emanuel County and represents either first or second generation settlement in the region. Emanuel County was established in 1812 in the northern tier of Georgia's pine barren region. It remained rural through most of the 19th century and it was not until the 1880s that the railroad entered the county. Prior to 1860, most residents of Emanuel County lived on small subsistence farms. John Rountree, the builder of the house, was born in Emanuel County in 1809 and died in 1858. He was an early resident of the county and a member of one of Emanuel County's pioneer families.

National Register Criteria

A and C.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

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Section 8--Statement of Significance

Period of significance (justification)

The c.1830-1858 period of significance spans the 28-year period in which John Rountree resided at the log house, beginning in c.1830 when he constructed the dwelling and ending with his death in 1858. During this period, the house attained the characteristics that qualify it for listing in the National Register.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The Rountree Log House is the only contributing resource associated the property. There are no noncontributing resources located on the property.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

John Rountree, builder of the log house, was named for his grandfather, who was born in Pennsylvania. John Rountree, Sr., emigrated to Tar River, North Carolina, then to Greene County, Georgia, and finally to Emanuel County, Georgia. Canoochee Baptist Church minutes record John Rountree, Sr.'s death in Emanuel County. Only two of his six children, Joshua and George Rountree, arrived with him in Emanuel County. Joshua had six children, including John Rountree who built the log house. The house may have been built at the time of John's marriage to Nancy Brown Kent in 1832.

Two rear shed rooms were added to the house after it was completed. Built c.1845-1850 by John Rountree, this rear shed addition significantly increased the amount of interior space. Early in the 20th century, the shed was expanded on the east side by one- and one-half feet, increasing the size of the rear shed addition by about 50 square feet. This was the last major alteration to the house. The house retains a high level of historic integrity.

The log house has remained in the same family, although at times it was leased to tenants. The most recent owners of the Rountree log house, Lynne Santy Tanner from Rutherfordton, North Carolina, and her two brothers, Chris and Ross Santy, transferred the log house and approximately 10 acres of land to the City of Twin City in 1995. The property passed to the Santys from the estate of their mother, Carolyn Coleman Walsh.

In July 1993, the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources awarded a grant to the City of Twin City for the preservation of the John Rountree Log House. Lane Greene, preservation architect in Atlanta, was selected to prepare a preservation plan for the Rountree house and to establish nature trails on the property.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Floyd, Anne S. Historic Property Information Form. November 1992. On file at the Division of Historic Preservation, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, with supplemental information.

Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in their Landscaped Settings. Atlanta: Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 1991.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (x) N/A

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested**
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued**
date issued:
- previously listed in the National Register**
- previously determined eligible by the National Register**
- designated a National Historic Landmark**
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #**
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #**

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office**
- Other State Agency**
- Federal agency**
- Local government**
- University**
- Other, Specify Repository:**

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 10 acres

UTM References

A)	Zone 17	Easting 390670	Northing 3605740
B)	Zone 17	Easting 390830	Northing 3605700
C)	Zone 17	Easting 390660	Northing 3605430
A)	Zone 17	Easting 390560	Northing 3605570

Verbal Boundary Description

The property boundary is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached map, drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

The John Rountree Log House comprises 10 acres and follows the legal boundaries of the parcel. The nominated property retains a high level of historic integrity.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Steven H. Moffson, Architectural Historian
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** June 16, 1997

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

name/title Anne S. Floyd, Historic Preservation Planner
organization Central Savannah River Area Regional Development Center
street and number P. O. Box 2800
city or town Augusta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30914-2800
telephone (706) 776-4191
() **consultant**
(x) **regional development center preservation planner**
() **other:**

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

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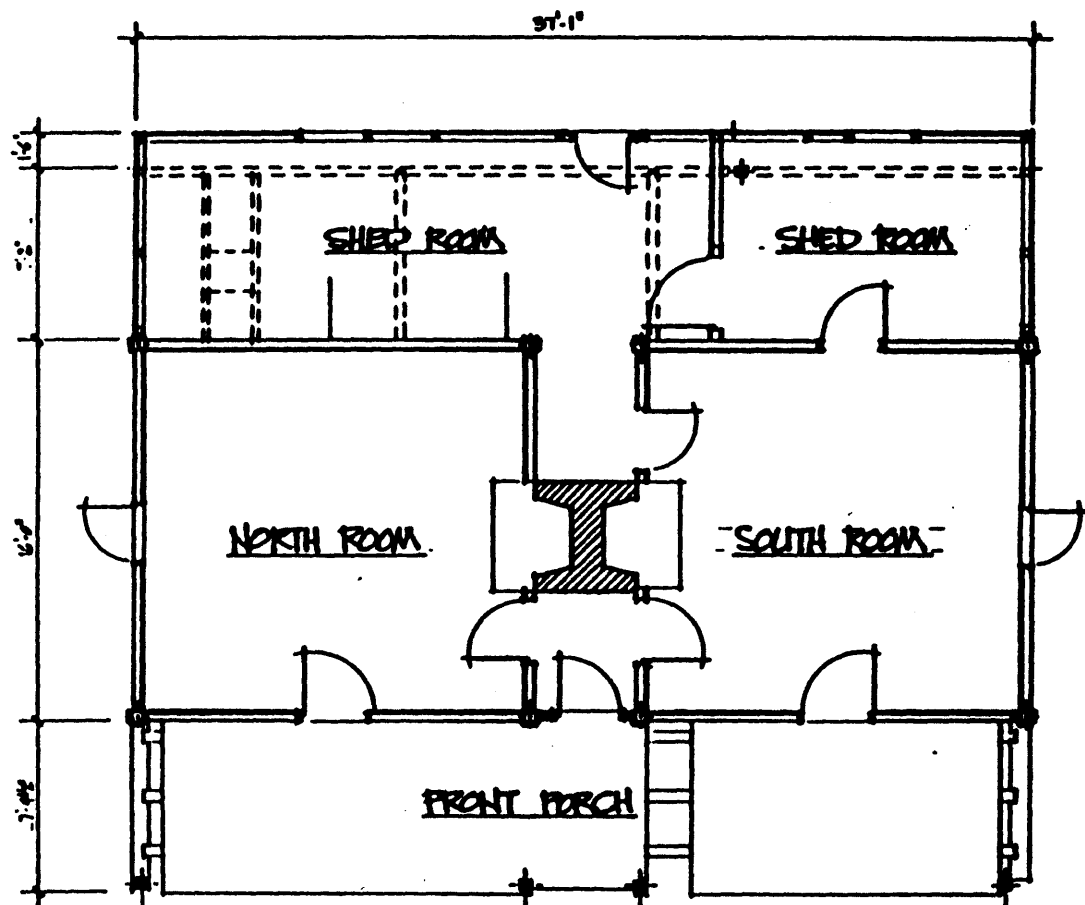
**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Photographs

Name of Property: John Rountree Log House
City or Vicinity: Twin City
County: Emanuel
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: December 1996

Description of Photograph(s):

1. Northwest corner, photographer facing southeast.
2. Main facade, photographer facing north.
3. Main facade, detail of diamond notching, photographer facing north.
4. South gable end, photographer facing northwest.
5. Southeast corner, photographer facing northwest.
6. Rear Shed addition, photographer facing north.
7. Chimney, photographer facing west.
8. Interior, north room, photographer facing south.
9. Interior, south room, photographer facing northwest.



PORCH ROOF PLATE

John Rountree Log House
Twin City, Emanuel County, GA
Floor Plan
No Scale

ROUNTREE LOG HOUSE • TWIN CITY, GEORGIA • EXISTING FLOOR PLAN