

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Ruff's Mill and Concord Covered Bridge

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 10 Concord Road S.W. ___ not for publication

city, town Smyrna ___ vicinity of congressional district 7th- Larry McDonald

state Georgia code 013 county Cobb code 067

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Ruff's Mill: (1) Mr. & Mrs. Gordon N. Ruckart	Concord Covered Bridge: (2) E.W.Barrett Chairman, Cobb County Commissioners (2) P.O.Box 649
street & number (1) 10 Concord Road S.W.	
(1) Smyrna	(1) 30080
city, town (2) Marietta ___ vicinity of	state Georgia (2) 30060

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Cobb County Courthouse

city, town Marietta state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title See continuation sheet. has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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

Ruff's Mill and Concord Covered Bridge are historically and geographically related structures that constitute a small rural mill complex. They were built just before and shortly after the Civil War. They are located on a low, narrow rise of ground bordered on three sides by Nickajack Creek.

Centrally located in the complex is the Miller's House. It stands on a terraced promontory overlooking a bend in the nearby creek. Built about 1850, the house is a variant of the Plantation Plain type of residence, with Victorian exterior alterations and twentieth-century interior renovations. The original part of the house displays the long, narrow, and tall arrangement of the Plantation Plain type; it originally contained five rooms (two front and three rear) and a central stair hall on the ground floor and two or three rooms upstairs, plus a front shed porch and a rear kitchen ell. During the Victorian period the house was renovated. A projecting second-story room or office was added to the front, a porch with turned posts replaced an earlier porch, the kitchen may have been enlarged, windows were replaced with four-over-four double sash, and decorative motifs were applied to the gables. During the 1930s, the interior was thoroughly remodeled; first-floor partitions were largely removed, exposed ceiling beams were installed, new stonemasonry fireplaces were built, and the stairway was relocated to a corner. More recently, the house has been enlarged with a two-story addition to the rear, which houses a kitchen, a bedroom, bathrooms, and utility spaces. Structurally, the original parts of the house contain a heavy timber frame with hand-hewn beams resting on fieldstone foundations. Later additions feature balloon framing. The entire house is sheathed in weatherboards. The two end chimneys, apparently original, are built with fieldstone bases and brick stacks. The grounds around the house feature terraces, walks, fieldstone retaining walls, a concrete in-ground swimming pool, and remnants of formal landscaping carried out in the 1930s.

Approximately 100-150 feet north of the Miller's House, and contemporary with it, is Ruff's Mill. The mill is roughly square in plan and two stories high with a basement and gable roof. The exterior walls are built almost entirely of fieldstone masonry, although portions of the walls are framed. The west or front wall is roughly stuccoed. The gable ends are sheathed in board-and-batten siding; the roof is covered with sheet metal. Windows and doorways are framed with wood timbers. On the interior, the structure consists of a heavy timber frame and plank floors and ceilings. Some structural members are hand-hewn and pegged together; others are machine-sawn and nailed. The structure shows signs of extensive alterations. No waterpower or milling equipment remains in or around the structure, although the remains of the raceway, largely buried, can be discerned north of the mill. This raceway once connected to a dam and millpond above the covered bridge; the dam has been demolished and the millpond drained.

Approximately 300 feet northwest of the Miller's House is the 1872 Concord Covered Bridge. It spans the Nickajack Creek just below the site of the dam

[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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1856,1864,1872,1889 **Builder/Architect** 1930s landscaping: William C. Pauley

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Ruff's Mill and Concord Covered Bridge are significant in historical archaeology and the history of Georgia's architecture, industry, military, landscaping and transportation. Taken together, the buildings and structures exemplify the integrated rural complex that was once common in Georgia but has largely disappeared. Taken individually, they represent the various types and styles of buildings and structures commonly associated with such rural complexes. The miller's house, gristmill and covered bridge, arranged along the banks of Nickajack Creek, give a representation of the character and appearance of a mid-to-late-nineteenth-century rural complex. Along with the ruins of the water-power system, the sites of other buildings and structures, and the property's historical associations, a fairly complete picture of this kind of rural complex can be visualized.

Martin L. Ruff, Sr. (1809-1876), was living in Henry County, Georgia, 50 miles south of this area when he won land in the 1832 Land Lottery of Georgia. The lottery opened this area, where the Cherokee Indians were soon to be removed, to white settlement. Ruff and his young family moved here shortly thereafter. It was not until 1856 that he purchased from Lacey W. Griffith, a farmer who came from South Carolina in 1843, land lots 171, 190 and 191. The gristmill and miller's house are in lot 190 and part of lot 171; the covered bridge is in lot 171.

The industrial significance centers around the gristmill. The gristmill was probably already in existence when Ruff bought the land in 1856, but it became known as Ruff's Mill. It survived the Civil War battle that was fought here in the summer of 1864. The 1880 manufacturing census indicates that the widow of Martin L. Ruff ran the mill, employing one male hand and operating the mill 12 hours a day in the summer and 10 hours a day in the winter. A day's wages was \$1.50 for an annual salary of \$234.00. Its maximum capacity was 80 bushels of wheat a day. The total yearly production was 3,000 bushels valued at \$1.00 per bushel. She also produced corn meal and feed.

In the 1890s, the newspaper referred to the "Concord Grist Mills" being rebuilt for merchant work in meal as well as continuing to do custom work. The gristmill was later run by Asbury Martin as Martin Feed and Grain, ca. 1914-1930. When he sold out, he took the mill works with him to a new location. The two-story mill structure has been used for some social events since then, but now stands vacant.

[continued]

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

UTM NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 3.5 acres

Quadrangle name Mableton, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	6
---	---

7	2	5	9	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	7	4	7	9	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

B

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

C

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

E

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

F

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

G

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

H

--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

--	--	--	--	--	--

Verbal boundary description and justification As marked on the enclosed plat /sketch map by a heavy black line. It includes all that the current owners own, both at the mill site and the bridge. Due to the natural boundaries caused by the creek, the property nominated is all that has been associated with the nominated features. Reference Cobb County Deed Book 1751, p. 454.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian; Richard Cloues, architectural historian

organization Historic Preservation Section **date** August 18, 1980
Department of Natural Resources

street & number 270 Washington St. **telephone** (404) 656-2840

city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia 30334

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon
 Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer **date** 10/2/80

For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.	
<u>James W. Ryan</u> Keeper of the National Register	date <u>11/24/80</u>
Attest: <u>Ann Donkin</u> Chief of Registration	date <u>11/24/80</u>

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Representation in
Existing Surveys

Item number 6

Page 2

(1) Historic Structures Field Survey: Cobb County, Georgia

Date: 1978 State

Depository: Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources
Atlanta, Georgia

(2) Historic American Engineering Record: Inventory of Historic Engineering and Industrial Sites in Georgia, 1974-5

Date: August 29, 1975 Federal

Depository: Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.

(3) Historic Cobb County Buildings and Site Inventory

Date: 1974 County Local

Depository: Cobb Landmarks Society
Marietta, Georgia

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Description

Item number 7

Page 2

and millpond. The bridge is 133 feet long, 16 feet wide, and 13 feet high, with an eight-foot clearance. Its structure consists of wooden Queenpost trusses fabricated from heart-pine timbers and iron rods; this original structure has been recently reinforced with two 12-inch steel I-beams. Thick wood planks, laid crosswise, with no runners, form the floor of the bridge. The sides are sheathed with vertical boarding. The roof is covered with sheet metal. The bridge rests on two stonemasonry abutments, a central stonemasonry pier, and two intermediary concrete piers. The stonemasonry supports are original and may date from an antebellum bridge at the same location; the concrete supports were added in 1965 to strengthen the bridge so that it could accommodate modern automobile traffic.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

The military significance is derived from the Battle of Ruff's Mill fought here July 4, 1864. It was a part of the Atlanta Campaign that began when Federal troops proceeded south from Chattanooga, Tennessee, with their goal being the capture of Atlanta. The Federals were in Marietta and the Confederates in Smyrna all along the road leading to Nickajack Creek. After the Battle, Confederate General Joseph E. Johnston withdrew south to the Chattahoochee River. Skirmishes along the creek continued later the same week, but the battle itself was the main engagement.

The transportation significance is from the existence of a covered bridge, one of the few remaining in day-to-day use in Georgia. The bridge, known as the Concord Covered Bridge or Nickajack Creek Covered Bridge, was constructed in 1872 by Martin L. Ruff and Robert Daniell (1813-1881) in conjunction with their milling operations to replace an earlier bridge. Daniell had become president of the nearby Concord Woolen Mills in 1867. No doubt the one there during the Civil War had been destroyed during the battle. The ownership of the bridge was transferred to Cobb County in 1888, where it remains.

In terms of architecture and engineering, Ruff's Mill, the Miller's House, and the Concord Covered Bridge are historically significant as a collection of nineteenth-century structures associated with a small rural mill complex. The Miller's House, the mill with its various associated waterworks, and the bridge are the principal representative structures comprising nineteenth-century rural mill complexes. Such complexes were once ubiquitous in Georgia, but now have largely disappeared, especially in metropolitan areas like Atlanta.

The individual structures within the complex also have merit in and of themselves. The Miller's House, for instance, is representative of the antebellum Plantation Plain type of house found in the Georgia piedmont; it was later Victorianized during its use as a miller's residence and office. It thus contains characteristic features of both antebellum and Victorian architecture, including its overall form and arrangement, its detailing, and its construction materials and craftsmanship. The mill is an unusual Georgia example of an antebellum stonemasonry gristmill; most of these mills were framed and sheathed entirely of wood. This mill does contain the usual heavy timber-braced frame and thick plank floors on the interior, however. The covered bridge is one of 17 covered bridges remaining in Georgia and is one of just two that embodies the Queenpost truss. This bridge was included in the World Guide to Covered Bridges (1972) published by the National Society for the Preservation of Covered Bridges.

The landscape architectural significance of this district is due to the efforts of Dr. Clinton Reed, who purchased the miller's house, the gristmill and surrounding area in 1930. He hired William C. Pauley of Atlanta, a noted

[continued]

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Continuation sheet Significance

Item number 8

Page 3

landscape architect, to create a formal garden and terraces at the rear of the miller's house. The incongruity of such a formal landscaping with the natural, rural setting of the creek and mills is very evident today. Dr. Reed used the place as a country retreat from metropolitan Atlanta.

Some of Pauley's other notable works in the Atlanta area include continuing the landscaping in Druid Hills (now on the National Register) and the landscaping of University Homes near the Georgia Institute of Technology.

Archaeology

No formal archaeology has been done at Ruff's Mill, the Miller's House, or the Concord Covered Bridge. Archaeological potential can be reliably confirmed from the knowledge of previously existing structures and from the visible remains of those structures, however. Chief among them is the remains of the waterpower system. Rubble stonemasonry from the raceway and waterwheel supports can be seen immediately north of the mill. The bridge may also be of archaeological interest; it is the second bridge at this location, and it rests upon stonemasonry abutments and a pier that may date from the previous structure. The fact that a battle was fought in the area also adds potential to the site. Archaeology could provide information about the bridge and the waterworks that would add to our knowledge of this rural mill complex.

Historical Narrative

The property has changed hands and been divided many times since Martin Ruff moved to the area with his wife, Judith Lovejoy. They had eleven children born between 1832-1856. In 1851, he owned 695 acres and two slaves, before he bought the mill site in 1856. He died in 1876 and she in 1887. Several of their children were associated with the various mills and homes well into the twentieth century. James H. Ruff, born in 1832, was called the "Sage and Bard" of the Concord community in 1890 as he was a well-known bachelor often given to public debates in the community. Another son, S. Z. Ruff (1837-1863), who was killed during the Civil War, had been a mathematics professor at nearby Georgia Military Institute in Marietta. Henry Ruff (1845-1907), a carpenter, lived in the miller's house and was the operator of the gristmill at the time of his death. Martin L. Ruff, Jr., (1847-1890), as mentioned above, was a carpenter who helped rebuild the Concord Woolen Mills after the 1889 fire but died before it re-opened. He also ran a cotton gin and built other houses. John Wesley Ruff (1849-1907) was a farmer with a side interest in tanning. He purchased the grist mill, miller's house and family home-place from his father's estate in 1889.

(continued)

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 4

In 1897, John W. Ruff sold the "Ruff and Daniell Mill" to Parker M. Rice. He, in turn, sold it in 1914 to M.A. and T.B. Martin. The mill and miller's house and surrounding area passed to Dr. Clinton Reed in 1930 and at his death to his daughter, Mrs. Carolyn Bush. She divided up the property, selling the portion around the mill and the miller's house to Janice and William Freeman in 1967. They, in turn, sold to the present owners in 1976.

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Bibliography

Item number 9

Page 2

Research by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Ruckart (typescript copies at the Historic Preservation Section).

Original drawings by William C. Pauley, in possession of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Ruckart.

Draft National Register nomination for Concord Covered Bridge, 1974, by Colonel James G. Bogle with its extensive bibliography.

U.S. Census Records, both population and manufacturing.

Sarah Blackwell Gober Temple. The First Hundred Years: A Short History of Cobb County, in Georgia (1935).

R.G. Dun Collection, Baker Library, Harvard University. Credit reports of M.L. Ruff of Cobb County.

Personal inspection, Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., and Richard Cloues, April 10, 1980.

RUFF'S MILL AND CONCORD COVERED BRIDGE
Smyrna, Cobb County, Georgia

SKETCH/PLAT MAP

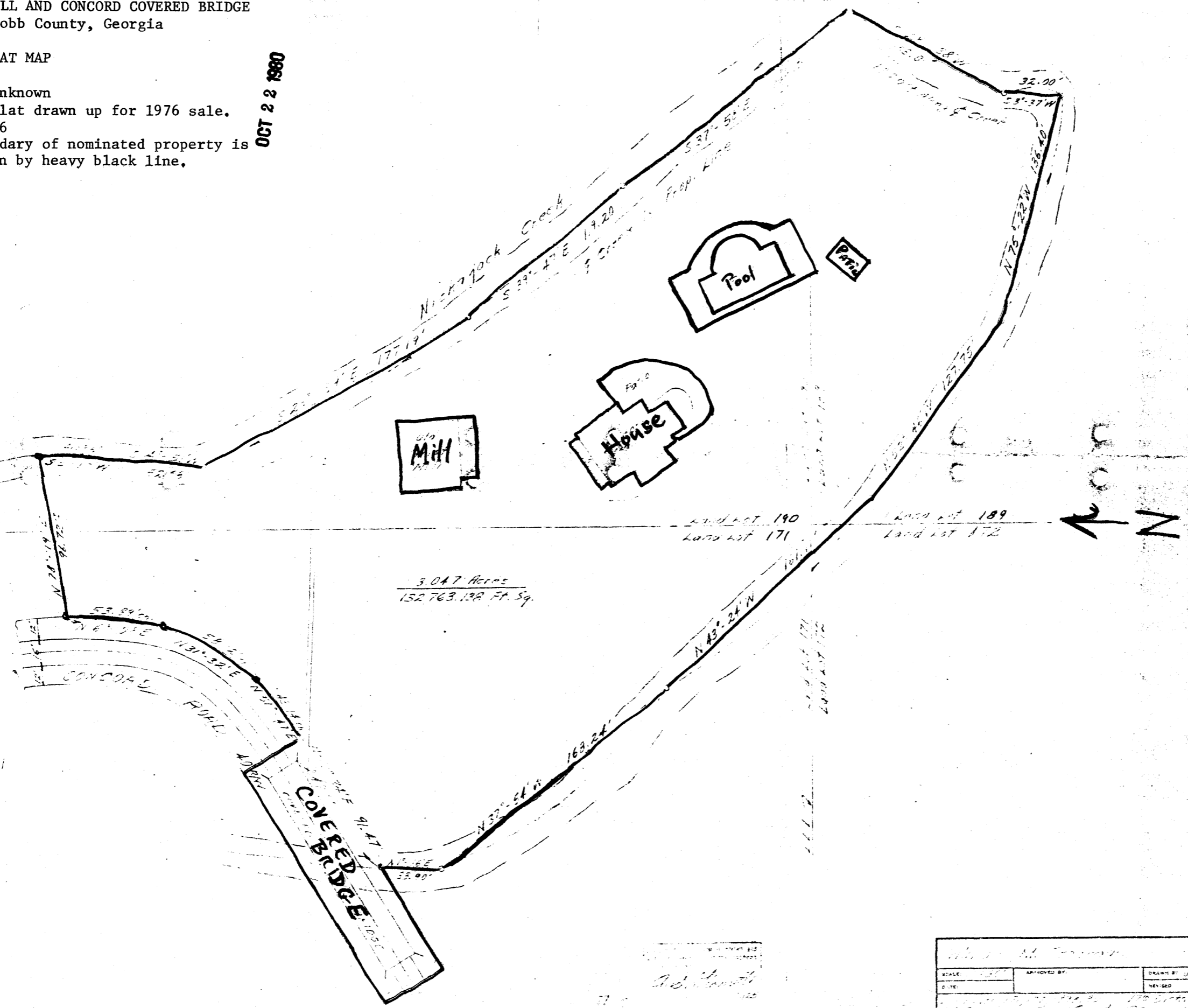
Scale: Unknown

Source: Plat drawn up for 1976 sale.

Date: 1976

Key: Boundary of nominated property is shown by heavy black line.

OCT 22 1980



Ad. Smith

SCALE		
DATE	APPROVED BY	DRAWN BY
152,763.136 FT. SQ. 3.047 ACRES RUFF'S MILL AND CONCORD COVERED BRIDGE SMYRNA, COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA		