

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED APR 24 1978  
DATE ENTERED OCT 5 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Tompkins Inn  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER *N of Eatonton on*  
U. S. Highway 441

CITY, TOWN  
Eatonton

STATE  
Georgia

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
10th - Douglas Barnard

COUNTY  
Putnam

CODE  
13

CODE  
237 ✓

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Club

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Town and Country Garden Club, Inc., c/o Mrs. Rabun Hood, President ✓

STREET & NUMBER  
406 N. Jefferson Avenue

CITY, TOWN  
Eatonton

STATE  
Georgia 31024

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Superior Court, Putnam County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN  
Eatonton

STATE  
Georgia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Survey of Putnam County by Bill Moffat

DATE  
1975

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN  
Atlanta

STATE  
Georgia

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

---

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Tompkins Inn is a 1 1/2 story frame structure with a modified pitched roof and a shed porch partially surrounding two sides of the house. The building is located in a rural setting several hundred feet from U. S. Highway 441 and on ground gently rising above the highway. An outbuilding which served as a quarters for servants and stagecoach drivers is located behind the Inn and a cemetery containing the graves of members of the Tompkins family is across the highway on property not included in this nomination.

The oldest portion of Tompkins Inn, dating from about 1812, is the 1 1/2 story section of the building which contains two rooms on the first floor and two rooms on the second floor. Each of the first floor rooms has a large brick fireplace; and these fireplaces are located on axis with each other, but off center of the exterior walls of the two rooms. The two first floor rooms are built with heavy timbers and are fine examples of handhewn construction of the braced frame type. The corner posts are L-shaped with equal 12" legs and have a width of 4". These corner posts are of particular interest since they are shaped from a single section of wood. The studs generally measure 4" x 3 1/2". All of the wood members including studs, corner posts and bracing are joined by mortise and tenon. The two first floor rooms are separated by a wall constructed of vertical boards measuring from 9" to 13" in width. The exterior door of Room A (see plan A) has wide and low proportions and measures 3'7" x 6'7". The window glazing in the house is not original and the windows exhibit a variety of mullion treatments. The two brick fireplaces measure approximately 3'4" x 5' and have simple wood surrounds with a slightly projecting mantel.

A very steep enclosed stair leads to the second floor. The two rooms on the second floor are contained within the attic space and each contains a window. In the recollections of a resident of Tompkins Inn in the 1930's it was mentioned that the second floor was one large room and did not contain the partition which now exists between the two rooms.

The remaining rooms on the first floor include a small room on the porch and two rooms on the southeast side of the house. All of these rooms were added in the early twentieth century, probably around 1920.

Observation of the floor joists indicates that the porch is of more recent construction than the central body of the house. In all probability, the present porch basically reflects the appearance of the original porch.

The building originally had a detached or semi-detached kitchen. This element of the design has been entirely lost. Another early outbuilding does exist and is located about 75' to the rear of the Inn. This building is a simple rectangle consisting of two rooms divided by a wall made of wide vertical boards. The rooms are floored and are raised about 1 1/2" above ground. The left room of this building contains a small brick fireplace; a small stair in the right room leads to a loft

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 24 1978

DATE ENTERED OCT 3 1976

**CONTINUATION SHEET** Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

---

which exists above both rooms. A lean-to shed has been built against the end wall of the right room. The construction of this building is identical in sizes of timbers and craftsmanship to that used in the older portion of the Inn. The use of L-shaped corner posts hewn from a single log and jointing with mortise and tenon are also identical in appearance to that used in the Inn.

Six large and very old cedar trees are located in the front yard of the Inn. These cedar trees, with diameters of 28"+, are clustered to the south of the Inn. Evidence of the location of the old post road is found near these trees and is indicated by the abrupt sloping contours of the land immediately in front of the Inn and the cedar trees.

Since 1970, the house has been restored to good physical condition through the efforts of Mrs. T. H. Resseau, Sr., and the Town and Country Garden Club.

# 6 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES      1812      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Tompkins Inn is important to the early history of Putnam County as an example of the early architectural style of the county and as a building constructed and operated by early settlers of the county. The building is located on the old post road between Milledgeville, capital of Georgia at the time of its construction, and Athens and was operated for many years as a stagecoach inn for this important route. During this period, the Tompkins Inn housed many state legislators who were en route to the state capital.

The origins of Tompkins Inn begin in the decade of 1810. A parcel of land including the land upon which the Inn is located was bought by George C. Bird in 1810 for \$300. In 1812 this land was purchased by Giles Tompkins for \$2,000, and certain improvements on the 1810 property are evident in the price of the land. Whether the Inn was constructed by Bird or Tompkins has not been determined, but the history of the Inn grows under the ownership of Tompkins.

Giles Tompkins (1766-1841) was an original settler of Putnam County, which was established in December 1807, and is listed as a member of the first Grand Jury of Putnam County in 1808. Giles Tompkins left few historical records, but it is known that he did own sizeable land holdings in and around Putnam County.

Giles' son Nicholas Tompkins is often mentioned in relationship to Tompkins Inn; and, although he never owned the Inn, he was an important businessman in his own right. Nicholas probably moved to Heard County between 1830 and 1835. There, in 1860, he was the second largest slave holder with 62 slaves and 8,000 acres of land, valued at \$50,000.

Giles Tompkins and, afterwards, his widow Sarah Tompkins operated the Inn until the 1850's when it was given to a granddaughter, Sarah Tompkins. Mention of the Inn was found in a report to the Georgia Railroad Company in 1834 which was considering the construction of the railroad to Eatonton. It was mentioned in this report that passengers might get out for breakfast at Tompkins. This railroad line, however, was never constructed.

The ownership of the Inn passed from Sarah Tompkins, daughter of Nicholas Tompkins and granddaughter of Giles and Sarah Tompkins, to her husband Josias Boswell in 1856. Due to the apparent accumulation of debts, the Inn was sold to A. R. Zachary in 1862; but, in 1874, the Inn was purchased again by Boswell's

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interviews with Mrs. T. H. Resseau, Sr. on December 1, 16, and 21, 1976.  
 Interviews with Mrs. Leila Brittain on December 20 and 29, 1976, and January 4 and 5, 1977.  
 Bonner, James C. A Short History of Heard County, (1958, 1962).  
 Brittain, Leila. Giles Tompkins and His Family, unpublished study, May 1976.  
 Copy available from Mrs. Leila Brittain, Eatonton, Georgia.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.03 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Rock Eagle Lake

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 278960 3701990

B               

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Commencing at a concrete marker NB 18, USA tract 305 and running S 12° 46' W for 561 feet to an iron pin and the point of beginning; thence S 75° 00' E 276' to another pin and along property of the U.S.A.; thence along other property of

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Betty M. Strack, Architect

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources December 31, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

270 Washington Street, S. W.

(404) 656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Atlanta

Georgia 30334

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Elizabeth A. Lyon*  
Elizabeth A. Lyon

TITLE

Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

4/10/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

10/6/78

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

9/28/78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

*W. Smith*  
*William Lebovich*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

APR 3 1978

DATE ENTERED

001 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

second wife Emiline. Emiline Boswell owned the Inn until she died in 1910 and it was willed to Mary Anderson. The ownership of the land next passed to the Federal Land Bank of Columbia, South Carolina in 1927. In 1936 the United States Government purchased many tracts of land including Tompkins Inn; and, until 1970, the Inn was rented from the government as a private residence.

In 1970 Mrs. T. H. Resseau traded a parcel of land to the United States Government for the Tompkins Inn and 3.03 acres of land. The Inn and land were then deeded (in 1972) to the Town and Country Garden Club, and it is presently being restored and used by the club.

The Tompkins Inn and the one surviving outbuilding, which reportedly served as the quarters for servants and stagecoach drivers, are fine examples of the techniques of handhewn construction employed by builders in the early 1800's. Each building incorporates the same methods of construction with mortise and tenon joints and braced corner posts. Of particular interest is the use of single logs hewn to an L-shape and used as corner posts in each of the two buildings.

The family cemetery has also survived intact from the early 1800's. The cemetery is located across the highway (formally the old post road) and down the hill approximately 175 yards from the Inn and is not on the nominated property. This somewhat remote location may have been selected as a private place away from the activity and commercial character of the Inn. The graves of Tompkins' family members including Giles Tompkins and his daughter Mary Morrow are located within a 2'8" wide by 3' high rock wall. Adjacent to the rock wall enclosure is a Victorian iron fence which encloses the grave of Josias Boswell (1811-1882), an owner of the Inn in the late 1800's. Located to the east of the rock wall enclosure is the confederate marker of Irby Hudson Scott, a relative to the Tompkins family by marriage. On the north side of the rock wall enclosure are several rough granite headstones believed to be markers of slaves' graves.

The Tompkins Inn, its one outbuilding and its nineteenth century graveyard are some of the only surviving remnants of the earliest architecture of Putnam County. The building, the history associated with the owners and the use of the building are important elements in the early history of Putnam County.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	APR 24 1978
DATE ENTERED	OCT 5 1978

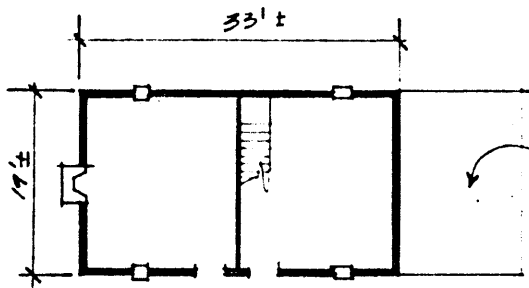
CONTINUATION SHEET Geographical Data ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

---

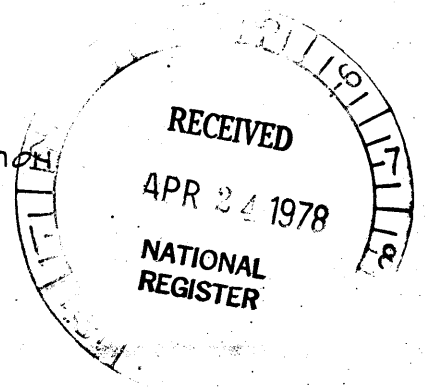
Mrs. T. H. Resseau, Sr. S 13° 47' E for 502 feet to a pin; thence N 58° 47' W for 111 Feet to a pin; thence N 64° 02' W 194 feet to a pin; thence N 16° 15' E 434 feet along property of the U.S.A. to the point of beginning.

(See attached Deed from Putnam County, Georgia, Superior Court, Deed Book 3-U, p. 704.)

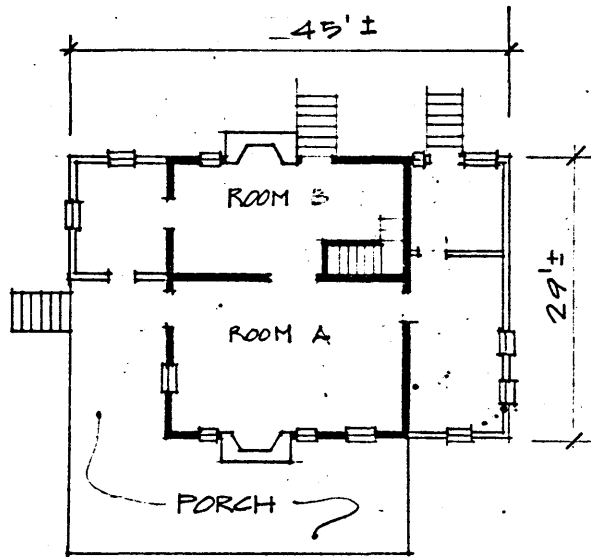




SHED  
ADDITION



OUTBUILDING



DARKENED SECTION  
INDICATES 1810± PLAN



PLAN A - TOMPKINS INN  
EXISTING BUILDING

Tompkins Inn, Eatonton, Putnam County

Drawing by Betty Strack  
Date December 1976