

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 18 1983

DATE ENTERED

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC John M. Hopkins Cabin

AND/OR COMMON  
Quarters #12/Guest Cabin

**2 LOCATION**

~~11 miles southwest~~ <sup>SW</sup> of Folkston, Georgia, off Georgia Highway Spur  
STREET & NUMBER #121/23, adjacent to Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge Subheadquarters

CITY, TOWN

Folkston vicinity  VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia 13

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1 (1982)

COUNTY

Charlton

CODE

049

**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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED NA	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 AGENCY**

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Regional Office  
Richard B. Russell Federal Building

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

STREET & NUMBER

75 Spring Street, S.W.

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

— VICINITY OF

Georgia

STATE

30303

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Clerk  
Charlton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

N/A

CITY, TOWN

Folkston

STATE

Georgia

31537

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

NONE

NA

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT                       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                                 RUINS  
 FAIR                                  UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

The John Hopkins' Cabin is located in a mature live oak hammock on the eastern edge of the Okefenokee Swamp adjacent to the Suwannee Canal at a location known locally as Camp Cornelia. The 30 ft. x 24 ft. structure is constructed of end-notched heart-pine logs resting on heart pine sleeper timbers, which in turn rest on hexagonal heart pine blocks. A gable roof covers the main sections of the cabin; shed-type roofs cover an open front porch, and the screen enclosed rear porch. Asphalt shingles currently cover all three. A 20-foot high chimney extends up the east side of the cabin and protrudes approximately 3.5 feet above the high point of the roof line. The interior consists of four (4) rooms: a 25 ft. x 9 ft. kitchen/"general" area across the front, with a 5 ft. x 8 ft. bathroom to the west log wall; adjacent the kitchen, a door in the interior log wall provides access into a 15 ft. x 18 ft. living area and separate 16 ft. x 12 ft. bedroom area. The interior displays the varnished side of the structural logs and varnished pine paneling on the walls separating the bedroom from the living area, and the bathroom from the kitchen. The front section (kitchen/bathroom) has an "open" ceiling with the roof rafters visible. All other rooms have "dropped" ceilings with the living and bedroom areas having ceiling boards spanning the longest lengths of each room; a 36-inch recessed ceiling fan is located in the living area, at the approximate center of the cabin.

The cabin has been altered primarily during a CCC encampment from 1937 through most of 1941. The fireplace/chimney and ceiling fan were added along with running water, electricity, and a septic system. The original cypress shingle roof has been replaced with asphalt shingles. In 1977, the fireplace was closed off with sheet metal and a wood burning stove was installed. At this time, a window air-conditioner was also installed in one east window.

The cabin is an excellent example of a south Georgia vernacular log structure and is of a type constructed primarily in the 19th Century. The Hopkins' Cabin is unique in that it was not built in the 19th Century; however, but in 1927. It is probable that the men who constructed the cabin employed skills and techniques used by their forefathers in building log houses during the early settlement of South Georgia.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-present	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES      Unknown, circa 1927      BUILDER/ARCHITECT      Hebard Cypress Company Employees

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The John Hopkins' Cabin, built circa 1927, is significant for the fact that it is the last tangible evidence left in the area of the man most closely associated with the initial periods of exploration, exploitation, and eventual preservation of the Okefenokee Swamp. The cabin itself is an example of relatively late log construction in this area of the country.

John Hopkins, a young lawyer from Darien, Georgia, first came to the Okefenokee Swamp in 1900, to make a survey of the merchantable timber (primarily cypress) in the swamp for the Hebard Lumber Company. From that first trip into the swamp until his retirement in 1945, Hopkins was acknowledged to be the man "in charge" of Okefenokee. He was first a survey engineer and then General Superintendent and Director of field operations for the Hebard Cypress Company. When the Federal Government took over the swamp in 1937, Hopkins agreed to become the first refuge manager for the Government. He served in that capacity until his retirement in 1945. As Hopkins himself said, "Although it (the swamp) is somewhat older than I am, I've felt at times that I was mothering it.... In the years I have known it and loved it, I have found the great swamp far from being a place of mystery, danger, and menace, but rather a haven of peace and a refuge from the greater hazards of the outside world." (Hopkins, 1945)

Hopkins is acknowledged as being the first man to fully explore, survey, and investigate the Okefenokee Swamp. He was also one of the first proponents of establishing the swamp as a wildlife sanctuary, and did a great deal to see that it did receive Federal protection. His first employers in the swamp were the owners of the Hebard Cypress Company, the Hebardts of Philadelphia. The Hebard Cypress Company was the first successful commercial venture in the swamp. Using the techniques of building a railroad into the swamp on pilings, the enterprise eventually was able to remove over 400 million board feet of lumber from the deepest parts of the swamp. Local area residents' recollections and memoirs give John Hopkins the majority of credit for making the venture successful. Hopkins "looked after" his workers, and from all accounts was a "hard but fair" boss (Izlar, 1971). People of the surrounding areas of the swamp found steady work, good wages, and employers who were interested in the welfare of their employees. "The Hebard Cypress Company redeemed a lot of those folks from slavery. We didn't recognize that type of thing until years later." L. Elkins, (Izlar, 1971). Mr. F. W. Oakford, president of the company, was quoted in the January 26, 1909 issue of the Waycross (Georgia) Weekly Herald on the intentions of the company: "This work of development is going to be a good thing for South Georgia. The Hebard Company .... will spend a lot of money putting the plan through." Additionally, a turpentine still was located on the eastern side of the swamp and resins were collected in and around the Camp Cornelia and Chesser Island areas. (This is the location of Hopkins' Cabin).

(continued)

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. History of Charlton County, A. S. McQueen, Stein Print Co. of Atlanta, 1932.
2. Settlers of the Okefenokee, Lois B. Mays, Rascoe Photo/Type, Jacksonville, Florida, 1975.
3. History of the Okefenokee Swamp, A. S. McQueen and Hamp Mizell, Jacobs Graphic Arts, Clinton, S.C., 1926.

(continued)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY One (1) square acre (200'x200')

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>17</u>	<u>39, 20, 1, 5</u>	<u>3, 40, 100, 6</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The structure nominated will have a 200' x 200' boundary around it for the purposes of this nomination. The "lot" is included within the boundaries of Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (a boundary description of Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge is enclosed).

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

W. C. Kent/Outdoor Recreation Planner

ORGANIZATION

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 117

TELEPHONE

912-283-2587

CITY OR TOWN

Waycross

STATE

Georgia 31501

## 12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

SEE ATTACHED LETTER DATED 7-16-82

*Elizabeth A. Lyons*  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER'S SIGNATURE

FOR SHPO RECOMMENDATION

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is  National  State  Local

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

*Walter R. McClelland*

TITLE

acting Service Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

1/14/83

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

*Sandra M. Clelland*  
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

3/4/83

ATTEST: *Patrick Andrus*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3/4/83

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE

The Hebard brothers actively solicited leading naturalists of the time to investigate both the natural and human history of the swamp. John Hopkins acted as consultant for the various researchers, leading/directing them to areas of interest and introducing them to the early settlers of the Okefenokee. In 1918, the Okefenokee Preservation Society was organized by interested citizens from Waycross, Georgia, and a group from Cornell University. John Hopkins acted as an "unofficial" consultant to the group and assisted the group in resisting many attempts to desecrate the swamp by various outside interests. One instance of Hopkins protecting the swamp came in 1935. A scenic highway through the swamp was proposed. At the same time, a resolution was initiated by the Okefenokee Preservation Society to have the Federal Government purchase the swamp for a wildlife preserve. Hopkins was prevailed upon by the Hebards to be sure the resolution passed. On the day the resolution was voted on, he met with representatives of the 13th Congressional District and the lobbyists for the proposed highway. While Hopkins kept these people occupied in an argument about the proposal, the resolution of purchase was passed by the Senate.

Congress did not appropriate the funds to purchase the swamp at the time the resolution was passed. However, through the influence of John Hopkins on Dr. and Mrs. Francis Harper (Harper's wife had worked for President Roosevelt's family), a letter was written to then President Roosevelt which requested that he place the swamp under Federal protection (Izlar, 1971). On November 30, 1936, the Government took over control of the swamp. John M. Hopkins was appointed the first manager of the refuge, and on March 30, 1937, the wildlife refuge was established by Presidential Order. This executive act finally put a stop to man's manipulation of the Okefenokee Swamp for commercial profit (Izlar, 1971).

The John Hopkins' Cabin is in itself of significance in that it is a relatively late example of the log construction normally utilized in the mid-18th Century to 1900. Log construction had become less popular than frame construction in 1926-27. That Hopkins chose a log cabin is evidence of the character of the man: simple, direct, hardworking, and without glamor.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

INTERVIEWS:

7. Ralph Davis; November 18, 1981; Suwannee Canal Recreation Area, Okefenokee NWR, by William C. Kent.

Mr. Davis has lived on the edge of the Okefenokee Swamp his entire life, approximately 2.5 miles from the site of the Hopkins' Cabin.

Mr. Davis recounts that approximately 1925 (unsure of exact year) as a 13 or 14 year-old boy, he helped notch and set the log walls of the cabin. The pine trees were felled in the Camp Cornelia area, and the ceiling lumber was cut at the Hebard Company Mill outside of Waycross, Georgia. The original roof was made of cypress shingles, cut from trees felled in the swamp. Mr. Davis is unsure of the exact year of construction; however, he is sure that the cabin was built before the Chesser Family built their home in 1927 on Chesser's Island. (The Chesser Home has been restored as "living History" exhibit by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1976-77).

8. Mrs. Iva L. Chesser; November 24, 1981; Suwannee Canal Recreation Area, Okefenokee NWR; by William C. Kent.

Mrs. Chesser remembers Hopkins' Cabin being built. However, she does not recall the exact dates of construction - only that Hopkins' Cabin was in use prior to the construction of her house on Chesser Island in 1927.

9. Hugh McLean; April 2, 1981, at McLean Residence, Route 2, Folkston, Georgia 31537; by Terry Lindsay (of refuge staff).

Mr. McLean worked for John Hopkins from 1926 until 1933. He was the "woods supervisor" and oversaw the turpentine operations of the Hebard Lumber Company. Mr. and Mrs. McLean lived at Camp Cornelia during this time and both remember the cabin being built. Due to their ages (80+ years), the McLeans are not sure of the date of the construction, but place it in 1926 or 1927.

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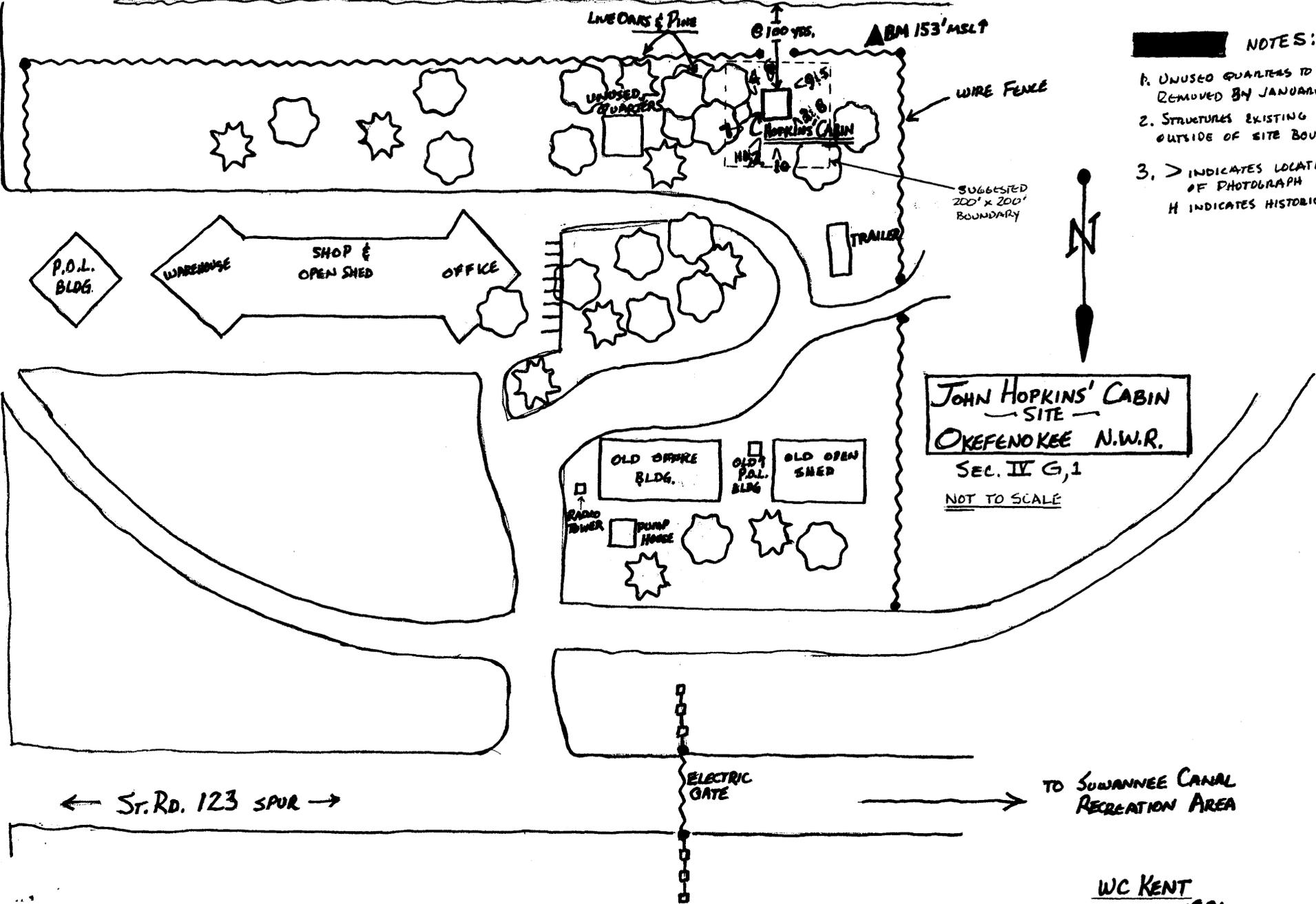
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4. Okefinoke Album, Francis Harper, Delma E. Presley, Univ. of Ga. Press, Athens, GA 1980.
5. Forty-five Years with the Okefenokee Swamp, 1900-1945, John M. Hopkins, Georgia Society of Naturalists Bulletin No. 4, 1945.
6. The Hebard Lumber Company in the Okefenokee Swamp: Thirty-six years of Southern Logging History, R. L. Izlar, unpublished thesis, University of Georgia, 1971.
7. Personal interview, attached.
8. Personal interview, attached.
9. Personal interview, attached.
10. Telephone conversation, correspondence: Blake Hays, Director of Restoration, Georgia Agrirama, Tifton, Georgia, May, 1982.
11. Telephone communication: Haley Blanchard, Architectural Historian, South Georgia Area Planning and Development Commission, Valdosta, Georgia, May, 1982.

← SUWANNEE CANAL →



- NOTES:**
1. UNUSED QUARTERS TO BE REMOVED BY JANUARY, 1982
  2. STRUCTURES EXISTING ARE OUTSIDE OF SITE BOUNDARIES
  3. > INDICATES LOCATION/DIRECTION OF PHOTOGRAPH  
H INDICATES HISTORICAL PHOTO

JOHN HOPKINS' CABIN  
SITE  
OKFENOKEE N.W.R.  
SEC. IV G, 1  
NOT TO SCALE

← ST. RD. 123 SPUR →

ELECTRIC GATE

TO SUWANNEE CANAL RECREATION AREA

WC KENT  
1981

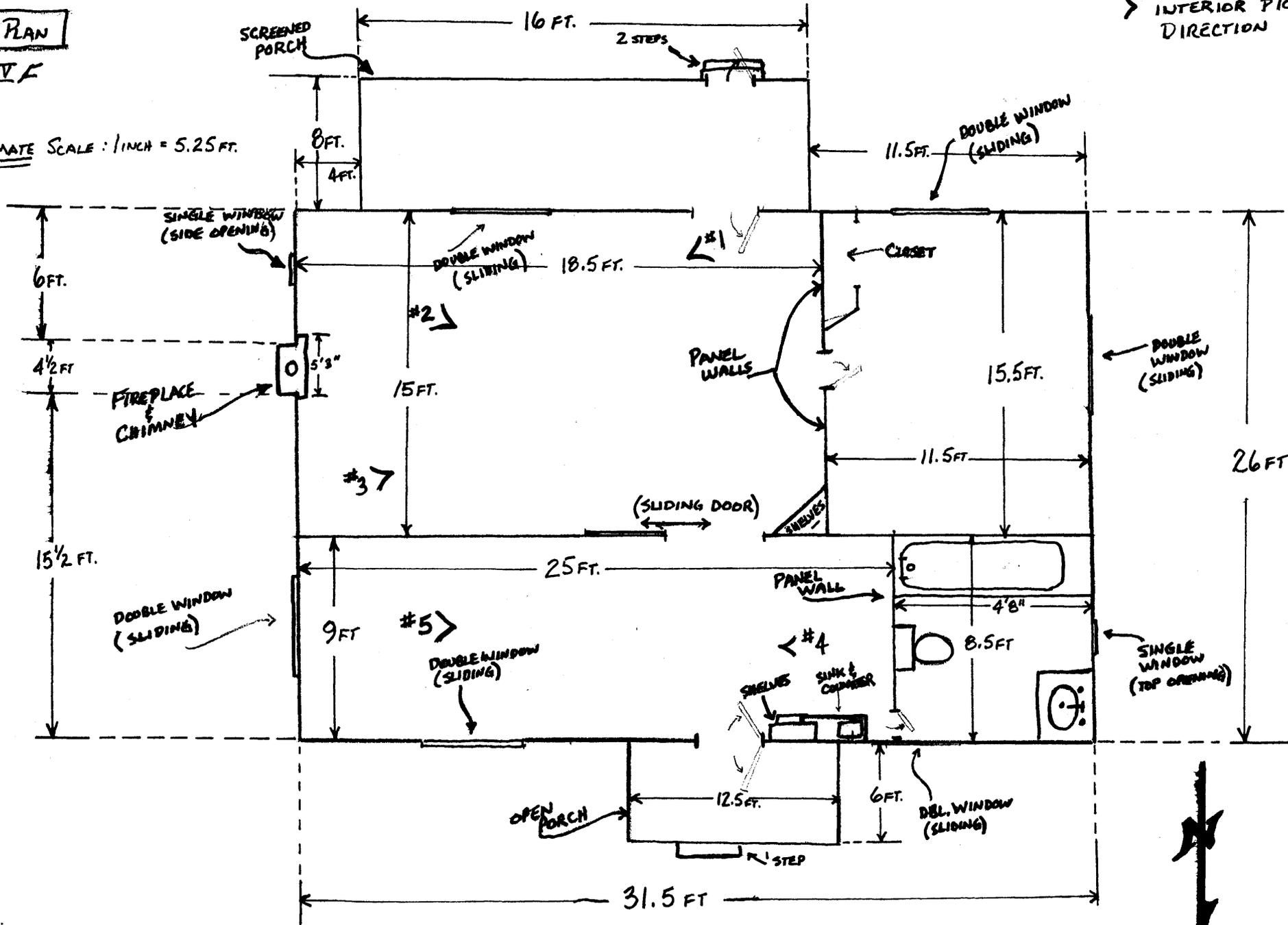
# JOHN HOPKINS' CABIN - OKEFENOKEE N.W.R.

FLOOR PLAN

SEC. IV F

> INTERIOR PICTURE DIRECTION

APPROXIMATE SCALE: 1 INCH = 5.25 FT.



W.C. KENT

# OKEFENOKEE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

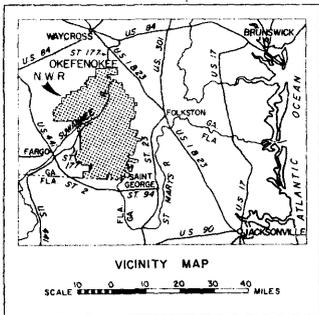
FLORIDA AND GEORGIA

UNITED STATES  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

82°30'

82°20'

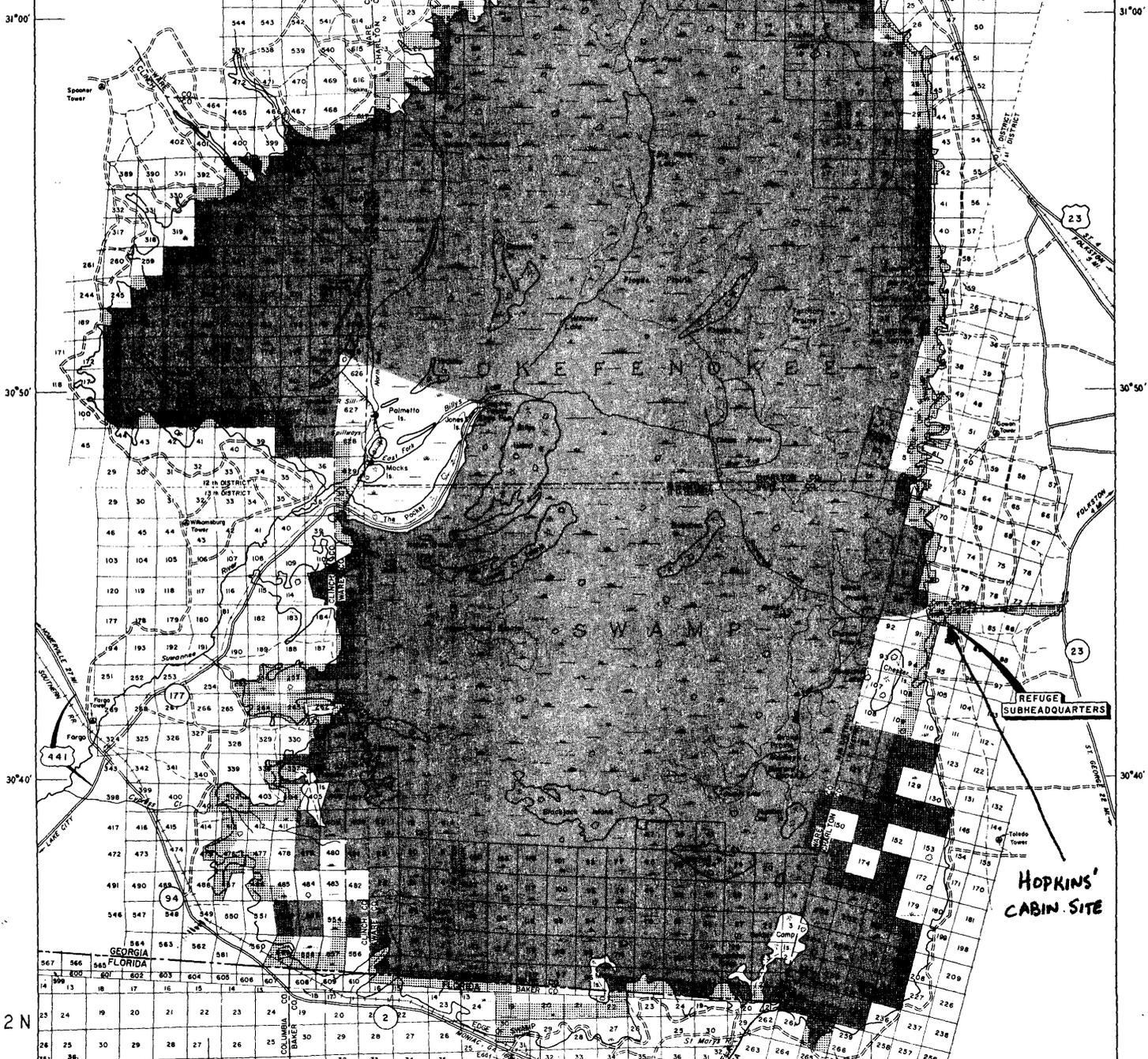
82°10'



**LEGEND**

REFUGE BOUNDARY

WILDERNESS AREA BY PUBLIC LAW 93-429 DATED OCTOBER 1, 1974



T 2 N

R 18 E 82°30'      R 19 E      R 20 E      82°10'

COMPILED IN THE DIVISION OF REALTY FROM SURVEYS BY F.&W.S., G.L.O. AND U.S. ARMY

**TALLHASSEE MERIDIAN**

0 6000 12000 24000 36000 48000 FEET

0 1 2 4 6 8 MILES

True North 20' Magnetic N.      MEAN DECLINATION 1962

ATLANTA, GEORGIA      REVISED 2/80 JUNE, 1963