

PHD 678163

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	MAR 14 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUL 6 1979

**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
Philomath Historic District

AND/OR COMMON
Philomath Historic District

2 LOCATION

GA 22

STREET & NUMBER
12 miles south of Lexington, Ga., on State Route 22

CITY, TOWN
Philomath

STATE
Georgia

VICINITY OF
CODE
13

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Tenth - D. D. Barnard
COUNTY
Oglethorpe
CODE
221

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Multiple Owners [See attached.]

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Clerk of Court, Oglethorpe County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Lexington

STATE
Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Architectural Survey of Oglethorpe County

DATE

1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

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

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 town proper of Philomath is comprised of approximately a one-mile strip of mainly nineteenth-century residences with a small commercial area, a church and only one small area of recent intrusions. This district also includes the Bartram buffalo Lick and a portion of the Bartram Trail. The following description will progress from the western portion of the town eastward.

Approaching from Lexington, the first structure of note observed is the Drake-Arnold-Armour House on the left. It is a Greek Revival, Two-story house with a two-room, central-hall plan with rear one-story shed addition. A portico with four square Tuscan columns, one of which has fallen, is on the front. Built c. 1845, the house has a typical trabeated door with lights and a balcony partially supported by the columns. It is currently undergoing remodeling and is in generally good condition. The details of the house are very similar to those of the Globe and the Glenn-Callaway House, leading to speculation that the three may have been built by the same itinerant builder. In the rear of the house are several outbuildings.

Up the road about 0.6 mile is the Daisy Nash House on the right. Built c. 1860, it was originally a two-and-a-half-story raised cottage, with the basement being used as the kitchen, which had a white-washed red-clay floor. In 1937, the stone pillars and basement walls were removed, and the second floor was lowered, so that it became the present first floor. The house has three front bays, the middle being the door. The almost-full-length front porch has jig-saw-cut columns and railings, probably a later addition. There is a peaked roof over the central portion of the house.

To the east of this house is a two-story frame house, with brick chimneys which are set inside the end walls on the ridgeline. It has three bays and a one-story gabled portico.

Across the street is the Presbyterian church. This congregation has been located at four different sites: Liberty, Salem, Woodstock and Philomath. It is the first structure on the left when one enters what most would consider the town proper. Built c. 1900, the present building is a simple, white, frame building with a pitched roof. A square bell tower with a steep pyramidal top is on the southeast corner. The building has very fine, original stained-glass and is in good condition, though it has not been used in about seven years. Directly behind the church is the community cemetery, which is not under the control of the church. The cemetery contains several cast-iron-fenced family plots with old tombstones. The stones list many of the early founders of the area, many whose descendants still live in the family home in Philomath. Dates run from the early 1850s, and it is still in use. There are several Confederate veterans buried here.

[continued]

8 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This district, with its natural area and nineteenth-century community, is important architecturally, historically and archaeologically. Historically, it was an Indian meeting place so well known that it was designated a boundary point in the Treaty of Augusta in 1773. This district holds the potential for yielding information important to historic and prehistoric archaeology. The settlement pattern, as it now exists, appears to be the original one. Philomath has a fine collection of nineteenth-century buildings, particularly of the Greek Revival and Plantation Plain styles. The history of the town itself is significant to the overall history of Oglethorpe County.

The Buffalo Lick

A buffalo lick occurs when iron-bearing clay is exposed so that animals can reach it to obtain the minerals contained, most generally thought of as salt. Whereas it is common knowledge that grazing animals need salt, they also require other irons, particularly phosphates, nitrates and potassium. The significance of this lick is partially due to its not having saline properties. There is a marked buffalo lick in Greene County, about twelve miles away, that does contain salt. It is a logical conclusion that these two licks were each part of a chain between which the animals roamed. Chemical studies have been done that compare the separate chemical characteristics of the two licks. These add even more evidence to the firm belief that the Philomath is indeed the one visited by naturalist William Bartram, who stated that it did not have a saline content.

In January of 1764, George Galphin, a well-known trader from Augusta, was searching for information concerning the killing of some whites; he met a band of Creeks and sent one of his men with a trusted Indian "to a Place called the great Buffalo Lick where it was expected to find a Number of Indians that they would return in six days..." bringing with them any information the Creeks had concerning the murders.

The Great Buffalo Lick was a well-known meeting place. It also served as a marker in a treaty boundary, a treaty for the Indians normally being an agreement to release lands to the English. The 1773 Treaty of Augusta stated

[continued]

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Cooper, Patricia. "Oglethorpe County Survey," survey for Historic Preservation Section of Department of Natural Resources. Atlanta, Ga., 1975.
- Smith, Florrie Carter. The History of Oglethorpe County, Georgia. Washington, Ga.: Wilkes Publishing Co., Inc., 1970.
- Vaughn, Nelda and Virginia. Philomath -- "Love of Knowledge." Philomath, Ga.: Globe Studio, May, 1972. [continued]

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 311 acres approximately

QUADRANGLE NAME Philomath

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	31,7	6,6,0	3,7	3,2	6,2,5	B	1,7	31,6	6,7,5	3,7	3,1	8,0,0	
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,7	31,4	7,0,0	3,7	3,3	7,8,0	D	1,7	31,4	8,9,0	3,7	3,4	0,6,0	
E							F							
G							H							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point 250' southwest of the intersection of Georgia Highway 22 and the Oglethorpe/Taliaferro County line and said point lying on that county line, and [continued]

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 Marilyn Pennington, Staff Archaeologist
Thomas Russell Butchko, Student, Univ. of Ga., School of Environmental Design

ORGANIZATION Dept. of Natural Resources (contact John R. Morgan) DATE July, 1978

STREET & NUMBER 270 Washington St., S.W. TELEPHONE 404/656-2840

CITY OR TOWN Atlanta STATE Georgia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

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

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 10/13/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

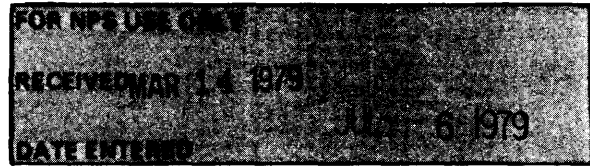
Sarah V. Bridges for
 ATTENDING OFFICER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 ATTEST: *Carol A. Dubois*
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE 7/6/79

DATE 7/6/79

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



CONTINUATION SHEET Property Owners ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 2

PROPERTY OWNERS FOR PHILOMATH HISTORIC DISTRICT NOMINATION

Parcel numbers correspond to those on the enclosed copy of the tax map.
Addresses are all: Philomath, Georgia 30659, unless otherwise noted.

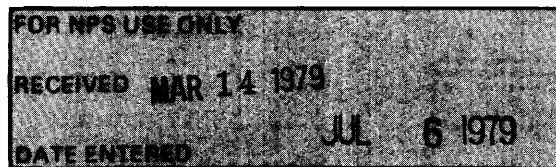
Parcel
Number

- 1 Armour, W.M.
- 2 Bryan, Gordon
- 3 Armour, W.M.
- 4 Presbyterian Church
- 5 Partrain, Woodrow
- 6 Bryan, Mrs. R.G. and Mrs. Brantley, Vaughn
- 7 Normandy, Mrs. Dorothy Wright
- 8 Gallaspy, Mrs. Claudell
- 9 Wolfe, Albert
- 10 Armour, W.M.
- 11 Gallaspy, Mrs. Claudell
- 12 Glenn, Popie and Bessie
- 13 Gallaspy, A.B.
- 18 Callaway, Mrs. H.M.
- 26 Normandy, Mrs. Dorothy Wright
- 31 ✓ Woodstock Voting Precinct
Oglethorpe County Commission
Lovington, Georgia
County-owned
- 32 Armour, Max H.
- 33 Vaughn, Mrs. Emily B.
- 34 Bryan, Gordon
- 35 Gallaspy, Mrs. Claudell
- 36 Partrain, Woodrow and Lousie
- 37 Nash, Mrs. Daisy H.

Source of information: Tax maps at Oglethorpe County Courthouse in Lexington,
Georgia.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 3

INTRUSIONS
PHILOMATH HISTORIC DISTRICT

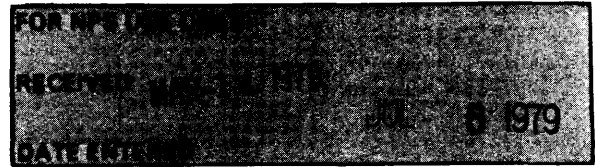
Parcel numbers correspond to those on the enclosed copy of the tax map.

Parcel
Number

- 2 A trailer is located on this parcel.
- 6 A trailer is located on this parcel.
- 8 A United State Post Office trailer is located on this parcel to the east of the dotted line.
- 36 This parcel contains an early twentieth century general store and a gasoline station, as well as a trailer.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

Just to the east of the church is a small house, covered with a pseudo-brick asbestos siding; however, the eaves have rather nice Victorian trimming. Also located on the property is a mobile home and an abandoned grocery store. Across the street is an area that contains a recently-built store with gaso-line pumps, another mobile home and several sheds and garages.

Proceeding east, still on the south side, is an early-1920s-style house. The cottage house, with brick carport addition, has a front-porch roof that is supported by recently-added ornamental-iron supports and railing.

About 200 feet down the road is the Daniel-Bryan House. The date of construction is sometime in the late 1790s, though 1807 is scratched in a brick of the chimney. This is the oldest frame house in Philomath. Of early-plantation-plain style, it is two-over-two with no central hall. An enclosed stair originally ascended from a bedroom; it now ascends from the shed room. Originally, there was a narrow, two-story front portico with a second-story door. The portico has been replaced with a full-length hipped roof and the former second door covered up. A change in board widths on the facade shows where the portico once was. The door is off-center.

Behind this house is one of the student cabins, built about 1850, as lodging for the students that came to the Reid Academy. It has twelve-inch-thick floor beams and very large corner posts. There is a sleeping loft over the two rooms downstairs, and a stair in the middle. Extremely well-built, it is now used as a storage barn.

Adjacent is the Globe, considered the finest Greek Revival house in Oglethorpe County. Built soon after 1840, it is a white, frame, four-over-four-room structure with a central hall. In the front is a two-story portico of four square columns with a small balcony partially supported by the middle two columns. The porch is surrounded by a white balustrade similar in design to the balcony. The roof is hipped, and on the flat top there is evidence that an observation deck was once there. The house is situated on a ridge that would permit overseeing of the plantation fields. The interior has very handsome woodwork on the stairway and the rooms are adorned with plaster cornices and medallions. There is a trabeated door with transom and side light at the front door and on the balcony. A shed addition and kitchen wing are on the back. There are also stables and other outbuildings.

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Across the road from the Globe and the Daniel-Bryan House are pastures and forests. These give Philomath its distinctive small-town characteristic and provide excellent scenic vistas.

At the eastern edge of these pastures is the Bryan-Wolfe House, a pseudo-Greek Revival house built in 1925. It is a two-over-two-room house with shed addition and a very steep hipped roof. The front portico is composed of four whole cedar trees. The middle two partially support a large balcony which does not have a railing. The tree columns are original.

The "Coffin House" is located next door. Built about 1875 by Asa Drake, this simple frame structure served as the only funeral parlor in Philomath. It has a pitched roof and a shed addition on one side. It is currently used as storage for the Callaway Store next door.

On the northern side of the road for 500 feet until the end of the town proper are located several assorted structures. Though not significantly notable for their architecture, they are not intrusions. They add some character to this end of town, giving it a small-town feeling. Included are a grocery store (a rectangular building with a front porch), the post office (a very small trailer), a residence of cottage style, and two vacant buildings, one a former store and the other the former post office.

Next to the Globe is the Glenn-Callaway House. These two fine Greek Revival plantation houses are called "sister houses" because of their almost exact similarity and because sisters married the original owners. The Glenn-Callaway House was originally a two-over-four, but a later addition over a back room changed it to the present three-over-four-room plan. This house was built c. 1840 and is almost identical in the detailing of the columns and balcony on the portico, the entranceway and the interior to the Globe and very similar to those of the Drake-Arnold-Armour House. A later alteration added a rear stairway and a shed room in the back. The interior details are generally considered not as fine as those of the Globe.

Between the two mansions is a small home of early-twentieth-century design. Though attractive and well-maintained, it interrupts the visual and physical relationship between the two Greek Revival houses.

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In front of the Glenn-Callaway House is the "Court House," built as a doctor's office about 1850. No larger than ten by twelve feet, the white frame building has a pitched roof, a central door and several windows. Used in the past as a post office and store, it is currently owned by the county and serves as the Woodstock voting precinct.

The last structure in town on the south side is the Robertson-Wright-Normandy House, the second oldest original structure in Philomath. Dated c. 1810, it is plantation plain, two-over-two, with the usual rear shed rooms. The interior is very fine and the front windows are twelve-over-twelve with the original glass. There have been two alterations -- the west chimney was struck by lightning and not rebuilt, and a brick veneer was added to the front facade twenty-five years ago. There is no front portico or porch now, just a brick stoop, although it seems probable that there had been a porch. In the front yard is a row of mature cedars, giving evidence of a former road or garden fence.

Immediately east of the house about ten feet is the oldest structure presently in Philomath, the Cox Log Cabin. It is not original to the site, having been moved there five years ago after being saved from demolition. Originally located a mile west of town, it had been added to over the years, but has been dated c. 1780. One and a half stories, it has two rooms and a winding stairway leading to a sleeping loft. There are two windows on the front, one on the back and a fireplace on each end. The rooms have fairly high ceilings and very fine paneling for such an early house. Horizontal pine boards run from the floor to the chair rail and then are vertical to the ceiling. It is currently being remodeled as living quarters for the owner. The exterior has been rechinked recently with what appears to be white plaster, and a new asbestos-shingle roof has been added.

Located in the rear of the lot is the Bartram Trail Society library. A rectangular structure with a rear shed room on the back, it and the surrounding acre were donated to the society six years ago. In the library are housed books, maps and articles on William Bartram, the Bartram Trail, Bartram Trail Society and the history of Philomath.

The area surrounding these structures is primarily wooded land with some open fields, which include the Buffalo Lick archaeological area and the Bartram Trail.

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The Bartram Buffalo Lick was originally a bare clay pit of approximately one-and-a-half acres. As described by William Bartram in his Travels, it was "vast pits licked in the clay, formerly by Buffalo; now kept open by deer, which is a greasy marl of various colors, red, yellow, white and has a sweetish taste, but nothing salty that I could perceive ... several pits are overgrown with a tender sweet grass of which the horses in our company are immoderately fond."

When Mrs. Dorothy Daniel Wright Normandy, the present owner, was a girl, the area was much larger than it is now. Presently, the entire area is overgrown with grasses and small pines are beginning to enter. There are two main areas of meadow. The first, located directly off Georgia Route 22, is about 300 feet by 150 feet at the largest dimensions. This is periodically mowed to keep the meadow open. The second, the actual Buffalo Lick, is immediately to the west of the first and separated by a fifty-foot band of trees. It is approximately 200 feet by 100 feet and dominated by a huge eighteen-foot-circumference willow oak, *Quercus phellos*. The grass is not mowed, thereby permitting wildflowers, shrubs and pines to become established. This has reduced the visual size of the area. There are spots where the grass is thin and the clay is exposed. Here and in other places are deer tracks, especially where water collects after a rain. It is assumed that the animals come to lick the clay, as there are several constant sources of water nearby.

The Bartram Trail leads in two directions from these two meadows. One leads directly from the Buffalo Lick northwest, finally ending at the Bartram Trail Society library in Philomath. At first, the trail follows a path made by a tractor. The area has been thinned out in places, evidence of past logging operations. The entire trail system is marked by three bands of paint on trees: yellow-black-yellow. In some places, these are hard to follow. Another portion of the trail follows a singular foot path. Here it is often difficult to find one's directions. Either more use or selective pruning is necessary to make the trail more easily followed.

Leading from the larger meadow, the Bartram Trail follows a path that takes it shortly into Taliaferro County, eventually going through Wrightsboro to Augusta. This portion of the trail is more poorly marked than that toward Philomath. The area included in the historic district is all owned by one of the principal Bartram enthusiasts in Oglethorpe County, Mrs. Dorothy Daniel Wright Normandy.

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that the boundary would begin where "the lower Creek Path intersects the Ogeechee River; and along the main branch of the said river to the source of the southernmost branch of said river; and from thence along the ridge between the waters of Broad River and Oconee River up to the Buffalo Lick...." This treaty was conducted mainly with the Cherokee, but with a few Creeks, also.

Immediately after the Treaty of Augusta, naturalist William Bartram traveled with a surveying team to Buffalo Lick. Bartram kept a journal from which the following excerpts are taken.

"We set off from Augusta, early in the morning, for the Great Buffalo Lick, on the Great Ridge, which separates the waters of the Savannah and the Altamaha, about eighty miles distant from Augusta. At this Lick, the surveyors were to separate themselves, and form three companies, to proceed on different routes."

On the second evening of the journey, they reached Wrightsborough; eight or nine miles north of there they crossed the north branch of Little River, where Bartram viewed "... the most magnificent forest I had ever seen." The description is included because Bartram referred back to it when describing the Great Ridge:

"Leaving the pleasant town of Wrightsborough, we continued eight or nine miles through a fertile plain and high forest, to the north branch of Little River, ... crossing which, we entered an extensive fertile plain, bordering on the river, and shaded by trees of vast growth, ... Continuing some time through these shady groves, the scene opens, and discloses to view the most magnificent forest I had ever seen. We arise gradually a sloping bank of twenty or thirty feet elevation, and immediately entered this sublime forest; the ground is perfectly a level green plain, thinly planted by nature with the most stately forest trees, such as the gigantic Black Oak (*Q. tinctoria*) *Liriodendron*, *Juglans nigra*, *Platanus*, *Juglans exaltata*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Ulmus sylvatica*, *Liquid-amber styraciflua*, whose mighty trunks, seemingly of an equal height, appeared like superb columns. To keep within the bounds of truth and reality, in describing the magnitude and grandeur of these trees, would I fear, fail of credibility; yet, I think I can assert, that many of the black oaks measured eight, nine, ten and eleven feet diameter five feet above the ground, as we measured several that were above thirty feet girth,

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and from hence they ascend perfectly strait [sic], ... the tulip tree, Liquid-amber and Beech were equally stately."

Bartram continued: "... After four days moderate and pleasant traveling, we arrived in the evening at the Buffalo Lick. This extraordinary place occupies several acres of ground, at the foot of the S.E. promontory of the Great Ridge, which, as before observed, divides the rivers Savannah and Altamaha. A large cane swamp and meadows, forming an immense plain lies S.E. from it; in this swamp I believe the head branches of the great Ogeechee river take their rise. The place called the Lick contains three or four acres, is nearly level, and lies between the head of the cane swamp and the ascent of the Ridge. The earth, from the superficies to an unknown depth, is an almost white or cincreous coloured tenacious fattish clay, which all kinds of cattle lick into great caves, pursuing the delicious vein. It is the common opinion of the inhabitants that this clay is impregnated with saline vapours arising from fossil salts deep in the earth; but I could discover nothing saline in its taste, but I imagined an insipid sweetness. Horned cattle, horses, and deer, are immoderately fond of it, insomuch, that their excrement, which almost totally covers the earth to some distance round this place, appears to be perfect clay; which, when dried by the sun and air, is almost as hard as brick."

The survey company spent a day at the lick planning and coordinating their work. In this time, an incident almost "put an end to the business." The surveyor set his compass on its staff and was about to strike a route to the Savannah River at the confluence of a specific river. The Indian chief observed the course, said it was wrong, and pointed in a different direction. The surveyor said he was certain he was right for the little instrument had told him so and it could not err. "... The Indian answered, he knew better, and that the little wicked instrument was a liar; and he would not acquiese in its decisions, since it would wrong the Indians out of their land." The Indian was assigned to lead the group and was proved correct. The Indian knew the countryside well. This simply illustrates the importance of such a natural feature in a country yet undeveloped by European technology. (Iron deposits probably caused the compass error.)

Bartram described the Great Ridge, which was followed to the north after leaving the lick:

[continued]

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"The Great Ridge consists of a continued high forest; the soil fertile, and broken into moderately elevated hills, by the many rivulets which have their sources in it. The heights and precipices abound in rock and stone. The forest trees and other vegetable productions are the same as already mentioned about Little River.

"This great ridge is a vast extended projection of the Cherokee or Alegany [sic] mountains, gradually increasing in height and extent, from its extremity at the Lick, to its union with the high ridge of mountains anciently called the Apalachian [sic] mountains."

The lick itself is a natural feature which was of cultural importance, historically at least. The name indicates the presence of buffalo, a fact which has not been established in Georgia archaeologically; but historically, buffalo were reported to be present in the coastal plain of Georgia at least during the early eighteenth century. The ranger who accompanied Oglethorpe on a visit from Savannah to the Creek town of Coweta on the Chattahoochee River wrote on July 28, 1739, after crossing the Ogeechee River:

" The Things being all got over the River we set forward, the Indians killing plenty of Deer and Turkeys for our Refreshment, also several Buffaloes, of which there is great Plenty and they are very good Eating. Though they are a very heavy Beast they will out Run a Horse and Quite Tire him."

After crossing the Oconee, the writer continued: "We crossed the River and killed two Buffaloes of which there are abundance, We seeing Several Herds of sixty or upwards in a Herd."

Dr. John Goff wrote an article citing place names and historical accounts of buffalo. In this article, "The Buffalo in Georgia," he wrote:

"Probably the most historic of the buffalo places in Georgia was the Great Buffalo Lick, a noted spot in upper Georgia which was visited by game that came to lick a mineral deposit to be found at the site. Indian hunters frequented the locality to kill these animals, and the lick was so well-known that it served as one of the key points along the boundary line established between the Indians and the Georgians by the Treaty of Augusta in 1773."

As no attempt has been undertaken to archaeologically confirm the use of the lick by Indians, historical documentation indicates that the lick has archaeological potential. The roles of such a natural resource in Indian

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culture in Georgia are unknown. Numerous questions about subsistence and hunting practices and technology, settlement patterning, and resource exploitation are posed by this natural feature and its use by Indians and whites. Such a resource as a focus for the interaction of human and non-human animal populations, pre-historically and historically, has an archaeological potential of cultural and biological diversity in limited spatial setting of significant time and depth. The lick would have existed during the Pleistocene and would have attracted mammals as it does now. Dr. Josh Laerm, Department of Zoology, University of Georgia, has stated that it would be reasonable to assume that all groups of mammals could have visited the lick. This would have included species now extinct.

To the north about five miles is located the beginning of Buffalo Creek, where Robert Wauchope recorded two sites in 1939; the site forms do not contain descriptions of the sites. The adjacent counties, Wilkes and Talliaferro, have not been surveyed and only a scattering of sites have been recorded in each. None are close to Philomath. Data for archaeological sites in this area are not available. However, four other licks were mapped by Yonge within a line roughly twenty-five miles long from the Great Buffalo Lick running to the southeast. These well could constitute an ecological domain as defined by Thomas (1974) and form the basis of a survey to determine how culturally important licks were through time.

The buffalo lick itself is covered by soil and vegetation and would need to be excavated to determine its extent and carry out various tests. Dr. Robert Carver, professor of geology at the University of Georgia, has been interested in trace elements which licks may contain; recent studies suggest that animals may be seeking these elements rather than salt. He considers trace element analysis of the Great Buffalo Lick, as well as others, to be quite important and he has written: "... Our knowledge of the role of trace elements in nutrition is very limited and this example of natural selection of diet supplements deserves thorough study. For studies to be completed it is essential that the licks be preserved in their original state. In particular, any application of chemical fertilizer to the area would be disastrous."

The Community of Woodstock, Later Philomath

It seems logical that a community would eventually grow up near the Great Buffalo Lick. There was plenty of game because of the lick, and it was relatively near Buffalo Creek and the North Fork of Little River.

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There may have been some early settlers in the area of what is now Philomath, at that time in Wilkes County, later (1793) Oglethorpe County. The town of Woodstock, now Philomath, was probably there by the 1820s. The History of Oglethorpe County gives the town's founding date as 1829. It may have been called Buffalo Lick for some years, as that is what appears on maps until 1846. From 1846 until 1856, it was called Woodstock. At that time, the citizens petitioned the government for a post office. They were informed that there was already a post office in Georgia by the name of Woodstock. Georgia Congressman Alexander H. Stephens was asked to suggest a name, and he, having heard of the excellent academy there, offered the name Philomath, meaning "Love of Knowledge." Both names -- Woodstock and Philomath -- were used for some years.

In 1849, the Reverend George White described Woodstock in his Statistics of Georgia:

Woodstock, 14 miles southeast of Lexington, near the Taliaferro, Wilkes, and Greene line, beautifully situated on a ridge dividing the waters of Long Creek and Little River. It has an excellent school, one school, one store, one tan-yard, one blacksmith, one tailor, one wheelwright, and one church. Population, nine families. A steam, saw, grist, and flour-mill is in the progress of construction.

Among the early families of the town were the Glenns, Robertsons, Drakes, Daniels, Reids and Milners, many of whose descendants still live there.

By the 1830s, many cotton plantations had been laid out, often containing in excess of 1,000 acres. The Greek Revival and Plantation Plain-style homes of Philomath were built by these early families who either were planters or merchants in the town.

About 1840, a church was built by Robert Cunningham Daniel I, with the Reverend John W. Reid serving as the first pastor. In 1848, the entire membership of the nearby Salem Presbyterian Church moved to Woodstock. The congregation had been established in Wilkes County in 1797. The 1840 structure was replaced soon after 1900 by the present structure. Behind the church is the community cemetery with family plots dating from before 1850. Those graves show that many of the same families still reside in Philomath.

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In the mid-1840s, the Reverend Reid organized the Reid Academy, a boarding school for boys. Drawing students from several states, it was noted for its literary achievements. The academy is believed to have been located just east of the church building. It was a large, two-story structure with a chimney at each end. Around the turn of the twentieth century, the building was either demolished or destroyed by fire and replaced with a common one-story building. After being used as a school, the second academy building became a community center until it was moved several miles away around 1970. In the 1840s and 1850s, during commencement week at the Reid Academy, many notable speakers came to town, including Alexander H. Stephens, Ben Irwin and Robert Toombs.

In 1865, at the close of the Civil War, Philomath was witness to the final breaking up of the Confederate government east of the Mississippi. During the flight from Richmond, President Davis and his cabinet members separated in Washington, Georgia, for they thought it best for him to travel inconspicuously. His cabinet members later met at the home of Captain John J. Daniel in Philomath, known as the Globe. Deciding that it was a "needless expenditure of blood to continue the struggle, the Stars and Bars of the late Confederacy were forever furled." The last council of war was held in the parlor of the Globe. The parting addresses were delivered from the porch after which the soldiers received their small wages and left for home.

Woodrow Wilson was a frequent visitor to Philomath as a small boy. His father was a Presbyterian minister in Augusta and was often a guest preacher in Philomath. The family came along and stayed with John J. Daniel at the Globe. It is said that Woodrow Wilson loved the town so much that he and his mother often spent vacations here.

The Bartram Trail passes through Philomath and a portion of it is included in this nomination. The Bartram Trail Society library is located just behind the Wright-Normandy House. The building and an acre of lot was donated to the society in 1970, and it now houses maps, books and other material related to William Bartram.

Philomath has retained much of the architectural flavor of the nineteenth century. There are three fine Greek Revival houses, several Plantation Plain houses and some late-nineteenth-century commercial and public buildings. The spectrum of architectural styles runs from circa 1820 to circa 1920.

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Bibliography &
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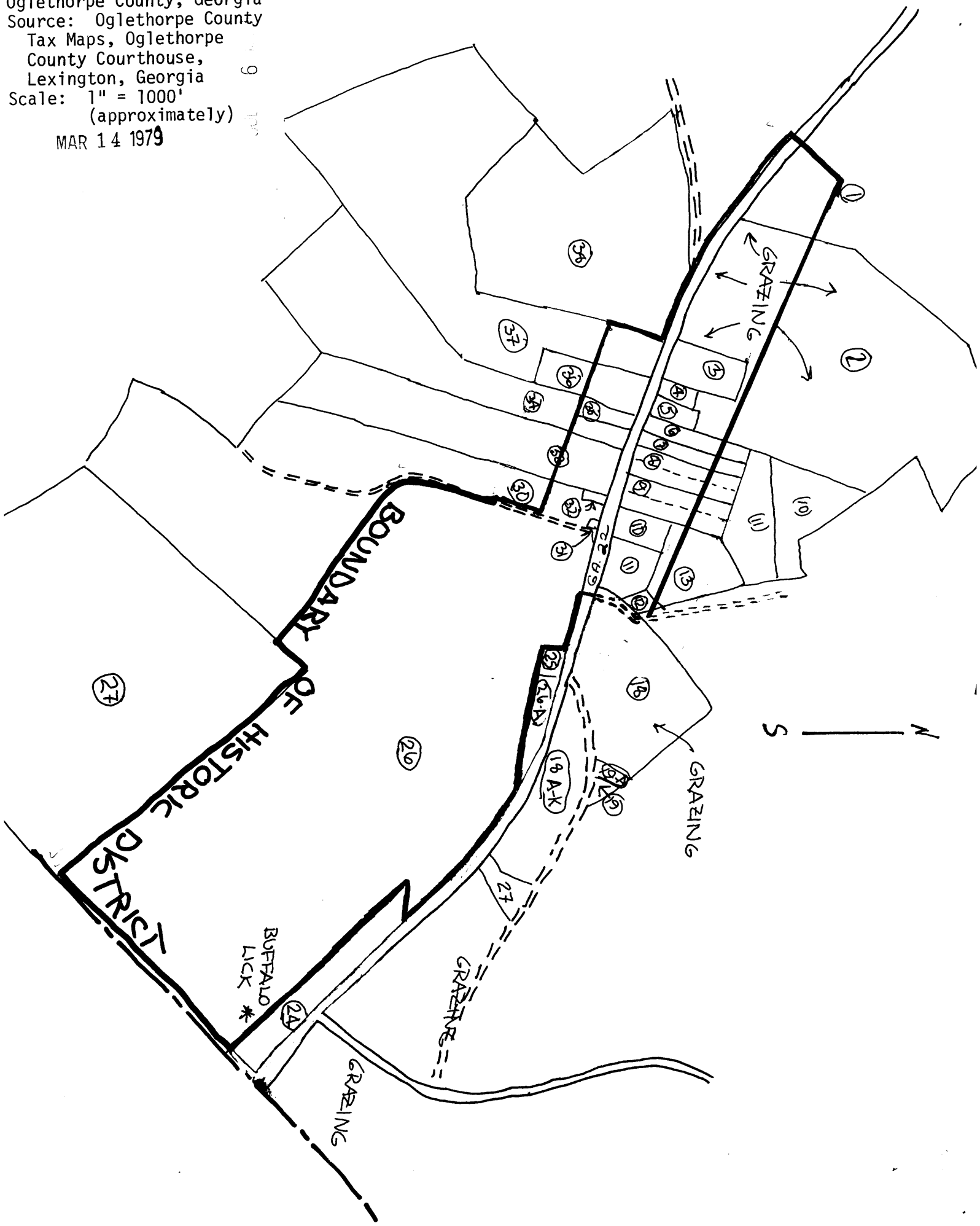
9.
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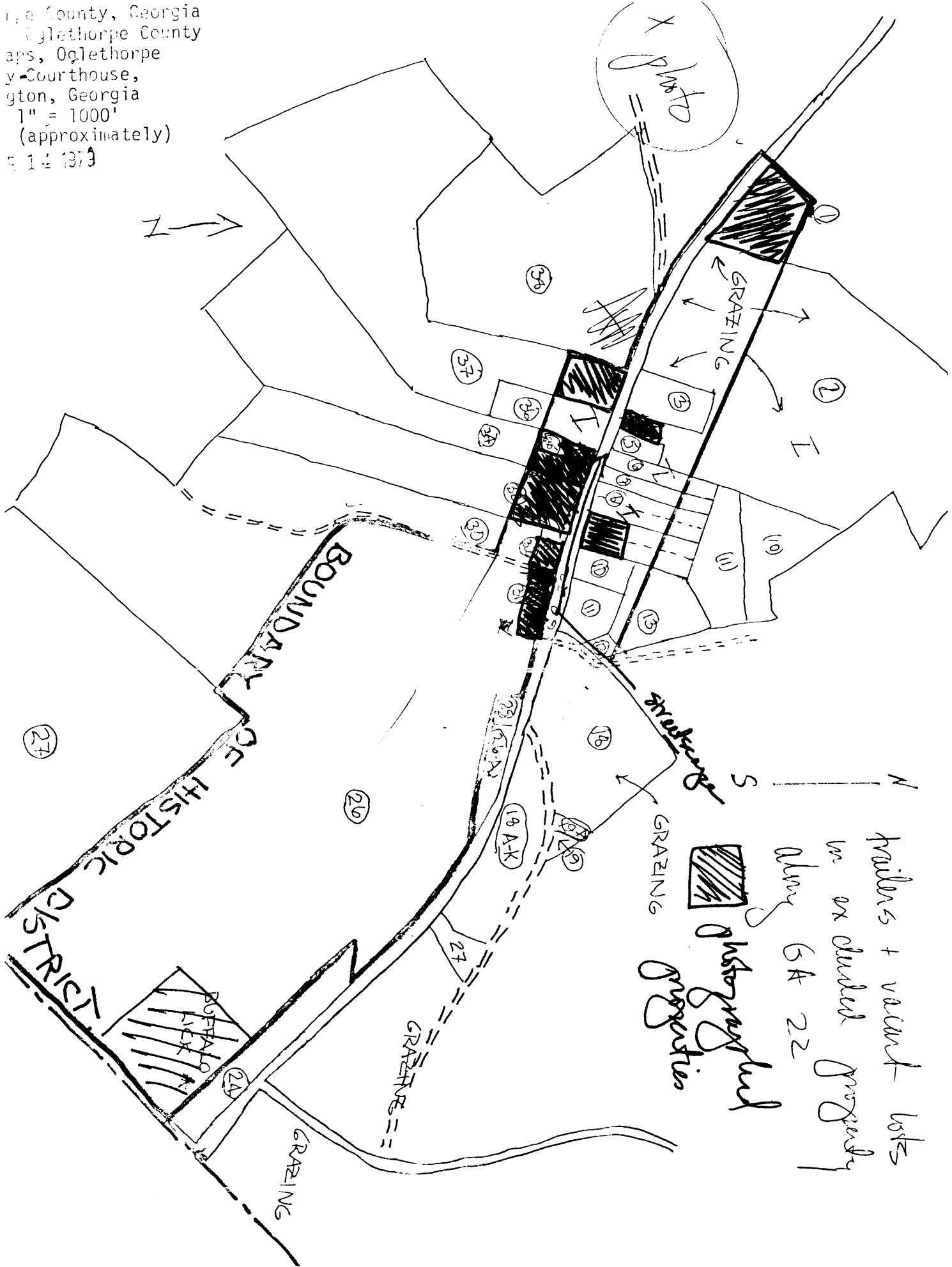
10.
Geographical Data, Verbal Boundary Description

running southwest with said county line 2000' approximately; thence northwest with the back line of parcel 26 of the Oglethorpe County tax map 4800' approximately to its intersection with a dirt road; thence with said dirt road and the western property line of parcel 26, 1500' approximately; thence west 2200' approximately to the eastern property line of parcel 37; thence northeast 500' approximately to Georgia Highway 22; thence west with the north side of Highway 22 (excluding right-of-way) 2000' approximately to a dirt road where it intersects with the western lot line of parcel 18 at a bend in said road; thence with said road south 500' approximately to Georgia Highway 22; thence east 500' approximately with the south side of Highway 22 (excluding right-of-way); thence southeast 250' approximately along western line of parcel 25; thence east 1000' approximately to Georgia Highway 22; thence with south side of highway (excluding right-of-way) 1750' approximately; thence southwest 250' approximately along western line of parcel 24; thence southeast 2500' approximately to point of origin. [See attached copy of tax map of Philomath area for location of parcels, etc.]

Philomath Historic District
Oglethorpe County, Georgia
Source: Oglethorpe County
Tax Maps, Oglethorpe
County Courthouse,
Lexington, Georgia
Scale: 1" = 1000'
(approximately)
MAR 14 1979

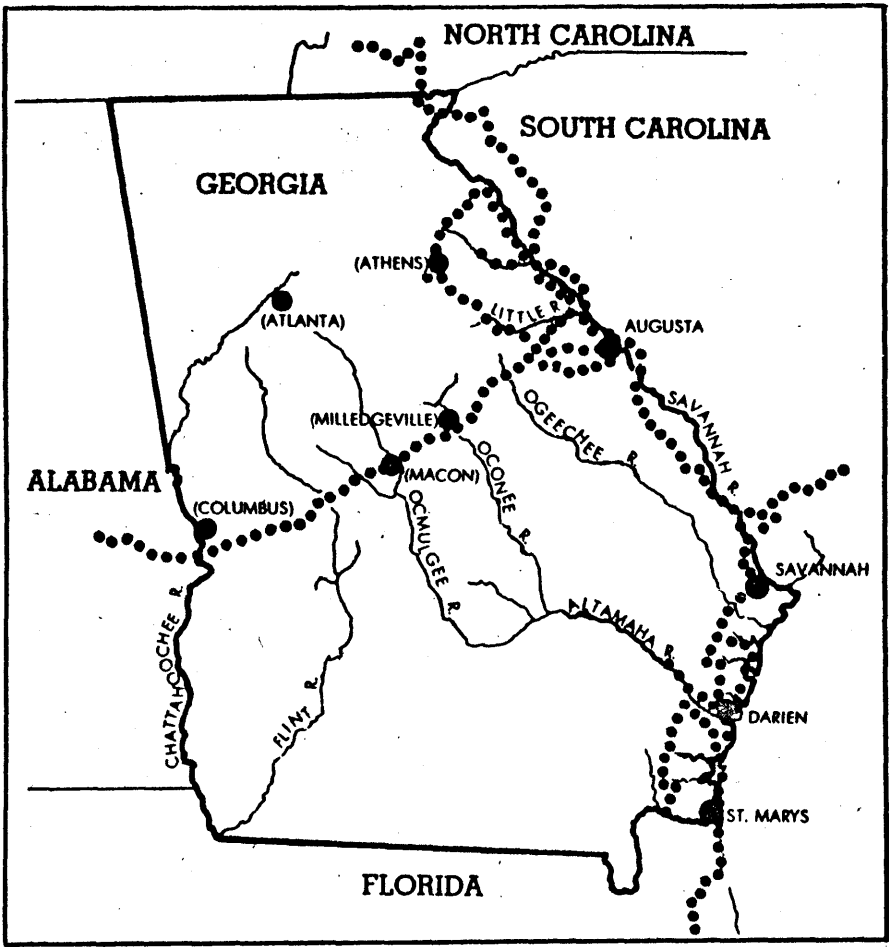


Oglethorpe County, Georgia
 Oglethorpe County
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