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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  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 Terrell-Sadler House  
other names/site number N/A

**2. Location**

street & number 122 Harmony Road  
city, town Harmony  
county Putnam code 237  
state Georgia code GA zip code 31024

vicinity of

not for publication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:**

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings	3	1
sites	1	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	4	1

**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.

Richard Cloves 2-21-00  
Signature of certifying official Date

W. Ray Luce  
Director, Historic Preservation Division,  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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

Edson H. Beall 3/31/00

( ) determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

( ) determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

( ) removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

( ) other, explain: \_\_\_\_\_

( ) see continuation sheet

[Signature]  
Keeper of the National Register Date

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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling

Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural field, agricultural outbuilding

### Current Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling

Agricultural/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

Mid-19th Century: Greek Revival

### Materials:

**foundation** Brick

**walls** Wood: weatherboard

**roof** Metal: tin

**other** Stone

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Terrell-Sadler House is the main house that was once part of a 19th-century, Putnam County plantation that included 20 slaves and 700 acres of land. The main house is a one-story, five-bay, triple-pile house designed in the Greek Revival style. The Terrell house, which was probably constructed during a single building campaign, is composed of a side-gable central-hall plan front section and a hip-roofed Georgian-plan rear component. The central hall passes from front to rear with three principal rooms on each side. A rear kitchen ell and bathroom addition were removed in 1994. Each room is heated by a fireplace. The house rests on a stone and brick continuous foundation and is clad in weatherboard.

The main facade features a pedimented portico supported with Greek Doric columns. The dentil cornice wraps around the entire house. Moldings, cornerboards, and door and window surrounds are stylistically consistent throughout the interior and exterior of the house. The main entrance, for example, features an hour glass-shaped pattern recessed in the pilasters and the four-panel door which also matches patterns recessed in interior doors and pilasters. Moreover, the heavy proportions of the main entrance surround are repeated on interior door and window surrounds and fireplace surrounds. As the property slopes down to the rear, the house is raised on a full basement that includes rooms below heated by fireplaces. The rear facade features a one-bay portico set above a broad flight of stairs.

The interior features wood floors, plaster walls, and architectural details that include plaster ceiling medallions and grained doors. A retractable wooden screen divides the front entrance hall from the central hall. The entrance hall features a marble floor with Greek fret that was added as

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### Section 7--Description

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part of the recent rehabilitation. Nearly every doorway and window is framed by Greek Revival-style pilasters and a massive entablature. Paneled aprons are set below the six-over-six-light windows.

The 7.80-acre property proposed for nomination includes a boxwood allee, rose garden, and herb garden, although most of the plant material was added during the 1994 rehabilitation. Two outbuildings, a frame barn and log corn crib, were built in the 1930s. A saddlebag house was moved onto the property from Eatonton in 1994. The roughly 15-acre parcel under current ownership includes another 7 acres on the west side of Harmony Road that has given way to forest and which is not included in this National Register nomination.

The Terrell family cemetery, located east of the main house, was begun in 1865 with the burial of Mary (Sadler) Terrell. The graves of Alexander M. Reid (1803-1871) and his wife Frances T. Reid (1810-1868) are the only graves marked with stone monuments. William Terrell died in 1865 and is believed to be buried near his wife but these graves are not marked. It also believed that slaves owned by the Terrell family are buried near the cemetery. The cemetery is surrounded by cast-iron fence.

The current owners rehabilitated the house in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Although in poor condition, most of the character-defining features remained intact and were preserved. On April 3, 1998, the William D. Terrell House received final certification from the Preservation Services Branch, National Register Programs, National Park Service.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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**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

**Period of Significance:**

c.1855 - c.1939.

**Significant Dates:**

c.1855 - William D. Terrell marries Mary Sadler and they build a large, Greek Revival-style house on their 500-acre plantation.

c.1939 - Gooch family builds the barn and corn crib.

**Significant Person(s):**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**

N/A

**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

N/A

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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#### **Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The Terrell-Sadler House is significant under National Register Criterion C in the area of architecture as an outstanding example of Greek Revival-style architecture in Georgia. The building features the basic characteristics of the Greek Revival style, such as the large, pedimented portico supported by Doric columns as well as more subtle features that demonstrate that the unknown architect/builder of the Terrell-Sadler House understood the principles of Greek architecture. The columns, for example, have a slight bulge in the center, called *entasis*. The ancient Greeks developed this technique to make the columns appear straight thereby countering the visual illusion that the columns narrow at the center. Similarly, the Doric columns that support the portico are not set on bases but rest directly on the porch floor, a distinction between the Greek Doric and Roman Doric orders. The Greek Revival style is apparent in every interior space. The main hall and each of the six principal rooms feature heavy window and door surrounds. Fireplace mantels are framed by similar Greek Revival pilasters and entablatures. The triple-pile floor plan, unusual in Georgia, is symmetrical and consistent with the principles of the Greek Revival style. Moreover, the compact massing and configuration of the roof do not give the appearance of a house with six principal rooms but rather of a Georgian-plan house with a rear ell.

In Georgia, contrary to the popular image of the state, relatively few houses were built in the Greek Revival style and most were constructed in towns rather than on plantations in rural areas. By the 1840s, according to *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses and their Landscaped Settings*, Georgia was completely settled, and the Greek Revival, used from the 1840s to the 1860s, became the first architectural style to appear statewide. A statement of cultural independence, the Greek Revival was clear break with English and other European Renaissance traditions. The style was a romantic revival that drew directly from the original source, a sentimental imitation of the architecture of ancient Greece which provided a young nation with associations of Greek democracy. The Greek Revival, which is thought of as a national style, was used extensively throughout the United States at every level of society.

#### **Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

#### **Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins in c.1855 with the construction of the Terrell-Sadler House and ends in c.1939 with the construction of the barn and corn crib. Although built nearly a century after the house, the barn and corn crib reflect the property's agricultural history and contribute to the traditional rural setting of the house.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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#### **Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

The main house (Terrell-Sadler House), barn, corn crib, and Terrell family cemetery are contributing resources. The saddlebag house, which was moved to the Terrell-Sadler House in 1994, is the only noncontributing resource associated with this nomination.

#### **Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)**

William D. Terrell (1810-1875) was probably born in Putnam County, Georgia. His parents, Richmond (1768-1820) and Kitty Butler Terrell (1780-1865), were among the county's first settlers having emigrated from Wilkes County, Georgia. Richmond Terrell established an 800-acre plantation on Lick Creek and by 1860 he owned 29 slaves. His sons William and Edward served as overseers.

Prior to his marriage in 1885 to the wealthy Mary Sadler, William owned only two slaves and no land. Mary's father, Dr. Charles W. Sadler, died in 1852. He left to his wife and daughter 800 acres and 19 slaves. William and Mary Terrell probably used part this estate to purchase his plantation and build his house. By 1855, the tax digest lists the Terrells' property as 20 slaves and 700 acres. By 1860, the Terrells had constructed their house and five houses for his slaves, a gin house, a carriage house, and barns for livestock. The plantation included 500 acres of improved land and produced 20 bushels of rye, 1,850 bushels of corn, and 46 bales of cotton. The Terrells' land was valued at \$8,000.

During the Civil War, William Terrell, who was beyond military age, served in the Home Guard. In November 1864, the Fourteenth Corps of Sherman's Army marched south from Madison to Eatonton. The army camped at the Terrell plantation for one day, in which time the soldiers burned the gin house and packing screw, destroyed other agricultural equipment, took six slaves, took his mules and horses, and killed his fowl.

Mary Terrell died in 1865; William Terrell died in 1875. The Terrells' five children, aged six to thirteen, were placed in the care of Terrell's half sister, Celeste Sadler, who came to live with the children at the Terrell house. By 1880, William's only son, Richmond J. Terrell (1863-1904), managed the plantation, although farm operations declined. He sold 100 acres to pay debts and had only 25 acres planted in cotton which produced only eight bales. The number of draft animals also decreased. Richmond did draw income from old fields left to grow timber by selling cord wood. In 1894, Richmond mortgaged the 500-acre farm to the New England Security Company of Connecticut. He then was elected sheriff of Putnam County.

The mortgage was later foreclosed and in 1903 sold to Elizabeth Jones Gooch. The Gooches continued to grow cotton at the farm until the arrival of the boll weevil in the 1920s when they turned

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### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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to dairy production. The extant barn and corn crib were built during the Gooch's tenure. Following World War II, the Gooches scaled back their dairy operations and much of the pasture land reverted to woodlands. In 1969, the Gooch family sold the property to the Greensboro Lumber Company. The following year, James and Elizabeth (Gooch) Gilchrist purchased the house from the lumber company. The Gilchrist's resided in a mobile home that sat adjacent to the Terrell House from 1961 until 1992, when the property was sold to the current owners, David and Dottie Billingsley.

In 1994, the Billingsleys moved onto the property a frame saddlebag house that had been located in Eatonton, the seat of Putnam County. That same year, the Billingsleys removed the kitchen ell and rear bathroom addition because of their poor structural condition. On April 3, 1998, the Billingsley's rehabilitation of the Terrell-Sadler House received final certification from the Preservation Services Branch, National Register Programs, National Park Service.



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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Barker, Elizabeth K., and Dottie C. Billingsley. Historic Property Information Form. August 1995. On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, Georgia.

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): ( ) 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: June 27, 1995**
- 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**

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property** 7.80 acres

### UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 279600 Northing 3701400

### Verbal Boundary Description

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

### Boundary Justification

The boundary of the nominated encloses a rectangular-shaped 7.80-acre tract that includes the main house, outbuildings, and cemetery associated with the Terrell-Sadler House. The roughly 15-acre parcel under current ownership is bisected by Harmony Road. The portion of land on the west side of Harmony does not include any known historic resources and does not retain its historic integrity as agricultural land associated with the Terrell-Sadler House. This National Register nomination includes only the land on the east side of Harmony Road. The landscapes associated with farming are no longer discernable and the property is eligible only under Criterion C.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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### 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** January 15, 2000

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

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### Photographs

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**Name of Property:** Terrell-Sadler House  
**City or Vicinity:** Harmony vicinity  
**County:** Putnam  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** May 1999

### Description of Photograph(s):

1. Main house, photographer facing east.
2. Main house, photographer facing southeast.
3. Main house, photographer facing northeast.
4. Main house, front portico, photographer facing north.
5. Main house, photographer facing north.
6. Main house, photographer facing west.
7. Main house, photographer facing southwest.
8. Main House, photographer facing northwest.
9. Main house, interior, entrance hall, photographer facing west.
10. Main house, interior, center hall, photographer facing west.
11. Main house, interior, center hall, photographer facing southeast.
12. Main house, interior, north front parlor, photographer facing northeast.
13. Main house, interior, north front parlor, photographer facing northwest.
14. Main house, interior, south front parlor, photographer facing southwest.
15. Main house, interior, south middle parlor, photographer facing southeast.

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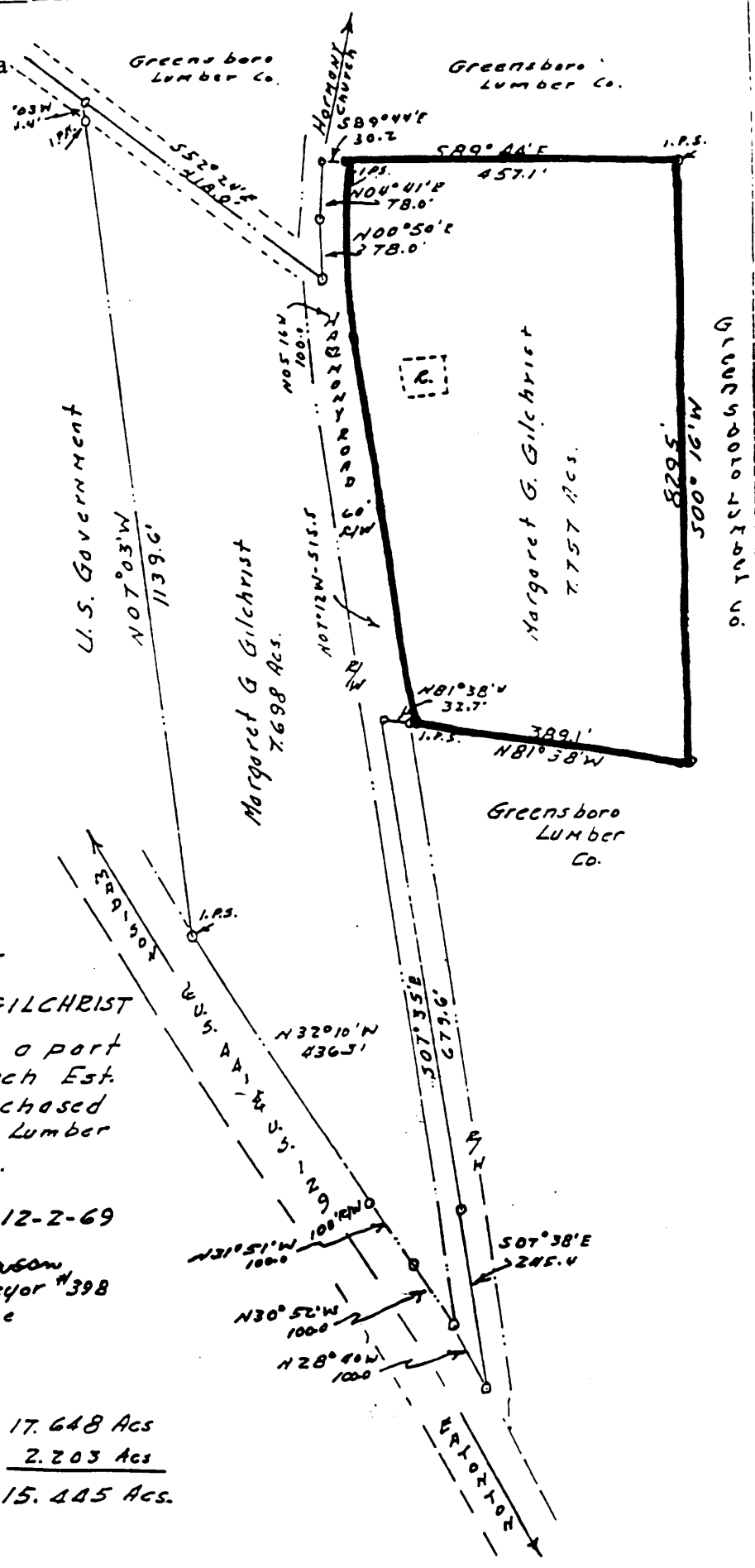
**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Photographs**

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16. Main house, interior, north rear bedroom, photographer facing northeast.
17. Main house, interior, north rear bedroom, photographer facing south.
18. Main house, interior, south rear bedroom, photographer facing north.
19. Main house, interior, basement, photographer facing northeast.
20. Main House, photographer facing southeast.
21. Corn crib, photographer facing north.
22. Barn, photographer facing northwest.
23. Saddlebag house, photographer facing southwest.

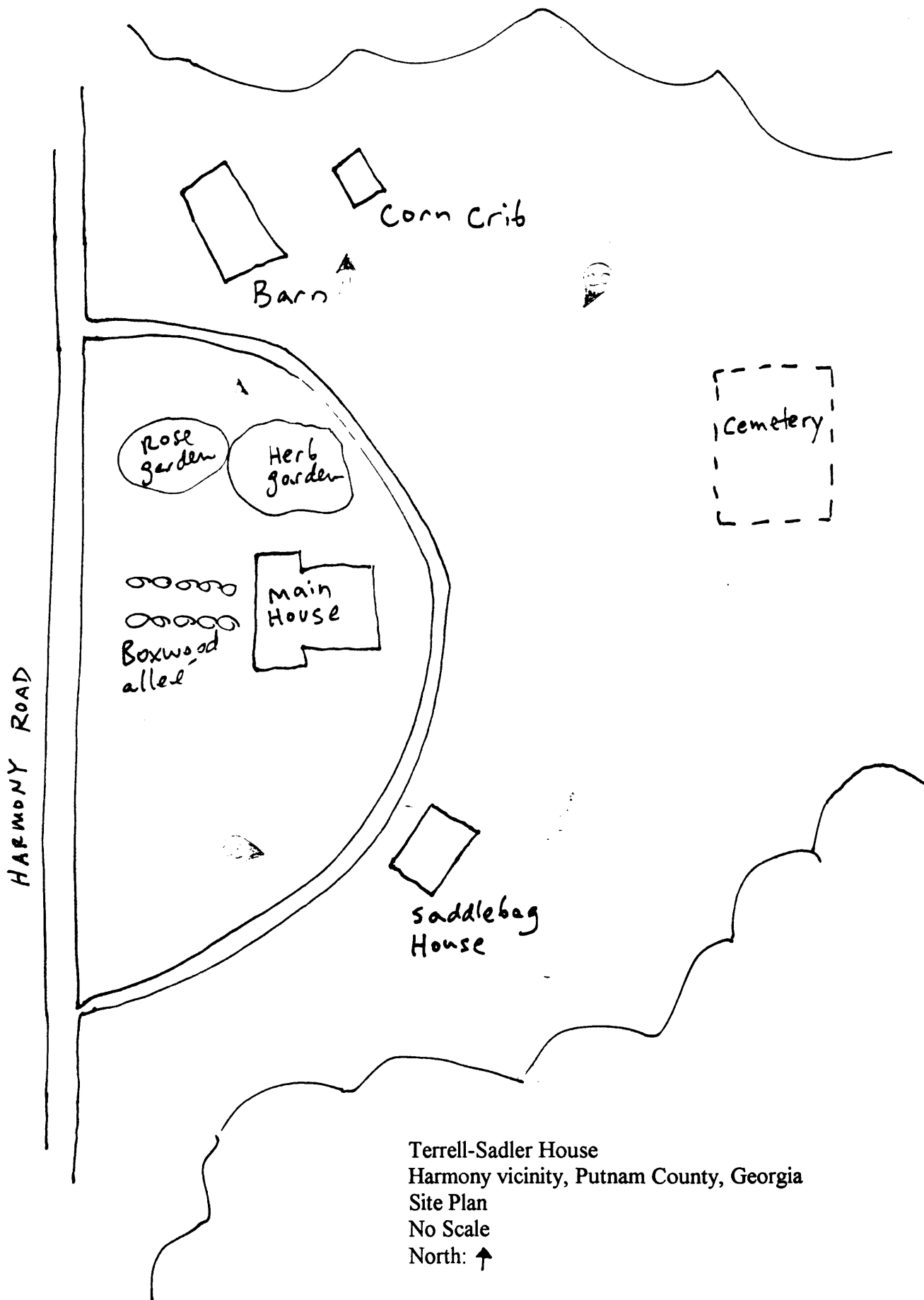
Terrell-Sadler House  
 Harmony vicinity, Putnam County, Georgia.  
 Sketch Map  
 National Register Boundary  
 Scale: 1"=200'  
 North: ↑



PROPERTY OF  
 MARGARET GOOCH GILCHRIST  
 Formerly known as a part  
 of the Elizabeth Gooch Est.  
 & more recently purchased  
 by The Greensboro Lumber  
 Co., Putnam Co., Ga.

1" = 200'      12-2-69  
 W Henry Watterson,  
 Registered Surveyor #398  
 State - at - Large  
 Eatonton, Ga.

Total Survey Acreage = 17.648 Ac  
 Less Harmony Road R/W = 2.203 Ac  
 Net Acres 15.445 Ac.



Terrell-Sadler House  
Harmony vicinity, Putnam County, Georgia  
Site Plan  
No Scale  
North: ↑

Terrell-Sadler House  
Harmony vicinity, Putnam County, Georgia  
Main Floor Plan  
No Scale  
North: ←

